



Brevard Users Group



July 2002

PREZ SEZ

By George Rymer

Dear Readers, As you read this, you probably are within 2 or 3 days, plus or minus of celebrating this Great Country's 226th Birthday. The 4th of July, is a Great Holiday and we all enjoy the Fireworks and Bar-B-Q 's. Although this is a great time for celebration, it is imperative that we remain vigilant and watchful for suspicious doings by unfamiliar individuals. The war on Terrorism is very real and what better time to Terrorize us than to do it on our Country's Birthday. Let us hope that all the explosions we hear are friendly fireworks, rather than unfriendly fire. Be alert and cautious and if you see anything suspicious anytime, report it to the police.

As we roll into summer and the hurricane season, the attendance at the club meetings has subsided to a certain degree as a number of our winter residents have moved north to the cooler part of the country for the summer. We continue to have good meetings and I want to thank those of you who remain, for supporting the BUG. It's all about "Users Helping Users" Fortunately we have had quiet a bit of rain in the past couple of weeks and this has helped our fire and drought index return to a reasonable level. We pray for our fellow countrymen in the western part of the States who have lost their homes to the wildfires and the brave

firefighters who lost their lives fighting those wildfires. It is a terrible thing for those people.

Sept. 11th has had a tremendous impact on the economics of this country and has played havoc with the technological sector. There has been a lot of failures and mergers as a result. As you would expect, some of it is positive, but a lot of it is negative. Computer prices basically remain low, but memory has tripled or quadrupled in price, LCD flat screen monitors are very expensive, but the CRT's have come way down in price.

If you look at the sales, you can find a 17" monitor for under \$100 now days. There are a number of good deals in the Sunday Newspapers. Look for the sale flyers from Comp USA, Circuit City, Best Buy, Office Depot, Office Max and Staples. Go to their Web sites and check out their weekly specials. You can get a lot of items FREE, after rebate. Look hard and you will find what you desire. If you don't see it this week, wait till next week.

Every thing is getting bigger and faster. CPU speeds above 2 Gig., CD-RW get faster and faster, Hard drives get bigger and faster, 160 Gig and 7200 RPM. There doesn't seem to be any end to it. Please have a Safe and Happy Holiday.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA !!!!

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Questions involving advertising should be directed to **Advertising** at the address below.

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*THE NEXT MEETING
OF THE
BREVARD USERS GROUP
WILL BE ON
July 17, 2002
AT 7:00 pm
IN
Melbourne Library
Visitors welcome!*

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

Check the Web Site for next program at:
<http://www.palmnet.net/~bug/>

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Left Handed Tips

From John Williams, Bug Member

The keyboard strokes for Cut, Copy, Paste and Undo are Ctrl-X, Ctrl-C, Ctrl-V and Ctrl-Z, respectively.

However, lefthanders sometimes find these combinations inconvenient. So here are four more, just for you lefties:

- Shift-Delete — Cut
- Ctrl-Insert — Copy
- Shift-Insert — Paste
- Alt-Backspace — Undo





**Mary
Alice
Grant**
Secretary

BUG Meeting 19 June 2002

George Rymer, President started the meeting at 7pm by introducing the rest of the officers, the SIG's and their Chairman. He also announced that Jim Clear has been having health problems as well as being in the hospital. Since he is the person who does the majority of the work in putting together the Disk of the Month and Rex Cummings does not want to do this function without Jim, the Disk of the Month is on hold, or until somebody is willing to take over the job. We wish Jim Clear the best and hopefully he will be up and about real soon.

There were many questions pertaining to problems with computers. All questions were answered.

The speaker was Tim Sokol and he spoke about the use of the internet, internet providers, and hosts.

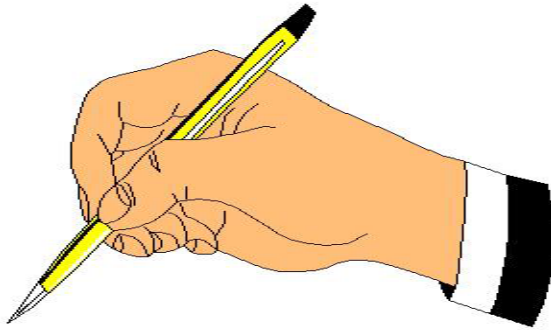
This was a very informative talk. He gave a comprehensive guide to going online, an overview of the Internet Service, dial up pros and cons, how to get an email address and keep it without having to change every time you get a new internet provider. He also spoke about high-speed connections (true value for the money). However, you must be careful, as the computer is always "on line" when it is powered up, so you should have a good firewall. He also talked about DSL Digital Subscriber Line who gives good service depending if you live near a phone switch. Another advantage is you may turn off the DSL without powering down the computer. Mr. Sokol gave several good web sites to look at and they are: youareat.com (his web address); spamcop.com an organization to help stop spammers; and if you are looking for web hosting e-mail to raptortech@ureach.com.

Gifts given away consisted of McAfee Internet Security, 20 CD-R and their cases, a free year of BUG Club dues, and a BUG Club Newsletter CD.

The meeting ended about 8:15pm. Enjoy your computer and may you have no computer crashes for the next month.

☺





Treasurers Report

By Ted Glaser

MemberShip is 168

Account Balances as of 31 MAY 02

Checking Acc't \$ 329.50

DDDW Savings \$ 2148.46

New Members: None

The following have renewed:

- Fiore, E - #1115
- Glover, R. - #1158
- Lauritsen, H - #1124
- McGuire, E - #1119
- Nash, E - #1125
- Suter, E - #679
- Tanguay, J - #1126
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Ted Glaser



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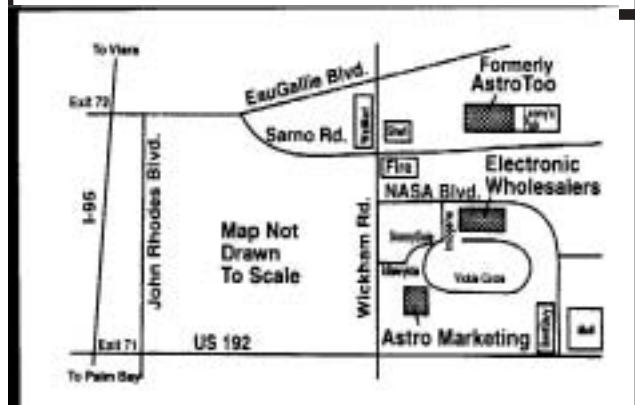
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NEW LOCATION!



Newsletter CD

The Newsletter CD is now available, it contains the issues from February 1999 to December of 2001.

The disc also contains the Acrobat Reader 5 program along with the viewer files for MS Word 97, MS Excel 97, and MS Powerpoint 97.

These files will allow you to only view these programs, handy when you receive something through e-mail and don't have MS Office on your machine.

The CD is in Adobe Acrobat format (.pdf) and will autorun when inserted in your CD drive (if you have that feature enabled on your machine).

To access the other files, close the program, right click the CD-ROM drive and pick **open** from the menu.

The cost is only \$7.00, contact Jim Townsend at any of the Windows SIG meetings.



Ten Years Ago

A look back at a column that describes the process of getting a new hard disk—in 1992

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Here's a quiz: Why is upgrading your IBM PC like going to the dentist? It's not — going to the dentist is a lot more fun. It's no joke. I hate upgrading because it's a day of tinkering with the insides of my computer. But I had to get a larger hard disk because I switched to Windows. Applications written for Windows take up humongous amounts of hard disk space and there's little chance that the trend will stop. Microsoft's Word for Windows, for example, gobbles up 12 megabytes and Corel Draw takes about 14 megabytes.

Most users have hard disks ranging in size from the older 30 megabyte (the one I'm still using) to about 200 megabytes. Larger sizes are available and many people are looking towards the future, buying disks as big as 384MBs. I predict that within two years, 1 gigabyte disks (that's 1000 megabytes) will be on many machines. But for now — with hard disks dropping in price — I recommend a minimum 200MB hard disk on a new system or 120MB on an upgrade.

There's more than one way to add a new hard disk and how you do it depends on your budget and your existing system.

Quantum's Plus Hardcard is not the least expensive but it is the quickest, easiest way to upgrade. For about \$400, you get 105MBs of disk storage on an add-in card — and no installation hassles. Putting in the Hardcard will take less than fifteen minutes from start to finish.

A friend of mine chose a neat alternative and upgraded with a Bernoulli storage device. Instead of a "fixed" disk — one that stays in the computer — Bernoulli lets you remove their 90MB disk. The internal Bernoulli drive is discounted to under \$800 and is a good solution as you can buy more disks (at about \$150 each) when your storage needs increase. My friend keeps Windows applications on

one disk, shareware on another and DOS programs on a third. You're also able to move the data to another computer via the portable disk, an added benefit.

The traditional upgrade path is to add a hard disk to your existing system which means the drive you purchase must match the controller card that's already plugged into one of your system's expansion slots. Older machines usually have an RLL or MFM interface but newer machines come with faster IDE (integrated drive electronics) controllers, the current standard. Most controller cards manage up to two hard disks along with the two floppy drives. Some IDEs include parallel and serial ports used to attach modems and printers.

If you have an IDE controller, I recommend you stay with it. On one IDE machine, I upgraded and choose a fast Conner hard disk because of their reputation for long life expectancy and fast access time. Their 120MB model (CP30104) will set you back about \$400 and their 212MB (model CP320) is about \$560.

Macintosh owners, however, have a secret recently available to IBMs: Small Computer System Interface (SCSI) adapters. SCSI, pronounced "scuzzy," lets you attach up to seven devices onto one internal controller card. If you're upgrading a hard disk and think you may want a CD ROM player (also called a reader) in the near future, consider the SCSI adapter. You can daisy chain the hard disk, CD ROM player, a tape backup and up to four peripherals.

Adaptec's fast SCSI adapter, the one I'm using, even lets you connect up to two floppy drives, a valuable addition. If you choose to upgrade with SCSI, make sure you check with the hard disk manufacturer to see which controller cards are compatible. I tried the Adaptec with a Conner SCSI drive and had no problems. If you run into trouble, get in touch with CORELSCSI, a Canadian company that supplies special software for a wide array of SCSI devices.

Continued on Page 9

The CD Burner

LOTS HAPPENING IN THE BURNER WORLD

by Dale Swafford, From the November 2001 issue of PC Alamode. <http://www.alamopc.org>

I need to update (correct) something I said in an article a couple of years ago. I said, basically, if you want a really good audio CD, burn it at 2X, no matter how fast your burner. At the time, I was using an Intel 233 MHz, a dying, slow hard drive, Windows 95 upgrade (version A), bundled software, and a 4x4x32x burner. Yes, I was burning a lot of coasters back then due to my limited knowledge and experience.

I've upgraded my computer twice since then. The addition of a really sweet MoBo running a 1.2GHzTbird, 400MB of RAM, a fast 20 GB hard drive, Windows 98SE, some decent burner software optimized for my burner, and a 16x10x40x burner have shown me the error of my previous thinking. I now burn CD-Rs consistently at 12x. My burner will really only support a 15.7x burn, which means coasters at 16x (except with Feurio). And the quality? Far superior to anything I ever did at 2x or 4x, and very few coasters. A six minute burn time, as opposed to 40 minutes, is an added bonus. The point I want to make is, burn at the maximum speed your entire system will consistently support and use blank discs that are certified for that or a higher burn speed.

BARGAIN PRICES ON OLDER BURNERS

The reason I mention it is, every few months, burner makers are announcing faster machines, which means previous burners are marked down. Now it doesn't make any sense to add a 16x or faster burner to a two or three year old computer rig. You probably will never consistently achieve the maximum burn speed. What it does mean, is a really good burner, like the Plextor 12x10x32x with BURN-Proof, is rapidly approaching the bargain basement. Consider that if you think a fast bargain burner is the answer to coaster frustration. It's the whole computer system that the burner must work in that determines the maximum consistently attainable burn speed.

NEW BURNERS

What's happen' in the burner world? Last month, we talked about CenDyne's new line of external 24x10x40x burners using USB 2.0. Now, CenDyne plans to sell in late November, 2001, a new line of internal and external 32x10x40x CDRW drives using USB 2.0 and FireWire interfaces. If they make it to market, they just might be the new King of the Speed Demons.

For the MP3 junkies, CenDyne also plans on selling a DVD-R/ RW recorder for PCs that writes/rewrites to 4.7 GB DVD media for creating and recording MP3 music, CD-audio, video-CD and DVD movies. How many MP3 songs can you record on one single sided DVD disc? I figure about 1,600 songs at 160 kbps. Twice as many if you use MP3Pro. Now that's a jukebox!

Manufacturers

Meanwhile, Lite-On IT, the third largest optical drive manufacturer in the world, expects to ship 4.8 million drives this year. That should make them a strong contender for number one. Currently, LG. Phillips is first, and Sony is second in total drives (CDROM and CD-RW) shipped. The 16x CD-RW is Lite-On IT's primary product line and is ramping up to 20% on the new 24x CD-RW. In November, 2001 Lite-On IT plans to launch an 8x slim-type DVDROM drive and 32x CD-RW drives.

SERIAL INTERFACE

Looks like the long neglected serial interface has finally been upgraded. Future machines should incorporate the new Serial ATA interface. The new specification has been hammered out. At 1.5 gigabits per second (starting), it's no slouch and is supposed to be 100% software compatible with current operating systems.

OTHER NEW MACHINES

Ahead Software, in its effort to keep Nero 5.5 on the leading edge of burner software, has released a new upgrade, 5.5.4.0 that incorporates the MP3Pro encoder and player. MP3Pro offers 128kbps performance at a 64kbps encoding rate. That means over 300 MP3 songs on a CD-R. The reader is compatible with all existing MP3 files. As

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CD Burner continued from 6

they did in the original 5.5 release for MP3 encoding, you only get a limited number of MP3Pro encodings (30 tracks), then you have to send Ahead some coins to continue to use it. They have to pay a fee to Thomson Multimedia for the encoder, just like they did with Fraunhofer.

Plextor has announced that the 12/10/32S is their last CD-RW drive sold for the SCSI interface. Seems like BURN-proof technology has killed the demand for the more expensive and faster SCSI interface. Also, the 40x SCSI CDROM drive will be the last for SCSI interface. I wonder how long before they announce USB 2.0 and Firewire interface drives. They say their DVD-R drives are still about 10 months away.

Yamaha plans to introduce a new CRW3200 series in November, 2001 with the 24x10x40x CD-RW drive with an 8 MB buffer and supports SafeBURN.

NEW CD SOFTWARE

Roxio, Verbatim, and Fellowes, announced they are partnering to promote legal CD burning as an integral part of music subscription and distribution services. This partnership will enable consumers to easily download and burn MP3 music tracks onto CD using Roxio's CD burning software. Consumers will be able to access an online tutorial, Learn.2.burn. Hey folks, honest, I don't make this stuff up.

CLEANING CD's

Burning tip of the month: If you have attended my Basic CD Burning or Burn a Music CD classes lately, you will remember me extolling the virtues of using a little rubbing alcohol on a clean paper towel to clean oily or really dirty CD bottom faces. While updating my reference files lately, I noticed a significant shift away from using solvents of any kind and paper products, toward using water and mild soap like Ivory Liquid, and a soft, lint free cloth using a radial wipe to dry the face completely. Many small scratches cause optical scattering, reducing the intensity of the laser beam.

Removing scratches is a real problem. Some folks have been known to use tooth paste or polishing compound to rub out scratches. This usually replaces a large scratch with many small scratches or results in removing a small area of the polycarbonate substrate. This results in a focusing problem for the objective lens in the pickup which limits the depth of focus to two micrometers. Filling the scratch with a substance that has a different index of refraction causes optical distortion in the focused laser spot and can cause jitter, radial tracking, and focus problems. Not a pretty picture.

DAMAGED CD's

If the disc is damaged, but still playable - wash the bottom face with mild soap and water, and dry thoroughly with a soft, lint free cloth. Make a backup copy. If the disc is not playable after cleaning, and the data is important - Try to access the disc on several different makes of fairly new CD-ROM drives or burners - If that doesn't work, then take the disc to a data recovery shop. Maybe, they can reclaim it.

The secret seems to be: Keep your discs clean; handle them by the edges; Check them periodically for condition; and backup important data before the disc gets too far gone. If you use a disc regularly, make a backup to use and keep the original safe in its jewel case, stored away from UV light in dry air and a mild temperature. Yeah right!.

Reprint from The Journal Of The Los Angeles Computer Society March 2002.



Computer Show
Melbourne Auditorium
July 13th and 14th
Get your goodies there.

Genealogy and the Future

By Ken Marple Space Coast PC Users Group

Putting the genes in genealogy is a phrase which is receiving attention in two project areas. This article has to do with the effort in this country known as the **Molecular Genealogy Research Project (MCRP)** which also has worldwide ramifications.

Genetic research with the purpose of tracing genealogies by using DNA (Deoxyribonucleic Acid) is currently underway at Brigham Young University. This study is known as MGRP and its main goal is to develop a database containing correlated genealogical and genetic data from all over the world. This instrument will be used to assist those having problems finding information about their family history.

How do you do Molecular Genealogy? DNA is extracted from samples donated by volunteers using simple techniques. Although there are many ways to obtain genetic material, the MGRP uses blood samples. Blood samples are used because they yield DNA of superior quality and higher quantity than other sampling methods. Each sample is analyzed at approximately 250 loci (sections of DNA) across the entire genome. The genetic information is correlated to the genealogical data provided by the donors. The only genealogical information used are places and dates of birth. Names are substituted with codes to protect participants' confidentiality. People that belong to the same family groups or that share common places of origin, will also share common genetic identifiers. This process will allow the MGRP to reconstruct a genetic map of the world that will be used to help people with blocked genealogies in tracing their family origins.

To participate in the MGRP of Brigham Young University, you will often find their booth at major genealogical conferences. You are asked to provide a biological pedigree chart which covers four generations. A consent form must be signed. Qualified medical personnel will perform the blood draws. The MGRP provides all necessary equipment for the collection of the samples. You are helping to develop a world wide database There are no costs to you.

You do not get a report.

What motive is there for a person to participate when you get no report? Knowledge about DNA markers from different parts of the world will be available once the database is completed. As of this date they are looking for more than 100,000 volunteers that are willing to share their genome and genealogical information so that the knowledge will be available. Once the database is completed, anyone (regardless of their previous participation in the database) will be able to submit inquiries concerning their family lines to this group. The MGRP will use the database to help these individuals with their questions. Participation in the construction of the database should be motivated by

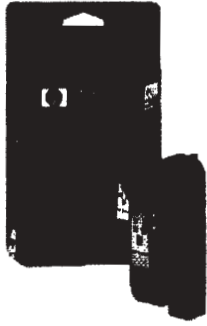
1. A desire to help others with their genealogical research.
2. Satisfaction of knowing that you are part of a worldwide project.
3. Preservation of your genetic information for posterity.

The four-generation pedigree charts should be people who are biologically related. An adopted individual's sample cannot be used. The initial stage of this study is designed to construct the database according to known biological relationships. After the database is constructed, adopted individuals will be able to use the information in the database to help resolve genealogical questions. Also genetic markers are specific locations on the chromosome where there is known variability. This variability can be used to identify closely related individuals. Since genetic markers are not responsible for disease conditions, efforts have been focused in using this system to help in genealogical reconstruction.

If you happen to be in Utah County or Salt Lake City, an individual should make inquiries as to where samples may be taken. However, if you are not going to be in the Utah County area, a local individual or a local genealogical group (Family History centers, genealogical societies, etc.) may gather a group of people interested in participating in this study. Once a group of 200+ individuals is identified, you will need to make arrangements and will be sent information on how to proceed. A lecture on the subject of genetics and genealogy can accompany the event if desired.

Continued on Page 10

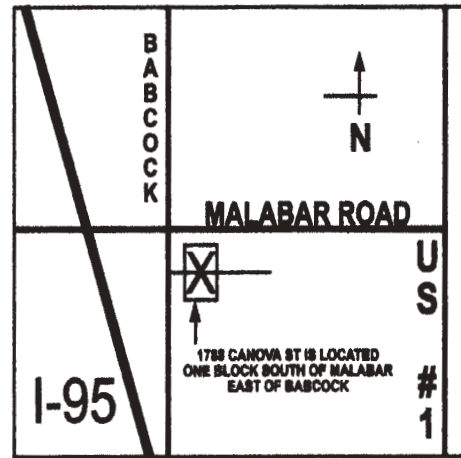
Got Ink?



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We Do Inkjet Printer
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Ten Years Ago continued from page 5

While SCSI offers faster access and more flexibility, it isn't for everyone. On uncomplicated home machines, upgrading to SCSI should present no problem and you can likely do it yourself. But in business settings — especially if you're on a network — you may need to hire a technician for help.

So what will it be: upgrade or go to the dentist? I'll let you make your own decision. I've already made mine.

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG. Check PCW's current edition at www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter. §



ITEMS 4 SALE HARDWARE

- 1) 2.1 gig tape back up with 3 tapes (tapes alone \$60). \$50
- 2) 17" MONITOR, WILL BUY 19" WHEN THIS ONE IS SOLD \$75
- 3) (2) TWO 256X133 MEMORY CHIPS \$45 EACH OR BOTH FOR \$80 PUTTING IN (2) 512X133 IN MY COMPUTER

SOFTWARE

- 1) BOOK "SOFTWARE 4 DUMMIES \$5
 - 2) APACHE HELICOPTER \$5
 - 3) SPORTS ILLUSTRATED SWIMSUIT CALENDAR \$5
 - 4) PC-CILLIN \$3
 - 5) DARK FORCES \$10
 - 6) FLIGHT SIM '98 \$5
 - 7) FALCON 4.0 \$10
- IVAN STILLWELL 255-0674



Geneology From Page 8

The Brigham Young University Molecular Genealogy website lists, under Future Events section of this website, where samples will be collected. New events are being scheduled every week. If an event is nearby, you are welcome to attend the event.

Personal Ancestral File Genealogy software (PAF). PAF is a genealogy software provided by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS). This genealogy software is provided free and may be downloaded from <www.familysearch.org>. The website will open on its home page. Select "Orders! Download Products." On the next screen, select "Software Downloads Free." On the next screen, select "PAF 5.1 - Multi-language (9.7 MB minimum)." Follow instructions and read a description of PAF 5.1 if desired. Complete the Registration form providing mandatory information. Once you have finished Registration, click send and follow download instructions and options. Read the options carefully and make sure you have checked everything needed. The PAF 5.1 software is available in English, German, Japanese, Chinese, Korean and Swedish.

Note there is a download for lessons. This has more than 100 lessons. Each group of lessons covers a subject in depth. Visually, through actual screens as they appear on the monitor, further guidance is given. To further assist, some lessons will have a Show Me button at the end of the lesson. Click on this and the actual mouse movements will be shown. When in this area, note that in the lower left-hand corner of the screen is a button arrangement which permits you to repeat mouse actions until understood. Selection of this download is recommended. If you need Adobe Acrobat Reader to read and/or print out the user's manual, click on "here" to download this item. If, by chance, you have a Palm Handheld, note there is also a PAF data viewer which is a free download. Be sure you have checked every thing you need before leaving this screen. Considering the size of the download, a 56K modem is required as a minimum.

To further promote use of a search engine, go to <www.google.com>. Type in the full name "molecular genealogy research project" without the

quotes. Take a chance and click on "I'm feeling lucky." If, by chance, you are Russian, click on the "language" box at the top of the web page which appeared. Pick out the Russian flag and click on it. What you have to do as a Russian participant should be there in the Russian language. I don't read Russian so I have no idea what is being done for Russian participants. If my article does not answer your questions, select the appropriate box across the top of the web page.

After reading this article and the former article in the April issue, the reader may have doubts about the ability to use DNA to solve genealogical road-blocks. Let's try Google again. Type in "dick eastman + dna + wingfield" without the quotes. This should bring up an article which explains how DNA was used to confirm descent from a certain ancestor even though traditional documentation has been missing. The Wingfield Family Society learned of the Brigham Young University DNA project. The results may clarify your doubts about using DNA for genealogy purposes. At the very end of the article ***DNA Study Proves Descent from Thomas Wingfield of York River, Virginia***, there are links to other sites of interest.

Good luck in participating in the world wide molecular genealogy research project of Brigham Young University.

This article was excerpted from the June 2002 issue of the Space Coast PC Journal, ed



Ordering Graphics In PowerPoint

by Sue Whitehouse

When you deal with more than one picture in a PowerPoint slide, you may need to change the picture order so the correct picture will appear over another picture. To investigate how this works, open a blank slide and choose **Insert/Picture/Clip Art**. Insert several pictures and then close the dialog box. Next move the edge of one picture over another picture. Right-click the picture that appears on top and choose **Order/Send to Back**. The other picture will now appear on top.



WHEN GOOD COMPUTERS GO BAD

by *Derek Maul*

I know I probably sound like one of those dinosaurs who can't keep up with the 21st century, but I have to confess to a growing sense of disquiet regarding this whole "electronic money" thing.

Consider these few examples, mostly from the past month.

My favorite movie rental outlet assesses another late fee, but I am sure that I returned the movie on time. Did the kid emptying the box forget to swipe mine? Did I misread the deadline? Did their computer malfunction? Like thousands of others, I pay anyway.

I finally gave up trying to get a refund from two separate car rental agencies. Each one assessed an extra day for "late return." One happened in Europe, and my train ticket confirms they had the keys and I was 50 miles away before my three days were up. Yet they didn't tell their computer for another 90 minutes.

The agency in Tampa, agreed with me, but can't seem to remove the charge. It is amazing what they can get away with when they have your credit card number.

Since switching to cable for my computer Internet service I have enjoyed high-speed access. I have also endured high-speed confusion. I pay for everything (TV, cable access, and Internet) on one monthly bill to the company that owns it all—their idea. However, AOL continues to fish for duplicate monthly gateway fees using my Master Card number. I had to cancel the card in order to get them to stop. Now, without my credit to pilfer, they are threatening to drop my account. Are they simply too big to care?

Even my friendly credit union gets it wrong. When I notice the same debit transaction posted twice in 30 seconds, I call to ask why. They say my store must have "double swiped" to make the card work. I call the merchant - the store blames the bank. It takes me a full day of assertiveness to get the bank to fix my account. I wonder what happens the months I don't review every transaction?

Here's the thing. Multiply those few examples by the number of customers in the United States, and then by the number of months in a year.

We're talking hundreds of millions of dollars. Add the probability that I likely miss half the mistakes that "just happen" electronically. Then factor in the odds that a lot of us are just too busy, or never think to check.

There are countless other examples, most of which you can supply yourselves, and I haven't even addressed the intangible and unreimbursed costs in time and productivity to resolve these problems.

I do not mean to be alarmist, but we need to understand that data about us is priceless, and that computer systems are as benign as those who control them.

If we do not build our own personal "fire walls," the unscrupulous and the incompetent would have control over our accounts, our credit, and our access to information.

If that does not affect our civil liberties in this new millennium, then I don't know what does.

At least it is something to think about. The key point for our members is to be vigilant, and always double check our financial statements.

*Derek Maul is a teacher and writer who lives in Valrico, FL. You can view his work at Derek-Maul.com or reach him at maulhall@aol.com. (published by permission as printed in the April 3, 2000 issue of *The Sun* (Sunbelt Newspapers))*



Undo And AutoSave In Excel

by *Sue Whitehouse*

We recently ran across an **Excel** user who said that **Undo** wouldn't always work. We struggled for some time to find a reason. What we finally discovered was that she had **AutoSave** activated. What happens is that **Undo** will no longer work after you save a worksheet. So, **AutoSave** would save the worksheet and then **Undo** would fail. If you have this problem, you can set your AutoSave to a longer interval, but you'll still lose Undo if you try it after a save. To check your AutoSave interval, choose **Tools/AutoSave**. The default is 10 minutes.



MICROLETTER 133

by Paul Shapiro

Reprinted from the Monitor.

The newsletter of the Capital PC User Group

FILE ASSOCIATIONS

By “associating” a filename’s extension with a program that will automatically open and run the file, all we have to do is click on the file-name to execute the program. Using Windows Explorer then provides a quick way to open a program.

This permits us to click on a Microsoft Word file name such as myfile.doc and have Word open as well as open the file; similarly for a file such as yourfile.wpd, when clicked, will open both Word Perfect and the file; another example might be herfile.txt which would be opened by the program notebook.exe.

If a file cannot be opened and you know the name of the program on your computer that would open it, then you can associate that program with the file.

A way to do this for a file whose extension has not been associated with a program, is to click on the file name in Windows Explorer or My Computer. Since there is no associated file, a menu will pop up with an “Open With” request. A long list of programs will be shown and you just select the program you henceforth want to open a file with that extension. Another way of getting the drop-down menu containing Open With is to select a file name and then use the shift plus <F10> keys simultaneously; or just temporarily rename a file with an unknown extension (say, .xyz) and click on that name in Windows Explorer. The “Open With” dialogue will then open.

There is a program that simplifies some of the possibilities of dealing with extensions and their associated files. To that end get the file Freedom of Association from PC Magazines’ website at <http://www.zdnet.com/downloads/stories/info/0,,77392,.html> or just search for Freedom of Association at the magazine’s web site.

A problem arises when encountering a file with an extension for which you do not know which program to open that file.

There is another program, Quick View Plus, which may do the trick for you. Encountering the extension .db for the first time, Quick View Plus found my Paradox data base program (part of Word Perfect Suite 2002). This told me which program to association with the .db extension. Unlike many programs, the association had not automatically been set up with the Paradox 10 installation within Word Perfect Office 2002.

When I tried Quick View on a .wav sound file, a message appeared stating that it could not handle it, but with my permission it would open Real Player on my system, and it did. On an earlier version (prior to Windows Millennium) the program soundrecorder.exe opened for .wav files.

A version of Quick View is at <http://www.zdnet.com/downloads/stories/info/O,10615,63342,00.html>. It is a long file. There were several different versions, including demo and shareware. If mine was a demo version, I will know by the time you read this because it had a 30-day limit.

You may force the open with menu item to appear by creating an otherwise uselessly named file with an extension that you know does not exist on your system.

For example, a file such as nonsense.xyz would result in the menu item asking for you to supply the program to open the nonsense file. You could select something like Notepad again, and then every file with an .xyz extension would automatically be opened (or fail trying, Notepad only opens pure text files) with Notepad. Associations can be set up with xyz, abc, text, etc, but a file extension .txt can only be opened by Notepad once you had made the association. If the associated file you select cannot in fact open the file to which you associate it that is because you made a bad choice: you must know which programs can open a file you are about to make an association with.



Newbies Corner

by Jim Hally B.U.G. member

North Brain / South Brain

We have all seen pictures of the human brain and it consists of two halves, commonly referred to as left brain, right brain. Further observation, from a layman's point of view is that each half, looks like a series of tightly woven wires or conduits.

When we look at an object, we see it with our eyes, which are controlled by one half of our brain. That part of the brain absorbs the image and transfers the information to the other half of the brain, which determines, from our memory or knowledge base what that object is. Each half of the brain controls several body functions. (I have no idea if this is anywhere close to the truth)

As new users we have always heard the processor or CPU is the brains of the computer. This is something we all seem to know. I have a 1.2 GHz brags one user, while the next murmurs I have a 233 MHz. What many of us don't know is this processor is only part of the equation. An equally important part is the chipset or should I say chipsets. They are distinguished as the North Bridge and South Bridge chipsets.

The North Bridge is the larger of the two. It is usually located somewhere between the CPU and the memory modules. As with left brain, right brain, each controls different functions within the computer. The North Bridge controls all the data and requests coming from the CPU, the memory and your graphics. It also interfaces with the South Bridge chipset. The South Bridge chipset controls the smaller, less intensive operations like the PCI bus, ISA bus, USB, serial and parallel ports. Everything that goes through the South Bridge chip also goes through the North at some point.

Background

The PCI slots are the short cream colored ones and the ISA slots are the long black ones.

AGP slots are commonly brown in color. One of the deciding factors in buying my second computer was the catchy wording, "Motherboard can run at 75 MHz- 14% faster than the 66 MHz limits of other boards" Little did I know, that it wasn't going to be any faster than what the North Bridge chipset could handle.

Get on the Bus, Gus

I touched on this a long time ago but it may be time to revisit the subject. Think of the Bus as a roadway or conduit. The roadway can either be a street in your neighborhood or the Beeline Expressway. Picture a semi tractor carrying information from one point to another. With all things considered the semi will move slower through your neighborhood than on the Beeline. So, the bigger the roadway the faster it will move along. Now consider the North Bridge chipset as toll plazas on the Beeline. Express pass is better than exact change lanes, which beats the heck out of having to stop and get change. The better the North Bridge chip the more express pass lanes you have.

Nowdays most motherboards have bus speeds of between 100MHz and 333 MHz. Most of us are probably in the 100-133 MHz range. My first Packard Bell was an SX2-50, which meant it was running at 25MHz sending data and 25 MHz receiving data. Boy, was I proud of that investment. Now I am running an 800 MHz Athlon with a 133MHz bus on the motherboard and 2 PC 133 SDRAM DIMMS at 128 MB each. The memory modules are capable of sending data at the rate of 133 million times a second. That doesn't happen.

If you had a car that would easily travel at 133 MPH and you were heading to a town 133 miles away, would you get there in one hour? No Way! The reality of it is that the 133 MHz works out to be a little better than half of that.

Getting Deep

DIMM is the acronym for Dual inline Memory Module. They contain 168 pins and provide memory in what is called a width of 64 bits or a 64 bit wide bus.

Continued on page 14

Newbies Continued from Page 13

I type the heading Newbies Corner and save that to start the file. Clicking Save As generates an electronic impulse (takes time). This isn't a light bulb where there is constant current. Everything happens in bursts. It is all related to 0's and 1's or on and off switches. In order to save the file the computer must know to what address the data is located at. Then the information must be picked up and delivered to an address that has been determined by the CPU in conjunction with the hard drive. So, you see it takes a couple of impulses just to get set up just to save the file.

This is complicated even further when you consider the operating systems most of us have uses a 32 bit operating system. Windows 95 was a 16 bit operating system. So the PC is moving data in 32 bit packages and the memory module is sending it in 64 bits wide burst, or twice as much. The North Bridge chipset grabs the first 32 bits of data and sends it on to the address while it buffers the second 32 bits. This juggling act continues until all the data is saved. The better the chipset the faster and smoother the operation.



Drive Rescue

The hard disk recovery tool

*Ken Marple. Space Coast PC Users Group
Reprint from Space Coast Journal 2/02*

Have you ever accidentally deleted a file or group of files? In the days of DOS, there was a way to recover them if you acted quickly - before allowing anything new to be written to the hard drive. The utility was Undelete which would display the missing file and allow you to correct its identification (effectively recovering the *file*). Come **Windows** this utility has disappeared. The idea behind the Recycle Bin is to allow you to temporarily delete files by placing them in the Bin, permanently deleting them only when you're satisfied that that you no longer need them.

For various reasons, we don't always manage files this way.

Comes **Drive Rescue, the hard disk recovery tool!!** This totally free software can bail you out. should the need arise for whatever reason.

What Drive Rescue can do for you:

Find any lost and deleted data on your hard disk even if the partition table is lost or the hard disk has been quick-formatted.

Lost Data, that is the result of a system crash can also be recovered.

Discover important file system tables of your hard disk, including partition table, boot record, FAT and file/directory records.

What Drive Rescue can *NOT* do for you:

Find any data on a *physically damaged* hard disk.

FEATURES

Supported File Systems: FAT 12/16/32

System Requirements:

Windows 95, 98, ME, NT, 2000 or XP

Second Hard disk is recommended for recovery.

Languages Supported by Help: English, German

How much does it cost? That's the greatest! Nothing.

The program is Freeware. You may and should freely distribute it to your friends.

DOWNLOAD [rescue.zip](#) (1.19 MB), .zin distribution file this file is the zipped (.zip) version of the executable to be used for installing Drive Rescue.

The download site is a lengthy URL as follows:
http://home.arcor.de/christian_grau/rescue/index.html



DISK OF THE MONTH NOTICE!

The DOM has been discontinued. Jim Clear does not have time to prepare the Disk, and Rex Cummings is out of town. Until someone comes forward to pick up the effort there will be no more disks., *Ed.*



Brevard Users Group Membership Application

First Name _____

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State _____ Zip Code _____

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Occupation _____

Family Membership (\$25.00)

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BUG Club Information

WIN 9X/ME SIG

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

BUG Board of Directors

Meets the second Wednesday of the
month at C.M. Corley's home.
Time 6:00 pm
Call 253-3050 for directions

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 & INTERNET SIG MEETS

AT THE EAU GALLIE LIBRARY ON THE
3RD MONDAY OF THE MONTH

Time 7:15 PM

and on most Sundays at
Bob Schmidts house. Call 952-0199

Benefits of Membership In The Brevard Users Group

Annual Subscription to the B.U.G. Newsletter

Some Internet Service Providers may give discounts
to club members.

Seminars and Workshops.

Special Interest Groups (see back page)

Fellowship with other knowledgeable computer
users. Stimulating and lasting friendships.

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.

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.

Sponsorship Rates

	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
Full Page	\$ 160.00	\$ 310.00	\$ 550.00
Half Page	\$ 85.00	\$ 160.00	\$ 300.00
Qtr Page	\$ 45.00	\$ 85.00	\$ 150.00
Bus Card	\$ 25.00	\$ 45.00	\$ 85.00

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

Frank C. Miller 729-9589 Graphics

Al Buchanan 728-2789 Works 4.5

C. M. Corley 253-3050 Win 95/98

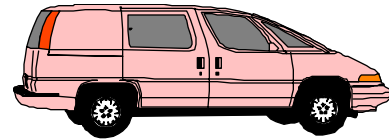
Bob Staples 255-2623 Win95/98

Frank C. Miller 729-9589 Win 95

Bill Ranck. 676-7908 Word Perfect

Rex Cummings 242-9601 Netscape

Mary A. Grant 253-5666 Word 97



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