



**Orange County
IBM PC
Users' Group**

Nibbles & Bits

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

Volume 17, Number 6
June 1999

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*If only life could be like
a computer! Page 4*

*Classified ads help
members buy and sell
Page 11*

**Tuesday, June 8
at 6:30 p.m. at the
Hunt Library**

Bring a friend!

Interactive pen-based system to be demonstrated at June meeting



The first and only interactive pen-based educational system specifically designed to teach children to learn to write, called StartWriter Educational System, has just been released by AIPTEK, Inc.

AIPTEK's representative, Fernando Salas, will demonstrate the pen at the June 8 meeting using Corel Photohouse, Print House, and Smart Writer.

The StartWriter is a pen-based educational writing system with an active working surface of 4 1/2" by 6". It simulates the feel of using a pen and paper, making for a true writing experience on your computer for your kids or for you.

The StartWriter Educational System is available now at Office Depot, and will be on sale at other retailers in June.

AIPTEK, Inc. is located at 20492 Crescent Bay Drive, Suite #104, Lake Forest. For more information, check

<http://www.aiptek.com>, or call (949) 455-1800.

This month's program was suggested by Joe Duffner, ORCOPUG member.

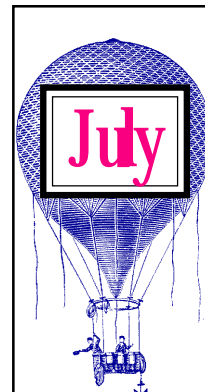
SWUG: Fun in the sun and computers, too!

*by Judy Tylour,
Conference Co-Chair*

It's time to start planning for your trip to the 6th annual Southwest Regional Users Group Conference to be held in San Diego July 9, 10 and 11.

You may interface with other user group leaders, as well as choose from many workshops to enhance your leadership skills, find out how other groups are handling various issues, get tips on how to publicize your group, learn about computer fraud from an FBI agent, and much more.

(Continued on page 11)



**Newsletter
Deadline**

**Saturday,
June 19**

or sooner, please



Notepad by Linda Gonse

Editing and housework are similar tasks

Editing a newsletter can be similar to keeping house. They both need to be tidied up regularly.

Here are several items that fall into the housekeeping category.

1. Newsletter deadline: Some members are surprised to learn the deadline has been posted in the newsletter for several months. This gives members at least two weeks notice, and sometimes longer, for submitting things in the next issue. Because I do have other work besides the newsletter, I'm grateful to you for allowing me the time I need to put the publication together.

2. Newsletter condition: In order to bring you the best looking newsletter in the most efficient format, we've experimented with a letter-folded and one-fold newsletter. And, the newsletters have been mailed with the folded edge down and, also, up. With all these changes, we would like to be sure your newsletter is arriving in good condition. Please e-mail me with your comments.

3. Web site: Maybe you've noticed that the newsletter and web site have begun to complement each other over the past months. When late-breaking items arrive, the *orcopug.org* web site is a great place to post them. Or, when links to other sites are discovered, the web site is also a good location to share them. The newsletter often points to the Hot News page on the web site, and one web page offers pdf files (portable docu-

ment format) of current and past issues of Nibbles & Bits. Electronic publishing also allows us to add color and thumbnail navigation to each issue.

4. PDF issues: How many members rely on the web site to read the latest issue of Nibbles & Bits *before* it arrives in snail mail? Also, if you do like to read the online issue, what do you prefer to use: Bookmarks? Thumbnails? Hyperlinks? Please send me an e-mail with your comments.

5. Suggestion box: The suggestion box has been present for your use during regular meetings. But, at this point, no one has used it. Do you have any ideas about how to encourage suggestions? Would you like to read any suggestions put in the box in the newsletter?

6. Future articles: There was a newsletter survey over a year ago which asked what kind of articles you'd like to read in this newsletter. I'd like to take this opportunity to update those answers. What types of articles interest you the most? Also, would you like to write an article? Or, how about a monthly column? Please send me an e-mail and tell me about what you like, or what you'd write.

7. Contests: For the second year, the club's web site and newsletter have been entered in the APCUG/ Intergalactic Spring Event and Southwest Regional User Group Conference contests (see articles on page 11). If ORCOPUG gets lucky, you

can be sure you will get the news as fast as we receive it. If we are not lucky, feel free to ask in a year or so how it went!

On the other hand, contest results aside, the group's newsletter and web site bring lots of information in an entertaining and interesting way to the members. You may agree, that by doing this, the web site and newsletter already are winners.

Finally, I hope you'll help with my "housekeeping," and send me your e-mail. I'm looking forward to it... write me at editor@orcopug.org.

Nibbles & Bits

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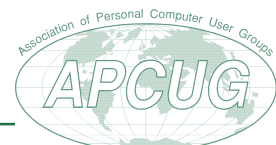
The opinions expressed herein are the writers. They are not reflective of the Orange County IBM PC Users' Group position, and are not endorsed by inclusion in this newsletter.

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Letter to the editor

■ Beyond Trouble in Paradise?

In the December 1998 issue, I mentioned the availability of "Trouble in Paradise" software for checking Iomega ZIP drives (the Click of Death). An updated version is freely available at <http://www.grc.com>, at Gibson Research's site. There are also other "goodies" from this maker of "Spinrite."

If you would like to read an interesting exposition of digital communication, including a Glossary fit for the layman, read the 10-K (a SEC-mandated publication published annually by publicly held companies) of PairGain Technologies, Inc., 14402 Franklin Avenue, Tustin, CA 92780.

Carl Westberg
carl@orcopug.org

■ Compliment from UG

I always enjoy receiving your newsletter and almost always find something I can put in mine.

Judy Taylour
 President and Editor
 Santa Clarita Valley PC Group

■ Windows and more...

The *CNN.com* news page, in its Tech/computing section, <http://www.cnn.com/TECH/computing/9905/06/morewin.idg/>, has a notice that Windows 2000 has been changed—P.C. World online posted this May 6.

In the fall, Windows 98 Second Edition will be released—there will be another Windows version 9x released in 2000, and then Windows 2000 (based on NT) should appear by the end of this year. There will be a

consumer OS based on Windows 2000, but that probably won't show up until 2001 or later.

The same URL contains a May 3 release about MS making Win95 completely compatible with Y2K problems as well.

Dave Musser
DMusser@worldnet.att.net

■ Member moves

I have moved to Minnesota. My new address and phone is: Ordean I. Kise, 804 5th St., Apt 2, Clarkfield, MN 56223; 320-669-3802. (I was born and raised in this town.)

There are a large number of computers in and around this area; I will

(Continued on page 6)

Ten raffle winners in May

Adobe	
PhotoDeluxe	Value \$79
David Musser	Not Present
Arnold Francis	Not Present
Sid Liptz	Winner
AskSam	
Database	Value \$79
Denny Turner	Winner
Parson's Technology	
Super Sketch	Value \$20
Gloria Bearss	Not Present
Leroy Kaump	Winner
Computer Cookies	
Value \$5	
Chuck Moore	Not Present
Gloria Bearss	Not Present
Carl Apponyi	Declined
Arnold Francis	Not Present
Terry Schiele	Winner
Parson's Technology	
Home Inventory	Value \$20
Leroy Kaump	Not Present
Terry Schiele	Prev. Winner
Pat Kennedy	Not Present
David Musser	Not Present
Art Bullis	Not Present
Tony Lake	Winner

Computer Cookies	Value \$5
Mervin Frank	Not Present
John Moore	Not Present
Pat Kennedy	Not Present
Dean Kise	Not Present
Gregory Koch	Expired
Charlie Moore	Winner

Microsoft T-Shirt	Value \$5
Pat Kennedy	Not Present
Don Faisy	Not Present
Dan Cadish	Winner

Dummies (book)	
Buying a Computer	Value \$20
Sid Liptz	Prev. Winner
Stan Leese	Winner

Parson's Technology	
Home Inventory	Value \$20
Gloria Bearss	Not Present
Myra Milgrom	Not Present
Bob Greback	Winner

Computer Cookies	Value \$5
Joe Francis	Winner

Submitted by Charlie Moore

Other people get brainstorm and come up with wonderful ideas. I get a brainstorm, and the lights go out.

Submitted by Ted Wirtz

Annual membership renewal dates

April 1	Monte Holmes
June 1	Dan Cadish Vince Cimino Lynn Herbert
July 1	Dale Arnold Herman Beverburg Joe Francis Ralph Hedges Walter Jackson Dean Kise Tony Lake
August 1	Gloria Bearss Don Faisy Stan Leese Sid Liptz
September 1	Bob Clark Arnold Francis Mervin Frank Duane Gifford Bob Greback Dave Tennant

Submitted by Charlie Moore

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Add your e-mail address to the list above. Print your information and send it to Linda Gonse, editor@orcopug.org, or give it to her at the regular meeting.

If only life could be like a computer!

- If you messed up your life, you could press “Ctrl+Alt+Delete” and start all over!
- To get your daily exercise, just click on “Run!”
- If you needed a break from life, click on “Suspend.”
- Hit “any key” to continue life when ready.
- To get even with the neighbors, turn up the Sound Blaster.
- To add/remove someone in your life, click Settings and Control Panel.
- To improve your appearance, just adjust the display settings.
- If life gets too noisy, turn off the speakers.
- When you lose your car keys, click on Find.
- “Help” with the chores is just a click away.
- Auto insurance wouldn’t be necessary. You would use your diskette to recover from a crash.
- And, we could click on “Send Now” and a pizza would be on its way to you.

Submitted by Tony Lake

Genies can’t do everything

An executive vacationing on the beach sees a beautiful old bottle wash up on the shore. He picks it up and uncorks it. Out oozes a huge genie who says, “Look, it’s been a rough thousand years in here, so I’m not in great condition. I can only grant you one wish.”

The executive, a true, quick decision maker, thinks for a moment and says, “Well, I’ve always wanted a bridge from California to Hawaii.”

“Give me a break,” says the genie. “No one has ever done a bridge that long. Try again.”

So the executive says “OK, tell me everything I need to know to keep my business from failing in the year 2000.”

The genie sighs and says, “All right. Do you want that bridge two lanes or four?”

Submitted by Alan Jarrett

Overheard in a computer shop

Customer: “I’d like a mouse mat, please.”

Salesperson: “Certainly sir, we’ve got a large variety.”

Customer: “But will they be compatible with my computer?”

Submitted by Ted Wirtz

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

Ken's Korner



by Ken Fermoye

Why I Like "Rolling Upgrades"

In the past I've written about "Upgrades that Make Sense." This time I will explain my approach to computer upgrades and how I revamped the Fermoye office system over a 15-month period.

First, I believe in lagging various distances behind the cutting edge. Let early adopters and corporate users pay big bucks to buy (and find bugs in) the latest and greatest. Prices will drop as production and competition increase.

Second, I believe in what Roger Radcliffe, one of TUGNET's most knowledgeable gurus, aptly describes as "rolling upgrades." This

means upgrading in increments, as needed, instead of wholesale makeovers or buying entirely new systems. Need more speed? Add RAM. Hard disk getting full? Install

a second hard drive. The trick is to try to buy components that will be compatible with the next enhancements you expect to make. This requires research and may not always be possible, but make it your goal.

We started our 15-month upgrade with three computers in January, 1998. No. 1 was my 14-month-old, 166MHz Pentium Micron ClientPro, with 32MB of RAM, 28.8 modem and 2.1GB IDE hard drive. No. 2 was a 133MHz Pentium in full tower case, with 32MB RAM, 33.3 modem and 2.3GB IDE drive. No. 3 was a 100MHz Pentium, mid-tower case, 32MB RAM, 14.4 modem and 1.2GB IDE drive.

No. 2 had previously gone through rolling upgrades from a hot 386 in 1989 to 486, then to 133 Pentium. No. 3 started life as a 386 in 1991 and had been upgraded with a new motherboard about 1995. No. 1 and No. 2 were directly connected (coaxial cable) in a peer-to-peer network. All had CD-ROM drives and 32MB of RAM.

Our peripherals included: two scanners (Relisys Taurus SCSI flatbed acquired late in '97 and older HP sheetfed, grayscale ScanJet 4.2 with parallel port interface), two

of inexpensive speakers.

Now we have all the above, plus one new machine, in a peer-to-peer network, using a LinkSys 5-port hub and Category 5 UTP (unshielded twisted pair) cables.

The Micron got a 6.4GB Seagate UDMA hard drive. That worked so well and was so easy to install that I later (when prices dropped 10-15%) added a similar drive to No. 2 computer. Then came a Super Woofer speaker system and 56.6Kbps fax/modem for the Micron; about mid-summer I upped the RAM to 64MB and slipped in a 200MHz WinChip CPU.

Then came a windfall in the form of several freelance assignments, including one for PC World. At the same time, Ken's Korner was growing rapidly and I needed more resources to do research, check products and technologies and store and keep track of data. So I decided to accelerate an upgrade of our entire system, compressing it into six months instead of spread over the year originally planned.

No. 2 computer, the one my wife Liz uses for graphics and financial work, got a major upgrade: New Socket 7 ATX motherboard, 225MHz WinChip, 56Kbps fax/modem, 32X CD-ROM drive replacing the 8X unit, 64MB RAM. The motherboard needed a new case, so we scrapped the full tower for a midtower with new power supply.

Next, I added a totally new machine, as a combination server and workstation: 300MHz Pentium II with ballbearing fan, BX motherboard, 64MB SDRAM, 6.4GB Samsung hard drive, AGP (advanced graphics port) Trident 4MB graphics card, 36X CD-ROM drive, 1.44MB

(Continued on page 6)

printers (HP LaserJet III and HP InkJet 855Cse), SyQuest 135MB removable cartridge drive and Casio QV100 digital camera (Christmas present, 1996) and a couple of sets

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Ken's Korner

(Continued from page 5)

floppy drive and ATX midtower case.

I use a KVM (keyboard, video display, mouse) switch (covered in another article: "KVM Switch: Secret Weapon for Small Offices") to control the server and my No. 1 Micron machine. We use the server mainly to store files, for backup and for Windows Office 97 Professional Edition, which can be run via the network from any of the other machines.

The spare No. 3 computer got major upgrades, too. It now has a new motherboard, 300MHz AMD K6-2 CPU, 64MB RAM, 24X CD-ROM drive, 56K fax/modem, the 2.3GB IDE drive taken from the No. 2 computer (for a total of 3.5GB), new keyboard and mouse. I added a suitcase handle to the top of the midtower case so I can take it to meetings to show Power Point presentations or do demos. It retains both 3.5" and 5.25" floppy drives so I can copy files archived on older Disks to newer media. I added a Quicknet PhoneJack card and digital video camera so we can use this computer as a Net Telephony/video conferencing workstation. (Watch for a future article on this subject.)

Computers 1, 2 and 3 each have an attached printer: No. 1, LaserJet III; No. 2, HP InkJet 722C; No. 3, InkJet 855Cse. Any of our four computers can print to any of the printers via the network. We have speaker systems for three of these machines, plus two microphones and headsets which are plugged in as needed.

The networked system works great for our needs. While fairly extensive—more elaborate than many home offices, perhaps on a par with

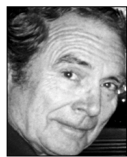
small businesses, whether run from home or a small office—it is not cutting edge by current standards. No Pentium III CPUs, no gigantic 12- to 18GB UDMA drives and no T1 or cable modem access to the Internet (though we're hoping for an ADSL connection later this year).

Liz doesn't do 3D graphics, we don't yet do any video editing or manipulate huge spreadsheets and we don't play performance-hungry games, so the system serves our needs more than adequately.

What are future plans? I intend to upgrade Liz's No. 2 computer to a 300MHz CPU, maximum for the motherboard, and will replace her CD-ROM drive with either a CD-R or DVD drive. The No. 3 machine will get a 15" SVGA monitor (to replace the current 14" VGA model) and an 8.4GB UDMA drive (to replace the two smaller IDE drives). My No. 1 Micron computer likely will get a new motherboard and CPU within the next six to eight months

The wish list include a new higher-resolution digital still camera. Beyond that, who knows? Depends on the budget, our growing needs and price trends. We'll keep you posted!

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Ken's Korner is available to User Groups without charge, and appears in more than 200 worldwide. For reprint permission, write kfermoyle@earthlink.net.

Find a file's path fast: Launch the Run command dialog (Start/Run), clear the Open box by hitting the Backspace key, and then drag and drop the file of your choice into the Open box. Windows will type the full path of the file into the box.

Source: www.winmag.com

Letters

(Continued from page 3)

eventually try to start a users group. Perhaps we can gain expertise as a number of people here complain about various problems. More later, and say 'hello' for me.

Dean Kise
okise@ibm.net

■ Shrunken CDs?

You might find this URL interesting: <http://www.pctechguide.com/09cdr-rw.htm>. For people new to CD-RW technology, it explains why you don't get 650 megs on a CD-RW disk. I thought I had "defective" disks because they formatted to 535 megs.

Also, I just discovered this site: <http://www.whatis.com>. If you're stuck on a computer term, you'll find the answer here!

Paul Stephen
Winnipeg PC Users' Group
editorpaul@wpcusrgrp.org

■ Computer haikus

Here's some filler ORCOPUG readers might enjoy:

"In Japan, Sony, the maker of the Vaio computers, have replaced those impersonal and unhelpful Microsoft error messages with their own Japanese haiku poetry."

Out of memory.
We wish to hold the whole sky.
But we never will.

Having been erased,
The document you're seeking
Must now be retyped.

Serious error.
All shortcuts have disappeared.
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

(Continued on page 10)

DataKeeper eases backup chores

by Lloyd Boutwell

DataKeeper from PowerQuest is a backup program that can make your backup chores easier and automatic. I was particularly intrigued by the continuous backup feature (more on this later). The version I received for review is 3.00 (build 21).

According to the PowerQuest web site, DataKeeper (1.93MB installation file) is available for download at “only” \$49.95. There is an 80KB Adobe Acrobat file “DataKeeper Quick Start Guide” in place of a printed manual.

PowerQuest says that the technology in DataKeeper was developed by Highpoint Technologies of Austin Texas, a recent PowerQuest acquisition. DataKeeper may be ordered by mail or at www.ugr.com/order. The user group special price code is UGEVAL99 and allows you to buy the program at \$25. Gene Barlow of PowerQuest indicates that the program will most likely be offered as a standard retail product in the future.

Here's what I liked about DataKeeper:

1. The program writes the backup as condensed files for each file you designate. This has the advantage that if there is some sort of media problem on your backup, then not all data is lost. Some backup programs write one large file for the backup which may reduce your confidence in the backup.
2. You can create a number of jobs each defining which files you want to backup. You can specify one of the jobs for full backup, another job for

incremental backups and another for continuous backups.

3. You can use any removable disk drive, network drive, hard disk, or floppy drive, with the exception of tape and CD-R drives.
4. You can create multiple versions of backups. This is handy if you like to keep several versions of your files.
5. Program installation is very fast and straight forward so you shouldn't have any trouble loading it.
6. Restoring selected files is a breeze. You can select which file you want to restore by simply double

clicking it using Windows Explorer to bring up the Restore function of DataKeeper. Since you are not using tape or a program

that will backup selected files into one big and long file, you have quick access to the file of interest.

7. You have more control over the backup options than with programs like “1-Step Backup” provided with JAZ or ZIP drives.

There are a few negatives:

1. I have not had much luck with the continuous backup option. It seemed to mess with my Microsoft browser so that I could not use the newsgroup portion. I believe that this is due to my browser setup, so most people won't have the same problem.
2. I wanted to try to backup to CD-

RW media but since I installed DataKeeper, my CD-RW stopped working (I can still do CD-Rs and CD-ROMs). More than likely, this is just a coincidence. PowerQuest says that CD-RWs should work but I assume that this would be a slow process since CD-RW are not as fast as JAZ, ZIP, or hard drives, particularly when writing files.

3. The program requires Windows 95/98 to be running so it isn't useful for recovering from disasters such as hard drive crashes. But, of course, PowerQuest has other programs for that.

4. DataKeeper makes a log of what it does which can be viewed but, surprisingly, not printed.

Besides not using floppies for

backups of any real size, hard drives are OK only if they are not the same physical hard drive undergoing backup.

Removable drives are probably the best option such as the JAZ, ZIP, or equivalent drives.

The manual could use a little work, it took me several tries to figure out how to do incremental backups (Filter Files under Advanced Options).

The program defaults to first drive after the A drive for designating which files are to be backed up. This is usually the C drive unless you have a B drive (like I do) and why would you want to backup the B drive, anyway. But, this is a minor point easily corrected by manually designating the drive/files you want to backup.

I believe the positive features outweigh the few minor negatives so DataKeeper is a “keeper,” especially at the user group price.



How long can I store files on a floppy disk?

Reference books say the optimum period for floppy disk storage is two years. Molecules on the floppy disk's magnetic surface gradually became weakened and disarranged, causing data loss.

If you must use a floppy for long term storage, transfer the data periodically to a new floppy.

Interestingly, recordable CD-ROM disks also have an optimum life of five years for the typical user. The environment, and how you store and label a disk may shorten its life. Magic marker ink, for instance, eventually works its way from the top of the disk to the recordable layer resulting in data corruption.

Ideal storage conditions for CDs are: Temperature between 45–85 degrees, low humidity, stored in jewel cases with the weight of the CD supported by its center, and kept out of light when not used.

What should I do when Ctl+Alt+Delete won't "unfreeze" my computer?

You probably know that when a program fails to respond, there's a good chance that using the Ctl+Alt+Delete keys will help you get your computer working again.

Pressing the three keys at the same time in Windows 95 and 98 causes a Close Program box to appear. Then, you can highlight the application that isn't working and click on End Task.

If this trusty "three-finger salute" doesn't work, the next step is to



by Linda Gonse

press the Reset button on your computer. This is referred to as a "warm boot." The computer reboots without being turned off and back on again with the power button.

But, you might have to turn it off as a last resort if pressing Reset doesn't clear the problem. Turning the power off and on to reboot the computer is referred to as a "cold boot." It's best to leave the computer off for a full minute before turning it back on, to allow the hard disk time to stop spinning.

Computer vocabulary

Enhanced keyboard

This type of keyboard comes with most PCs sold today. It includes 101 or 102 keys. The biggest difference between enhanced keyboards and earlier versions is the enhanced keyboard has 12 function keys running across the top of the keyboard, instead of 10 that run down the left side.

Other changes include the addition of extra CTRL keys, ALT keys, and cursor arrow keys between the letter keys and numeric keypad on the right side.

Source: *Computing Dictionary PC Novice/Smart Computing*

Part I

What's a cookie?

by T.J. Lee

Publisher, *The Naked PC*

Cookies are bits of information that Web sites store on your computer. You surf by and they just up and plunk down some data on your computer.

Scary, huh? Well, yes and no. Mostly no.

You see the Internet is not designed for how most everyone wants to use and think of it. It's just like the network at your office only bigger, right? Wrong. In the HTTP world a connection between you and some other computer (like a Web server upon which you are displaying a Web page) is not what's called "persistent." The connection doesn't last longer that it takes for the Web server to give you the page, file, graphic, etc., your browser just asked for. And the Web server doesn't remember you from one connection to the next even if they're only seconds apart.

Think of it like this. You wait in line, get to the service window and explain your whole situation, who you are, what you want, why you're there, and on and on. The person in the window hands you the piece of information you asked for and you walk away. Then you turn around to ask for just one more thing and the service rep looks at you with a blank expression and says, "Who are you?" You have to start all over again with who you are, what you want, etc., right from the beginning. That's how the Web works, only much faster. Your browser connects, asks for something (like a Web page) then disconnects. You look at the page, click on a link, and the connection process begins all

(Continued on page 9)

Change fonts within Netscape Navigator

If you do a lot of reading on the Internet you may want to increase or decrease text fonts in the browser by going to the View menu and selecting Increase Font (Ctrl +]) or Decrease Font (Ctrl + [) until you get the text just the size you want.

You can also control Navigator's font type and colors to make reading easier on your eyes. Go to the Edit menu and select Preferences. In the Preferences dialog box, select Appearance in the Category: list box, and expand the category by clicking on the plus sign just to the left of the word Appearance. The Category: list box will display two additional categories for fonts and color.

To work with text font colors, go back to the Category list box and select Colors under the Appearances category. In the resulting panel you can configure text and background colors to fit your needs.

Source: ZD Tips

For a FREE issue of Inside the Internet visit <http://www.zdjournals.com/forms/int/cuvw79.htm>

What's a cookie?

(Continued from page 8)

over again.

Cookies are how the Web fakes persistence. When a Web site needs to remember something about you it sticks it in a cookie and stores it on your computer. This way it can find it again later. Say you visit a Web site and the page asks for your name. You type in "Harvey" (because you always liked that name) and you

leave. But before you go, the Web site sticks "Harvey" in a cookie, a cookie that only this Web site knows about. The next time you surf this site again it asks your browser for the cookie, the browser coughs it up (sorry, poor choice of words) and when the page displays it, it says, "Welcome back Harvey!" It knew it was Harvey because that's what was stored in the cookie. And it had to be stored on your computer because the Web server has no way to identify you the next time you connect to it.

If you use Navigator your browser cookies are stored in the cookies.txt file, typically stored in C:\Program Files\Netscape\Users\your_profile_name\cookies.txt. Internet Explorer stores your cookies under the main Windows folder, typically C:\Windows\Cookies with each cookie being an individual file.

So are they a good thing or a bad thing? Well, generally they only store things you (or your browser) tell a Web site, or things the Web site wants to remember about you. Like the last time you visited, what the order number was on the purchase you just made. Stuff like that. But if having cookies bugs you, you can tell your browser not to accept them. Or use a utility that lets you selectively use or avoid cookies as you see fit.

T.J. Lee has co-authored numerous books, including Office 97 Annoyances, and is publisher of The Naked PC, a free, online newsletter. Contact him at tj_lee@TheNakedPC.com, or subscribe to The Naked PC at <http://www.TheNakedPC.com/subscribe.html>.



Then and Now

By the end of 1997, there were about 36 million adults (18 and over) online in the United States. Over 25% of Internet users came online during the same year.

By the year 2000, it is estimated that there will be 142 million Internet users worldwide, with approximately half being from the United States.

Source: Computing Dictionary, Winter 1997



Created and designed by Linda Gense

Say "no" to power strips

Don't use a power strip for your ink jet printer. Many printers need to "park" their print heads in a specific spot so they don't dry out and clog. The printer's power switch tells the printer to prepare for shutdown. If you use a power switch it turn off the printer, the printer can't park the heads properly, and you may cause damage to the print heads. —LG

Is that virus real?

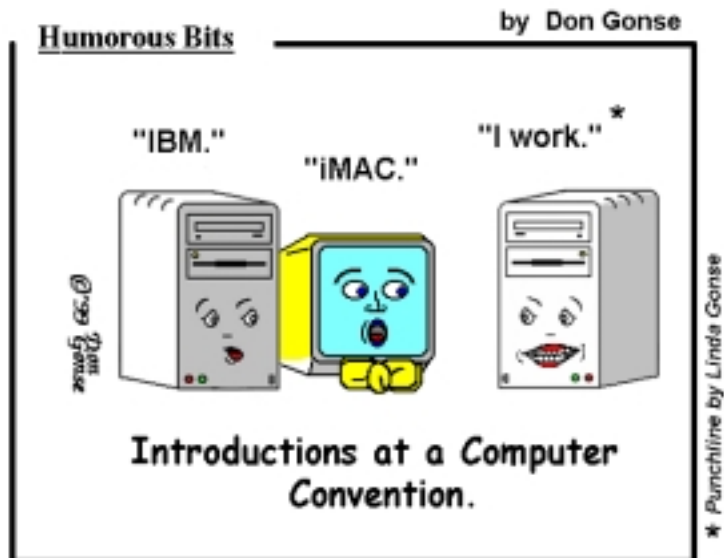
Check out real and fanciful virus warnings at <http://www.av.ibm.com/current/>, <http://kumite.com/myths/>, <http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html>, <http://ciac.llnl.gov/ciac/CIACHoaxes.html>, and <http://www.datafellows.com/vir-info/>. —LG

Internet truism

"...it is just the way the Internet works—what is mine is mine and what is yours is mine as soon as I can download it."

*William LaMartin
Tampa Bay Computer Club*

Peripherals



Cartoons free to User Groups when accompanied by both credit and e-mail information lines. Request images from Don at degonse@juno.com.

Subscribe to Kim Komando's free newsletter

You can subscribe to Kim Komando's free weekly online newsletter. The May 14 issue has some tips about online escrow services, keeping your CD-ROM from automatically playing, plus some jokes.

To subscribe, visit the online subscription form at <http://www.komando.com/newsletter/>. You will automatically be signed up and your subscription will start with the very next issue!

Submitted by Stan Leese

Five new domain name registrars start test program

The market for registering Internet domain names ending in .com, .net and .org has been opened to an initial group of five companies, including America Online Inc. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers, or ICANN, the nonprofit corporation that took over governance of the domain name system last October, announced May 12 which firms will participate in a test program of the newly formed Shared Registry System.

Submitted by Ted Wirtz

Web sites offer Windows tips

At the May meeting, Mike Lyons, ORCOPUG president, announced URLs for several Windows '98 web sites with useful tips and info. The URLs are reprinted here for members' future reference.

www.cmpnet.com/win98/

www.zdnet.com/windows/98/

www.windows-help.net/windows98/

www.annoyances.org/win98/

www.refdest.com/win95.html

www.conitech.com/windows/win98.asp

Submitted by Mike Lyons

What's in a name?

A Dell customer needed help setting up a new program, so a Dell tech suggested he go to the local Egghead. "Yeah, I got me a couple of friends," the customer replied. When told Egghead was a software store, the man said, "Oh, I thought you meant for me to find a couple of geeks."

Submitted by Vince Cimino

Twisted translation

In case you think Alta Vista's translation service isn't perfect...

This English sign was posted at a Budapest (Hungary) zoo: **Please do not feed the animals. If you have any suitable food, give it to the guard on duty.**

*Submitted by French Prescott
UG Rep., Enfish Technology*

Letters

(Continued from page 6)

*You step in the stream,
but the water has moved on.
This page is not here.*

*Three things are certain:
Death, taxes, and lost data.
Guess which has occurred.*

*The website you seek
Cannot be located, but
Countless more exist.*

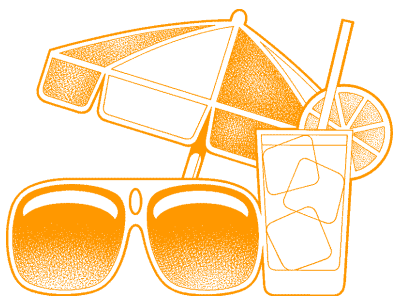
Myra Milgrom
WriteOnBiz@earthlink.net

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Fun in the sun...

(Continued from page 1)



Conference highlights

- Ken Fermoye will facilitate a two-part Media Workshop covering publishing fundamentals. Panelists will include Linda Gonse, Gunther Schott, and John Weersing.
- Adobe will sponsor both the newsletter and web site contests.
- Adobe, PowerQuest, JASC, Microsoft, and Symantec will present products and sponsor meals. Other sponsors are: Corel, breaks; Inprise, T-shirts, and MGI, welcome bag.
- At the Saturday night Vendor Faire, attendees can talk to the

vendors while they are demonstrating their products.

- Conference attendees will also receive free admission to the Computer Expo, which is being held July 9 through July 11.

Registration is \$30 through 6/18; \$40 through 7/2; and \$50 on-site registration from 7/3. Please check out the Conference web page at www.swugconf.org for more details. You can also print a registration form to send with your check.

The Conference will be held at the San Diego Mission Valley Hilton Hotel. All meals will be served in the hotel.

The conference hotel room rate is \$99. Please call 800-733-2332 before June 25 to reserve your room at the group rate.

Planning meeting set

The ORCOPUG planning meeting will be June 17, at 7 p.m. at Downey Savings and Loan, on the corner of Bastanchury and Laguna, in Fullerton. Meetings are held the third Thursday of every month.—LG

APCUG Spring Event near

by Judy Lococo,
Spring Event Chair

The APCUG/Intergalactic Spring Event is scheduled for June 19-21 in New York in conjunction with PC Expo, which is planned for June 22-24. Vendors are being booked to show their latest products and roundtable sessions are being finalized.

On Saturday, New York PC Club will have a traditional slate of workshops covering a wide range of topics. On Sunday, APCUG's roundtables will cover topics from services to Internet to recycling. On Monday, there will be training sessions led by vendor representatives. Complete details are available at <http://www.apcug.org/events/pcexpo/rtsched.htm>.

For other APCUG events, go to <http://www.apcug.org/apcug/events.htm>.

NEW!

Members' Classified Ads

For Sale

Two-story, 1,000 sq. ft. condo, 2 BR, 1-1/2 bath, fireplace, 1 car attached garage, inside laundry area, private balcony, security system, close to park, schools, mall, HO Assn. Owner carries or you finance, \$119,900. Lothar Loehr (714) 447-3815, H; (714) 562-3535, W.

For Sale

IBM Selectric II electric typewriter. Works good. \$30. Linda Gonse, lgonse@pe.net.

Buy/Sell

Your computer items at monthly meetings. Mark your name and price, place on table in meeting room. Sell/buy at break. Remove items after meeting.

Place your ad here!

Send items to Editor—address page 2.

Members' Web Pages

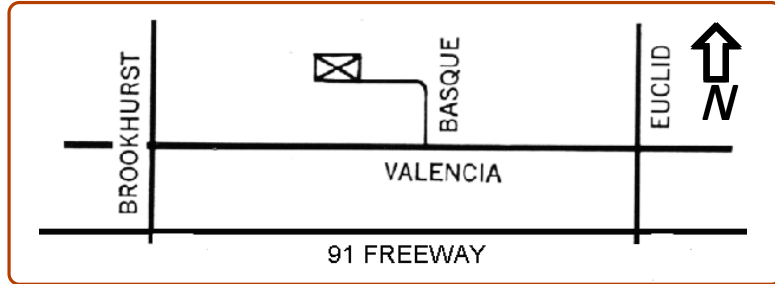
Gloria Bearss	http://www.geocities.com/~glen-glo Breed & Show Harlequin Great Danes
Jim Brubaker	http://www.1homeseller.com Discount Real Estate Services for Buyers and Sellers of Homes
Vince Cimino	http://www.pe.net/~capov Model Airplanes
Linda Gonse	http://basicbytes.com PC Instruction, Newsletter 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

Free Lost & Found trial offer, news briefs,
links, Windows tips and Y2K updates...
Find them all at www.orcopug.org—Click on HOT NEWS!

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.

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.)



For more information, call (714) 990-0580, or go to www.orcopug.org.

See the
Interactive
Pen System!
—
Tuesday
June 8
6:30 pm
Bring a friend!
—
News & links at
www.orcopug.org

Nibbles
& Bits

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