

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

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June 1999

1999 Hobbyist of the Year Award Goes to John Raff



The Hobbyist of the Year Award, ACGNJ's service award which is traditionally announced at the TCF Banquet, was presented this year to John Raff, current member of the ACGNJ Board of Directors. John has been a supporting member of the for many years, working in the background on Facilities, Webmaster, Vice President and Board of Director positions, and was drafted to take over the PC-Symposium chair when Joe Kennedy resigned for educational reasons. He has been involved with the planning and running of TCF, specifically in the volunteer, opening, gate watcher, closing, cleanup, facilities, gofor, audio/visual and speaker areas. He does the work of at least 10 volunteers.

John has his own domain: <http://www.jraff.com/> and has been involved with web programming for the club and personal clients for over 3 years. He and Marty Rosenblum developed the current ACGNJ calendar, which displays meetings in calendar format on the Web, using a Selena Sol script. (See www.acgnj.org/cgi-bin/acgnj.cgi). He was also instrumental in obtaining club access to the APCUG NT server for ASP and VBA programming support.

John developed the club attendance database in FoxPro 2.6, and collected/input attendance data for many meetings, a time-intensive endeavor that nobody else was willing to do, but this information was very valuable to the club. He is currently involved with getting the ACGNJ membership database on a system where any officer may access it for data entry, gathering, mining and report services.

He has been involved with ACGNJ for more than 20 years and is one of the backbones of the group, always available and willing to help whenever he is needed. He attends almost every meeting that the ACGNJ holds (we have 17 meetings every month) and is a genuine enthusiast. He is also very knowledgeable technically. Without his contribution, the ACGNJ would be much the poorer. ☺

Want a Free Ticket?
Find out how to get a free ticket to a local computer show — a vendor pass! — read all about it on page 14.



www.acgnj.org

Founded 1975

In This Issue

Internet Corner, <i>Marty Rosenblum</i>	3	Horizon: Linux, <i>Ron Murawski</i>	5
Downloading from the Web, <i>Ken Fermoye</i>	6	Home Networking, Part 2, <i>Scott Vincent</i>	7
Web Founder Ordained "Genius", <i>from Wired</i>	8	It's Only TEMPorary, <i>Duane Burdick</i>	9
Put Recycle Bin on a Diet, <i>Tom Lassiter</i>	9	Adaptec CD Creator Deluxe, <i>William C. May</i>	10
Family Origins 7.0 Deluxe, <i>Glen Parker</i>	11	SIG News	12

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most word processors or ASCII text are acceptable. Fax or mail hard copy and/or disk to Editor; OR e-mail to Editor. **Always confirm by voice.** Date your review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone *and* name, address and phone of the product manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it? If you include graphics, they should be separate files.

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are welcome. Commercial ads are 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4½ x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a their newsletters to Editor at the ACGNJ address above. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be directed to David Lampe (david.lampe@entex.com) and/or to his attention at the ACGNJ address above.

Membership, including subscription: 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student or Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Family of member, without subscription, \$10 per year. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

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The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

Web News

Item: The Sunday New York Times Magazine, September 8, 1974: "Computer Raped by Telephone." Yes, the date is correct! Maria was rummaging through some old recipes and came on this treasure. This article by W. Thomas Porter Jr. is subtitled: "...and other futuristic felonies by electronic con men who leave no footprints." While the article reports on a selection from "the nearly 175 cases so far discovered" of computer crime, the one referred to by the title is a classic hacker tale which originally appeared in the International Herald Tribune and reported the theft of a program by an employee of a national time-sharing system. "It was the first case in which a warrant was issued to search the memory of a computer for evidence."

Item: The Sunday New York Times Magazine, April 4: "Crashing the Academy." This article, by Mark Edmundson, professor of English at the University of Virginia, mulls over the possible consequences of "Jones International University has just become the first accredited college to offer courses exclusively over the Internet." Too deep a subject to go into here, but on the one hand is a threat that the efficiencies of Net education will destroy the traditional colleges, and on the other, that hyper-efficient education will be so poor that it will kill itself.

Item: The Sunday Star-Ledger, April 25: "Web.roots" This article by Lisa Rose contains many useful links to genealogy Web sites and interviews with local mavens.

Item: The Star-Ledger, May 3: "Legislation would expand privacy of Internet users." This piece by Joe Donahue reports on a series of bills originated by Barbara Buono of Middlesex. One would require that all e-mail advertisements sent from New Jersey must contain "ADV" in the subject, so that we can filter ads. Another would require that all New Jersey advertisers include a toll-free phone number or valid e-mail address so that recipients could request removal from lists. Some of these ideas sound great. At least the debate is under way!

Item: Same Issue: "Adoptive parents turn to the Web." The only URL in the story is from Texas, and contains photos and some videos at www.tdprs.state.tx.us/adoption/tare.html. According to Gloria Hochman of the National Adoption Center, adoption Web sites "will revolutionize the way adoption is practiced in this country." I get a funny feeling, though. It's a bit like getting kids through eBay.

Item: Same Issue: "'Web site manager' sounds great, but reality bytes." This amusing piece is by Cindy Meneghin, Web site manager for Montclair State University. She doesn't seem to think much of the #1 rating, but admits it's "fun to be ranked 228 spots ahead of the President."

Item: The Sunday New York Times Money and Business, May 9: "An Internet Play for Widows and Orphans." The continuing saga of AT&T's march into the 21st century. Its deals with @Home, and cable companies, especially MediaOne Group, which it is poised to take over, may make

them into an Internet powerhouse. They also hope to deliver local phone service over cable lines, bypassing the regional phone companies "loop" facilities. This is a truly scary picture. Can they pull it off? Will it produce chaos for the civilian phone user? Tune in next month!

Item: The Sunday New York Times *Money and Business*, May 16: "New Breeds of Investors, All Beguiled by the Web." An amusing picture of the new breed of day trader as "some sort of recent Nintendo graduate who has wired his joystick right into his brokerage account." I guess this belongs in the Investing section — absent this month — but it is a thoughtful piece with good statistics. We have all witnessed with varying degrees of alarm and dizziness, the phenomenon of practically the whole market dominated by a new generation of investors engaging in what seems to many to be tulip mania risen from the long dead past.

Item: The New York Times *Cybertimes*, May 22: "Mortgage Company Sued Over Mass E-Mailing." An ISP in Washington State had his e-mail server clobbered by an overabundance of e-mail from one mailer. When he tracked down the guilty party it turned out to be a major mortgage lender and a subsidiary of Centex Corp., a Fortune 500 company. Since they should have known better than to bomb such little guys with spam, he's suing them for \$5.8 million. More power to him.

Miscellany

I think it was sometime in December that Maria rushed into my office with the news that the Van Gogh exhibit was going to open in Los Angeles. She was so excited that I had to take immediate action, so I logged onto Expedia at expedia.msn.com and purchased two airline tickets for the trip. We called one of our California friends and made arrangements for a visit. Then I got sick and had to cancel! Expedia had a handy 800 number for the purpose, but we lost the ticket cancellation fee. As the end of the exhibit loomed, Maria got nervous and I was all better, so we reactivated the process. Our friends were going to Poland, so we made arrangements with Expedia for motel reservations which worked out just fine. I got tickets for the exhibit by phone with ticketmaster, though I see by "guess and go" that they have lots of such stuff available online at www.ticketmaster.com!

The flight out was great! Marvelous views of the Rockies and canyon country. We took a shuttle to the motel in Hollywood, unpacked, and scouted the neighborhood, which was a bit seedy. The motel was fine, though without Internet terminals. On the north side of Sunset it became quite elegant with lots of shops and restaurants. We had supper and hit the sack. In the evening we went to see Matrix, the latest cyberpunk action film. Maria was attracted to it by the appearance of Laurence Fishburne, whom we had just seen in Lion in Winter on Broadway. I liked the show, but Maria found it too violent.

continued on page 14

Next day we went to see the new Getty complex. Fantastic views, wild buildings and gardens, excellent displays of the collections, but nothing digital. (There had been something, but it was all closed.) In the late afternoon we took a cab to the airport to pick up a rental car — finally admitting that it had been a mistake not to get one in the first place. We drove out for dinner with my cousin in Los Alamitos. After a very pleasant visit we returned to the motel.

Next day we walked down Vermont Avenue and found Los Angeles City College (see citywww.lacc.cc.ca.us) where the library had a dozen or so Internet terminals open to the public. Then we went to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art where we picked up our tickets, had lunch, and did the Van Gogh exhibit. We had dinner on the North side of Sunset, and, tuckered out, hit the sack.

Next morning I headed for the College and checked out my E-mail, my stock activity and the latest news from the East via www.nytimes.com.

When we returned I had to go to Florida to pick up my snowbird mother. While I was there I saw an interview with an author, Mary Pipher, on PBS. Her latest book, "Another Country", sounded interesting, so I decided to look for it on the Web. It was there under www.amazon.com, of course, but I thought I'd check the price on some other sites, as well. I remembered that a number of competing services were springing up. I tried www.buy.com and www.shopping.com, and found the best price at the latter, so I bought it from them. There is one great meta-shopping site, www.acses.com, which comparison shops for you and finds the best price. I couldn't reach them that evening, but succeeded later and found that I had, indeed, picked the lowest. I had the book the day after I returned home. Try *Acses* — you'll love it!

Now, for something entirely different. The June 8 PC Magazine (I can't be held responsible for their pre-dating) First Looks — not yet available online — has a brief report: "Web Audio to Go." Remember our report on the Rio, which stores and plays back about an hour's worth of MP3 audio? Well this gadget, the *Audible Mobile Player-Plus* from Audible, Inc. in Wayne, NJ, will store up to 7 hours of audio in 16 Mb of storage in their own proprietary format. Before you get too excited, though, they achieve the factor of 30 in compression over MP3 with a very reduced fidelity. Their content, available at their Web site, www.audible.com, while voluminous, is mostly the spoken word: books, plays, newspapers and magazines on tape sort of stuff. And you have to pay — though not too much — for the downloads.

Security

Adi Shamir, the S in RSA, has announced the discovery of a new technique for factoring large numbers, the core of the public key encryption schemes. It's a new electro-optical computer designed for this function, and claims to accelerate the process by 100-1,000 times. For a report, see www.counterpane.com/crypto-gram-9905.html#twinkle.

According to another report, NASA hired a team of hackers to test the security of their networks and they found lots of problems. NASA promises to fix them with all due haste! Let's hope so.

Then a federal appeals court has upheld Daniel Bernstein's argument that U.S. laws restricting the export of encryption

codes are unconstitutional. The math professor at the University of Illinois, Chicago, first ran into problems with the government when he was a grad student at Berkeley in 1992 and wanted to share his "Snuffle" cryptography program with colleagues. The AAAS (parent organization of Science) and the Electronic Frontier Foundation have joined Bernstein in this dispute. It's not over yet, however.

Science

Remember some time ago we reported on a successful attempt to break some encryption codes by enlisting folks around the world to each run a piece of the problem in the background on their PCs? Hundreds of people joined in the effort and the code was broken. Now we have a proposal for a similar effort to break one of the most intractable puzzles that ever was: Is there intelligent life in the universe? Most of you have heard of SETI, the Search for ExtraTerrestrial Intelligence. The project is called SETI@home, and is run out of the University of California at Berkeley. If you want to join, go to setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu, where you'll find a screen saver to download and explanations and help. The screen saver will query Berkeley for a block of data to analyze and then run the analysis program under the screen saver and report the results back to Berkeley. UCB gets the data from the radio telescope in Puerto Rico. It only runs the program when the screen saver is running, so it shouldn't bother your regular work.

From Science Magazine's online *Netwatch* column, May 21:

- "COOL IMAGES: Atomic Legos" — I would have called them "Tinkertoys," but they've been taking some impressive baby steps in making nanodevices out of "buckytubes" and surfaces and other simple structures at the atomic level. Why? They're proposing data storage with a density of 10⁷ times that on the DVD.

- "Starcatcher" — For some truly breathtaking shots from this series of near-infrared photos of distant objects from the Two Micron All Sky Survey, www.ipac.caltech.edu/2mass/releases/spr99.

- The American Society for Microbiology has put up a nifty history/time line of the field for the past 125 years. If you are interested in these little critters, a visit to this is a must: www.asmtusa.org/mbrsrc/archive/SIGNIFICANT.htm.

continued on page 14

C-Net TV Schedule		
Sci-Fi Channel	Saturday	Sunday
CNet Central	9:00 a.m.	12:00 n.
New Edge	9:30 a.m.	12:30 p.m.
The Web	10:00 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
Cool Tech	10:30 a.m.	1:30 p.m.
Same lineup on USA Sundays beginning at 6 a.m.		
For more information visit the C-Net Web Site (www.cnet.com)		

On The Horizon: Linux

By Ron Murawski (the_murs@pipeline.com)

The January 1999 PC Data (<http://www.pcddata.com/>) Top-Selling Business Software List had a curious addition. In 8th place, behind several Microsoft, Symantic and Network Associates products, was a non-Windows, non-Microsoft product: Red Hat Linux Deluxe. I've been reading a lot about this alternative operating system lately, but had no idea it was selling so briskly.

My household network has been running a Linux system for about five years and Red Hat Linux in particular for about two. Of course, I'm a techie! I thought my choice was a little off the beaten track, so I wondered: who else is buying it? I knew there had to be some who wanted to experiment and learn, but — 8th place? That's when I discovered corporate America's recent commitment to Linux.

Burlington Coat Factory has decided to use Linux in its 250 stores. It will be deployed on an estimated 1150 computers. Why? Burlington's Chief Information Officer, Mike Prince has a reason: "It's free and it runs like the wind". When Mike announced the Linux choice, his programmers cheered.

Cendant Corporation, the world's largest hotel franchisor is booking Linux into 4,000 hotels. Why? Not just the low price, but also for the operating system's legendary stability. Internet features were another major factor in the choice.

Amerada Hess Corporation is scrapping a \$2 million leased super-computer system from IBM. The replacement? A 32-node Linux cluster purchased for \$130,000, which will be able to render complex 3-D images from terabytes of data. Although rendering will be 20% slower than the IBM SP2 system, Hess will have the satisfaction of owning the computer hardware it runs on — as well as saving all that money.

Compaq, IBM, Novell, and Oracle have made large equity investments in Red Hat Software, Inc. Sun Microsystems has ported Linux to its ultra-SPARC line of computers. Network Associates has partnered with Red Hat and will give away a million free copies of Unicenter TNG along with Red Hat Linux to corporate Information Technology departments. Hewlett-Packard has entered into a partnership and agreed to port Linux to the forthcoming Intel 64-bit Merced processor.

Microsoft, in its inept antitrust defense presented a video of the Caldera OpenLinux operating system and testified in court: "the Caldera operating system is ... powerful and easy to use." See

<http://www.pathfinder.com/fortune/1999/03/01/mic.html>

Linux was once thought to be too difficult for non-professionals to administer, with little or no software applications to run. Now, with major corporations announcing new software on an almost daily basis it is apparent that Linux has arrived.

Of course, there has to be a catch — doesn't there? Well, maybe... Linux's major shortcoming compared to Windows is its lack of hardware support. You have to be discriminating in your choice of video card, sound card, network card and modem so your computer will function properly as a Linux system. Then again, Windows NT is rather finicky about

hardware too, and Windows 2000 supports much less hardware than its Win95/98 predecessors.

Most of all there's that fear of the unknown: how can a Windows user absorb enough knowledge about a Linux operating system to become proficient and productive? Well, it ain't easy — but it's not nearly as difficult as it once was.

First of all, all Linux distributions have become easier to install. Some hardware can be auto-detected. You can specify most non-mainstream hardware. If you have name-brand components inside your computer then Linux installation will be a breeze, otherwise you will need some hardware knowledge in order to configure properly.

If a Windows user installs the K Desktop Environment (KDE) on top of Linux, Linux will look a lot like Windows. See

www.calderasystems.com/doc/openlinux/intro_kde.html

for a good KDE intro along with screen shots. Linux has more powerful graphical environments like the Free Software Foundation's Gnome, but KDE will seem more like home to a Windows user.

Okay, you say — how about application software? The bad news is you won't be able to use Microsoft Office. The good news? You can buy Corel Word Perfect Suite for Linux or you can use StarOffice.

StarOffice? Never heard of it? In 1997, Star Division sold over 1.2 million units worldwide of its award-winning StarOffice package at about \$100 a pop. What is it? StarOffice 5.0 includes Web-enabled word processing, spreadsheet, presentation graphics, email, news, charting and graphics applications. Amazingly, you can go to <http://www.stardivision.com/> and simply download it. As long as you do not use it for commercial purposes, the entire package is free. (This also true of the Windows version.) Did I mention StarOffice reads and writes Microsoft Office compatible file formats? A savvy user might download the Windows version and try it out with an option of moving on to Linux in the future. Make sure you've got a fast Internet connection because the file you want to download is 62MB in size. A CD version is available for \$40 plus shipping.

What about support? In addition to the numerous FAQs and Linux vendor support and newsgroup support there is now a web site devoted to Linux support. Search at <http://www.linuxcare.com/> to get your questions answered.

Okay! We have a fast, stable operating system. We have a familiar graphical user interface. We have a free office suite. We have support. We have ignition. We have lift off. That pudgy penguin, the friendly Linux mascot, appears very self-satisfied these days. Linux is succeeding against all odds. Its humble beginnings, being written by a Finnish high school student, Linus Torvalds, is what legends are made of.

Some Linux resources

<http://www.redhat.com/>

<http://www.calderasystems.com/>

continued on page 14

Ken's Korner

How to Download Text or Graphics from the Web

by Ken Fermoyle

This month I'm trying something a little different in Ken's Korner: a tutorial aimed at helping Web newbies acquire information from the Internet.

Following that, and to provide something of interest for more advanced surfers, I've included a mini-review of Hot Off The Web. This program makes it easy to capture, annotate and even create scrapbooks of material from the Web; you can then send to others as e-mail. It's quite a handy program, as we'll see later. Meanwhile, on to the...



Download Tutorial

If you want to save the information you find on a Web site, you can either print it and have a copy on paper, copy the file and paste it into WordPad or your processor, or you can download the file and save it on your hard drive or to a floppy.

To Print:

When you find a page you want to save, click on the FILE menu, then on Print. If you use Netscape Navigator you can get a preview of how the printed material will look. Click on FILE, then PRINT PREVIEW.

To Copy:

Use your cursor to highlight the text you want to save by clicking & holding down the left button at the beginning of the text; drag the cursor to the end of the text and release the mouse button. All text will now be highlighted. Click on the EDIT menu, then on COPY (or simply press the Ctrl & C keys simultaneously, a faster, easier shortcut). Minimize your browser window (click on the dash or minus sign in the upper right-hand corner) temporarily and open WordPad or your word processor. Click on EDIT menu, then PASTE (or use the Ctrl & V keys shortcut). Now you can save the file as you would any other you created.

To Download and Save A File:

Click on the FILE menu, then SAVE AS. A dialog box will appear that allows you to select the drive and folder where you want to save the file (at the top). At the bottom will be spaces for you to type in the same you want to give the file. Sometimes a filename is shown; you can either accept that or erase it and type in your own name. There will also be a line that says something like "Save as file type," followed by a space (which might say "HTML") and a down-pointing arrow. Click on the arrow and select "Plain Text," unless you have a special reason to save it as an HTML file.

To Download and Save A Photo Or Other Graphic:

Simply place your cursor on the graphic and click the RIGHT button on your mouse. When a pop-up menu appears, click on "Save Image As..." A dialog box that looks the same as the one mentioned in the paragraph above appears NEXT. Do not try to change the file type, but you can change the file name and location where you want to save the image file.

For example, I have a "GIF&JPEG" folder in drive D on my system. So if I want to save a Web graphics file to that folder, I would select drive D in the dialog box, then click on the GIF&JPEG folder (make sure it shows in the "Save At" box) and finally click on SAVE.

To Download Programs:

This is a bit more complicated, but usually the site contains detailed instructions. You simply click on the DOWNLOAD or CLICK TO DOWNLOAD words or button, and follow the instructions. Usually there will be a dialog box, like the one mentioned in the above two paragraphs, which allows you to select the location (drive & folder) where you want the file to be saved. Sometimes the files will be in compressed Zip form and you have to use a Zip program to unzip (uncompress) them. Usually, however, they are in what is called self-extracting files — which means you simply have to click on them and they will uncompress themselves. Such files have an .exe extension.

Note File Name & Location

It's always a good idea to make a note of the file name and location as insurance against forgetting either (or both!) when you look for the file a week or two after downloading it. Another suggestion: create a DOWNLOAD folder on your hard drive and place all your download in it. You can always move them later.

Download Time

Some large files can take a long time to download. Depending on your modem speed, file size and the amount of Net traffic, it might take from a few minutes to almost an hour, or even more, to download very big files. Many download sites give you the file size, sometimes an estimated download time, to give you some idea of how long the process will take.

Hot Off The Web

I discovered this neat program in April, 1998, and find increasing uses for it. It's great for capturing all or part of Web pages. You can use it to attach virtual "sticky notes," highlight text or even add hand-written comments using the Graffiti Pen — in different colors, yet!

My favorite Hot Off The Web (HOTW) feature, however, is Scrapbook. I do a lot of research on the Web, collecting bits and pieces of information from many sites. I used to print copies of all this stuff and keep them in a manila folder. Now, if I'm accumulating data on hard drives, for instance, I create a Hard Drive scrapbook in HOTW and send material I find to that scrapbook. A time stamp and source URL is included with each item, which tells you when and where you got the information.

continued on page 8

Setting Up a Home Network

A Layman's Crash Course

by Scott Vincent

PART TWO: Extra Goodies

Installing TCP/IP for Internet Access

So far we have only used NetBEUI as a protocol. NetBEUI was a protocol developed by IBM around 1984. It is fast, takes up little memory and is fine for small (less than 10 machines) networks. There are problems using NetBEUI on large networks. But modern networking allows the use of two or more protocols at one time on one network card. If you have a "Dial-up adapter", you are probably using a protocol called TCP/IP or Transmission Control Protocol/Internet Protocol. This is a suite of "languages" that were developed by the military to allow communication between many dissimilar machines. It is the protocol used on the Internet for this very reason. If you have Internet access, your machine must have TCP/IP running in it to operate the "Dial-up" or "DUN". By the way, the "DUN" is a logical device, not a physical card in your machine. It works in conjunction with your modem.

Read this carefully !!!! There are two different places where TCP/IP addresses are set up. In the NETWORK applet there may be several lines stating TCP/IP. One will be for the NIC and one will be for the "Dial-up Network" adapter. In fact, you may have a couple "Dial-up" adapters. You can also have more than one NIC in a machine (creating two sub-nets for better performance by controlling traffic) and the second NIC must have still a different TCP/IP address. Although they appear in the NETWORK applet "configuration" list, *only the NIC TCP/IP addresses are configured here*. The TCP/IP addresses for the "Dial-up" are done in the TCP/IP section of the "Dial-up" adapter configuration found in the "Dial-up Networking" folder in MY COMPUTER, CONTROL PANEL and EXPLORER, not in the NETWORK applet in CONTROL PANEL. Play with the wrong ones and you will blow away the numbers that were assigned to you by your Internet Service Provider and you will no longer be able to gain Internet access through your ISP.

While your ISP's TCP/IP addresses in the "Dial-up" must be as the ISP instructs, the TCP/IP address in the NETWORK applet under NIC (make sure you don't click the "Dial-up" adapter(s) listed there too) can be anything you want within the standard TCP/IP address format. After installing the TCP/IP protocol from within the "protocol" tab in the NETWORK applet, click on the TCP/IP entry for the NIC in the "configuration" list. Click the button that says "Specify IP". You will see two fields. The first is for the IP address you will assign to the machine. It must be unique from all of the other machines' IP addresses. I use 100.100.100.xxx, where the xxx is the part that is unique. Suppose you start with "1". Another machine would be 100.100.100.2 and so forth. The second number is the sub-net mask. This is the same on all of the machines on the LAN. Type in 255.255.255.0 in the 'Sub-net Mask' field. The rest of the tabs on the TCP/IP configuration page can be ignored for a small home network unless you have an NT server. In that case you can set up "Dy-

namic Host Configuration Protocol" (DHCP), Domain Name Server (DNS), a gateway and Windows Internet Name Server (WINS). We'll cover all that later on. For more in-depth information on TCP/IP addressing, see

<http://www.isoc.org/inet98/proceedings/rfc/1900/rfc1918.txt>.

Once you have two machines setup with TCP/IP protocol and their unique IP addresses, click START-PROGRAMS and click the MS-DOS icon. In the DOS window, type "ping 100.100.100.xxx" where xxx is the IP address for a machine other than the one you are sitting at. If TCP/IP is running correctly on your LAN, you should get "reply" back. If not, the cursor will sit while the address is searched for and will eventually time out if it can not find the IP address requested. When you have TCP/IP running correctly, you could remove the NetBEUI protocol and just use TCP/IP. This is an option, but a LAN will perform better with fewer protocols running. On a home network though, there won't be much difference.

Network Wide Internet Access

Now that you have TCP/IP on your network, each machine has the ability to gain Internet access. Or, with an NT server on your LAN, you can have both PCs and MACs on your network. Out on the Internet, you can find software companies that offer affordable "proxy servers". A proxy server is a software layer loaded into a machine that has either an internal or external modem configured in it. The proxy server allows the serial ports, and thus the modem, to be seen on the network in the same way as parallel ports for printers. Otherwise, serial ports will only work on the machine they are on. They could not be offered as shared resources. With a proxy server, you can have multiple connections, on multiple machines, to the Internet through one modem and phone line connection at the same time. You simply go into the "proxy" setup portion of your browser and enter the IP address you assigned to the machine with the modem.

In Netscape, for instance, click EDIT, PREFERENCES, ADVANCED, PROXIES. For a normal modem connect, "Direct Connect" would be set. For access through the network, which is an option now in the initial setup of Netscape (and also IE), you click the second choice. Then type in the IP address for the machine that has the LAN modem and the port address (try 8080) in the first four lines and save it. Now when you click the Netscape icon on your desktop, instead of going out to the local modem, it will go out to the LAN modem by way of the proxy server. You can fiddle with it so that the local modem can be started and used, or click the Cancel button causing the dial-out to stop on the local modem and the LAN modem will dial-out instead. Most proxy server programs are licensed for the number of machines that can be attached at one time and cost around \$50 or \$60 for perhaps three machines. Some additional number of licenses can be added. And if you are one who runs several sessions of your browser at one time, you can still do that too.

continued on page 8

Web Founder Ordained a "Genius"

The man who didn't know what success his invention called the World Wide Web would have received a prestigious, no-strings-attached award he didn't even know existed. Tim Berners-Lee was named as one of 29 recipients of the annual "genius grants" and will receive \$270,000 from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation, which hailed him for pioneering "a revolutionary communications system requiring minimal technical understanding."

"I didn't even know about the program or what the MacArthur Foundation was," said the 43-year-old Berners-Lee, who proposed the system that would become the Web while working at the European Laboratory for Particle Physics in Geneva, Switzerland, in the 1970s.

In addition to proposing the initial idea for the Web, he designed specifications for hyper-text markup language (HTML), the uniform resource locator (URL), the hyper-text transfer protocol (HTTP), and established the first Web server on the Internet.

"I didn't know it was going to succeed the way it has," said Berners-Lee, a native of London. Berners-Lee is director of the World Wide Web Consortium and a principal research scientist at the Laboratory for Computer Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Network, continued from page 7

Protect Your LAN With a "Firewall"

The "communications server" described above can be an old machine, but it must be able to run Win95/98. If you have an NT Server, many proxy server programs will run under RAS (Remote Access Services). Another use of a "junk machine" is as a "firewall" machine. This is used when you either have your own full-time on-line Internet server or if you have cable modem access. The purpose of the firewall is to place a controlling device between your network and the data on it, and the Internet. The idea of a firewall is to monitor what is coming in from outside in the way of unwanted intrusion either by human or by code. Depending on the software, the amount you are willing to pay for it, and the time you spend on tuning it, the software lets in responses that it determines are valid responses for the requests it watched you send out.

To set it up, you put two NICs into one machine. One NIC is the network card coming in from the modem that your ISP is leasing to you. The other NIC is like any of the other NICs you have on your LAN. Now install the "firewall" software. The ISP can not see anything past his NIC. The two NICs will transfer the data back and forth, to and from your LAN. The ISP will however, see multiple connections. If he is watching out for you, you may get e-mail stating that you should perhaps check that someone else does not have access to your account info because they can see multiple connections with your ID. They may also mention that you are using more than the normal amount of bandwidth. Either one of these could prompt them to charge you more.

For more information on firewalls, check out <http://www.acgnj.org/firewall.htm>. ☐

The Chicago-based MacArthur Foundation hands out the unrestricted awards to individuals it feels have demonstrated genius and creativity to society's benefit, and makes it cash awards based on the recipient's age. The latest awards brought to \$156 million the amount of money awarded since the program began in 1981. There have been 531 winners ranging in age from 18 to 82. Individuals may not apply for the grants. The foundation instead invites about 100 people each year to serve as "talent scouts."

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Ken's Korner, continued from page 8

You can share scrapbooks, Web pages and individual items captured by HOTW (and annotated as you wish) with others via e-mail. The program attaches selected material to e-mail, which you prepare within the program in a message composition form, as self-extracting ZIP files. If the recipient does not have HOTW also, no problem. The message will be opened in the recipient's default browser.

One caution note: HOTW is optimized to work with Microsoft Internet Explorer, so some images and text may appear differently in other browsers.

Space limits me to this bare-bones review, but I've included basic information below (remember these are minimums; HOTW works better with faster computers with more RAM). For more detailed information visit www.hotofftheweb.com.

Price: \$29.95

Minimum System Requirements

- IBM PC or compatible computer, 486/66 or better CPU
- Windows(r) 95/98 or NT 4.0
- 8 MB RAM
- 5 MB Disk Space
- Pointing device (mouse, tablet, etc.)
- 28.8K modem
- Internet connection (modem, LAN, etc.)
- CD-ROM drive ☐

It's Only TEMPorary

by Duane Burdick

Way back when Windows was first developed, the product was very unstable. You spent more time rebooting the computer than running your program. Windows has always used a TEMP directory to hold files that are written to run various phases of operation, and then these files are deleted when the computer is properly shut down.

If Windows crashes for some reason, these files are not deleted and they tend to build up. After the directory loads up with files it can make your programs run much slower than normal. Back in those days, some of the computer gurus would place a batch file in their AUTOEXEC.BAT that would automatically clean out the TEMP directory every time the computer booted up.

As time progressed, the problems with Windows decreased and the TEMP file build up became less of a problem. While Windows 3.1 was a big advance, we still had DOS that would allow an operator to enter DOSHELL and check the TEMP files. If there were files present they could be deleted.

With the advent of Windows 95, Microsoft created a problem for new computer users as not many new computer owners are familiar with the old DOS commands. Secondly, they do not want to become involved with them. These are the very people that this article is addressed to.


If they do some blundering, and promote crashes, they will build up files in their TEMP directory. After a large number have been built up they will experience problems and have no idea of the reason. Cleaning the TEMP directory is avoided in

Windows 95 documentation because if an inexperienced person goes to Windows Explorer and deletes the TEMP files, Windows will crash.

The following procedure can be used by a novice:

- While Windows 95 is running, click on Start and Shut-down. Choose restart the computer in MS-DOS mode. It will then reboot to the C:\WINDOWS prompt. Type CD TEMP and press <Return>.
- You should now be in the C:\WINDOWS \TEMP directory. Type DIR/P and then <Return>.
- This will list all the files in the directory. If any files exist type DEL *.* and press <Return> to delete all the files in the directory. You will be prompted to press "y" to confirm you want to delete the files.
- Now type DIR and press <Return> again. There should be no files listed in the directory. Reboot the system. When prompted, turn off the computer, count to ten and restart it. It should go right into Windows 95 and you will have completed your TEMP maintenance.


This type of maintenance should only be needed if you have been having problems with one of your programs acting up and crashing. Normally you will not find any files in the TEMP directory while in the DOS mode. However, it is worth the time to check it periodically just to make sure.

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Put the Win95Recycle Bin on a Diet

by Tom Lassiter


Your Recycle Bin, by default, "limits" itself to occupying 10% of your hard drive before it starts dumping out older items from its cavernous maw. Ten percent of a 6GB drive is 600MB. What a disk hog! Most of us seldom have need to restore files from there and, if we do, we recognize that need pretty soon after we delete a file – and therefore don't need to keep it there for another 30 days or so "just in case". So assert yourself; take control of your system and set your own limits. RIGHT-CLICK on the Recycle Bin icon on the desktop, CLICK on PROPERTIES and utilize the slider bar to choose the percentage of space you are willing to devote to the Recycle Bin. In many case 2-5% is probably plenty. Hard Drive space is cheap these days but it still isn't FREE so don't waste it or give it away for nothing.

From the Houston Areal League of Computer Users. Tom Lassiter is a member of the HAL-PC Board of Directors. He may be contacted at jamesl@hal-pc.org. 

Y2K — Not Just for Computers

So much has been said about Y2K problems in computing that you may have missed another Y2K problem — programmed record on your VCR.

If your VCR is not Y2K compliant, you won't be able to use this feature when the big day arrives. You could buy a new one that is compliant (that's what the manufacturers would like you to do), but there is a work-around: just set the date to 1972. Because the days of the calendar will be the same as those in 2000, the programmed record feature will work as it should. And you'll have 28 more years of recording pleasure!!!

Thanks to all those who forwarded this hint. 

Adaptec Easy CD Creator Deluxe

by William C. May, Utah Computer Society

Burn Baby Burn! CDs, that is! Easy CD Creator Deluxe version 3.0, from Adaptec, Inc., contains an assortment of programs that allow you to produce and copy various types of CD related material. The main program, Easy CD Creator, can copy and produce data, audio and mixed media CDs with an easy-to-use interface. It has a quick copy utility that copies CDs without much user intervention and it also has a sophisticated interface that has all kinds of bells and whistles you can use to create your CDs in various formats.

The main program, can operate in manual mode or "wizard" mode, which will walk you through the process step by step. You can copy existing data CDs, program CDs, music CDs, and if you have a CD rewriter you can use the same CD over and over. The program has many safeguards built in to stop you from making an useless CD (which is very easy to do) such as the "verify layout" option that can check your CD layout and tell you if it is going to work or not.

Easy CD Creator can also be used to make bootable CD-ROMs, which can be very useful if you have a computer that is capable of booting up from a CD. Another program included in the package is called CD Spin Doctor which allows you to record and process audio from analog sources (such as records and cassette tapes) and put those analog signals into digital format on a CD (this is very cool if you want to preserve your LP or cassette tape collection).

Easy CD Creator also has a nifty CD label and jewel cover printing utility for making your own layouts for you CDs and jewel cases.

Each CD-R or CD-RW can hold 640 megabytes of information if you copy the CD all at once. If you do multiple copy sessions until the CD is full, you lose approximately 15 megabytes of storage per copy session (it is lost to partition table information, etc.). CD-R and CD-RW are both very good for backing up and CD copying but with CD-R if the process is interrupted and done incorrectly the CD-R is toast (CD-R media is write once, read many and CD-RW media is write many and read many). Even if you wrote only 5 megs of info to the disk and something goes amiss during writing, the disk is useless. A year ago wasting disk was more of an issue as the cost of CD-R media was much higher than it is now, but it is still very irritating to lose a CD after waiting an hour or so for it to copy. Because of this great irritation, I went to the newer CD-RW machines and I use the CD-RW rewritable media to test out my CD copies before I commit to using a CD-R. If I mess up the CD-RW I just erase it and start over. This does require me to do most CD copies twice, but my CD disaster pile has stopped growing.

The Good

Easy to use drag and drop interface. Easy to use wizards for most operations. Verification tools to check my work. Won't let me try to copy too much data to too little space on the CD. Will copy almost any CD. Can choose different formats to target the operating systems that will be reading the CDs. Has

built-in diagnostic tests to test your CD burner setup before actually copying any CDs. Works with almost every CD burner out there.

Pearls of Wisdom

Read the manual first. Be prepared to mess up five to ten CD-Rs before you learn what not to do. If you have trouble getting through a session without getting errors, try copying the entire CD that you are trying to duplicate to your hard drive and copy it from there instead of from CD to CD recorder. Do not "close out" the CD (make it impossible to write more data to it later) unless you are positive you are done writing to it. Remember that files with the same names will replace each other on the CD if you are doing multiple copying sessions (be sure you want this to happen). Putting your files in directories on your CD and not just in the root directory will minimize unintentional file overwrites. Always "import" previous sessions or they will disappear after adding new files. Get a CD-RW and play with it first (you can recover from mistakes with these babies).

I have tried several CD burning programs, but Easy CD Creator is the easiest and most reliable I have used so far. I haven't used the CD Spin Doctor so I can't tell you if it is any good from personal experience but other reviewers have very good things to say about it. I have created about 30 data CDs, copied 25 music CDs, and copied a dozen CD programs with a only a few disasters that were mostly my fault. Most of my problems are probably related to my errors and the drive compatibility with my computer system not Easy CD Creator. Version 3.5 is out now and as I understand it the core program (Easy CD Creator) is basically untouched but the CD Spin Doctor program has been significantly altered and a new program that handles photos and video is now included (you can make your own photo CDs). If you want to just do data CDs version 3.0 is just fine. If you want photo and video capabilities thrown in, get version 3.5 (owners of version 3.0 can get a free upgrade to 3.5 also).


Copying CDs is fun and can save much more reliably than magnetic media can. Happy CD burning.

Manufactured by: Adaptec, Inc. 691 South Milpitas Blvd. Milpitas, California 95035 Tel: 408.945.8600 Fax: 408.262.253 www.adaptec.com

System Requirements: Windows 95, Windows 98 or Windows NT 4.0; 17 MB free hard disk space.

Supported: CD-Recordable (CD-R) or CD Rewritable (CD-RW) drive Recordable (CD-R) or Rewritable (CD-RW) Cds

Optional: (1) sound card (16bit or better) and analog source (LP, cassette, DAT tape, or CD) attached to stereo receiver with line-out capabilities for CD Spin Doctor.

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Family Origins 7.0 Deluxe

by Glen Parker

Family Origins 7.0 Deluxe is one of the best buys of any family history program on the market. It contains a tremendous genealogy program, Family Reunion Planner and Place Finder, which finds the county name for any U.S. city.

Installing from the CD was very smooth. The install menu had check boxes to indicate which programs to install. It recognized that I had Family Origins 5.0 and asked if I wanted to upgrade to 7.0 format. After each program was installed it asked if I wanted to install the next. When it came time to install Place Finder, it gave me a choice to run from the CD or to install to the hard drive (which would require 25.4 MB).

At completion of install, a tip of the day box came up which included a check box to turn it off if you didn't want to see it each time you started the system. A Welcome box then came up with options to create a new database, open an existing database, restore a backed up data base, ask for help, or exit. I chose to open my existing 5.0 database. It asked if I wanted to convert it to 7.0 to which I answered yes. Install and conversion didn't take more than 5 minutes total, converting over 9500 individuals and 3800 families from my 5.0 database.

I decided to try the PAF Import feature from the File menu as I still have my PAF 2.0 and PAF 3.0 databases. Importing the PAF 2.0 data took less than 5 minutes. I was not able to import the PAF 3.0 database as the program seemed to have a hard time with the name. I'm not sure if the program can't handle 3.0 or if I just didn't know the right steps to follow. I finally gave up and went on to other features.

After both the conversion from 5.0 to 7.0 and the import of PAF 2.0, the next screen up was a 5-generation pedigree chart with myself as the first entry. As I clicked on each name on the chart, birth, marriage, and death information was displayed for that person. Clicking on an arrow at either end of the chart allowed me to continue the chart out as far as I had information. Double clicking on an individual brought up an edit window with facts about that individual. Already filled in was the info imported from PAF such as birth, death, marriage, and LDS ordinance information. What I really liked about this feature was the ability to enter as many facts about a person as I wanted to in addition to the standard information contained in PAF. From this edit screen I was able to access two other screens, one for notes and another for source information. This feature of Family Origins is far superior to PAF, as PAF only has the ability to place other facts, notes and sources in an unformatted notes section.

Another nice feature available from the pedigree chart was the ability to switch to the family group sheet of the person highlighted by clicking a group sheet tab. As with the pedigree chart information was displayed at the top of the screen, including birth, death and marriage information including the date, place and age of the person at the time of the event. Also, as with the pedigree chart, double clicking on an individual's name brought up the edit screen for that person, including all of the facts recorded about him. Returning to the group sheet, I was able to toggle back to the pedigree sheet. This is a very user friendly program for moving around through the data.

The next feature I looked at was the Multimedia Scrapbook accessed from the Edit Menu. This feature lets you create a scrapbook attaching photos, sound files and video clips to the person highlighted on the pedigree or group sheet. A photo of an individual can be flagged as the one to print on family trees and stories of ancestors or descendants. I especially liked the feature of including photos as I could scan a photo of an ancestor in (directly from the program), store it, and immediately attach it to the ancestor. I am also able to connect a video camera or video player to my computer to capture pictures to use in the program.

If you have an Internet connection you can connect to Parson Technology's Home Page from within the program. I was able to register on line. It also provides the ability to create your own genealogy web site from inside the program. This sounds like an extremely valuable feature for the serious family history researcher.

Family Origins 7.0 contains many reports and lists to help with researching and publishing your family history. Describing each would be too lengthy. Reports, lists, and charts included are: Family Group sheets, Pedigree charts (4, 5, or 6 generations), Descendant Wall Chart, Ancestor Wall Chart, Ancestor Book (with or without photos), Individual Summary, Individual Photo Scrapbook, Family Photo Tree, Cemetery Records Form, Research Log, Source List, Address List, Research Log with TO-Do List, Birthday and Anniversary List, Descendant List, Facts without Sources, Individual List, Individuals with No Parents List, Place List (with events), Repository List, Ahnentafel List, Duplicate List, Kinship List, LDS Unfinished Ordinances, Problem List, Statistics List, and Unlinked Individuals List. Also included new with 7.0 is a Forest Report, an Indented Descendant Book, Multiple Parents List, Fact List, Sortable Marriage List, Correspondence Log, and a Family Timeline List. I especially liked the format of the reports I printed. They were much easier to read than those from PAF.

Family Origins allows creation of a customized report on any person, finds the relationship between any two people, tracks documentation, and exchanges data with other programs via GEDCOM. It is fully compatible with LDS Ancestral File and TempleReady.

Manufacturer: Parsons Technology (Broderbund), 1700 Progress Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233, (319) 395-9626, <http://www.parsonstech.com>. List price: Standard Edition \$29 (direct from Parsons). Requirements: 486 or higher, 8MB RAM, Windows 95/98, 5MB hard drive space (full install 40 MB), 2X CD-ROM drive or faster, 640x480 display, 256 colors. Printer support for most popular printers (monochrome and color) supported by Windows. Modem and Internet account required for Web site creation. I have a 266 Pentium II with ATI All-In-Wonder-Pro graphics card, 64 MB RAM, 6 GB hard disk space, 32X CD-Rom Drive, Epson ES-300 flatbed color scanner, ZIP drive, Colorado T3000 tape drive, HP LaserJet III and Lexmark 5700 Color Printer.

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SIG News

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

April 6 Meeting: We demonstrated a bit more of the functionality of Internet Explorer 5.0, then looked at a few Web-based free services, stimulated by Alex's suggesting I look at www.freeback.com. We showed a bit of this new free service, FreeBack, which as the name implies, is a rent-free place to store your valuables in Cyberspace. You don't get a lot of space (what can you expect for free?), but it could be very handy. We took brief looks at www.efax.com, which offers you a free fax number, somewhere in the U.S., and emails you the faxes received at that number as attachments you view with their free viewer. We also visited www.when.com, which offers space to keep your appointment database and a nice calendar GUI, which will run under most modern browsers. We were a bit more nervous about Punch, at punch3.excite.com, a Java-based groupware freebie with the (shared) data being stored at their site. I chickened out when it began asking for too many permissions to manipulate stuff on my PC. Since Excite's behind it, it may be okay. These Web-based applications all help release you from dependence on one PC, since the data is kept on the Web. A different type of free service is www.techpointer.com, which offers free trouble shooting advice, a database of common problems, chat rooms and forums.

May 7 Meeting: We were once again honored to have Heyward Ehrlich, Professor of English Literature at Rutgers, Newark, as speaker at the Main Meeting. His topic was "Moore's Law or Lesser's Law?" The "Moore" is Gordon Moore and his law concerns the tendency of circuit density to double every 18 months, resulting in computers becoming cheaper, faster and more powerful, as we have all seen. Ehrlich acknowledged that "Lesser" is my cousin Victor from U of Mass, but I never found out what his law was. The title seems to be a pun on "more is less," since even with the passage of a number of decades of this progression, the work we have to do on our computers has not advanced. Rather, since it has given us access to much more data, it may have actually slowed us down, just as the "paperless" workplace uses ever more paper. (In a recent interview on BigThinkers on ZDTV, Neal Stephenson, noted Cyberpunk author and accomplished programmer, admitted he had tried writing with everything from a pencil to a computer and found he was most productive with a fountain pen — it never crashed, hung, needed a wizard or lost work.) The argument also applies to the increasing volume and decreasing density of useful information available on the World Wide Web. The discussion was lively and centered around productivity questions and questions about the impact on research and education. Let's hope he will return in another year or two for his next surprising observations!

June 3 Meeting: Once again, Web News, Random Access, and a review of new goodies on the Net. We'll devote some time to E-commerce, as well. Don't forget that I'll be there at 7:30 PM to spend some time with newbies, if any need help. (Bring along your newbie friends.) ☐

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

At our May meeting we looked at some new technical analysis/trading software. Jack Smith, one of our members, showed us how the newest version of TeleCharts 2000 works. The program is free, and the costs of data updates is relatively low. Many were interested in this new program.

Co-chairman Dick Boyd discussed some of the trading software that is currently available. He covered Windows on Wall Street Day Trader and IQ chart by IQC Corporation. IQ chart is a new breed of software. Charts are served up from a server on the Internet rather than from your local software and hard drive. Windows on Wall Street Day Trader is unique because of a real-time (or close to real-time) data feed that is basically free of cost. We also discussed the pros and cons of day trading.

I presented some of the better, but less known sites on the web. We were "off-line", but we looked at the usability of these sites. All of these are listed on our links pages at our SIG page. Covered were:

The American Association of Individual Investors:

<http://www.aaaii.org>

Cyberinvest:

<http://www.cyberinvest.com/>

The Motley Fool:

<http://www.fool.com/>

Invest-o-rama!:

<http://www.investorama.com/>

Federal Reserve System Beige Book:

<http://www.federalreserve.gov/FOMC/BeigeBook/Current/>

Barron's recent article about on-line brokers

<http://interactive.wsj.com/public/current/articles/SB921281910872332380.htm>

Bank rate monitor infobank:

<http://www.bankrate.com/>

Fund Club:

<https://www.fundclub.com/secure/login.html?domain=barrons%2efundclub%2ecom&url=&nasdaq=>

Investor Communications:

<http://www.icbinc.com/>

I would like to extend an invitation to current or potential investors to attend our group, meeting the second Thursday of each month. We all look forward to new members and ideas. Our group includes newcomers to investing and computing as well as those who have 35 or more years of experience in both. We do not typically schedule a topic in advance, but try to react to market conditions and present ideas that are both current, and hopefully profitable. Emphasis is on investing, using the computer to assist. For more information see our web page (<http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig/>). ☐

continued

Lunics (Linux/Unix)

Peter Fillingham (pete@panix.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.htm>

This is a group for those who share an interest in the Linux operating system and its relatives (UN*X, BSD, Coherent, AIX ...). Currently there is a strong interest in Linux as an alternative to other operating systems, especially since there is no charge for the system. It and its source code are freely distributable. Meetings the first Monday of the month. ☐

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@injersey.com)

May: Tentatively scheduled, Microsoft Office 2000. ☐

Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez

(cybertech72@bigfoot.com)

The MultiMedia and Mobile Computing Activity meets at 7 P.M. the same night as PC Users Group, and will introduce the topic being discussed at PCUG. ☐

Main Meeting

June 4, 1999: Linux — it's not just for breakfast any more, by Peter Fillingham. Corporate America has started to wake up and take notice of the Linux operating system. ☐

VBA

Jim Ditaranto

VBA = Visual Basic for Applications

VBA is currently implemented in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Project and Microsoft Access. In the future, Microsoft will implement VBA in Microsoft Word and in Microsoft PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any one of the Microsoft Office products and VBA is urged to attend.

The meetings start at 7 P.M., at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. We will start a new schedule — every 4th Monday of the month, starting January 25th. The topic for the Monday, January 25th meeting will be “Year 2000 Issues in Visual Basic for Applications”.

Jim Ditaranto can be reached at (201) 986-1104, or fryr92a@prodigy.com. ☐

Random Access

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

Those of us who have been involved in computer user groups for a long time remember when the Random Access Session was the only source of information about your particular computer. Even though PCs and the software that runs on them are pretty much standardized now, users occasionally have problems or want more information.

Random Access is for *everyone*. There is no such thing as a dumb question. Everyone usually benefits from the discussed topics regardless of their level of expertise. Many of the regulars can help solve your problem or at least get you started in the right direction.

This is an official “Newbies too” group. ☐

June 1999

PC Users Group

Jo-Anne Head (tinarock@aol.com)

<http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html>

June 18: Mark Middleton from Adobe Systems will discuss Acrobat 4 and show us the latest products from Adobe. There will be giveaways and raffles for members only.

May 21: John deGood talked about “Preparing for the Year 2000.” His presentation reviewed Y2K issues and remediation with an emphasis on the personal computer. The potential implications of Y2K computer failures on society and some of the ways you are likely to be affected were discussed, along with what you should (and should not!) do to prepare for January 1, 2000.

Summer: We will meet in July and August. One meeting of the two will be a party. ☐

C/C++ SIG

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

<http://www.blast.net/barnold/>

The C/C++ User's Group was founded several years ago with the following goals: to be a forum for discussion about programming in general; to discuss beginning and intermediate level C, C++, and C-Win programming; to demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way; to discuss hardware, software, code, algorithms, operating systems; and to present the complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. Each meeting is divided into three sections: random access question, answers, and discussion; standard library functions, Windows API functions and other topics of a narrow and simple scope; and a main presentation which is normally a small program, 300–1000 lines, which actually performs some useful function. The program is discussed and demonstrated in terms of its philosophy, algorithm, flow, code, challenges, options, improvements, etc. This case study also provides a forum for additional questions and audience participation. Source code for the program is handed out and is also available on the ACGNJ FTP Server: <ftp://ftp.acgnj.lrg/pub/acgnj/cug/>. ☐

Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

The Macintosh group generally meets on the fourth Friday of the month in Hill Center, Room 114, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. In June, November, and December, the meeting is usually pushed to the third Friday. The meeting starts at 7 pm. We meet in the Busch Campus Student Center Food Court for supper around 5 pm for those people that come to the meeting straight from work. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda

(matthew.skoda@acgnj.org)

We discuss issues of interest to novice users or persons who are just interested in getting started. Watch the ACGNJ Web page for updates. The Layman's forum will meet in June, but will not be meeting during July and August. See you in September! ☐

Internet Corner, continued from page 4

From the Scientific American, June issue, there are two articles about the Web and four that have been Web-enhanced:

•“Hypersearching the Web,” This new method proposes using interrelation of Web pages as creating clusters of hyperlinks to create better search engines.


•“Your 0.002 Cents’ Worth.” Remember eCash and all those schemes for charging you little bits of cash for little bits of information? Well this article details the trials and tribulations of the schemes and the companies that were going to cash in on them. Reminds me of a couple of similar schemes at AT&T where the accounting costs ran higher than the charges, a phenomenon that destroys all too many reasonable-seeming schemes.

•“Gravity’s Lenses” – using distortions of space created by distant galaxies as telescopes to probe even farther.

•“Building Livers from Bone Marrow” – experiments on mice indicate that bone marrow may be used to rebuild other tissues, like the liver.

•“A Slice of Pie” – a month or two ago we showed you “The π Pages” at www.cecm.sfu.ca/pi/pi.html. Well, here’s Scientific American’s expert’s answer to “What is pi, and how did it originate?”

•“Head Bones” – “Skulls R Us” Is their pick of the Web site. All about head bones and anthropology!

You can find all this at www.sciam.com. 

"Computers in the future may weigh no more than 1.5 tons."
 (Popular Mechanics, forecasting the relentless march of science, 1949)

Horizon, continued from page 5

<http://www.slackware.com/>

<http://www.suse.de/e>

<http://www.kde.org/>

<http://www.gnome.org/>


<http://www.pht.com/>

<http://www.gnu.org/>

<http://www.linuxapps.com/>

<http://www.happypenguin.com/>

<http://www.linuxresources.com/>

Ron Murawski is a computer consultant from Staten Island, New York. Feedback or advice for future articles is invited. You can read “On The Horizon” online at <http://www.castlemall.com/ron>. Copyright © 1999 by Ron Murawski. 

Free Admission Ticket

Got your attention now? That word “FREE” usually does it. We all know there is no such thing as a “free lunch”, but here is something that comes close.

I am offering free admission to local computer shows, mainly the KGP Shows at Raritan Center, the new home of TCF. The cost; about four hours of your time to staff a table and promote the club. As an added benefit you also have a vendor badge which might get you a discount on your purchases.

If this offer appeals to you, (or even if it doesn’t) and you want to help out the club please get in touch with me:

Arnold Milstein
 email: arnold_milstein@bigfoot.com
 Phone: (908) 753-8036

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

	US/CANADA	FAMILY OF MEMBER (No Newsletter)	Dues	FOREIGN	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25	\$10		\$55	\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40					
3 Years	\$55					\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
 AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

New Member Renewal Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

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Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

Do not list me in the Membership Directory. (Street addresses are not listed in the directory.)

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups		
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, Princeton U. (609) 252-1163	NY/NJ/CT Relational Database User Group: Corporate and independent users. (212) 839-0125	New York Personal Computer Club: For information call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: 7:30 pm, 2nd Wednesday, St. Asaph's Episcopal Church. Lee Le'mon, (717)786-2260	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm,3rd Friday, Forums 103 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. Andrea Tarr (732) 229-2959.	Macintosh User Group: Third Tuesday, Mallory Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (201) 893-5274 or (201) 659-1017.
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Tue., Queen of Heaven School, Cherry Hill; 4th Wed., Cherry Hill Library. (609) 354-1159.	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am to noon 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington. (908) 995-4042	PC Club of South Jersey: 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday, Holy Cross HS, Route 130, Delran NJ. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel U., Philadelphia. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, Trenton St. College. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC Users Group: Bergen County Community College, Paramus NJ. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432
Morris Micro Computer Club: Bill Traywick, (973) 635-5393.	Fairlawn Computer Club: Last Monday, Fairlawn Senior Citizen Center. Joe Mathias (fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com)	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 281-3107, http://www.ppcug-nj.org
Workshop, Hands-On: 2 P.M. to Midnight on last Saturday of the month. First United Methodist Church, Church and Atlantic Streets (one mile from GSP exit 117A), Aberdeen NJ. Bring your project, computer and extension cord. For information call Burke Mawby, (908) 566-7445.		

Radio and TV Programs

ACGNJ's Bill Farrell: METV 12 (Metuchen), Thurs. & Sat., 8:30 p.m.

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, New York, Wednesday 8-9 p.m.

Software Review TLC Sat.10 p.m.

CNet, Schedule on page 4.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 227-7770.

Computer Talk, WPHT 1210 AM, Saturdays 11 a.m-1 p.m.

Free Help Line

Dell Computer: Sundays 1-4 P.M. (800) 677-0874. Call with your questions.

KGP Computer Shows

(More at <http://www.pcshow.com>)

June 12-13: NJ Convention Center, Raritan Center, Edison, NJ

June 19: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ

ACGNJ Hotline

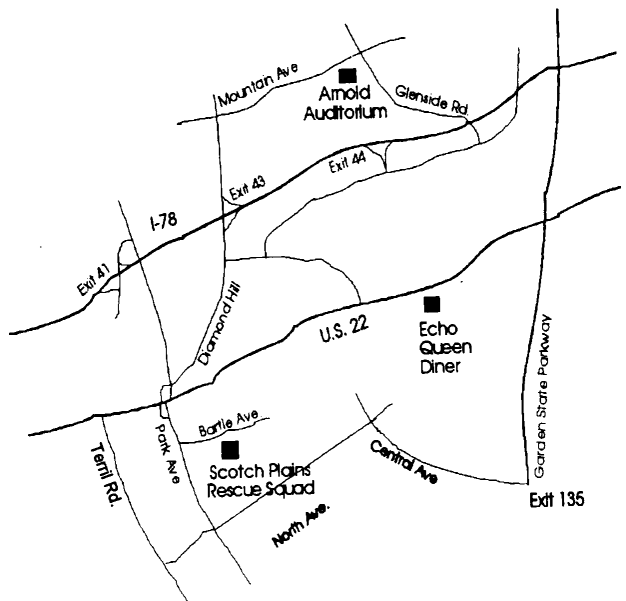
(908) 322-4654

ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

ACGNJ Bulletin boards were shut down in April due to lack of interest. Of the other bulletin boards previously listed in this spot, only one is still in operation.

(732) 739-3693 Dave Wrobel

For a comprehensive listing of NJ bulletin boards, look for and download GSBBS???.ZIP (Garden State BBS List).



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take either Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp and follow circle under Parkway. Bear right onto Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light onto North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right onto Martine (which turns into Park Ave.). Right onto Bartle Avenue in middle of shopping district. The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit for Scotch Plains (Exit 41) and follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross over Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains. The exit is after a McDonalds Restaurant on the right, diagonally opposite the Scotchwood Diner on the left, and immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use the overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). The Scotch Plains Rescue Squad is located on the right. It is a two-story brick building. Please do not park in the row next to the building. We normally meet upstairs, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building.

ACGNJ NEWS

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ACGNJ MEETINGS

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, including weather cancellations, call our Hotline (908) 322-4654
or visit the ACGNJ Web Page (<http://www.acgnj.org>)

Tuesday, June 1, 1999

7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting

Wednesday, June 2

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Thursday, June 3

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum

Friday, June 4

8 P.M. - Main Meeting.

Monday, June 7

Labor Day, no meeting

Wednesday, June 9

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Thursday, June 10

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, 201-740-2489.

Friday, June 11

8 P.M. - Symposium. John Raff, 973-533-0664

Monday, June 14

8 P.M. - Layman's Forum, Matt Skoda, 908-359-8842.

Wednesday, June 16

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent

Friday, June 18

7 P.M. - Multimedia & Mobile Computing. Steve Rodriguez.

8 P.M. - PC Users. <http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html>.
Jo-Anne Head, 908-769-7385.

Tuesday, June 24

7:30 P.M. - C/C++ Users, Bruce Arnold, 908-735-7898.

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes. New meeting place. See SIG News. Call our voice mail line, 908-417-5778 ext 5, for last minute changes in plan/cancellations.

Thursday, June 24

8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681.

Friday, June 25

7 P.M. - Macintosh Users Group, at Rutgers University, Piscataway NJ. Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu), 732-821-4828.

8 P.M. - Random Access, Computer Q&A, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793.

Monday, June 28

7 P.M. - VBA (Visual Basic, Excel). James Ditaranto, 973-772-7171.

Wednesday, June 30

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent ☐

Summer Schedule

ACGNJ News will not be published during July and August, and there will be no Main Meetings or Layman's Forum meetings during July and August. Other special interest groups may or may not have summer meetings scheduled. Please consult the ACGNJ Web calendar, or contact SIG leaders for up-to-date information.

**All club meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, N.J.
Directions and map inside back cover.**