
Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 26, Number 5

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ACGNJ President Scott Vincent presents the award to this year's recipient, Peter Fillingham



Peter Fillingham Hobbyist of the Year 2001

The annual ACGNJ Hobbyist of the Year award was presented to this year's honoree Peter Fillingham at the TCF Keynote session at Trenton Computer Festival. Honorees are chosen to recognize meaningful contribution to the community, either within ACGNJ or in the community in general, through computer-related activities.

Peter was the leader of the LUNICS (a loose acronym representing the various forms of Unix-like systems) Special Interest Group of ACGNJ for many years, and has been an outspoken proponent of open-source programming — Linux, and its Unix-like cousins. ☞



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

**ACGNJ News does not publish during July and August.
We'll be back in September.**

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

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For Your Inquiries

Officers			Board of Directors		
President	Scott Vincent	(973) 361-5793	Director Emeritus	Sol Libes	(609) 520-9024
Vice President	John Raff	(973) 533-0664	Through 2002	Bill Farrell	(732) 572-3481
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Special Interest Groups			Through 2001	Rick Elbanna	(800) 323-7575
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Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842	Facilities	John Raff	(973) 533-0664
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Symposium	John Raff	(973) 533-0664	Webmasters	Jo-Anne Head	(908) 769-7385
Visual Basic for Apps	James Ditaranto	(201) 986-1104		John Raff	(973) 533-0664
Web Development	Jim Wong				

ACGNJ News

Editor

Barbara DeGroot
145 Gun Club Road
Palmerton PA 18071
Tel: (610) 377-8632
Fax: (610) 377-9362
bdegroot@ptd.net

Publisher

Associate Editors

Jo-Anne Head
(908) 769-7385
tinarock@aol.com

Bill Farrell
(732) 572-3481
wfarr18124@aol.com

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Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

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

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E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at (<http://www.acgnj.org/officers.htm>).

Bruce Arnold	barnold@blast.net
Mike Barlow	mwb@infi.net
Bob Berto	bb@somerset-nj.com
Barbara DeGroot	bdegroot@ptd.net
Dr. Graham Curtis	curtisgr@erols.com
James Ditaranto	fryr92a@prodigy.com
Rick Elbanna	rick@nobella.com
Jerry Entin	jerryentin@worldnet.att.net
Bill Farrell	wfarr18124@aol.com
Jo-Anne Head	tinarock@aol.com
Samuel Hecht	sammaeh@juno.com
Charlie Huffsmith	chaz026@aol.com
Sheldon Koepf	sheldonk@intac.com
Sol Libes	sol@libes.com
Ted Martin	TedJoy564@aol.com
Malthi Masurekar	masureka@umdj.edu
Andreas Meyer	lunics@acgnj.org
Arnold Milstein	arnold_milstein@bigfoot.com
John Raff	jraff@home.com
Mike Redlich	mike@redlich.net
Steven Rodriguez	help72@bigfoot.com
Marty Rosenblum	m.rosenblum@ieee.org
Kevin Shelly	kjshelly@injersey.com
Matt Skoda	som359@aol.com
Keith Sproul	ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu
Scott Vincent	scottvin@optonline.net
Frank Warren	kb4cyc@webwarren.com
Evan Williams	nhpressgo@blast.net
Jim Wong	webdev@acgnj.org

The Internet Corner

by Martin Rosenblum

Web News

Item: The Star-Ledger, April 27, "Fearing lawsuits, breaker of music code won't say how he did it." In some local fallout from the Napster case, Edward Felton, associate professor of computer science at Princeton, cancelled a talk "describing how his research team cracked the security of digital music". According to our friend, Kevin Coughlin, the paper had been available at <http://www.cryptome.org/sdmi-attack.htm>, but seems to have been pulled, explaining: "the Recording Industry Association of America, the SDMI Foundation, and the Verance Corporation threatened to bring a lawsuit if we proceeded with our presentation or the publication of our paper. Threats were made against the authors, against the conference organizers, and against their respective employers." Curiously, one motive for the work was a public challenge by SDMI which can be found at (Note: the challenge seems to have disappeared from the SDMI website, <http://www.sdmi.org>) The paper was to have been presented at the 4th International Information Hiding Workshop in Pittsburgh, 25 - 27 April.

Item: The Star-Ledger, April 29, "Professor strikes unusual cord." Kevin Coughlin, wrote this piece about Tomasz Imielinski, chair of the computer science department at Rutgers. Academic? No, heavy metal! It seems the good professor has a rock band, once called "The Professors", but now called "System Crash." The band can be found at <http://www.system-crash.com> and his major opus, Internity, can be found at <http://internity.rutgers.edu>. The professor's themes are built around many of the ideas we've been talking about that came from Bill Joy's *Wired* article.

Miscellany

My daughter and her intended were visiting over the weekend. He had a large file (>100Mb) he wanted to get for me from his computer in Cambridge. First he set up NetMeeting so he could get access to his computer. Then he tried to download the file using the same software. It seems that somewhere in cyberspace between the two machines, something would not let so large a file through. He said he'd seen this before and that ICQ usually worked, so we set up ICQ, made the connection again, and the file arrived safely in about an hour, more or less. NetMeeting comes with Microsoft Windows 98SE, and ICQ can be downloaded from <http://www.icq.com>

When I went to the New York Times site (<http://www.nyt.com>), to find the latest news on Napster, I noticed that they are keeping the last two weeks worth of stuff online, free, but older stuff is archived and access is \$2.50 per article.

A week or so ago Maria was talking to the wife of an old friend of mine, a roommate from Yale. She said that my old friend had been mentioned in an article in the New York Times. (He's the architect on a new skyscraper going up near the Post Office across from Penn Station.) When I tried to fetch it, the two weeks had already passed, so I thought this would be a justifiable expense, under the circumstances, to try the archive service. A popup window appeared and asked for the usual credit card info. I dutifully filled it all out and the desired

article appeared. (I promptly printed it out to justify my investment. I felt I had to do something, since it wasn't even two pages.) Oh, yes! The archive service does not include photos or graphics. I wouldn't mind so much if it were ten cents or a quarter, but someone will have to figure out how to make a profit batching large numbers of tiny transactions. If they do, it will bring new meaning to the phrase "nickled and dimed...."

Ebooks, etc.

On April 30, PBS ran a piece on E-Books. Segments featured M. J. Rose, an author, L. Kirschbaum of Time Warner Trade publishing, and Walter Mossberg, computer guru of the Wall Street Journal. The whole thing was hosted by the Newshour's media maven, Terence Smith. It can still be found at

Security

Here's an *oops* for you! The Computer Emergency Response Team at Carnegie Mellon and <http://www.cert.org> were themselves victims of a distributed denial of service attack from Tuesday to Thursday May 22-25. They "have a handle on the problem."

In a February 20th New York Times article, Michael Rabin of Harvard's computer science department describes his development of a provably unbreakable code. CNET reported an interview with Rabin on May 18th. The New York Times piece is at www.nytimes.com/2001/02/20/science/20CODE.html. The CNET video is there, but it doesn't have a useful URL. The scheme is based on a publicly available sequence of random bits. The real encryption experts, the NSA types, don't seem very concerned, since there are always other ways of getting the information, but this is bound to trigger another argument between academics and police and lawmakers.

On May 1, Microsoft acknowledged that its Windows 2000 server software has a bug that makes it relatively simple for hackers to break into Web sites.

Science

A recent email from the British journal Nature announces that the American Institute of Physics (<http://www.aip.org>) and the American Physical Society (<http://www.aps.org>) are joining forces to publish a series of "virtual" online journals. First in the series are Biological Physics Research at <http://www.vjbio.org>, Nanoscale Science & Technology at <http://www.vjnano.org> and Quantum Information at <http://www.vjquantuminfo.org>

A visit to one of these sites reveals an interesting new concept, the collection of titles and abstracts of articles published elsewhere but of interest in common with other specialists. An article of interest can be fetched up in PDF format online or offline by fax or mail. There are good and bad sides to the idea. The good side is that it becomes one stop shopping for information in a narrow field of interest, without concern for where the information may be published. The bad side is that only those journals which participate in the Online Journal

continued

Publishing Service of the American Institute of Physics and Science Magazine are included. Another potential drawback is that you must be a subscriber to the journal in which an article is published to retrieve it without additional expense, but this has a good side too: a simple interface to order any article under the OJPS umbrella.

From the May 11 issue of Science, Netwatch column: Now that the new administration is talking about nuclear power, did you know “In 1972, natural nuclear reactor was found in a Western Africa in the Republic of Gabon, at Oklo. While the reactor was critical, approximately 1.7 billion years ago, it released 15,000 megawatt-years of energy by consuming six tons of uranium. It operated over several hundred thousand years at low power.”? This and lots of other interesting facts about radiation and its history can be found in the *Radiation and Health Physics Page* of the University of Michigan’s Website, <http://www.umich.edu/~radinfo>.

Then there’s a present from Georgia State University’s physics site at <http://hyperphysics.phy-astr.gsu.edu/hphys.html>. It has a great collection of hyperlinked flow charts to help you find the answer to almost any simple question from “black holes to mesons to Faraday’s law to loudspeakers.” There’s also a hypermath link, but it’s not nearly so complete as the physics section.

The main feature in this issue is 20 pages of articles on “Ecology and Evolution of Infection.” In May 18th’s issue, Scienceonline points out that *Science* has made available a very rich collection of links on the subject which you can peruse at <http://www.sciencemag.org/feature/data/diseases>.

It’s a little early to be thinking about the American Museum of Natural History’s annual origami Christmas tree, but not too early to start practicing. Netwatch in the May 18th issue mentions two sites to help you get your folding into shape: chasm.merrimack.edu/~thull/OrigamiMath.html and a new site at <http://www.sanger.ac.uk/Users/agh/Origami/origami.htm>

Interested in astronomy? Here’s one field where amateurs have contributed importantly and voluminously. A site which catalogues its history, bright and obscure, can be found at the German astronomers’ Working Group on the History of Astronomy Web site with over 400 pages of text and links at <http://www.astro.uni-bonn.de/~pbrotsche/astoria.html>. There’s a page on calendars — I’ve always wondered where the seven day week came from and were there other weeks in other calendars. Unfortunately, the link pointing to Crowl’s page is dead, but I found it, thanks to Google, at <http://www.crowl.org/Lawrence/time/days.html> (Answers: the French once had a ten day week in the 1700’s, as did the ancient Egyptians. In this century, the Soviet Union experimented with a six-day week for almost 10 years and also tried a five-day week — both 5 and 6 are divisors of 30!)

The May Scientific American is a must for all Webphiles. The feature article is “The Semantic Web,” by Tim Berners-Lee and two other authors. Here he makes quite clear his ambitions for such advances as XML, which he intended to be the means by which meanings might be introduced into Web pages, making the AltaVista-type string based search engine a real antique. You’re supposed to get what you’re looking for,

not everything with the same spelling! (I thought it was going to concentrate on extensibility, letting you define formatting macros like UNIX’s old text formatters.) Anyway, check the article at <http://www.sciam.com/2001/0501issue/0501berners-lee.html> (Note: you can use either “sciam” or “scientificamerican.”

Your DNS will translate both into the same IP address.)

Investing & Finance

Last Issue I mentioned some new program that Schwab (<http://www.schwab.com>) was offering along the day trading line. In the back of my mind a subliminal consequence of an add on CNBC kept popping up, but I couldn’t quite put my finger on it. Yesterday, I wrote it down on a 3X5 card as it flicked by on the TV. It’s called Island, and though I haven’t exactly figured out what it is — they call themselves a “marketplace”, it looks hot — maybe too hot for us amateurs. They claim “February 2001 Island was also the number one market participant in several popular Nasdaq stocks, such as Yahoo!, Ciena Corp., and Microsoft.” They’re at <http://www.island.com>. I got more curious as to what they were and looked them up with Google (<http://www.google.com>) and eventually found a reference to them and a couple of similar outfits on an educational site, <http://www.educating.net/mallstocks.asp> They are examples of a relatively new beast called Electronic Clearing Networks, or ECNs. You’ll find an article about them at <http://onlinebrokerage.about.com/money/onlinebrokerage/library/glossary/aa020600.htm>.

The fact that I found this stuff on a commercial educational site, reminded me of something I noticed on PBS’ Nightly Business Report. (Note: though PBS uses its non-profit status in its URL, <http://www.pbs.org>, NBR does not, preferring, like the companies it reports on, the dot com, <http://www.nbr.com>) In addition to selling their own educational videos, they seem to be experimenting with an online course through an outfit called the Private Lessons Channel. You can find them at <http://www.privatelessons.net> and if you skip down to Business & Finance, you’ll find a course in economics for investors called “The Economy Today – with Dr. Michael Lehmann.” sponsored by NBR. There are three lessons for \$5 each, and no free sample from this course, though the site does have some sample lessons on other topics. ☞



From The DealsGuy for June

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Not surprisingly, in response to my "junk e-mail" soap-box last month, I heard from people explaining what an important service they are doing by forwarding all those warnings, even though some did admit they had also forwarded hoaxes to recipients not happy about it. I also had e-mail saying, "Thanks for the soap box, but you can't win that one." I know that. I have a couple of filters setup now in Eudora because of people who won't honor my request to stop. Here is a Web site made for those do-gooders: <http://www.cao.com/hoax>. There, you can pick your favorite hoax, personalize it, then send it to all those people that still believe Elvis is alive, but don't include me.

Fun Among Friends

My wife and I attended the Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) conference and had a great time. There were about 148 attendees from 27 user groups. The vendor participation was better this year with 17 vendors. Two vendors also did roundtables that were combination presentation and Q & A. If you don't attend your regional conference, I heartily recommend it. It was great to see friends that I only see those times of year.

That Much!!!

Many aren't aware that some people learn a great deal about your computer, browser and other things when you "hit" a URL on the Web (unless your firewall restricts disbursing data). My ISP (Earthlink) offers limited "free" statistics about the hits on a member's Web site, and there are other free services that will also give you even more stats than I get free from Earthlink. For a monthly fee, I could have a lot more info concerning the hits on my Web site through Urchin, who provides the Earthlink stats taken right from Earthlink servers. Perhaps I'll write more about all that in a future column.

Regarding those Web site statistics, I read the latest APCUG Reports <http://www.apcug.org> and this issue had a report by Don Singleton listing just one month's statistics for the APCUG Web site. I strongly urge you to read it and you'll be fascinated with what you see. For example, I never realized there were so many different screen resolutions and it was interesting where many of the hits came from. You'll find "Quarterly Reports" listed on the left side of the APCUG Home Page. Take a look.

Still Good

The TechSmith items, SnagIt and Camtasia, are still good this month. Order these great programs by calling the sales department at 1-800-517-3001, or fax to 1-517-333-1888. Mention your user group's name. For a better discount, order the "SnagIt/Camtasia Bundle" for just \$152.95.

*Some editors have been asking for a shorter column lately, so I am reducing the length by a couple hundred words. Now for some deals:

"Mouse Bungee" — Not What You Think

At Space Coast PC Users Group meetings, members are sometimes treated to a demonstration by David Nottingham (dnottingham@cfl.rr.com) of favorite gadgets he finds (you

should see his "gadget vest"). A couple months ago he showed them a "Mouse Bungee." It's a device that holds your mouse cord in the air allowing unencumbered mouse motion. It sounded great, so I inquired about it for the column. They sent me one to try and I LOVE it. No resistance now when rolling my mouse around. No, "Mouse Bungee" doesn't suspend your mouse, just the mouse "cord." It has a stand with dual springs on a slant to hold your mouse cord in the air. Saves me setting something on my cord to keep it slack. Point your browser to <http://www.mousebungee.com> for pictures, colors and other information.

You must order it on their Web site's order page and I have a limited time discount for you. MSRP is normally \$14.95 + \$3.95 S&H, but user group members will get 15% off the entire order by typing the special ordering code "EFXL2" into the "promotion code" space. Choose from a nice assortment of colors. For a group order, they will increase the discount. E-mail webmaster@mousebungee.com for that info. What great people to do business with! Mouse Bungee won an award at Comdex.

How's The 'Ol Ticker Again?

Last month I told you about WinStock, a nice program that puts a ticker on your screen and can be personalized with just the symbols you want to follow. That one cost money, but this month I have another one. Several people told me about it, and in fact, I already knew about it but couldn't find the URL to download it. Sounds like many already know about it, so maybe this is a waste, but here it is. It is called TICKER.EXE and you can download it at <http://www.cooltick.com>. It is so simple to use and will certainly serve your purpose. It also can be personalized. Best of all, it is FREE.

How About Backing Up With Throw-Away Parts

Last year I read a review by Carl Petzold of PC Users Group of South Jersey concerning a product called "Quick Drive" by H45 Technologies. Quick Drive is a kit containing a molded plastic case (shock mounted), an AC adapter and a data cord (USB or PC Card). It is designed to use a hard drive (could be an old one you have upgraded from). The object is to use this for a backup that you can unplug and put away.

Carl said the installation wasn't bad and it was just the berries. You cannot use Drive Image or Partition Magic from Power Quest, but he didn't say why. He is using the Microsoft backup in Windows 98 that he said does the job.

Quick Drive Kit sells for \$29.95 and the cable you choose is \$49.00. DealsGuy readers get a 10% discount. Call 1-800-373-8181 and tell them you read about this in the DealsGuy's column. Considering the price of a tape backup or Zip drive, and its media, perhaps this approach is better. See their products at <http://www.h45.com>. It was a bit confusing to me on their Web site, but if you call, they will answer your questions.

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Exegesis For The Exigent

Burton Shane (bshane39@yahoo.com)

The Gutenberg Bible was printed in Mainz around 1455. It is the first major book printed in the west. About 180 copies were printed.

Heretofore, a book was laboriously and expensively hand-written by a skilled scribe. It took him a year of painstaking toil and a considerable material expense for parchment or vellum, ink, and quills. Adding in his room and board for a year, it is understandable that the value of a book was about the same as a small farm. 180 books, though insignificant by today's standards, represented a compilation of immense value in the fifteenth century. That the Bible was chosen as the subject for this project is an indication of the importance that society placed on the dissemination of biblical writings.

According to current polls, one-third of Americans still search the Bible for guidance regularly. Fascinated by the power and ubiquity of the web, my first web page (years ago) contained the 29 books of the Old Testament. It pleased me to effectively out-do the "Gideons", who have labored so mightily to ensure that no motel room was without a copy of the Bible. After a few years, bible sites proliferated on the web. Now, a casual search will reward you with various searchable versions in your favorite language. I finally took down my plain, no-frills bible site, but not before compressing it and storing it all on a 1.44Mb floppy disk complete with my own reading program. I still carry it in my shirt pocket. I give them away to anyone. You just have to ask.

In the intervening years, Bible study on the web has continued to improve. For your inspiration, I have created an ecumenical synthesis representing this improvement. (It requires a late version of Internet Explorer for proper viewing.) <http://www.geocities.com/bshane39/joshua.htm>

What you will see is a triple-frame. The Old Testament in Hebrew (Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia-1008, you will be prompted for a font-download), the King James Version (English-1611), and the Revised Standard Version (English-1952). You can drag and re-size any of the frames to obscure or promote the version of your choice. The careful bible scholar will discern that subtle differences exist in virtually every line of the different versions. That is why exegesis is necessary. Regardless of your conclusions regarding the different interpretations, you find yourself immersed in the "Greatest Story Ever Told".

You vicariously experience creation, conflict, tragedy, life, and death. For me, the message is the importance of Faith, Family, and Friends. It's a good read. ☺

ACGNJ Webmaster seeks paid part-time work in ColdFusion, HTML, or website maintenance (webmaster). Please call Jo-Anne Head at 908-769-7385 evenings/weekends or write tinarock@aol.com.

Dealsguy, *continued*

How About A Better Clipboard

I've written about two popular replacements for the old "one-at-a-time" Windows Clipboard including the ever-popular "Clipmate," but those cost money. How about a FREE clipboard capable of storing a library of items! Its called ClipBook from Microsoft. I looked it up and found it on PC World's Web site but it may also be available elsewhere <http://www.pcworld.com/hereshow/article/0,aid,15608,00.asp>. If you have a problem finding it, I did a search for "[clipbk.exe](#)" at the download area. If you have Windows 98, I'm told it's on some versions of the installation disk, but I didn't see it on mine. Read the instructions because you must remove ClipBook Viewer first. I have not tried it, but hooray for good free stuff.

Unzip Files With a Freebie

In the Space Coast PC UG's Journal, Ron Ingraham imparted this tidbit he received from Barbara Czenthe. Many of us use the popular WinZip for decompressing zip files. However, if you continue using WinZip, you are asked to pay a registration fee. WinZip is well worth the price, but here is an alternative. It's "Power Archiver 2000" which is said to be almost identical to WinZip. It is available absolutely FREE, and according to the description does everything WinZip does. Go to <http://www.pcnineoneone.com/pokpok/arcpok.html> — click on Productivity Utilities, (which doesn't look like hypertext). You should find it on the resulting list. I haven't had time to try it yet, but you certainly can.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click (dealsguy@mindspring.com). Visit my Web site at <http://www.dealsguy.com> for past columns. Also, I keep adding interesting articles (taken from user group newsletters) to my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading. ☺



My Adventures with DSL

Vic Laurie, PPCUG

I am going to depart from writing about Windows to describe my experience with installing and using Digital Subscriber Line (DSL or to be more technically precise, ADSL, where A means asymmetric). This will be a purely personal saga with no attempt at covering most of the technical detail. Nonetheless, I hope my experience will be of some use to those who might be contemplating whether to install DSL.

As the Internet makes heavier use of fancy graphics and multimedia, broadband access is becoming increasingly of interest. Also, a lot of software seems to be growing and growing so that downloads of 10 Mbytes and more are common. For example, some of Microsoft's patches and upgrades are no longer feasible on a 56k modem dial-up unless you are prepared to take hours for a download. For these reasons and the simple desire to do things faster, I decided about a year and a half ago to upgrade my Internet service. A number of my acquaintances in this area had broadband Internet service through cable access, either with Comcast or @Home. They seemed quite happy with the results and Bell Atlantic (soon to become Verizon) had not yet provided DSL in Princeton where I live. (For those unfamiliar with DSL, it is a way to obtain broadband Internet service over ordinary copper-wire telephone lines.) So I decided to get a cable Internet connection. I was astonished to discover, however, that the Princeton cable provider RCN had not yet seen fit to prepare for the modern world. RCN hadn't (and as far as I know still hasn't) provided for two-way communication on its cable system. Here in one of the scientific centers of the world, RCN was still using the antediluvian system that requires a telephone link for the upload side of the connection. Further, they had no real plan to upgrade in the foreseeable future.

Thus, I abandoned any notion of using cable and decided to wait for Verizon to bring DSL to Princeton. Their maintenance trucks had been blocking traffic all over town for years so I assumed they must be rewiring the whole place. I signed up to be notified whenever service did become available and was assured it would be soon. There were other companies who provide DSL service but since they all would have to use Verizon's lines anyway, I saw no point in complicating things by involving two different companies. Also, many of these third-party providers have been going broke, something that seemed unlikely to happen to Verizon. (I should point out that DSL is only possible if your telephone is within roughly 5 miles or so from a station but that was not a problem where I live.)

As I waited for the arrival of the dawn of my new era in Internet service, I began to read about DSL service in various places and the news was not good. There were numerous horror stories of outages, bad service, inept personnel, and general incompetence. Verizon figured in many of these accounts. I began to get cold feet and wonder if maybe 56k would just have to do. So when Verizon notified me that DSL had finally come to Princeton, I hesitated. I was not reassured when I heard from a family friend in New Hampshire that the Verizon technician there had trashed her computer while he

was trying to install DSL service. I decided to let the matter rest while I spent this past winter traveling.

On my return I found an offer from Verizon of an installation kit including network card, modem, and DSL filters. The filters keep the high-frequency DSL signal out of any conventional equipment that you wish to use on the same line. It is possible to use a regular telephone or modem at the same time as the DSL. For example, my wife could be on line to her dial-up AOL account at the same time I was using DSL or I could make a telephone call while I was on the Web. The kit was free if I did the installation myself and signed up for a year. (I don't know if this offer still exists.) Since I had no intention of letting any Verizon technician come anywhere near my computer, the self-installation part was no problem. Having to sign up for a year was mitigated by a 30-day period during which I could cancel without charge. Despite the continuing barrage of problem stories appearing on the Web, I decided to go for it, figuring that the 30 day grace period would give me enough time to either get the kinks out or to call the whole thing off. I called the special Verizon number and signed up. I was given a date four weeks later when the DSL service would be turned on from the central office and I was told that the installation kit would arrive in a few days. The next day I received e-mail confirmations of the date when service would be available and of the shipping of the installation kit. In three more days I had the kit with network card, modem, DSL filters, software, and instructions. The network card was plugged into a PCI slot and my Windows 98SE system had no problem recognizing the card. (The biggest problem was getting a recalcitrant computer cover off and back on but that is another story having nothing to do with DSL or Verizon). There were half a dozen DSL filters, more than I needed and I put them wherever they were needed (before the telephone, before the dial-up modem, etc.) The instructions that came with the kit gave the configurations of the network protocols and clients that had to be made (you have to add VPN, for example) but said to wait to configure until service was turned on. Also the software package that came was to be installed after service was available. The DSL external "modem" box seemed to work and to communicate with the network card (no input yet, of course). So far, so good. Now I had to wait for the service date.

A week or so before the scheduled date, I received another e-mail reminding me of the scheduled date and time. Finally, the big day arrived and at 6:10 PM (the scheduled time was 6 PM) I looked to see if the modem had input. No luck, so I tried again at 6:30. This time all systems seemed to be ready. Having configured the network protocols and clients according to instructions, I began the software installation. At this point I should say something about the nature of the software. Increasingly, DSL services are using what is known as PPPoE (Point-to-Point Protocol over Ethernet — see <http://www.faqs.org/rfcs/rfc2516.html>). This technique uses TCP/IP and allows the provider to do dynamic rather than static addressing, letting the provider get by with fewer

continued

addresses. The DSL connection appears as a connectoid in Windows Dial-Up Networking just as if it were a regular ISP connection. Although the DSL signal is always available on the telephone line (hopefully) the connection to the computer is not always on. After turning off the computer, the connection has to be reestablished next time you boot up. This is done by “dialing” but the connection is very fast. Each time you are assigned a new IP address (a good safety feature, incidentally). A widely used PPPoE program is called WinPoet and that is what Verizon provides on their setup disk.

Unfortunately, the Verizon setup disk also insists on installing the Netscape browser. There is no choice, no option. I was not happy about this since I have become a confirmed Internet Explorer user. I knew that Netscape was going to change all my settings, including e-mail, but I figured that I would just go back and redo them. I had burned a Norton Ghost image of my system to CDs and copied the Registry to a safe place so I was ready to install. The setup began well enough with WinPoet going in first but right after Netscape was installed and some configuration of the connection started up, Netscape began repeatedly crashing my Win 98 SE system. Uttering a few oaths about the dubious ancestry of whoever designed the installation disk, I called up the Verizon 24-hour help line. (It was about 8 PM). I was put on hold. While waiting, I managed to stabilize my computer by getting rid of Netscape and reverting to Internet Explorer. I also was able to figure out how to use WinPoet and got the connection configured by manually entering things like my User ID, the e-mail POP and STMP servers, *etc.* The procedure was done exactly the same way as for a dial-up through Internet Explorer and Outlook Express settings. The account information was provided on a Web page from Verizon during the setup, which I fortunately managed to catch. Presumably, if Netscape had not messed up the installation, the configuration would have been done automatically (but using Netscape, of course). After I pretty much had things running, I finally got through to Verizon (about 30 minutes waiting on hold). I explained that Netscape had been crashing. I was told to remove it (I already had. Why was it installed in the first place?). I thanked the tech and hung up. Having learned my lesson, I set up a connection on another computer with nary a problem. The secret? I didn't use Verizon's installation procedure. I installed WinPoet by itself and configured a few settings manually through the usual Windows methods.

There **was** one last hitch. I noticed that there were periods when the connection to the Internet seemed to hang for 15 or 20 seconds. Then it dawned on me that I had forgotten to assign a permanent IP address to the network card. The delays were caused by the card spending time getting an address assigned to it. (I have discussed this problem at <http://pages.zdnet.com/hampsi/Articles/hurry.htm>). I recognized the problem only because I had been reading material on the Web at sites such as DSL Reports, <http://www.dslreports.com/>. The Verizon instruction book (it has 172 pages) does mention the problem, but only as an afterthought on page 161. I only know where it is because, after having recognized the problem, I looked to see if it was mentioned anywhere in the manual.

At the time of this writing I have been using DSL for a little over a month. My service is the basic one at \$40/month. (Verizon has announced a rate-increase, however.) The DSL service also includes up to 150 hours a month of a dial-up service for use when DSL is down or when on computers without DSL capability. Verizon has local numbers scattered from Washington, DC to Maine. However, the distribution is uneven. How fast things download with DSL is still a function of how busy the other end is and what Internet conditions are like in general. Other things being equal, I am getting typical download speeds of about ten times what I can get with a good-quality 56k dial-up connection. Uploads are only 2 or 3 times faster (hence the “asymmetric” part of ADSL). Faster speeds are available if you pay more. I have tried some of the tweaks such as changing RWIN but it hasn't made much difference. A thorough discussion of all the tweaking possibilities is at <http://www.speedguide.net/>. System reliability has been pretty good. To my knowledge, there have been two periods of service outages of 4 or 5 hours.

All in all, I am very happy that I have changed to DSL and I would certainly be loath to go back to ordinary dial-up. I download a lot and 10 Mbyte files faze me no longer. Except for their installation disk, so far I am quite satisfied with Verizon. Judging from my brief contacts with their service personnel and stories I have heard, however, I doubt if one can expect much technical help. Anyone who wants DSL would be wise to make sure to understand what is involved in the installation process. And be absolutely sure to back up your system beforehand. ☐

Undocumented Tips

from ZDNet Smart Business

PROBLEM: Many sites use frames despite the practice's unpopularity. How can you get a given frame to display as a Web page outside of the frame context?

SOLUTION: Netscape Navigator makes this easy. Right-click inside the target frame and choose Open Frame in New Window from the pop-up menu. Internet Explorer is a bit trickier. Right-click inside the frame, then click on the Properties option. Next select the Address (URL) as displayed on the General tab. Right-click on the URL and select copy. In IE paste the URL into the address bar and press enter.

PROBLEM: Is there a Web site to help you determine what type of motherboard you need for a new system?

SOLUTION: Motherboard HomeWorld offers Mobot (<http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?102370:2139974>), a tool that lets you “build” the best motherboard for your needs. You make choices via drop-down list boxes: platform, form factor, chipset, manufacturer, processor type, L2 cache, expansion slots, memory type, and on-board (audio, IDE, LAN, SCSI, video). Once you get some hits, you can sort them by manufacturer, part number, platform, chipset, form, or average price.

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CD-Maker 2000 Professional

Dick Freymoyer

In a previous article, I mentioned problems I had with NTI's CD-Maker 2000. With some help from their tech service, I found the cause of the problem, and to make a long story short, it does work very well and for the price is a fine program. I received it bundled with a purchased burner drive, after having problems, I became caught up in trying to find the best CD Burner. CD-Maker 2000 Professional is my latest acquisition. CD-Maker 2000 is a product of New Tech Infosystems, Inc (NTI) in California.. The Professional version is designed not only for professionals, but is also useful for us, although the basic CD-Maker 2000 is probably all the average end user will need, since most of us really don't need (or even understand) some of the items included in the Pro Version.

System Requirements are Win 95/98/ME, NT & 2000; with a 486/33 or higher processor; 16 MB RAM and 20 MB hard drive space available. The program installed quickly, and the first thing I did was to look for an update of the program, which I found to be version 4.2.68. The update also installed fast and easy. NTI's CD-Maker 2000 Professional Edition, includes 12 powerful components in one box: CD Copy, Data CD, Audio CD, Video CD, Mixed Mode, CD Extra, Custom CD, Live Audio, Session Explorer, Erase CD, File CD and Jewel Case Maker.

Preventing failure

- 1-Be sure the source disk is not dirty or scratched.
- 2-Don't use low quality CDR media. Use major brands like Kodak, Maxell, Memorex, Sony, TDK, etc.
- 3-Copy at 2X, and when the copy is completed, compare the copy with the source CD.
- 4-Buffer Under-Run Error means you are not getting a steady flow of data to your CDRW drive. Use your hard drive's buffer to provide the data instead of your CD drive. Shut down unneeded programs from your Start-Up-File (Anti-Virus protection, Screen Savers, and any other programs that are running in the background.)
- 5-Clean out your Windows\Temp folder to eliminate any chance that the Temp Folder will become overfilled.
- 6-Download the latest firmware for your CDRW drive from the manufacturer's Web Site.
- 7-Do not install your CDRW drive to run from the same IDE Controller as your Hard Drive.
- 8-Most CDRW drives support Direct Access (DMA), so enable it under its properties in the Control Panel.
- 9-Run ScanDisk on your hard drive, then Defrag the drive.

Working Around Copy Protection

There are two common copy protection schemes:

- 1-Creating a Read Error somewhere on the CD disk. Most writing software will validate the disk prior to making a copy and would fail on read error. If the writing program has an option to "Ignore Source Media read errors"; this will almost assure you a clean copy. CD-Maker 2000 has this option built into it.

2-Causing the TOC (table of contents) to report more than 700MBs. The work around is to use the "Over Burning" option. Some Writer programs have this option built in. CD-Maker2000 does not have this feature, but the next issue will include this option.

Using the Components

CD Copy enables you to copy one CD to another CD. An example of this would be copying a program like Street Atlas's Data disk to a blank disk. Since I had some problems with the basic CD-Maker 2000 program, I am using a CDRW disk that runs at 4X max Speed for this test. I clicked on the CD Copy Icon and the page opened up showing my Toshiba CD Reader as the source and my A-Open as my Target. On the left-hand side of the screen, there are two rather large buttons marked Step 1 and Step 2, with the Step 1 being in a depressed position. (All recording functions use these two steps.) Under the description of the Toshiba CD Reader and information on the source disk is a box that you check to copy an image file from the CD to the hard drive. I usually check this box if I am given a choice; it reduces errors. Under the Target drive description, it tells you the type of disk you have in the drive. When ready, I press the #2 Step button and a new box opens up. In this box are 3 different ways to do this step: **Test** (No Actual Writing), **Test & Write** and **Write**. Since I am using a CDRW disk, I choose **Write**. Below are the speeds available. I had two choices, 4X or 2X, and I chose 4X. The next line down is Copies, where you type in the number of copies you want and just below is a button called Advanced. In advanced setup there is Smart decision (Let the program decide), Track-At-Once with 3 options (Close session, leave disk open; Leave session and disk open & Close session & disk), Session-At-Once & Disk-At-Once. I chose Smart Decision since I wanted to check out how smart the program was, and a check mark appeared behind Disk-at-Once. The copy of the data disk was a failure and I don't have a clue why. My next try was to record Street Atlas's Setup disk, I checked the DAO box, and told it to record at 2X. It took about 4 minutes to make the image file and about 30.5 minutes to do the recording. This write failed also. The Technical Support Manager said that my windows ASPI files may have been corrupted by the Adaptec/Roxio program I have on my computer. He suggested I uninstall all CD Writing Programs and restore 3 ASPI files from my Windows disk. I will cover this later on under comments. I decided to try the program on my main computer, although I did replace all the ASPI files on this computer.

After replacing the ASPI files, on my main computer with a SCSI Burner installed, I started the CD Copy function. After the recording was finished, I did a compare test between the original CD disk and the copy. It was my first good copy. I then made a copy of Microsoft Casino program using CD Copy. The first copy was good, or at least so the program said, but it wouldn't work on autorun. I ran Compare Files and found it was missing something in the Autorun.INF and the Casino.PDF files. I did find that I could install the program,

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even though it doesn't autorun. A Microsoft Lock on the program? Maybe. The original CD disk looks perfect. To make sure the program was making good copies, I recorded the data disk from Street Atlas and MS Streets & Trips, and both were perfect.

Data CD: This is started by clicking on the Data CD Icon, and you are asked if the disk is a new disk or an existing one. Since I want to create a new CD Data disk I selected this. Data CD is used to save your data from whatever software programs you use. I selected "My Data" Files and it worked perfectly. Then I added a few more files to make sure the session was open and I could record or replace data on the CD. This also worked without a problem.

Audio CD: The easiest way to copy an entire CD Music disk to CD disk is to use the Track bar, go to Add, click on the CD drive holding the music CD disk and window the tracks you want to record. This function is common to most programs I have seen. I was able to get a perfect reproduction of the original CD music disk.

Video CD: is used to create video clips on a CD disk

Mixed Mode : Allows you to record a data file and audio files in a single session. This feature is used for making games with data and audio tracks on one disk. It is designed for the high end CD authoring/programming user.

CD Extra contains two sessions, the first having anywhere from 1 to 98 audio tracks and the second containing a data track. After an artist does an audio recording, a small program is included at the end of the music for the buyer to watch. This is also designed for the high end CD authoring/programming user.

Custom CD: Allows you to create image files written as a complete track. The beauty of this is that you can arrange the files in whatever order you wish.

Live Audio speaks for itself. Input can be a microphone, an amplifier, or any other source that you can think of. I tried dubbing (successfully) some music through a microphone with live music in the background.

Session Explorer allows you to browse through your CD sessions on a CD Disk

Erase CD is used to erase CDRW disks.

File CD allows you to add files, delete files, and rename files and folders on your created CDRW disks, as long as you don't close the session and disk.

Jewel Case Maker lets you make jewel cases covers and inserts or disk labels.

The Cause (and Cure) of the Problems

Adaptec/Roxio changed three files, overwriting them with their data: WINASPI.DLL & WNASPI.DLL located in the C:\Windows\System Folder and the third file APSI.VXD that resides in the C:\Windows\System\Osbsys folder.

In Windows 98, you have to go to System File Checker, click on extract one file from your Windows 98 CD disk, and save it to C:\windows\System for the two DLL files, and do the same

for the ASPI.VXD, saving it to the Windows\System\Osbsys folder. I did not save the old files.

In Windows ME, you go to your System Configuration Utility, click on extract one file, type in WINASPI.DLL, click on Start, in the restore window tell it where to find the file (Windows ME CD or on your CAB files on the hard drive), in the save field type in Windows\System and say OK. It will try to save the replaced file, but I didn't save it. You do the same for the next two files, saving ASPI.VXD to C:\Windows\System\Osbsys folder.

Note: CD-Maker 2000 Professional Edition, does not overwrite these files, it uses Windows standard ASPI files.

What do ASPI files do? ASPI means Advanced SCSI Programming Interface. ASPI is a software driver/ program that allows applications to talk directly with the SCSI or ATAPI device. Common devices that use the ASPI layer are Tape Drives, SCSI Scanners, ZIP Dives, and of course Writers.

My Likes and Dislikes

The manual with the program is okay, but not like a full one, though it does tell you how to use the different modes of copying to a CD. As with many programs today, you have to dig into the help menus for what I consider important facts about how the program works and settings/functions of utilities. I would have liked a full manual. I could have printed out the User's Guide (175 + pages), but for me that wasn't practical.

I found NTI's Technical Services very good — I asked for help and got great help, although it took several tries to find out what the real problem was. Most users would not have several duplicate burner programs on their computers, so I had an odd-ball problem, caused by another program that changed Windows system files without warning.

Under the tools menu you can check on details of your CD drives. You are able to see the model number of the drive and its firmware version. I like having this information at my fingertips, so I can check for updates on the Web. (If your Burner doesn't display this information you can find it under Control Panel\System|Device Manager|CDROM|Settings. Another item I like about CD-Maker 2000 Professional, is that if you have a Burn-Proof Drive it will tell you.

I think the Jewel Case Maker needs some work. Although it was easy to run, I think they should offer you more graphics for the covers and also for disk labels. The CD label only gives you one template — the label must be centered on the paper. Why not give you several templates and layouts? The CD labels I use are not centered on the paper, so I can't use the label maker, unless I buy different labels. There are several manufactures of covers and labels, and it would be nice to have layouts for the different brands. I do like the way they took the work out of setup part of the covers and labels.

Since a full copy of the users guide is not provided, you can get instant help by clicking on the help button whatever screen page you are working on. In the upper section of the screen at the task bar are two ?? boxes, one has an arrow with it. When you click on it and point to any function, you see an explanation of what it does.

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SIG News

Main Meeting

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

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

June 1: Web Technologies (Dynamic HTML, Cascading Style Sheets, XML, XHTML, SSL) and the use of these technologies to do “neat” things to a website with very little effort. Host Mike Barlow.

Changes and updates will be posted to our website ☞

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)

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

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. We meet at 8 PM the first Monday of the month. ☞

VBA & Excel

Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

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

VBA is currently implemented in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Project and Microsoft Access. In the future, Microsoft will implement VBA in Word and PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any one of the Microsoft Office products and VBA is urged to attend. We meet at 7 PM on the third Monday of even-numbered months. ☞

Symposium

John Raff (jraff@home.com)

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

June: to be announced. Watch our Web page. ☞

Random Access

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

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

Those of us who have been involved in computer user groups for a long time remember when the Random Access Session was the only source of information about your particular computer. Although PCs and the software that runs on them are pretty much standardized now, users occasionally have problems or want more information. Random Access is for everyone. There is no such thing as a dumb question. Everyone usually benefits from the discussed topics regardless of their level of expertise. Many of the regulars can help you solve your problem, or at least get you started in the right direction. This is an official “Newbies too” group. ☞

Lotus Notes

Mike Barlow (mwb@injersey.com)

<http://www.njlnug.org/njlnugweb.nsf/pages/homepage>

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month at the offices of Bright Ideas Software, 1060 Amboy Avenue, 2nd Floor, Edison NJ and start at 7 PM (Random Access starts at 6:30). Bright Ideas has graciously provided us with a voice mail line for information on future meetings, locations, directions, etc. Call (732)417-5778 for last-minute changes, cancellations, etc. Directions are posted on our Web page. ☞

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

<http://www.webspan.net/~redlich/javasig/>

The new Java Users Group made its debut in February. It is a forum for discussion of beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications, but can include related topics such as object-oriented programming and software design issues. Meetings start promptly at 7:30 PM with a short random access session followed by the main presentation. ☞

PC Users Group

Steve Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com)

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

We focus on any topic that touches on personal computers. Some meetings are fairly technical and some are oriented to newbies. Our members reflect this mix. Come out and get to know us — we’re friendly. See news of previous meetings at our Website. ☞

Web Development

Jim Wong (webdev@acgnj.org)

<http://member.apcug.org/acgnj/webdev/>

A new SIG on web development (WebDev?) had their kickoff meeting on March 19, and will meet on the third Monday of odd-numbered months. On the even-numbered months, the Excel/VBA SIG, led by Jim Ditaranto, will hold their meetings. They are redirecting more of their activities toward the Web, so the two groups should have much in common.

This SIG is intended for those who have written HTML and been involved in some type of development. Our objective is open ended but primarily revolves around technologies related to web development on the Microsoft platform. This may include things like IIS, ASP, tools, utilities, CSS, JavaScript, XML, VB, and database.

Watch our Website for news of the next meeting. ☞

continued

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

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

The goals of the C/C++ User's Group are 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, and to discuss hardware, software, code, algorithms, operating systems. We strive to present the complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper, and sample code is posted on our Web page after each demonstration. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)

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

We meet on the second Monday of the month (except July and August) to discuss issues of interest to novice users or those who are planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. ☐

Summer Break Time

Take note — some SIGs operate through July and August, and some take the summer off. To avoid a disappointing wasted trip to Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, please confirm that there will actually be a meeting. Check the Web page, or inquire via email or telephone. The normal schedule of meetings will resume in September. Have a great summer, and don't forget to write. ☐



Genealogy

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

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

Genealogy SIG is for genealogists interested in computers and computer users interested in genealogy, and is a forum to assist members in furtherance of both endeavors. Meetings usually focus on genealogy more than on computers. We meet at 8 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month.

In addition to our Web page, we also have an electronic mailing list. Messages to the list should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com. To subscribe, include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☐

Internet

Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org)

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

May 3: We didn't have a meeting this month because of the proximity to the Trenton Computer Festival.

June 7: Meeting will start at 7:30 for newbies and 8 PM for the old timers. We'll catch up on all that has happened with Napster and now Aimster and all the other stuff that we missed. And, of course, there will probably be gems contributed by our seconds, Alex and David. See you there. ☐

MCP

(Preparation for Microsoft Certification Exams)

Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net)

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

We meet Wednesdays from 7 pm to 10 pm except the fourth Wednesday of the month. We review typical exam questions. Attendees 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, but help prepare for the exam. Meetings are hands-on and everyone is expected to participate. For more info, reading assignments, course schedule, visit our website. ☐

Macintosh Users Group

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

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

This group is no longer meeting, but Keith is still available to help Mac users via telephone or email. ☐

Investing

Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com)

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

May 10: Ms. Kelly Pan spoke to our group on Hedge Funds — Benefits and Limitations. Ms. Pan is the fund manager for Pantheon Partners L.P.. Pantheon Partners is a conservatively managed value oriented technology-hedge fund. The fund specializes in finding "Diamonds in the Rough". Ms Pan explained in great detail how a hedge fund differs from other (e.g. mutual) funds. All present learned a good deal about the way the market works and how a fund manager approaches the problem of both picking good investments and keeps the fund portfolio structured to continue making profits. There were many questions from SIG members, all of which were answered thoroughly by Kelly.

Ms. Pan has a good background both in education and experience for running Pantheon Partners L.P. The fund returns are impressive in both up and down markets. Kelly is an excellent speaker and both has extensive market experience and can explain those experiences in easily understood terms. Overall, this was one of the best meetings that we have ever had. ☐

Text-to-Speech Conversion

Cass Lewart (rlewart@monmouth.com)

More than 3 years ago I wrote an article about a text-to-speech conversion program called Monolog, which was created by First Byte Corporation in the early 90s and has been licensed to sound card manufacturers. Although the program came bundled with my sound card with no instructions I was able to use it to proofread a book I was then writing about modems. I fed the Monolog program ASCII text, and out came a robot-like, more or less understandable male voice booming over my computer sound system.

Proofreading is one of several steps you have to follow when writing an article or a book. The first step is to sweat and sweat until you finally complete your manuscript. Then you send the manuscript to your publisher hoping never to see it again before it appears in print. Well, if you send it to a reputable publisher you won't be so lucky. Assuming that your work is accepted, it will come back to hound you after a few weeks or months, full of corrections, additions, suggestions and changes. To make sure that none of your great thoughts got lost in the process you should proofread the revised manuscript and compare it with the original submission. Proofreading is also required when you manually enter data into a database or a spreadsheet and would like to check the results against the original hard copy. In either case somebody has to read from the hard copy and compare it with the computer file, or vice versa. Asking your spouse to read aloud from a boring spreadsheet or manuscript can be detrimental to your marriage. A much better solution is to let the computer "read" and do your own proofreading.

A text-to-speech conversion program is also helpful if you have a visual impairment, or if you would just like to curl up and let the computer read to you.

Last year I attended a computer show called SpeechTek at the New York Hilton. The show was dedicated to voice recognition and other voice applications such as text-to-speech conversion. I experimented with two interesting text-to-speech conversion programs from Fonix and Eloquent Corporations. Both programs presented big improvements over the original Monolog. The computer generated speech is now more natural, has good inflections, and is easier to understand. The user can choose between male and female voices, and adjust volume, speed and pitch. Both programs have many "smarts" — if a column in the spreadsheet has heading "Jan" it will be pronounced as "January." An entry of "\$55.25" is pronounced as "Fifty-five dollars and twenty-five cents."

Input to both programs is an ASCII text file. If you want to "read" a spreadsheet you should first save it in comma delimited format or copy it to the clipboard. Both programs let you create your own pronunciation dictionaries. The Eloquent program is geared towards developers rather than end users by giving "hooks" to the conversion engine. Modules for various languages are also available. For more information go to <http://www.eloq.com/>.

The iSpeak program from Fonix is self contained and is marketed to end users. Fonix will give you on request a 30 day demonstration CD. When you purchase a license, currently



\$99, you will get a password for unlimited use. After installing it you will see a window as shown in Figure 1. You can select the File, Clipboard or Keyboard mode. In the File mode the complete file is "read", in the Clipboard mode the program "reads" the contents of the clipboard. In the Keyboard mode you just type — when you are finished, you press Enter and the program "reads" to you what you just wrote. For more information, to listen to a demonstration, to request a demo CD or to download the iSpeak program go to <http://www.fonix.com/>



ZDNet Tips, *continued from page 8*

PROBLEM: You're looking for some good online resources about motherboards.

SOLUTION: First, check out Tom's Hardware Mainboard Guide for plenty of current information on motherboards (<http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?100446:2139974>), and bookmark Motherboard HomeWorld (<http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?100445:2139974>), a tremendous resource for motherboard information including a listing of all major motherboard manufacturers and their contact information (including URLs), articles, info on BIOS upgrades, editor's choice items, forums, guides, manuals, motherboard ID tools, news, price comparisons, reviews, and more.

PROBLEM: You need to upgrade the RAM in your computer or printer, and you want to get exactly the right type and quantity.

SOLUTION: Go to Kingston Technology's home page (<http://cgi.zdnet.com/slink?100257:2139974>) and use the free Find the Memory You Need tool. You can search by manufacturer, part number, or generic memory. Kingston provides memory for desktops, notebooks, servers, workstations, routers, and printers as well as flash memory.

Guru Corner

Jo-Anne Head

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

	Hardware	
	Scott Vincent	973-361-5793
	Software	
HTML	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
CSS	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
ASP	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
Perl	John Raff	973-533-0664
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	732-469-2072
e-Commerce	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Networking	Scott Vincent	973-361-5793
Home Automation	Charlie Huffsmith	732-549-1734
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Operating Systems	
WindowsNT	Scott Vincent	973-361-5793
Windows95	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Windows98	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Windows3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
	Charlie Huffsmith	732-549-1734
	Macintosh	
Mac O/S	Keith Sproul	(732) 821-4828

CD Maker, *continued from page 10*

Updates from NTI's web site are easy to find and install. NTI has a trouble-shooting Guide on their web site, which I found very helpful. I suggest you take the time to look at it.

CD-Maker configures the AIN (Auto-Insert Notification) feature to defeat this Windows option when you use it and enables the AIN feature again when you close CD-Maker. I like how easy it is to start any of the different recording modes. All in all NTI's CD-Maker 2000 Professional is a great program, and it will do all that you would want or need to do. You can download a trial program from their web site free, and if you decide you love it, you can buy it for \$49.99, almost 30% discount. The boxed program can be purchased from the Web Site, CompUSA, Circuit City, Frys, RCS, Hastings, Datavision and Microcenter for the \$69 price.

Version 5, which is just being released, will include the following new features:

1 - "Overburn Support"! Some drives support overburning a CD a couple of additional minutes (not to be confused with 80 minute CD's, which can be overburned to 83 minutes)

2 - FileCD, which is their packet writing software (turns the CDRW media into a big 650 MB floppy) inside CD Maker, will now support UDF format as well as ISO9660 format. You can also write a file directly to the CD through the "Send To" function.

3 - A "Troubleshooting Guide", in PDF format which is accessed like a full manual.

4 - For video, support for SVCD (MPEG2) as well as standard VCD (MPEG1).

5 - The writing engine will support the 24X+ writing speeds entering the market this year.

CD-Maker 2000 Professional is produced by New Tech Infosystems (<http://www.ntius.com>), 1395 Warner Ave, Tustin, CA 92780. ☐

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

Mail this application and your check to:

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

New Member Renewal Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

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, Room 100 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. (732-739-9633) www.bcug.com	Macintosh User Group: Third Tuesday, Dickson Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org .
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 2101 Chapel Ave., Cherry Hill NJ after 7pm Main Meeting. http://www.pcugsj.com	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 Monday, 2101 Chapel Ave, Cherry Hill NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360. http://www.pcugsj.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel Univ., 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, (201) 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 (609) 466-1530, http://pluto.njcc.com/~ppcug
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.		

Classified

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



<http://www.apcug.org>

Radio and TV Programs

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

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

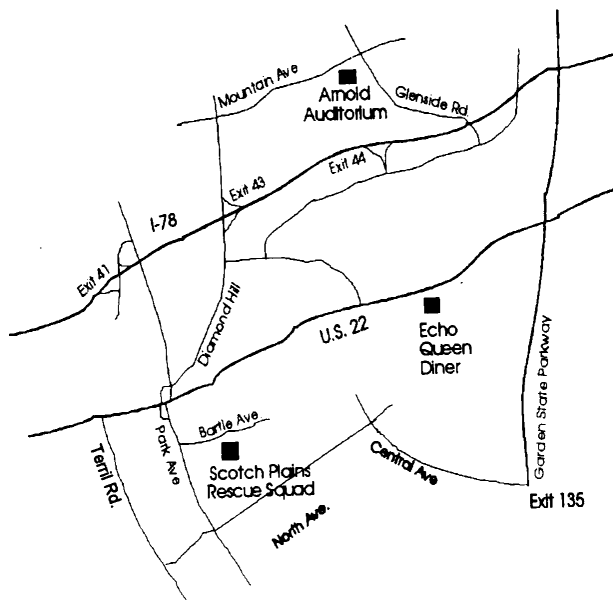
PC Talk, Sunday from 8p.m. to 10 p.m., on 1210 AM Philadelphia.

KGP Computer Shows

(For more information visit <http://www.peshow.com>)

June 9-10: New Jersey Convention Center, Edison, New Jersey

June 16: South Jersey Expo Center, Pennsauken, NJ



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

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take 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, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

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

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use 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). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

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

ACGNJ NEWS

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ACGNJ MEETINGS

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

Friday, June 1, 2001

8 P.M. - Main Meeting, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net) Friday, June 1, 2001

Monday, June 4

8 P.M. - Lunics. Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org).

Wednesday, June 6

MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-361-5793

Thursday, June 7

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

Friday, June 8

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

Monday, June 11

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

Tuesday, June 12

7:30 P.M. - Java, Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

Wednesday, June 13

MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-361-5793

Thursday, June 14

8 P.M. - Computerized Investing, Sheldon Koepf (sheldonk@intac.com), 201-741-2489

Friday, June 15

8 P.M. - PC Users Group, Steve Rodriguez (help72@bigfoot.com).

Monday, June 18

8 P.M. - VBA, Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

Tuesday, June 19

8 P.M. - C/C++ Users, Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net), 908-735-7898

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes, Mike Barlow (barlowm@bright-ideas.com), (732) 417-5778 ext 5. Meetings at Bright Ideas offices.

Wednesday, June 20

MCP Study Group, Scott Vincent (scottvin@optonline.net), 973-361-5793

Friday, June 22

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

Thursday, June 28

8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com), 908-756-1681



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