



# Brevard Users Group



March 2004



## The new Club Officers

President	Secretary	Vice President	Treasurer	1st Member at Large
George Rymer	Joan Hefter	Jack Nash	Pete Lehotsky	Tom Wojnar

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### *Brevard Users Group*

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### THE NEXT MEETING OF THE BREVARD USERS GROUP WILL BE ON

*Wednesday, March 17th, 2004*

*AT 7:00 pm*

*IN*

*the Melbourne Library*

*Visitors welcome!*

Visit the BUG CLUB web site  
for the latest schedule.

<http://bugclub.org>

**There will be a drawing for Door Prizes!  
You must be a member and present to win!**

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**The Second version of the Newbies CD is now Available. The cost is \$5.00, or \$3.00 if you return the First version.  
See Jim Hally at any of the club meetings.**

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# Secretary's Report

By Joan Hefter

18 February 2004

## BUG Monthly Meeting

George Rymer, President, started the meeting at 7:05 pm. He introduced two new members and one guest.

Rex Cummings promoted the BUG CD of Newsletters that are for sale and well worth the \$5.00. Rex also shared information about [www.newegg.com](http://www.newegg.com) for a laptop hard drive device; motherboard and cases, which you can get with free shipping, no tax, and receive a free T-Shirt.

Sam Dougherty informed us that John Courtney, who was a member back in 1982-1985, died over the weekend. He was the clubs first newsletter editor.

George announced the outgoing officers: Lucille Wagner, Vice-President; Mary Alice Grant, Secretary; and Ted Glasser, Treasurer and thanked them for all the work they have done in the past year.

Mr. Rymer than introduced the new officers which are:

President: George Rymer  
Vice President: Jack Nash  
Secretary: Joan Hefter  
Treasurer: Pete Lehotsky  
First Member at Large: Tom Wojnar  
Second Member at Large: Dave Hixon

George said that two by-laws have to be changed and voted on at the next meeting. They were about installing new officers the night they are elected and having two signatures on a check signed by the President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer. Where previously it said any two members of the board.

The remainder of the meeting was given over to questions and answered by Chuck Boring and Ed McEwen.

There were two door prizes raffled off to the members who were present.

The meeting was closed at 8:05 pm.

Respectively submitted by Secretary,  
Joan Hefter



## Bylaw Changes

**The following changes to the Clubs Bylaws will be voted on at the March 17, 2004 Monthly meeting.**

**B.** Voting shall take place at the Annual Meeting and shall be by secret ballot. The nominees receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be considered the winners and installed before the close of the Annual meeting. In the event there are more than two candidates for an office and no candidate receives a majority, the candidate with the least votes will be dropped from the ballot and a second vote held. This procedure will be followed until one candidate receives a majority.

**D. Treasurer** - The Treasurer shall have charge of the funds of the BUG, shall conduct its banking business and all accounts. The Treasurer shall serve as Chairman of the membership committee and keep a record of active members and receive all dues income from renewals and new members. Two signatures are required on all checks issued by the BUG Club.

Checks shall be signed by two of the following Officers: Treasurer, President, Vice President or Secretary.



### FOR SALE

Wooden computer desk with monitor platform and keyboard tray. Four drawers, oak finish. Desk is 60X18 inches.  
\$90.00

Microtek Scanner - software and cables included.  
\$35.00

Call Mary Alice Grant, 253-5666 05/04

## From the Webmaster

By Eric Arnold

Email Address Pitfalls  
(Proper use of POP3 & SMTP addresses)

Most people today have a POP3 (Post Office Protocol v3) email address or two, they use them in their everyday life with ease. There are pitfalls we all need to be aware of, and its not the Viruses and Worms in the attachments! To avoid these future problems and pitfalls, you need to get a web based SMTP (Simple Mail Transfer Protocol) email address like: Yahoo!, HotMail, Juno, etc. This will become a rock solid and constant email address, and their free!

The biggest pitfall is signing up for online services like a virus scanning account or an online bank account, where we all provide personal information including an email address. These addresses are frequently used for logging in and are usually combined with a password. The pitfall is changing your ISP (Internet Access Provider), job or other source for the POP3 email address. When your account is closed, your email is cancelled! The other Pitfall is the frequent sale of your address to mass-marketing enterprises by those trusted online services. This increases the quantity of junk mail and spam flowing toward your inbox! Online email providers have excellent filters to trap the bulk of spam, and none of it goes on your hard drive, or chokes up your internet connection!

Most online services will allow you to change or update your email address. However, if your old one is defunct, it becomes a real problem! The solution is to use a web-based email address when you sign up for online services, not the address from an ISP. Over the years, many of us have jumped from one ISP to another for various reasons, either for price savings, or for increased access speeds. To avoid the pitfalls you should obtain an online web based email address and keep it private!

Oh yeah,

Don't open attachments from people you do not know!

The Webmaster



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### TIP

**Windows XP — Enable / Disable Firewall**

Open Control Panel and double click on Network Connections. In the new box that appears right click on the Connection and click on the Advanced tab. Check or uncheck the box according to your desire.



# Protect Your PC!

By Ed Bott

**Book excerpt: Microsoft Windows Security Inside Out for Windows XP and Windows 2000.**

The recent Blaster and Sobig.F fiascos made us realize that not everyone has read our book and heeded our advice!

*Like you, we've been besieged by worried readers wanting to know how they can protect themselves from viruses, worms, and hackers. So Ed adapted material from an updated excerpt of our book and created an easy-to-follow, four-step program that should help any user at any level. — Carl Siechert, co-author, Microsoft Windows Security Inside Out.*

**Article: Did you get Blasted last month? Did your Inbox overflow with infected e-mail messages? Were you ready to toss your PC into the trash and unplug your Internet connection? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you've got plenty of company.**

Last month, the Internet got a loud wake-up call when the Blaster worm (aka MSBlast or LovSan) struck with a vengeance, crashing a million computers and practically paralyzing the Internet.

If you were lucky enough to avoid getting Blasted, chances are you personally felt the effects of the Sobig.F virus, which appeared one week later and had a devastating impact on worldwide e-mail delivery systems, overwhelming individual computers and mail servers with a torrent of infected messages. At the height of the deluge, some security experts estimated that Sobig-infected messages made up more than 70 percent of all e-mail traffic.

Blaster was noteworthy for the speed with which it spread. Sobig.F was noteworthy for the sheer volume of e-mail that it generated. This double-whammy served as a warning for anyone who thought they didn't need to worry about computer security. In the past few weeks, Carl Siechert (my co-author on a couple of best-selling Windows books) and I have

been bombarded with questions from friends, family, neighbors, and business associates who want to know how to stop these two bits of nasty computer code and how to protect themselves from the inevitable next wave of attacks. I've personally had to clean up a handful of infected computers. It's not fun. The task is especially unpleasant when the victim doesn't have a recent backup and faces the prospect of losing irreplaceable business documents and e-mail.

## **Magic? There Isn't Any**

Unfortunately, there's no magic bullet that can protect you against viruses, worms, and other nastiness. Thanks to always-on, high-speed Internet connections, you're vulnerable to attack at any time. Good habits alone won't protect you, either. Blaster, for instance, hopped from computer to computer over ordinary Internet connections. You didn't need to open an e-mail attachment or click a deadly Web link - all that Blaster needed was a Windows computer whose owner had been too busy to install Microsoft critical update MS03-026 and who hadn't bothered to install a firewall.

Protecting your computer (and your network, if you have one) requires a little bit of education, a little bit of persistence, and the willingness to take charge of your own computer's security. You've taken the first step by reading this article. The four-point program we outline here is appropriate for anyone using Windows XP or Windows 2000, and most of its recommendations are applicable even if you're using an earlier Windows version. It's a simplified version of a comprehensive 11-point program in Windows Security Inside Out, which is aimed at power users and network administrators (you'll find the complete list in Chapter 2). We've added some commentary to bring the material up to date and make it even more accessible for people who might be uncomfortable with some of the jargon of computer security.

## **Here's What to Do**

Each of the items in the checklist below is part of a comprehensive security policy. If you follow this program, you can protect yourself from all sorts of threats to your security and privacy.

*Continued on Page 6*

## ***Protect PC ... Continued From Page 5***

1. Install All Windows Security Patches: **This task belongs at the top of the list, and for good reason. Without exception, every version of Windows ever released includes bugs and defects that open the door for intruders. Over time, as these security problems are identified, Microsoft's developers release patches and updates (sometimes referred to as hotfixes) that repair the problems. At regular intervals, Microsoft releases service packs, which incorporate all bug fixes and security updates to that point.**

We know a few Windows experts who insist that you should not install each Critical Update as it comes out. Instead, they say, you should wait and see whether a particular Windows patch causes problems on other people's computers before you take the risk of installing it on your own. And with all due respect to these colleagues, we say: Are you crazy? These days, the authors of viruses and worms are moving at Internet speed. The Blaster worm arrived less than four weeks after Microsoft issued an update that plugged the hole that it exploited. In theory, an attacker could launch a worm within days or even hours of a published alert.

If you see a Critical Update whose description warns that the security hole in question "could allow an attacker to compromise a computer running Microsoft Windows and gain control over it" or "could allow an attacker to execute code on the system," you should install the update immediately, without delay. We cannot imagine any inconvenience that could be worse than having your data destroyed by a virus or your computer hijacked by a hacker.

We recommend that you configure Windows' Automatic Updates feature to check for critical updates at regular intervals. You can choose to receive notifications only, download the updates automatically, or (if you have Service Pack 1 installed) have Windows update your system files automatically. To configure this feature, open the System option in Control Panel (under Performance And Maintenance if you're using Category view) and click the Automatic Updates tab. Windows XP users will find illustrated, step-by-step instructions at Microsoft's Security and Privacy Web site. [Note: The Automatic Updates feature is available for virtually all Windows versions,

not just Windows XP. Ironically, you may need to connect to Windows Update to install this feature!]

2. Install and Configure a Firewall: **A firewall is a system or software that controls the flow of traffic between networks and protects your computer or network from intruders. This extra layer of protection is especially important on any computer with an "always on" Internet connection, such as a DSL line or cable modem. Firewalls vary widely in their cost and features, but in general they consist of hardware, software, or a combination of the two, which prevents unauthorized users from making a connection to your computer without your permission. A personal firewall is intended to block hackers from trying to break into your PC. On networks, a firewall acts as a single point of access to the outside world, making it easier to maintain security on every network computer and to keep a log of intrusion attempts.**

The built-in Internet Connection Firewall (ICF) included with Windows XP effectively blocks all incoming traffic from the outside except on ports where you've requested data. (If you request a Web page, the firewall allows that data to get through; if a hacker tries to "ping" your system, the request gets blocked.) In Windows XP, the ICF is automatically configured when you run the Network Setup Wizard. Many Windows-based programs can work seamlessly through the firewall (all traffic from the local machine is allowed out), although you might need to configure some ports manually before you can run a third-party program that uses nonstandard ports.

Third-party firewall programs (such as ZoneAlarm and Norton Internet Security) are appropriate for use with any computer running a version of Windows other than XP, and for Windows XP users who want more protection than the basic capabilities provided by ICF. In addition to intrusion detection and logging, many of these programs supply tools to help you configure traffic on a per-application basis, allow virtual private network connections, and alert you when intrusion attempts are taking place. Those extra capabilities, of course, come with a fairly steep learning curve.

Finally, if you have more than one computer using the same cable modem or DSL connection, get a

***Continued on Page 7***

### ***Protect PC ... Continued from Page 6***

hardware router, which makes it easier to share Internet access and effectively blocks unwanted traffic from outside.

3. Install and Configure Antivirus Software: **Given the pandemic spread of viruses on the Internet in recent years, it's foolhardy to even think of connecting a computer to the Internet without robust, up-to-date antivirus software. Dozens of options are available, most at relatively modest prices. More important than installing the software, of course, is making sure it is capable of detecting all current viruses (using a virus signature file that is updated frequently). The best antivirus programs include software agents that handle the chore of updating signature files automatically, so you are continually protected. After installing the software and the latest updates, scan your system to ensure that you're virus-free.**

Don't let a virus or worm take over your computer or network. It's important that you train all users of your computer and network (especially other family members who aren't sophisticated computer users) in safe computing procedures. Install antivirus software on every desktop computer, and configure it for regular updates, at least weekly. You should also configure your e-mail software to block or quarantine potentially dangerous attachments.

Finally, bookmark authoritative sources of information about viruses and virus hoaxes. These are some of our favorites:

ICSA Labs' Virus Alerts  
**[http://snurl.com/ICSA\\_Lab](http://snurl.com/ICSA_Lab)**

CERT Coordination Center Computer Virus Resources **<http://snurl.com/cert>**

Symantec Security Response and Symantec Hoax Alerts **[http://snurl.com/symantec\\_hoax](http://snurl.com/symantec_hoax)**

F-Secure Security Information Center  
**[http://snurl.com/f\\_secure](http://snurl.com/f_secure)**

McAfee Security Virus Information  
**[http://snurl.com/mcafee\\_AV](http://snurl.com/mcafee_AV)**

No version of Windows includes virus protection out of the box. For that, you have to find third-party software solutions. In *Windows Security Inside Out* (see: [http://snurl.com/insideout\\_secure](http://snurl.com/insideout_secure)), we include a list of 12 leading makers of antivirus software from all over the world. Some are free, others are subscription-based, and still others make products that are priced for corporate use.

How do you know that a particular piece of software actually does what it's supposed to do? Look through the list of certified antivirus products compiled by ICSA Labs, a leading independent tester of this class of software. To earn certification, a program must detect 100 percent of all known in-the-wild viruses and 90 percent of in-the-lab viruses.

4. Create a Backup: **Accidents happen. Even the most security-conscious Windows user can fall victim to a power failure, a hardware glitch, or an attack that slips through a newly discovered security hole. Regardless of the cause, it's crucial that you have a reliable current backup at all times so that you can quickly recover data that's been damaged or destroyed. (In *Windows Security Inside Out*, we devote an entire chapter to preventing data loss.)**

Your backup plan doesn't have to be complicated. If you have a Zip drive or a CD burner, all you need to do is copy your crucial files once every week or two and store the backup disks in a safe place. The entire chore shouldn't take more than 10 minutes, and it's no more difficult than rolling your trash can to the curb every week. But backups are only effective if you remember to do them regularly. So we'll say it one more time:

Make a backup plan, and then make a backup.

*Adapted from Microsoft Windows Security Inside Out for Windows XP and Windows 2000 (Microsoft Press, 2002), by Ed Bott and Carl Siechert. (c) 2003 by Ed Bott. All rights reserved. Reproduced with permission. Article reproduction coordinated by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group (and author of PC Annoyances: <http://snurl.com/annoyances>).*



# WIRELESS NETWORKING: SOUNDS SCARY, BUT IT'S NOT!

by Ron Hirsch

Reprinted from Boca Bits

The NL of the Boca Raton Computer Society

For the longest time, I've been contemplating connecting my two main computers together. If they were in close proximity, and I could easily run a cable between them, I would have done so a long time ago. But, unfortunately, unlike our home of the past on Long Island, Florida homes have no basements, which are great places to run cables et al.

About a year ago, I was introduced to the new wireless networking standard, 802.11b. Now, I'm a very capable person with standalone computers, but networking was an area that was very alien to me. So, I decided to learn what I could about this new technology.

The more I learned, the more it seemed that this is the way to go. But I still stalled, when in early 2002, I read of a few problems with Windows XP, and some of the hardware out there.

Lately, it seemed that all those problems of a year ago are history now, and I decided to make the move. Home networking offers the user a great advantage that many are unaware of. When one has two or more computers networked, and you have a cable modem or DSL on your main computer, all the computers have access to that service. And, this is perfectly legitimate, and any or all of the machines so connected, can use the service at the same time.

And, when you are networked, all the machines on the network now have the capability to "talk" to each other. So you can transfer files and data of any/all types without having to use some removable media which you carry from one computer to another. The marketplace is now loaded with everybody offering hardware for wireless networking. Even Microsoft is offering these hardware items.

I have Adelpia PowerLink, and I was looking forward to having it available on both my machines. To do a network installation, you'll need a router/hub for your main machine, and an access point unit for each additional machine. Typical routers can handle 4 machines.

The router connects to your main machine, it has a separate power supply that gets plugged into the AC line, and then the router. For additional machines to be networked, there are several ways to go. You can install a PCI card inside the machine, you can use a PCMCIA card for a laptop, or you can connect the hardware to your computer via a USB cable. The USB cable is the route I chose. I was shocked to find that the performance was rock solid, at full speed (11Mbps) with a distance of 100 feet between my two machines.

## WHAT HARDWARE DID I BUY?

Just about everyone out there now has offerings for wireless hardware. It's probable that many of the offerors just have the stuff built and labeled for them, and the aspect of their tech support may be questionable.

On the other hand, LINKSYS ([www.linksys.com](http://www.linksys.com)) has been in the networking business for a long time. Their pricing is very competitive, and their hardware is widely available, and highly regarded. They have an excellent reputation, and for me, the choice was easy.

I bought their router BEFW11S4, and their access point WUSB11. I used my main e-commerce source for just about everything in computers - [www.buy.com](http://www.buy.com). The cost for both units was \$160, with free shipping, and there was still a small rebate available on one of the units. All the necessary cables and instructions came with the hardware. So, you shouldn't have to buy anything else. I should also mention that the wireless standard 802.11b is universally adhered to. What this means is that all the hardware out there should work with anyone else's hardware, assuming that all the "anyone elses" are doing what they should be doing. It's like a mouse - you can use anyone's mouse in your system - most of the time <G>.

*Continued on Page 9*

## *Networking ... Continued from Page 8*

### **HERE'S A REAL GOOD NEWS SHOCKER ABOUT LINKSYS**

I'm sure everyone knows what tech support has come to these days from most companies, if it's even available. There are non toll-free numbers, long waits, limited support hours, outrageous fees often, and questionable/wrong information offered by many. Linksys gets a gold star here. They have a toll-free number, 24/7/365 availability, free support, and the tech people know what they're taking about. When's the last time you saw that combo? I can't remember when I did.

If you call during peak times, you may well have to get in the queue, so a speaker phone is a handy thing to use. I was up very early one morning, and I had some issues to discuss with them. So I decided to call then, to hopefully get right through. At 4:30 am, my wait was only a couple of minutes, and I got everything resolved on the spot. Make no mistake - service and support is the name of the game, and when you find a good source, who has that, cherish them. Kudo's to Linksys

I can't vouch for the rest of the suppliers and "would-be" suppliers out there, but I would doubt that places like Microsoft will match Linksys's service. Even if you are a beginner, they will stay on the phone with you and assist you until everything is working properly. Linksys has been the leading wi-fi manufacturer. I just read that they are being bought out by one of the "big boys". Hopefully this will have only positive impacts on their products

### **802.11G - THE NEWEST VERSION**

The information presented above reflects my installation which was done in early 2003. Since that time, there has been a new version of the 802.11 standard, the "g" version. This offers faster speeds, and hardware for the "g" version is now available from many sources. The "g" hardware is fully backward compatible with the "b" hardware - at least that's what the ads state. However, I'd still recommend the 802.11b hardware for the reasons noted below.

1. Since most people will be using the wi-fi network to share a broadband Internet connection, 802.11b has more speed than even the fastest broadband services currently available.

2. The 802.11b hardware has been dropped in price, now that the "g" version is being pushed.

3. The "b" hardware is now field proven, while the "g" hardware is still new.

4. The practical range that the wi-fi system will work over is in excess is claimed to be over 100 feet between the access point, and other computers. The "b" hardware has booster amps available to increase this range when needed. The range and available boosters for the "g" equipment is not well established/confirmed yet.

### **INTEL'S NEW CENTRINO SYSTEMS**

There has been a new series of chips and other boards from Intel lately. These are the Pentium M units. And, when they come with the imbedded 802.11b wireless unit, the combo is named the Centrino" package. This series is designed for laptop/notebook computers, and offers 2 great features. The power drain has been substantially reduced, offering much longer battery life, and the 802.11b wireless capability has been built into the unit. This means that if one buys a new notebook/laptop with the "Centrino" package, it is ready to go in any wi-fi environment.

This includes one's home wi-fi, as well as any of the many areas that are popping up all over the country where wi-fi service is available. Many of the large communication giants are setting up rapidly expanding wi-fi services, and are pushing to have more and more set up. Wi-fi is here and growing rapidly.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

Wi-Fi wireless is here to stay. If you have several computers, and a broadband Internet service, I would highly recommend linking your systems in this manner. This is probably one of the easiest system enhancements you can do. Happy networking.



## MICROSOFT RESPONDS

By *Brian Livingston*

Is there an echo in here?

I reported three weeks ago that the WU (Windows Update) routine had been changed by Microsoft so that it now uploads your Product ID number and a list of your installed hardware (see “What Windows knows”).

When I was researching that story, a Microsoft spokeswoman confirmed for me that the company had never issued any announcement of this switch. Now it seems that Microsoft officials are eager to talk about it. In the interest of fairness, I’ll print here their comments as fully as I can.

Many companies avoid WU, preferring the corporate utilities I reviewed last week (see “Enterprise update”). But the change is still important in forecasting Microsoft’s plans.

The Redmond, Wash.-based company posted an interview with Nick Dallett, WU program manager on March 24. The piece criticizes researchers, claiming they said WU “provided Microsoft with a list of all software on a user’s computer.”

Let’s clear this up. As I reported, the German group, tecChannel, plainly said WU’s new potential to list all software “is currently unused.”

Aside from that point, Dallett’s comments seem accurate — and revealing. “We do collect information about the devices installed on your machine and the versions of drivers installed for those devices in order to see whether Windows Update has newer drivers that would be appropriate for your computer,” he says. “This information is used during the scanning process and is not stored by Microsoft. ... The information includes the version numbers for your operating system and for Microsoft Internet Explorer, the version numbers for other software that the site provides updates for, Plug and Play ID numbers for hardware devices, and your region and language settings.”

Dallett goes on to describe one of WU’s new functions, called GetSystemSpec.

“This method can be used to obtain several different types of information,” Dallett says. “When the method is called without any parameters, the default behavior is to return all available data, which includes

a list of top-level keys in the Software hive of the system registry. However, when the Windows Update Web site or the Automatic Updates client calls this method, the call includes parameters that limit the data that is returned so that it only contains information about the system type, the Windows operating system version and locale, and devices installed on the system,” (see <http://www.microsoft.com/presspass/features/2003/mar03/0324windowsupdateqa.asp>).

This simply confirms the new routines tecChannel found. Microsoft has put itself in an unenviable position. Given this virtual vacuum cleaner, it’s logically impossible to say what its parameters will or will not suck up in the future.

The new, currently unused functions were designed so Microsoft can charge users for its own or other parties’ patches in days to come. You may feel this is good or bad, but I think it’s your right to get as much advance warning of it as possible.

### *About the Author:*

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<http://www.iwsubscribe.com/newsletters/newsletters.asp>.

*Reprinted from Chautauqua Cyber Club NL*



## Tip

**Q.** I use Outlook Express, and it beats me how you can move any kind of e-mail without “opening” it. I mean, just click on it with either the right or left mouse button and bingo, it opens. How can you not open it?

**A.** One way is to change the Layout option in Outlook Express and remove the Preview Pane. The trade-off is that you’ll have to double-click messages to view them. To do this, go to View and select Layout. Next, uncheck Show Preview Pane and click Apply.



# IDE, EIDE and UDMA

by Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D.\*

Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.

Last month's TechTalk was all about hard drive size.

This month I decided to cover hard drive data transfer speed. More and more ads are appearing referring to UDMA/100 or ATA/100 drives. You may have also seen some ads for UDMA/66 or ATA/66 drives. So, what does this mean, and what are the advantages or disadvantages relative to your computer system? Enhanced IDE (EIDE) is the interface standard for the inexpensive, high performance hard disks used in PCs. This is a registered name owned by Western Digital Corporation. They also own the name "IDE." Other companies like Seagate, IBM, Quantum and Maxtor use the term Advanced Technology Attachment (ATA). EIDE and ATA refer to the same interface. However there are many different data transfer protocols included in these terms.

Ultra DMA (UDMA) also refers to the hard drive interface for the transfer of data to and from the hard drive. This is an extension of the original Integrated Data Electronics (IDE) interface that first appeared in the original IBM AT computer and the Enhanced IDE interface. The term AT is simply an abbreviation for Advanced Technology. This original specification was followed by EIDE and then by the UDMA improvements. Within the specification for the UDMA interface there are now three additional protocols: UDMA/33, UDMA/66 and UDMA/100.

All Pentium system boards since 1995 have an EIDE controller built into the chip set. This allows the hard disk and other EIDE units to be connected directly to the system board. The EIDE standard is a great improvement over the old IDE. For example, the EIDE hard disk can exceed the 528MB IDE limit that was discussed last month. The most important feature is that the interface connects directly to the PCI bus. This allows for transfer speeds that far exceed those of the older hard disk controllers.

The original EIDE interface allowed for a maximum data transfer rate of 16 megabytes per second (MB/sec). The next data transfer improvement was accomplished with the introduction of the Ultra DMA or Ultra ATA interface. This is an interface patented by Quantum but supported by all motherboard and disk drive manufacturers. The technology involves an improvement in the governing electronics that deliver the hard disk data to the system board. Quantum succeeded in reducing the bottleneck that occurs in transferring data to/from the EIDE hard disks. The UDMA hard disk is no faster, but the data paths have been optimized. With the new protocol, the speed is doubled by allowing twice the data transfer per clock cycle. This is referred to as UDMA/33 (UDMA mode 2) and supposedly has a maximum data transfer rate of 33MB/sec. However, in practice, this maximum speed is rarely achieved.

In 1997-98 Intel and Quantum created another Ultra DMA standard called ATA/66 or UDMA/66 (UDMA mode 4). This protocol has a theoretical bandwidth of 66MB/sec. It also requires a cable with 80 conductors instead of the original 40. The 40 additional conductors are used for grounding. In the older cables, only seven conductors were used for grounding. This improved grounding removes the noise remaining in the cable after a transmission (crosstalk). In the UDMA/33 protocol the controller had to wait for noise in the cable to disappear before the next transmission. With the new cables the noise is dramatically reduced, so there is less delay in data transmission.

The UDMA/66 protocol is fully compatible with UDMA/33. You may use both types of drives on motherboards that support either UDMA/33 or UDMA/66. Of course, you only get UDMA/33 performance using an UDMA/66 drive on an UDMA/33 motherboard. If your motherboard supports only the older EIDE standard (UDMA mode 0 or PIO mode 4), then you are limited to 16.6MB/sec transfer rates. If you have an older motherboard and you wish to install a UDMA/66 drive, you need to install a PCI-based UDMA/66 adapter to achieve maximum performance.

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### ***IDE-EIDE ... Continued from Page 11***

In spring of 2000, the IBM hard disks became so fast, that UDMA/66 became inadequate. These fast disks use a protocol called UDMA/100, developed by Quantum, who holds the Ultra DMA patents. Where UDMA/33 gave a very powerful boost in the bandwidth between controller and hard disk, UDMA/66 gives less of a gain in performance. On the other hand it solves a lot of compatibility problems by improving timings and other parameters in the UDMA specification. The UDMA/100 specification is reportedly simpler to implement in the chipset logic. Therefore it is cheaper to produce and fully compatible with both UDMA/33 and UDMA/66. It also provides another significant increase in hard drive performance.

The UDMA/100 interface has a theoretical bandwidth of 100MB/sec. This is more than any hard disk can deliver at present. However, the hard disk technology is improving rapidly, so disks may soon reach this limit. When that occurs, further improvements in data transfer technology will be needed. That new technology may be Serial ATA. Intel, Dell, IBM, Maxtor, Quantum and Seagate, and other partners are about to replace UDMA/100 with this new interface. The Serial ATA interface can transfer data at a rate of 160MB per second in its initial version (Serial ATA 1X or SA1X). Later versions are expected to provide bandwidths of up to 528MB per second. This will give us room for the next five years of hard disk technology improvements. It may also put the IDE technology ahead of SCSI for the first time.

Even more promising is the new cable design of Serial ATA. Instead of 40/80 conductors, the cables have only four conductors. This thinner cabling should reduce the airflow problems in many of the smaller computer case designs. There may also be an increase in the number of onboard hard drive controller channels from 4 to 8. Serial ATA will probably kill the remaining hope for use of the IEEE 1394 (FireWire) interface in PC's. It may still be used for video camera connections or other external devices. Intel has never really supported it for hard drive use.

In order to get maximum performance from a UDMA drive, your motherboard chip set, BIOS, and operating system must support the UDMA protocol.

Many of the more recent motherboards support UDMA/66, but not UDMA/100. For this latter protocol you may need to install a third party I/O card that supports it. For the UDMA/100 (ATA/100) drives, the drive manufacturer will generally provide drivers to work with Windows 98, 2000 or ME. However, the driver is of no value if the motherboard chipset doesn't support this faster protocol. So, before upgrading your hard drive, check with the motherboard manufacturer, or your owner's manual, to determine which UDMA specification the board supports. When you purchase your drive, be certain that it is supplied with the correct 80-conductor cable required for UDMA/100 and UDMA/66 hard drives.

So now you know that before upgrading an older computer, you need to check out several parameters. First, can your system support a hard drive greater than 40GB in size? Second, what UDMA protocol does it support? The answers to these questions will determine just what you can reasonably expect to install in your system. Although third party I/O cards are available, they do add to the upgrade cost. You must also ensure that you have a PCI slot available for this card. Once you have installed your new drive, you will have reduced, but not totally eliminated, one bottleneck in your computer's data handling system.

*\*Dr. Lewis is a former University and Medical School professor. He is available to help you with your computer hardware and software problems. He may be contacted via e-mail at [brian\\_klewis@hotmail.com](mailto:brian_klewis@hotmail.com) or voice mail at (941) 925-3047. :*

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# Newbies Corner

by Jim Hally B.U.G. member

## Take a break

I know I have been giving you some pretty heavy reading of late. I guess it is time to go to something lighter. In fact, I would love some of you folks to give me some ideas on what you would like to read about.

## Windows XP

I know it has been written that this is a very stable operating system that almost never crashes. (BTW Windows and Linux are supposed to be even more stable. However Jim T. and I crashed Windows the other evening. So much for those claims, my friends.) When we got a system lock up in Windows 3.1, 98 or ME the first thing we did was do the 3 finger salute of Ctrl + Alt + Delete. This brought up the Task Manager and we started closing programs one by one. This was pretty much the limit of what this little key stroke combination would do. In XP you get a completely different Task Manager, which I will get into shortly.

## Ctrl + Alt + Delete

In 1980 IBM was trying to bring a PC to the work place and in some respect could envision a place for the computer in the home as well. In it's infancy, the PC had some glitches. An engineer for IBM, David Bradley wrote the code for what is commonly referred to as the three finger salute, Ctrl + Alt + Delete. You can interpret this any way you want to so here goes. While serving on a panel discussion regarding home computers, with Bill Gates on the panel as well, Mr. Bradley said I may have come up with it but Bill made it famous. Does this indicate that the popularity of Windows made it famous or was it the proclivity of crashing that made it famous?

## XP Task Manager

One of the great things about XP's Task Manager is that you can bring it to life by right clicking on an empty space on the task bar and selecting it from the drop down list.

This Task Manager has a completely different look and feel to it. Right off the bat you will notice the tabs along the top of the applet. The Applications tab will make you feel at ease with the new manager because this is where you can end tasks that have gone awry. This works the same way it did in the other versions of Windows.

I think the most intriguing tab is the Processes tab. If you know what these things mean please let me know. Never mind I have too much on my mind as it is. The list includes all the processes that are running on your Operating system. This is mind numbing to me. The one thing I would do is check the list against the list of security risks at <http://www.liutilities.com/products/wintaskspro/processlibrary/>. Be careful and don't just start deleting these things. You won't know what you may screw up by just zapping them. Take the time to investigate any questions you have. Many times spyware or a virus that lurks in the background of the operating system are hidden from normal view. If you spot something amiss take the time to research the culprit.

All of us have come across a problem that relates to .dll files. We don't know what they are nor do we know any people who know what they are. It seems that the .dll file problem crops up when we install a new program. How many times have we come across the error message "cannot find something, something .dll?" Try this Microsoft site to see if you can make some sense of it. <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=/servicedesks/fileversion/dllinfo.asp>

## Links Folder in I.E.

One of the things that bother me the most is someone telling me what I need. I can make my own choices. Sometimes I don't make the best choices but be that as it may. I do a lot of research for this column, which leads to many bookmarks in my Favorites folder. I have a fairly good structure to my bookmarks. But, like you it can be a pain in the butt when you can't remember where you put something. One of my pet peeves is having Windows put folders in my Favorites that I never need or have no intention of going to any of the sites listed. Specifically I am speaking about the Links folder. I have deleted all the sites in the folder and deleted the folder itself. The next time I start I.E. it shows up again, albeit empty. This is because it is a default folder. It is still taking the place of something I need in My Favorites. To get rid of the folder for good follow these

## Steps

In Windows 98 or ME delete the files in the folder first. You can accomplish this by using the Organize Favorites option once you click Favorites. This should be the second entry. Click on the Links folder and when it opens delete the names by highlighting them and use the delete key or the delete tab right in the dialog box.

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### *Newbies, ... Continued from Page 13*

Next open up your C:\ drive in My Computer.  
Double click on Windows  
Double click on Favorites  
Left click on Links  
Hit the delete key.

In XP it is a little different because you get to the folder in a different place. Use the same clicking procedure only it is in C:\ Documents and Settings\User\Favorites.

Just a reminder or two. This is called the path to the folder. It will not go away until you reboot the computer.

### **Hiding E-Mail addresses**

Ask yourself how many times you get a piece of mail forwarded to you that has skatey- eight other recipients on the list? We are all too quick to send it on to our friends which just adds to the list. If it gets into the wrong hands then all are open to spam as well as unsolicited mail or worse a virus attack. I don't know about you but I am careful about who I give my address to. The best thing to do is to copy the piece and post it into another E-Mail. From here you can send it to whomever you choose. Take it a step further and mail the item as BCC or Blind Carbon Copy. That way all the addresses are hidden.

Another tip for E-mail is to change the name displayed in the E-Mail when it gets to the other end.

From Outlook Express:

Click on Tools

Go down to Accounts.

Here you should see your server name highlighted.

Click on Properties

In the Name box it will appear as your logon name.  
i.e. burgermeister

Retype it to reflect the name you would prefer to be known as. In my case I changed it to Jim. What happens on the other end is when it shows up in the preview screen it says Jim and when it is printed out it has "Jim" then the E-Mail address. It may seem innocuous but it beats the hell out of trying to figure out whom it is from. I know a guy named Dave whose E-Mail address is falconeddy. Figure that one out.

### **Bad File Association**

Many club users have had a problem with the wrong program opening up the file they want. Most of the time this is something to do audio files or pictures. Of course it could be anything. Frequently this comes up because of two things. A program we installed

wants to take over an act as the default. The second is we end up with a program installed that we never intended to install. This could be a result of a miss click when we download something or not clicking an exclusion when we download a program. Real Player was notorious for this, although I understand they have cleaned up their act. Of course you should find out how to stop the offending program from being the default. But, as a quick way to avoid the aggravation try this.

Select the file you want to open with a single left click.

Hold down the shift key and then right click.

Make a left click on Open With.

This will allow you to choose the program you want and not the default.

Remember this is just a quick fix and you need to get the offending program to stop being the default.

### **Really Delete It**

When you delete a file it goes to the Recycle bin. At some point you have to empty the Recycle bin to get rid of the file. If you are REALLY sure you want to delete it do this.

Select the file with a left click.

Hold down the shift key and then press the delete key. Poof! Gone forever.

### **Back, Back, Back**

No I am not calling a home run a la Chris Berman. This is something we seem to do constantly when searching the web. As I get older it seems that at times I don't remember where I started. Instead of grabbing that mouse and hitting the Back button just hit the backspace key.



### **The 2004 Newsletter CD is now available.**

It contains the issues from January 2000 though December of 2003.

Also included on the disc are Acrobat Reader 5 and the Viewer files for MS Word 97, MS Excel 97, and MS PowerPoint 97. The disk also has EnditAll, IrFanView, two spy removal, and two utility programs

All for only \$5.00.

Contact Pete Lehotsky or Jim Townsend at any of the Windows SIG meetings.

## Special Interest Groups

### WINDOWS SIG

Meets 7:00 PM Thursdays  
1st & 3rd Thursday at Eau Gallie Library.  
All Other Thursdays at Melbourne Library on  
Fee Avenue.

### BEGINNERS SIG

Meets at 6:30 pm. Thursdays,  
before the Windows SIG.  
This is a trial, if we need more time,  
we will make other arrangements.

### IMAGING SIG

Meets at 7:30 PM the second and fourth  
Thursdays, after the Windows SIG, at the  
Fee Ave Library in Melbourne.

### NEWSLETTER SIG

Meets twice a month on the Saturdays before  
and after the BUG monthly meeting.  
Members interested in helping develop the  
newsletter are welcome.  
Place is Jim Townsend's home  
call 728-5979 for directions.

### TINKERS SIG

Meets on most Sundays at  
Bob Schmidt's house.  
Call 952-0199 for directions  
and to verify meeting.

## BUG Club Information

### BUG E-MAIL LIST

To be included in the BUG E-Mail roster,  
send an E-Mail to George Rymer at:  
**[grymer@cfl.rr.com](mailto:grymer@cfl.rr.com)**.

We will need your full name, E-Mail address and  
your BUG membership number. You will then  
receive notices and updates on BUG activities,  
special events, changes to  
schedules, etc.

### BUG Board of Directors

Meets the second Wednesday of the month at  
the Fee Ave. Library, in Study room 1  
Time 6:00 pm to 7:30pm

## Sponsorship Rates

	<b>4 Months</b>	<b>8 Months</b>	<b>12 Months</b>
Full Page	\$ 160.00	\$ 305.00	\$ 440.00
Half Page	\$ 85.00	\$ 162.00	\$ 232.00
Qtr Page	\$ 45.00	\$ 86.00	\$ 123.00
Bus Card	\$ 25.00	\$ 48.00	\$ 68.00

## Benefits of Membership In The Brevard Users Group

Annual Subscription to the B.U.G. Newsletter.  
Participation in Special Interest Groups.  
Seminars and Workshops.  
Fellowship with other knowledgeable computer users.  
Stimulating and lasting friendships.

## Brevard Users Group Membership Application

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Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip + 4 \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership \$25.00

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

# Brevard Users Group Directory

### Meetings:

Are held at the Melbourne Library on Fee Ave. the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00 PM.

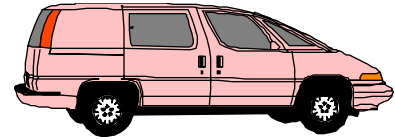


### Membership:

Is by application and payment of \$25.00 annual dues. Membership is for 12 months from receipt of dues and includes a year's subscription to the newsletter.

### Mentor Program

John McNeil	723-5550	AutoCad
Al Buchanan	728-2789	Works 6.0
Bob Staples	255-2623	Win95/98
Bill Ranck.	676-7908	Word Perfect
Rex Cummings	242-9601	Netscape



### MOVING?

Don't miss out on any issues of the BUG Newsletter. Send your new address to:

Brevard Users' Group

Attn: Treasurer

P. O. Box 2456

Melbourne, FL 32902-2456

& e-mail to the Newsletter at [jimtownsend@earthlink.net](mailto:jimtownsend@earthlink.net)

### BUG Officers

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