

Established
1983
Incorporated
1988



MBUG-PC NEWSLETTER

Volume 17, Number 10

October 2000



October's MBUG General Meeting is on Friday, October 6, 2000 at 7:30 P.M., at the Pacific Grove Adult Education Center, 1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove. This month's presenter is Russell J. Jacobsen of eGems.

Russell works for Gemteq Software Inc. in the business development domain as well as a sales and marketing representative. He graduated from the University of California at Davis with degrees in Organizational Studies and Psychology. He also studied Business at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Hong Kong. Prior to joining the Gemteq Software Team, Russell had work experience in the financial sector and in marketing with Morgan Stanley Dean Witter.

eGems is a software tool that helps the user organize and maintain facts, quotes, graphics, or any type of electronic information into a simple, graphical application...and it even tracks the reference source where the information came from so you can always go back to the source if you need to.

Right now eGems Collector is being promoted at several major universities, publishers and types of content aggregators. The presentation will consist of an introduction to the software, and its applications and uses. The program will also feature a Questions and Answer period, so come prepared.



Here is a link to the e-Gems website!
<http://www.egems.com/aboutus/contact.html>

Mark your calendar! Friday, October 6, 2000, at 7:30 P.M., at the Pacific Grove Adult Education Center, 1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove.

As always, there will be prizes plus coffee and drinks. Come and bring a friend!



Kristen Knutson,
MBUG-PC Program Chair
mcle@msn.com, www.mbug.org

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MBUG is presenting a number of Workshops and meetings this month. For information, go to pages 12 & 13, and the Calendar on page 15.

Our Thanks to

**Ramin Movahedi &
NextDayPC.com**
for the September program
See review on page 4.



MBUG-PC NEWSLETTER

The MBUG-PC Newsletter is published monthly by:

Monterey Bay Users Group - Personal Computer, Inc.

177 Webster Street, # A-354

Monterey, CA 93940

Answering Service Telephone (831) 373-6245

A nonprofit, tax-exempt, charitable, educational corporation.

A subscription to the Newsletter is \$25.00 per year for the printed, or \$20.00 for the electronic version, both for \$35.00.

(Subscription is not tax deductible)

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Rates for one month's insertion are:

One page: \$50.00 1/2 page: \$35.00

1/4 page: \$25.00 1/8 page: \$15.00

Special rate for business card ads (approximately 1/10 page):
\$30.00 for 6 issues or \$50.00 for 12 issues.

MBUG will publish at no charge classified ads for individual subscribers who have computer hardware or software for private sale.

For information on advertising, contact:

Bob Runkel brunkel@acm.org

Send newsletter contributions by the 15th of the month as an e-mail or an attached file to:

Newsletter Editor, Tom Streeter
tomstreeter@usa.net

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| Ed West | Webmaster, Listserv | 372-6200 | captain@mobie.com |

MBUG HOME PAGE: <http://www.mbug.org>

The **F1 FOR HELP** Program is manned by MBUG-PC volunteers who respond to members' e-mail or phone calls for help with computing problems. These volunteers, wearing **F1 FOR HELP** name tags, are also present at MBUG-PC general meetings and are available at the break to answer members' questions.



When possible, contact the **F1 FOR HELP** people by e-mail. When contacting by telephone on weekdays, try to call during the hours shown. Be considerate

about calling on weekends and holidays. F1 volunteers offer their services without compensation to anyone who asks for help, with the understanding that MBUG-PC, its Board of Directors, and the F1 volunteers themselves are in no way responsible or liable for the accuracy or the outcome of any advice or suggestions given to anyone requesting help.

MBUG Answering Service:

Jim Anway: (Please call Jim on Wednesday or Friday only)

Lee Keely: e-mail LeeKeely@mindspring.com

Bob Shanteau: e-mail shanteau@iname.com

Bob Stephan: e-mail bstephan@redshift.com

Clive Sanders: e-mail simbacli@pacbell.net

DAY PHONE

373-6245

625-5618

646-1899

375-5376

EVENING

373-6245

626-8033

394-9420

375-5376

HOURS

Call anytime

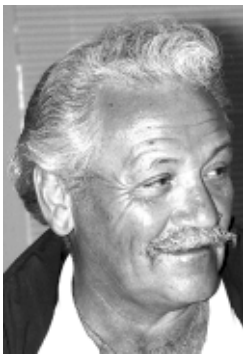
2:00 PM-5:00 PM

5:00 PM-9:00 PM

6:00 PM-9:00 PM

9:00 AM-5:00 PM

1:00 PM-9:00 PM



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

S. Jack Lewtschuk

THE CASE OF THE MISSING MICE - EPILOGUE

Just a short follow-up to the six months adventures which was reported to you in the July 2000 edition of the MBUG-PC Newsletter.

When Gateway asked me to send back the original package of ten Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorers, they assured me that the freight (\$17.05) would be refunded to me.

As I write this, two months later, I found out that the credit to my credit card was, finally, posted on August 15, more than two months after it was supposed to be done.

One of our members suggested that I ask you to complain about the terrible service and I agree. If you are inclined to do your part in an attempt to try and remind the businesses that the customer is important, you can send a letter to the Gateway Accessory Store customer service manager at the following address:

Mr. John Andrews
c/o Gateway Accessory Store
900 Cummings Center, Suite 107U
Beverly, MA 01915

COMPUTER SAFETY - PART 2

In addition to taking the usual precaution to prevent the loss of your computer through theft or burglary, you can invest in software which may not prevent the theft, but would make recovery of your computer and 95% of its contents assured.

Absolute Software of Vancouver, BC www.absolute.com, produces CompuTrace, a full-service monitoring, tracking and theft recovery solution for PCs (64 Kb).

CompuTrace runs on Windows 3.1, Windows 95, Windows 98 and Windows NT PCs.

The recovery system is based on a software program imbedded in the computer. This program is undetectable and tamper resistant. The thief, who might suspect that the computer is protected by CompuTrace, will not be able to find or delete the program, even if the hard drive is re-formatted or partitioned. The program can only be removed with special software and password.

When a CompuTrace computer is lost or stolen, the responsible person notifies the CompuTrace Monitoring Center. This causes the Monitoring Center to reply to the CompuTrace agent

with a more frequent Next Call Data Indicator. It also initiates the CompuTrace Recovery Service.

The geographical location of the missing computer is determined and the recovery is initiated. If it is believed that the computer is stolen, law enforcement or private security, if necessary, is furnished with enough information to obtain a warrant to recover your computer.

The location of the stolen computer may not be enough to initiate law enforcement participation in the recovery. The affidavit necessary to obtain a search warrant requires specific information, which is forwarded to the law enforcement agency by CompuTrace. This information includes:

- The make, model, serial number, ownership of the subject PC
- Details of the theft (where, when, investigating agency and police file numbers)
- The history of the stolen computer (prior to theft)
- How CompuTrace works
- CompuTrace statistics for both stolen and not stolen computers
- CompuTrace history of reliability and previous police usage
- Dates, times and numbers of calls made since being reported stolen
- Name and contact information of CompuTrace employee willing to testify to all of the above information

The cost? \$49.95 includes Tracking Agent software and one year of monitoring and recovery service. Two years: \$89.95, three years: \$119.95.



Extensive information is available at the Absolute web site

www.absolute.com, or by calling 1-800-220-0733.

MBUG-PC NEWSLETTER MAILING LABELS

Again, I would like to remind you, that the mailing label on your NEWSLETTER includes the expiration date of your membership (top right corner).

MBUG-PC 2001

With the help of the volunteers, MBUG-PC's board of directors and volunteer positions will be staffed in the year 2001.

Many thanks to all of you.

The staffing for 2001 will be announced, officially, before the end of 2000.

Although all board meetings are open to all members and the public, the November meeting (October 31) is designated as this year's "General Meeting of the Board of Directors." You are invited to attend.

President's Column concludes on page 4



President's Column continued from page 3

SMART COMPUTING

Just a reminder: Smart Computing Magazine is rebating \$5.00 to MBUG for each subscription which includes "8181" as the "source code." This is in effect regardless if the subscriber is an MBUG member or not.

Links to the Smart Computing home page and order page are on our web site.

Smart Computing Magazine is very easy to read and is one of few computer magazines which does not contain all the pages of advertisements.

VOLUNTEER CENTER OF MONTEREY COUNTY

Larry Miller, of The Community Computer Group, who is also an MBUG member, reports that the Group is now accepting the very old computers also, including 286 & 386 models, etc.

The group is also looking for old operating systems.

To contact Larry, call 831.394.8018 or write to larrym@pobox.com.

HUGH BAYLESS

I believe that many of you remember Hugh Bayless, MBUG member(#257), former president, treasurer, secretary, editor, columnist and our ambassador to Texas.

Hugh has undergone a major operation (six hours) and is now recovering in his home, under care of Scot and Trish, his son and daughter-in-law. Hugh's complete recovery will take some time, but, knowing Hugh, it will be complete and quicker than expected. ♦

S. Jack Lewtschuk
President of MBUG-PC
blacklion@royal.net

From THE the Editor



Tom Streeter

Note: Newsletter Editor Tom Streeter did not attend the September General Meeting, as he has been busy test-driving his new hip. The following review was contributed by MBUG President Jack Lewtschuk

SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING

Ramin Movahedi, president of www.NextDayPC.Com was the guest speaker at our September general meeting.

The presentation was rather unique, because it did not feature any specific products, neither hardware nor software, yet it was very interesting.

We heard a story about a very new company, which was started by a few entrepreneurs, who risked personal funds and created a business which offers computer related products at reasonable prices and no shipping charges.

Further, "NextDayPC" offers an opportunity for individuals to act as resellers and thus be able to buy products at an even lower price.

The most fascinating part of the presentation were the stories about the mistakes made and the means by which these, many, hurdles were conquered.

It looks like an idea, a little cash, some daring, and a determination to succeed are the ingredients necessary to parent another successful "Dot Com" company.

Find out more about this company at www.NextDayPC.com



NextDayPC.com is based on the Monterey Peninsula. Contact them at P.O.Box 221265, Carmel 93922
Phone: (831) 657-0122
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Arthur Smaal



Ramin Movahedi

WIN 98 & OTHER TIPS

from the F1 for HELP team

The MBUG F1 Help program and the Workshops provide a large measure of support for our members. We include tips from the free Web pages, tips relating to Win98 system operations & other software. It would be great if you would share with us your solution to an unusual computer problem.



From PC-World (Thought it only fair to offer a Netscape Tip.)
NEWS GROUP KEYBOARD SHORTCUTS

You can use a keyboard shortcut to post a response quickly or follow up a news group message. Select the message you wish to follow up and press **Ctrl-R**. This opens a New Message window. Type your response and click the **Send** button, or press **Ctrl-Enter**, to post it to the current news group.

To respond to the message both in the news group and to the original poster by e-mail (assuming he or she has provided an address), press **Ctrl-Shift-R**. However, the latter is generally not the preferred way to respond to a message and people often consider it rude. Be courteous and considerate, and no one will verbally thrash or flame you.

Tip from a reader of Bluelight.com for Office 97
IMPORTING TEXT INTO AN EXCEL WORKSHEET

"I have a large data file generated in Word. I would like to get this file into Excel, but when I try to import it, all the data appears in Excel in a single column. Is there a way to get this imported data into separate columns?"

There are several approaches to this problem. If all your data is in a Word table, you can select the table and press **Ctrl-C** to copy it to the Clipboard. Now move to a blank worksheet, click the starting cell, and press **Ctrl-V**. This should place all your data in columns.

If your data is not in a table but is tab defined, you can use the same approach—copy and paste.

If this doesn't work for you, go ahead and import the data just as you have been doing. Next, select the column that contains the data and choose **Data, Text To Columns**. Excel then opens a wizard that will guide you through the rest of the process.

Send your tips to: simbacli@pachell.net
 Clive Sanders is the "Hands On" Workshop Leader
 & Secretary/Treasurer of MBUG - PC



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

New Members Last Month

With the addition of the following members, our active MBUG-PC membership now stands at 247.

New Members:

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1117 | Clarke, Leo | 1116 | Peavey, Bernadette |
| 1118 | CafeMania.Net, Karen | 1114 | Corcoron, William |
| 1115 | Downing, Linda | | |

Renewals:

| | | | |
|------|-------------------|------|----------------------|
| 841 | Anway, Jim | 1064 | D'Attilio, Connie |
| 482 | Hamisch, Karin | 556 | Meyer, Carol |
| 475 | Petit, Pete | 473 | Rawitzer, Bud |
| 1059 | Rivera, Manuel G. | 1062 | Streeter, Thomas |
| 6 | Sullivan, Alberta | 1063 | Cocklin, Norma/Harry |
| 1065 | Craig, Martha | 1060 | Haag, Joanne |
| 936 | Wright, William | 643 | Handshy, Arden |

Your Donations Help!

The following persons have generously contributed to the MBUG Equipment Fund during the past month:

Member

| | | | |
|------|----------------------|------|-----------------|
| ---- | Anonymous | 1107 | Zeuge, Helma |
| 1118 | CafeMania.Net, Karen | 475 | Petit, Pete |
| 1063 | Cocklin, Norma/Harry | 936 | Wright, William |
| 1115 | Downing, Linda | 1057 | Cerulo, Nancy |
| 643 | Handshy, Arden | | |

We thank you for your continued support of MBUG and its objectives.

Subscription Choices

All MBUG-PC members get a subscription to our monthly Newsletter, and a choice of 3 delivery options:

1. Printed "hardcopy" in the mail \$25/yr.
2. Electronically via email and the web \$20/yr.
(our "Early Electronic Edition" or EEE)
3. Both hardcopy and EEE \$35/yr.

Be sure to let Don know which way you wish to get the Newsletter. If at any time you wish to change your delivery method, just send Don an email message.

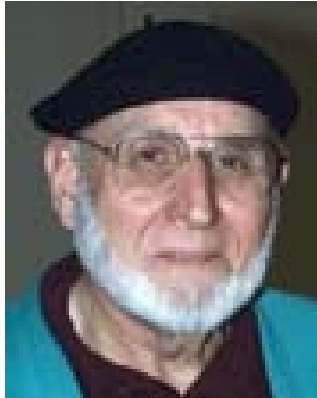
Also, when communicating with MBUG regarding your membership, please be sure to include your full name and/or membership number. Be sure that we have the email address which you wish to use for Newsletter delivery, and inform us of any change of email address.

NOTE: MEMBERSHIP CHAIR DON SLAITER WILL BE GONE DURING OCTOBER & NOVEMBER. DURING THIS TIME PLEASE ADDRESS MEMBERSHIP ISSUES & CONCERNS TO SECRETARY/TREASURER CLIVE SANDERS at 375-5376 or simbacli@pachell.net



Bob Stephan

the FRUGAL HACKER



hacker n This is someone that seeks to understand computer, phone or other systems strictly for the satisfaction of having that knowledge. Hackers wonder how things work, and have an incredible curiosity. Hackers will sometimes do questionable legal things, such as breaking into systems, but they generally will not cause harm once they break in. Contrast a hacker to the term cracker.

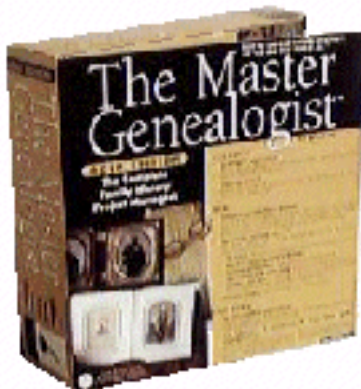
(<http://www.ugeek.com/glossary/>)

Free Software Upgrade

My favorite genealogy program, The Master Genealogist (TMG), has released a free upgrade to Version 4.0a for registered users of Version 4.0. This may be of special interest not only to TMG users, but also to users of **Ultimate Family Tree (UFT)**. As you may have heard, UFT is no longer being published and WhollyGenes, the publisher of TMG, has stepped in to fill the gap and offers a direct import from UFT to TMG. Here is an excerpt from the news release about the upgrade.

In recent weeks, the list of enhancements has grown to fill 10 full pages and includes many new customization features, sentence variables, source construction tools, enhanced multi-lingual features, and optional warnings during data entry about inconsistent data.

Users importing directly from Ultimate Family Tree(tm) will find enhanced support for freeform notes, structured sources, and many other data types as well as powerful new features with which the import process can be customized to match



the user's particular data entry strategy. The result is by far the most complete and accurate means by which UFT users can transfer and preserve their data.

Registered users of TMG v4.0 can download the free v4.0a upgrade from <http://www.whollygenes.com>. For a limited time, UFT users can still receive 50% off TMG v4.0a. See <http://www.whollygenes.com> for details. The Master Genealogist is a trademark of Wholly Genes, Inc. Ultimate Family Tree is a trademark of Genealogy.com.

For more information go directly to

[http://www.whollygenes.com/html/](http://www.whollygenes.com/html/praug2000.htm)

[praug2000.htm](http://www.whollygenes.com/html/praug2000.htm). By the way, TMG can also import data directly from many other genealogy programs with amazing accuracy and completeness.

Wholly Genes Software

Equal Opportunity

Are we ready for this?

The Navy's next-generation aircraft carrier, the symbol of American military might around the world will rely on a futuristic version of Microsoft Corp.'s Windows operating system and other commercial technologies for command and control.

So says Dan Verton in an article in *Federal Computer Week* titled "'Son of Windows' to control carrier". You can read the full story at <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2000/0807/news-navy-08-07-00.asp>.

When I read this I was reminded of an incident that occurred awhile back when a Navy ship, the guided missile cruiser Yorktown, testing a Windows based computer control system ended up dead in the water and had to be towed back to port. I was also reminded of the presenter's remark at last month's Outlook Workshop that his Windows system "crashed about 5 times a day." However, another article reports that these systems are becoming reliable. You can read more at http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/1997/FCW_100697_1131.asp.

In another article titled “The Navy’s perfect ship” the same author reports the following.

. . . the Navy’s newest oceanographic survey vessel, USNS Bruce C. Heezen (pronounced HAY-zin) doesn’t use a wheel at all. Unlike with other naval vessels, Heezen’s crew can chart the ship’s course and steer it using a computer joystick. The same device children use to play video games is now being used by the Navy to send commands to a 5,000-ton, 329-foot ship. . . .

The ISS-60 system is composed of two Pentium-based PCs running IBM Corp.’s OS/2 operating system. Sensors can be plugged into any one of 16 ports. There also is a time-code board installed in each system that constantly updates the systems’ internal clocks through the Time Distribution System, which, in turn, is updated via GPS satellites . . .

Hewlett-Packard Co. J-240 Unix workstations provide the user interface to the overall system and also capture all time data from shared memory and log it. All survey planning and interfacing with the sensors are done from the Unix system, . . .

Apparently the Navy is an equal opportunity employer of computer systems. You can read the rest of this one and link

to related articles at <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2000/0731/tec-ship-07-31-00.asp>.



Fish Stories

I’m going to cut it a little shorter this month. As I write this my wife and I are about to take off on a trip—part business, part pleasure. Among other things, I will be attending the premier OS/2 conference of the year known as Warpstock 2000 in Philadelphia. Along the way we will visit family including my 95 year old father who lives on the Monterey Peninsula of Wisconsin where it is called Door County. By the time you read this I



will be back on the real Monterey Peninsula.

Before his eyesight went bad my Dad was an avid fisherman. They had a lovely place on the shore of Green Bay.

Every time I visited him

we would try to enjoy a little fishing but seldom with much success. Apparently I brought the bad luck with me and we seldom caught much of anything during my visit. Invariably after the visit he would write, “You should have stayed a few more days,” and then go on at great length to tell me about the incredible success he had fishing without me. Thanks a lot.

But that’s not the only instance of my fishing reputation preceding me. Some years ago we were to spend a few days vacationing in the Yellowstone/Jackson Hole area and I was looking forward to catching some of those trout in Yellowstone. On the way to our accommodations in Jackson Hole we drove through Yellowstone National Park. As we crossed Fishing Bridge I couldn’t help but notice that it was lined with people catching trout as fast as they could pull them in. My mouth started watering at the thought of taking part in that bonanza. I wanted to jump out of the car right then, but we had to continue to get the family settled for the night. The next morning I was up bright and early and heading back into Yellowstone with my fishing tackle in hand. Would you believe that the only fish I saw caught that whole day by myself or anyone else was one that was accidentally snagged in the back by a young boy?



That about sums up my fishing experiences. ♦

Bob “I don’t do Windows” Stephan is an OS/2 enthusiast with over 35 years of computing experience. He welcomes comments and questions that The Frugal Hacker can respond to. He can be reached as bstephan@redshift.com and BobStephan@compuserve.com or snail mail at the MBUG-PC address. Visit Bob at <http://www.redshift.com/~bstephan>.



Search Engine Secrets

By Phil Shortell

Just about everyone who takes classes here at The Fourth R sooner or later gets around to making the statement/asking the question “What good is a search engine if it comes back giving me too many sites for me to wade through?” This leads me to ask them what they are looking for and how they enter their query. Almost without variation, I find that there being buried by the hits because they have never been told about the way a search engine works. Within a few short minutes, they have the answer on how to separate the wheat from the chaff.

The example I use in class is right from one of my students. Her son needed to do a paper on Daniel Boone, but when she typed in Daniel Boone they got 378,090 hits (you try it in Alta Vista, that’s really about what you get) the problem is that a search for Daniel Boone scores a match with sites for Daniel Boone, Daniel Defoe, Daniel Elsburgh, Daniel in the lion’s den, Pat Boone, Debbie Boone, Jarvis Boone and Monica Lewinsky! OK I just through Monica in to see if you were paying attention. But all the others are absolutely true. When you want an exact phrase such as “indian jewelry” or “daniel boone” or “cuban black bean soup” you must enclose the phrase in “quotes”.

It is also usually best to type your argument in all lower case letters, since when you do that, the search engine scores a hit for sites it has found in lowercase, UPPERCASE and Mixed Case.

Now, if you want more than one argument in your search, the plot thickens. As an example, if you want to find a biography of Daniel Boone, it would seem logical (knowing what we now know) to type in “daniel boone” biography. Doing this will result in over one million matches because it is now going to find the Daniel Boone Motel and Cow Park in Paducah Kentucky (the daniel boone searches above would of course also find this memorable site) **AND** the **biographies** of Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Mother Theresa, Elizabeth Taylor and Monica Lewinsky (and if there is a web site having a biography of Ms. Monica, this time I’m not kidding).

What you need to do here is tell the search engine that **BOTH** arguments **MUST** be present to score a hit. You do that simply by placing a + in front of each word/phrase. i.e. +”daniel boone” +biography.

Keep in mind that there are unscrupulous people out there

(I know you never knew this before and this is upsetting you) and these unscrupulous people want to attract you to their site at all costs, so they could conceivably “pepper” (the quotes have nothing to do with the search engines here, nor do the parentheses that abound in this diatribe) their site with words that have no relationship to what the site is all about. I assure you I am not making it up that just last week I constructed an argument that was as innocent as (although it wasn’t exactly the same) +”daniel boone” +biography and I came up with a “hit” on a site devoted to (remember I’m not making this up) young women who apparently have a pathological fear of “tan lines” (if you get my drift?). I was so shocked that I could do little more than stare at the monitor for the better part of an hour before returning to the original objects of my search.

What I’m getting at here is that sometimes you might want to say to the search engine that you do NOT want sites containing certain words or phrases. You accomplish this by preceding the abjured phrase with a - (minus sign). In attempting to avoid sites like the one to which I last alluded, you might want to construct your search like this +”daniel boone” +biography -”XXX Rated”

I am the principal cook in our household and as such, from time to time I find the need to search the web for a recipe or two. My life here is complicated by the fact that my wife is an especially picky eater. She hates the taste of ham, and she would sooner volunteer as a knife throwers assistant than eat any food that wasn’t fat free. That brings me to what may be the ultimate demonstration of giving a search engine the information it needs to fulfill a request. A while back, I wanted to get a recipe for (as mentioned above) cuban black bean soup. You give this a try and see what happens. Type in cuban black bean soup recipe (Yes I know I just ranted on above about **NOT** doing things that way, but you need a starting point to make a valid comparison don’t you?). Note the number of hits you get. Now type in exactly what follows:

+”cuban black bean soup” +recipe –ham –bacon +”fat free”

Note the difference.

It might also be a good idea “just in case” to end your search argument with -”monica lewinsky”.

Happy searching! ◆

*Phil Shortell will present
an MBUG workshop
on MS Publisher on October 16*

INPUT



MBUG-PC welcomes comments and questions from members and the public. Tell us what you think the organization should be doing and what you may be able to contribute. To be considered for submission email your INPUT to: INPUT@Handshy.com

FLU & VIRUS SEASON

Email has Become Indispensable. I had never used email until I bought a new computer system for my home-based business less than three years ago. Very quickly it became a prime method of communication. I now have clients and associates who may live far away, but can be contacted immediately.

Because the information on it is vital to my livelihood, and to minimize downtime dealing with crashes & restores, my system has evolved into a solid platform. I have a Win-NT Small Business Server (SBS) with MS Exchange Server, Proxy Server, Veritas Backup Exec SBS Suite for NT, Norton Anti-Virus for NT Servers, and administrative tools that are too technical for me to even touch. I rely on a consultant to do the heavy lifting. My hardware includes a mirrored hard drive, a raid array, DDS backup tape drive, UPS backup power module with Powerchute software; all designed to provide security and redundancy. I think of it as business insurance. I run a full tape backup once a week, and incremental backups every night. If you do not know what that means, you are in danger.

Are you impressed yet? Well, to tell the truth, I can list all that stuff not because I know how it all works, but because the invoices got my attention big time. Gulp! Yes it has all cost a bit for my budget, but then again I have had infrequent and non-fatal computer problems over the past 3 years. And my home office setup has the low cost advantages of a commute measured in feet rather than miles, and the freedom to work in my underwear. Email correspondents have no idea. I have no interest in getting a video phone, as some client might expect me to comb my hair or put on a shirt.

The Human Factor. The weak link in this computer system, I reluctantly admit, is the human sitting at the keyboard and manipulating the plastic rodent with great flair and danger. Yes that would be me, the greatest threat of all to that safety and redundancy that I have bought and paid for.

I get lots of email now, from clients and business associates, from mailing lists and subscriptions, and you would be amazed at how much mail flies around to MBUG volunteers

and directors. I enjoy the communication channel and the resources available. (Did I mention that I have a DSL broadband connection? Oh, yeah. Move a lot of data and move it *fast!*)

The Fatal (or at least Viral) Error. So here I was last week sorting through my inbox; reading messages, filing some in folders, deleting others, opening attachments, replying to messages. I am a determined multi-tasker, so that is not all I was doing. In my one-man office, I was also answering the phone, getting & sending faxes, listening to music, feeding the cat, writing letters... Wait a minute, did I say opening attachments?

Apparently computers can multi-task and give full attention to all the tasks. I must admit that I cannot. So what happened was that I got an email message from someone that used to service my computer; there was a file attachment, I clicked on it with my mouse, and all hell broke loose.

Columbia Plan. There was a virus contained in the attachment, a variation of the Love Bug virus, called Columbia Plan, that took over my email program, Outlook 2000, and mailed the virus to everyone in my address book. Then it replaced all .jpg files on my machine with infected files. I will not go into the details here because of lack of space, lack of technical knowledge, depression, and because the virus acts differently on different systems, so that what worked on my system might not on others. Suffice it to say that, due to my system and the expertise of my extremely capable computer professional, Jack Herbig, I lost only some time and money, but no data.

Lessons Learned. To my knowledge, this was the first virus that I have received, let alone sent. I had heard all the cautions: have a good virus program, use it, do not open executable attachments, etc. But remember that the last line of defense is the human brain and the rodent attached to the hand of the brain's host. I did not realize that .vbs is an executable file extension, and my virus program was not programmed to screen that extension. Whether or not I was knowledgeable and/or paying attention, I made the decision to open the virus laden file. Waste of energy to blame the poor wretch that wrote the virus, or the unwitting folks that passed it on through their systems. I am responsible for infecting my own system by opening that file attachment. What a dumb thing to do! ♦



Arden Handshy is a Director & Newsletter Producer of MBUG-PC
Arden@Handshy.com



Win98 News

by Jim Anway, MBUG-PC
Windows 98 Workshop Leader



Me May Not Be For Me

That's right, Me may not be for me. **Windows Me**, whose full name is **Microsoft Windows Millennium Edition (Me)** might not be the best choice for most of us.



Sure, by the time you read this article, **Windows Me** will be in the stores and on most new computers that we can buy, for **Windows Me** is the latest version of Windows from Microsoft, for the home consumer. It is touted to be the great replacement for **Windows 95** and **Windows 98**. (Remember that **Windows 2000** is still the current version of Windows for the business users.)

Windows Me has some nice new functions and features, but it might not work in your "old" computer. Where "old" is a computer that is over six months old. In my opinion:

- If you don't have a processor that is greater than 150 megahertz (MHz), you will feel the pain. That is the minimum system requirement per Microsoft. To show the extra processing needs that Windows Me requires, IBM states for their new **ViaVoice for Windows Pro, Release 8.0**, that the minimum system Requirements are different for Windows Me than with the other Windows operating systems (95/98/NT 4/2000) as follows:

Windows 95/98/NT 4/2000: Intel Pentium 300 MHz processor and 256K L2 cache or equivalent (including AMD-K6 with 256K L2 cache).

Windows Me: Intel Pentium III 600MHz and 256K L2 cache (including AMD-K6 with 256K L2 cache).

- If you do not have at least 128MB of RAM (memory), Me will run much slower. Benchmark tests have already shown that **on any PC**, Windows Me runs slower than Windows 98. Microsoft states that if the computer memory is less than the recommended 32 MB, Windows Me will "**not perform properly**".
- If you do not have about 1GB of free disk space available, the install will probably fail.
- If you do not have the BIOS updates and hardware drivers (plus any bundled utilities) from the PC

manufacturer that were designed to work with Windows Me, you are set to fail. For example, IBM states "Before you install or upgrade your system to Windows Me, you must update the BIOS (basic input/output system) of your ThinkPad computer. So, if you do not update the system BIOS before installing Windows Me, you will encounter problems with the Setup utility and Windows Me will not operate properly on computers with an outdated BIOS."

- If your hardware on your PC is not on the **Microsoft Hardware Compatibility List (HCL)**, that contains products that have passed testing with Windows Me, you are set to fail. (Visit the Microsoft Windows Hardware Quality Labs web site at www.microsoft.com/hcl/ for the latest compatibility information and to download and install drivers for the hardware listed.)
- If you don't have the latest in applications, utilities, etc., they may not work in Windows Me. (Like the Adaptec CD-R Software (details follow).)
- If you don't do an upgrade, but do a clean install by reformatting the hard drive and installing Windows Me from scratch, it could backfire and cause more problems. A clean install can be more difficult than an upgrade, for a lot of the common hardware devices, including scanners, tape drives, and sound cards, don't have Windows Me drivers. On a clean install, you'll have to first find Windows Me drivers to get the devices working properly. Windows Me does use currently installed versions if you upgrade over Windows 95 or 98.

The Windows Me Upgrade install process also has something to worry about. Per IBM:

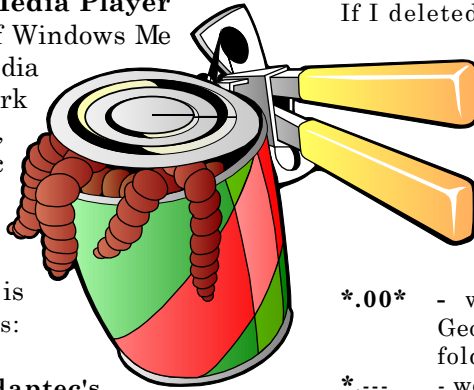
Caution: If you are planning to upgrade to Windows Me be cautious of the fact that if the Setup fails during any portion of the Windows Me upgrade you will not be able to recover back to the previously installed operating system. Anytime you upgrade the computer's operating system, there's always a risk that the upgrade will fail. When you upgrade, you migrate any problems that may exist in the previous operating system configuration thus potentially placing the upgrade process at risk. In doing so, once the upgrade fails, you will lose the entire previously install operating system along with all user data. Therefore, if you are planning to upgrade to Windows Me, it is strongly recommended that you back-up all important data and system files beforehand. If the upgrade fails, you will have no other choice but to install Windows Me from scratch."

Ok, if it is not for me, then what do I do? Just install **Internet Explorer 5.5**. IE 5.5 is an integral part of Windows Me and it will perform faster than IE 5.01.

You also might want to wait for your new PC or for the next version of Windows that is due out in 2001, called Whistler.

Don't Play With Media Player 7

Stay away from the **Windows Media Player 7**, which is a cornerstone part of Windows Me and the latest and greatest Media Player per Microsoft. It might work ok, but it opens a can of worms, for some of the older Adaptec CD-R Software drivers and other drivers do not work correctly if **Media Player 7** is installed. Also **Media Player 7** is a resource hog. As Microsoft says:



If you have any version of **Adaptec's EZ CD Creator** prior to version 4.02 including version 3.5, please read the **Windows Media Player 7 Readme** before you install the Player 7 software. Microsoft is aware of driver compatibility issues caused by installing Windows Media Player 7 on a computer running any version of Adaptec Easy CD Creator earlier than 4.02, including version 3.5 or on a computer running Windows 2000.

The Delete Overkill

OK, now lets talk about when to delete and delete overkill:

Deleting all the files in the "C:\WINDOWS\TEMP" directory

- only right after a re-boot and before backups.

Empty the Recycle Bin

- only when your sure you won't need the files.

Empty your browser's cache

- before backups and if strange things happen when using the browser.

Empty your browser's history list

- before backups and if you want to hid where you have been with the browser.

Deleting all the cookies in "C:\WINDOWS\Cookies"

- over kill, as some are needed or the next time you go to the same web page you will need to re-enter a lot of data (i.e.; Support Online from MS Technical Support web page). Just kill the cookies that look odd or are ad controls like "doubleclick", "static.admaximize", "stats.webtrendslive", and "eb". I just open the folder and go to detail view and sort by date or name and delete what I don't like.

Delete overkill - Some state that one should find all files on their C-drive named:

"*.tmp, *~mp, *.gid, *.fts, *.chk, *.00*, *---, *.\$\$\$, *.*\$, _*.*, ~*.*, *.~*, *??_, *??~, *.^*, *.syd, *.prv, *.old, *.bak, and mscreate.dir" and delete them.

Well I do NOT agree that one should find all those files and delete them.

If I deleted some of the above, it sure could mess up my system.

- *.tmp** - ok, but only right after a re-boot.
 - *~mp** - no files, so not sure.
 - *.gid, *.fts** - ok, as these help files are recreated when needed.
 - *.chk** - ScanDisk error data files that most would not know what to do with anyway.
 - *.00*** - would kill Adaptec EasyCD Creator and GeoClock control files and scanner Paper Port folders and files.
 - *.---** - would kill "C:\MSDOS.---" (a needed file) and a Spanish lesson control file.
 - *.\$\$\$** - would kill a Spanish lesson control file.
 - *.*\$** - would kill a Spanish lesson control file and a WindowsUpdate Cab file.
 - _*.*** - would kill Web Server Extensions folders and files, FrontPage folders and files, ATI support folders and files, Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 program files, Adobe Acrobat 4.0 font files, RingCentral Fax files, SoundBlaster program files, and LapLink program files.
 - ~*.*** - would kill scanner Paper Port folders and files and Quicken files.
 - *.~*** - would kill BackupExec control files.
 - *.??_** - would kill ATI control files, Corel WordPerfect Office 2000 program files, RingCentral Fax files, Messenger control files, SoundBlaster program files, and LapLink program files
 - *.??~** - would kill some BackupExec control files, and the Microsoft Address Book backup files.
 - *.^*** - no files, so not sure.
 - *.syd** - would kill the system.ini backup file and the win.ini backup file
 - *.prv** - would kill the BOOTLOG.PRV file (boot log file), I would keep it for info (only about 56K).
 - *.old** - no, there are not many of these files and it is too iffy to remove them in mass.
 - *.bak** - no, except in your own folders when you know that they are backups of your Word doc files.
- mscreate.dir**
- no, The Microsoft Office and Money Setup programs creates Mscreate.dir (a 0-byte hidden file) in each folder that Setup creates to indicate that the folder was created by Setup. When you run Setup in maintenance mode and remove a component or click Remove All, Setup uses this file to determine whether an empty folder can be removed. If an empty folder does not contain this file, when you run Setup in maintenance mode, Setup will not remove this folder.

Jim Anway is a retired IBM manager who finished up his 31-year IBM career as a Systems Engineer. He is now into computer consulting, video production, and at the same time he is trying to see the four corners of this big wonderful world.

MBUG-PC WORKSHOPS

WINDOWS 98



WINDOWS 98 WORKSHOP,
Wednesday, October 25,
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.,
at Archer Park Center (ACPM)

Jim Anway, Workshop Leader.
telephone, 625-5618
e-mail: janway@redshift.com

This meeting is intended for the intermediate to advanced user of Windows 98. However, it is open to all in order that they may learn.

We will be demonstrating Windows Me (Millennium), the Windows 98 replacement. But we will still have the question and answer period as the focus area where we, both try to find answers to problems each user may face with Windows 98 and to demonstrate tips and tricks in using the operating system. When we run out of questions, we wander from there.

INTERNET



INTERNET WORKSHOP
Friday, October 27,
7:30 - 9:00 P.M.,
at P.G. Adult Education Center
(AECPG)

Cecil Andrews, Workshop
Leader
e-mail: candrews@redshift.com



Arrangements for Meetings

Ralph Games,
Board Member and
Meeting Facilitator,
MBUG-PC
e-mail: gamesri@redshift.com

Hands On Exploring Windows 98

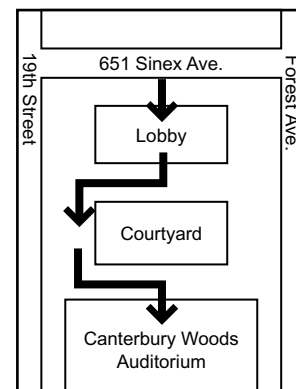


**HANDS ON EXPLORING
WINDOWS 98 WORKSHOP,**
Monday, October 9,
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.,
at Canterbury Woods (CBW)

Clive Sanders, Workshop Leader.
telephone, 375-5376
e-mail: simbacli@pacbell.net

This is a workshop for newcomers to the IBM-PC & those who are still experiencing doubts about owning a PC.

With the combined knowledge of those present at the workshop and trading on the knowledge base gleaned from Windows 98 Simplified by IDG Books Worldwide we are confident we can get you up to speed & fully understanding how to get around Windows 98, hence the name of the workshop "Hands on Exploring Windows 98".



If you are still using Windows 95, no matter, our workshop will help you make the change seamlessly!

You do not need a copy of Windows 98 Simplified to participate in the workshop however, a copy will prove most helpful when you are practicing at home.

MS Publisher



SPECIAL WORKSHOP!
Microsoft Publisher
Monday, October 16,
7:00 - 9:00 P.M.,
at Canterbury Woods (CBW)

Phil Shortell, Workshop Leader

Attend a **WORKSHOP!**

They are open to the public and admission is free. No prior registration is required.

WEB SITES



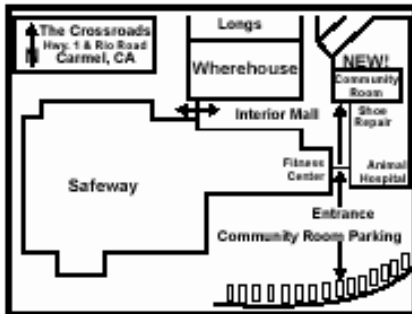
WEB SITES WORKSHOP

Thursday afternoon, October 12,
1:00 - 3:00 P.M.

at the Crossroads Community Room (CRCR)

Pat Wilson, Workshop Leader,
telephone: 622-9429,
e-mail: pat@pixeldesigns.com

We'll start by choosing one of forty-five templates from Microsoft Publisher to use as the basis for a Web Site which we will build using the wizard. To customize the site, we'll show how to insert your own photographs, graphics, and text. And finally we'll demonstrate how to publish the Site to the Net. Please join us on Thursday Afternoon in the New Crossroads Community Room (behind the Warehouse) Hwy. 1 and Rio Rd., Carmel.



For tutorials using Macromedia Dreamweaver and Microsoft FrontPage Express, you can visit our Web site at <http://www.redshift.com/~websites>.

Digital Art & Graphics



SPECIAL SESSION!
DIGITAL ART & GRAPHICS WORKSHOP,
Wednesday, October 18,
7:00-9:00 P.M.,
Archer Park Center (ACPM)

Eileen Begley, Workshop Leader
telephone, 655-4884
e-mail: eb@spyderbytes.com

The October special session Digital Art & Graphics meeting will be on "Digital Cameras". I will bring my Nikon Coolpix 950 to demonstrate and hope other members will bring their cameras also. I will ask several other members to be available for questions and answers and to contribute to the discussion.

I will go over such things as optical and digital zoom, "digital film", image resolution, etc. Time permitting, I will also show how to size a file to send via email, different types of files such as jpg, tiff, and how to make your photos look better.

GENEALOGY

MBUG members interested in genealogy are welcome to meet in conjunction with the Monterey County Genealogy Society. Each month there are mini-workshops on various topics including using computer software. Expert help is available for beginners. E-mail or phone Bob Stephan for information about time and place.

LOCATION MAP CANTERBURY WOODS



The MBUG-PC monthly Board of Directors' meeting and some of our Workshops are held at the Canterbury Woods.

Directions:
Address is 651 Sinex Ave. Pacific Grove, between Forest Avenue and 19th Street .

Forest Avenue connects Hwy. 68 with Lighthouse Avenue.

(See map at left showing route from the Pacific Grove Adult Education Center [S] to Canterbury Woods [E]).

If in doubt which room your meeting is in, go through the main entrance into the Lobby and ask at Reception. See also site plan on previous page.



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Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start. For renewals you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal. As an extra service I will mail a renewal notice to every subscriber about 3 months prior to their expiration date.

Calendar of Events - October 2000

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--------|--|--|--|---|---|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 DIRECTORS MEETING CBW Begins at 7:00 p.m. All Persons Welcome | 4 | 5 | 6 GENERAL MEETING AECPG 7:30 p.m. | 7 |
| 8 | 9 HANDS ON EXPLORING Win 98 Workshop, CBW 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Clive Sanders | 10 | 11 | 12 WEB SITES Workshop CRCR 1:00 - 3:00p.m. Pat Wilson | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 MS Publisher Workshop CBW 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Phil Shortell | 17 | 18 GRAPHICS Workshop APCM 7:00 - 9:00 p.m. Eileen Begley | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 WINDOWS 98 Workshop APCM 7:00 -9:00 p.m. Jim Anway | 26 | 27 INTERNET Workshop AECPG 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. Cecil Andrews | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 DIRECTORS MEETING CBW Begins at 7:00 p.m. All Persons Welcome | | | | |

**AECPG - Adult Education Center, Lighthouse School,
1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove**
APCM - Archer Park Center, 542 Archer Street, Monterey
**CBW - Canterbury Woods,
651 Sinex Avenue, Pacific Grove**
**CRCR- Crossroads Community Room, Crossroads Shopping
Village (behind Wherehouse), Carmel**

**Don't miss the MBUG General Meeting
and Workshops.
Come to learn and to share.**

**All meetings are free to the public.
So bring your friends and family.**

Tentative Calendar for November 2000.

Please Check the November Newsletter for Final Dates and Times.

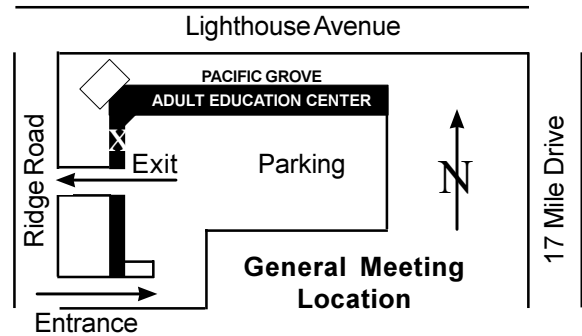
For more information on MBUG
Workshops, see pages 12-13.

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| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 WINDOWS 98 Workshop in on Vacation. <u>No session this month</u> | 23 THANKSGIVING DAY | 24 INTERNET Workshop in on Vacation. <u>No session this month</u> | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 DIRECTORS MEETING C B W Begins at 7:00 p.m. All Persons Welcome | 29 | 30 | | |



General Meeting Location

The MBUG General Meeting is held in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Pacific Grove Adult Education Center, 1025 Lighthouse Avenue, Pacific Grove. The parking lot is directly behind the building and access to the parking lot is from Ridge Road, through the second gate.



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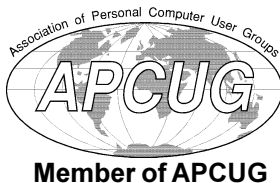
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