

July 2004



NIBBLES & BITS

Tuesday, July 13, 6:30 p.m. at Sunny Hills Racquet Club, Fullerton — Bring a friend!



“Fun in the sun and computers, too!”

SWUG Conference set for August 6–8 in San Diego

Patricia Hill and Judy Taylour,
SWUG Conference Co-chairs

Web Site Contest! Door Prize Drawings! Networking! T-shirts and Welcome Kits! All this and more can be found at the 11th Annual Southwest User Group (SWUG) Conference.

Activities run from Friday evening, August 6 through Sunday, August 8 at the Mission Valley Hilton in San Diego, and include workshops, vendor presentations, meals, Saturday evening Vendor Faire, prize drawings and personal contact with participating vendors.

There will be newsletter and web page contests for user groups with officers in attendance.

User group members can network with user group leaders to share ideas and experiences, as well as solutions to problems. This year's user group leader and PC skill enhancement workshops will be even more exciting.

The conference registration fee is \$40 per person if paid by July 16. If

(Continued to page 11)

JULY PROGRAM

Two programs to be featured on same night!

At our regular meeting on July 13, we will have a two-part program presented by Charlie Moore.

The first part will be hard drive backup revisited. We will review an old PowerQuest product, Drive Image 2002, with an emphasis on external hard drive media for storage of backup images. The external enclosure will employ fixed and removable hard drives (using mobile racks). It will employ both USB 1.1/2.0 and Firewire (IEEE-1394) connections, www.acnt.com, HDRF110, \$52.99 plus tax). Last, we will review DriveImage7 and V2I Protector, the latest Power Quest—now Symantec—products. www.powerquest.com

In the second part, Charlie will present “Creating Cool Stuff,” a program from J.D. Savage Productions, www.jdsavage.com. With help from graphic designer Jeff Davis on CD, you will go on an amazing tour of



computer graphic projects you can do yourself! Projects teach users how to create desktop wallpaper, greeting cards, and even stencils. Users can also pick up the basics of photo editing, on-screen drawing, painting, airbrushing and color correction while working on real projects that are available on the CD.

Please come and bring a friend!

APCUG reschedules Fall Conference

by Don Singleton, APCUG Advisor

In case you have not heard, *Comdex has been cancelled*. Due to this, the APCUG Fall Conference will be postponed to a later date.

Please check our new website at www.apcug.net for information on APCUG's rescheduled annual event to be held in conjunction with the Consumer Electronics Show in January.

INSIDE...

- Notepad • 2
- Letters to the editor • 2
- Raffle winners • 3
- Member information • 3
- User group deals • 4
- Computer building • 5
- Review • 6
- Kyocera Finecam • 6
- Print in 3-D! • 8
- Tech News • 8
- Bugs & worms • 8
- He's back...! • 9
- Windows XP SP2 • 9
- Someone is watching • 10
- Peripherals • 11
- Internet humor • 11
- Contributors • 11
- Meeting info • Back cover

Volume 22 - Number 7

Notepad



I'm sitting here at the 11th hour deciding what to write.

I don't usually have any trouble finding a topic. Many just seem to pop into my head while I'm taking a shower the day the newsletter is to be sent out.

Although I lingered in the shower this morning waiting for a "pop," I only got wrinkled from the water! But it got me to thinking. (No, not about a dry towel!)

What about those things we do all the time? Is there a new or better way to do them?

Email, for instance. How many write responses and press Reply All when they only want to say a few words to the sender? It's better to press Reply. It shoots the email back to ONE person and keeps your message private.

Speaking of one email to several people, why not place multiple email addresses in the *BCC* (*blind carbon copy*) window? Even group names should be placed in the BCC window, because the individuals' names in the group will be displayed to the receivers.

But, if you use Outlook Express, it is a little difficult to figure out where the heck to access the BCC line, since it doesn't appear on a new, blank email message window. You can only access To: or CC: from the message window.

I discovered that you have to

click on either the To: or the CC: to make the BCC: selection window available. This opens

your Address Book so you can select names to add to the BCC. The selection window has the address book names on the left side. On the right side are three

(Continued to page 7)

Letters

APCUG needs advisors!

Have you ever wished you had more influence on what APCUG does and what services it offers? While we like to think our advisors are letting us know what the members really think, there may be times when that communication channel is disrupted. Well now you have a chance to help us fix that disruption. There are currently two openings on the APCUG Board of Advisors, and three more seats where the current advisor has not indicated an intention to seek reelection, and the August 1 deadline is less than a month from now. If you, or anyone else from your UG would be interested in running for office in the APCUG elections, see www.apcug.net/APCUG/election/04/announcement.htm and throw your hat into the ring.

Don Singleton, APCUG Director
dsingleton@apcug.net

New FTP program announced

I'm the product marketing manager for WS_FTP and wanted to share an announcement that I find particularly exciting: WS_FTP LE has been replaced with the brand new WS_FTP Home.

This new version of WS_FTP is the result of user comments, feature requests and a lot of hard work. I've made sure that the most popular requests made it into this new product, such as:

- o An easy-to-use, eye-pleasing user interface
- o A self-paced tutorial to help you get started
- o Thumbnail support to easily identify, edit and share pictures
- o Active Edit for remote editing of Web pages and other files
- o HotDrop folders for easier than ever transfers

There is, of course, much more in the product and you can read about it at our web site: visit.ipswitch.com/

NewHome. And, try a free trial copy today: <http://visit.ipswitch.com/TryHome>

Ted Morrill
WS_FTP Product Marketing Manager

UG discount for Excel Compare

Our company, Formula Software, would like to announce the release of Excel Compare 2.0 for Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP, an Excel file and
(Continued to page 11)

Don't be a victim! Check the TOP 10 hoaxes & viruses at www.orcopug.org

Published and distributed to club members by the Orange County IBM PC Users' Group



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 Gonsse, 22655 Valley Vista Circle, Wildomar, CA 92595-8334

Directors

President, Mike Lyons
mike@orcopug.org

Vice President, OPEN
Treasurer/Membership/SYSOP, Charlie Moore
charlie@orcopug.org

Editor/Webmaster, Linda Gonsse
linda@orcopug.org

Reviews, Terry Schiele
terry@orcopug.org

Programs, Lothar Loehr
lothar@orcopug.org

Membership, Carl Westberg
carl@orcopug.org
APCUG Rep, Siles Bazerman
Siles.Bazerman@gte.net

P.O. Box 716, Brea, CA 92822-0716
(714) 990-0580
info@orcopug.org

More club information and review guidelines at: www.orcopug.org



Member of
The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

Members' email

- Balazs, Frank**
fbalazs@netzero.net
- Bazerman, Siles**
siles.bazerman@gte.net
- Boutwell, Lloyd**
LloydB8@aol.com
- Bullis, Art**
bullis@worldnet.att.net
- Brubaker, Jim**
info@1homeseller.com
- Covington III, Gary**
garyiii@hotmail.com
- Francis, Joe**
joefran1@earthlink.net
- Frank, Mervin**
mfrank3@juno.com
- Gonse, Linda**
editor@orcopug.org
- Gorham, Milton**
m4gorham@home.com
- Graham, Sharon**
shgraham@earthlink.net
- Jackson, Walter**
wvjaxn@charter.net
- Kaump, LeRoy**
leroy_kaump@hotmail.com
- Klees, Larry**
lklees@dslextreme.com
- Lake, Tony**
TonyLake@juno.com
- Leese, Stan**
stan_leese@surfside.net
- Loehr, Lothar**
lothar@orcopug.org
- Lyons, Mike**
mike@orcopug.org
- Moore, Charlie**
charlie@orcopug.org
- Musser, Dave**
dmusser@worldnet.att.net
- Schiele, Terry**
terry@orcopug.org
- Tooley, Richard D.**
tooley@alum.mit.edu
- Wann, Harold**
WANN.HSW@worldnet.att.net
- Westberg, Carl**
carl@orcopug.org
- Wirtz, Ted**
twirtz@pacbell.net

Include your listing so other members can reach you. Send your information to: editor@orcopug.org.

Got a new address or ISP?

Don't miss newsletters or announcements! Send your new information to Charlie Moore, Treasurer/Membership Chairman, charlie@orcopug.org.

Members' renewal dates

- MAY** — Terry Schiele
- JULY** — Herman Beverburg, Joe Francis, Walter Jackson, Tony Lake
- AUGUST** — Stan Leese, Sid Liptz, Michael Moore
- SEPTEMBER** — Mervin Frank, Chad Hansen, Steve Sterry
- OCTOBER** — Siles Bazerman, Larry Klees, Ed O'Donnell

Submitted by Charlie Moore

June raffle winners

- The Healthy PC, \$17***
Bill Pampaniya, Winner
- TechTV Windows XP for Home Users, \$25***
Bud Barkhurst, Not Present
Carl Westberg, Winner
- U-Lead Photo Explorer, \$39***
Joe Francis, Winner
- ActivePDF T-shirt, \$5***
Leroy Kaump, Not Present
Sheldon Peck, Not Present

- Art Bullis, Winner
- U-Lead PhotoImpact XL, \$79***
Michael Moore, Winner
- U-Lead Explorer, \$39***
Frank Bollinger, Winner
- U-Lead VideoStudio, \$49***
Joe Gionet, Winner
- South Bay cooling fan, \$39***
Larry Klees, Not Present
Chuck Wheeler, Winner
- ActivePDF t-shirt, \$5***
Lothar Loehr, Winner

**Estimated value*

Submitted by Charlie Moore

You are blessed

If you woke up this morning with more health than illness, you are more blessed than the million who won't survive the week.

—Excerpt from "You Are Blessed," submitted by Joe Francis



Membership Application

New Member **Renewal***

* Please fill out all the blanks below to help us keep your information updated in our database.

Last Name _____ First Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone (____) _____ Work Phone (____) _____

E-mail Address _____

Areas of Interest/Comments _____

ORCOPUG meets the second Tuesday of every month starting at 6:30 p.m. Dues are \$25 per year. Please see our website at www.orcopug.org for meeting location and map, program announcements and contact information.

Make check payable to ORCOPUG
Mail to ORCOPUG, P.O. BOX 716, Brea, California 92822-0716

(Please fill out this application and mail it today!)



User group deals

User groups represent the spirit of the frontier, a community getting together to do things that no individual ought to have to do alone. The pioneers of the American west got together for barn raisings, cattle roundups, and the occasional party. The pioneers of new technology get together for installfests, new user training and support, and just plain fun. Being part of a user group is the best way to get more out of your computer, and lets you make friends while you're at it. — *Tim O'Reilly, President, O'Reilly & Associates*

Magazine discounts just for computer user groups

	1 Year	2 Years	3 Years
Computer Games	\$10.95		
Computer Gaming World	\$14.95	\$28.95	\$41.95
Computer Shopper	\$16.97	\$32.95	\$47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	\$15.95	\$30.95	\$43.95
Mac Addict	\$10.97		
Mac Home Journal	\$15.97	\$29.97	
Mac World	\$12.95	\$24.95	\$35.95
Maximum PC	\$ 9.95	\$18.95	\$27.95
Microsoft System Journal	\$21.95	\$39.95	\$57.95
PC Gamer	\$12.95		
PC Magazine	\$25.97	\$48.95	\$68.95
PC World	\$16.95	\$27.95	\$40.95
Wired	\$ 6.00	\$12.00	

Revised 7/1/2003

These prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or Money Order. Make payable to Herb Goodman, and mail to: **Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496.** Call or write: 561-488-4465, hgoodman@prodigy.net.

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.

I will mail a renewal notice to every subscriber about 3 months prior to their expiration date. Many computer magazine subscribers have used my services for over 300 titles I carry, also at excellent prices. Just email me for other prices.



ACP

Computer Show



July 25 • 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

1310 E. Edinger, Santa Ana, CA

714-558-8813 • www.acpsuperstore.com

GIANT Computer Swap Meet

Free Admission • Free Parking • 100's of Sellers

Submitted by Carl Westberg

You are eligible for dozens of discounts!

by Linda Gonse

Membership in ORCOPUG entitles you to access the Members' Only area on our website where you are eligible for user group offers and **discounts worth hundreds of dollars!**

A few of many programs currently offered, are: File Protector, O'Reilly books, Stuffit 8.0, AlienSkin programs, Keyfinder, Kroll ONtrack programs, Aladdin products, Klassic Specialties, Que Publishing, Earthlink, Click2PDF, Flip Album, and Hemera PhotoObjects.

To access Members' Only! pages, go to <http://www.orcopug.org>. Click on the "members' only" link on the left side of the page. When the password dialog box opens, type your user name (this is your first initial and last name in lower case, no spaces), and your password. The password is a capital letter "R" followed by your member number.

New offers for members!

by Linda Gonse

New offers recently received include Excel Compare, Firewall Xtreme, Back Up My PC, and Spyware X-terminator among others.

More fantastic offers—for our Members Only—are in the password-protected area at www.orcopug.org.

Companies who donated prizes to our 2003 fundraising raffle are: Adept, AlienSkin, Belkin, J.D. Savage, LapLink, Laser Service, New Riders, nik multimedia, Note Page, O'Reilly & Associates, Star dock, PKWare, PowerQuest, Road Wired, Smart Computing, Smart Draw, South Bay Engineering, Limit Software, Ulead, and Microsoft.

We offer them all a big *Thank You* for supporting our user group.

Please continue to thank them by buying their products, writing product reviews, and telling everyone about them!

Where we left last time, I had finally gotten the computer to run. Then once again I tried to install Windows XP, to no avail. I removed the “new” 80 GB hard drive, moved it to the slave position and replaced it in the master position with a 40 GB hard drive that I had used before and knew worked. **This time I was able to run the machine with an Operating System.**



Inasmuch as I had much trouble with the 80 GB drive I decided to give it a good check. Steve Gibson indicates that manufacturer’s check programs are not as thorough as Spinrite. I had paid for and downloaded Spinrite around Sept. 1 of last year, but never had been able to run it successfully and found another solution to my problem at that time. I felt that for \$90 it was worth trying again. That morning, promptly at 8 AM (I use World Time to keep my computer clock synchronized with the atomic clock in Colorado) and then at 8:02 AM, and then at 8:04 AM, and finally at 8:05 AM I called Gibson Research. No reply, just a message that their office hours were 8 – 5 and to call back later. Next to the email. By the middle of the afternoon I received a reply with a link that I could use to download. Would it work? You’ve got to be kidding!

Next, get up at 2 AM the next morning and try the download. Did it work? Like a blink! I received the same bit count, but this time there was a logo instead of the generic Windows program icon.

Then replace the copy I had on the boot diskettes and give it a try. Worked great. There’s nothing like a good download. Nothing like a bad download. It would be nice if telcos paid a little more attention to maintenance, especially DSLAM’s.

The legend soon said that it would take 109 hours +. It did. The whole drive was checked and

Computer Build: Part II

by Carl Westberg

certified perfect. Did I care whether it was 80 GB or 75, NO. Now, try again in a proven drive to install Windows XP. I put this off to another day, because if it didn’t work I would get the sledge hammer from the shed and use a little hardware fix.

So this morning, about 8 AM, after my dog took me for a walk, I started. I finished about 1 PM. So Windows XP is easy to install? You’ve got to be kidding. My computer had received the following names, omitting the final:

CARL-N4YLIHAVXH
CARL-JEFOMLIE6A
CARL-MOT29V4OWS
CARL-6IL5U36DKQ

Isn’t that useful? But on the last one, it finally worked and I can play solitaire in Windows XP.

Part III is coming in August!



Kyocera Finecam SL300R

by Terry Currier

I personally like a camera that I can grip. One that when I put my hand on and it is comfortable to hold steady. So I do still like my Polaroid digital camera even though it is only 2 megapixel and four years old. Yet, I found at the CES (Consumer Electronic Show) there were times I thought about taking a picture of a product, but did not. I just did not feel like putting my notepad down, taking the camera out of the case, wait for it to come on, take the picture, and put it back. Then I saw the Kyocera Fine cam SL300R. It is compact at 3.9" wide x 2.5" high x .6" thin, and weighs only about 5.1 ounces with battery and memory card. Simply put it is small and light enough to carry in my shirt pocket, and I don't have to put anything down to pull it out and take the picture.



When I turn it on, it uses what they call RTUNE Rapid Tuning Technology so that the camera is ready to take the picture in less than one second. The maximum resolution it takes is 2048x1536 or 3.17 megapixel, great for the 8x10 shots. The lens/flash part of the camera can swivel forward or backward from the body part up to 120 degrees. You can actually turn and take a self-portrait, or in a crowd hold it over head for shots and still use the LCD display to see what you are shooting. It uses a high speed SD

memory card. It comes with a 16Mb SD card, for the review I used a 256MB SD card.

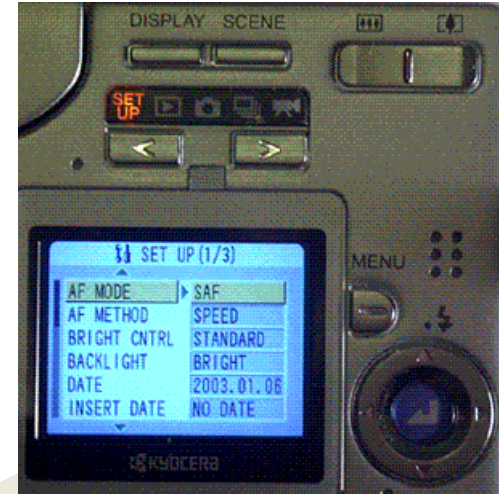
The camera uses a flat slim proprietary BP-780S rechargeable 3.7V 780mAh lithium battery pack. Charging it in the camera takes about 3 hours when fully depleted. I have to say I was really impressed with the battery life. After first charging it up I went around snapping pictures one right after the other inside and outside my home. I took 278 pictures, 190 of them with a flash before it flashed low battery signal to me. On a second test I just did the same in my computer room and it took 356 pictures (with flash) before it stopped.

It has a 5.8 - 17.4mm lens with a maximum aperture of F2.8-4.8 and a focal coverage of approximately 38mm to 115mm for 35mm format cameras. On top is the power on/off button and the shutter release. There is no view finder, you use the 1.5 inch TFT LCD display to sight with. The LCD display is backlit for viewing even in bright sunlight. I could still see it clearly even with the sun directly over. Controls across the top are for the display (turns off the backlight on the LCD), scene, and zoom. One cool thing about the LCD display is when you look at it and have to turn the camera for a shoot with extra height it will turn the image for you so you don't have to turn you head. The zoom is 3x optical, 2x digital zoom (which can be turned off.) The Scene button gives you quick access to the pre-programmed scene modes;

- Standard - normal photography
- Sports - used for when there is a lot of movement such as sporting events
- Portrait - for when taking photographs of people the ISO is set to 100 and white balance is optimized for skin tones
- Night View - shooting scenery at night the focus is set to infinity and no flash
- Night Portrait - taking portrait shots of people at night
- Landscape - subjects of the picture are in the distance, focus is set to infinity and no flash
- Macro - for the really close up pictures you can get up to 7.9 inches

The thing of course is to remember to use the scenes. Most of the time you will probably just take the picture. I did experiment and found the portrait mode did take a better picture with the flesh tones coming out truer.

Just below that is a bar with 5 icons for Setup, Play, Record, Burst Record, Movie). The 4-way selector is used to navigate menus and select images for playback. The center button accepts selections. The MENU button calls up the menu screens. You can also quickly change the Flash modes by pressing the 4-way selector. Flash modes being: Auto flash, Red-eye reduction auto flash, Fill flash, Flash off, and Night scene mode. Using the Play selection you can see the pictures you took in single, multiple, or have it shown to you in slide show mode. With the Burst mode you can take pictures at the rate of 3.5 per second. I had my wife throw a ball up in the air to test it. It is like watching time lapse photography. You can also take movies with the camera. It will take them at 30fps so



(Continued to page 7)

Kyocera Finecam...

(Continued from page 6)

there are no drops. It will also record sound with the movie. The microphone is on the display side so you have to make sure to point it to get the sound. Using the microphone you can also attach an audio note to a picture. In the movie playback you can control the volume, play, rewind, pause and fast forward.

Both the burst and movie will keep recording limited only by the size of your disk. With the 256Mb size I was able to record up to 7 minutes and 55 seconds at full 30fps and sound. The recorded file is in AVI format and can be played back easily on the LCD display or a personal computer. On the side are the USB and DC in ports. The battery charger / AC power supply plugs into the DC in port. Kyocera also includes the Adobe Photoshop Album software.

Conclusion

The only real negative thing about the camera is, it has no lens cap. You will have to carry a cloth to clean it since you will invariably put finger marks on it. Because of the size I found it difficult at first to hold steady, but with a little practice I got the hang of it. The LCD's easy viewing of what to shoot regardless of the angle, or which way the camera is turned is a plus. It is great that the battery last so long. Given that I can take stills, burst mode and movie pictures all with this camera is great. Lastly if I want I can control many different aspects such as ISO, exposure, and white balance. I am very pleased with the quality of the pictures, and the value of the camera.

(PriceGabber.com prices it from \$270-\$350. A spare 256 High Speed SD card or battery will average about \$80 each.)



SETUP Menu options:

- AF MODE - Auto focus, Single or Continuous
- AF METHOD - Speed or Frames
- BRIGHT CNTRL - Controls LCD brightness
- BACKLIGHT - Low Power or Bright
- DATE - Set the camera's internal clock/calendar
- INSERT DATE - No date or with date (includes date on image or not)
- FORMAT - Formats the SD or MMC memory card
- POWER SAVE - Turns camera off after selected time
- MODE LOCK - When enabled settings are saved from power Off to On
- BEEP - Enable or disable camera sounds
- SHUTTER VOLUME - Controls the shutter sound
- COLOR SELECT - Select the color desired for the menu bar
- START SCREEN - Select default, blue or off
- REC REVIEW - Select image review time or turn off
- LANGUAGE - Menu language (English, Japanese, German, French, Spanish)
- FILE NO. - Reset file numbers and create new folder or sequentially number
- MODE RESET - Restore default settings of the record mode

Play mode MENU options:

- MULTI (or SINGLE) - Display index page or return to full screen mode
- POST RECORDING - records audio notes for each image up to 30 seconds
- PROTECT - Protect images against accidental erasure
- ERASE - Delete current image
- ALL ERASE - Delete all images.
- RESIZE - Create smaller images
- ROTATE - Rotate images 90° left or right
- AUTO PLAY - Begins the slideshow function.
- PRINT - Set DPOF printing information

Record and Burst Menu options:

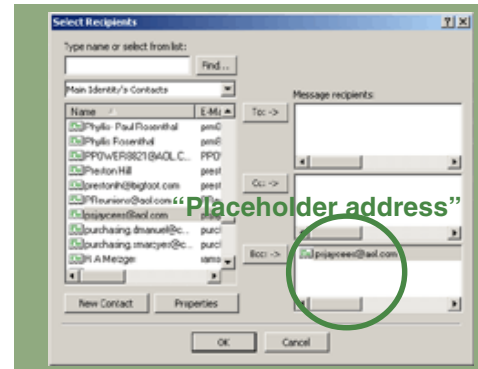
- SELF TIMER - 2, or 10 seconds
- PIXELS - Still image size 2048x1536, 1600 x1200, 1280x960, 640x480
- QUALITY - Normal or Fine
- EXPOSURE COMPENSATION - Plus or minus 2.0 EV in 1/3 increments, for adjusting the brightness of your images
- WHITE BALANCE - Depending on the light source used you can specify it for Automatic, Daylight, Incandescent, Cloudy, Fluorescent,
- PRE SET- In here you can control the COLOR (Color, Black and White, Sepia), CHROMA (Color intensity), SHARPNESS, WHITE BALANCE, AE MODE (selecting Exposure setting method F2.8 or F7.5), FOCUSING (Wide or Spot), LONG EXPOSURE (Slow shutter speed 2, 4, or 8 seconds), ISO, (Auto, 100, 200, 400, 800), METERING (Evaluation {whole screen}, Center, Spot), DIGITAL ZOOM (on, off)

Movie Menu options:

- SELF TIMER - 2, or 10 seconds
- PIXELS - Recording size 640x480, 320x240, 160x120 FPS - Frames Per Second 15 or 30
- EXPOSURE COMPENSATION - Plus or minus 2.0 EV in 1/3 increments, for adjusting the brightness of your images
- SET DETAILS - Control Sound (on, off), Color Mode (Color, Black and White, Sepia), White Balance Preset, Digital Zoom (on, off)

Notepad...

(Continued from page 2)



small windows for To, CC, and BCC.

A trick I use when I want to add names to the BCC that are *not* in my Address Book, is to select and place any name from the Address Book in the BCC window, and click OK. In my new email message window I type in another email address I want in the now visible BBC line before highlighting the placeholder address and pressing the Delete key.

Linda Gonse,
editor@orcopug.org

Three Dimensional Printing

Imagine a printer, similar to an ink jet. Instead of laying down a thin layer of ink, however, its head lays down a binder liquid (think of it as a kind of glue) that binds a layer of fine powder to a surface in a pattern controlled by a computer. Now imagine that “print” to be the very thin bottom slice of a computer designed model (probably created with CAD — computer assisted design — software). Next, “print” another almost (but not quite) identical slice on top of the first one. Continue this process thousands of times, changing the pattern very slightly each time you add a layer, so that what you end up with is a solid three dimensional object made up of a large number of extremely thin layers. This, in a simplified way, is how three dimensional printing works. The multi-colored model pictured above is an example of an object created with this exciting new technology.



Developed at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, three dimensional printing is one of several technologies known collectively as “rapid prototyping technologies.” They allow designers very quickly to make a solid model from a three dimensional representation created on a computer. In addition to speed, 3D printing offers tremendous flexibility in the forms and geometrical shapes that can be fabricated. It has already had a great impact on industry by making it easy to create prototypes and models of new devices. In the future it is likely to have an even greater impact on manufacturing, for example, through the direct fabrication of metal and electronic parts. In addition, a wide range of other applications from medicine and dentistry to art, are being explored.

Recommended links: Three Dimensional Printing Laboratory at MIT, <http://web.mit.edu/tdp/www/index.html>. This is where 3D printing was invented. The site includes sections explaining what 3D printing is, how it works, and what some of its applications are, as well as information about current research and the scientists and engineers who are doing it. (Also, www.dimensionprinting.com, www.newscientist.com/news/news.jsp?id=ns99993238, www.cnn.com/2003/TECH/09/24/wow.tech.santa.printer/ —LG)

Used with permission from Albert H. Teich, Director, Science & Policy Programs, American Association for the Advancement of Science, ateich@aaas.org, 1200 New York Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20005; www.alteich.com, 202-326-6600.

Tech News

by Sue Crane, Bearly Bytes editor, Big Bear Computer Club

- CompUSA’s SoftwareToGo machine allows customers to search for software titles (by name, category or publisher), place an order, then pick up the software on a CD at the checkout counter.
- Some e-commerce companies are tracking where shoppers surf, then opening a chat window to offer suggestions. If visitors to HP.com’s digital photography site linger, a pop-up lady appears, offering assistance. SunTrust offers “co-browsing” where online customer service agents take control of the customer’s computer. Since the chat features are layered images, pop-up-blockers don’t block them.

RealPlayer flaw

RealNetworks, Inc. customers are encouraged to upgrade versions of RealOne Player and RealPlayer to fix a flaw in the programs’ core component that could allow attackers to run code on vulnerable machines. All current versions are affected. <http://tinyurl.com/2rprm>

Internet Explorer vulnerabilities

A critical security flaw allows installation of a toolbar that triggers popup ads. Users are encouraged to disable Active Scripting support on all but trusted web sites. Microsoft is considering what steps to take, including a patch outside of their regular monthly update. <http://tinyurl.com/yssmo>, <http://tinyurl.com/yvq9o>, <http://tinyurl.com/34qrb>, <http://tinyurl.com/ywhyk>

Spammers bypass Outlook 2003 security

Spammers have discovered how to bypass Outlook 2003’s anti-spam security that scans incoming email for language that indicates it could be spam and which also allows users to prevent HTML email from downloading content from the Internet. The spammers attach an image file to the email and then use HTML code to display the image, which can contain words the filter would otherwise have caught. <http://tinyurl.com/2xc9x>

Zafi.B Virus

The Zafi.B virus spreads through email attachments and reportedly terminates any applications that contain the words “firewall” or “virus” in their filenames. It can also send itself in a variety of languages. <http://tinyurl.com/2hmwe>



Excerpts from SANS NewsBites, a free online newsletter at www.sans.org

“Am I living in the last generation to die of cancer, or the first generation to be saved by nanotechnology?”

— Richard Smalley,
Nobel Prize Winner

Beta tester critiques **Windows XP SP2**

by Siles Bazerman



I told you I would be back. I'm not that easy to get rid of. **Now that Microsoft has released Service Pack 2 to public beta as RC1 (Release Candidate 1) I am free to comment about it.**

This is a very large download of 273 megs. This pack also includes SP1 and all critical updates released through April 2004. This is not, by any means, near the complete version of SP2 that will be released some time in this year. RC2 was not released on the rumored date because of problems with certain security "enhancements" breaking third party programs. This is not exactly surprising nor earth shattering news. If you wish to download it just go to <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/prodtechnol/winxppro/sp2preview.mspx> and follow the instructions.

Do I recommend this download? Not for a production machine, and not without a verified backup first for any machine. Am I running this? Of course, you know how I love to play with the latest technology. If you decide to download and run this, go to control panel, add or remove programs. Then, check the box to show updates. When you install be sure to use the option to backup your old files. That way the update is removable.

What do you get with this service pack besides the cumulative patches? There are a number of enhancements, but I am only going to cover a few of the more important ones. These include an improved firewall, control of Active X implementation on web sites (not a real accurate term, but the best I can think of), included popup stopper, auto-updating of critical patches and integration of firewall, antivirus program and updates into a security control.

When you install this download, or install from a CD, the firewall is turned on by default. At the present time it is off by default and on many systems a firewall is either never activated or installed (third party). Most users of computers do not even know what a firewall is. The new firewall is more readily configurable and does block incoming and some outgoing traffic. As mine sits behind a hardware firewall (router) it is a little hard to tell how effective it is. However it can block ports that I have open in my router and can block or open sites, ports or programs in either direction. Further enhancements can be expected by the time SP2 is RTM (released to manufacture).

There are provisions to block all Active X components from downloading from web sites. A notice displays just below the title bar and allows for configuration. You can block all downloads, view the component, allow only from this site, allow all, or disable the notification. This alone can keep some trojans and spyware from accessing your machine. I like this.

The included popup stopper also gives you control as above. I found it so effective that I uninstalled Panicware's Pop-up Stopper, and disabled the one in System Mechanic. I truly like the configurability of the program as I do allow a few pop-ups from one or two sites on an ongoing basis and a few more on an as needed basis. I am sure by release time much effort will have devoted to beating this. Spammers are a determined lot, particularly as they are payed on the basis

of screens reached. Pop-ups are definitely a form of Spam as they generally reach you uninvited.

The last item I will mention is the Security Center. This is an item added to the Control Panel that allows you to both configure and to check the status of Windows AutoUpdate, firewall (including third party), and antivirus programs (third party only as Windows does not include this in SP2). I have had reporting errors pop up regarding AutoUpdate and could clear the problem by turning off the feature, exiting, then turning it on again. This is sort of like uninstall/reinstall routines needed for some programs. The other problem at this point is the integration and recognition of the Security Center with virtually all anti virus programs. In general the AV producers have historically held off using the Microsoft provided hooks in betas. They will have these in place for the RTM version or available shortly after release. Remember this is still Beta software and will be until RTM.

Overall, I think this is a much needed enhancement and upgrade. It increases security greatly and helps block out the worms that have become so prevalent in recent months. In fact, there is a rumor circulating that Microsoft, contrary to past performance, will allow installation on even Windows XP with pirated serial numbers or program IDs. There is a great deal of pressure regarding Internet security and the hijacking of innocent computer address books to spread worms and destruction, and many computers sold with Windows XP pre-installed have been found to have pirated serial numbers. This, if true, would greatly help the problem of worms.

Write reviews on the ORCOPUG website!

Go to www.orcopug.org, Review, and Online Review Form. Fill in the online review form blocks and click to submit your review. **It's easy!**

What do you get with this service pack besides the cumulative patches? There are a number of ENHANCEMENTS...



WARNING! Someone may be watching you...

by Linda Gonse

Spyware initially invaded our computers in the mid-1990s. Trojan-like, it sneaked in with screensavers, games and other freeware.

Today, adware is using spyware's infiltration tricks to allow it to bombard unsuspecting computer users with multiple popup advertising windows and highjacking the user's browser!

You'll hear more people talking about spyware these days because it is an increasing nuisance that carries the threat of real harm to computer users.

Although many users are aware of the word "spyware," they still don't understand what spyware and adware are. And, they don't know why they should be avoided or removed from their computers.

Webopedia, an online dictionary, says that spyware is "Any software that covertly gathers user information through the user's Internet connection without his or her knowledge, usually for advertising purposes. Spyware applications are typically bundled as a hidden component of some freeware or shareware programs that can be downloaded from the Internet."

After installation, spyware

monitors your activity on the Internet and without your being aware of it, sends the information to someone else. "Spyware can also gather information about e-mail addresses and even passwords and credit card numbers." It can also log your keystrokes to capture other private information that you type.

The majority of computer users are not aware of agreeing to or downloading spyware programs when they voluntarily downloaded another program. This is typical. Licensing agreements that accompany software downloads *sometimes* warn users that spyware will be installed along with the requested software. But, if a user is warned, the license agreement is usually wrapped in complex legalese and is probably quickly passed over.

Besides stealing your privacy and personal information, spyware can devour your online connection speed to send information "home." Perhaps just as bad, spyware robs your computer system of memory and resources. This can lead to your computer system working more slowly, system freezes, or crashes.

In order to keep from being a victim of spyware, you first should be aware of the practices that allow spyware

to gain a foothold in your computer.

You are at risk of being infected by spyware if you: Surf the Internet more than one hour a week, download music or use other file-sharing programs, make purchases online, open email, or share your computer.

Chances are that you often perform one or more of these actions and have picked up an infection.

But, don't feel lonely. According to a monthly SpyAudit conducted by EarthLink and Webroot, almost 134,000 of the more than 420,000 PCs scanned this April contained a Trojan Horse or system monitor, like a keystroke logger, that had been deposited by spyware. The April scans also found "26.9 spyware programs or components per machine."

Some tell-tale signs that your computer is infected are: Your computer is running slower than usual; toolbars, searchbars, or icons you aren't aware of installing appear on your computer; Internet Explorer freezes or crashes; spam increases dramatically; pop-up ad windows proliferate; programs frequently crash or freeze; the computer requires a longer start-up or shut down time; you notice unusual hard drive/modem behavior; charges to 900 numbers appear on your phone bill; or credit card numbers and possibly, your identity, is stolen.

You can regularly run anti-spyware programs that will search all your files and even the registry for unwelcome and unwanted spyware/adware. Judging from recent experience, it may be best to choose two anti-spyware programs and run them back-to-back in order to remove all the spyware infecting your computer.

Some spyware cleaning programs are free to download, and you can find hundreds listed at <http://www.spychecker.com/>. Two personal favorites are Spybot Search & Destroy and Ad-aware. Spybot S&D's creator requests a donation if you continue to use the software. Ad-aware has a free version and a

(Continued to page 11)

from
inside your computer!

Internet Humor



Tired of playing cat and mouse...

Submitted by Paul Rosenthal

Letters...

(Continued from page 2)

spreadsheet comparison tool that frees you from finding differences manually.

We'd like to offer your members and subscribers a 30% discount off the regular price.

Eugene Bayanov,
Formula Software
support@formulasoft.com

(Please see our Members' Only! web page at www.orcopug.org for the 30% off discount code. —LG)

Access annoyances needed!

O'Reilly is pulling together a new book called "Microsoft Access Annoyances" and, once again, we'd like your help! As you might guess, "Access Annoyances" ponders the problems, snarls, quirks, bugs, and just dumb things about Access that drive users nuts. The annoyances will encompass a range of topics: Access interface, entering data, queries, VBA, expressions, macros, —well, you get the idea.

If any members of your group use Access—be they newbies or Access masters—and they have annoyances they'd like to see solved, have them email marsee@oreilly.com with "Access Annoyances" in the subject line. Just have them note what version of Access and Windows they're using.

As always, thanks for sharing. We'll make sure to get copies of "Access Annoyances" sent to your group shortly after publication.

Marsee Henon
O'Reilly User Group Coordinator

ROUND TUIT

We are pleased to provide you with your personal **Round Tuit**. Guard it with your life. These Tuits have been hard to obtain, especially the round ones. It is an invaluable item. It will enable you to be more efficient. For years people have said, "I'll do this as soon as I get a Round Tuit." Now you have a Round Tuit of your very own and many things should be accomplished!

Submitted by Greg West
Sarnia Computer Users Group

Spyware...

(Continued from page 10)

paid version. If you install the programs and continue to use them, you should remunerate the companies so they can afford to continue to improve and distribute their programs. Spybot can be found at <http://security.kolla.de/>, and Ad-aware is at <http://lavasoft.de>.

You can find spyware checkers to install in your computer at: <http://downloads.com/>, <http://www.tucows.com>, <http://www.shareware.com/>,

and <http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/index/0,00.asp> among others.

In addition, you can have your computer checked online for spyware. Two of many other online checkers are at: http://www.filez.com/free_online_spyware_scan.htm and <http://www.freespywarescan.org/google2/index.html>.

Protect your privacy by keeping spyware out of your computer! Remember, if you don't, someone may be watching you...

SWUG Conference...

(Continued from page 1)

registered and paid between July 17 and 23, the fee is \$50; July 24 through the conference date is \$60. Workshops, Vendor Faire, meals, presentations; welcome kit, and t-shirt included.

The conference will be held at the Mission Valley Hilton, 901 Camino del Rio South in San Diego. Reserve a room at a special group rate of \$109, single or double occupancy. Call 800-733-2332 by July 16 and mention the Southwest User Group Conference. Hotel guests are automatically entered into a drawing to receive one conference night FREE!

For more information contact Judy Taylour at judy@swugconf.org, Patricia Hill at swugconf@aol.com, or visit www.swugconf.org.

Newsletter contributors

Albert Teich, Carl Westberg, Charlie Moore, Don Singleton, Donald Gonse, Eugene Bayanov, Gene Barlow, Greg West, Herb Goodman, Joe Francis, Judy Taylour, Linda Gonse, Loren Tuthill, Marsee Henon, Mike Lyons, Patricia Hill, Paul Rosenthal, Siles Bazerman, Sue Crane, Ted Morrill, Terry Currier, Tim O'Reilly

Newsletter deadline
August 21

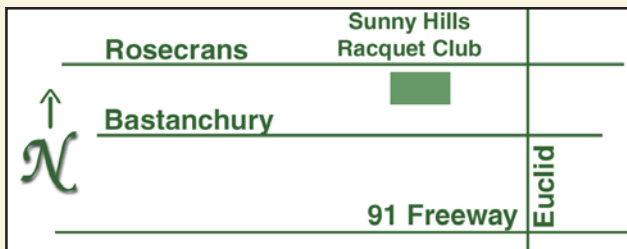
Send a printed copy of the newsletter to a friend. Use this mailing sheet for the address. Staple newsletter together at top left corner with this last page facing out. Fold in half, so this page is visible. Tape ends together, stamp and mail.

The Public Is Welcome! Meetings Are FREE!

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.

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.



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. **All members are invited to attend the planning meetings!**

Check out our award-winning web site!

NOW
IT
HAS

Online Review Form!
Virus/Hoax Lookup!
PDF Searches!
Personalized Map!

www.orcopug.org

UG Member Benefits

- Product & "How To" demos
- Free raffles and magazines
- Help from other members
- Newsletter and web site
- Special offers & discounts
- Monthly meetings
- Affiliation with worldwide group

A user group membership is the best accessory you can buy for your computer. — *Ash Nallawalla, Melbourne PC Users' Group*

Reprint Policy: Permission is given to user groups to reprint unaltered, uncopyrighted material, with credit to the author and Nibbles & Bits.

Two Programs
on One Night!
Tuesday, July 13
6:30 p.m.

Computer users helping computer users
Orange County
IBM PC Users' Group
P.O. Box 716, Brea, CA 92822-0716

