

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 25, Number 9

November 2000

Urgent — Nominations Needed

Volunteers are desperately needed to fill ACGNJ offices which will be vacated as of the end of 2000 due to term limitations. According to the ACGNJ Constitution and By-Laws, officers may serve only two consecutive terms. Because of this the offices of President, Vice-President and Treasurer are open and must be filled at the elections at the December Main Meeting.

If you would be willing to serve in one of these positions or know of someone else who would be willing to serve, please call or email Bill Farrell or any officer. In addition to the three offices which will be vacant, Bill is also accepting nominations for the positions of Corresponding Secretary, Recording Secretary, and three seats on the Board of Directors.

From the ACGNJ Constitution and Bylaws:

ARTICLE IV: (A) EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Section 4.2 TERM OF OFFICE: The elected Executive Officers of ACGNJ shall hold office for a term of one year starting January 1, of the year following the year in which elections are held continuing in office through December 31, or later until their successors are installed.

Section 4.3 No individual can be elected to the same Executive office in ACGNJ for more than two consecutive terms.

Section 4.7 DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 4.7.1 **President:** The President shall preside at the General Meeting of ACGNJ and shall serve as the chairman of the Executive Board presiding at all of its meetings. In general, the President shall perform such duties as customarily pertain to the office of President of an organization including such other duties as are provided for in these Bylaws and as from time to time may be assigned to the President by the Executive Board.

Section 4.7.2 **Vice President:** The Vice President shall be a member of the Executive Board and shall serve as an aide to the President. At the request of the President or in the event of the absence or disability of the President, the Vice-President shall perform all of the duties of the President, and in so acting shall have all the powers and be subject to the restrictions upon the President. The Vice President shall perform such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Vice-President by the President or by the Executive Board.

Section 4.73 **Corresponding Secretary:** The Corresponding Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Board and shall be responsible for causing all of the duties incident to the office of Corresponding Secretary to be performed including the receiving and acting on requests for membership and the issuing of meeting notices and agendas. The Corresponding

continued



You are Needed!

Nominations for Officers and Board of Directors are now being accepted.

See any officer or Bill Farrell

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<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

Back issues of ACGNJ News are available in PDF format with hyperlinks at <http://www.acgnj.org/news/>

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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 Charlie Huffsmith (chaz026@aol.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.

Typographic Note: The ACGNJ News is produced using Corel Ventura 8. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Ariel (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). A similar list, including many members not listed here, can be found on the ACGNJ Web Page (<http://www.acgnj.org>).

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The Internet Corner

Martin Rosenblum

Web News

(Sorry, I couldn't devote much time to this.) From a recent issue of the Star-Ledger, a useful list from Jim Krane: "Stuck with a piece of junk? Here are places to dump it." (We're talking about old computers and the like.) It's a long list of places, but online dump resources are at www.sharetechnology.org for Burlington County, and Rutgers' Cook College maintains a list of recyclers at aesop.rutgers.edu/~wastemgmt.

Miscellany

A few weeks ago we went to the city to meet our younger daughter's new in-laws-to-be. We were to meet at a "SOHO" restaurant. Before leaving home, I downloaded the latest NYC Zagat (www.zagat.com) and movie schedules from Vindigo (www.vindigo.com) to my Palm Pilot (www.palm.com). I have signed up with the service, which let me download the latest data without reinstalling the software. It was a breeze, just taking a few seconds. The Palm goes in its cradle, the sync operation starts, syncs all the PC based data then downloads the latest version of Zagat and movie schedules from the Web. The Palm/Zagat offers great navigation features. Put in where you're starting from (we were at Lafayette and Houston) and the restaurant you're headed to, click "Where" and it says: "Go 375 yards south on Lafayette..." Nifty!

On the way we passed CyberCafe (www.cyber-cafe.com) at 273 Lafayette Street and stopped in to chat with the manager. She told us that they were doing just fine! Said that the bulk of the business was tourists and business travelers checking their email. Business was so good they had opened a branch on 49th Street and were working on another in the high 50s.

The New York Academy of Sciences, www.nyas.org, occasionally buys a block of seats to an event of scientific interest and sells them to members. So it was with the Broadway play Copenhagen, www.copenhagenbroadway.com, and more recently the Manhattan Theatre Club's (www.mtc-nyc.org) "Proof," (www.proof-mtc.com). Maria and I went to see Proof on Oct 15. The Walter Kerr Theatre was on 48th Street and we went around the block to pass a little time. On 49th Street we bumped into the CyberCafe. It was well populated — about half men and half women, maybe 15 surfers all told.

While we waited for the play to begin, we chatted a bit with a woman sitting next to us. She was a bit older than us and was still running her company, a maker of heavy metal test equipment. She of her brother the physicist and other things. (We later exchanged email and it turns out I knew of him from my time at Brookhaven.) The play was fascinating, very well acted, and although it was basically about people, there were threads running through the play about mathematical proof and the "madness" of (some) mathematicians.

The following day, "Proof: A Symposium," was presented by NYU's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences (www.cims.nyu.edu), the Manhattan Theatre Club, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation (www.sloan.org), at the NYU Law School Tishman Auditorium. I took the train and PATH to 9th Street and walked the few blocks to the auditorium. On

the way I spied a cyber cafe, "sandwichdotcom." The manager said there were several similar shops under the franchise. I had a sandwich and headed off for the symposium. A later visit to www.sandwichdotcom.com showed only a template for the business, but no data filled in. The sandwich was fine, however and served its purpose.

The first panel discussion was "What's a Proof and What's it Worth?" with 5 mathematicians and two philosophers. One of the Harvard mathematicians was touting a method of proof which merely showed that a statement was true in the vast majority of cases. One of the Courant Institute mathematicians allowed as how proof might have some subjective elements — this "deconstructionism" upset me a bit, having known this fellow as one of the brightest fellow grad student when I was at Yale. Another of the math folks from Harvard, Arthur Jaffe, is president of the Clay Mathematics Institute, www.claymath.org, a group founded by Landon Clay to further mathematical knowledge. New Jersey's own Finn M. W. Caspersen (www.beneficial.com) is director. There are at least two members of the Institute for Advanced Studies, Andrew Wiles of Fermat's Last Theorem fame, and Edward Witten, a famous mathematical physicist working in such things as superstring theory. The Institute is offering prizes of one million dollars each for solutions of seven famous mathematical problems. On the day the prize was announced, CMI's Website received over one million visits.

The second panel, "Women and Proof," dealt with another theme of the play, namely the difficulty women still have breaking into the top ranks of the mathematics power structure. In a session very ably led by Margaret Wright from Bell Labs, it became clear that women mathematicians weren't making the same inroads as their peers in other scientific disciplines. No one could offer an explanation, since there seems to be no lack of talent or ambition.

The third panel, held in the evening after a very nice spread (contributed by Sloan?), was "Images of Proof in Performance and Prose." Moderator Michael Janeway, journalism professor at Columbia, did a superb job. The panel was composed of two "Proof" people (the playwright and an actor), and two authors: Sylvia Nasar, biographer of John Nash, (a major contributor to game theory and a victim of schizophrenia for many years — not dissimilar to one of the characters in the play) and Rebecca Goldstein, author of a number of fiction works on science and scientists, including "Mind-Body Problem." Later I popped over to bibliofind.com and alibris.com to order a couple of her books, as well as Hardy's "A Mathematician's Apology," which somehow I had missed as a young mathematician, but which was highly recommended by some of the panel.

Survival

Ray Kurzweil has written a new piece entitled "Promise and Peril" for Ziff-Davis' Inter@ctive Week. If your interest has been piqued by any of my ravings on this subject, you might enjoy his latest effort along this line in the October 22 issue at

continued

www.zdnet.com/intweek/stories/news/0,4164,2643123,00.html, which is accompanied by chat from the readers. You might want to join the discussion.

Book Non-Report

My daughter called me to listen to something on NPR, so I revved up WNYC-FM at www.wnyc.org/audioindex/wnycfm.aspx, and dutifully listened on my Windows Media Player. After the program in question came an interview with Robert Alexander, author (with Douglas K. Smith) of "Fumbling the Future: How Xerox Invented, Then Ignored, the First Personal Computer". (I had to pop over to www.npr.org, look up "All Things Considered," and select Today's show (Oct 24) to get the name of the interviewee.) It is sad indeed to hear this tale of how the company that was first on the scene with the desktop computer, interactive word processing software and ethernet networked computers and printers (at Xerox PARC) failed to bring their developments to market. It didn't fit in with their corporate vision! The book is available through e-publisher *IUniverse.com*, though not in e-book form. According to *Amazon.com*, people who bought the book also bought "Dealers of Lightning: Xerox Parc and the Dawn of the Computer Age" by Michael A. Hiltzik for a positive view of what was done there, not just the blindness of their management.

Minor Grumble

Speaking of America's corporate genius, once there was Ma Bell! In 1984, the Bell System split up into a long distance company (AT&T, Long Lines Division, and Western Electric, Manufacturing Division) and the regional Bell operating companies. Bell Labs, in spite of all protestations to the contrary, was also fragmented into a smaller Labs and Bellcore. Then a few years ago, AT&T spun-off NCR and Western, which became Lucent, having done their best to utterly ruin NCR, which it had acquired a few years earlier (they always dreamed that they would out-IBM IBM in the computer world.) Then Lucent spun off Avaya, its old PBX business. Now, a week ago there was talk of AT&T spinning off the long distance operation, which was losing market share and was a dead end, anyway. This week the story changed — they may spin off the wireless and Internet businesses, in what one wag called a "reverse merger." Dilbert and his boss with the two pointy tufts of hair are alive, well, and running the ship!

Back to books: for the fun of it, I typed in www.harrypotter.com. I ended up at harrypotter.warnerbros.com. Looks like J. K. has sold out! Oh, well!

Browser Wars

Since my last article, Netscape has released beta 3 of Communicator 6.0.

Science

From Science Netwatch

Oct 20: A rose by... All you ever wanted to know about how and what we can smell at www.leffingwell.com. Maybe more than you wanted to know — if it's not here, there's a link to it.

The Palm Physics Page: All kinds of conversion tables, atomic weights, etc., that you can download to your Palm. Just pick the ones you want. Great for crib sheets, I imagine! www.tunl.duke.edu/nucldata/Palm_Pilot/Palm.shtml.

Oct 13: ENCYCLOPEDIAS: Growing a Book of Science: To look up "brown dwarf," "pendulum," or "Navier-Stokes equations," for example, you could consult any number of free Web dictionaries, but corporate sites often lack the breadth, detail, and occasional quirkiness of those built by lone fact aficionados. Those seeking such an experience may want to check out Eric Weisstein's Treasure Troves of Science at www.treasure-troves.com.

Oct 6: RESOURCES: Arctic Attic "Need to know the history of arctic sea ice, whether mercury pollution is harming polar bears, or perhaps the current temperature at the North Pole? These are just a few tidbits to be found at the Arctic Theme Page, a new collection of links and articles from NOAA (the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) at www.arctic.noaa.gov. (I was sure I'd find an Antarctic site at www.antarctic, but no luck. There must be one somewhere — a penny to whomever finds it first.

Scientific American, Nov: Wholesale Computation. Do you remember the SETI PC-sharing project? Here's an entrepreneurial take-off: "Companies want to sell your computer's spare processing time. Are there buyers?" "The fastest supercomputers in the known universe are virtually free. All you need to beat the performance of a \$50-million, massively parallel research machine is a little software and some way to convince 1% of the people on the Internet to run it. Unlike a dedicated supercomputer, which generally requires special housing and a staff of attendants to keep it going while it falls rapidly behind the state of the art, the network equivalent increases in power regularly as people upgrade their purchase." "And when you're done using the virtual supercomputer, you can stop paying for it. Little wonder, then, that more than a dozen startups should have appeared in the past year, all trying to scoop up spare computing cycles and sell them to the highest bidder." Some corporations with large numbers of PCs and workstations which are idle more than half the time might want to recoup some of their expenses, but I'm not sure it would fly with much of the public.

Scientific American, Oct:

"The Wireless Web" a group of articles discussing aspects of the brave new world:

- The Internet in Your Hands
- The Promise and Perils of WAP
- The Future Is Here. Or Is It?
- The Third-Generation Gap

The British science Magazine, *Nature*, published by Macmillan, has an online Net news feature, "nature net guide" at www.nature.com/netguide. This month it features pieces on Biotechnology and Astronomy.

Epilogue

I have to cut this short. I have to head off to Fall Internet World tomorrow! ☹

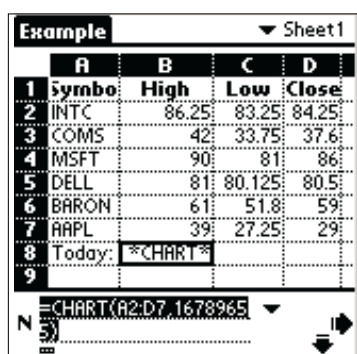
Palm Court #2

Cass Lewart (rlewart@monmouth.com)

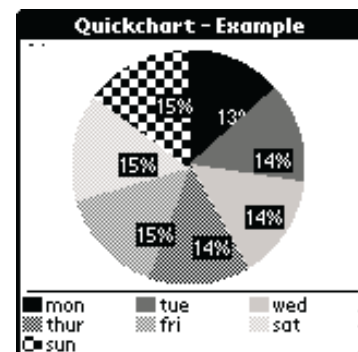
In this issue of the Palm Court I am reviewing two commercial programs: Quicksheet/Quickchart, which lets you use your Excel spreadsheets on the Palm, and the OmniRemote program which turns your PDA into a universal remote control. I am also reviewing an interesting free utility Scribble-Out which lets you delete "wholesale" selected categories of Palm records. All screen prints were obtained with the Palm Emulator, which I described in the first issue of the Palm Court.

Quicksheet/Quickchart

Quicksheet lets you transfer spreadsheets between the Palm PDA and Excel on your desktop. You can create or edit the spreadsheets on the Palm or on the desktop and transfer them during the HotSync process. Many of the features of Excel,



| Example | A | B | C | D |
|---------|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------|
| 1 | Symbo | High | Low | Close |
| 2 | INTC | 86.25 | 83.25 | 84.25 |
| 3 | COMS | 42 | 33.75 | 37.6 |
| 4 | MSFT | 90 | 81 | 86 |
| 5 | DELL | 81 | 80.125 | 80.5 |
| 6 | BARON | 61 | 51.8 | 59 |
| 7 | APPL | 39 | 27.25 | 29 |
| 8 | Today: | *CHART* | | |
| 9 | =CHART(A2:D7,1678965) | | | |

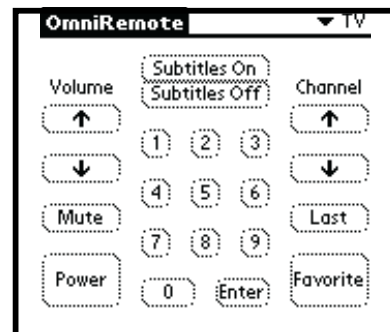


run well and fast on my Palm without crashing. The current cost of the two programs is \$30. For more information and to download the programs go to <http://www.cesinc.com>.

OmniRemote

OmniRemote converts your Palm PDA into an infrared remote control for your TV, Hi-Fi or X-10 devices. You "train" the program by placing your Palm infrared port next to your regular remote and pressing a button on the remote. Palm remembers the infrared sequences associated with specific buttons on the remote and assigns them to virtual buttons on the Palm. A nice feature of the program is its macro capability. A macro executes any number of successive button presses. E.g., to get subtitles on my 27" RCA TV I have to press 3 buttons on my remote in succession, some of them several times. With OmniRemote running on my Palm, I simply touch with the stylus my virtual custom buttons "Subtitles On" or "Subtitles Off" and presto — subtitles appear or disappear

on my TV! The range I get with my Palm IIIxe is 5-8 feet. The company also sells a module which clips on the PDA and extends the infrared range to 10-20 feet. The program sells for \$20, or \$40 with the IR module. For more information and to download the program go to <http://www.pacificneotek.com>.




Scribble-Out

Scribble-Out is designed to delete "wholesale" all entries in any of the following Palm databases: Address, Date Book, Mail, MemoPad or ToDo List. There are a number of reasons why you would want to do this:

a. You have information uploaded daily to your Palm and have to manually delete the previous day's data. Not any more, just Scribble-Out the data you don't want before you HotSync. It takes seconds.

b. A HotSync messes up your PDA and you get duplicate entries and all manner of unwanted information.

c. You have many e-mail messages on your Palm and you don't want to delete them one at a time.

For more information and to download this free utility go to www.palmgear.com/software/showsoftware.cfm?sid=77395620000926131146&prodID=9268. (If you type that in, remember to omit the hyphen.) If you like or don't like what you see in this column, or have suggestions please contact me via e-mail. 



Be Resourceful

Vic Laurie, Princeton PC Users Group

Many Windows 9X users have encountered problems involving something called “system resources.” Low system resources is one of the more common causes of slow-downs or crashes. This is a source of much misunderstanding since the term “system resources” is used in a number of varying senses. Also, “system resources” and “system memory” are often confused with one another. In this article I will discuss what “system resources” are and how to manage them.

What Are System Resources?

System Resources are special little reserved pieces of memory (sometimes called “heaps”) that have two components, User resources and Graphics Device Interface (GDI) resources. To quote from the Windows 98 Resource Kit: “The User component manages input from the keyboard, mouse, and other input devices and output to the user interface (windows, icons, menus, and so on). It also manages interaction with the sound driver, timer, and communications ports.”

And again from the Microsoft description, “The Graphics Device Interface (GDI) is the graphical system that manages what appears on the screen. It also provides graphics support for printers and other output devices. It draws graphic primitives, manipulates bitmaps, and interacts with device-independent graphics drivers, including those for display and printer output device drivers.”

The rub is that these two types of essential resources are limited to a scant 64 Kbytes each and there is nothing you can do to increase them. The amount of RAM or the size of the hard drive on your system has no bearing. This 64 Kbyte limit is needed to make Windows 9X backward compatible with 16-bit programs written for DOS and Windows 3.x. Computer systems with Windows NT (and Windows 2000) do not suffer from this particular limitation because they do not attempt to attain complete backward compatibility. However, users of Windows 95/98 face the not infrequent possibility of a computer running more slowly or even locking up as time goes on and these particular resources are drawn down. (As I understand it, Windows ME is still limited even though DOS has been much downplayed. The ability to run programs in a DOS box has been retained).

For the technically minded, there is more detail on “heaps” at <http://www.windows-help.net/techfiles/win-resources.html>.

Monitoring Resources

Windows 95/98 comes with two ways to check your system resources. A crude single-number measure (the lower of the two types User and GDI) can be found by right-clicking *My Computer*, opening Properties, and clicking the Performance tab. A better monitor is the Windows accessory *Resource Meter*, which is usually found in Start|Programs|Accessories|System Tools. If it is not already present on your system, it can be installed by going to *Control Panel* and opening the *Add/Remove Programs* applet. Select *Windows Setup* and scroll to *System Tools*. Click on *Details*, select *System Resource Meter* and click OK. You may be asked for the Windows CD. If you only have an OEM Restore disk, you

may need to point the installation to the folder Windows\Options instead. The actual file for the program is *rsrctr.exe* and its normal location is the Windows folder.

When Resource Meter is running, it is placed in the system tray. Clicking it will display three bars showing what percent of free User and GDI resources are available plus a third (superfluous) reading of so-called System resources, which is just the lower of the other two. A reading can also be obtained by simply hovering your mouse pointer over the tray icon. Be aware that running Resource Meter uses a small amount (~2% on my system) of resources itself.

There is considerable disagreement about what level of free resources is safe. Some say as little as 10% free resources is perfectly reasonable. Others say anything below 30% is dangerous. The real answer is that it depends. What level of free resources is adequate is a function of the make-up of the particular system and the pattern of an individual’s usage. Only by monitoring a particular system’s behavior as resource levels vary can a firm idea of what constitutes a safe minimum be established. Some discussion of this issue can be found at <http://www.winmag.com/columns/insider/2000/20.htm#insiderqna>.

Symptoms and Causes of Low Resources

What happens when resources become too low? Your system becomes flaky. It may respond to mouse clicks slowly or not at all. New windows may open slowly or be jumbled or blank. Other sluggish or weird behavior may develop. You may get error messages such as “Out of memory” or “Not enough memory to display completely” (other problems can also give these messages) or “Low System Resources.” Your system may freeze or crash. The best remedy is to reboot, but if the system is still up, you can try closing some programs. Try the three-fingered salute, *ctrl+alt+delete*, to bring up a list of running programs and close from there. If you have browser or Microsoft Office windows open, close some of them.

Having open too many browser windows, Office files, and graphics files often causes low resources, but even with conservative usage, resources will drain away over time. For various reasons, many programs do not return all the resources they have taken when they are closed. Resources will be marked as still in use when the program is no longer running. As you open and close programs, free resources gradually diminish. This phenomenon is called “memory leakage”. Some programs are much worse than others. (You can read a Microsoft Knowledge Base article on the subject at <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q259/1/61.ASP>. In particular, watch out for 16-bit software (that includes a surprising number of things, e.g. Windows Solitaire). Rebooting will restore resources. See Fred Langa’s article on system resources at

<http://www.winmag.com/columns/explorer/2000/11.htm> for a good general discussion (although I am not sure I agree with what he considers a safe level of free resources). Because of the leakage problem, it is my opinion that those who leave their computer on are more likely to get strange computer behavior than those who periodically reboot. (It is another subject, but I

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Windows ME (Millennium Edition)

Dick Freymoyer

Microsoft Windows (ME) Millennium Edition is the latest operating system release to hit our "Computer Screens." The big questions are do we really need this, how much is it going to cost and will it correct all of the problems with Windows? I will attempt to answer all these questions and give you my feel for it. We have gone down this road before and if you are like me, you will dig into the vault and spend more of your riches on something that still has lots of problems. I think Windows 98 SE has cleared up most of the problems, but there is still more work needed to make it run correctly.

Microsoft has released 3 versions of Win ME. I bought the full version, which requires nothing but a computer, and the Promo version (\$47.97 at Sam's), which will install only if you already have Win 98 SE on your computer. The third release is the Full Upgrade Version, which will install over Win 95 or Win 98. I think they really went too far with trying to sell us 3 versions of the same thing. As you know "There 's gold in them there hills at Redman" and "The Man" wants to put more there. I will give you the highlights of this new release and then tell you how I installed, the Promo issue. This Promo release may keep some of your Gold In Your Vault and not in "The Redman Hills."

Minimum system requirements: 166 MHZ (300MHZ to use Windows Movie Maker) processor, 32MB (64MB to use Media Player) RAM, and 300 to 400 MB hard drive space, plus the CD drive and other usual hardware. I always recommend 128 MB Ram — it just makes your computer run better.

Windows ME Full Release

I used my special Windows 98-SE floppy boot disk, which contains my mouse and CD drive drivers and all the DOS commands I would need to start from scratch. I started with a clean drive by Fdisking and Reformatting the hard drive. I find this is the easiest and best way to test a new operating system. If you know anything about me, I reformat my hard drive every few months, just for the heck or fun of it all. Boy, am I ever sick!!! In reality, I do this to clean out all the old junk. I still use my old DOS program called Tree86, so I created a directory/folder called TREE86 and another called CAB2000. I loaded my Tree86 into its folder and used it to copy my autoexec, config and all the files I would need to start working from the boot floppy to my hard drive and to copy all the files from the Windows ME CD Disk Folder called WIN9x to the C:\CAB200 Folder on the hard drive. I was ready to run "Setup" from C:\CAB2000. (I always install windows from my hard drive because it saves time and you never need to get that CD out of storage to change a printer or add hardware later. Setup did its thing and I was soon rolling, ready to see what was new.

ME loaded easily, and never once asked me for a driver disk for any of the hardware. What a relief! By now, I was liking this and figured I finally spent some of "My Gold" on the right thing. I checked the control panel and was delighted that it found all my hardware and it even configured the modem. Did Microsoft finally clean up its act? Maybe they made a mistake and gave me a good copy of their Windows, one

meant only for the insiders; time will tell. After all hardware was configured, I was taken through a video explaining various new features — pretty nice! I did have to use a driver disk for my Lexmark printer, but most other printers are there, but if you have special utilities for your printer, you will want to install them.

The new items I saw were Media Player, MovieMaker, Help & Support and something MS calls System Restore. If you want these new features you will have to upgrade to one of MS's Windows ME releases. And if you want to go cheap, either Promo or the full Upgrade release is the way to go. The full Upgrade will work with 95 or 98, whereas the Promo will only work with 98SE, so don't get burned! Do remember that you have to upgrade within your Windows 98SE desktop with the Promo release.

System Restore

I recently reviewed Second Chance and Go-Back, and System Restore seems to be something like them, but I don't think it is as good as either one. It is a start in the right direction. I did some testing of System Restore and it did work.

To start it, you go to Help and Support, or to Programs\System Tools\System Restore. You are given two choices: Restore My Computer to an earlier time or Create Restore Point. I created a new restore point. You are allowed to add comments, and it automatically dates the restore point.

To schedule automatic restore points, Go to your Scheduled Tasks (Programs\System Tools\Scheduled Tasks), click on Add Scheduled Task, hit Next; then look for System Restore. Click on System Restore, then settings. I chose, "At System Startup".

When you go to Restore My Computer to an Earlier Time, click on next and a calendar is displayed highlighted dates showing you all of your restore points. You have to pick the point when your computer was stable and Click on next. This will bring you back to that stable point again! (You never know if the new driver or new program is bad until you have it loaded. If it creates a big problem for you, the System Restore feature will remove the problem, but also any updated data you created since the restore point. (You should always save your data to a floppy or some other backup medium.)

What happens if the computer is locked up and you can't use System Restore? Your first choice is to reboot, then go in on Safe Mode to System Restore, click on the time and date you are sure was a stable Windows and see what happens. After that, the computer should reboot and you should be home free. What if this doesn't work? Microsoft tells us it will work, but I didn't do any fatal error tests. I will continue using Second Chance because I know it works.

Windows MovieMaker & Media Player

I won't go into deep detail on MovieMaker or Media Player, just enough to let you know what you can do with them, and sort of wet your whistle. Windows MovieMaker allows you to edit your video and audio sequences from a digital video or still camera, to make a motion picture or a slide presentation.

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From the Dealsguy

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

A Tough Education

I was out of town at the deadline last month and needed a last minute correction. I write the column in MS Word at home and all the URLs and e-mail addresses are in hypertext, but I have only Word Perfect and SmartSuite on my new laptop. I opened my MS Word file in WP to make a one-line correction and noticed I could save it as a .doc file (MS Word format). Great, I thought, and quickly sent it out to the editors.

Minutes later, I received e-mail from Don Singleton telling me that only the brackets remained for URLs (apparently Word Perfect had stripped all my hypertext during the conversion). Since I had stupidly saved it back to the original file, I e-mailed all the editors about the problem saying I would send it again when I returned home. Later that day I remembered I had uploaded the column to the editor's private page on my Web site so I downloaded it and sent it intact to everybody. So much for editing a Word file in WP.

I've been holding back a few items that I felt would have limited interest and decided to run them before they got too old. When checking the URLs before sending it to my proofreader, three of the vendors were missing. There was no sign of them and I was unable to track them down. Even the phones were disconnected. Good thing I didn't use them before. Imagine my last minute haste!

Still Good

Ken Winograd's games are all still good.

The Pinnacle user group program is ongoing.

NetSonic's Pro deal should still be good, but you actually need to go into the ordering process to see the \$29.95 price when you use that long URL. It should show that price on your order form.

The Enfish software is still free. Be aware that there are URLs built into the software, but you don't see them unless you want to.

I also read an uncomplimentary article about *freedsl.com* in a magazine.

Check Out Your Smarts And Make Money

ItPaysToLearn.com is "said to be" a site where visitors can go to take a quiz while getting paid, even if your answer is wrong. Supposedly you're paid 1/10th cent for each wrong answer, and 2/10th cent for a correct answer. They also encourage what might appear to be a "pyramid scheme." You recommend more people who might then recommend additional people, all on your behalf, and that small change actually can translate to a right smart amount of money, according to them. Perhaps it could be used to help your user group's treasury. I don't mean to be skeptical, just suspicious. However, it doesn't hurt to take a look at <http://www.ItPaysToLearn.com> for yourself, where you will be asked to "sign-in." On their Web site there's even a choice for groups and you can graduate to other events. I suggest you have your firewall in place. I wonder if it is an "open-book" test! You will also be asked to take

surveys and I assume that produces income for them. Good luck!

Help For AOL Mail

You can look into this at <http://www.enetbot.com>. I have not tried it, even though I do also use AOL. Check carefully, since it is not part of AOL and I really didn't understand what I saw, but had no time to investigate further at this writing. It looked like it offers some good features. You can download a 30-day trial version, and if you like it the cost is \$19.95.

Another Internet Phone Service

I assume you are all aware of Dialpad.com and the following may be a similar service. It offers "free" PC-to-phone calling to US, Canada, UK, Ireland and Germany right now. They plan service to other countries at a later date, so sign up for the newsletter. Look it over for yourself at <http://www.go2call.com>. This company was written up as a recommended "buy" in Financial Sentinel (NASDAQ symbol NTOP) and they spoke glowingly about its "voice technology." The article said they charge "a penny" for long distance calls within the US, but I didn't see that on their Web site. However, I haven't bought any of their stock yet.

How About a Free Voicemail Box For Life

EchoBuzz by Blue Diamond Software Inc. was supposedly the first free voicemail service to be launched. EchoBuzz will be completely toll-free to users nationwide using speech recognition technology. It is supported by advertising and targets 12-24-year-olds who don't have their own phone line. EchoBuzz members can pre-register for their private voicemail box by logging onto www.echobuzz.com and completing a brief personal profile, after registration. This allows the service to personalize three-to-ten-second ads to the specific interests of the caller. Members will hear approximately one to three ads per call, depending on the number of options they choose. It's FREE, it's private and it's easy to use according to the CEO of Blue Diamond Software. "It's also the first voicemail service made available to consumers outside the business community without the barriers of separate phone lines and access or usage fees, and should be useful to the younger set."

To use EchoBuzz, callers dial a toll-free number, 1-877-EchoBuzz (1-877-324-6289), to send and retrieve messages. That number always seems to be busy, so it needs work. In addition to the traditional method of menu-driven touch-tones, EchoBuzz will employ speech-recognition technology, permitting hands-free navigation of the voicemail system. EchoBuzz, now used in Southern California, begins nationwide in September, just in time for students heading back to school. Let's hope this helps free up your phone line if you have kids.

Tune Up Your Windows — iolo technologies

In their words: "Keep your PC running faster, cleaner and error-free. Even speed-up your Internet connection by as much as 300% with 'System Mechanic's' full suite of 15 powerful

continued

tools! These powerful tools allow you to find and fix problems with your system, ensure reliability and speed, and properly maintain your PC so problems don't occur."

"(NEW!) Tweak and customize almost 100 undocumented settings in Windows. Clean and optimize your system registry. Hunt down and remove junk and obsolete files. Maintain privacy and security by eliminating tracks left behind while using your computer or surfing the Web. *Properly* remove such items as browser cache, cookies and other history files. Find, fix, or remove broken Windows shortcuts. Find and remove invalid uninstaller information. Find and remove duplicate files. Securely delete files and folders."

"Manage the programs that start when Windows does. Track and report on changes made to your system when installing programs. (NEW!) Consolidate critical system maintenance into one easy step. (NEW!) Automatically keep System Mechanic up-to-date with its self-healing WebUpdate feature. Log statistical information and quantify benefits of all above tools. A fully functional 30-day trial version of System Mechanic is available from iolo technologies Web site <http://www.iolo.com>."

Special arrangements were made to obtain a discount for readers of this column. Purchase System Mechanic directly from their secure order form **only** at <http://www.iolo.com/order/> between 11/1/00 and 12/31/00. Use the Coupon Code "DealsGuy" and get a \$10 discount off the \$59.95 retail price. Alternatively, you can call their toll-free sales number 1-877-239-4656 and quote the same coupon code. I have not tried this product yet.

ClickBook Is Back

(Thanks to Cathy Grammar Margolin for passing this on). ClickBook 2000, (Prints Double Sided Booklets) offers 20+ new features. It is a powerful yet easy-to-use printing utility that automatically rotates, reduces, and realigns files to print double- or single-sided books, business cards, day planner pages, wallet booklets, brochures, greeting cards, catalogs, microfiche, and more! User Group members will receive 20% off the retail price of \$49.95 (pay \$39.95) at <http://www.bluesquirrel.com/scripts/orderpage.asp?skey=cb2000&ASCID=633>. Due to its length, the ordering URL is supposed to be changed to <http://www.bluesquirrel.com/usergroup>. At this writing the new URL didn't take you to the discounted price yet, so check them both. For more product information, go to <http://www.clickbook.com>.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click (dealsguy@mindspring.com). Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com> for past columns and this column in its entirety in case your editor does not print it all. ☐

Oops, I did it again!

Burton Shane

Like Britney Spears, pop-rock sex kitten and ex-Mouseketeer, I couldn't restrain myself! I didn't wear skin-tight plastic pants or even more revealing costumes on national television but, for the third time, I began a veritable orgy of downloading of files from the World Wide Web.

The first time was when the Web was newborn, having morphed from BBSs, USENET, ARPANET, etc. I became a lurker, not in chat rooms but in the shadowed exhibition halls of the Louvre, and an unregenerate downloader of artworks by great masters. Cezanne, Renoir, VanGogh, Rembrandt, Titian, Michaelangelo, Donatello — no painter, no virtual museum was exempt from my lust to acquire picture files on my very own hard disk.

The second time was the advent of MP3 audio files. Though I stopped collecting songs and records in the LP Stereo days, my interest was rekindled, and I began downloading scores of songs and instrumentals by the original performers. Once again, I began using the irritating headphones (so as not to disturb my long-suffering wife) as I explored the auditory riches of Napster and Gnutella.

Round three began innocently enough when a friend mentioned that he mitigated the frustration of daily forays into rush hour traffic by listening to Audio Tape Books in his car. A friend of my daughter, blind since birth, also enjoys Audio Books. It dawned on me that the Web provided a new rich source for Audio Books. You don't have to buy a tape player, and then find a place that distributes Audio Books. They are available free, interactively, on the Web. Fortunately, I have increased my hard disk capacity to hold family pictures and videos I am converting to electronic format. It will easily hold the growing number of MP3 Audio Book files which constitute my own private audible library. The next teen-ager you see with a portable MP3 player and phones stuck in his/her ears may not be listening to brain-liquefying acid rock, but perhaps Plato's "Republic"!

In the '50s, my father gave me my first science fiction book. At the same time, Oxford Merton Professor J.R.R. Tolkien was trying unsuccessfully to convince publishers that people would want to read his "Hobbit", and "Lord of the Rings" trilogy. Now that millions of copies have been sold, the publishers can be said to have been a trifle shortsighted. It is sobering to reflect that after 14 years of rejections, Tolkien despaired of ever having his works distributed to the world. Only the unlikely fact that one of his former pupils became a publisher and undertook to "take the risk" is responsible for our enjoying this homespun classic. It is gratifying to realize that the advent of the Web means that restrictions on publishing have become trivial, and the public is, more than ever before, the sole and ultimate arbiter of literary success.

In 1958, J.R.R. Tolkien dictated audiotapes of the "Lord of the Rings" and a poem in Elvish, "We are such little people, after all". You can listen to or download the free MP3 files at <http://www.mp3lit.com> (now transforming itself into <http://www.salon.com/audio/>). You can find more MP3 Audio Book files at <http://www.audiohighway.com> ☐

Ken's Korner: Copying Content

Legal and Ethical Questions

Ken Fermoye

The growing trend of copying content, especially from the Internet, disturbs many of us involved in the creation and use of material for newsletters and websites. In viewing hundreds of newsletters and websites in recent years, I've seen many examples of plagiarism, copyright infringement and downright theft of intellectual property. The same holds true on many of the group and personal websites I visit.

I'm not the only one concerned. Knowledgeable editors and UG officers, including APCUG (Association of PC User Group) representatives, told me they also view it as a problem. Actually, everyone should be concerned. Unauthorized copying could create legal difficulties for a group; it certainly poses ethical questions. Closer to home, if you have a personal or business website, you should be aware of copying do's and don'ts.

I believe illegal content copying usually results from lack of knowledge, not malicious intent. Material is so readily available on the Web, and we're so accustomed to unrestricted access, that it's easy to assume everything on it is up for grabs. I'm no expert on copyright laws but over the past 50 years I have learned practical rules of thumb that most editors follow. However, advent of computers and the Net has raised all sorts of new questions, both legal and ethical, about copyrights and "intellectual property." That said, let me give you my views on the subject.

First, fair game for use in UG media includes articles written specifically for such purpose: my Ken's Korner pieces, Bob Click's Deals column and articles distributed by APCUG. Most UGs allow other groups to reprint material from their newsletters, subject to some restrictions. More free material is offered on Microsoft's Mindshare website, microsoft.com/mindshare/default.asp, and the User Group Network, user-groups.net.

Vendors' public relations releases are also legitimate freebies for use by editors and webmasters. A caution here: it may be a disservice to members to run such material "as is". It's a form of propaganda or advertising, remember, and often gives a much rosier review than a product or service deserves. I sometimes use PR releases as a basis or background for columns, but I research and/or get hands-on experience to provide a balanced, more objective article.

Now for the no-no's.

Do not pick up magazine articles and reprint them in your newsletters or website without permission from the publication! The fact that they appear on a website does not mean they are public property.

The same goes for clipart, photos and illustrations. Unless specifically identified as available for use, free of charge, reprinting such material without permission is thievery. If you are a business owner, be aware that some material on the Web is available for reprint without charge to not-for-profit organizations but not for commercial use.

Be sure to read the fine print, however, on *anything* you reprint from the Internet. There usually are conditions

attached. Some "free" material may not be used in publications that have a subscription fee, cover price or that contain paid advertising.

Quoting from external sources in articles or reviews is acceptable, if done judiciously. Use a short excerpt to illustrate a point but don't lift a significant number of pages and make it part of your article. Always identify such material by using quotation marks. Always give proper credit to the source.

Typically, publications (and books) contain language like this: "All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form by electrical or mechanical means, including information storage and retrieval systems, without permission in writing by the publisher." Often, in books, this phrase appears: "except by a reviewer who may quote brief passages in a review."

Before using any material from a Website, look for a statement that says that content on the site is freely available for copying and reprinting. Then read the fine print to be sure you understand the conditions of use. Only then can you legally and ethically copy and reprint text or images in your group or personal newsletter or Website

If you don't find such a statement, look for a button or link marked "Copyright" or "Terms of Use." In commercial Websites, such a link takes you to a statement, similar to the following, on "Reproduction of Images and Other Copyrighted Material Found on Web Sites."

"You should be aware that it is illegal to reproduce or distribute copyrighted material without the permission of the copyright owner. Accessing images or text provided on Websites does not give you any rights to use them as you wish. Only the copyright owner or the owner's legal agent can give you permission to copy, distribute, or publicly display protected material. The copyright owner in most cases is the creator. Images are generally owned by the photographer; text is owned by the author."

The wording may be different, but the intent is always the same: To establish legal ownership of the publication or website content, and to warn off those who attempt to copy any or all of the content that it is illegal to do so without specific permission.

You might say to yourself, "My newsletter only goes out to a few hundred people; they won't mind if I copy this one article or photo." Not so! That's somewhat like, if not exactly analogous to, a counterfeiter saying, "I'm just going to print up a few hundred \$20 bills so Uncle Sam won't mind." The wrath of a copyright owner may not descend on you with the fury that the Treasury Department would bring down on a counterfeiter, but illegal copying could have embarrassing consequences if the copyright owner learns about the infraction and chooses to be hard-nosed about it. Even if there are no legal repercussions, improper reprinting of material casts an ethical shadow over any organization or individual that does it. ☹

SIG News

PC Users Group

Steve Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com)

<http://www.intac.com/~tinarock/pcug.html> and
http://www.acgnj.org/2k00/sig_pcusersgroup.htm

Our focus is on any topic that touches on personal computers. Some of our meetings are fairly technical and some are oriented to total newbies. Our members reflect this mix. Come out to a meeting and get to know us, we're friendly. Steve Rodriguez has taken over running the PC User Group from Jo-Anne Head. We are most grateful for her tireless efforts going all the way back to January 1995. Check out some previous meetings at our Website. ☐

VBA & Excel

Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

<http://www.excelvba.homestead.com>

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. Meetings start at 7 P.M. on the fourth Monday of the month

November 27: Building a Web Page with FrontPage 2000 that Queries Excel Files. If you have data stored in Excel files in database format (row & columns), with each column having a distinct label, you can create queries on the Web through FrontPage 2000's Database Wizard which generates an area on the Web page known as a Database Results region. We will discuss Active Server Pages (ASP) which must be generated in order to use the Database Results region. ☐

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/inetsig.html>

October 5: We talked about such newsworthy Net items as: the Olympics, the election campaign, Vindigo for the Palm Pilot, the Genome Project, Security and browser news, the domain name mess, Napster and copyright issues and a couple of online investing items.

November 2: We'll devote most of meeting to whatever we discover at the Fall Internet World. Don't forget we'll start at 7:30 for newbies and the regular meeting starts at 8 PM. ☐

MCP

(Preparing for Microsoft Certification Exams)

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

<http://www.scottsville.net/mcp.htm>

Wednesdays from 7:00PM to 10:00PM except for the 4th Wed of each month. We review typical exam questions. Those who attend are encouraged to bring a PC properly configured with: NT, 10BaseT network card, and NetMeeting 2.1. Most of us have the 4-volume set of Exam Cram books. We do not teach NT but help prepare for the exam. Meetings are hands on and everyone is expected to participate. For more information, including reading assignments and course schedule, visit us at the Web site above. ☐

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

<http://www.njlnug.org>

All meetings are held at the offices of Bright Ideas Software in Edison NJ and start at 7:00 PM (Random Access starts at 6:30). Bright Ideas Software has graciously provided us with a voice mail line for information on future meetings, locations, directions etceteras. Please call the ACGNJ Lotus Notes User Group information line at (732) 417-5778 for last minute changes in plan/cancellations, etc. See our Web page for directions to Bright Ideas.. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

We discuss issues of interest to novice users or persons who are just interested in getting started. Watch the ACGNJ Web page for updates. ☐

Random Access

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/random.html>

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. Although 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. ☐

Main Meeting

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/main2k-1.htm>

November 3: Digital Photography. Host Joe Kennedy.

December 1: GPS. There have been many new developments since the last presentation. Host Frank Warren.

January 5: Home Automation - Smart Home. Host Charlie Huffsmith.

February 2: Microsoft presents Windows ME (Millennium Edition), giveaways. Host Jo-Anne Head.

March 2: Building a Computer. Host Ted Martin.

April 6: Use of Scanners, Transmitting Scanned Data via Email. Host Jerry Entin.

May 4: No meeting due to TCF 2001

June 1: Web Technologies such as Dynamic HTML, Cascading Style Sheets, XML, XHTML, XSL, and the use of these technologies to do "neat" things to a website with very little effort. Host Mike Barlow.

Changes and/or updates will be posted to our website. ☐

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Lunics (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (ahm@spies.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, etc.). 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.

November 6: "Introduction to Emacs" will be presented by Doug Lewan. Doug has participated in all phases of software design, development and deployment. He believes that learning as many, arguably obscure, programming languages as possible is a good thing. He also believes that natural languages are a good thing. In his spare time he juggles, grows orchids and tries to keep his girlfriend and pets all happy. ☐

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@home.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/symposiu.html>

November: To be announced. Keep an eye on our website ☐

Multimedia & Mobile

Steven Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/multi.html>

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

Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

<http://dorm.rutgers.edu/~ksproul/acgnjmug.html>

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. ☐

Genealogy

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

<http://www.webwarren.com/kb4cyc/gensig.html>

The Genealogy SIG is for genealogists who have an interest in computers and computer users who have an interest in genealogy. We provide a forum to assist members in furtherance of both computing and genealogical endeavors. Meetings generally focus on genealogy more than on computers. We meet at 8:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of each month at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad

In addition to our Web page the SIG also has an electronic mailing list. Messages to be sent to the list should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com. Subscription requests should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com and include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☐

C/C++ Users Group

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 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/>.

October: The program demonstrated was DllDups.exe, which will search your hard drive and list all DLL files that have more than one instance. This tool will help you fix problems caused by DLL file conflicts (often called DLL Hell) and to provide general auditing of computer files. The program code has a number of special features: a) It uses a recursive file searching algorithm to search the entire hard drive. b) It uses a part of the Standard C++ Library called the Standard Template Library (STL) in order to store the huge amount of data. c) Once duplicates are found, each file is interrogated to determine its version number. ☐

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

<http://www.intac.com/~sheldon/invsig>

At the October meeting, we took a close look at the current market. We reviewed Dick's choices for the best stock investment opportunities that could be found with our technical tools. We came to the conclusion that currently there are 3 categories to watch and take action on.

1. Showing promising strength — watch to buy
2. Weak, but showing promise
3. Too weak — sell or avoid

We looked at most of the charts, drawing trend-lines and checking MACD on all. Dick and I explained the various implications of the technical indicators. There were many comments from members and it was a lively session. I also noticed many members taking notes about our choices, so when I updated the SIG web page this weekend, I included a list of those various stocks. If you want to see those lists, visit our Website and click on Last & Past meetings. This will take you to the section that lists those stocks. See more on our previous meetings at our SIG Meetings page ☐

You open MovieMaker feature by clicking on Start|Programs|Accessories|Movie Maker.

Media Player allows you to watch videos, listen to sounds, display information from music CDs, create copies of CDs, just certain tracks or do your entire collection and build a media library of music. Also included is Radio Tuner — you can tune into those special radio stations that you like and catalog them. By cataloging them you can tune into what ever your mood or taste of music is at that time. These features don't really interest me, but I know many people who will love them.

Promo Edition Installation

The first thing I noticed with the Promo version was that you couldn't just copy the CAB files onto a clean hard drive and install the update from a clean boot-up from DOS. Trying to do so just locks up the computer. This was a definite setback for me, I wanted to install Windows on a clean hard drive, and with the Promo Release this cannot be done. It was a waste of \$47.97 (plus tax) for me. This release is fine for those who just want to upgrade Win98 SE to Win ME and don't mind the clutter from any junk left behind. I will caution you at this point that if you ever want to reinstall your Win ME later, you will have to first install Windows 98-SE. This is true of most upgrades.

I was smart enough to "Ghost" a copy of my hard drive with Windows SE and all my programs onto a spare hard drive before I formatted the drive to load Win ME Promo to it. Since this release of ME didn't work from a DOS prompt, I repeated the process to the drive I reformatted, and I had lost nothing but some time. I had my Windows 98-SE CAB files on my hard drive (I suggest that you do the same). I created a new Folder called CAB2000 and copied the new Windows ME CAB files into it and I was ready to do the upgrade. I was already in windows, so I went to Run; typed C:\CAB2000\Setup and away it went. As it loads, it wants to make a boot disk, and then continues. Loading the program took about 35-40 minutes. When you think about the amount of data it loads and then has to find all the new drivers, this was pretty fast! Be sure you have the Product Key number handy. Again, Windows ME found all my hardware and I saw only one small glitch, which was easy to fix: my A-Open 56K PCI modem was not recognized as an A-Open, but as a "HCF-PCI" and installed the so-called HCF modem on COM4. I know from past experience that this modem likes to be located on the COM3 port. It also didn't remove the A-Open modem from COM3, which no longer worked. All I had to do was delete the A-Open modem, reboot, and the HCF (A-Open) modem was then connected to the COM3 port. All other hardware was configured correctly, including settings for the monitor. I was impressed. If you already have Win-98 SE on your computer, this is the release you want to buy. It was an easy and safe conversion.

Summation

I like the new Windows ME, but I probably could have done without it. Some of the features can be downloaded from Microsoft's Website free. If your Windows 98-SE is working fine, you may not want to fix something that isn't broken! If you are running Windows 95, you probably should upgrade.

If you are having driver problems, crashes for unknown reasons, etc., you probably should reformat your drive and install the full version. If you want MovieMaker and/or Media Player, or want to do networking, (Windows Me is supposed to make networking easier), go for the full version. System Restore may be a good reason to buy the program if you don't already own Second Chance or Go-Back. Otherwise, save your money for something else, like a new piece of hardware.

In time, I may find something to justify spending my money. I do like the wallpaper, like the one I have on my computer now. It's a picture of a shoreline, blue-green water, a sandy beach, palm trees in the background, and a boat pulled up on the beach. Very relaxing, and there are plenty more scenes you can change to — and I just found a good, pliable reason to spend the money I did on Windows ME! Ah, now I feel so good again. If you have any questions, comments or just need someone to yell at, send e-mail to dickfrey1@aol.com. ☺

Microsoft How-To Event

Manage the Overload of Information and
Tasks with Office 2000 and Windows
2000

at

Connell Corporate Center III

Three Oak Way, Building 1, Third Floor

Berkeley Heights NJ

November 8, 2000

9 A.M. to 12 Noon

More information at <http://www.microsoft.com/howto>

Classified


FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified section to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or via e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptdprolog.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with your copy. Reasonable

Resources, continued from page 6

point out that Registry Checker runs once a day when you re-boot Win98, which is also conducive to more stability.)

Another cause of low resources is programs you didn't start yourself, that you may even not know about. Many software packages install programs so that they run automatically at startup whether you want them or not. Microsoft Office, Quicken, RealPlayer, AOL, Norton Utilities, and many others will stick things in your system tray and/or have applications running always in the background. These all take resources. See a discussion of this at


www.winmag.com/columns/insider/2000/17.htm#systemresources. Those who have Windows 98 can use the System Configuration Utility (MSConfig) to prevent things from running until specifically desired. Windows 95 users can use the freeware program Startup Cop. (Read about free utilities in January PPCUG Newsletter, www.ppcug-nj.org/newsletters/jan2000.pdf.)

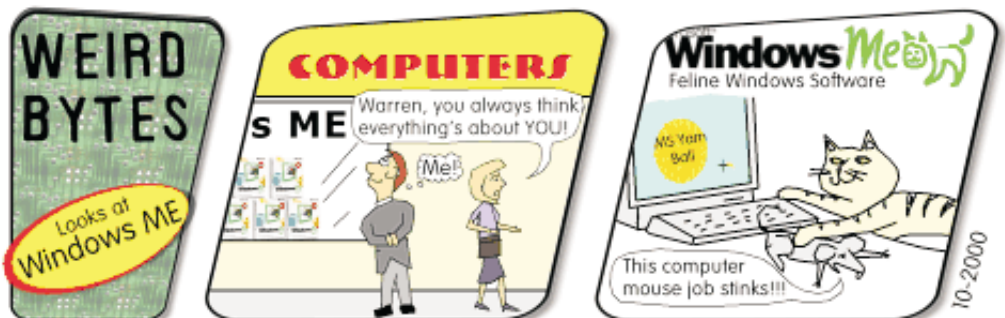
What about software packages that purport to keep system resources free? They do not deal with what we are discussing here, but rather with Vcache and swap files. Whatever utility they may have for Windows 95 systems, I do not think they are of any use to Windows 98 users. Fred Langa has recently done a careful study and all who are interested in any of these programs should read his article at <http://www.winmag.com/columns/explorer/2000/12.htm>. 

Nominations, continued from page 1

Secretary shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board or by the President.

Section 4.7.4 Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary shall be a member of the Executive Board and shall be responsible for the causing of all duties incident to the office of Recording Secretary to be performed, including the recording of the minutes of all Executive Board meetings and business meetings, keeping/filing of the minutes, keeping/filing of all reports, statements and other documents required by law, and the maintenance of a current membership list. The Recording Secretary shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Board or by the President.

Section 4.7.5 Treasurer: The Treasurer shall be a member of the Executive Board and shall be the chief financial officer of ACGNJ and shall be responsible for collecting, safeguarding, and keeping account of all the moneys received and expended for the use of ACGNJ. The Treasurer shall deposit sums received by ACGNJ in such depositories as shall be approved by the Executive Board, and the Treasurer shall in general perform all the duties incident to the office of Treasurer and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to the Treasurer by the Executive Board or by the President. 



by J.D. Abolins <http://www.meydabbs.com/weirdbytes/>

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:

Date _____ New Member Address Change Renewal of (Membership #) _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

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, Dickson Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (973) 655-5274, http://www.njmug.org . |
| 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

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

Software Review TLC Sat.10 p.m.

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>)

Nov. 11-12: NJ Convention Center, Raritan Center, Edison NJ

Nov. 25-26: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ

ACGNJ Hotline

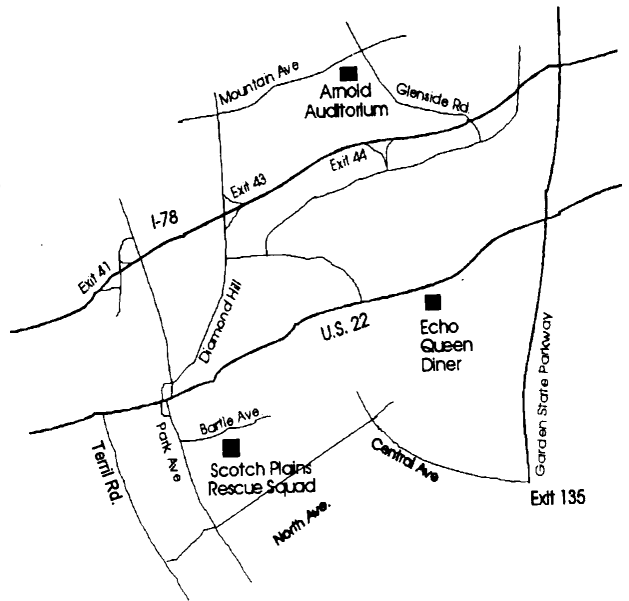
(908) 322-4654

ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

The ACGNJ Bulletin boards were shut down in April due to lack of interest. Of all 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 low 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

AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
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ACGNJ MEETINGS

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings visit the ACGNJ Web Page (<http://www.acgnj.org>)

Wednesday, November 1, 2000

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Thursday, November 2

8 P.M. - Internet, Martin Rosenblum, m.rosenblum@ieee.org, 973-376-8965.

Friday, November 3

8 P.M. - Main Meeting: Digital Photography, host Joe Kennedy. Frank Warren, kb4cyc@webwarren.com, 908-756-1681

Monday, November 6

8 P.M. - Lunics: "Introduction to Emacs" presented by Doug Lewan. Andreas Meyer, ahm@spies.com, 908-382-4297

Wednesday, November 8

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Thursday, November 9

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf, sheldonk@intac.com, 973-740-2489.

Friday, November 10

8 P.M. - PC Symposium. John Raff, jraff@home.com, 973-533-0664

Monday, November 13

8 P.M. - Layman's Forum, Matt Skoda, som359@aol.com, (908) 359-8842.

Wednesday, November 15

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Friday, November 17

7 P.M. - Multimedia & Mobile Computing, Steven Rodriguez, help72@bigfoot.com.

8 P.M. - PC Users, Steven Rodriguez.

Tuesday, November 21

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

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes, Mike Barlow, mwb@infi.net. Meeting at offices of Bright Ideas Software, Edison NJ. Info Line: (732) 417-5778 ext 5.

Thursday, November 23

8 P.M. - No Genealogy meeting. Happy Thanksgiving! Frank Warren, kb4cyc@webwarren.com, 908-756-1681.

Friday, November 24

7 P.M. - Cancelled: Macintosh Users Group, meeting at Rutgers University, Piscataway. Keith Sproul, ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu, 732-821-4828.

8 P.M. - Cancelled: Random Access, Computer Q&A, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793

Monday, November 27

7 P.M. - VBA (Visual Basic, Excel) Macro Buttons, James Ditaranto, fyr92a@prodigy.com, 973-772-7171.

Tuesday, November 28

7 P.M. - Board of Directors meeting.

Wednesday, November 29

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, scottvin@optonline.net, 973-361-5793 ☐

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.