Orange County IBM PC Users' Group

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February 2000

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Is Win2000 for you?
Free DSL offered!
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Come to our next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 8

Bring a friend!

Award Winning Newsletter!

Nibbles & Bits

Monthly Newsletter for the Orange County IBM PC Users' Group
"Computer users helping one another"

February 8 meeting:

Everything you always wanted to know about Linux, but didn't know who to ask

by Linda Gonse

Linux, the new operating system, is being hailed as an alternative to Windows and its future seems assured.

You'll get a chance to decide this for yourself. On February 8, Charles Kalil, Senior Systems analyst with the City of Garden Grove, will present "Everything You Always Wanted to Know about Linux, but Didn't Know Who to Ask" at our regular meeting. He will describe what Linux does, compare it to Windows, and explain the anticipated future of Linux.

The first kernel of the Linux (pronounced Lynn-uks) operating system, a freely distributed version of Unix, was written by Linus Torvalds while just a college student in Finland in 1991.

From Linux's inception and to the present day, volunteers worldwide still help to develop the program's source code and to offer tech support to users.

In just nine years, Torvalds operating system has evolved into a major platform used by government, business and educational institutions, in addition to millions of computer users. Recently, major software vendors, such as Corel and Oracle, have announced new products and other support for Linux.

Linux boasts true multitasking, virtual memory, the world's fastest TCP/IP drivers, shared libraries and, of course,

multiuser capabilities (one server can support hundreds of users simultaneously, either over a network, the Internet, on laptops/computers, or terminals). Linux runs fully in protected mode (unlike Windows) and supports 32-bit and 64-bit multitasking.

Kalil is uniquely qualified to discuss Linux. After leaving the City of Buena Park in 1983 as an applications

(Continued to page 6)

Planning Meeting

Thursday, February 17 at 7 p.m.

Downey Savings & Loan in Fullerton

(corner Bastanchury and Laguna, one block west of Harbor)

Everyone is welcome to attend and participate in planning future meetings and events.

Meetings are held the third Thursday of each month

Notepad

by Linda Gonse
editor@orcopug.org

What kinds of email do you get?

Nowadays nearly everyone is online and communicating with email.

Over time, I noticed my email falling into certain categories. In a spirit of fun and confessing to doing a few of these myself, I'll describe them. See if any are familiar to you.

1. Joke Distributors: They never actually correspond with you. They just include you in regular mailings of jokes. You may eventually come to see the messages in your Inbox as symbolizing, "I'm still kicking and I'm thinking of you."

2. Black Hole receivers: These are the people you email with messages such as "Help! My arm is caught in the printer and you're the only person whose address I can remember before I pass out." Please, save your energy, and scream for help as loud as you can. You'll never hear from a Black Hole Receiver. Ever.

3. Forwarders from Hell: These are the people who do not send New Messages. They just hit the Forward button on everything they receive. But, they also may be last in a long line of forwards. So, when you receive their message you'll scroll miles through an unabridged directory of email addresses before finding the "meat" hidden in lines marked with >>>>>>.

Lately, I've noticed long messages sent to or from AOL are converted to Notepad files. Receivers open an empty message window and double-click the Notepad attachment to read the message. Recently, I received the Mother of all Forwards. I opened 22 separate emails AND Notepad files to get to a message source—a joke. What else!

4. Mass Mailers: They range from family members to distant acquaintances. They send you email hoaxes and alerts, Chicken Soup for the Soul stories, chain letters, and hyperlinks to web sites where you'll see more hoaxes and alerts, Chicken Soup stories, and pictures of babies, angels, and roses. The messages are personally addressed to you—and three dozen others. Your response is not expected or necessary to maintain your place in the group.

5. "Just the facts, ma'am" senders: These are the senders who don't use pleasantries like "Hi" and your name. They are strangers to the Shift and punctuation keys and type in shorthand. Their messages require the deciphering capability of Colossus: "i recd msg need asap skdl good"

6. SCREAMERS: THESE PEOPLE SCREAM OUT MESSAGES THAT MAKE YOU WINCE WHEN YOU OPEN THEM. EVEN IF THE MESSAGE

(Continued on page 11)

Letters to the editor

■ Online security check

I know you are concerned about security. Check out Steve Gibson's site, *www.grc.com*. There is a banner called "Shields UP." Clicking on that will get you to eight articles on "your exposure while being connected to the Internet."

The sections are up to 15 pages, but it is easy reading and very informative.

I have used his "Spinrite" products in the past and have read his columns for years. He is an excellent programmer, has great products and is usually right on with his comments and concerns.

Mike Lyons
mike@orcopug.org

(BugNet agrees with Mike. One of its web pages says, "We recommend that you routinely scan your PC for open TCP/IP ports. You can easily point your browser to an online scanning service, such as Steve Gibson's Shields Up!, [http://grc.com/default.htm] for example, to see which ports are open, closed, or operating in stealth mode." — LG)

Nibbles & Bits

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The opinions expressed herein are the writers. They are not reflective of the Orange County IBM PC Users' Group position, and are not endorsed by inclusion in this newsletter.

Submit items to the newsletter editor at: editor@orcopug.org; or Linda Gonse, 22655 Valley Vista Circle, Wildomar, CA 92595-8334—(909) 245-0291.

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Scanners: A wordsearch puzzle

by Alan Jarrett

Find and circle scanner technology words in the puzzle that are in the word list. The puzzle words may be printed horizontally, vertically or diagonally as well as forward and backward. The challenge is to solve the puzzle and understand the named scanner technology features.

N	O	I	T	A	C	I	L	P	P	A	T	G	Y
E	O	T	Y	C	W	E	I	V	E	R	P	E	F
T	E	I	R	R	E	I	G	A	R	D	M	P	R
A	N	S	S	E	N	T	H	G	I	R	B	J	A
T	O	A	D	S	E	O	A	A	U	A	H	G	M
O	T	T	I	O	E	V	T	I	Q	O	N	D	E
R	F	I	H	L	C	R	I	W	C	B	E	D	D
K	L	F	Y	U	P	U	P	E	A	P	P	R	O
J	A	A	L	T	M	M	M	M	W	I	S	E	M
S	H	M	O	I	A	B	O	E	O	L	N	D	N
P	T	M	M	O	P	Z	N	C	N	C	M	L	A
A	A	A	W	N	O	T	S	A	R	T	N	O	C
N	G	G	C	T	R	O	P	M	I	W	U	F	S
E	A	K	E	K	D	P	A	R	W	L	Z	D	E

Word List

Acquire	DPI	Halftone	Resolution
Application	Document	Image	Rotate
BMP	Drag	Import	Scanmode
Brightness	Drop	JPEG	Stack
Clipboard	Flip	OCR	TWAIN
Compliant	Folder	Page	Thumbnail
Compression	Frame	Pane	Treeview
Contrast	Gamma	Preview	Wrap

Nine win prizes in January raffle

Borland T-shirt	**Value $5**	
Mike Lyons	Winner	
Microsoft		
PictureIt! 99	**Value $89**	
Ike Black	Winner	
Inside OS/2 Warp	**Value $40**	
Lloyd Boutwell	Not Present	
Glenn Emigh	Not Present	
Charlie Moore	Winner	
KissCo		
Internet Toolbox	**Value $29**	
Walter Jackson	Winner	
FMS		
T-shirt	**Value $5**	
Larry Klees	Not Present	
Chuck Moore	Not Present	
Harold Wann	Not Present	
Robert Kambeitz	Winner	
Amazon.com		
Mouse pad	**Value $5**	
Chuck Moore	Winner	
Parson's Technology		
Home Inventory	**Value $19**	
Joe Duffner	Winner	
Parson's Technology		
Home Inventory	**Value $19**	
Lothar Loehr	Winner	
Steve Gibson book	**Value $25**	
Ralph Seymour	Declined	
Larry Klees	Winner	

(Submitted by Mike Lyons)

January
Newsletter Deadline
Saturday, February 19
or sooner, please

Annual membership renewal dates

December 1	**Cynthia Gonse**
January 1	**Carl Apponyi**
	Larry Joyce
February 1	**Win Corey**
	Mike Lyons
March 1	**Frank Balazs**
	Art Bullis
	Sharon Graham
	Pat Kennedy
	Bill LaMont
	Elmer Thomas
April 1	**Bud Barkhurst**
	Monte Holmes
	Rhett James
	Robert Kambeitz
	Lothar Loehr
	Pat McMillan
	Richard McMillan
	David Musser
	Denny Turner
May 1	**Lloyd Boutwell**
	Terry Schiele
	Harold Wann

(Submitted by Charlie Moore)

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Add your new or updated e-mail address to the list!

Write to the editor@orcopug.org.

Murphy's Computer Laws

(Reprinted from the I/O Port Newsletter, Tulsa, OK, December 1999)

- You will never have an extra blank disk. If you do bring along a blank disk, you won't need it.
- If you don't bring along a blank disk, it will be the only available opportunity to obtain a copy of a hitherto unattainable, and uniquely appropriate program.
- If someone else is watching while you are doing anything on the computer, anything at all, it will screw up (that's a technical term).
- The percentage chance of screwing up increases in direct proportion to the size of your audience.
- No matter how simple it seems to you, your explanation will be more than they want to know.
- You will amaze your mother at how much you know about computers.
- The only pieces of data you will ever lose are the ones you were going to save just as soon as you finished typing a couple more lines.
- The update of your program will use the keys for something entirely different in this version than it did when you first learned it.
- You will not understand it the first time you read it in the manual.
- You will understand it better the next time you read the manual. For no discernible reason.
- When you are late for an interview and need a last minute copy of your resume your printer will go down. It will always go down. It doesn't care.
- Nowhere in your repair manual will it ever tell you what you really need to do—which is to turn the darn thing off and get yourself a cup of tea.
- The price of anything you buy will stay the same until the actual impact of your money on the bottom of the cash drawer, at which time it will automatically re-list itself in next Thursday's paper at 30% less.
- It will always seem like your friend got a better deal.
- The 800 number will be busy.

Members' Web Pages

Gloria Bearss	***http://www.angelfire.com/ca3/glenglo*** ***http://www.angelfire.com/ca3/dragonisle*** **Great Dane Breeders**
Jim Brubaker	***http://www.1homeseller.com*** **Discount Real Estate Services for Buyers and Sellers of Homes**
Linda Gonse	***http://basicbytes.com*** **PC Instruction, Newsletter Design, Web Page Design and Maintenance**
Sharon Graham	***http://home.earthlink.net/~shgraham/*** **Family Photos and Information**
Dan Sheffield	***http://www.act-4.com*** **Educational CD-ROM Software**

FREE Web listing for ORCOPUG members! Add your Web address! Send your information to editor@orcopug.org

Computer and software tips

Computers stay healthier, longer with ball bearing fans inside

by Ted Wirtz

Why should you care if the fan in your computer has a ball bearing or a sleeve bearing?

Most fans provided by the vendors use sleeve bearings. In a typical three inch fan, there is one brass/bronze bearing about the size of a cheerio.

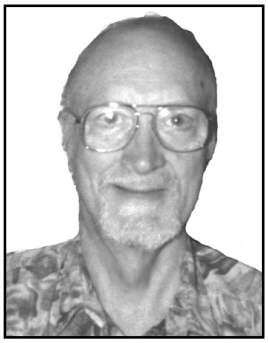
As the motor runs, it slowly dries out the oil in the bearing. One of two things happens:

1. The oil turns to a thick sticky goop which binds the shaft, stalling the motor. Or…

2. The oil dries out completely, leaving dry metal to metal friction which slows the motor to perhaps a tenth its normal speed. Sometimes (but not always) it emits a whirring or groaning sound as it struggles to spin.

In either case, no air circulates through the power supply, overheating the electronics inside. Also, since no cool air is being brought into the computer case, all the other components overheat as well. Even if the small cooling fan on the CPU is still spinning, it can't draw cool air from anywhere, so it just circulates the hot stagnant air inside the case.

Hard drives give off a surprising amount of heat from air friction of the spinning platters, and also from the electronics on the controller board directly beneath it. If they overheat beyond certain tolerances, the servo mechanisms can no longer compensate for thermal expansion, and read/write errors start to occur. Much of this occurs while the user is totally unaware, because many modern drives have automatic bad sector relocation, so the user doesn't see a problem until the drive falls "over the cliff." Then suddenly, a disk scan surface check shows many bad sectors, simply because the drive has run out of hidden sectors to allocate.



Ted Wirtz

The cooling fan on the CPU can suffer from the same stalling problem if it has a sleeve bearing. Most do. There is a growing awareness among the vendors that a stalled CPU cooling fan can permanently fry a Pentium in a matter of minutes, so quite often you will see computer ads stating the CPU fan is "ball bearing."

There is a growing awareness among the vendors that a stalled CPU cooling fan can permanently fry a Pentium in a matter of minutes

What's a ball bearing fan?

Ball bearings fans are just that. Fans which have a small sealed ball bearing on the shaft instead of the brass/bronze sleeve. Since ball bearings have rolling friction instead of sliding friction, they run much cooler to begin with, so the lubricant lasts longer, and there is also much more room internally for additional lubricant in the spaces between the balls. A ball bearing fan will last at least four times longer than a sleeve bearing fan.

A minor disadvantage is that ball bearing fans tend to be a bit noisier. They spin faster due to the reduced bearing friction, so there is more whirring wind noise. The bearings themselves also make a bit more noise, essentially the clicking of all the little balls against the races. Think of how your roller skates sounded when you picked one up and spun the wheels. Obviously not that bad, but you get the idea.

PC Power and Cooling makes a number of power supplies with ball bearing fans. Some even vary fan speed based on air temperature inside the unit. This helps to keep noise down unless high speed rotation is really needed.

All cooling fans in our servers (at TallMouse) are ball bearing, and came that way from the vendor. In addition they are also equipped with a "tach" or "strobe" lead. The fan puts a small electrical impulse on the lead for each rotation, so an accompanying electronic circuit can determine if the fan is actually rotating, or rotating at the desired speed. If not, the electronics set off an alarm. That way you can take action before damage to the electronics occurs. If you go to an electronics supply house (even Fry's) you can buy ball bearing fans, and if

(Continued on page 6)

Ball bearing fans

(Continued from page 5)

you want, equipped with tach leads. You can tell a tach equipped fan because in addition to the standard red and black wires, there is an additional yellow wire for the strobe.

I put all ball bearing fans in my home computer several years ago. It wasn't that much of a hassle (if you can solder a few wires together), and I consider it cheap insurance. Maybe that's why my old clunker is still running. I don't know.

One final frustrating note…ball bearing fans cost only about a dollar more retail (obviously less wholesale) yet vendors continue to use the sleeve bearing fans precisely because they are cheaper. Besides, if they last a year (if you can get a one year warranty, many are only 90 days), your unit is out of warranty, so repair cost is on you, not the vendor.

Learn Excel 97 from online college tutorial

by Linda Gonse

There is an excellent free online tutorial for Excel 97 beginners offered by North Carolina State University.

Tutorial sections include: opening Excel, creating a worksheet, saving your work, entering data into a worksheet, inserting columns and rows, writing a formula, applying a formula, simplifying your work, formatting your worksheet, using functions in a workbook, and creating a chart or graph.

If you aren't sure what Excel is, the first page of the tutorial offers a simple, easy-to-understand explanation, *http://www2.ncsu.edu/ncsu/cc/edu/excel_trng/excel_intro.html*.

Software review

Street Wizard prompts "unauthorized review"

by Bob Chenoweth

I had the good fortune to win Street Wizard, Version 6, in the drawing at the recent Orange County IBM PC Users' Group Christmas Party. A review was not required, but I am so pleased with the program that I'm giving one anyway.

Bob Chenoweth

In the first place, it is a valuable and easy to use program that I can recommend to everyone. If you have a street address and city, it is a simple search. If you only have a Zip Code, you will find the general area. You can zoom in and put a marker on the location, on the correct side of the street. You can print your own text and place it anyplace on the map. While I have not tried it yet, it will display routes and directions.

Besides text, you can add lines, circles and symbols to the map. I was happy to locate addresses of friends and relatives in small Iowa and Nebraska towns. The only place that I trouble finding was a friend's new home in Rancho Santa Margarita, California. I hope to correct this with an Upgrade to version 7.0.

I have had no problem printing the maps, but have had problems saving maps that I have created. Once the program "crashed" when I tried to save a map. I contacted their web site and received an immediate reply telling me to delete and reinstall Street Wizard. It worked fine, but I'm still having trouble with the save function. I will not contact them again because I just received Orange Bytes from the North Orange County Computer Club announcing that Terry Currier is demonstrating Street Wizard at the Main Meeting on January 2. What a break. I will get all my questions answered, and perhaps buy an upgrade.

Again, this is one of the handiest and most useful programs that I have used and recommend it to everyone.

February program

(Continued from page 1)

programmer, he began work at the City of Garden Grove. In addition to integrating PC's into the city's DGUX UNIX network, he began working with Linux and introduced it to the City of Garden Grove in 1995.

The city has been running Linux on their servers ever since.

Charles Kalil

Besides his work in systems and networking development, Charles is an application developer, and has worked with Quick Basic, Visual Basic, Perl, Python, Java and TCL/TK. Currently he is converting older character-based systems into GUI-based systems using the newer programming languages. He is also looking at Linux as an alternative to Windows clients on the network.

Ken's Korner

by Ken Fermoyle

CD-RW drives compared

Let me tell you about my experiences with two quite different types of CD-RW drives I've been using for four months, since September 1999. One is a Verbatim brand, Model 4420a (4X Record, 4X Rewrite, 20X Read): the drive itself is made by Mitsubishi. The other is more exotic: a Compro external drive from ACS Innovations. Made specifically for use with notebook computers, it weighs just over a pound and connects to a notebook PCMCIA slot or USB port.

Necessity led me to the CD-RW drives. I was preparing to do my Media Workshop in Orlando, Florida last fall and realized the PowerPoint slide show I use to support my presentation was far too big to fit on a floppy. Putting it on a CD-ROM disk was the logical way to go. I began by investigating CD-R (record only) drives. They were cheap ($160 or less) but I learned this was because they were being phased out. I was advised to go for a CD-RW drive instead—and settled on the Verbatim 4420a as one of the fastest in my price range.

Installing it was simplicity itself. I merely disconnected my existing CD-ROM drive and plugged in the new drive in its place, using the existing cable. It came with just!burn software from CeQuadrat (taken over by Adaptec in mid-1999), which I found very easy to use after an initial goof. I ruined several disks by trying to format them not realizing that they were preformatted by Verbatim!

The just!burn Wizard makes it easy to create backup, audio or data disks. The CD-ROM disks I've burned with the CeQuadrat software have been readable by every CD drive in which I have tested them. The tests have included drives in a dozen desktop computers and three notebook computers. I should mention that none of the drives was more than 24 to 30 months old. I can't vouch for compatibility with older drives.

Compro

Verbatim

The Compro notebook CD-RW drive is a real gem, the world's first CD Rewriter with CD 4X recording, 4X rewriting and 20X reading function all in a slim 23mm height housing. Bare drive weight is only 18 oz. Other weights are: battery pack w/5 AA batteries (Alkaline or NiCAD and NiMH 1.2V rechargables), 7 oz; AC adapter, 8 oz; PCMCIA card/cable, 5 oz; USB cable, 4 oz. Current price is $269.

The whole works adds up to 42 oz., but one normally would use either the PCMCIA or USB cable so actual weight, including a few disks, is less than 2.5 lbs.

The amazing thing is how well this little drive works. It performs so well I don't use it only with my notebook. It is connected via USB port to one of the desktop machines in our office when I'm not travelling.

The Compro slimline came with Adaptec's Easy CD Creator, which most experts consider the top CD creation program. It includes DirectCD, which lets you treat CD-RW drive like a floppy drive. You can copy information in small packets and erase separate files ("random erase") instead of having to erase the entire CD.

Packet writing allows sending of small amounts of data or 'packets" to CD-R and CD-RW ives without wasted overhead and without risk of data transfer interruptions (buffer underruns).

Easy CD Creator makes it simple to create music, photo, video, and data CDs. You can even make bootable CDs. I have V.3.5 but plan to upgrade soon to V.4.0 which has some desirable features added. (Check it out at *www.adaptec.com/products/overview/ecdc.html*)

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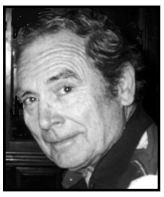
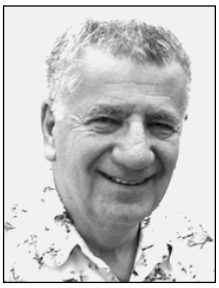


Ken's Korner, a syndicated monthly column, is available free to User Groups. For information or permission to reprint this article, contact *kfermoyle@earthlink.net.*

Where to look for CD-RW drives

The CD-RW drives mentioned in Ken's Korner can be found at *http://www.acscompro.com/cdr/* and *http://www.verbatim.com/Verbatim_Hardware/cd-rw_drive.cfm. —LG*



Modem rebate causes ongoing debate

SPECIAL TO ORCOPUG
by Siles Bazerman

This story starts in May, 1999. In order to resolve the need to free up an IRQ I purchased a HIVAL USB Pocket Modem. The rebate offer made for an attractive price, even though the promised delay was 12 to 16 weeks. In August I started calling about the rebate, and always reached a voice mail box that promised a return call within 24 hours. Never happened.

December 9th I received the following postcard and I think the further correspondence is self-explanatory.

We appreciate your purchase, but your submission for the $20 off 56K USB Modem rebate was declined for the following reason(s): *UPC barcode (7.08766.001.32.1) was not cut out and mailed in with your rebate. {resubmit address and phone numbers, etc. followed.}

To: rebate@hival.com
Sent: Thursday, 12/9/99 4:28 PM
Subject: modem rebate

My modem is serial number S709120051. The other sticker on the modem is 283 9572 A.

I have called on six separate occasions about my rebate. I have never received an answer to my call, nor a call back to my voice mail messages,especially within the promised 24 hours.

Today, months after the required information was submitted, I received a postcard stating that the UPC barcode was missing. This was sent along with all the other information. It was either lost or misplaced by you due to either incompetence or negligence or both.

I will be traveling for the next 10 days, but on my return I expect to have either a rebate check waiting, or an email indicating when I will receive this check. If neither is received, my next communication will be with the Attorney General, State of California, Consumer Affairs Division regarding your deliberate inaction regarding rebates promised so as to enhance sales.

I can only conclude that this is a deliberate attempt on your part to avoid your obligations under consumer law.

Siles Bazerman
siles@ix.netcom.com

From: HiVal_Rebates@hival.com
To: siles@ix.netcom.com
Subject: Re: modem rebate
Date: Fri., 12/10/99 10:50 AM

Dear Customer,
Your check will be issued 12/17/99. It will be mailed out within seven working days from the issue date. Sorry for the delay…We had a problem in the mail room. If you have any further questions you can call me direct at (714) 953-3000 ext204, Donna. Thank You,

Rebate Dept
(714) 953-0675
(714) 835-6726 / Fax

Let me note that HIVAL does not manufacture anything. It repackages other manufacturers items under the HIVAL label. It no longer sells or supports the modem, and has no driver updates available.

The chipset is made by STMicroelectronics, and a visit to their site listed the modem manufacturers who used the set. After opening the snap-together case I found markings indicating it was a Leopard modem (made by Shark MultiMedia). Their website provided the needed updated driver, and upgraded the modem to work with I.E.5.5 BETA.

I know, I said no more betas, but this was just too tempting to pass up. My judgement, not yet quite ready for primetime, but close.

Siles Bazerman is Vice President of WINNERS, a Windows User Group in Garden Grove. You can write to him at *siles@ix.netcom.com.*

New products & technology

ASP brings shareware professionals together

by Harold Holmes, president, The Association of Shareware Professionals

The Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP) was formed in April 1987 to strengthen the future of try-before-you-buy software as an alternative to conventional retail software.

Today, it's a vibrant international organization with almost 700 shareware authors, distributors, and marketers who can help shareware professionals create and run their businesses. The ASP's members create and market some of the finest software available today.

ASP members' software spans

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No need to open the case! Network connection installs in USB port

by Linda Gonse

The newest and easiest way to set up a network on your home computers is to plug a small adaptor into your computer's USB port and the other end into the phone jack.

The adaptor between the port and the jack is called HomeFree Phoneline USB from Diamond Multimedia. It connects the PCs by using your home's existing phone lines—but, it won't interfere with incoming calls. You can share Internet access and printers with others in the family at the same time. The transfer speed, up to 1 Mbps, allows you to share even

large files. If you have a PC and a Mac you can use the connector to network them, too.

For Win98 and Macs, costs $69.95 for one adaptor. See more at *www.diamondmm.com.*

Track airline flights using online program

by Kendric Smith
(Reprinted from the Stanford/Palo Alto Users' Group newsletter)

To check on the flight arrival of one of our daughters, I logged on to *http://www.thetrip.com/*, and clicked on FlightTracker.

Then I selected the airline and entered the flight number, and then "watched" the plane on a map as it flew from Portland to San Jose (there is also a text version). I also saw that it circled the airport for about 20 minutes, so she will arrive home somewhat later than expected.

It is a neat site! Give it a try when you have guests arriving (or travelling home).

Submitted by Alan Jarrett

News briefs from online newsletter

• Intuit, the makers of **Quicken Tax** software, is offering to allow all U.S. taxpayers filing the 1040EZ tax form to file for free online—*http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/302/tr.cgi?news1*

• BugNet has reported a security hole that plagues **Norton AntiVirus 2000**— *http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/302/tr.cgi?news2*

• Planning on upgrading to **Win2000** the moment it's available? To quote Jesse Berst, "Well it's too frigging expensive, for one thing. $319 is ridiculous!" Unless you're a laptop user you might want to put off Win2000 according to Jesse—*http://www.TheNakedPC.com/t/302/tr.cgi?news4.*

(Excerpts from free, online newsletter, The Naked PC, published by T.J. Lee and Lee Hudspeth, authors of The Unofficial Guide to PCs.)

DSL offered free!

by Linda Gonse

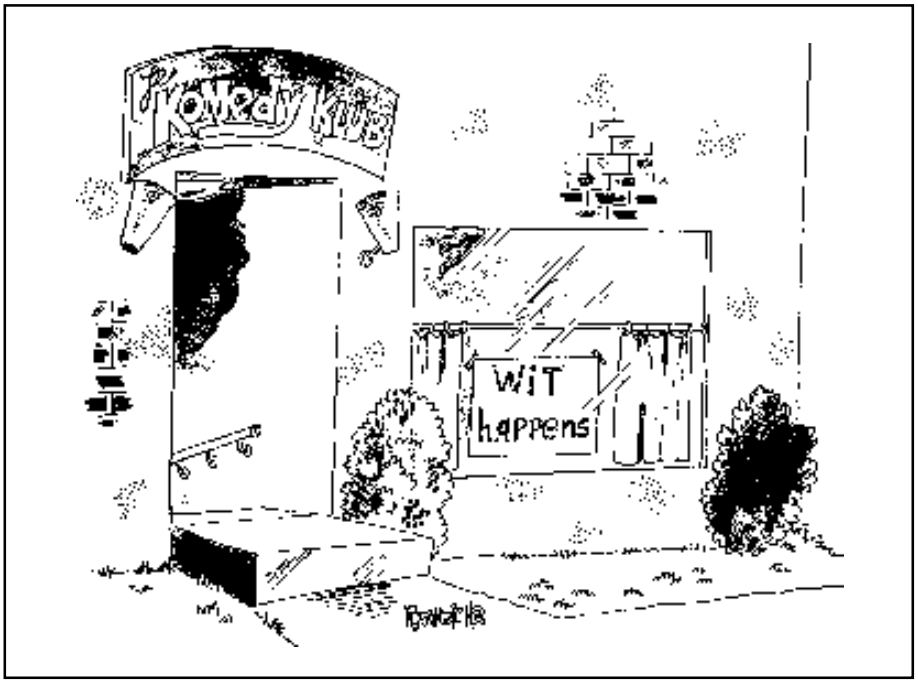
Watch advertisements on your pc and get 10 friends to sign up and you can get free DSL service.

One drawback is, not all the DSL equipment is in place today. In some areas, it may be a year or two before there is an actual DSL service.

But, people are flocking to *www.freedsl.com,* an Orange County-based company, to sign up for the future chance to use the "always on" Internet access it promises.

Members' helpline

Cynthia Gonse ..... **Windows '95-'98, Office 97**
Anytime—*cgonse@aol.com*
Linda Gonse ..... **Windows '95-'98, Office 97, PageMaker, Internet**
(909) 245-0291 after 5 p.m. and weekends—*linda@orcopug.org*
Sharon Graham ..... **MS Office, Access, Win 3.1, MS-DOS**
(714) 533-6043 after 7a.m., before 10 p.m.—*shgraham@earthlink.net*



Shareware

(Continued from page 9)

spectrum, from high-quality accounting and inventory programs for business, to award-winning utilities and games for all computer users. While some of our members' programs, such as WinZip and Paint Shop Pro, are international best-sellers, there are thousands of other excellent business tools, Internet the applications, games, educational programs, graphics and multimedia programs that are top-shelf, and available at moderate prices.

Shareware is a method of software distribution, and not a type of program.

In fact, try-before-you-buy software is being discovered by traditional "shelfware" companies, and will soon dominate the market-place.

If you're looking for moderately priced, high-quality software, please visit the ASP's web site at *http://www.asp-shareware.org/membersearch.asp*. You can do a keyword search and, for most programs, you can purchase them securely online, directly from the author's web site. Or you can visit our members' web sites and download free trial version of their programs. We encourage you to try our software before you buy it.

…some of our members' programs, such as WinZip and Paint Shop Pro, are international bestsellers.

Do you have questions about specific shareware programs, or about shareware in general?

The ASP maintains a public newsgroup on our news server. You're welcome to visit the newsgroup, and post your questions or comments. Hundreds of our members visit this newsgroup every month, and would be happy to try to answer your questions. Just point your web browser to *news://news.asp-shareware.org/asp.Public_Discussion.*

ASP members are always looking for beta testers.

They need people who would be interested in trying their programs before they're ready for prime time. Beta testers get to see programs months before anybody else, get their ideas incorporated into the programs, and most end up with a free copy of the program for their efforts. If you'd like to become a beta tester, visit our public newsgroup, and post a message that mentions the types of programs that you're interested in.

If you're a software developer, we hope you'll consider joining the ASP. We offer a wealth of information about how to start a software business and how to market shareware, as well as technical programming information. Our members-only newsgroup has more than 22,000 messages on threads about all areas of program development and marketing. ASP members are always eager to help other ASP members. We hope you'll visit the ASP web site, and try some of our members' fine software.

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You can contact Harold Holmes at *president@asp-shareware.org.*

Newsletter contributors

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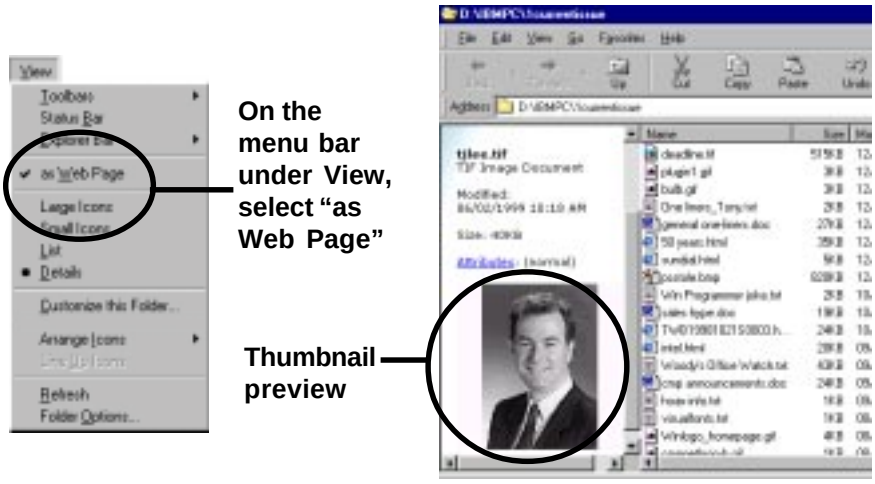
Peripherals



Preview your image files in folder windows

by Linda Gonse

You can preview your image files in any folder window in Windows 98.

For example, double-click on My Computer and on your C or D drive. Now, double-click on the folder which holds your pictures and maximize the window. On the menu bar of the active window, select View, and As Web Page.

When you click once on an image file, such as a JPEG, GIF, BMP or TIFF, a thumbnail preview of what it contains will appear in the left window pane. If you can't see the whole preview image, adjust the window using the vertical scrollbar between the two windows, or the horizontal scrollbar below the image.

If you can't preview your JPG files in this manner, click Start and select Run. Type the following command in the Open box: *regsvr32.exe /i shdocvw.dll* and press Enter.

The truth may be found in anagrams

An anagram is a word or phrase made by or rearranging the letters of another word or phrase. The following are exceptionally clever. (Make sure to read the last one!)

Word(s)	Anagram	Word(s)	Anagram
Dormitory	*Dirty Room*	Eleven plus two	*Twelve plus one*
Desperation	*A Rope Ends It*	Contradiction	*Accord not in it*
The Morse Code	*Here come Dots*	Astronomer	*Moon Starer*
Slot Machines	*Cash Lost in 'em*	Princess Diana	*End Is A Car Spin*
Animosity	*Is No Amity*		
Mother-in-law	*Woman Hitler*		
Snooze Alarms	*Alas! No More Z's*		
Alec Guinness	*Genuine Class*		
Semolina	*Is No Meal*		
A Decimal Point	*I'm a Dot in Place*		

And here is the most intriguing part…

Year Two Thousand
A Year To Shut Down

Submitted by Mike Lyons

Notepad

(Continued from page 2)

IS CHEERY, YOU FEEL JITTERY AND NERVOUS UNTIL YOU CLOSE IT!

7. Say what? replies: These people delay answering questions until you've forgotten what you wrote to them. Then, they delete the questions and replace them with ambiguous answers like "I think you're right," and "Either one is fine." They've fulfilled their duty and you end up with questions about the answers!

We are crossing a threshold that will forever change the way we buy, work, learn, and communicate with each other. Not since the invention of the computer itself, has such an extra-ordinary transformation occurred.

—Bill Gates, The Road Ahead (1995)

Why don't people stay at a website?

A recent survey by *www.smalloffice.com* discovered the reasons people do not linger at a site for online transactions are:

Web page was too slow	41%
Web page looked unprofessional	20%
Site didn't take credit cards	16%
Couldn't find checkout area	14%
Couldn't find return policy	12%

Don't be duped!

Save this Symantec address to check on virus hoaxes. Detailed descriptions of numerous hoaxes are listed at *http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html.*

Submitted by Stan Leese

Think *web site*

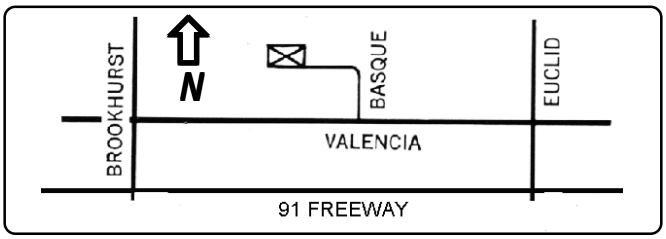
You can find special product offers and news updates at ORCOPUG's award-winning web site. Plus, get program information, membership application, contact info, review guidelines, and past newsletters at *www.orcopug.org*

What does ORCOPUG membership offer to you?

- **Product &"How to" demonstrations**
- **Free raffles and magazines**
- **Help from other members**
- **Newsletter and web site**
- **Special offers, discounts, events**
- **Monthly meetings**
- **Affiliation with other user groups around the world.**

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 Hunt Library, 201 S. Basque Avenue, Fullerton, (714) 738-5364. For more information, call (714) 990-0580, or go to *www.orcopug.org*.

Directions: From the 91 Freeway, exit at either Euclid or Brookhurst Streets and go north. Turn onto Valencia Drive. Go to Basque Avenue and turn north. The Hunt Library is located at end of Basque. (Access only from Valencia).



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Award Winning Newsletter!

Linux:
All you ever wanted to know!
Tuesday
February 8
6:30 pm
Bring a friend!

Nibbles & Bits

Computer users helping one another
Orange County
IBM PC Users' Group
Post Office Box 1779
Brea, California 92822

Orange County IBM PC Users' Group