



# NIBBLES & BITS

Tuesday, August 14, 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Hills Racquet Club, Fullerton — Bring a friend!

## AUGUST MEETING

### PowerQuest's family of products to be demonstrated

Randy Whittle will be the guest speaker at the August 14 meeting and show us the PowerQuest family of products. He will also give tips and help s on "How To Organize Your Hard Drive," "Running Multiple Operating Systems" and "How To Protect Your Hard Drive."

As an organization tool, PartitionMagic is unique: Create, resize, merge, and convert partitions without destroying data!



Exceptional ease of use with wizard functionality makes partitioning tasks effortless.

Once your computer is set up, it's time to create a backup copy with Drive Image V4, the newest version of the company's fast, complete solution for system backup and recovery. This product further simplifies the backup process by adding the ability to write images directly to CD-R and CD-R/W devices and adds another level of protection for users' important data by including continuous data backup with PowerQuest's DataKeeper.

Come to our next user group meeting and learn all about organizing and protecting your hard drive. As time permits, Randy will demonstrate many of the newest PowerQuest products & answer your questions as well.

Special User Group Prices on all of

these products will be offered and available for you to purchase at the meeting and take home with you.

Randy will bring handouts and exciting door prizes as well. It should be a super meeting. Bring a friend and don't miss it!

(Special User Group Prices can be accessed at: <http://www.ugr.com/order/> then use the code: UGRW01)

### Laptop docking station to be August fundraiser!

*by Mike Lyons, ORCOPUG president*

Once again, we will have a cash drawing to raise funds for the club's new projector.

This month's prize is the Mobility Universal Docking Station. The Mobility docking station works with any laptop using a USB connector.

Our treasury currently stands at over \$2,100. Thanks to some cost-cutting measures, cash drawings, CD sales, printer cartridge drive, generous vendors, etc., we have come a long way in a relatively short period of time.

We still have a way to go before we can get a new projector, but there is light at the end of the tunnel.

#### August 2001 Volume 19, Number 8

- Notepad 2
- Letters 2
- Member News 3-4
- Ken's Korner 5
- Cascading Style Sheets 6
- More MS product woes 7
- User Group deals 8
- PC threats increasing 9
- WinXP upgrade 10
- Peripherals 11

*Award Winning  
Newsletter*



by Linda Gonse  
editor@orcopug.org

## SWUG brings both happy and sad news

Our website and newsletter were honored again this year at the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Southwest User Group Conference in San Diego. On July 13-15 more than 250 men and women, representing 57 user groups met at the San Diego Mission Hotel. They sat in on workshops to learn more about programs, computers and technology, met with more than 60 vendors and watched demonstrations on new products, won raffle prizes, and enjoyed good food and good times.

ORCOPUG's website won 1<sup>st</sup> place and the newsletter won 2<sup>nd</sup> place. This is the third consecutive year the club's entries have been winners.

ORCOPUG members and friends who attended were: Don Bickel, Lloyd Boutwell, Joe Duffner, Morris Fier, Dan Gonse, Linda Gonse, Alan Jarrett, Tony Lake, Beverley Lauzon, Stan Leese, Anita Leicht, Charlie Moore, Carl Westberg, and Winnie Westberg.

Vendor stalwarts who helped to make the conference a success included Adobe, MGI, PowerQuest, Jasc, Intuit, Tech Smith, Corel, Alladin, Borland-Inprise, and Avery Dennison, among many others.

We take our hat off again to Judy Taylour and Patricia Hill for being the co-chairs of the largest regional event in Southern California for user groups.

Probably the saddest news to come out of the conference was the announcement by Ken Fermoyle that he will no longer be presenting his Media Workshops around the United States. He's been hampered by his eyesight which has become diminished

in the past year. He also will cut back on the number of articles for groups because of the research and reading each one requires. But, he will continue co-authoring a biography to be released before long.

Over the past three years, Ken has been responsible for raising the level of writing and reporting in user group newsletters around the world. As a professional, published magazine author, editor, and desktop publisher, Ken has generously given his creative products, talent, experience and energy to the user group community. We thank him for helping to extend the bar of our knowledge and awareness on good writing, reporting and layout design. His dedication and professionalism have been a pleasure to user groups everywhere who look forward to his work and learn from it.

In other newsletter stories this month, Mike Lyons tells us that we are making steady strides to increasing our LCD projector fund. We will be holding another fundraising raffle at the next meeting, in fact, for a laptop computer stand.

By now everyone should be aware of our website's newest feature, a bulletin board. Please feel free to post messages on it and to check it often for other members' news. Go to our main page at <http://www.orcopug.org> and click on the link to Bulletin Board.

### Letters to the editor

#### ■ **Change of pace: A letter FROM the editor**

To Siles Bazerman and Ted Wirtz:

I just ran into something different and helpful in Windows. Type *dxdiag* in Run and watch what appears. It seems to overlap many areas of the System Information tool. Any comments about

*dxdiag*'s use? Could it make a good article?

Linda

Linda,  
Quit trying new things, where system info includes, you will put me out of business.

Seriously, there is some overlap but the *dxdiag* only is for the Direct X part of your software. It does not go beyond that, but does test those items.

page 3 ➡



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Submit items to the newsletter editor at:  
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## Letters

☞ page 2

System Information in ME (not in Norton or others) only provides information, no tests. Different things with some overlap.

**Siles**

Linda;  
Interesting. The diagnostics showed that I had several invalid registry entries for "Network—DirectPlay8". As it suggested, I downloaded Direct X again and re-installed. After re-installation, all the entries were now valid.

Since I don't use this computer for on-line gaming, I had never detected a problem. Did I really need to do the re-install? I'm not sure. It's possible some multimedia CD might make use of DirectPlay somehow. In any event, the re-install might make my computer more stable.

Thanks for the tip.

**Ted**

### ■ **Comment on new web site bulletin board for members**

Good idea, I'll cooperate.

**Don Bickel**

### **Members' Renewal Dates**

<b>JUNE 1</b>	<b>SEPTEMBER 1</b>
George Dedic	Ike Black
<b>JULY 1</b>	Mervin Frank
Herman Beverburg	Duane Gifford
Joe Francis	<b>OCTOBER 1</b>
Dean Kise	Siles Bazerman
<b>AUGUST 1</b>	Larry Klees
Gloria Bearss	<b>NOVEMBER 1</b>
Nolan Cave	Randy Bremer
Don Faisy	Bob Chenoweth
Sid Liptz	Jose Ramirez
Elroy Schoppa	

*Submitted by Charlie Moore*

## We need your help with the Christmas letter!

by Mike Lyons

For the past fifteen years or so, Charlie, myself and others have sat down this time of the year and assembled vendor names and addresses into a database for our annual solicitation letter. This is the club's largest fundraising event of the year.

This fundraising is what has kept the club going all these years and has enabled us to get the equipment we need to make monthly presentations. It also has supplied us with raffle prizes (both free and money-raising) for our Christmas meeting and the monthly meetings.

This year we are asking the club members for a little help. We would like each member to either e-mail us (charlie@orcopug.org or mike@orcopug.org) with the complete mailing information of a vendor you think would be a good addition to our database. (Include the company name, mailing address, city, state, zip—and, if possible, a contact name, phone number and e-mail address.)

No. I don't want (or need) twenty-seven submissions of Microsoft. Maybe you have a favorite package that you think would be a good raffle prize. Maybe there is something out there that you would like to get and a chance to win it in one of our raffles would make your day.

Give us the mailing info and we will put it into our database and who knows, maybe you might just end up with a great prize.

We need to get your suggestions by August 14th (our next meeting).

By the way, if you can't decide on just one, we are willing to accept multiple suggestions.

### Top reported viruses, trojans and worms at Symantec in July

W95.Hybris  
W32.Magistr.24876@mm  
W95.MTX  
Backdoor.Sadmind  
Wscript.KakWorm  
VBS.Haptime.A@mmvbs.  
haptime.a@mm.html

W32.HLLW.Bymer  
W32.Badtrans.13312@mm  
w32.badtrans.13312@mm.html  
JS.Seeker  
W32.Choke.Worm  
w32.choke.worm.html  
(Look for details at [www.sarc.com](http://www.sarc.com))

*Submitted by Terry Terrazas*

(Please fill out this renewal slip and mail it today!)



### **Renewal Slip**

Enclose \$25 annual dues. Make checks payable to **ORCOPUG**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Mail renewal slip and check to  
**ORCOPUG, Post Office Box 716, Brea, California 92822-0716**

## Members' email directory

<b>Apponyi, Carl</b> ..... <a href="mailto:eubulus@netzero.net">eubulus@netzero.net</a>	<b>Kaump, LeRoy</b> ..... <a href="mailto:leroy_kaump@hotmail.com">leroy_kaump@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Arnold, Dale</b> ..... <a href="mailto:darnold33@hotmail.com">darnold33@hotmail.com</a>	<b>Kise, Dean</b> ..... <a href="mailto:oikise@hotmail.com">oikise@hotmail.com</a>
<b>Balazs, Frank</b> ..... <a href="mailto:fbalazs@netzero.net">fbalazs@netzero.net</a>	<b>Klees, Larry</b> ..... <a href="mailto:LKlees@aol.com">LKlees@aol.com</a>
<b>Bazerman, Siles</b> ..... <a href="mailto:siles.bazerman@gte.net">siles.bazerman@gte.net</a>	<b>La Mont, Bill</b> ..... <a href="mailto:WILLARD47@aol.com">WILLARD47@aol.com</a>
<b>Bearss, Gloria</b> ..... <a href="mailto:gbearss@pacbell.net">gbearss@pacbell.net</a>	<b>Lake, Tony</b> ..... <a href="mailto:TonyLake@juno.com">TonyLake@juno.com</a>
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<b>Brubaker, Jim</b> ..... <a href="mailto:info@1homeseller.com">info@1homeseller.com</a>	<b>Moore, Charlie</b> ..... <a href="mailto:charlie@orcopug.org">charlie@orcopug.org</a>
<b>Cadish, Dan</b> ..... <a href="mailto:dbcadish@netscape.net">dbcadish@netscape.net</a>	<b>Morrill-Ives, Trudy</b> ..... <a href="mailto:morrswiss1@earthlink.net">morrswiss1@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Chenoweth, Bob</b> ..... <a href="mailto:Chenoweth1@aol.com">Chenoweth1@aol.com</a>	<b>Musser, Dave</b> ..... <a href="mailto:dmusser@worldnet.att.net">dmusser@worldnet.att.net</a>
<b>Emigh, Glenn</b> ..... <a href="mailto:glenne@linkline.com">glenne@linkline.com</a>	<b>Prince, Leonard</b> ..... <a href="mailto:lenprince@juno.com">lenprince@juno.com</a>
<b>Francis, Joe</b> ..... <a href="mailto:joefran1@gte.net">joefran1@gte.net</a>	<b>Schiele, Terry</b> ..... <a href="mailto:terry@orcopug.org">terry@orcopug.org</a>
<b>Frank, Mervin</b> ..... <a href="mailto:mfrank3@juno.com">mfrank3@juno.com</a>	<b>Tooley, Richard D.</b> ..... <a href="mailto:tooley@alum.mit.edu">tooley@alum.mit.edu</a>
<b>Gonse, Linda</b> ..... <a href="mailto:linda@orcopug.org">linda@orcopug.org</a>	<b>Turner, Denny</b> ..... <a href="mailto:a1call10@lycos.com">a1call10@lycos.com</a>
<b>Gorham, Milton</b> ..... <a href="mailto:m4gorham@home.com">m4gorham@home.com</a>	<b>Wann, Harold</b> ..... <a href="mailto:WANN.HSW@worldnet.att.net">WANN.HSW@worldnet.att.net</a>
<b>Graham, Sharon</b> ..... <a href="mailto:shgraham@earthlink.net">shgraham@earthlink.net</a>	<b>Webster, Marvin</b> ..... <a href="mailto:mwebster@earthlink.net">mwebster@earthlink.net</a>
<b>Hedges, Ralph</b> ..... <a href="mailto:rhedges@juno.com">rhedges@juno.com</a>	<b>Westberg, Carl</b> ..... <a href="mailto:carl@orcopug.org">carl@orcopug.org</a>
<b>Jackson, Walter</b> ..... <a href="mailto:wvjaxn@aol.com">wvjaxn@aol.com</a>	<b>Wirtz, Ted</b> ..... <a href="mailto:twirtz@pacbell.net">twirtz@pacbell.net</a>
<b>Kambeitz, Bob</b> ..... <a href="mailto:rkambeitz@juno.com">rkambeitz@juno.com</a>	

(All addresses are hyperlinks.)

### Members' Web Pages

**Siles Bazerman—Personal Page**  
<http://home1.gte.net/reso44a/index.htm>

**Gloria Bearss—Great Dane Breeders**  
<http://www.angelfire.com/ca3/glenglo>  
<http://www.angelfire.com/ca3/dragonisle>

**Jim Brubaker—Discount Real Estate Services for Home Buyers and Sellers**  
<http://www.1homeseller.com>

**Linda Gonse—PC Instruction, Newsletter and Web Page Design**  
<http://basicbytes.com>

**Sharon Graham—Family Photos**  
<http://home.earthlink.net/~shgraham/>

**David Musser—Consultant**  
<http://home.att.net/~musserandcompany>

Members, send your URL to [editor@orcopug.org](mailto:editor@orcopug.org)

**Deja Moo:** The feeling that you've heard this bull before.

*Submitted by Kay Gutmann*

- I couldn't repair your brakes, so I made your horn louder.
- Depression is merely anger without enthusiasm
- Eagles may soar, but weasels don't get sucked into jet engines.

*Submitted by Tony Lake*

## Enjoy a meal at the August meeting

The Courtside Bar and Grill is open only to ORCOPUG members the second Tuesday of every month. Restaurant owner Allen Rahmani allows us to meet in the main dining area free of charge! (This, in turn, is helping us to increase our treasury for our long-hoped-for LCD projector.)

Please show your appreciation for the special meeting facilities arrangement we've been given by ordering some delicious items from the menu to enjoy before or during the meeting.

### Courtside Bar & Grill Menu

#### Soda

Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite	\$1.00
Fruit Juice .....	1.50

#### Light Ideas

Dinner Salad .....	\$3.00
Fresh Bowl of Fruit .....	3.00
Chicken Wings .....	5.00

#### Pasta

Spaghetti (Red Sauce) .	\$5.00
Spaghetti (Meat Sauce)	6.00

#### Pizza

Small Cheese .....	\$7.00
Small Pepperoni .....	7.50
Large Cheese .....	12.00
Large Pepperoni .....	13.00
One Slice .....	1.00

#### Sandwiches

Ham or Turkey .....	\$4.00
Club (Ham & Turkey) ...	4.50
Hamburger .....	4.00
Cheeseburger .....	4.50
1/4 lb. Hot Dog .....	3.00
French Fries .....	1.50

### NEWSLETTER

**Saturday  
August 18**

**DEADLINE!**



## Ken's Korner Cupboard

by Ken Fermoyle

### Some tips you may find useful

*This column includes an assortment of tips, comments and answers to questions from readers that have been cluttering up Ken's Korner for some time...*

#### Phone combo relieves pain in the neck

How many times have you tried to juggle a phone receiver and follow instructions from a support technician using your keyboard and mouse? Tough, isn't it? I don't do it anymore; instead, I use a headset plugged into a cordless phone. When I went shopping for a new cordless last fall I found a remanufactured Uniden 900MHz model on sale for half the price of a new one. Seeing that it had a headset jack, I snapped it up. (Note: I don't hesitate to buy remanufactured hardware IF the refurbishing was done by the original manufacturer or its authorized supplier and IF it includes a reasonable warranty. I've had good luck with several pieces of remanufactured equipment over the years.) I also got a Panasonic headset (about \$25). The combination was one of the best buys I've made in years. I use it a lot for taking notes during phone interviews, conference calls and just plain chatting. Where it really shines, however, is when calling tech support numbers. It eliminates pinning the phone receiver against your shoulder and neck during long "on hold" periods and leaves both hands free for typing and mouse use as you follow a technician's instructions. Using the headset relieves me of a chronic pain in the neck (mine was damaged by a falling tree limb. Any phone with a headset jack will work, but the cordless/headset combo lets me walk around and talk with the phone tucked in a shirt pocket.

#### Love that KVM Switch!

Another favorite is my KVM (keyboard, video, mouse) switch. I wrote about this in an earlier article (if you haven't seen it, ask your editor to print it), but I grow fonder of it every day. The ability to control two or more computers (my workstation and our network server, in this case) from a single keyboard, monitor and mouse is terrific: convenient, saves space, is utterly reliable. I'm trying out several other types of switches that many of you may find helpful. Watch for an article soon.

#### Brass Thumbscrews

The least expensive, but probably the most convenient, items I use in maintaining our office computers are brass thumbscrews that replace the normal screws used to attach case covers. They make quick work of removing and replacing the "lids" on our four computers. The thumbscrews have the same diameter and pitch as the hex-head screws they replace, of course, but you don't need a nut driver or Philips-head screwdriver to remove and replace them. One of our Tugnet stalwarts, Bruce Doshier, found the thumbscrews at a computer show (aka "swap


meet") and bought several hundred. They were packaged in sets of six and sold to members for \$2 per package (a slight profit that went into the group's coffers). Bruce reports that you could probably get similar thumbscrews at local stores or Websites that specialize in electronic components, if they don't show up a computer shows in your area.

#### Browser Tip

Have you tried using two browsers, one for fast Internet searching and the other for general Web surfing? I have an older version of Netscape with graphics disabled that I use when I use search engines and to do research. This allows me to do quick checks of sites to see if they offer information I want. Also, if I want to print material I find for future reference, the printing goes a lot faster in text-only mode. If I do want to view (or print) a graphic on any given page, all I need do is click on its icon. (Check your browser's manual or Help Menu for instructions on how to disable graphics.) I use Internet Explorer 4.x for more normal, leisurely Web browsing and when I want to explore a site thoroughly. The only drawback is the extra hard drive space that having two browsers installed consumes, but with hard drives so cheap now this isn't the limiting factor that it once was.

#### Put Some Light on the Subject

This one is really off the wall and makes you look like a weirdo, but it makes computer maintenance a lot easier for me. Like many of us who have reached "senior citizen" status, my eyes aren't what they used to be, especially since macular degeneration destroyed central focussing ability in my left eye 12 years ago. I need a lot of light on the subject when I work on a project, otherwise I have difficulty seeing the slots in screws, inserting interface cards, etc. I've tried various

page 7 

## Did you know...

# Cascading Style Sheets allow freedom in web page design

by Steve Polyanchek

**R**ecently, I've been bringing myself up on speed with the Cascading Style Sheets and other changes to web page creation. Good-bye <font>, hello CSS. Such great freedom. It's like using Styles in PageMaker. Don't be scared, just close your eyes and substitute the word style for class and it's not so scary or mysterious anymore. With styles a single class="thestyle" tag and the style information is set for the paragraph or span of text. Two HTML tags that are important to remember are: span which itself is neutral (carries no formatting information on its own) and can assign a class to an amount of text usually within a paragraph just as you would for say italic or bold; div more neutral than a paragraph tag and should be used for instance to align stand alone images. Save paragraph (p) tags for text. This way the default paragraph tag can be redefined into a class (style).

CSS has been around since December of 1996. In fact the second CSS specification came out in May of 1998 and is some 338 pages (I know, I just printed out the PDF version). Netscape (NS) and Internet Explorer (IE) are just getting around to becoming fully CSS1 compliant. The good news is that since version 4.0 (around 1997) both NS and IE have recognized CSS (JavaScript also). This means you can use CSS without much fear that visitors to your website will have problems viewing your text. However, the 4.x versions of NS have so-so compliance which version 6.0 will solve. Meanwhile, since version

4.x, IE has held good compliance of the basics and now version 5.5 on the PC and 5.0 on the Mac have full CSS version 1 compliance with a few version 2 features such as hover. Opera, another browser, also has good compliance. Actually except for internationalization, there are not many differences between the two CSS versions. The future looks bright for CSS.

In my opinion, it is currently best to create for IE and to spot check it in NS. For instance, I found that NS 4.x does not properly recognize the bold tag <b> (which is considered a font-weight property) in a non-bold span or paragraph class. To get around this, it is best to create a class which indicates nothing but the font-weight as bold and span it across the text you want as bold. Italic (which is considered a font-style property) does not have this problem. Such differences in browsers will not be a factor when NS 6.0 is released and no such problems occur in IE 4.x+. Another difference are bullets in a list. The older versions of both browsers do not align them uniformly where the newest ones do. So you may want to hold off before using a graphic for your bullets. Then again over a million Mac users downloaded IE 5.0 in 14 days indicating that browser updating seems to be swift among regular users. I believe if someone is holding on to an old 3.x version browser, they are not too concerned about their web experience anyway. The best thing with CSS is you can now say farewell to the <font> tags throughout your HTML pages and instead indicate the

font name, point size, leading, spacing, color, margins, weight, style, etc. of text all under a single class name. And when kept in a separate style sheet file shared by several pages, you can make a change in a style and all text tagged with that style immediately take on those changes. In fact you can make changes in the style sheet file and never have to open your documents, just upload the .css file.

Another important new item is XHTML. It is a subset of HTML rules to use in your code to make it compatible with XML which is becoming very popular. The first thing to do is to use lower case text on all your tags. XML is case sensitive so that DIV is different than div. Another difference is that all opening tags require a closing tag. Tags like p have a closing tag of /p. But tags such as img for images or br for line break do not. In these cases you can close them in their original tagging. For instance the line break in HTML is <br> and in XHTML is <br />. You place a space and a forward slash at the closing of the tag. This will prepare your pages for perhaps later use as XML pages.

**To learn more on CSS and XHTML you can go the source at [w3c.org](http://w3c.org). I found that [Western Civilisation](http://www.westciv.com), <http://www.westciv.com>, has great section with tutorials and browser compliance information for CSS features. I have tried several packages for creating web pages and found the [Dreamweaver Fireworks Studio](#) to be the best for the XHTML, CSS and JavaScript combination. It also comes with [HomeSite](#) for hand coding with [TopStyle Lite](#) for working with CSS classes. You can download free 30 day trial versions of this software at [macromedia.com](http://macromedia.com), [allaire.com](http://allaire.com) and [bradsoft.com](http://bradsoft.com).**

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## Microsoft's new products are not without consumer woes

by T.J. Lee

- Microsoft's new product-activation technology, which locks Office XP or Windows XP to a particular PC hardware configuration, can deactivate unexpectedly, rendering the software useless until a code number is obtained from Microsoft. <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/413/tr.cgi?news1>
- Looks like Microsoft is being plagued around the world with something called Office XP Gangster Edition. It's a pre-activated English version of Office XP on sale in Europe and Asia for only a few dollars. <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/413/tr.cgi?news2>
- If you or your company are planning to stick to good old Office

- Get a \$50 rebate coupon on Office XP from Microsoft. Limited time offer (and limited to buyers in the USA) can currently be found on the Microsoft Web site. <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/413/tr.cgi?news4>
- In October, a moratorium on new Web sales taxes here in the USA expires. If the moratorium terminates without new regulations to replace it, states, cities and other local entities will be free to add their own tariffs on Web transactions. <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/413/tr.cgi?news5>
- Maybe the fix is in and Microsoft knows that nothing will come of the Justice Department's antitrust decision because their recent actions are being

Windows XP will force keywords on any Web site to automatically become a link back to a Microsoft site thereby encouraging users to visit Microsoft sites.

2000, you'd better stock up on copies NOW! Microsoft stopped selling volume license copies of Office 2000 at the end of May and single license copies will be removed from Microsoft's price list at the end of July. <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/413/tr.cgi?news3>

called "aggressive" and "monopolistic" by a former Justice Department official. <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/413/tr.cgi?news6>

• From the Search Engine Watch is the observation that the new version of Internet Explorer to be included with

Windows XP will force keywords on any Web site to automatically become a link back to a Microsoft site thereby encouraging users to visit Microsoft sites. This is all done under the guise of "helping" Web surfers. Web developers will have to recode their pages to prevent this "helpful" feature so that readers of their pages won't be encouraged to leave their page for a Microsoft page.

Get more Newsworthy bits on The Naked PC Web site: <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/newsworthy/>. The Naked PC is a free, online newsletter. Subscribe at [www.thenakedpc.com](http://www.thenakedpc.com). You can also write to T.J. at [tj\\_lee@TheNakedPC.com](mailto:tj_lee@TheNakedPC.com).

### Ken's Korner Cupboard

☞ page 5

types of flashlights and work lamps, but they all require three hands or have other failings. My latest solution to the problem combines a small clip-on flashlight and a baseball cap. I clip the flashlight to the bill of the cap, so I can shine it directly on an area where I'm working. Even better is a clip-on flashlight I found recently that has a flexible extension. You can bend it to point precisely when you need the light, and the extension puts it closer to your work area. Like I said, it looks weird, but it works. (What really shook up my wife recently was seeing me wearing both the cap-and-light combination and the phone headset! Her reaction: "It's the creature from outer space!")

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Submitted by Tony Lake



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## Home pc users warned of increasing threats

*The CERT® Coordination Center (CERT/CC) is a center of Internet security expertise. It is located at the Software Engineering Institute, a federally funded research and development center operated by Carnegie Mellon University. It recently released the following warning to users on its Advisory List. (CERT is an acronym for Computer Emergency Response Team.)*

CERT Advisory CA-2001-20

Continuing Threats to Home Users

Original release date: July 20, 2001 Source: CERT/CC

### Need to Protect Home Systems

This year, we have seen a significant increase in activity resulting in compromises of home user machines. In many cases, these machines are then used by intruders to launch attacks against other organizations. Home users have generally been the least prepared to defend against attacks. Many home users do not keep their machines up to date with security patches and workarounds, do not run current antivirus software, and do not exercise caution when handling email attachments. Intruders know this, and **we have seen a marked increase in intruders specifically targeting home users who have cable modem and DSL connections.**

Most of the subscribers to the CERT Advisory Mailing List and many visitors to our web site are technical staff responsible for maintaining systems and networks. But all of us know people who have home computers and need advice about how to secure them. We recently released a document on our web site providing some basic security information and references for home users. The document, "Home Network Security," is available on our web site at [http://www.cert.org/tech\\_tips/home\\_networks.html](http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/home_networks.html)

We encourage the technical readers of our mailing list to reach out to your parents, children, and other relatives and friends who might not be as technically oriented, point them to this document and help them understand the basics of security, the risks, and how they can better defend themselves. We have a long road to travel in educating home users on the security risks of the Internet. But all of us working together to educate home users will improve the security of the Internet as a whole.

### Worms and DDoS Tools

The CERT/CC is currently tracking the activity of several large-scale incidents involving new worms and distributed denial-of-service (DDoS) tools. Some of these worms include a command and control structure that allows the intruder to dynamically modify the behavior of the worm after it has infected a victim system. In some cases, the command and control structure allows the intruder to issue a single command to all the infected systems without needing to know which systems have actually been infected. This ability to change the behavior of the worm (including wholesale replacement), makes it substantially

more difficult to develop "one size fits all" solutions to the problem.

**Additionally, many of these worms have targeted home users as victims.**

With these facts in mind, and the large number of hosts involved in these incidents, it is imperative for everyone to take precautions to patch the vulnerabilities involved and recover compromised systems.

### Protective Measures

For all of these problems, the deployment and maintenance of some these simple defenses are relatively effective:

#### 1. Install and Maintain Anti-Virus Software


The CERT/CC strongly recommends using antivirus software. Most current antivirus software products are able to detect and alert the user that an intruder is attempting to install a Trojan horse program or that one has already been installed.

In order to ensure the continued effectiveness of such products, it is important to keep them up to date with current virus and attack signatures supplied by the original vendors. Many antivirus packages support automatic updates of virus definitions. We recommend using these automatic updates when available.

#### 2. Deploy a Firewall

The CERT/CC also recommends using a firewall product, such as a network appliance or a personal firewall software package. In some situations, these products may be able to alert users to the fact that their machine has been compromised. Furthermore, they have the ability to block intruders from accessing backdoors over the network. However, no firewall can detect or stop all attacks, so it is important to continue to follow safe computing practices.

For additional information about

page 11 



## Siles plans HAL's Windows XP upgrade

by Siles Bazerman

By the time you read this Windows XP Release Candidate 1 will be out and available to preview, MSDN, and beta testers. Release Candidate 2 will be available in the late July, early August time frame. Release to Manufacture (RTM) will be in September, and the final will go on sale October 25, 2001. That is barring a court ordered injunction.

Will I be upgrading to Windows XP? Of course, I have not spent the past several months using it not to. What strategy will I be using? Several.

First, Barbie will not be upgraded. Barbie is a Pentium 266MMX machine with 128 meg of 66 MHz memory running Windows 98 First Edition with all available updates. Second Edition was not installed as the added multimedia and Internet Connection Sharing (ICS) were not needed. My network is established through HAL. As Barbie is not really powerful enough for Windows Me and definitely way underpowered for Windows XP, I would need hardware upgrades, mainly a new motherboard and CPU, to do any upgrading to the operating system. The only way Barbie gets new hardware is when I upgrade HAL and Barbie gets hand-me-downs (Poor Barbie—sob-sob).

HAL is a totally different story. HAL is a PIII 600 MHz computer with 256 meg of 133 MHz SDRAM and a Front Side Bus of 133 MHz. It has both the power and the memory to run not only Windows XP but the next generation OS also. HAL may get additional memory, not due to the OS needs, but for photo editing. I may also get a larger hard drive and replace one

of my two 12 gig drives.

Now, how will I proceed? Right now I am running Windows XP Beta 2 as an upgrade on top of Windows Me. Windows Me was a clean install but I added a number of Themes and other programs from Windows 98 Second Edition. I, therefor have a bunch of totally unneeded files, dlls especially. Also on the hard drive is a number of leftovers from programs that were abandoned, don't work in Windows XP, or patched to upgrade as needed, with leftover bits and pieces. When I

Barbie is not really powerful enough for Windows Me and definitely way underpowered for Windows XP.

clean installed Windows Me I recovered over 500 meg of HD space. RC1 will probably be installed over Beta 2 as an upgrade. This option is supported, but I am not sure if you can upgrade over Windows 98 also.

When I receive Release Candidate 2, I will probably do a clean install. Hopefully I will have a new hard drive to install the OS on. I will then install my basic programs of Drive Image, Veritas Backup Exec, Norton Anti Virus 2001, and Zone Alarm v 2.6.88. Actually before doing that I will backup the old drive using Drive Image and my D drive. I will then install many, but certainly not all, of my programs. I have four or five CD

writing programs, five Photo Editors, two Video Editors, three or four Word Processors, two Speech programs, etc. loaded now.

After I have installed those programs that I feel necessary I will use the Drive Image Editor to restore the updated, patched, customized versions of my programs. This can be done because there are no changes to the registry needed. I will then store my archive of the old system in case I forgot some program that I need. This was my strategy for the clean install of Windows Me and does work. In come cases I will just reinstall the patch, if I can find it in my disorganized archives.

While I am doing this I will still be able to use the old system by swapping the HDs in and out by use of the BIOS settings. I will possibly need an

additional HD controller card, but could remove my second CD-RW temporarily to make this work.

Once I receive the RTM or Gold edition I will probably upgrade over RC2. If, as is usual, there are no significant changes, than this will be what I do. If some major change shows up, I will have to evaluate the choices of upgrade or clean install. At that time I will rely on advice from my usual sources of experts and beta testers.

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Siles Bazerman is Vice President of WINNERS computer group in Garden Grove, and belongs to ORCOPUG. Write him at [siles.bazerman@gte.net](mailto:siles.bazerman@gte.net); or call, 714-897-2868 (after 9 a.m.).

## Internet Humor



*Redneck Horseshoes*

## Threats to home users

☞ page 9



securing home systems and networks, please see the "Home Network Security" tech tip at [http://www.cert.org/tech\\_tips/home\\_networks.html](http://www.cert.org/tech_tips/home_networks.html)

If these protective measures reveal that the machine has already been compromised, more drastic steps need to be taken to recover. When a computer is compromised, any installed software could have been modified, including the operating system, applications, data files, and memory. In general, the only way to ensure that a compromised computer is free from backdoors and intruder modifications is to re-install the operating system from the distribution media and install vendor-recommended

security patches before connecting back to the network. Merely identifying and fixing the vulnerability that was used to initially compromise the machine may not be enough.

Often, these worms rely on Trojan horses to initially compromise a system. For more information on Trojan horses, see <http://www.cert.org/advisories/CA-1999-02.html>

Additionally, these worms often spread by exploiting vulnerabilities in systems. For information on vulnerabilities affecting popular products, please see <http://www.kb.cert.org/vuls>.

CERT Coordination Center Software Engineering Institute Carnegie Mellon University Pittsburgh PA 15213-3890 U.S.A.. CERT publications and other security information are available from our web site, <http://www.cert.org/>. To subscribe to the CERT mailing list for advisories and bulletins, send email to [majordomo@cert.org](mailto:majordomo@cert.org). Please include in the body of your message *subscribe cert-advisory*

## How did CERT begin?

The CERT (Computer Emergency Response Team) Coordination Center is located at the Software Engineering Institute (SEI), a federally-funded research and development center at Carnegie Mellon University in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Because of the Internet Worm incident, which brought 10 percent of Internet systems to a halt in November 1988, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) asked SEI to set up a center and coordinate communication among experts during security emergencies. The center also helps prevent future incidents.

In addition, the CERT/CC has helped to other response teams get started and its incident handling practices have been adapted by more than 90 response teams around the world. For more information: Go to [http://www.cert.org/meet\\_cert/meetcertcc.html](http://www.cert.org/meet_cert/meetcertcc.html).

## Utility will itemize onboard software

Download a utility from Belarc that will check out your PC system and itemize your software and hardware. Go to <http://belarc.com/download-auto.html>. The program places an icon on your taskbar to click anytime you want to analyze your system.

*Submitted by Tony Lake*

## Newsletter contributors

Don Bickel, Charlie Moore, Herb Goodman, Kay Gutmann, Ken Fermoye, Linda Barlow, Linda Gonse, Matthew Skala, Mike Lyons, Siles Bazerman, Steve Polyanchek, T.J. Lee, Ted Wirtz, Terry Terrazas, Tony Lake, Will Richardson.

**NOW!!! A new bulletin board, search engine and site map are at [www.orcopug.org](http://www.orcopug.org).  
The website won 1st prize in the 8th Annual Southwest User Group Conference  
Web Page Contest in San Diego in July!**

The Orange County IBM PC Users' Group regular meeting is scheduled for the second Tuesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. at the Sunny Hills Racquet Club, 1900 Camino Loma, Fullerton, (714) 992-1300. For more information, call (714) 990-0580, or go to [www.orcopug.org](http://www.orcopug.org).



**Directions:** From the 91 Freeway, exit at Euclid and go north. Go past Bastanchury and turn west (left) onto Rosecrans. Sunny Hills Racquet Club is located on the south (left) side of the street .



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### You're needed at the Planning Meeting

Planning meetings are held the third Thursday of every month at 7 p.m. at Downey Savings & Loan, one block east of Harbor at Bastanchury in Fullerton. Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in planning future meetings and events.

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**PowrQuest Family  
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Tuesday, August 14  
6:30 p.m.  
See meeting map  
on back panel

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