

# Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 25, Number 4

April 2000

## TCF — New Again



### TCF is Coming!

May 6 -7, 2000

NJ Convention Center

Edison NJ



[www.acgnj.org](http://www.acgnj.org)

Founded 1975

The oldest, largest, and best computer show for Personal Computer users celebrates 25 years of existence this year, and still has something new to offer attendees.

This year's additions are a free shuttle van service on Saturday to and from the Metuchen train station for people coming by train from New York City, Philadelphia, Newark, Trenton, etc. That's a welcome addition, but the really exciting addition is...

...the Student Web Design Competition. Student teams from New Jersey elementary, middle and high schools have been invited to submit their entries, which will be judged on quality, educational value, success of team collaboration, and use of technology. Contest promoters will be judging the entries during the week preceding TCF, and attendees of the festival will also be allowed to vote. The winners will be announced at the close of the festival.

TCF still provides all of the usual attractions: the outdoor flea market, the seminars and forums, the keynote address, internet café, graphics theater, amateur radio license preparation and testing, and (of course) the Saturday night banquet with its many door prizes.

One of the key features of the Saturday night banquet has been the presentation of the Hobbyist of the Year Award for volunteer service through computing. If you know of someone who is using his/her computing skills to benefit the community, you can place a nomination at <http://www.tcf-nj.org/tcfhoty.html>, but hurry — nominations are considered early in April.

For more information on what's happening at the festival, including the latest scheduling of seminar speakers, visit <http://www.tcf-nj.org>. For ticketing and exhibitor information visit <http://www.pcshow.com/>. And don't miss the preliminary schedule of speakers in the centerfold of this issue. ☞

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**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.

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**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.

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# The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

## Web News

*Item:* New York Times, February 20, SundayStyles: “Ma’s Teeth Travel in Cyberspace.” Joyce Wadler reports that in a recent phone chat with her 72-year-old mother, Mom announced “Hey, want to hear a hot one? I sold my teeth on eBay. I got \$16.” You can buy the full text on the Web site for \$2.50 — today’s news is free. It is pretty funny, though, and does give you a feel for the Web auction business.

*Item:* Business Week, February 21, Cover Story: “Cyber Crime.” “First Yahoo! Then eBay. The Net’s vulnerability threatens e-commerce — and you.” Another hand-wringer on last month’s denial of service attacks.

*Item:* Business Week, February 28, Lifestyle: “Back Off, Hacker.” “Easy-to-use software can keep online intruders out of your PC.” A little late, a story about firewalls. Thanks to Machrone, Head and Raff, we already know about these. The articles talk about Shields UP! from [www.grc.com](http://www.grc.com), and such Web based site probes that we’ve also heard about. A good summary of what’s available, without too much detail.

*Item:* ZDNet News, March 2, Internet: “AOL blocks iCaster from AIM program.” No progress in the Instant Messaging wars. AOL cuts another ISP out of the action. AOL has created a very popular communications protocol, but won’t let non-AOL subscribers chat with AIM users. Seems they are more interested in money than advancing the medium. See [www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2454413,00.html](http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2454413,00.html).

*Item:* Business Week, March 6, Information Technology: “The Paul Revere of the Web” about Laurence Lessig, a Harvard University law professor, and his new book, “Code, and Other Laws of Cyberspace.” Lessig argues that “courts and legislatures must stop companies and governments from violating privacy, free speech, and open markets on the Internet.” Amen! (He’s one of the lawyers advising Judge Thomas P. Jackson in the Microsoft antitrust case.)

*Item:* Same issue, Industry Insider: “Foil the Hackers? A Security Maven Discusses the Impossible.” A balanced interview of Bruce Schneier, author of “Applied Cryptography,” by BW writer, Neil Gross. This is an attempt to communicate to the readers the issues in the distributed denial of service attack of last month.

*Item:* Business Week, March 13, Information Technology: “Network Solutions: Still the Master of Its Domain; Rival Web-name registries haven’t hurt the Internet veteran.” To avoid having other registries give out the same domain name, the powers that be have decided that NSI should continue to operate the registration database, Internic and to charge \$6 a pop for the service. Since the current charge for name registration is \$35, other registries can still make their money and NSI, a profit. In fact, NSI hasn’t lost much business, since the other operators don’t seem to offer much advantage. Registrations are expected to triple over the next three years.

*Item:* The New York Times, March 15, Cybertimes: “Oxford English Dictionary on the Web.” A while ago I mentioned my OED adventure at the Strand Bookstore. Finally, they have

arrived online. For a mere \$550/year you can access an up-to-date version from your PC. They are also publishing current version on CD-ROM for a modest \$365. The massive 20-volume set is available on sale for only \$995, or you can get the compact, one-volume, half-size print version with magnifying glass for only \$375 — that’s the one I have, though an earlier version in two volumes for which I only paid about \$80. Visit them at [www.oed.com](http://www.oed.com). A close second along these lines would be the Encyclopedia Britannica Online for only \$5 a month. See them at [www.eb.com](http://www.eb.com). Or you can buy the hard copy for \$1,250 or the CD-ROM for \$50.

*Item:* The New York Times, March 17, Cybertimes: “Chess Star Kasparov Plays E-Commerce.” In this piece quoted from Reuters, “Garry Kasparov, the world No. 1 chess player who was the game’s first millionaire, has positioned his pieces for an e-commerce gambit, starting an Internet chess company he hopes to make public within the year. “At the heart of <http://www.KasparovChess.com>, introduced in New York’s Times Square this week, is the Russian grandmaster’s long-held dream to popularize chess in households and schools across the globe. He sees the Internet as the medium to achieve his ambition.”

*Item:* The Star-Ledger, March 20: “Newark: Warehouse for the Web.” Where does your e-mail really sit, waiting for you to download it? Where is your connection to the big pipe? Maybe it’s in the old Bamberger’s building on Market Street. This piece describes the transformation of this old landmark into a major node of the infrastructure of the future. The “in” lingo calls it a “carrier hotel.” It already holds “hundreds of Web sites essential to dozens of Manhattan companies.” Curious — some of the profits from the old landmark business went on to create the famous Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton.

*Item:* Business Week, March 20, Cover Story: “Privacy on the Net; What Should Be Done.” A generally optimistic view of how the industry can and should proceed to handle the thorny problem of individual privacy. Inspired by the recent news about doubleclick’s rather cavalier attitude about their somewhat dubious practices, this piece tries to probe the matter. It’s fairly broad and includes a BW/Harris poll on consumer attitudes. Most respondents favored more restrictive legislation.

*Item:* Same issue, Special report: “Vinton Cerf on How the Net Aids the Disabled.” It turns out that this Net pioneer is partially deaf. In this interview he discussed how the Net can become more usable to folks with disabilities. Sadly, it hasn’t been so this far, with its emphasis on multimedia, mostly for the purpose of glitz. But the potential does remain for incorporating such features as signing, and already there are some text reading browsers for the visually impaired.

*Item:* Same issue, Technology and you: “The Problem with Firewalls.” The author gives a rundown of the same software as the prior article, but then goes on to remark that the best solution would be in hardware. He goes on to describe WatchGuard, but notes that it is a bit pricey at \$315. He then

*continued*

remarks that this price could be made reasonable if the device were built in to the cable of DSL modem.

**Item:** ZDNet Announce list, March 21: "NeoPlanet: VIEW AND INTERACT ON THE WEB YOUR WAY - FREE; New NeoPlanet 5.1 integrates Web browser, e-mail client, IM, chat, web directory, and search engine into a single customizable application. Under 2MB, It's fast, it's free. See [www.neoplanet.com](http://www.neoplanet.com). It would be nice if some curious Web fan were to try it out and let us know how it works!

**Item:** ZDNet News, March 22: "Forget having privacy on the Net." Since the doubleclick.com news broke there has been a rash of privacy articles. In the same issue there's one about a SelectQuote Insurance Services site which inadvertently revealed confidential info, as in the online tax boo-boo of last month. From inexcusable carelessness to intentional private data gathering, this whole area is becoming hot! Many geeks just don't care; many folks are paranoid about this, but it's becoming something that's hard to ignore. The data miners will probably win by obfuscation, Harry and Louise ads, etc. You can see Jake Kirchner's piece at [www.zdnet.com/zdnn](http://www.zdnet.com/zdnn). Just go to [stories/news/0,4586,2472006,00.html](http://stories/news/0,4586,2472006,00.html).

**Item:** Business Week, March 27, Government: "The Great Internet Tax Debate — Should the states get a slice of every e-commerce dollar or should cyber-sales be free of any tax burden?" Folks who hate taxes are in the same boat with those who believe in the free lunch!

### Miscellany

Need help? ZDNet has added a new domain, [www.zdhelp.com](http://www.zdhelp.com), where you can find tutorials and tips for may popular software products — Pagemaker, Photoshop, PowerPoint, just to mention some of the P's. Check them out. They cover the most popular products, and they even do Windows. That's just the software side. They do hardware, too. There's even a mailing list, if you can stand another. You can subscribe with [need\\_help@zdemail.zdlists.com](mailto:need_help@zdemail.zdlists.com), with the subject = "subscribe". Can be done in modern browsers with [mailto:need\\_help@zdemail.zdlists.com?subject=subscribe](mailto:need_help@zdemail.zdlists.com?subject=subscribe).

The March issue of the Bell Labs Credit Union (AFS Federal Credit Union) newsletter announces: "New Internet Access & Bill Paying via [www.afsfcu.com](http://www.afsfcu.com)." It links to a national credit union site, [www.cusa-hfs.com](http://www.cusa-hfs.com), which supplies the services. My daughter's old employer, The Lower East Side Peoples Federal Credit Union gets some of their software from CUSA, but doesn't seem to be a participating member of this Home Financial Services capability.

A couple of utility updates have appeared in recent days: Netscape 4.72 and Eudora 4.3.1. In the case of Netscape, the chief new features relate to Windows 2000 User Agent support and "Input Method Editors," which allow oriental languages to be composed in various versions of Windows. Eudora 4.3 introduces a new method of choosing between differently priced configurations. There's a new, free Eudora Light mode, a free (with mandatory ads) version of Eudora Pro, and a paid version (without ads) of Eudora Pro. All three choices are simply different modes of the same program. Generally new features include: More powerful mailbox

sorting, better importing from Outlook Express 5, better SMTP support in the area of authentication and a link history window showing URLs visited via mouse clicks from Eudora. I found a bug in the program — occasionally the mailbox explorer frame would disappear, to be recovered only by exiting and restarting the program. When I finally got through to support, they acknowledged the bug and said it was already fixed in maintenance release 4.3.1. I think there's another bug new to this release. I frequently find Eudora and Netscape calling for a connection via dial-up modem — from an environment which includes an always-connected cable modem. When this happens, one or both apps hang until the problem goes away, usually by my canceling the dial-up.

One of the problems which all us voice modem based surfers know very well is that while we're online we can't use our phones because or lines are busy. Ah! But there's a solution. When your line is busy, the phone company can forward incoming calls to another number. What if the other number is a company that uses the incoming call, callerID, and other features to send some info to a pop-up on your PC which tells you you've got a call from...? There are a number of companies which offer such service, but ZDTV reports that the best of these is BuzMe at [www.buzzme.com](http://www.buzzme.com). Much of their stuff is free (ad supported) and claims to work as advertised. Try it and let me know what you think.

While visiting my own news central, [my.yahoo.com](http://my.yahoo.com), configured for my interests, I noticed an article about parenting of two and three year olds. It caught my eye, since I'm the proud grandparent of an active two year old. (I'm happy to report that my daughter is doing everything right!) Maria used to work for Head Start, and there were some points of interest for her. There weren't too many computer jocks in her organization, but now, at least at the national level, they have a Web site, [www.nhsa.org](http://www.nhsa.org). Although not a first prize winner for graphics, it's clean and takes visitors where they want to go easily and quickly.

While I was checking out the Head Start site, it asked me for my VeriSign certificate, which it said had expired. Not being too sure what to do at this pint, I popped over to the VeriSign Web site, [www.verisign.com](http://www.verisign.com), and guess what! It seems they've gone and bought out Network Solutions, Inc., our old friend who used to have a monopoly on Internet domain name registration. (Can't you do anything in this world without bumping into another merger or acquisition?) At VeriSign, I tried to look at my registered ID and found four of them, Three long expired and one still valid. It said I could download the valid one, but I couldn't. Then I tried to renew one of the expired ones. Gave me an unexplained error. Then I tried to remove (revoke?) Another of the expired ones. Same error! At this point I gave up — think I'll ask someone to tell us what this is all about. All I can say is that if this is going to be the standard for e-mail encryption, we'll all have to get PhDs in the subject.

Then I got a piece of e-mail from an old friend — wife of ex-Bell Labber. She's a theatrical type and got suckered into writing a play about the history of her new home town on Cape Cod. One of her characters is a shipwrecked Portuguese

*continued on page 15*

# Second Chance Version 2.0

*Dick Freymoyer and Earl Shettel*

“Second Chance” means just what it says — you get another chance at doing something. Power Quest brings us a program called “Second Chance” which Microsoft, with all their wisdom, failed to provide for us again. What can this program do for us? In the event you have a problem, it lets you go back in time, to a time when your computer was running, very stable, and everything was working great. Let’s say, for whatever reasons your PC crashes, what do you do? You call up Second Chance!

Did you ever find, after installing a program, your computer no longer worked right? Or you were clearing out a program and you lost some files that you need to for another program? Or maybe you loaded a piece of hardware that locked your computer up and Windows just won’t run. With Second Chance in place, all you have to do is click on a checkpoint and you are up and running again — back to a time when everything worked perfectly!

## Installation

Installing the program was easy and so fast that it made us wonder if the program installed properly. (It did!) When you are loading the program for installation, it scans your drives, to see what you have in the computer. Second Chance makes up a special start up disk, a disk you can use if you have to get into DOS for a full recovery. The start up disk has all the system files on it, along with a simple autoexec.bat file that points to Power Quest’s executable file, “Crestore.Exe”. It looks good, works very well and is very simple to operate!

## System Requirements

You must have a 486 or better processor, 20MB of storage space, 16MB memory, and Windows 95 or 98. It will not work with Windows 2000, but I think they will release an update soon.

## Setup

The menu & setup for the program is very simple. When you click on the Second Chance Icon, the menu opens up with five tabs. The first tab is CONTROL This breaks down to: Restore drives; Create Checkpoint; and View Drives as of the last checkpoint. The view drives is interesting in that it shows you what files were changed or created.

The next tab is OPTIONS. You can select the drives you want to monitor for the checkpoints. Another option sub-menu is Limits, where you set the amount of space you want to store your checkpoints in. When you reach the limit, it will automatically discard old checkpoints — nice feature. The last option is Create Emergency Setup Disk.

The third Tab is CHECKPOINT. This item shows you all your checkpoints, and you can delete old checkpoints or view the changes on each entry.

The next tab is SCHEDULE. This is where you program Second Chance to make automatic checkpoints, setting the days and the times.

The last tab is ONLINE. Here’s where you Register, go to the Power Quest Site or look for program updates.

## How Does SecondChance Work?

SecondChance creates Checkpoints, which are snapshots of your system at specific points in time. This is an image-like type of file, which you create manually or automatically (under the Schedule tab). When you generate a checkpoint it will record any changes you have made on your hard drive. Second Chance runs in the background, but it doesn’t seem to affect performance. Some utilities rob your system of resources. Second Change doesn’t do that.

Second Chance works like this, it reads all activity on your hard drive(s) and records the changes in the checkpoint. If your computer crashes, if you lose a file or if one becomes corrupted, you can restore it from the Checkpoint. Using the viewer, you can see what has changed and select the files or folders you want to replace without doing a full restore. You can also do a full restore and recover everything. The program doesn’t watch temp folders/files or Internet caches, since they are temporary.

Warning: Even if you have scheduled automatic Checkpoints, make a new one every time you make a change to your PC — every time you change a file, add a new folder or install a new program. If you don’t, and your computer goes down, those new items will not be there when you recover. I strongly suggest you continue to make backups of your data files, even though you use Second Chance, “GoBack”, by Wild File or other such program. I grew up with DOS and the days when hard drives crashed all the time, so I learned to do the simple backups and it has really paid off many times for me.

## Testing Second Chance

I don’t think most users will have to do what we did to test this program, but we had to know if Second Chance really worked. We started the computer, made a new CheckPoint, created a folder and copied some files from Program Files\Accessories to the new folder. We were thinking big, so we chose to delete WordPad.Exe and MSPaint.Exe. After deleting the files, I cleared the Recycle Bin. We didn’t want to cheat, although we did copy them into the newly created folder. We didn’t see the results we expected when we rebooted. We expected all kinds of error messages and there just were none. It was hard to believe, since Windows wants to crash for every little thing! Anyway, we tried to run MS Paint and Wordpad, and of course they didn’t run. Our next move was to go into Second Chance and click on our newest checkpoint, which happened to be #5. After highlighting it, we were asked “Do you want to revert to this checkpoint” and we said Yes. The computer rebooted, and I noticed that Crestore.Exe started. It then said it was restoring our drives to checkpoint 5, which took about 3-4 minutes to check the drives for changes. (We forgot to time it, so this is an approximate time.) With this completed, we were in Windows again and everything looked good, no errors whatever and both programs worked just fine. When I went back into Second Chance, I saw that there were two more checkpoints added to the list. Checkpoint #6 was identified as “Before Restored to

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# Vicious Kangaroos

The reuse of some object-oriented programming code has caused tactical headaches for Australia's armed forces. As virtual reality simulators assume larger roles in helicopter combat training, programmers have gone to great lengths to increase the realism of their scenarios, including detailed landscapes and — in the case of the Northern Territory's Operation Phoenix — herds of kangaroos (since disturbed animals might well give away a helicopter's position).

The head of the Defense Science and Technology Organization's Land Operations/Simulation division reportedly instructed developers to include the local marsupials' movements and reactions to helicopters in the simulation. Being efficient programmers, they just re-appropriated some code originally used to model infantry detachment reactions under the same stimuli, changed the mapped icon from a soldier to a kangaroo, and increased the figures' speed of movement.

The newly modified software was demonstrated to a visiting team of Americans. The hotshot Aussie pilots "buzzed" the virtual kangaroos in low flight during the simulation. The kangaroos scattered, as predicted, and the visiting Americans nodded appreciatively ... then did a double-take as the kangaroos reappeared from behind a hill and launched a barrage of Stinger missiles at the hapless helicopter. (Apparently the programmers had forgotten to remove that part of the infantry coding.)

The lesson? Objects are defined with certain attributes, and any new object defined in terms of an old one inherits all the attributes. The embarrassed programmers have learned to be careful when reusing object-oriented code, and the Yanks left with a newfound respect for Australian wildlife. Simulator supervisors report that pilots from that point onward have strictly avoided kangaroos, just as they were meant to.

*From June 15, 1999 Defense Science and Technology Organization Lecture Series, Melbourne, Australia. Copyright 2000 G. Armour Van Horn, all rights reserved. This document may be distributed freely as long as the complete message is forwarded including this copyright notice.* ☞

*Contributed by J.D. Abolins, who is also responsible for the cartoon below.*



## Second Chance, *continued*

Checkpoint #5" and Checkpoint #7 as "After Restore to Checkpoint 5". The temp folder and the files we copied the programs into were gone. In coming days we will take out some critical files and try to crash Windows, but we are sure the program will work as well as in this test.

### Likes and Dislikes

We like the simplicity of operating the program, the ease of creating new CheckPoints, deleting CheckPoints, and being able to make changes to the hard drive without interference. There are some significant differences in operation between Second Chance and GoBack (which will be reviewed next month). With "GoBack", if you boot to a floppy Start-Up disk, you can not make any changes in DOS to your hard drive; in fact you can't even read the drive. I can't say this is completely bad, since "GoBack" is protecting your hard drive. GoBack protects your PC all the time, and any changes you make are instantly monitored and recorded, giving you continuous protection. Second Chance, on the other hand, can only revive data as it was when a CheckPoint was recorded, so if you don't make a CheckPoint every time you make a change, you are not fully protected. Second Chance does not interfere with the performance of your PC. I believe GoBack does. Wild File (GoBack's Creators) does not agree with me on this point, but based on the way I tested, I am prepared to stick to my opinion. Both are excellent programs, but whichever one you choose to use, continue to save data files to a back-up disk.

We consider Second Chance another "Must Have" Program, especially for those who don't have the technical skills to get themselves out of a problem. Second Chance comes from Power Quest Corporation ([www.powerquest.com](http://www.powerquest.com)), PO Box 1911, Orem, Utah 84059-1911, (801) 437-8900. The street price is about \$59. For user group members, the cost is \$30, by ordering it within the Web site [www.ugr.com/order](http://www.ugr.com/order). (Use the code UGEVAL99 with the order.) I suggest your Program Chairperson order programs for your group, instead of each person ordering the program. We think this is a good deal for all! For questions or comments on this article e-mail [dickfrey1@aol.com](mailto:dickfrey1@aol.com) or [earljanet@aol.com](mailto:earljanet@aol.com). Thanks to Gene and Linda Barlow, Power Quest User Relations Representatives, for allowing us to bring this new great program to your attention. If you ever have the opportunity to see one of their Power Quest demonstrations, I recommend you attend, it will be time well spent. ☞

## 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](mailto: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 length, please. Deadline: 1st of preceding month. (For example, April 1 for May issue.)

# Ken's Korner: Preventing Computer Ailments

by Ken Fermoye

Between us, my wife and I offer a catalog of physical ills caused by long hours of working on computers: repetitive stress injury (RSI), neck pain, backaches and vision problems. Liz underwent surgery twice for carpal tunnel syndrome and still has frequent wrist and hand pain. I have suffered from aggravated neck and back injuries. My vision has deteriorated from 20 years of staring at a monitor, although admittedly age-related macular degeneration (AMD) and cataracts have been more damaging.

The sad truth is that if we knew 15 years ago what we know now, these problems need not have occurred. Or if they had, they would have been less severe. Even sadder is that prevention of many computer-related ailments is neither difficult nor especially time-consuming.

Frequent rest breaks are vital, says my chiropractor, Kurt W. Rice, who is also my son-in-law, God bless him. (He has helped me more times in recent years with neck and back problems than I care to remember!)

The breaks needn't be lengthy. Dr. Kurt recommends that we get up from our chairs every half-hour or so, stretch our backs and walk for a minute or two. Other experts offer different opinions about frequency and duration of breaks but all agree that they are vital.

Sitting and working at a computer creates more tension and stress on muscles, nerves, tendons and joints than most of us realize. Our bodies fight gravity every minute that we're seated. Breaks alleviate this tension and stress.

To prevent the dread carpal tunnel syndrome, during your break let your hands go limp at the wrist and wiggle them vigorously in what some call "the clerk and typist exercise."

Some people use voice recognition programs to cut down on their need to use a keyboard and mouse. I find that difficult. After more than 50 years of banging away at typewriter and computer keys, dictation comes hard to me. Now that voice recognition is improving and more reliable, however, I've resolved to use it more often. A major benefit is that you can use a microphone or headset while standing or even lying down. I plan to try dictating drafts, then to rewrite and edit as needed from the keyboard.

Vision experts warn that we should take "eye breaks" even more frequently. Every 10 or 12 minutes, look away from the monitor at objects 10 to 12 feet away. When I'm working with a word processor or any other program that allows me to increase type size easily and temporarily, I do it. Working with 14- instead of 10-point type prevents squinting and straining to see my work. It also allows me to sit up straight, not bent over the keyboard, and you can always reduce point size before printing or sending e-mail.

I mentioned my neck and back injuries earlier. The neck problems began about 17 years ago. I was riding my bicycle when a large tree limb broke off and fell on me. (Fortunately I was wearing a good helmet or the freak accident might have killed me.) That caused some damage, which increased with age and was aggravated by working on computers and long-distance cycling. The pain got so bad I could not turn my head to either

side more than 12 or 15 degrees. Dr. Kurt came to the rescue, with manipulation, ultra-sound and heat packs. He also recommended several simple exercises, which I try to do regularly.

My back injuries were computer-related. The first came when I installed a second drive in one of our machines. I crawled under a desk to get at the computer case. After removing all the cables, I tried to lift the box and slide it out to where I could work on it, not waiting to shift to a position that would give me more leverage.

Bad move. I heard a pop and was in instant agony. It took several weeks of Dr. Kurt's ministrations to recover from that one. I injured it again in October 1999 after conducting my monthly desktop publishing/word processing SIG. I took a computer and 17-inch monitor out of a car trunk with a high lip that made it impossible to lift them properly. I had to bend and lift with my back — and pop, there it went again! This time, recovery took more than even longer.

I mention these details to make a point. The first instance was pure accident. No way could I foresee that a brittle, rotted pepper tree branch would break off and fall just as I pedaled under it. The second injury occurred because I didn't take time to position myself properly. The third case was avoidable too; I should never have tried to lift heavy objects out of that particular car trunk. Trouble is, I forget my hard-used back is more vulnerable now than it was even 20 ago, and I think many of us who have reached senior citizen status do the same.

I just caught myself in a no-no a few minutes ago. I wanted a book from a built-in shelf high and to the right of my home office workstation. I started to reach up, twisting my back at an awkward angle. Various muscles prepared to scream in protest, so I did what I should have done in the first place. I moved my chair out of the way, got a step stool I keep folded behind the door, set it firmly in place and climbed up to find the desired book. It took a few extra minutes, but it kept me from aggravating my previously-injured back.

The book, by the way, was "Zap! How your computer can hurt you — and what you can do about it". Written by Don Sellers (edited by Stephen E. Roth), it was published by Peachpit Press in 1994. It's now out of print but Peachpit has a condensed version, 25 Steps to Safe Computing, also by Sellers, that is still available for \$5.95. (Remember that Peachpit offers discounts to user group members.) Either would be a good addition to your library.

You should also check out my Website at [www.zyworld.com/wordsmithken](http://www.zyworld.com/wordsmithken). I'll be adding links to several computing safety sites there. Meanwhile give yourself, and your body, a break — at least once every half-hour!

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# From the Dealsguy

by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer User Group

I'm having a disagreement with Best Buy and informing you of it to make you aware of things you aren't told in a sales pitch. In other words, read what they say they are giving you.

Several months ago I purchased a new laptop computer with an active matrix screen from Best Buy at a sale price. Because of previous bad experiences, I had said I would never buy from them again, but I thought this was a good buy and made the exception only to regret it. I also purchased the insurance after listening to the sales pitch and asking (not enough) questions. The salesman pointed out (among other things) that in the event it could not be repaired it would be replaced with a new one by the insurance.

Several months later it had to be sent in the second time for service and came back as unrepairable. When they offered the replacement, they would only give me a store credit up to the amount I originally paid. In order to get a new laptop with an active matrix screen (like the original had), I would have to pay an additional \$400. I disagreed and was told by the store manager that this provision was written into the insurance agreement (which I hadn't previously read). I was not informed of that qualifying factor in the insurance contract by their salesperson and it would seem that they sold me the insurance, then took it away with the fine print.

I have been to the Better Business Bureau with no further luck because of the contract wording (pointed out by the response from Best Buy's corporate management) and I am in the process of getting an attorney. I told the BBB that I thought Best Buy used deceptive sales practices, but the BBB sent me a list of other offices for further assistance. Friends tell me I won't win this one, but I never accept defeat automatically so I'll certainly go down swinging if I don't win. Obviously I'll write off Best Buy from now on. Don't believe any sales hype. Read it thoroughly to see if you get what you think you're paying for. Now for the deals.

## Caere Still Takes Care Of User Groups

I'm sorry to say this one got buried on me and I couldn't find it until now. I called Caere and it's still good. All user groups should have gotten this letter, but here it is again through me. You all know the products, so I'll just give the listings.

OmniPage Pro 10.0 retail upgrade, Windows, reg. \$99.95, UG price 69.95

OmniPage Pro 8.0 retail upgrade, Mac, reg. \$99.95, UG price \$49.95

Image AXS Professional, Win/Mac, reg. \$199.95, UG price \$99.95

PageKeeper Pro 3.0, Windows, reg. \$29.95, UG price \$19.95

OmniForm 4.0, Windows, reg. \$149.95, UG price \$79.95

OmniPage Web 1.0, Windows, reg. \$499.95, UG price \$99.95

OmniPage Pro Scanner Suite, Windows, reg. \$99.95, UG price \$74.95

You must use their order form. Someone in your user group should have it, but if not, get it mailed to you by going to: <http://www.caere.com/survey/usergroups.asp> to apply. The "special offer" code is 225. This offer is still good through April, perhaps longer.

## Keep Out Prying Eyes

If you've switched to the high speed of DSL or cable Internet service and love it, you may not know that your hard drive is wide open to prying eyes (with computers). No protection is built-in to keep others from entering your computer. A friend told me just how easy it is for anybody to take a look at every hard drive on your line. What you need is a firewall to prevent that and here is where you can get it *free*.

Steve Gibson, developer of the famous "Spinrite" software has a Web site offering such, and will even shock you when he tries to enter your computer. Try <http://www.grc.com> or <http://www.grc.com/x/ne.dll?bh0bkyd2>, which is devoted to testing systems for possible security holes. It provides information as to why these exist and offers suggestions for better security implementation.

I read in a Central Pennsylvania PC Association message to members of that author's computer being probed five times within two hours according to a utility that logs such things, not to mention the other times listed in his log. He also offered the following sites for more information on probes; <http://www.robertgraham.com/pubs/firewall-seen.html> or <http://www.robertgraham.com/pubs/index.html>.

I don't know the author's name but I thank him for the extra sites, etc., although I've been planning to include Steve Gibson's sites for your information for a couple of months now.

## Something Free From Adobe.

Sharing photos is as easy as drag and drop with this free download from <http://ActiveShare.com> from Adobe. Their ActiveShare desktop software integrates with that companion Web site to present a complex solution that makes it easy for everyone from kids to grandparents to join in photo fun by offering a central posting site. So far, it only applies to Windows 95/98/NT 4.0. Look it over on that Web site and see if it isn't a great plan. It allows you to share your new photos with all your relatives or friends (notice I said "or"), even if they live in other states.

On the same topic, I include the following information and comments from Cathy Grammer Margolin who finds and shares things for her user group and includes me in her e-mailings.

## Free Photo-sharing Web Sites.

At Comdex, everyone had a photo-sharing web page where you could upload unlimited pictures for free to share with friends and family.

[www.zing.com](http://www.zing.com) — nice site

[www.clubphoto.com](http://www.clubphoto.com) — can edit pics online

[www.gatherround.com](http://www.gatherround.com) — by Intel, recently improved

*continued*

# Network Security, Not Just for the Big Guys Anymore

by J.D. Abolins

With the recent spate of “Distributed Denial of Service” (DDoS) attacks on various Internet sites, there is more concern about online security. Many home computerists are learning that they may be targets of systems crackers, especially if they have cable modem or DSL connections. Home computer firewalls and intrusion detection utilities, such as Black Ice, are becoming popular. Unfortunately, there are still many misunderstandings about network security.

Many home computerist still believe that nobody would be interested in their systems, they don’t have any valuable data, and that they don’t have to be concerned. Then there is the other extreme, those who believe there are hoards of systems crackers going after their home PCs. When such people get home system intrusion detection utilities, they tend to interpret every “blip” as an “attack.”

This article will take a very quick look at these concerns and misunderstandings. It will not answer every question or tell you what product you should use.

## ***Why would anybody want to crack my system?***

The belief that systems crackers would be interested only in commercial or government systems is very common. It comes out of a view that all systems crackers are after valuable or “juicy” information. Therefore, not having such information means that one is safe. But systems crackers have many motives and types of approaches. Okay, it is not likely that the average home system is going to be cracked for one’s computer user group newsletter word processing file or for vacation photo images.

The system itself can be the motivation for cracking a home or small business system. Some people see cracking any available system as wonderful practice or want the thrill of exploration. One bonus for a home system is that, unlike a government or big commercial system, there won’t be full time coverage by systems and security administrators. Detection is less likely, and if the cracking is discovered, the FBI and other law enforcement agencies won’t give complaints the same priority as for the big systems.

Besides exploring a home system, practicing cracking techniques or playing pranks, some crackers find it handy to have a collection of accessible systems for launching other cracks. A cardinal rule of cracking is never go directly from a Net connection linked to your real name and home address. Use somebody else’s Net resources. Hijacking a number of systems to launch attacks upon other systems is exactly what happened with the recent DDoS attacks.

In other cases, a cracker can use a cracked system to work away at another target, perhaps working over a chain of several sites before reaching the real target. Should the cracking be discovered, systems administrators and investigators will have to work their way down the chain, asking for access to systems logs. By the way, a common trait of small systems is that they don’t keep organized logs of the system activities. The clues to computer misuse may be there but they are harder to find.

## ***What about vulnerability with cable modems and DSL?***

When almost all home computerists connected to the Internet via regular modems, their systems were still vulnerable to crackers but for the very limited time of the connection. Most Internet access accounts used IP address pools and assigned users an IP address from the pool. If a cracker found somebody’s home system, chances were good that the connection would be soon lost and that the system would have a different IP address for the next session.

The big systems, on the other hand, were often directly connected to the Internet and their IP addresses stayed the same. This made it easier to find and crack them. The cracker could count on coming back to the same system via a particular IP address. Incidentally, such cracking could still affect the average computerist who happens to be a user of the big system. But, generally, the home system itself was safe.

Cable modems and DSL connections have brought home computerists into the same set of vulnerabilities as big systems. Often, cable modem and DSL users are supposed to keep the system connected to the Internet, so the IP addresses stay the same over time. Home computerists were surprised to learn how connected they really were.

One of the earlier security problems that arose with cable modems occurred for people who set up Windows 95 systems for a home network. If they allowed file or printer sharing without additional security, their files or printers could be accessible to neighbors using the cable modem service. Many cable modem services and Windows 98 have sought to reduce the risks from this particular vulnerability.

## ***How do firewalls and intrusion detection systems differ?***

A firewall, for the extremely simplified purpose of this article, is a system or software that attempts to filter the connection to the Internet. Firewalls serve as border guards between systems and the rest of the network. Many firewalls act as “go betweens” for the systems inside the firewall’s protected area and the Internet. They are called proxy firewalls. Proxies protect in several ways. They can hide the IP addresses of the protected systems. They can check network communications to see if they seem to reasonably safe ones. More sophisticated firewalls let Internet communications “flow through” them while they analyze the characteristics to detect suspicious activities.

Intrusion detection software serves more as a burglar alarm than a border guard. It detects certain suspicious activities and alerts the user. Many of the products will stop the suspicious activity from going further. Unlike firewalls, intrusion detection software doesn’t allow extensive configuration of what Internet communication to allow. (Unfortunately, extensive configurability is what can make it challenging to properly set up a firewall.) Still, intrusion detection software is better than nothing.

## ***Somebody pinged me! I’m being attacked!***

Once home computerists begin to look at firewall or intrusion detection software reports, they often get freaked. The

*continued on page 14*

## **TCF Speakers for Saturday, May 6 (Subject to Change)**

**For the latest information on TCF Speakers, including revisions of the schedule, visit**

**<http://www.tcf-nj.org>**

## **TCF Speakers for Sunday, May 7 (Subject to Change)**

**For the latest information on TCF Speakers, including revisions of the schedule, visit**

**<http://www.tcf-nj.org>**

# Windows 9x Exploring

by Vic Laurie, PPCUG

Windows Explorer is the basic user interface to the operating system. We deal with its properties and characteristics every time we use the computer. Learning to manipulate Explorer can speed up the way we get things done and make life easier. In this article are tips on setting up Explorer to suit individual preferences. In earlier days, Windows Explorer and Internet Explorer were totally separate entities. Somewhat different modes of presentation for the desktop and for the Internet are still available, but with IE 4/5 the distinction between the two Explorers has been considerably blurred. Nowadays the two are very much intertwined. Many tips, therefore, apply to either Explorer. There is some interesting history here for which we have no space. For reasons of its own, Microsoft wished to integrate IE into the operating system as much as possible and wanted to make the desktop and the Internet basically indistinguishable. They did beat out Netscape through this integration, but there was considerable dislike of the feature called Active Desktop. In Internet Explorer 5 Microsoft crippled one of the components of Active Desktop in IE 4 known as Desktop Update. If you install IE 5 over IE 4, however, the option of Desktop Update is retained. In this discussion, I will assume that Active Desktop is not in use.

## Views

Let us begin with a basic function of Explorer — displaying the list of folders and files present on the system. This can be displayed in a number of different formats, which have been termed “Views”. In my opinion the default settings are far from the most useful and need modifying for most users. If you double-click *My Computer* or a folder icon, you will obtain a **single-pane** view using icons to represent folders and files. If you pull down the *View* menu you can change to a “List” or a “Details” representation. On the other hand, opening Explorer from the Programs Menu or by right-clicking Start and choosing Explore gives a **double-pane** view. The double-pane view has a number of options. The default setting uses icons but this can be changed to a “List” or “Details” view in the *View* menu. I prefer the “Details” view and I find some other changes from the default settings to be important. The default setting is for something called “Web Style” which is really not useful unless the user wishes to make certain custom settings. I prefer the so-called “Classic Style.” These settings are in View|Folder Options|General. Files with the hidden or system attribute and most file extensions are not shown by the factory settings. For many purposes these settings need to be changed. To make changes go to View|Folder Options|View. (That’s right. “View” is in there twice.) In the list of settings, check “Show all files” and uncheck “Hide file extensions for known file types.” You may wish to check “Remember each folder’s view settings.” (But see Windows Amnesia below.) You may also want to make sure that “Show file attributes in Detail view” is checked. (Microsoft removed the capability to show attributes in Windows 98 SE but you can restore it. See <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q241/3/80.ASP>).

While you have the menu open, look over the list to see if there are any other changes that appeal to you. Click “Apply”

(the menu will stay open) or “OK” (the menu will close) to make your changes.

If you prefer the double-pane Explorer view when opening *My Computer* or any other folder instead of the default single-pane, right-click and choose Explore from the context menu. You can also get the double-pane view from *My Computer* or any other folder by first highlighting it and then double-clicking while holding down the *Shift* key. Yet another way (Windows never does something only one way if it can be helped) is to open the menu for View|Explorer Bar and click “Folders.” If you wish to make a double-pane view the default, go to View|File Options and click the “File Types” tab. Select “Folder” from the list of Registered file types. Click “Edit”, then “explore”, then “Set Default”, then OK.

If you are using the double-pane view and wish to change to the *My Computer* kind of view, click the X in the upper corner of the left-hand or All Folders column (note: **not** the X in the upper right-hand of the window as a whole).

Here are a couple of keyboard shortcuts that can be used when you are in a double-pane view. To expand a folder in the left pane, highlight it and press the asterisk key (\*) on the Numeric keypad. The result is a fully expanded view of every folder and all their subfolders. For a folder such as *Windows*, which contains many subfolders, the listing will be very long and will take a while to unfold. If you use the Details view and find that some of the columns in the right pane are too narrow, hold down the *Ctrl* key while pressing the plus (+) key in the Numeric keypad. Columns will be resized automatically to fit their longest entry. If you have IE 4, the F6 key will switch you from the right-hand pane to the left-hand pane to the Address bar. In conjunction with the up and down arrow keys, this allows you to navigate the list of folders without using the mouse. Also when in the left-hand pane, the right arrow key can be used to expand the listing for a highlighted folder. The expanded list will appear on the right. (If IE 5 is installed, Windows Explorer has slightly different behavior and this shortcut is less useful.)

A specialized view that can be useful for folders with graphics files is “thumbnail view.” If you right-click on a folder and open the Properties sheet, you can check a box near the bottom “Enable thumbnail view.” You will get a display that shows small views or “thumbnails” of the contents of the files in that folder. You also get thumbnails if you use Web view.

## Windows Amnesia

After you have obtained the type of view you wish, the next step is to adjust the window size to your preference. Sizing windows is something everyone learns at the beginning. The trick is to get Windows to remember your preference so that you do not have to resize every time you open a new window. In principle this is easy. In View|Folder Options|View, there is a box with the caption, “You can make all your folders look the same.” If you have your settings where you like them, click the box, “Like current folder.” However, this brings us to one of the unsolved mysteries of life (or at least of Windows). At random times Windows will “forget” your settings (size, view, everything) and revert to the defaults. There are

many purported explanations but no one seems to have a definitive handle on why this happens. There appear to be a number of things that can cause Registry settings to jump back to the defaults. In my experience, it seems to be worse with Windows 98SE but that is a subjective assessment.

The most straightforward and easiest to understand of reasons for Windows amnesia is that it can save only a finite number of settings. Windows 95 has room in the registry for 29 settings; Windows 98 increased it to 200. When the limit is reached the oldest setting is dropped. Thus, after you have opened many windows you will find yourself back at the default. There are a number of ways to work around this, but then, at apparently random times, Windows will suddenly revert to the defaults. The Internet and Newsgroups have much discussion on this with various suggested fixes. None seems to work all the time. If anybody knows a definitive solution, please let me in on the secret. Here are a couple of common suggestions. After sizing a window to the desired setting, close it by clicking the X in the upper right hand corner while simultaneously holding down the *Ctrl* key. Another is to hold down *Shift* while clicking the X in the upper right hand corner. Yet another is to hold down both the *Shift+Ctrl* keys while closing. Take your choice. If you have installed *TweakUI*, make sure "Save Explorer window settings" is checked in the Explorer section.

### Open Explorer Where You Want

A new Explorer window at a folder of your choice can be opened by a command in the RUN line or in a shortcut. One form (not the only one) of the syntax for the command line and its switches is *explorer.exe /n,/e,{folder}*. Here */n*, specifies that Explorer should open a new window (may usually be omitted) and */e*, opens the folder in expanded or double-pane view. (Note the commas in the switches. Omitting commas gives a different result.) To open Explorer at a specific folder *C:\myfolder*, the command line would be *C:\windows\explorer.exe /n,/e,C:\myfolder*. To create a shortcut on the Desktop that opens Explorer where you want, right-click in an open area of the Desktop, choose New|Shortcut from the menu, and make the appropriate entry in the Command Line box. Give the shortcut whatever name you prefer. This will display your whole system tree with *C:\myfolder* highlighted and expanded. To create a view with *C:\myfolder* at the beginning or root of the display tree, use the command *C:\windows\explorer.exe /n,/e,/root,C:\myfolder*. If you wish a view of the whole system tree with the focus on *My Computer* use *C:\windows\explorer.exe /n,/e,/root,./select,C:\* (There are two commas after *root*.) Be sure to get all commas in the right places. Change one and the action you get may be different.

For a discussion of various switches and syntax for Explorer commands, read the Microsoft knowledge base article at <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q130/5/10.asp>, but it is not always clear about where the commas should go in command lines. Neil Rubenking's PC Magazine article <http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/stories/solutions/0,8224,2425962,00.html> gives a discussion of command line parameters and references to possible glitches in the switches. ☐

[www.photopoint.com](http://www.photopoint.com) — must e-mail pictures

A review of all these sites can be found at:

<http://www.shortcourses.com/specialtopics/sharing/sharing.html>

Visit <http://www.shortcourses.com/> for a free short course that includes explanations of photo file formats, digital cameras and photo printers.

### From Our Friends At Atlanta PC User Group

Michael Rogers of the Atlanta PC User Group did all the footwork for their group and included my readers. I surely thank Michael and Richard for the help, and their message follows:

"Richard Young, President of World Skyline has extended the following offer to User Groups reading the (deals) column. Unlimited online training for a year for just \$99. A savings of about 30% off their regular price of \$129. The training includes computer-related topics such as the MS Office Suite, Oracle, HTML, MCSE and many others. Also offered are personal development courses such as stress management, time management, grammar skills, and other work related coursework. You can check the curriculum and demos, and even enroll at <http://training.atlsky.com>. Please use the code USGRP020604 to get the training deal."

Next are a couple things I found in newsletters that I thought you should know about.

### High Speed Data Connection Information

Are you wondering if it would be possible to get a DSL or cable connection in your area, and about the cost of these services? Thanks to the Macon User Group newsletter, I have the answer for you. Go to <http://www.getspeed.com>, enter your address, and GetSpeed will show you what is available, and the pricing.

### Do Yourself a Favor and Check That Battery

I read this very important tip from Phyllis Evans in the South-eastern Michigan Computer Organization Data Bus. You can download the PRAM Battery Checker (freeware) at <http://www.polar-orbit.com>. Installation will place it in your startup folder where it will check your battery each time you start up. If it detects a problem, you'll see a message about replacing the battery. Don't keep track of your battery and you may pay the consequences.

This month's column was another rush job, but not without deals. Please tell me how to come up with more hours in a day to get everything done, especially when I'm supposed to be retired. I'm sorry to say that I have not gotten my Bobclick.com Web site up and running. I haven't even started my Web Express software in a couple of months. Be patient.

*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 sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [dealsguy@mindspring.com](mailto:dealsguy@mindspring.com). Visit <http://www.dealsguy.com> for past columns.* ☐

# Netiquette: Ten Commandments for Email

by Cass Lewart ([rlewart@monmouth.com](mailto:rlewart@monmouth.com))

You have finally decided to plunge into the wonderful world of instant communication. You are “wired” and ready to make family and friends aware of your new status. Here some e-mail rules from an old timer. If you follow them, your friends will remain friends and will not put your e-mail address in their spam filters. This is Net Etiquette, Netiquette for short. If you watch your incoming e-mail you will realize that, unfortunately, many people, through ignorance or boorishness, never follow it.

## **First: I shall not forward**

Someone e-mails you jokes that have been circulating on the Internet for years. Think twice before you forward them to your list of current and former friends. You may have an urge to click the Send button — don’t! This applies to virus warnings, urban legends of congress planning to tax the Internet, fake telephone repairmen scams, miracle cures, fabulous offers, etc. Do not spread the nonsense.

## **Second: I shall use Bcc to send to multiple recipients**

You’ve probably received e-mail consisting of pages of e-mail addresses followed by a short message. The sender is not aware of the blind carbon copy option in every e-mail program. If you use “Bcc:” instead of the default “To:” each recipient sees only his/her name at the top. Or, create an address book entry (e.g., My 100 Best Friends) with your e-mail address. Then send “To: My 100 Best Friends” and “Bcc: Friends” where Friends is the address list for the group. Recipients will see only the sender name in the “From:” field followed by “My 100 Best Friends” in the “To:” field.

## **Third: I shall always put a subject in my e-mail message**

E-mail with an empty subject field is annoying and suspicious. Spend a few seconds to fill out this field — it is the title of your message. Your recipient may decide, based on the subject whether to read the message or to delete it.

## **Fourth: I shall not write in upper case**

Using upper case in e-mail is equivalent to shouting. Don’t do it unless you mean to offend the recipients. The only people still using upper case are some military agencies with fond memories of teletypes and Morse code.

## **Fifth: I shall not e-mail large files**

Not all of us have cable or DSL connections. Receiving a 1MB file on a dial-up connection takes up to 5 minutes and clogs up your hard drive. Send plain text (typically 2.5 KB per page). If you include a graphic, a one page Word document can be 400 times larger than plain text. When you attach pictures use compressed formats such as JPG. Compress large files by zipping them or convert them to PDF files.

## **Sixth: I shall not use the MIME option**

This option can make it difficult for people with certain browsers to read e-mail. It requires pulling it off the server into your browser. Some people check e-mail on the server first and erase suspicious looking messages like those using the MIME option. Plain text messages do not contain viruses, all others may. In Netscape Communicator the MIME option is under Edit/Preferences/Mail and Newsgroups/Messages. Uncheck MIME and click OK.

## **Seventh: I shall not quote indiscriminately**

You send e-mail to a friend, who answers clicking on the Reply button, accepting the default of quoting your original message in full. You write back with the same option. Soon you have a 10 page message, showing the complete history of your correspondence, with only a few lines of new information. In your replies quote only relevant information.

## **Eighth: I shall not respond to all recipients**

You get a mass mailing from the leader of your favorite club. You have a comment for the sender. Be sure it does not go to all 75 recipients unless you want 74 enemies.

## **Ninth: I shall try not to annoy the recipient of my e-mail**

Don’t send a tea totaler a message about that great wine you found or offer tons of irrelevant advice to someone with a medical or financial problem. Your e-mail may be considered meddling in their affairs.

## **Tenth: I shall think before I click the send button!**

Some people ignore anything exceeding a few lines. Make sure what you are sending is of value to the recipient. Obey the previous commandments, run the spell checker, watch your grammar and style and click send only after you are satisfied. ☐

## **Security, continued from page 9**

Internet is lot more active than many people realize, so the reports may show several “probes” of the home system. It is easy to jump to the conclusion that the system is being attacked. This is not necessarily the case.

There are many mundane network activities that may seem suspicious. Pinging may be a prelude to an attack, but very often it is used to simply to see what’s connected to the network for purposes other than cracking.

One “blip” usually doesn’t mean anything serious. A collection of “blips” is more serious. While this article cannot explain how to analyze the reports, it is prudent not to freak out because of an occasional “blip”.

## **Suggested further reading:**

A fascinating book about different types of systems attacks and defenses against them is *Hacking Exposed: Network Security Secrets and Solutions* by George Kurtz (McGraw-Hill, 1999). Although the book is intended for systems administrators, it gives a good overview for the interested home computerist. The NetworkIce.com Web site for the support of Black Ice has some good information on systems attacks. Some useful URLs include:

<http://advice.networkice.com/advice/Support/KB/q000040/default.htm>

<http://advice.networkice.com/advice/Support/KB/q000079/default.htm>

As the world is getting more networked, we need to pay attention to our connected system to make sure that we aren’t leaving doors or windows open for the trespassers. ☐

sailor from Cape Verde who settled in Eastham in 1717. She asked Maria to help her with the accents and history on the Portuguese side of the drama. I forwarded her request to my daughter, who is living in Cambridge, MA, and has some Cape Verdeans for clients. My daughter had some questions, too, about the history, so I checked with Yahoo! and came up with a site, [www.umassd.edu/SpecialPrograms/caboverde](http://www.umassd.edu/SpecialPrograms/caboverde), which answered most of her questions.

At a recent meeting I mentioned the ACM, 3 times a week Tech New list. If you're a member, you can subscribe. In any case, you can read the news items at [www.acn.org/technews](http://www.acn.org/technews). The collection for March 15:

"Virginia Is First With Controversial Software Law"

"Cisco Aims to Speed Up Acquisition of Firms Within the Next Year"

"Microsoft to Back a Browser Keyword System"

"A Close Look at a New Medium"

"Chip Makers Not Stopping at 1GHz"

"Antitrust Suit Against Intel Is Dismissed"

"Commonwealth of e-Nations"

"NSA Blackout Reveals Downside of Secrecy"

"BT Ready for Global Web-Phone Network"

"Clinton CyberCrime Efforts Treading Familiar Path"

"Linux: The Future's Bright, but It's Still Black and White"

"Preparing for a New Cyberwar"

"A Recipe for E-Commerce"

"IBM's Wireless Drive Leaves Microsoft in the Cold"

"Customizing for the Masses"

"Search of Gov. Employee's Net Use, Computer Not Unconstitutional"

"It's a Steal"

"Businesses Seek to Cut Weak Links From Supply Chains"

"European Online Brokerages Still Need Improvement"

### Security

This month's gotcha goes to Microsoft's WebTV. Their marketing claims users won't have to worry about rogue viruses on the Internet. Oops! Oh, well. At least the rest of us don't have to worry. It seems to affect only other WebTV users.

If you're interested in how hackers break into your machine and how to protect yourself, Alex recommends a set of three articles which can be found at [rootprompt.org](http://rootprompt.org), a Unix Web site. Just look for the articles under "Know Your Enemy."

### E-Commerce & eBooks

At a recent ACGNJ Board Meeting the subject of putting our newsletter on the Web came up again. I opined that whatever we decide, it should be compatible with the standards for e-books. (I'm an old standards freak!) The general sense was that e-books were not yet ready for prime time.

On March 8 Simon & Schuster announced the publication of Stephen King's latest book, "Riding the Bullet." The surprising part of the announcement stated that the book would only be published in e-book format, with downloads costing \$2.50

a pop. The marketing and distribution of the book is to be handled by a company called SoftLock which will handle "copyright-protection technology, transaction processing and merchandising." While not the first e-book publication, it is certainly the first major big money effort and will be watched very carefully. A major monkey wrench was thrown into the observations when Barnes and Nobel and Amazon.com both offered the download free for the first (I think) 24 hours. B&N reported 200,000 downloads during this period, or about 5 every 2 seconds. Amazon's site was mysteriously down twice during the day, reportedly due to activity around the King book, but they deny this.

Ebooks haven't settled on a single standard, yet, but most, including the King venture, are compatible with a device called Rocket eBook, a \$200-\$400 22-ounce Palm-like device that can hold 10-40 novels (see [www.rocketbook.com](http://www.rocketbook.com).) A company called Glassbook, which sells eBook content, offers free software that lets you use your laptop as an eBook (see [www.glassbook.com](http://www.glassbook.com).) I believe both can handle Adobe pdf format, which takes care of my online newsletter concerns.

GlassBook is available in two versions. The free version allows you to download and pay for (if necessary) eBooks, read them, manage them a bit, rotate 90 degrees (particularly good for filling the screen of a laptop), turn pages, bookmark pages (they come with "dog ears" for the purpose), zoom in and out in small increments (this helps with font aliasing problems), and even print out or copy sections to other applications, limited by the publisher's restrictions. You can search for words, too. All this is done with a modified Adobe reader, and the files are Adobe-encrypted.

The "Plus" version, slated to sell for \$39 but currently available free in the beta version, has some additional features. It contains a fully integrated American Heritage Dictionary and enhanced features like word searching across your library, better highlighting capabilities, and the ability to share purchased eBooks with other Plus owners.

Both keep track of what you have purchased by keeping your unique decryption key along with a copy of your voucher so you can only read what you have bought. You can download the readers from the Web site — the standard version is 7MB and the Plus version is 22MB. I downloaded the 62-page Daisy Miller of Henry James in less than a minute on my cable modem. You can try a lot of stuff for free, but it's best on a small, lightweight laptop, which you could hold in your lap while curled up in your favorite easy chair. Ah-h-h!

By the way, John's making great progress with the newsletter problem. Go to [www.acgnj.org](http://www.acgnj.org) and click on ACGNJ News Letter to visit the new facility.

### Science

From this week's Web Features in Scientific American (March 20): Martian Graffiti, Slippery Origins of Snakes, Bad Astronomy and Sponsors' Perspective on E-Commerce.

Once we had rumors of canals on Mars. Even with those put to rest, we have lots of visible artifacts that need some investigation and exploration. The first article reports that the Mars Global Surveyor is still up there working and sending back in-

*continued on page 18*

# SIG News

## PC Users Group

Jo-Anne Head ([tinarock@aol.com](mailto:tinarock@aol.com))

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

**April 21:** Victor Laurie speaks on "Have It Your Way: Configuring Windows 95/98 to Suit Your Own Personal Needs and Preferences." Mr. Laurie is an excellent speaker and very knowledgeable about Windows. You are sure to learn a lot, even if you think you are a Windows expert.

**May 19:** J.D. Abolins is speaking on Computer Security and Privacy. With all the security holes in popular software, this is a very timely topic. See J.D. Abolins' bio or check out his website for more information on security and privacy. ☞

## Random Access

Scott Vincent ([svincent@ix.netcom.com](mailto: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. ☞

## Main Meeting

Frank Warren ([kb4cyc@webwarren.com](mailto:kb4cyc@webwarren.com))

**April:** Computer Privacy and Security, host John Raff

**May:** No meeting due to preparations for TCF

**June:** Computers & Cardiology, host Malthi Masurekar. ☞

## MCP

(Preparing for Microsoft Certification Exams)

Scott Vincent ([svincent@ix.netcom.com](mailto:svincent@ix.netcom.com))

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:

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

## C/C++ Users Group

Bruce Arnold ([barnold@blast.net](mailto:barnold@blast.net))

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

The Windows Registry is a huge system defined database that applications as well as the operating system can use to store and retrieve configuration data. It has replaced the \*.ini files which were so common in the Windows 3.1 days. There are about two dozen programming functions which enable you to access the Registry functions. They let you view the Registry as well as add or delete items. Our code for March is a small, "command box" program called WINSTART which accesses the Registry and enumerates (ie. makes a list of) the programs that run at startup. Many people know that Windows has one or more startup groups where they can place programs to run automatically when the computer is turned on. With Windows NT there is a startup group for each user as well as a general startup group for all users. These groups or folders can be examined with Windows Explorer. Less obvious is the fact that there are also registry settings that affect which programs start up automatically. For example there is a registry key called "HKEY\_LOCAL\_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run", which contains a list of programs that start automatically. This is in addition to the startup groups. Many installation programs place entries here without even telling the computer user.

## Internet

Martin Rosenblum ([m.rosenblum@ieee.org](mailto:m.rosenblum@ieee.org))

**March 2:** We had our first outside speaker of the year, Keith Sproul, head of the ACGNJ MAC Users Group. Unfortunately, I was in Florida, (beautiful weather!) so I missed the demo. Here's Alex's report: "Keith entertained the crowd with his collection of computer cameras and demonstrating how they could be used. He showed both still and video cameras working with both MAC's and PC's. He showed webcams — getting pictures from remote cameras in real time over the Internet. He demonstrated remotely operated (over the Net) gimbals for these cameras. There was a demonstration of the various software needed to get results from these cameras. The highlight was a real time look into Keith's home for his new puppy. Unfortunately, one of his crew turned off the lights in Keith's office, so we couldn't see into that location. To see what you missed, go to: [dorm.rutgers.edu/~ksproul/camera.html](http://dorm.rutgers.edu/~ksproul/camera.html)."

**April 6:** No outside speaker this month. There's been a lot going on, however, including new releases of Netscape and Eudora, some hot news and some fun excursions, so come on by. As usual, we shall have a *newbie* session from 7:30PM to 8PM, when the regular meeting starts. Alex attended a meeting at the Scotch Plains Library about kid safety on the Net presented by the FBI. He'll have a word or two to say about that, and he invited the attendees to come to our meeting, so we might have a few extra folks. ☞

*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, 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. ☐

## **Symposium**

*John Raff (jraff@home.com)*

**April 14:** National Instruments' Debra Varma will demo LabView (its graphical programming development environment) and discussing computer-based data acquisition and control methods including instrument control via GPIB and serial, data acquisition via plug-in cards and distributed I/O modules, and network data sharing techniques.. National Instruments develops and manufactures integrated software and hardware products which, when combined with standard computers, are used to replace and/or communicate with traditional instrumentation and to monitor and control processes.

Keep an eye on <http://www.acgnj.org/groups/symposiu.html> for updates. ☐

## **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. ☐

## **Genealogy**

*Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)*

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

The Genealogy SIG is a group for genealogists who have an interest in computers and for 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](mailto:gensig@webwarren.com). Subscription requests should be addressed to [gensig@webwarren.com](mailto:gensig@webwarren.com) and include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☐

## **Macintosh Users Group**

*Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)*

The Macintosh group meets at 7 P.M.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. We meet in the Student Center Food Court for supper around 5 P.M. for those who come to the meeting straight from work. ☐

## **Lotus Notes**

*Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com), <http://www.njlnug.org>*

At our March meeting a representative from Ives Development presented their TeamStudio Design System, a suite of software engineering tools for Lotus Notes and Domino. This newest version adds full support for the R5 release of Lotus Notes and Domino. The TeamStudio Design System includes five development modules: Analyzer, CIAO! (Client and Server Editions), Configurator, Delta and Librarian. For more on their product line, visit <http://www.teamstudio.com>.

All meetings are held at the offices of Bright Ideas Software in Edison. You'll find directions on our Web page. ☐

## **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. ☐

## **VBA**

*Jim Ditaranto (fyr92a@prodigy.com)*

*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.

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

## **Investing**

*Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)*

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

**March:** We discussed several ways to keep portfolio and trading information on spreadsheets. If you sell something that you bought during a prior year, it is sometimes difficult to find the cost basis for tax purposes. I demonstrated a spreadsheet that will relieve this problem and help make trading decisions. There was a discussion on how individuals keep records, and we looked at some of the features of my favorite educational web site, The American Association of Individual Investors at <http://www.aaii.org>. As usual, I got quite a few ideas from SIG members. If you want to download the spreadsheet files that were presented, go to the SIG files directory (<http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig/upload-files/>), look for *portfolo-readme.txt* and *portfolo.exe*. I suggest you read *portfolo-readme.txt* by double clicking it. This will tell you what to expect after unloading portfolo.exe. If you want to download without going through that, click on <http://www.intac.com/~sheldonk/invsig/upload-files/portfolo.exe>, and the file will automatically download. ☐

## Internet Corner, *continued from page 15*

interesting new puzzles, as well as answers to old ones. (See [www.sciam.com](http://www.sciam.com).) Bad Astronomy is a collection of “scientific” old wives tales that just happened to be incorrect. See [www.badastronomy.com](http://www.badastronomy.com). The E-Commerce article is a one page executive summary of the progress in that field. Also in the April issue Cyber View column, there’s a piece on privacy that’s worth a peek — another executive summary.

I’m having trouble with [www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org) tonight, so we’ll have to forgo them. Let me throw in a freebie: MIT has a magazine, Technology Review, which seems to have most of its contents available online at [www.techreview.com](http://www.techreview.com).

It’s tomorrow and [www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org) is back up, so... from March 10 Netwatch: Global Forest Watch is using satellite data to keep track of the state of the world’s forests. See [www.globalforestwatch.org](http://www.globalforestwatch.org). The National Academy of Engineering has just published its list of great achievements of the 20th century at [www.greatachievements.org](http://www.greatachievements.org). (Number 13 is the Internet!)

From the March 3 Netwatch, keep up on that latest neuroscience developments at [www.brainconnection.com](http://www.brainconnection.com). It’s great for all ages and levels of interest. Under “Blueprint for Cyber Health Care,” they highlight one of my all time favorite campaigns, using the Net to lubricate the flow of information in the health establishment. That’s why I bought a few shares of Healtheon. Now, the National Academy of Science’s Institute of Medicine has issued a call to action in the report, “Networking Health,” which concludes that the flood of Web sites offering health advice is just a “small sampling” of the Net’s health care potential. With sufficient bandwidth, security, speed, and access, the possibilities are huge. For example, an emergency room physician could look at a patient’s medical records from across town; medical labs could electronically file test results with public health departments to speed tracking of infectious outbreaks, and collaborating researchers at distant universities could simultaneously manipulate a virtual image of a mole-

cule. “But ‘organizational impediments’ may hamper cybermedicine’s growth, the panel said. Health care providers, for instance, tend to keep records on internal networks because they are concerned that the Internet may not be secure. The report makes a host of recommendations for overcoming such problems, such as developing better cybersecurity schemes.” Let’s get cracking on this one!

### Finance

Done your taxes yet? If not, you may find some useful links and suggestions through Jesse Berst’s March 3 column at [http://www.zdnet.com/anchordesk/story/story\\_4489.html](http://www.zdnet.com/anchordesk/story/story_4489.html). There’s also info about privacy leaks at some of the popular Web sites which offer tax aid.

I was listening with one ear on CNBC and heard a guest analyst claiming that lots of e-businesses will not make it — they’re eating their own (generous) seed money. And then there’s all the chatter about B2B (business-to-business). It seems there money in that! Much more than retail.

The mutual fund analysts at Morningstar have a Web site devoted to stock and fund analyses at [www.morningstar.com](http://www.morningstar.com). I got on their list, and their latest missive suggests that the site has come a long way since we last looked at it. They have a lot of analytical tools and since they don’t actually sell stocks or funds, they’re probably well worth a visit. (I peeked in and saw lots of new stuff!)

Speaking of maintaining independence, Quicken has a mortgage locating site at [www.quicken.com](http://www.quicken.com). I called the other day to check up on something and was told not to bother as it was all changing tomorrow. They were giving up on the multi-broker survey and had bought the bank whose dealings they had the most luck with. They’re now going to report only on quotes from that bank. I really don’t understand how some people work! In spite of this, they get consistently good reviews. ☺

## ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

	Dues				
	US/CANADA	FAMILY OF MEMBER (No Newsletter)	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 \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**April 15-16:** FDU Rothman Center, Hackensack

**May 6 -7:** TCF at NJ Convention Center, Edison NJ

### ACGNJ Hotline

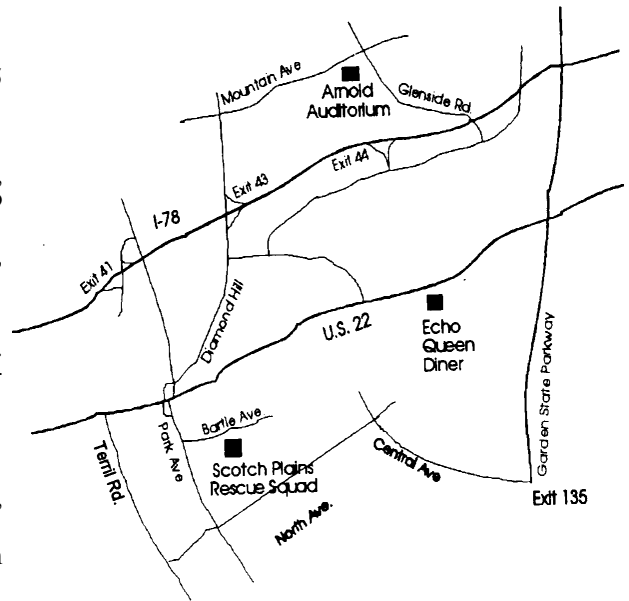
(908) 322-4654

### ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

The ACGNJ Bulletin boards were shut down in April due to lack of interest. Of the 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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SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

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# ACGNJ MEETINGS

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

### **Monday, April 3**

8 P.M. - Lunics, Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269

### **Tuesday, April 4**

8 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting.

### **Wednesday, April 5**

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

### **Thursday, April 6**

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum, 973-376-8965.

### **Friday, April 7**

8 P.M. - Main Meeting. Frank Warren, 908-756-1681

### **Monday, April 10**

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

### **Thursday, April 13**

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing. Sheldon Koepf, 973-740-2489.

### **Wednesday, April 12**

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

### **Friday, April 14**

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

### **Tuesday, April 18**

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

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

### **Wednesday, April 19**

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

### **Friday, April 21**

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.

### **Monday, April 24**

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

### **Thursday, April 27**

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

### **Friday, April 28**

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

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

### **Monday, May 1**

8 P.M. - Lunics, Peter Fillingham, 973-731-9269

### **Tuesday, May 2**

8 P.M. - ACGNJ Board Meeting.

### **Wednesday, May 3**

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

### **Thursday, May 4**

8 P.M. - Internet. Marty Rosenblum, 973-376-8965.

### **Friday, May 5**

Meeting cancelled due to TCF.

### **Saturday, May 6 and Sunday, May 7**

Trenton Computer Festival, NJ Convention Center, Edison NJ

### **Monday, May 8**

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

### **Wednesday, May 10**

7 P.M. - MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent, 973-361-5793

### **Thursday, May 11**

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing. Sheldon Koepf, 973-740-2489.

### **Friday, May 12**

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.

**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.**