

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 25, Number 6

June 2000



Jerry Entin

Photo by John Raff, TCF99

No ACGNJ News July/August.
Have a wonderful summer!

Hobbyist of the Year

Jerry Entin, leader of the Concordia Group and member of the Trenton Computer Festival Steering Committee, has been selected for ACGNJ's Hobbyist of the Year Award for 2000. The award, which consists of a plaque and life membership in ACGNJ, is traditionally announced at the TCF Banquet on Saturday evening at the Festival.

Jerry was cited for his contributions to ACGNJ and the Trenton Computer Festival. 

For some excellent news coverage of TCF 200, see <http://www.pacpub.com/new/business/5-10-00/tcf.html>



www.acgnj.org

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Back issues of ACGNJ News are available in PDF format at <http://lightning.prohosting.com/~acgnj/nl.htm>

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

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

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

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

Address Changes should be directed to Charlie Huffsmith (chaz026@aol.com) and/or to his attention at the ACGNJ address above.

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

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

The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

Web News

Item: CNET, April 24: "AOL's youth filters protect kids from Democrats." Using filter products from Mattel (The Learning Company,) AOL, set up as "kids only" will allow:

- The Republican National Committee
- The Constitution Party
- The Libertarian Party
- Colt Browning
- The National Rifle Association

but deny:

- The Democratic National Committee
- The Green Party
- The Reform Party
- The Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
- Safer Guns Now
- Million Mom March

???

Item: The New York Times, May 17: "Terra Agrees to Buy Lycos..." This starship of the Carnegie-Mellon fleet is to be acquired by Terra Networks, Internet arm of the Spanish telephone company, Telefonica. Let's wish them luck.

Item: CNET, May 18, E-Business: "Heavy traffic greets Victoria's Secret show." Never mind the subject, I just wanted to report that this year they were able to handle two million simultaneous viewers. It's looking up for netcasting.

Item: The New York Times, May 17, Technology: "Report Proposes Update of Copyright Act." Once more our boys and girls in the capitol are looking to draconian legislative solutions to the Napster case. This time it's a Democratic initiative.

Item: CNET, May 22, E-Business: "French court orders Yahoo to block Nazi items." "PARIS — A French court told Yahoo today to 'make it impossible' for Web surfers in France to gain access to sales of Nazi memorabilia which appear on one of the Web sites it hosts." I'll let you mull over that one for a while. Just imagine every portal site and ISP having to censor its content selectively for each country! (Assuming, of course, that that would satisfy the courts.)

Item: The New York Times, May 23, Technology: "White House and Agency Split on Internet Privacy." Most media just reported that the FTC had submitted a proposal to Congress seeking power to impose privacy rule to protect consumers. While Democrats have been pushing for more consumer protections, the Republicans have been holding back, opting for "self-policing." White House representatives said they were more interesting in promoting privacy laws in the areas of health care and financial services. The FTC had just finished a study of Web sites which showed that while 88% of the sample (335 sites) had some kind of privacy disclosure, only 20% of those that collect personal information conform to government guidelines and only 8% display a seal of approval from the industry's own programs.

Item: The New York Times, May 23, Cybertimes: "Parties Squabble Over Digital Signatures Bill." As usual, attempts at

bipartisan cooperation have foundered. The bill in question tries to address the area of what constitutes a legal signature in the new age of e-commerce. The parties are squabbling about the status of paper records vs. cyber records, and the safeguards against, for example, having your mortgage foreclosed with only e-mail notification.

Item: The New York Times, May 23, Cybertimes: "Anti-Hacker Bill Goes Too Far, Group Warns." The Center for Democracy and Technology (www.cdt.org) claimed that the Hatch-Schumer Internet Integrity and Critical Infrastructure Protection Act would go too far in extending federal jurisdiction to some of the most trivial misdeeds. (See my piece on Security, later.)

Item: The New York Times, May 23, Cybertimes: "More Congress on the Net, Please." Senators Fred Thompson and Joseph Lieberman have just unveiled a new Web site at gov.affairs.senate.gov, designed to bring government closer to the people by initiating a more meaningful and accessible channel. Gary Ruskin of the Congressional Accountability Project (www.essential.org/orgs/CAP/CAP.html), suggests they should start off by placing Congress most pertinent documents on the Net.

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?" Well, folks who hate taxes are in the same boat with those who believe in the free lunch!

Miscellany

Overheard at the Millburn Diner last night some folks chatting about real estate: "I hope it's got high speed Internet access!"

There was an interesting segment on ZDTV's Screensavers (www.zdnet.com/zdtv/screensavers): Leo Laporte, principal MC of the show, bad-mouthed LapLink 2000 earlier this year and Mark Eppley, CEO of LapLink, asked for and got rebuttal time. Leo was off the mark — he was using a beta release of Windows2000 on his remote computer, which crashed. The product does work on the final release, however. On this day, originally 5/18, they demonstrated a connection over the Internet. There were some impressive features. First, data sent over the Net (or phone lines) is heavily encrypted, so there's little chance of someone eavesdropping. Second, if you're connected for a data transfer, you can also take control of the remote computer. Third, synchronization is done at the bit level. If you have a graphic that you've modified, resulting in a change to just a few bits of a multi-megabit file, only the changed bits will be transmitted not the whole file. Fourth, the program supports voice chat over data on the same connection. I got a copy at a recent computer show and after seeing the demo, I'm convinced it's worth a try.

Survival

There's been growing interest in the fallout of an April Wired Magazine article by Bill Joy, the non-trivial co-founder of

continued

Sun Microsystems. Title: "Why the future doesn't need us." The article was prompted by a meeting with the equally non-trivial Ray Kurzweil where both were participants at George Gilder's Telecom conference. Kurzweil "was saying that the rate of improvement of technology was going to accelerate and that we were going to become robots or fuse with robots or something like that." While we've all been reading this sort of stuff in sci-fi, Joy was taken aback to hear Kurzweil say it seriously. Read all about it at www.wired.com/wired/archive/8.04/joy.html. There's a real scary quote on that first page.

I first heard about all this when I chanced on Joy being interviewed on NPR on March 17th Talk of the Nation along with Kurzweil and Sherry Turkle, a professor of sociology at MIT. You can listen to it at www.npr.org/ramfiles/totn/20000317.totn.ram.

Then, last weekend, I went to a wedding where I found an old friend from Brookhaven who had been a high mucky-muck in the scientific side of Xerox. He told me about a symposium he attended at Stanford (www.stanford.edu), organized by Douglas Hofstadter, of Gdel, Escher, Bach fame. It was titled "Will Spiritual Robots Replace Humanity by 2100?" and both Joy and Kurzweil were among the participants. He said it was definitely worth thinking about. Check it out at www.stanford.edu/dept/symbol/Hofstadter-event.html.

Dr. Dobb's Journal (www.ddj.com) runs a Web site called technetcast, where you can find lots of great audio and video events. Though the symposium isn't posted there yet, it is promised soon, and may be there by the time you read this. Try www.technetcast.com.

All this has got me to thinking, too. Is it all so far fetched? I see four areas we should consider in judging a potential threat: multiplication of technological innovation, increased knowledge of how the natural world functions, increased intellectual power to do new things, and interconnectedness of it all.

In the first of these, consider the improvement of kill ratio from the club, spear, bow and arrow, gun, to the modern attack weapon. What's the change in the number of people per hour a killer could dispatch? Probably over 1,000! How will it change in the future? Will the NRA folks insist on the right of anyone to get a weapon that can kill a million an hour when that becomes possible? And that's just individual confrontation. We can look at technological changes which multiply size both up and down. The tera-bomb that can split the earth asunder! Or picture a giant "Jaws of Life," placed in an ocean ridge to pry the planet in two. Imagine a picobomb, too small to be seen, that could destroy you from the inside. And nanotechnology, which promises small devices that could swim in your blood stream and take care of those bugs which your white cells miss. Is there no chance for mischief here?

Then there's the realm of increased knowledge of the natural world. The more we know about how things work, the easier it is to find ways to enhance them or destroy them or use them as agents to enhance or destroy other things. From physics, which gave us structures and machines and nuclear power, to

chemistry, which has given us marvelous new materials, both good and bad, to biotechnology, which may make it possible for us to cure the scourges of mankind or create new diseases like AIDS.

Then, there's the amplifier of intelligence, from the table of logarithms to the precision clock which made navigation and cartography grow in precision, to the GPS devices which cost less than the cheapest timekeeper of old. And, of course, the pinnacle in this area, our beloved computers. Can these things be dangerous? They have been used to design and operate new weapons beyond our own skills. We have seen examples of some amoral, and not too bright, children assembling parts of cyberspace into the ILOVEYOU worm, a disease of, by, and for the computer community. When we have made the human genome available to all, programs to exploit it will become more and more common. Will we then be able to cure all our diseases? Will we be able to create incurable new diseases? Will we be able to do these things without more than a high school education?

Also along these lines we must consider robotics. We have all read the wise, but fictional, works of Isaac Asimov on this subject. And yet, sitting here at my PC, I cannot help but shudder at the idea of one of today's computer corporations, with the morals and care for quality they exhibit, building a robot which goes berserk as frequently as my PC crashes. I'm afraid the great Asimov's laws of robotics wouldn't help much.

And finally, the interconnectedness. We are no longer as segregated into nations as we once were. Not since we hit the seas, printed books, telecommunicated and developed powered transportation. And, of course, our own favorite subject, the Internet. We have just begun to taste the wonders this has in store for us. What about the perils? What about bringing the powers of enormous knowledge to people who have anti-democratic motives?

I grant you, I have mentioned many negative possibilities, but who's going to stop them from being developed? Are we so enamored of the good that technology can bring that we are blind to the dark side? Is anyone watching over us to protect us from the "worst case scenario?"

Security

Once again Microsoft Outlook wins the gotcha. The ILOVEYOU worm wrecked havoc across the MS-based world. It's notoriety spawned a number of copycat worms based on the same method of propagation, forcing the antivirus makers to work overtime. I don't think they mind, though. The increased publicity can't be bad for business! Coincidentally, the PC Users Group presentation for May was given by our old favorite, J. D. Abolins, a bonafide expert in the fields of computer security and privacy. His site, Meyda online (www.meydabbs.com) is definitely the place to go for info in these areas.

MP3, eBooks & Copyrights

I'm being punished for not writing an article last month. So much happens and so fast. If you blink, you missed it. Since I

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Who Wants to be a Linux Dabbler?

J.D. Abolins, Princeton PC User Group

This article was going to be a review of Caldera Open Linux 2.3, but several computer mishaps and some recent discussions lead to a look at some things to consider before dabbling with Linux. This article is intended for Windows users with little or no Linux experience.

Why Dabble?

There are good reasons for trying out Linux. It is an easy route to practicing with Unix-type environments. It presents a great challenge for computerists and, as the business world is taking a good look at Linux, a way of developing a skill that can only help at work.

Linux's ability to run on purchase makes it very accessible for many computerists. The strength of Linux, however, can be a mixed blessing, as we'll see in a moment.

Dabble Trouble

The safest way to dabble with Linux or another operating system is to do it on a spare PC, not on the Windows PC we use daily. But the lack of a spare PC and related equipment plus the availability of multi-booting utilities make it tempting to dabble on the day-to-day "production" PC. Products such as Caldera Open Linux 2.3 make it even more tempting with its special version of partition Magic utility. Just keep in mind that any experimentation with the same computer we use for work or other daily activities runs extra risks. If possible, use a spare PC for Linux dabbling. Even if nothing goes wrong, there's the pleasure of not having to reboot to switch between Windows and Linux use.

One of the other dabble troubles can arise from the perception that stepping into Linux will be a breeze. I have talked with some fellow computerists who perceived Linux to be an easy-to-use operating system, an easy step from Windows. While there is some truth to that, Linux is by no means as easy as Windows to install or configure. Yes, there are several Linux graphical user interfaces (GUIs), such as KDE and GNOME, but we have to go through a lot of steps to get there.

The partitioning process is somewhat different from that of Dos or Windows. Unix and Linux have distinctly different modes of referring to disks and partitions. Pay special attention to partitioning instructions in the manuals. Some Linux packages include partitioning software to help newbies.

Speaking of disks and partitions, examine your system's disks before starting the Linux installation. Make sure you have space for the Linux partition, preferably on the second drive. The manuals may tell you that you need as little as a couple hundred megabytes for Linux. Don't believe it. If you want to dabble with different Linux applications rather than a stripped-down system, figure about 1.6 or 1.8 gigabytes. Also run disk checks such as Scandisk utility to make sure there aren't problems.

Incidentally, Linux can be more demanding of the PC than Windows. In several Linux installations over the past couple of years, I have Linux stop installation with an error message if it finds problems with the PC's memory or other items, problems that Windows doesn't seem to notice. (Or not tell

us.) So it is possible that Linux might install on some of our purchase without some hardware swaps. It will help to avoid oddball hardware that might not have Linux drivers.

Once installed, Linux configuration and maintenance is somewhat different from Windows. Be patient, read the manuals and other documentation, and allow time. One bad move that some people have done with Linux or any other new operating system is to install it and expect to be using it for productive work within a week. It might be possible if they have a lot of help and training, but for us dabblers, allow time to learn and grow.

Do you have your lifelines?

Installing Linux is not like installing a regular Windows application. It is a complete operating system. Although it is easier these days to run a PC with multiple operating systems than ever before, there are many things that can go wrong. Should we seek to dabble with Linux on our regular Windows system, we should have several lifelines ready, just in case.

In my first attempt to install Caldera Open Linux, a mishap occurred with the partition Magic CE software supplied with the Linux to make it easier to prepare a Linux partition. The size was wrong and I sought to uninstall the partition and Partition Magic software. Things went wrong, and I had to format the C: drive to get the system working again. Fortunately, I had lifelines for restoring my system on hand.

One of the lifelines is a current Windows startup diskette. If you are using Windows 95, the startup diskette won't automatically include CD drive support. You will need to modify the startup diskette to include the proper CD-ROM drivers and support software for your PC. Windows 98 startup diskettes do provide CD drive support.

Another lifeline is the complete collection of diskettes and Cds to rebuild your system. It is amazing how all those Cds and diskettes can crawl into the woodwork when we need them. Gather them together before you need them. If you have the upgrade version of Windows, be sure to have the diskettes or Cds for the earlier version. Pay special attention if your PC came with all the software but you didn't get the Cds and diskettes. This is living dangerously. If you need to rebuild your system or even do some future upgrades, you'll run into problems.

Another Lifeline is the Web. Yes, this can be a Catch-22. If the PC is down, we can't get on the Web. But if there is another PC we can use for Web access, it can be a significant lifeline. We can look up tech support info from the product vendors, get contact email addresses and phone numbers, post questions and get drivers. If you have only one computer, see if a fellow computerist can help out in case of an emergency.

When the Linux operating system is successfully installed, we still need to have the lifelines, and there is a special Linux lifeline we should keep available. Unlike the Windows login screen, Linux doesn't allow us to bypass it with the Escape key. The root password and the password for the daily use

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My Favorite Freeware

Don Arrowsmith, Princeton PC Users Group

I really enjoyed Vic Laurie's program on freeware at the March meeting of the PPCUG. He has inspired me to write this article describing a few of my favorite freeware programs. I use each of them but, of course, cannot vouch that they will not cause any problems on your system. Please take the usual precautions. I have included links to obtain the programs. Please be careful to note any line wraps that may have been introduced by printing some of the longer URLs.

AllThumbs

This program converts standard images to thumbnails. BMP, JPG, PCX, PNG, TGA and TIF formats are supported. Source images are chosen from the contents of a user-selected directory. Processed as a group, selected images are converted according to user-specified options: output filename prefix, output filename case conversion, output format, thumbnail size, image sharpening, brightness, contrast and gamma correction. Conversion results are logged and available for review. There are other programs available which will generate HTML pages along with the thumbnails, but I like this one for its simplicity. The current version is 1.2.0.7. The author's page is:

<http://home.att.net/~vaportrail/SSFFree.html>

Download the program at:

<http://hotfiles.zdnet.com/cgi-bin/texis/swlib/hotfiles/info.html?code=0013H9>

About Time

AboutTime is a superior source of time for your computer. As a time client, it will acquire time from the Internet with great accuracy. If you wish, it can work as a server to provide four kinds of time signals to other computers on your local network. AboutTime uses advanced signal-processing techniques to correct for network delays, making high accuracy possible even over a slow modem connection. AboutTime can be instructed to perform its tasks automatically, at startup or at chosen time intervals. It is a small program that can be run in the background without requiring many resources. As I have cable Internet service, I have the program set to run when Windows starts and at 3-hour intervals. The current version is 4.8.

<http://www.arachnoid.com/abouttime/>

TypeItIn

TypeItIn lets you define buttons that will enter any information you want into any application. I use TypeItIn to fill out registration forms at web sites and for entering user names and passwords. It's also a great tool for applications where you frequently type the same thing, like creating HTML code or writing standard letters or emails, and it can automatically type in the time, date, month, or day of the week. You can also launch applications or Web sites with the click of a button. There is a limit of 50 buttons in the free version. There's also a professional version with up to 50 password-protected groups. It's easy enough to configure so you can efficiently set a button for short-term use. The current version is 2.1.

<http://www.wavget.com/typeitin.html>

EndItAll

EndItAll lets you terminate all non-essential programs for the purpose of eliminating problems when installing new software, defragging your drive, eliminating open files while backing up your hard drive, running finicky games, or preventing buffer underruns while writing to CD-Rs. It automates the process of Ctrl-Alt-Delete to kill one program at a time. The essential system programs Explorer and Systray cannot be terminated. EndItAll's main window presents a list of running processes and you can protect any process in the list from terminating. EndItAll was written by Neil J. Reubenking, and first appeared on the PC Magazine Web site. The current version is 1.0.

Viewers for MS Office Application files

If you don't have MS Office installed you can still view Word, Excel or PowerPoint files by using these free viewers. They have been updated to view Office 2000 file formats.

Word 97/2000 Document viewer

<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/downloadDetails/wd97vwr32.htm#s=/downloadCatalog/dldWord.asp>

Excel97/200 Spreadsheet file viewer

<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/downloadDetails/xlviewer.htm?s=/downloadCatalog/dldExcel.asp>

PowerPoint 97/2000 viewer

<http://officeupdate.microsoft.com/2000/downloadDetails/ppview97.htm?s=/downloadCatalog/dldPowerPoint.asp>

WS_FTPLE

This FTP client makes it very easy to transfer files with its double-pane window. It can store multiple FTP site information including host, user and password data. I use this mostly for moving files from my PC to my Web host. The current version is 5.08.

http://www.ipswitch.com/cgi/download_eval.pl?product=main

1st Page 2000

This is a commercial grade HTML editor with more features than I can list here. I especially like having a preview pane easily available. A spelling checker and syntax checker are built in. There's an HTML Source Compressor, a collection of 450+ scripts, Web-Safe Color Palette, Side Color Picker and a tool to convert text files into HTML documents. There is a note that the name of the program will be changing soon due to copyright problems. The current version is 2.0.

<http://www.evrsoft.com/1stpage/>

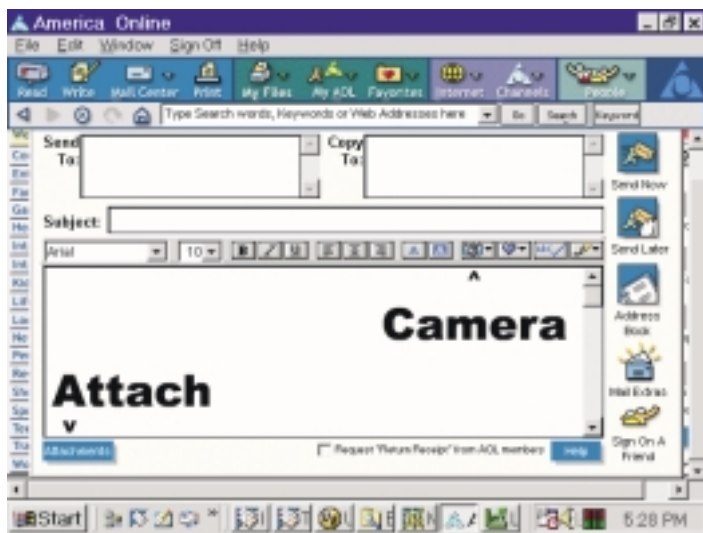
I hope you will discover something useful in the above list. Maybe you'll be encouraged to share your treasured finds in an article of your own.

From PPCUG-News (<http://www.ppcug-nj.org>), April 2000 with permission. ☐

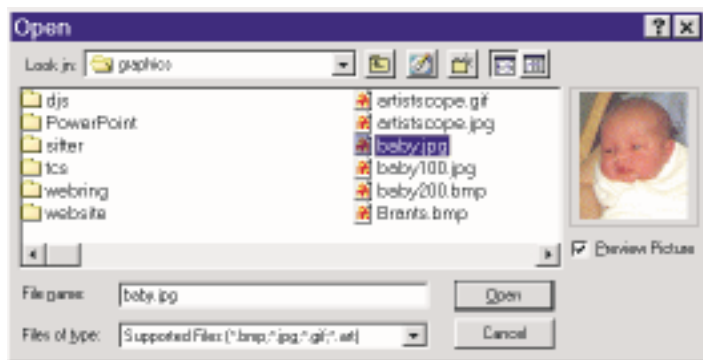
AOL Pictures

Don Singleton, Tulsa Computer Society (djs@ionet.net)

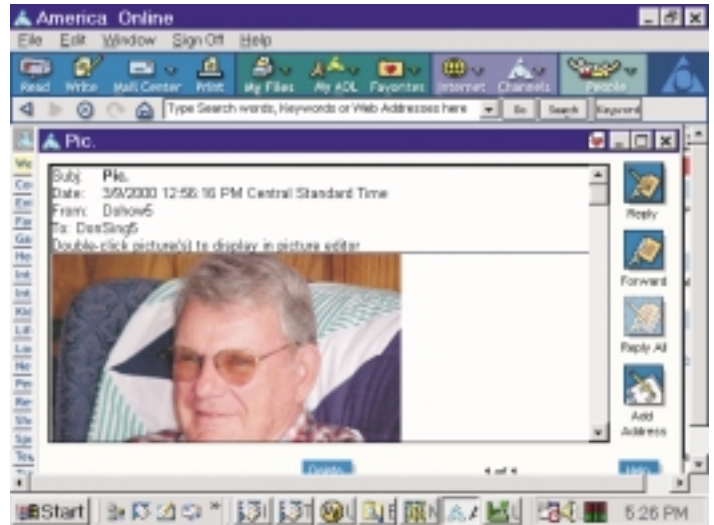
I have received frequent questions regarding problems sending and receiving pictures via AOL. At one time I had an AOL account, just to be able to answer questions like this, but it got too expensive so I dropped it, and had so much trouble getting them to stop charging my credit card (it took over 6 months) that I was not about to sign up for another account and hope that I could cancel it before they started charging me. Dolly Allison had some difficulties with Juno Web charging her, so she went ahead and signed up for an AOL account, and was willing to set up a screen name where I could explore this problem using her account, and what I found out amazed even me. In their new Version 5 software, it appears that AOL has two ways of sending pictures: one uses an icon that looks like a camera, and one uses the attach button.



The camera icon works fine if you are sending pictures to someone else on AOL — they see the picture immediately when they receive their email message, and they can send multiple pictures in one message, and all will work. **However**, if an AOL user tries to send an email using that icon to anyone not on AOL (any other Internet Service Provider), they won't get the image at all, and instead will just get the message "Unable to display image" (which sometimes shows up as pic.eml).



If an AOL user uses the attach button to send a single picture to a non-AOL user, they will see the picture, just as easily as if it had been sent by a non-AOL user. However, if the AOL user sends two (or more) pictures, AOL will compress them into a Zip file, and the user at the other end will have to unzip it to see the pictures.



Let us look at things from the reverse side, a non-AOL person sending email to an AOL person. If the email has one picture, the AOL user will see it with no problem. **However**, if the email has two pictures, AOL will group them together into what is called a MIME file, and the AOL user will have to save it to disk, then use a special program to process the MIME file. The AOL user can find out how to handle MIME files by going to keyword MIME, and then clicking "Handling Mime Files".

PC Users: If AOL was unable to decode the MIME file, the attachment will be in MIME format, with a filename extension of .MIM. One of the following programs will allow you to decode the MIM file so that you can use it on your computer. Recommended MIME programs:

- MIMDECODE: V6.0 MIM Email Decoder (Win95, 98, 2000, & NT) Decodes MIME (.MME) with drag 'n drop.
- WINZIP: V 7.0 SR-1 WinZip (Win95, 98 & NT) Decodes MIME (.MME) as well as compressed ZIP (.zip) files.
- WINZIP: V6.3 SR-1 For Win31 (Win 3.1, 3.11) Decodes MIME (.MME) as well as compressed ZIP (.zip) files.
- MIME: V4.3 Decode Shell Extension (Win95, 98 & NT) Adds a "decode" option to your mouse right-click context menu.
- WINCODE: V2.7.3c Encoder/Coder (Win 3.1, 3.11, Win95)

After you've downloaded and installed any of these programs, please be sure to read the READ ME guide or "Online Manual" for information on how to use the MIME program you downloaded.

After you've decoded your MIME (.MIM) you may need to "un-zip" it. If you don't understand the procedure, check out Zipping and Unzipping Files

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Computer Law: Mr. Roosevelt, I am afraid of fear itself

Bill Wood, Alamo PC

President Roosevelt consoled America during the dark days of World War II that the only thing we had to fear was fear itself. At a time when we needed bravery, it engendered courage.

Many of the developments in Computer Law have to do with providing security. Privacy demands, concerns about monopolies, encryption, tax audits have all become a part of computer life. But OSHA inspecting our homes if we use our personal computers for work made all the paranoia of the radio talk shows seem less far-fetched. Maybe there was something new to fear.

Writing these monthly Computer Law columns presents an interesting challenge. I try to find topics that would interest members of the organization. That task can be complicated by later developments at the last minute that can cause me to throw away a column. At best, those events can make me rewrite it. Few branches in law are developing as rapidly as the legal aspects of technology and the Internet.

That was the situation this month. I had researched the recent announcement that the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) considers employers liable for the working conditions in home offices. In case you missed it, OSHA had issued a compliance letter to a Texas company (CSC Credit Services in Houston) that indicated OSHA would hold employers responsible for providing a safe work environment if it allows workers to use a home office. "An important factor in the development of these arrangements is to ensure that employees are not exposed to reasonably foreseeable hazards created by their at-home employment. Ensuring safe and healthful working conditions for the employee should be a precondition for any home-based work assignments." That is what OSHA wrote to the company. The document is now located at http://www.osha-slc.gov/html/hot_4.html.

Well, I thought I had a great column. Most of us take work home. Up until I read the letter from OSHA I thought the biggest legal issue in working at home would be a discovery request from a plaintiffs lawyer seeking to inspect the contents of an employee's home computer. The idea that the work area itself would be of interest to a federal agency never entered my mind. Just think, OSHA placards on our walls would really brighten the decor. The bright yellow warning strips on our stairs would also be a nice touch. Think of the joy our spouses would feel when our employer's safety office comes to inspect our home office late at night. Finally, filling out accident reports when we trip over the extension cords that provide the charge to our laptop batteries would be a great way to spend a weekend. Paranoia, no. That would be plain scary.

It sure would make an interesting article. Maybe it still does. OSHA did almost ruin it for me. As I prepared this article, the Secretary of Labor, Alexis M. Herman, rescinded the letter. (www.lawnewsnetwork.com/stories/A12919-2000Jan6.html). Are we safe? Well, the answer is a definite, "Maybe." Do you mean from the hazards or from the inspections?

Although the letter has been withdrawn, the current plan is to convene yet another study group to make recommendations. The reasons cited for the reversal were attributed to "widespread confusion and unintended consequences for others." Note, the statement did not say the original letter was wrong. In fact, the statement included, "[w]e need a process where we can sit down with stakeholders, including employers and employees, to determine the best way to ensure the safety and health of America's workers now and in the future."

This is one area where employers and workers should follow the developments carefully. Telecommuters and home-based sales representatives have special interests that may not be protected otherwise.

But then, at the last minute, just when I thought there really was nothing to fear, AOL acquired Time-Warner. Now we have the largest ISP (Internet Service Provider) owning our cable system (including its high-speed internet service) and CNN. Now that is something to think and write about! ☐

AOL Pictures, *continued from page 5*

Macintosh Users: If AOL was unable to decode the MIME file, the attachment will be in MIME format. The following programs will allow you to decode the MIME file so that you can use it on your computer.

- STUFFIT: V5.5 Aladdin Expander (All Macs running System 7.1.1 or later) Uses drag 'n drop to decode your MIME as well as .SIT, .ZIP and many other formats.
- DECODER: V2.0.7 Decoder FAT (68K and Power Macs) Uses drag 'n drop to decode your MIME.
- DECODER: V2.0.7 Decoder PPC (Power Macs) Uses drag 'n drop to decode your MIME. ul
- DECODER: V2.0.7 Decoder 68K (68K Macs) Uses drag 'n drop to decode your MIME.

AOL may be the largest single ISP, but they are very very far from being anywhere near to serving half of the Internet Users, even in this country, much less around the world, so what it amounts to is AOL's non-standard approach is foolish, because it will be very confusing to their beginner users to remember that they can send and receive single pictures with no problem, regardless of who the other party uses, but that any transmission of more than one picture per email between AoL and Non AoL users will cause some additional work on the part of the recipient, AND AoL users must be sure never to use the Camera Icon unless the recipient is an AoL user. Now isn't that as clear as mud.

When I first discovered all of these ramifications to the problem I called Dolly and told her that AOL's handling of pictures was similar to what comes out of the south end of a north bound horse. I feel I must retract that. The stuff that comes out of the horse can be used for fertilizer, and hence can promote growth. I don't see how the convoluted way AoL deals with pictures can promote anything but confusion.

From the April 2000 issue of the I/O Port Newsletter, Tulsa Computer Society 3/10/2000 ☐

Choosing DTP Tools

Ken Fermoye

As a writer specializing in specific areas — cars and RVs during the '50s, '60s and '70s, to computers since 1984 — I've been asked the same thing time and again: "What is the best _____? Fill in the blank with car, van, camper, computer or whatever.

Since I began writing a desktop publishing (DTP) column for Computer Currents back in the mid-1980s, the most common query has been: "What is the best DTP program?" My stock answer in all cases: "There is no one best of anything; one size does not fit all. A single person might be happy with a sporty roadster but a family of five needs a roomy sedan or minivan. By the same token, a publishing professional needs very different tools than the average computer owner."

In fact, in some cases, a full-featured word processing program might serve all of a user's DTP needs. Let's look at typical uses for publishing software, then try to match them with the tools available.

(One note: Things are complicated today by the growth of online publishing, which involves such things as hypertext markup language (HTML) coding and Acrobat portable document format (PDF) files. I will cover this area in a future column. For now, I'll concentrate hardcopy print output.)

First comes what I call "personal publishing." This includes creating greeting cards, holiday season letters, simple 2- or 4-page newsletters, and 1-page bulletins or flyers. Microsoft Home Publishing, any of the Print Shop-type programs or Microsoft Word let you combine formatted text and clipart or digital images, including photos, and flow text from column to column to produce this kind of work.

Mac versions of Word and Print Shop are available. If you want to explore Linux platform possibilities, check out Corel's offerings.

The next step up is production of more complex documents: 8- to 32-page newsletters or journals; long reports that require footnoting or indexing; trifold brochures; and anything that includes imbedded tables. I've long recommended Microsoft Publisher for such midlevel DTP work. It does everything that entry-level programs can, and it offers a lot of the features that high-end programs do.

I began experimenting with Publisher when it first came out. At the time, I was editing and producing newsletters for five clients, ranging from a Maritime Museum and large mobile home park to a retail store, bicycle organization and high-tech firm specializing in printer and fax testing software suites. I was a devoted Ventura Publisher fan in those days, having used it since serving as a beta tester before Version 1.0 was released.

Switching the retail store and bicycle publications to Publisher was easy. I continued to use Ventura for the other newsletters because they demanded special pagination or other features that the first version of Publisher didn't offer. From the mid- to late-1990s, I found myself using Publisher

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Free AntiVirus Tool

Ken Fermoye

A temporary free solution for the "I Love You" virus and its various mutations, latest in the epidemic of malicious viruses, is available from Binary Research International (BRI). Other sources also offer information about the virus.

The virus, called the "worst in history," began to appear as "Joke" files and possibly other mutations within 24 hours or so of its birth. It acts as a worm and those who use Microsoft's Outlook Express seem to be most vulnerable.

Those interested in BRI's solution can download the e-mail content filtering program MailMarshal directly from BRI's web site, www.binaryresearch.net/. Alternatively, Binary Research will ship the software to those who prefer to receive it on CD. While the normal evaluation period for MailMarshal is 21 days, Binary is offering to extend that an additional three weeks to ensure the "ILOveYou" threat has subsided.

The widespread and devastating impact of the virus caught individuals, governments and corporations of all size off guard. Estimates of lost productivity and commerce as a direct result of this one virus attack are in the billions of dollars — and still climbing.

I have not yet tested MailMarshal V.3, a third-generation e-mail management software tool from Designer Technology Ltd., an Auckland (NZ) software developer. I plan to do so ASAP but wanted to get this word out quickly as possible because of the urgency of the virus problem. Also, BRI's track record is excellent. BRI is the former wholly-owned subsidiary of Binary Research Ltd. of New Zealand, best known as the original developers of Ghost (now Norton Ghost), the hard-disk cloning utility that was acquired by Symantec Corp. in 1998. BRI is also the master distributor for RemotelyAnywhere, SkunkLabs' Media Studio, Win², News Clipper and WebMarshal.

MailMarschall reportedly offers immediate, simple, effective e-Mail protection, without requiring users to download the latest virus definition enhancement. By relying solely on an anti-virus solution, organizations need to wait several hours or even days for a potential fix. "With its ability to scan incoming messages, MailMarshal denies or quarantines messages based on a variety of criteria. It can control the movement of commercially sensitive data and proprietary information, give legal liability protection, block junk mail and eliminate inappropriate use," a company spokesperson reports. By monitoring and controlling key words (lexical scanning), users or system administrators can effectively remove the threat of malicious viruses, including the current "I Love You".

One last word of caution, the equivalent of "Don't quit your day job!" Don't ignore your other virus protection software. True, it sometimes takes time for the virus-killers to work out and post their solutions, but they remain valuable tools to help keep your system from being vandalized.

Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM PC Users Group and PC World columnist offers the following advice:

continued on page 11

From The Dealsguy

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer User Group

I receive infected e-mail attachments more often than you might think from unknowing people. Recently, I received one called PrettyPark.exe from a friend. What might have fooled me is that I know the sender has McAfee on her machine, and I have Norton Antivirus. No virus alert was issued by mine. I checked with that person later, and as I suspected, she didn't even know she had sent it, but by that time she found she had a virus. The problem — neither of us had updated our virus protection that month, but my precaution of not opening a .exe file attachment saved me anyway.

A friend swears by F-Prot as his antivirus protection and it is free for home users. Since I hadn't deleted the suspected virus I downloaded F-Prot. After installing F-Prot, it found PrettyPark immediately and gave me the option to delete it. F-Prot can be found on various download sites. His favorite site is <ftp://ftp.telusplanet.net/pub/simtelnet/msdos/virus/>. Find the current F-Prot file starting with fp and ending with .zip. Then, for updates, go to <http://www.complex.is/f-prot/Download.html>.

I was hesitant to change, so I ran Norton's live-update, but my subscription had expired. Next morning Customer Service immediately updated me at a cost of only \$4.95 for the year and gave me a confirmation number. I signed on right away using that number to update my Norton Antivirus. I think that's cheap protection for a whole year, but granted, a free one is also very good.

Many people sending a virus don't know it happened because some viruses run in the background using the address book. Virus protection is so cheap, even free. Do your friends a favor and acquire the protection — *please*. People don't realize that a virus does not always inform you that it's there. Some even initialize your modem unbeknownst to you and send to every address in your address book (one version of PrettyPark does so every half hour. Happy99 sends an extra email containing its virus, without your knowledge each time you e-mail someone. Be very cautious of *any* .exe attachments to incoming e-mail.

In last month's specials, I thanked PowerQuest for the deals that also listed "Open Linux." I'll bet some folks cringed a bit on that one. I was reminded that it's by Caldera. It didn't say Caldera on the price list. Sorry guys. By the way, the PowerQuest items and the Wizcom pen scanner in last month's column should both still be good.

I'm Featuring Some Reader's Feedback This Month.

I e-mailed Dave Teschner of Hilton Head Island Computing Club after reading his virus article in their newsletter. He acquired a tough version of PrettyPark.exe. He answered my questions and sent me a government site on viruses that you might find interesting — <http://www.nipc.gov/nipc/nipcaaw.htm>. It has information on 40,000 different viruses. His version of PrettyPark (there are three) didn't yield to the normal virus cleaners and required special cleaning instruction acquired from the aforesaid site. Dave is experienced, but he used a Microsoft certified technician this time.

Other Interesting Feedback

Bob Wexler of Western NY Computer Society tells me that PC Connection and Mac Connection (mail order catalogs) have a policy of offering free ground UPS shipping to all legitimate members of a user group if you mention that when you order. I checked and it's true. Phone 1-800-800-5555 for a catalog.

Murry Davis of the Akron/Canton Users Group sent me the following: "www.bargaindog.com is featured in an article in the Circuits section of the NY Times on page D4 (4-20-00) as a source of hundreds of deals on many, many items."

I checked it out and there are all kinds of interesting items, not just computer stuff, and I assume things change all the time. It will even do comparison shopping for you.

Feedback In The ISP Dept.

Melvin Turetzky of the Boca PC Users Group e-mailed me a Web site that he says gives unbiased evaluations of ISPs — www.dogwolf.seagull.com. Mel agreed with my good opinion of Mindspring until lately. Since the merger with Earthlink, his confidence faltered because of problems accessing his Web site, but their tech support came through again. Now I'm having similar problems which they have yet to solve.

John Chmura of HAPCUG in Daytona Beach gave me this URL — <http://nzlist.org/user/freeisp/index.htm> — and tells me he has found no less than 48 free ISPs available in the Daytona Beach area with local access numbers. He tried the free Juno service, but says he gets disconnected a lot, which I've heard before.

And this detective work from John Hedinger of Manatee PC User Group: Concerning K-Mart's "BlueLight.com;" by following and snooping behind the links, it appears that this service is part of www.spinway.com free ISP service. Besides www.bluelight.com, Spinway seems to be providing the software, or engine (and perhaps the advertising) behind a number of free ISP's, including www.collegeclub.com, www.nettaxi.com, and www.webland.org. Try www.alladvantage.com — they actually pay you to be on the Net. And the beat goes on.

Mike Ungerman of Central Florida Computer Society in Orlando sent me this. "*Finally*, there is a *free* Internet access service with e-mail accounts without any banners, pop-up windows, floating bars — you name it. It works nationwide (in US) with a great amount of local access numbers. How do they do that? Tell you the truth, I do not know. But yes; no banners, no ads, no floating bars — unlimited, stable connection. So, go grab it!! <http://freewarehome.com/services/internet.html>. And while you're at it, the link to the Freeware site which also has some great free downloads. Note I said 'free' and not 'shareware'. There are no registration fees required for using the programs located at <http://freewarehome.com/>."

Mike also sent this URL for checking out virus alerts and hoaxes: <http://www.911viralalert.com/home1/home1.html>.

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Using Telnet to Avoid Love

by Cass Lewart (rlewart@monmouth.com)

The recent Love Letter virus would not infect you if you would only look closely at your ILOVEYOU message on the server before downloading it to your computer. Telnet is a tool to access your server, it is an Internet capable terminal emulation program, similar to those you used to connect to a BBS. You are familiar with GUI (Graphic User Interface) browser programs such as Netscape Communicator or Internet Explorer. A telnet program performs a function similar to a browser, except that it is strictly text oriented — no pictures and no sounds.

To be able to use a telnet program, you must have a so-called shell account provided by your ISP. Most ISPs (except for the big ones, such as AOL or Worldnet) provide such accounts as part of your basic subscription. Once you reach your server's shell account with telnet, you get access to all Unix programs and commands on the server. You can manage and read your e-mail with standard Unix utility programs such as pine, download files with ftp, or scan through newsgroups with rtin. All these operations are extremely fast — it is like having a T1 system all to yourself. Only when you transfer the files from the server to your computer do your telephone line and modem slow you down. While you work on the server your home computer cannot be infected by a virus. You can display your e-mail with attachments on the server and delete those which look suspicious.

A basic telnet program (telnet.exe) comes free in your Windows directory, courtesy of Microsoft. Like other free Microsoft utilities (remember debug and edlin?) its functionality is severely limited. With telnet.exe you can not scroll, every time you login to the server you have to type your username and password and the program does not provide short cut key assignments. Because of these limitations, I have been looking for a more capable telnet program for quite a while and I have finally found one. It is a commercial product from Van Dyke Technologies, Inc. (www.vandyke.com) and it is called CRT. The CRT telnet program has all the features missing features from telnet.exe. It allows emulation of various terminals, scrolling, automatic login, short cut key assignments, font selection and scripting capability. A fully functional evaluation copy of the CRT telnet program can be downloaded and tried free for one month. Once you pay the license fee (\$20 for students, otherwise \$35) you unlock the time limit, and get support and updates for one year.

After reading all this you may wonder if I got the ILOVEYOU bug myself. Well, I did. I did not follow any of my own precautions. Although I always check my e-mail first on the server with telnet, I did it only in a cursory way that Thursday morning. After I downloaded the virus and clicked on it, it took me over an hour to clean my system. After studying the virus source code I erased all suspect .vbs files which overwrote my .jpg files, restored registry with scanreg, and restored the preferences on my Netscape browser. As they say "Do as I say and not what I do"! ☹

DTP Tools, *continued from page 7*

for more and more newsletters as Microsoft added to its capabilities.

I recommend Publisher regularly in my presentations to DTP SIGs and Media Workshops. It is well-suited for User Group (UG) newsletters, and is widely used for that purpose. The majority of the 100-plus UG publications I receive each month from groups that use my Ken's Korner column are produced by editors using MS Publisher.

In fact, if pressed, I would have to admit that Publisher comes closest to the "one size fits all" concept for the usual DTP chores of most SOHO users. And the price is right, about \$100 for Publisher 2000 and \$129 for Publisher Deluxe 2000, with rebates of \$20 in the retail boxed programs for users of earlier Publisher versions.

If your goal is to produce long documents, Microsoft Word may well do the trick. Recent versions include many of the features that made Ventura Publisher the program of choice for books, theses and lengthy reports during the '80s.

Microsoft Publisher is not the tool for professional publishing chores, and it is neither meant nor advertised to be the right choice for such work. When you move up to this level, suitable applications cost much more and are more difficult to master. Prices start at about \$500 and escalate from there. Add plug-ins that facilitate specialized tasks, and cost of a complete publishing package can run \$2,000 and more. Companion software, such as high-end graphics applications (and their plug-ins), can more than double that figure.

Programs in this category include Adobe's PageMaker 6.5 Plus, FrameMaker and InDesign; Quark XPress; and Corel's Ventura 8. The Adobe products and Quark XPress come in Windows and Macintosh versions but Ventura is available for Windows only. ☹

Free AntiVirusTool, *continued from page 7*

"You may have already received one [copy of the virus e-mail]. If not, be patient. Because the "I Love You" worm is heading your way. (I got four already.)

"Two rules to follow: Update your virus file right now. Scan **every** e-mail attachment before opening. If you're interested in the details, read PC World's New article." ☹

Free PC Expo Admission

Register online for free admission to the PC Expo 2000 exhibit hall. Go to:

<http://news.pcexpo.com/cig-bin2/flo?x=dggYABmwYgYuo> and use Source Code DMPB to receive your free 3-day exhibit hall pass — a \$95 value. Offer is good only until May 31, so you'll have to hurry!

contributed by Bill Farrell

NewLove

Courtney Attwood, ZDNet Help & How-To

So it's Monday morning and you're feeling smug that you didn't fall victim to the latest heartbreaker in town, the "NewLove" worm, eh? Well, not so fast, hotshot. Did you update your antivirus software with the latest signature files? Did you know that your antivirus software won't catch this one without these updates?

The NEWLOVE worm is even more destructive than the ILOVEYOU worm and its variants, and the bad news is that there is no recovery. Now that's tough love. If you haven't taken precautions against the NEWLOVE worm and don't want to be bitten by the latest "Love" bug, here's what you have to do.

Resisting its Charm: The key to prevention is knowing what systems are vulnerable and what traits the worm has. Windows users are vulnerable because it uses the Windows

Scripting Host to infect a system. Macintosh and Linux users are not affected by NewLove.

It's also important to know that this new worm is polymorphic, which means that each time the worm is sent to a new batch of recipients via the Microsoft Outlook Address book, the code changes. Unlike ILOVEYOU, which had a known email Subject line and attachment name, the NEWLOVE worm arrives with a randomly selected Subject line and attachment name from the infected user's Start folder. The only distinguishable feature of this new miscreant is the "FW:" in the Subject line of the message.

This sneaky behavior made it easy for the worm to evade antivirus software signature file updates initially. This insidious feature also deceived some recipients since it was cloaked as a message from someone that had their email in their Outlook Address book.

continued

Dealsguy, *continued*

Want To Plan The Perfect Trip?

This is a subscription service by PlanetWare, but there is some free stuff here too. For the traveler, it can be a great help in planning your trip, especially overseas. The PlanetWare Travel Encyclopedia, the largest, searchable source of travel attraction data on the Web, is on-line at <http://www.PlanetWare.com>. The PlanetWare site helps travelers search for travel gems related to their special interests, provides visit decision details and serves as a one-stop source for making judgments about the relative merits of tourist attractions

The PlanetWare Travel Encyclopedia is probably the largest site of its kind on the Internet with over 110,000 pages of attraction data. While the bulk of data is available by monthly subscription at a cost comparable to that of a single paper tour guide book, about 10,000 pages are free. The free data includes all photos, complete details of a featured city of the month (currently 550 attractions of London, England with maps), lists of the top-rated sites, suggested walking and driving tour sequences, plus lists of the 8,000 towns currently featured on the PlanetWare site.

All PlanetWare maps are interactive. Cursoring over a map shows attraction names. Similarly, rolling over a list of attraction names pinpoints each site on the map. Clicking either the name or the pinpoint on the map brings up attraction details.

There's more, but my readers can get a two-month subscription for the price of one month (\$20 US). The minimum is two months, maximum is twelve months. If this catches your attention, e-mail info@planetware.com and provide:

1. The secret word "dealsguy" in the subject line to qualify
2. An e-mail address where they can send the password
3. The name on the credit card you are using
4. Visa, MC or AmEx
5. Card number

6. Expiration date

They'll then send you your secret password. If you take a two-month subscription to plan any trip, it should more than pay for itself. I think \$20 for two months is cheap for what they offer.

Does Your Computer IQ Fit This Category?

Below is a note from Marcia Laughry, author of the book "Active Directory for Dummies."

"Intimidated by Windows 2000's Active Directory? With all the media hype surrounding the release of Windows 2000 Server, you may already be a bit intimidated by the prospect of working with Active Directory. You've seen the presentations and articles discussing trees, forests, sites, and namespaces. Not only must you assimilate a new technology, but you must also pick up an entire new language just to understand what everyone's talking about. But Active Directory doesn't need to be difficult! In this book (Active Directory for Dummies), you find out in clear and simple language what Active Directory is, what it does and what benefits it brings to your organization - and to your job.

"To Order, simply type WIN2000NEWS in the referral field on the Shopping Basket Checkout page. <http://www.fatbrain.com/shop/info/0764506595?from=XUU975>. This is good for 10% off the online price of \$19.95."

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

Rules for Love: As with all things, knowing basic guidelines will keep you out of trouble. Here are the basic steps for keeping your system protected:

1. Do not open email with attachments that begin with "FW:" — this is the one known pattern in the naming convention. The subject line and attachment name change with each new infection. For full precautions, don't miss this how-to guide on Protecting Your PC Against the Dangerous NewLove Worm.
2. Update your antivirus software with the latest signature files to protect your PC against the NewLove, ILOVEYOU and all ILOVEYOU worm variants. If you're unsure if you're protected, you can scan your PC using ZDNet Updates.com's free service for recommended software updates.
3. Back up your critical system files and data. In the unfortunate event that your system is infected, the pain will be easier to take if you have a backup. (You should do this frequently anyway.)
4. You can also turn off Windows Scripting Host, our "To Script or Not To Script" article covers the pros and cons of this measure and how to do it.
5. Download the Microsoft Outlook security patch once it's available, this preview of the release covers what it is and how it works.

Most importantly, stay up to date on the latest news, alerts and solutions with ZDNet's Love Bites Special Report. The only way to beat this one is to not get mixed up with it in the first place. So follow the steps above and you'll avoid a serious case of tainted love. (Or "you'll deserve that smirk you're wearing.") ☹

Toshiba Portege 3440CT

Big Power, Small Package

Bill Machrone, ZDNet AnchorDesk May 16

Bigger is not always better. I have never liked big notebook computers. And I'm eternally grateful to the manufacturers of small, capable notebooks, such as Sony and Toshiba. I don't really care how thin a notebook computer is; it's the X and Y dimensions that I think should be smaller than a piece of paper. As you'll see in our hands-on review, <http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/stories/reviews/0,6755,2568497,00.html>, Toshiba's new Portege 3440CT packs a lot of power into a manageable package.

My big-notebook complaint is mostly about screen size. Other than the infamous coach airline seat, I encounter many other situations where the great, flapping barn door that passes for a screen on larger notebooks gets in the way: Trains, cars and even conference rooms. OK, I probably encounter more notebook computers in conference rooms than the average person, but sometimes it seems that everyone is sitting behind a personal barrier. You have to peer over and around those enormous screens just to see their faces.

The Portege 3440 is not the fastest notebook you can buy, but it is one of the most conveniently sized. The 11.3-inch display has full 1024x768 resolution. And it's fine for any normal tasks — if you need to do CAD on a notebook, this is not the machine for you. I will caution you, however, that the keyboard has slightly smaller spacing than a normal desktop computer; some people just can't deal with that. The answer, of course, is to try before you buy. ☹

Undocumented Tips

from ZDNet

PROBLEM: You've downloaded and installed ICQ's latest version (99b) and set it to run at startup. Unfortunately, it doesn't always follow that command.

SOLUTION: This is a bug. To fix it, start ICQ (Start, Programs, ICQ, ICQ) and left-click on the button labeled "ICQ" in the application's lower left corner. Select Preferences & Security and choose Preferences. Click on the Connection tab, check the "Launch ICQ on Startup" box, and click on OK. The next time you start your system, ICQ will start, too.

PROBLEM: You need to reimburse a friend who lives in another part of the country for some shared travel expenses. Can you do this over the Internet?

SOLUTION: PayPal (www.paypal.com) is a convenient, secure, free monetary exchange service. Simply use one of PayPal's online forms to send your friend the money. PayPal will then send an e-mail notification to your friend, who then must log on to claim the money. The total amount, or a portion of it, can be disbursed at any time by check or direct deposit. If you have a Palm Pilot, you can even beam money to your friend's Palm Pilot.

PROBLEM: You run your consulting business out of a home office and want the same cool telephone features common in companies located in commercial buildings.

SOLUTION: uReach (www.ureach.com) offers an impressive array of free phone, fax, and e-mail features. The company provides you with an 800 number, an e-mail account, and storage space on its server for your recorded messages. You can receive faxes on the 800 number, listen to your voicemail over the phone or the Web, even forward faxes and voicemail messages as attached sound clips. ☹

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified section to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or via e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptdprolog.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with your copy. Reasonable length, please. Deadline: 1st of preceding month. (For example, April 1 for May issue.)

Secure E-Commerce: Shopping Online

Mark Adams, HAL-PC

In last month's issue of HAL-PC Magazine, Tom Lassiter briefly discussed online shopping and consumer behavior in his article titled E-Commerce: You and the Internet. At the end of the article he issued a warning about giving your credit card number to unknown sites, and rightly so. Security is a critical, yet grossly overlooked part of, e-commerce.

As a matter of fact, fear of personal information falling into the wrong hands is one of the top reasons consumers give for not purchasing goods online. To see why, one need look no farther than today's headlines.

For example, Peter Iliev Pentchev, a native Bulgarian and former Princeton University student, was indicted by a federal grand jury in San Jose on January 26, 2000. He was accused of breaking into the computer system of a Palo Alto e-commerce company and stealing approximately 1,800 credit card numbers in December of 1998. The unidentified company claimed damages of \$100,000 after being forced to shut down their systems.

In yet another high-profile case, Visa International recently admitted that crackers penetrated their systems last July and stole information. The crackers later contacted Visa via email and telephone in attempts to extort money from the firm. Visa contacted Scotland Yard and the FBI who are both investigating the matter. Visa claims to have long since secured the penetrated systems.

Sadly, these examples represent the rule rather than the exception. From a purely economic perspective, it is easy to see why. When a firm decides to take its sales online, the number one priority is to get it all to work right so income can be generated and profits realized as soon as possible. Functionality is primary to security because security is not an income-generating component; it is overhead. As such, it is almost always an afterthought and therefore given short shrift. The results are usually misconfigurations, oversights, and generally poor methodologies and network architectures. Usually the firm employs some sort of basic security to keep out the "average Joe". However, the more persistent malcontent will achieve better results when attempting to penetrate such sites, and it happens far more often than you think. As a security consultant for a major CPA firm, I have attacked and penetrated many sites with a high degree of success.

So how do you know if a certain site has employed enough security to protect the transaction? In reality, there is no sure way of doing so. After all, no online vendors are going to advertise the fact that they can barely spell the word "security", are they? They're going to do all they can to allay your fears and gain your trust. One method is to place one or more seals on the website indicating compliance with a predefined security standard. The ones to trust are those from the Better Business Bureau, Trust-e, and the American Institute of CPAs (AICPA) called the WebTrust seal. These three seals come with a high cost and strict requirements. Having personally participated in WebTrust certifications, I can attest to the rigorous standards required to attain them.

Most of the rest of the seals that are out there are either free or cost very little, and the requirements are much more lax.

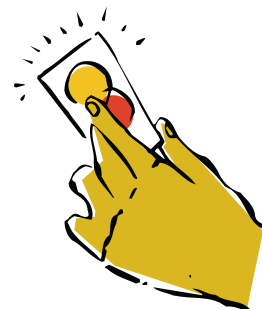
What are some of the technologies involved in securing on-line transactions? In the absence of a standard form of digital money, the majority of transactions rely on credit cards. This means credit card fraud and lots of it. One solution, released in the summer of 1997, is a protocol called Secure Electronic Transaction (SET). It was defined by Visa and Mastercard to enable secure electronic commerce over the Internet using credit cards for electronic payment of purchases. This protocol provides software specifications for the three parties generally involved in an e-business transaction: the cardholder, the merchant, and the acquiring bank. SET officially addresses the credit payment transaction of the purchase, ignoring other forms of payment like e-cash and e-debit. It remains to be seen whether SET will become a security standard or fade away in favor of a broader and more flexible solution.

Secure Sockets Layer (SSL) is a means of encrypting data that is to be sent over HTTP (hypertext transfer protocol) connections (i.e. from your browser to the web server). Whenever you visit a site whose URL (Uniform Resource Locator) begins with "https://" (rather than the usual "http://") you are dealing with a potentially secure site. Ideally, SSL is transparent to the user. When you access a secure site, your browser and the server should negotiate a suitable encryption method and then your surfing should continue uninterrupted.

A third method for securing e-commerce sites is a public key infrastructure (PKI). Because e-commerce requires the use of digital certificates, many companies are planning to implement the PKI beast in order to ensure the authentication and integrity and online transactions. However, there are many issues to overcome, like agreement on a single PKI standard and certificate management.

The above list of solutions to securing e-commerce transactions is by no means comprehensive, and many firms are employing a combination of technologies. The eventual implementation of the next generation of IP, called IPv6, should provide increased security to an industry that is desperate for it and consumers who are demanding it.

E-mail me at mfoster@hal-pc.org with any comments you have and tell me what you want to see here. *Reprinted from the newsletter of the Houston Area League of PC Users.* ☐



SIG News

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

May 4: Alex ran the meeting. Because of a SNAFU, he didn't get to the announced subject, "File associations." However, there was a big event around that time—the Loveletter virus epidemic, and Alex devoted much of the time discussing the virus avoidance and cure. The rest of the meeting was random access.

June 1: If you wonder what goes on behind the scenes at an ISP, Phil King from INTAC will be giving the June talk and will tell us about their big move from their own plant to a larger facility with a NYSE-listed company. ☐

Random Access

Scott Vincent (svincent@ix.netcom.com)

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

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

This is an official "Newbies too" group. ☐

Main Meeting

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

June: Computers & Cardiology, host Malthi Masurekar. ☐

MCP

(Preparing for Microsoft Certification Exams)

Scott Vincent (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> ☐

PC Users Group

Jo-Anne Head (tinarock@aol.com)

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

June 16: Microsoft is sending us a speaker, John Gilham (MSCE+1, MCNE, CCNA, MASE) to discuss Windows NT/Windows2000, "Managing File Permissions and Security Permissions. This will be a fairly technical talk. As more and more people are moving to WinNT/Win2K from Win9X, this will be relevant for many of us.

After the June PC User Group Meeting, Jo-Anne will step down as the SIG leader. Jo-Anne has led the group for 6 years and she feels that she needs a change. If anyone

C/C++ Users Group

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

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

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

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)

We discuss issues of interest to novice users or persons who are just interested in getting started. Layman's Forum will not meet during July and August. Watch the ACGNJ Web page for updates.

May: At the requests of attendees, we discussed ZIP files, WinZip and AZZ Cardfile, defining ZIP and compression, and demonstrated compression and extraction. We covered some WinZip features, and how to configure it to personal preferences. Later we demonstrated use of AZZ Cardfile by obtaining information from a Web page and copying it into AZZ cardfile for easy cataloging of information. ☐

continued on page 14

Lunics (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (ahm@spies.com)

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

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

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@home.com)

May: Rick Elbanna enthralled us with a demonstration of the design and implementation of a real estate Web site using Access 2000 database and Cold Fusion Web page designer. The resulting page could easily be ported to almost any real estate office or new Web page with ease. Selection of images for banners and backgrounds make sites with similar coding and structure appear unique.

June: (Unconfirmed — watch the website) Hank Kee on Internet Security

July: To be announced.

Keep an eye on <http://www.acgnj.org/groups/symposiu.html> 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. Subscription requests should be addressed to 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 generally meets on the fourth Friday of the month in Hill Center, Room 114, Busch Campus, Rutgers University, Piscataway, NJ. In June, November, and December, the meeting is usually pushed to the third Friday. The meeting starts at 7 pm. We meet in the Busch Campus Student Center Food Court for supper around 5 PM for those people that come to the meeting straight from work. ☐

Lotus Notes

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

May: We had a representative of Seagate speaking on how to use Seagate Info Server and Seagate Analysis in a Lotus Domino Environment. Check out their product line at <http://www.teamstudio.com>.

Our 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 often introduces the topic being discussed at PCUG. ☐

VBA

Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@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>

May 7: The investing SIG held a special meeting at TCF. We met quite few investors who may attend future SIG sessions.

May 11: We reviewed some of the sites on the Internet that are very useful for getting information for investing. We were on line and used some of the many links posted on the SIG Web site links page. Many points about finding the best sites to gain specific information were discussed. We held a general discussion of the current Bear market, including some suggestions on how to prevent drastic losses under the current circumstances.

For you current and possible investors out there, I would like to extend an invitation to attend our group. We welcome new members and new ideas. Our group includes newcomers to investing and computing as well as those with 35 or more years of experience in both. We do not typically schedule any particular topic in advance, but try to react to market conditions and present ideas that are current, and (hopefully) profitable. Our emphasis is on investing, and using the computer to assist. Reserve the second Thursday of the month to visit us. You can get more information at our Investing SIG web page (URL above), and I suggest you visit ACGNJ home page (www.acgnj.org) for other interesting sessions regarding computers. For questions about our Investing SIG, contact me by e-mail. ☐

last wrote, there has been a major battle between the music publishing industry and various startups trying to market MP3 music files on the Web. Most prominent of these is Napster, a site which offers a nexus for folks who want to chat and trade and share music files (www.napster.com). It seems some people posted copyrighted numbers (naughty!) by Metallica, whatever that is, and Metallica countered by sifting through the public records to find 320,000 people who downloaded the files. They brought the files over to Napster's offices and announced they would be suing Napster. This produced a chorus of 320,000 loud "boos," and is prompting new discussions about copyright law. See the WSJ article quoted by ZDNN at www.zdnet.com/zdnn/stories/news/0,4586,2573456,00.html. And you'll find another take under www.infoworld.com/articles/op/xml/00/03/13/000313oppetreley.xml.

When my oldest daughter was a young teen, she discovered and developed a taste for a spread made of ground hazelnuts and chocolate called Nutella. The free software folks have done a takeoff on this called Gnutella, which functions much the same as Napster with one essential difference: it doesn't use a central server like Napster, but is truly distributed. The members of the network just download the program, run it, and they find each other, leaving no central trace leading to someone with records and money to sue. It's a free download from ZDNET, among others.

Copyright law has had some problems, especially since the advent of xerography which, while creating many copies of protected materials, probably didn't affect sales of originals very much. The coming of the Internet has inserted an enormous multiplier into this equation. A single copy posted on the Net becomes available to millions, many of whom would otherwise be forced buy or do without.

This is all complicated by the extreme paranoia in the publishing business. A few years ago, before anyone really knew about the Net, there was a bloody battle over digital audio tapes, the publishers claiming that the new technology would allow the manufacture of perfect copies by civilians and put them out of business. Their insistence on encryption gimmicks to prevent copying and inability to agree on standards killed the market.

Just recently, a similar flap has developed over DVD formats and players. The manufacturers and publishers have a problem with open source systems like Linux. This resulted in the recent pursuit and apprehension of Jon Johansen, a notorious young Norwegian programmer who developed a decoder for the industry standard system for use on UNIX systems, since they were not otherwise available. We have witnessed judges ruling that his source code may not appear on ISP computers. Read about it all at www.pzcommunications.com/decss. For a (Norwegian) legal perspective on the prosecution, see the Electronic Frontier Foundation article on their Web site:

www.eff.org/pub/Intellectual_property/Video/DeCSS_prosecutions/Johansen_DeCSS_case/20000125_bing_johansen_case_summary.html.

There is not only paranoia, but a great deal of greed in the business. The artists rarely get to see the profits, which are divided between the publishers and retailers. The reason is that the publishers have a monopoly on distribution and an expertise at writing contracts which rivals everything but the Hollywood practices of the first half of the last century. This fuels the feeling among Napster users that it's OK to steal copyrighted material. Metallica, however, is getting a good piece of the action, like all the biggest stars.

Enter the book publishers and recall the note we made about eBooks in our last article. Remember that Stephen King's latest tale was made available for free, at least some copies, as a downloadable file, with appropriate protections. Even so, it took only about two days before the file was hacked and an unprotected version appeared online.

In spite of the vulnerability, the book publishers seem less worried than the music folks and some of them have just announced major commitments to eBooks. Time Warner is announcing a separate online publishing venture. And our favorite startup of all time, Microsoft, is getting into the act with their own proprietary eBook file format and reader software. They've conned Random House and Simon and Schuster into joining them in this venture. They're pushing it for their new Pocket PC platform. Their first offering will be "Timeline" by Michael Crichton, available free at barnesandnoble.com, but only if you have a Pocket PC.

I suppose consumers of music recordings tend to be young with a higher percentage of computer-savvy folks and less maturity than book consumers. I guess that holds for movie (DVD) consumers as well, but probably less so.

Bottom line: the new medium is the bit and its access and distribution are still being fought over. We'll see a lot of blood as old businesses, which may no longer make sense, fight to keep their share of the pi. (Note: "pi - a quantity of type that has been jumbled or thrown together at random.") In the meantime, perhaps we should concentrate on finding fair ways for those 320,000 people to compensate Metallica for the loss of business, not necessarily by making a third party rich, though that might work it's the capitalist way.

And one final thought. Where does the public library paradigm fit into this discussion? All these media over which distribution rights are being fought are available for free loan at your public library. Anyone know how the copyright laws treat libraries? And thanks to John Raff for some of the leads.

Finance

When I first moved to New Jersey, I rented a room from a local fellow in Millburn who introduced me to his favorite broker, a really nice guy at Dean Witter, Reynolds. As a smaller, full service operation, they were slow to get on the Net. First they had a company Web site of corporate interest only, but they started adding customer service features. By the way, they merged with the investment house, Morgan Stanley, and are now Morgan Stanley Dean Witter, and hang out at www.msdw.com. (Whatever happened to Reynolds?)

continued

Internet Corner, *continued*

Who's Stanley? For that matter, what happened to Pierce, Fenner and Smith? Oh! This fickle world!)

First they added online trading accounts at www.msdownline.com. All well and good, but we had IRA accounts already, and a relationship with our broker there (no, not the same one, he retired about 15 years ago). We patiently waited, and a few days ago I noticed an addition at their Web site — something called "ClientServ." When this first appeared, it was available only to big bucks accounts, but they have been opening features one by one to all accounts. All this at www.dwdean.com. (I guess Dean is someone's last name, and not Witter's first — anyone know Wall Street history?) To further confuse the issue, they advertise something called "ichoice." I cannot fathom the subtleties at play here, though it is clear that they should have accepted long ago that the Web and online trading were here to stay.

Flash! Their package just arrived. I logged in and found my account easily. Then I looked for online trading. Nowhere to be found! So, I read the manual. There it says that I would have to pay a minimum of \$1,000 per annum to make my account a "Choice" account, which would enable me to trade online. They do have the old "msdownline" accounts, also, which would allow me to trade for fixed \$30 commission, but I would have to switch accounts to do so and then couldn't get to a broker unless I paid an extra \$9. It looks like they have the different services so segregated, probably with different computer systems and software, that they can't mix and match. I also asked if they support Quicken/Money downloads, and they said not yet maybe in the summer. ☹



Linux Dabbler, *continued from page 3*

ID(s) are important lifelines. There are ways to get back in Linux if we lose the root password, but it is better to remember the root password. (On the other hand, there are some security issues if we make the root password super-easy to remember. This is a subject of a separate article about password security.)

Is this my final answer?

number I hope to have a review of the Caldera Open Linux in a future newsletter. Meanwhile, go ahead and be a Linux dabbler, just be prudent and have your lifelines available.

From *PPCUG News*, April 2000
(<http://www.ppcug-nj.org>). ☹

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

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

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

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

Town _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

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

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

Other Local Computer Groups

Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, Princeton U. (609) 252-1163	NY/NJ/CT Relational Database User Group: Corporate and independent users. (212) 839-0125	New York Personal Computer Club: For information call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: 7:30 pm, 2nd Wednesday, St. Asaph's Episcopal Church. Lee Le'mon, (717)786-2260	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm,3rd Friday, Forums 103 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. Andrea Tarr (732) 229-2959.	Macintosh User Group: Third Tuesday, Dickson Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (973) 655-5274, http://www.njmug.org .
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Tue., Queen of Heaven School, Cherry Hill; 4th Wed., Cherry Hill Library. (609) 354-1159.	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am to noon 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington. (908) 995-4042	PC Club of South Jersey: 7 pm, 2nd Tuesday, Holy Cross HS, Route 130, Delran NJ. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel U., Philadelphia. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, Trenton St. College. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC Users Group: Bergen County Community College, Paramus NJ. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432
Morris Micro Computer Club: Bill Traywick, (973) 635-5393.	Fairlawn Computer Club: Last Monday, Fairlawn Senior Citizen Center. Joe Mathias (fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com)	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 281-3107, http://www.ppcug-nj.org
Workshop, Hands-On: 2 P.M. to Midnight on last Saturday of the month. First United Methodist Church, Church and Atlantic Streets (one mile from GSP exit 117A), Aberdeen NJ. Bring your project, computer and extension cord. For information call Burke Mawby, (908) 566-7445.		

Radio and TV Programs

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

Software Review TLC Sat.10 p.m.

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

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

Free Help Line

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

KGP Computer Shows

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

June 10-11: NJ Convention Center, Edison NJ

June 17: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken

ACGNJ Hotline

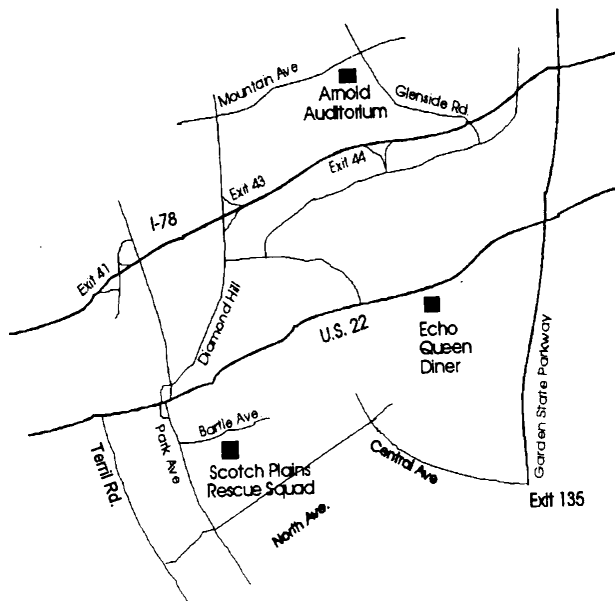
(908) 322-4654

ACGNJ Bulletin Boards

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

(732) 739-3693 Dave Wrobel

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



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

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

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

From Southern New Jersey

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

From I-78 (either direction)

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

From US 22 Westbound

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

From Western New Jersey

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

ACGNJ NEWS

AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
P.O. BOX 135
SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

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TEMP-RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

ACGNJ MEETINGS

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

Thursday, June 1, 2000

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

Friday, June 2

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

Monday, June 5

8 P.M. - Lunics, Andreas Meyer, 908-382-4297

Wednesday, June 7

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

Thursday, June 8

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

Friday, June 9

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

Monday, June 12

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

Wednesday, June 14

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

Friday, June 16

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

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

Tuesday, June 20

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, June 21

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

Thursday, June 22

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

Friday, June 23

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

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

Monday, June 26

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

Some of the ACGNJ SIGs will continue to meet during July and August. See SIG News for preliminary information, and check the ACGNJ Web page for late announcements. ACGNJ News will not be published during July and August.

**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.**