



# Brevard Users Group



August 2002

AN FACUG PRIZE WINNING NEWSLETTER

## Prez Sez- I'm Vacationing!

### AOL Scam Alert

*Alert from Steve Bass, by e-mail*

My mother recently received a beautifully done AOL scam. It's the kind of thing you read about but rarely get to see firsthand. The message she received is from the AOL Billing Services Team. She forwarded it to her accounting department—moi—because I pay for her account. (She has me to blame for using AOL, I know). It took less than a minute to figure out something wasn't right.

### Telltale Clues

For one thing, the e-mail header showed that the AOL Billing Services Team was blind copying her using version AOL 5.0. You'd think they could use a more current version, right? There's more: The return address was Remindingyou@aol.com and the subject line had a misspelling. I followed the Billing link in the message. At first glance I saw an AOL Welcome box. Take a careful look and you'll know why something's not quite right. Yep, lots of misspellings.

<http://www.pibmug.com/files/aolwelcomescreen.jpg>  
I went along with the game plan and clicked OK. Now I was staring into what looked like a remarkably authentic credit card payment form.  
<http://www.pibmug.com/files/aolcreditcard.jpg>

### Is It Really You?

To make sure it's really you, they also want your Social Security Number, date of birth, driver's license number, and mother's maiden name. With that, the scammers can get to "identity theft" heaven before you shut down your PC for the night. But they're not finished. How about throwing in your AOL screen name and password, something even novices know AOL wouldn't do. To add a level of legitimacy, they warn you that, "For your safety, Please do not download any files from strangers. AOL will never ask you to download anything."

### Who Is?

I went to <http://www.samspace.org>, my favorite Web examination site, and traced the Billing link. It's an obfuscated URL: <http://www.aol.com-billing:july-2002@072002.hypermart.net> that leads to <http://072002.hypermart.net>. (That's because any characters before the @ sign are ignored.) And all it took was a quick web search with Google.com to find locations loaded with other AOL scamming files. I found one at the top of Google's search: <http://kenel.hypermart.net/aol-scam/>

*Continued on Page 3*

## Table of Contents

AOL Scam .....	1	Computers and Security .....	5
Items for Sale .....	2	Manage Large Photos.....	8
Secretarys Report .....	3	ACDSee 4.0 a Review .....	11
Treasurer's Report .....	4	Newbies Corner.....	12
Newsletter CD .....	4	CBDTPA .....	14

## ***Brevard Users Group***

Managing Editor                      Jack Nash  
253-2793                                      *jhnash@pciol.net*  
Assistant Editors                      Ed McEwen,  
*jtowns@digital.net*                      Jim Townsend  
Contributing Editor                      George Rymer

Newsletter Volunteers:  
Distribution:                              John Williams  
Scanning:                                      Norm Sharp  
Home Page:  
*http://www.palmnet.net/~bug/*

The BUG Newsletter is created on a AMD K-2 450 mhz computer using PageMaker 6.01.

Articles, Reports, and new Advertisements should reach the Managing Editor or Desk Top Publishing SIG by 5:00 p.m the Friday following the third Wednesday (Monthly Bug Meeting) of the month.

The articles contained in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the opinion of the Group, Editor, or Publisher or any other person other than the author of the article.

Permission is granted to copy articles, provided the source is disclosed and proper credit is given to the author.

All questions, correspondence, and other items pertaining to the Newsletter should be directed to one of the Editors.

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

Articles or items of interest for inclusion in the newsletter should be sent to **The Editor** at:

Brevard User's Group  
PO Box 2456  
Melbourne, Fl. 32902-2456  
or E-mail *@jhnash@pciol.net*

*THE NEXT MEETING  
OF THE  
BREVARD USERS GROUP  
WILL BE ON  
August 21, 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!**

**First Choice**  
**Printing & Copy Center**

**Two Locations**

566 Barton Blvd., Suite F  
Rockledge, FL 32955  
Ph: (321) 636-6850  
Fax: (321) 632-5047

2330 N. Wickham Rd., Suite 11  
Melbourne, FL 32935  
Ph: (321) 242-7766  
Fax: (321) 255-2852

fatchoice@yourlink.net

Look for our coupon in the coupon section...

BUSINESS CARDS • ENVELOPES • LETTERHEAD • BROCHURES • POST CARDS • INVITATIONS • MENUS • CARBONLESS FORMS • LASER COLOR PRINTS • CONTRACTS • FLYERS • RESUMES • GRAPHIC DESIGN • BLACK & WHITE LASER PRINTING

### **ITEMS 4 SALE**

- 1) 2.1 gig tape back up with 3 tapes \$50 (tapes alone \$60).
- 2) 17" monitor, \$75 will buy 19" when this one is sold
- 3) Two 256X133 memory chips \$45 each or both for \$80 putting (2) 512X133 in my computer

- 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





Mary  
Alice  
Grant  
Secretary

**BUG Meeting**

George Rymer, President and Larry Wood the Vice President were both on vacation and out of town. Mary Alice Grant presided over the meeting, which started 7pm. She introduced the rest of the officers, the SIG's and their Chairman. There were just a few questions pertaining to problems with computers. All questions were answered.

The speaker was Eric Arnold and his subject was: Building Web Pages. Mr. Arnold has written approximately 120 web pages, among which were for the Alzheimer's Org., restaurants, and Fire Departments just to name a few.

Web pages are made using HTML documents. Any web page must begin with a special line asking a proper question that both the Browser and Search Engine will recognize. An example is: `<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.01 Transitional//EN"`. This may look like Greek to the average person, but your Browser and Search Engine will love it. There are a whole series of META tags that you can build into your web page that will target your web page within the top 10 hits when a person goes to a Search Engine, such as Yahoo looking for a particular subject. For instance if you are looking for Restaurants in a certain city, and you have built the proper META tags in your web page, it will be among the first 10 or 20 hits within the searched page. This is called, indexing and is very important for your product if you want to get it out to the maximum number of people. Mr. Arnold has a web site called: <http://home.cfl.rr.com/ea/index.htm> listing numerous free online page testing and processing utilities which will help you determine if your web page (after it is built) will be among the top 10 to 20 listed places among search engines. Mr. Arnold gave a very good and quick overview of how to build your own web page. However, if you feel inadequate, you may call him and he will try to help you out.

Gifts given away consisted of Norton Security, and a 50 CD-R spool.

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



**AOL Alert, Continued From Page 1**  
**What I did**

I contacted Rich D'Amato, one of AOL's security people. I met Rich years ago because of a story I did on AOL. It's been four days and I haven't heard back from him. I also sent a message to [abuse@hypermart.net](mailto:abuse@hypermart.net). Nope, I didn't hear from them either. And the site's still up and running.

**What you should do**

The best AOL protection strategy is to be alert to constant scams. You know, if it looks like a duck, smells like one, and occasionally quacks, there's a good chance it is one. If you're unsure about a billing question, it's best to call AOL's billing services directly at 800/827-6364, or their Screen Name/Password line at 888/265-8004. Here's the message, complete with headers:

---

Return-path: <Remindingyou@aol.com>  
From: Remindingyou@aol.com  
Date: Fri, 5 Jul 2002 04:26:47 EDT  
Subject: Possible Service Interruption  
X-Mailer: AOL 5.0 for Windows sub 138

Dear Member:

Thank you for choosing America Online. Unfortunately there has been a problem processing your billing information for the month of July, 2002. Please review our billing requirements at KW: Billing. You will be able to update your billing information quickly and easily using our secure server webform. Please understand that without promptly updating your billing information, your America Online Internet service may be discontinued. To update your billing at this time, please visit our secure server webform by clicking the hyperlink below.

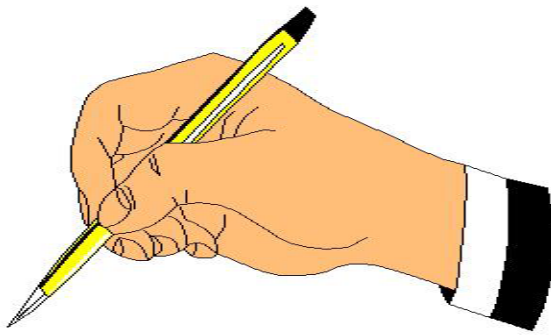
America Online Billing Services.

We appreciate your business and hope to keep you as a customer for life. America Online is so easy, no wonder it's number 1 !

Sincerely,

The AOL Billing Services Team





## Treasurer's Report

by Ted Glaser

Account Balances as of 30 JUN 02

Checking Acc't	\$ 467.50
DDDW Savings	\$ 2148.46

### New Members: Welcome Aboard

Bost, B - #1182  
 Clanton, T - #1183  
 Jones, R - #1184

### Renewals: Thanks

Bogardi, J - #1070  
 Clancy, W - #975  
 Corley, C - #822  
 Hally, J - #1006  
 Mackay, D - #1067  
 Staples, R - #1008  
 Watrous, J - #1003



**ELECTRONIC WHOLESALERS**  
 (321) 727-9010  
**ASTRO TOO**  
 Surplus/Electronics Equipment/Parts  
 Computer Service & Training

6949W. Nasa Blvd. (321) 727-9010  
 W. Melbourne, FL 32904 Fax: (321) 253-2292  
 Web Site: [AstroToo.com](http://AstroToo.com)  
 EMail: [Astro@AstroToo.Com](mailto:Astro@AstroToo.Com)

**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.



# Computers and Security

—Tying Computer Security to Privacy

© by John Woody, President, Alamo PC Organization, San Antonio TX.

From PCAlamode Feb. 2002. Reprinted by permission

Recent events and the increased hacker attacks on individual computers, especially those using broadband Internet connections, are reason enough to look further into the issues of computer privacy.

*Time Magazine* and the *Express-News*, among many others, carried feature stories about privacy issues, viruses, hackers, and other invasions of personal computers (PC). The *Time Magazine* article was concerned with identity thieves. The Internet is not a private place.

## NINE AREAS BEING WATCHED

There are nine areas that are being watched by law enforcement officials to protect against this Internet privacy invasion.

**First**, unauthorized users can steal and use your identity to do you and your computer mischief and harm. A dedicated thief can find your name, Social Security number, credit card numbers, bank-account information, mother's maiden name, and just about any other bit of information required to steal your identity on the Internet. The article went on to say that this was the fastest growing white-collar crime.

**Second**, individuals may be unintentionally giving data about themselves during searches through the Internet. WWW sites may be able to observe your surfing within their boundaries. "Cookies" are the most noticeable event that gathers data about your Internet movement. For many WWW surfers, the browser may also provide personal data to each site visited by disclosing personal preferences, which includes name, address, e-mail address, and other personal information.

**Third**, there is a good chance that the personal information gathered or provided to a WWW site may be sold or stolen from the WWW site. Web retailers are gathering large amounts of data on

individual purchasers and are selling it to other retailers. This can be very specific personal data such as who is buying cancer drugs or contraception, pornography, or books. The Web sites themselves are not the most secure places in the WWW. Hackers are getting unauthorized personal data from many of them by breaking into the site and copying or destroying the data.

**Fourth**, that WWW site you just gave your credit card to may be a fake site just waiting for you to provide that personal data. Federal authorities have recently broken a Russian theft ring that was "spoofing" a real Web site. Near-identical domain names are easy to obtain and can be obtained for unauthorized reasons.

**Fifth**, local and state governments have been placing property records on-line. The Bexar County Appraisal District, for example, has Bexar County property records online at [www.bcad.org](http://www.bcad.org). These records are usually searchable by name. Many states have completed placing arrest and court records on-line. All of these records have personal data such as social security numbers, addresses, minor children's names, and other data subject to access to anyone. The federal courts are using a program called Public Access to Court Electronic Records (PACER) to make court records available to the public. Critics of open records are beginning to have some input into the slowing of this practice.

**Sixth**, Data brokers, various for-profit companies and people who do not like you may be broadcasting your private data on the Internet. Data brokers get their data from public records and put it into forms that can be readily transmitted on the Internet. The data is sold for profit by them. Groups or individuals who have access to personal records for some reason of their own may elect to publish that data on the Internet.

**Seventh**, your own company or your spouse may be spying on your computer movements. Companies have a legal right to monitor employees' WWW surfing, e-mail and instant messaging within their systems. Surfing the wrong Web site can result in instant termination. Personal e-mail may uncover information that you do not want placed in the open. *SpectorSoft*, [www.spectorsoft.com](http://www.spectorsoft.com), is finding that its hottest sales are in the home, where its marketing

*Continued on page 6*

### *Security, Continued from page 5*

pitch is selling to spouses and romantic partners. It's Spector 2.2 is a stealth program that records every movement on the target computer and secretly sends it back to the individual doing the snooping. The program looks at all e-mail and Web site searches made on the target computer. This program is typical of spying programs.

**Eighth**, others can use your computer to spy on you. Hackers can get into your computer and look through it if the computer or network defenses are not in place. This is especially true in the case of broadband Internet connections, which are direct with no dial-up. Trojan Horses, computer worms, and viruses make use of this direct connection to do damage or steal data.

**Ninth**, there exist "cyberstalkers" who may have something against you. This may be the case if you make someone mad for some reason. They can post personal ads on the Internet or other actions that may be damaging to you. Much of this cyberstalking falsely indicates you expressing desire for explicit sexual acts or some other false desire. Usually, phone numbers and addresses accompany the stalker's notices. Most states are in the process of enacting legislation to counter these threats.

Internet privacy boils down to Web site Privacy Policies. These are statements that the Web site will not divulge private information such as credit card numbers, shopping habits, addresses, names and ages of households members to third parties. Privacy policies are designed to hold this personal data long after the transaction has been completed. An example of things going wrong can be seen in the case of one of the failed dot coms. The on-line company, Toysmart.com went bankrupt when an investor pulled out. It had a privacy policy in place. The company, however, attempted to sell its database of customer information to the highest bidder. This may be the trend in the future. This case is still being looked at by lawyers on all sides. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is working to put a program in place which makes Web sites inform surfers how much privacy they can expect from the site. This program is called the Platform for Privacy Preferences (P3P). The program goal is to let visitors know how much privacy can be expected.

There is a reason for Web site managers to implement this program as *Internet Explorer Ver. 6.0* has the ability to read and report to its user the level of privacy policy that the Web site has undertaken. IE 6.0 will be able to distinguish between primary cookies and third party cookies. This means that the site's cookies will pass, but those placed by others using banners, etc., will be stopped. This is a step in the right direction. I do not know if this IE version really works. One reviewer pointed out that the defaults in it did not do much for anyone.

Hackers are attacking individuals almost as much as they used to attack large business servers. Part of the reason is that many business networks and servers are better protected now than in the past. The remainder of the reasons lies in the individual computing power now available.

Why are individual PCs being hacked, attacked and invaded? There are several answers. Among them are, individual PCs are now powerful enough to handle hacker demands, broadband connections are direct (open to the outside world all the time), our operating systems (OS) have enough holes to allow hackers ease of entry, browser programming languages are readily hacked, and we, as users, are lax enough to allow all this to happen. The Time magazine article disclosed that Microsoft has conceded that all versions of Windows 2000 and its new XP OSs may have a "serious vulnerability" that lets hackers take control of another's computer. Microsoft has issued software patches for Windows 2000 and XP. Also, the Internet itself is about the most open forum that currently exists. There are no safeguards built into it.

PC power, 500 MHz plus CPUs, etc., coupled with leaky OSs and direct connections to the Internet are an open invitation to unauthorized attacks on individuals. In the past, these attacks were only available in the corporate and other large scale servers for networks. As the price of computer power comes down, more individuals are purchasing high performance machines, i.e., 500 MHz to 1 plus GHz based CPUs, which can process lots of data, authorized or unauthorized. Hackers are also finding holes in all of the OSs, Windows, Linux, and others,

*Continued on page 7*

## *Security, Continued from page 6*

that allow viruses, worms, and e-mail hacks to be installed to do internal and external damage. It is not just with the OS's that problems arise. The Internet Web browsers all have holes that allow unauthorized entry. The WWW programming languages, HTML and JAVA, are open invitations to invasion of privacy and attack. Finally, the Internet protocols TCP/IP that make it so easy for us to be globally in touch do not have safeguards. It is up to individuals to provide the safeguards to keep unauthorized entry from our computers.

### **WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT SECURITY AND PRIVACY?**

The first step is to become informed and stay informed about the security and privacy issues that arise. Two Web sites have been written about that keep information up to date concerning who and what is invading our computers. One is [www.cookiecentral.com](http://www.cookiecentral.com) and provides an overview of cookies.

The other one is [www.privacy.net](http://www.privacy.net) and provides a demo of how ad networks like Double Click collect personal information. Blocking cookies is fairly easy. PC World's [www.pcworld.com](http://www.pcworld.com) Downloads offers three free cookie blockers. *Idcide* becomes part of the browser utilities and takes on the advertiser cookies while letting benevolent cookies into your computer. *Idcide* can supply tracking details about who is looking at your surfing. *AdSubtract* stops cookies and blocks bothersome ads. It stops all cookies except those you choose to accept from up to five Web sites. A \$15.00 version has unlimited custom settings and lets one sort ad cookies and trusted-site cookies by giving them different colors. *Naviscope* the third utility, also stops all cookies and ads. It has other tools to eliminate other Web annoyances, such as sounds, pop-up windows, and blinking text.

The Time Magazine article had ten ways to develop a more secure cyber safety environment for your computer and entries into the Internet.

Install a home firewall and virus protection. Hackers are looking for vulnerable computers. Home firewalls such as BlackICE Defender or Zone

Alarm can be setup to protect your home computers and networks. I prefer Zone Alarm. One of the commercial virus protection utilities such as McAfee or Norton needs to be used and kept up to date. I use Norton.

Be careful of what you give out. Do not send personal information such as home address, phone numbers, and names and ages of children to strange Web sites. Post personal pictures on Web sites that have password protected access.

Do not download anything unless **you** trust the sender and the file. E-mail can contain viruses and spyware utilities.

Use dummy e-mail accounts. Use a secondary email account when filing out on-line profiles, posting messages to newsgroups, or strangers. A Hotmail or Yahoo e-mail account is a good way to do this.

Do not let your browser be a blabbermouth. Remove your name and address from the browser.

Opt out. Check the privacy policies of web sites visited. Many are "Opt Out", meaning that unless you tell them otherwise, they will share your personal data with others.

Do not accept unnecessary cookies. Use a cookie blocker to reject unwanted cookies.

Use encryption for sensitive data. Be sure the credit card transfer you do use is within a secure encrypted Web site.

Consider using an anonymiser. Web sites keep a record of your visits and may be able to identify you by name. Hide your identity by going through an "anonymizer" Web site such as [www.anonymizer.com](http://www.anonymizer.com).

Clear your memory cache after you surf the Internet. Clear the memory cache, effectively a log, of sites you visit. Then any access to your computer can not see the surf trail of your visits.

### **CONCLUSION**

You can not be too safe in your Internet surfing.

*John Woody is a telecommunication consultant specializing in small business communications, networks, framing, and Internet activities.*



# How do We Manage Large Amounts of Photos?

By Richard T. Robusto

I dare say that all of us have numerous photos that have been around for years. Some are becoming yellowed and are deteriorating more each year. I, myself, attempting to be an amateur photographer years past, have accumulated an immense amount of photos. Starting with the old reliable "Brownie" camera, which did a pretty good job for its time, and gradually using better equipment that allowed sharper focusing and better depth of field. Then on to the development of color photography and through the lens metering with electric eyes, we were rewarded with a much better end product.

So we've taken all these mementos of our families, children and friends through many occasions and holidays as the years passed and carefully sorted, segregated and preserved them in photo albums. But time and humidity has taken its toll and the realization occurs that we cannot preserve these forever. Then we are faced with the specter that after we are gone, what we have treasured might not be treated with the same care. Also, there is always the possibility of tragedies happening. This comes to mind when we see the homes that were lost at Los Alamos during a disastrous forest fire. It is very doubtful that these poor residents were able to save all their photos and mementos when they had to evacuate. Others have lost everything to floods. An incident that has always stuck in my memory is of a fellow worker who became very despondent one day. Upon asking what was wrong, she informed me that she had to pick her parents up at the airport as they returned from a vacation in Europe. But the kicker was, that she had to inform them that while they were gone, their house burned completely, leaving nothing to be salvaged. Lost was every photo in their possession, plus all their other mementos.

Today however, computer technology has given us a surefire method to preserve these photos and other important documents. Scanning is a fairly easy

operation to perform. A familiarization with the scanner and its accompanying software will not take much effort and then the procedures to begin preserving your photos and documents can begin.

The scanner that I have is the Visioneer One-Touch purchased a year ago for \$149.00 Today the price is about \$80.00. I have found this unit to be very easy to use and quite satisfactory. It came with Paperport software, which makes the task easy to accomplish. The scan window will offer a few settings to be made. First of all, the scan mode and resolution has to be set.

The first rule of scanning is that the resolution is determined by the final output. If a scan is to be printed out, then the requirements of the printer will determine the scanning resolution. However, if you are scanning only to archive, then output determination can be set aside. Using archiving as your end result, then other parameters can be undertaken. Assuming we start with our oldest black and white photos, the mode should be set to Gray Scale, and the resolution to 75 or 100 dpi (dots per inch). The main idea is to have the scan so it looks good on the monitor and keeps the file to a moderate size. The larger the file, the longer it will take to move through your system after scanning.

For colored pictures, an appropriate resolution would be 100 dpi to 150 dpi. Colored prints stop yielding additional data at about 200 dpi. Scanning at a higher figure will produce a larger file but not more detail. Doug Gennetten is the engineer with HP Home Imaging Division who did the HP PhotoSmart printer and scanner introduction. At this event, he posted a message on the web that among other things said that 200 dpi is the maximum resolution you need if your original is a normal silver halide color print.

After scanning, the file can be sent to a graphic application, usually through a link on the Paperport screen. I currently have 3 graphic applications with links on the Paperport screen. They are MGI Photo Suite III, Microsoft Picture It 99, and Photoshop L. E. (limited Edition). I have found that Photo Suite III

*Continued on Page 9*

### *Manage Photos, Continued from page 8*

is the one that I prefer to work with. It makes easy work of the tasks required. You start by cropping the photo to size. Many times I will scan 4 or more, whatever will fit on the scan glass, then crop them apart one at a time. This saves scanning time and reduces the number of scans. After cropping, necessary tasks can be performed, such as adjusting brightness and contrast, (I am able to improve 90 percent of these old photos), removing red eye, removing creases and unwanted blemishes. More complicated exercises such as cloning and removing unwanted persons or objects can also be accomplished.

All of these small graphic applications can handle all of these things. Also Corel Draw and Adobe Photoshop will do an excellent job on all these procedures. However, that's a bit of overkill as these programs are large and expensive, and are used for much more demanding applications.

Finally, the pictures are finished and ready for labeling. It is a good idea before starting labeling to give some thought to how to identify many pictures. Set up some sort of system that will allow you to recall what each picture is about when viewing its description. As you get into the hundreds, this becomes a daunting task, as no two titles can be alike. A good way is to set up a set of folders that will allow sorting of pictures into various family groups or time line designations.

The last description that has to be applied to the photo is the format that it will be saved as. For general purposes, there are 3 or 4 common file formats, and for the home scanner type, these will be sufficient. They are TIFF, JPEG, GIF and PNG.

**TIFF** - Tagged Image File format TIFF has been a format of choice for use for master copies of images for several years. Not the only one, but a good one. TIFF format was developed by Aldus, before Adobe bought them, and is the most widely supported format across other platforms, PC, Macs, Unix, etc. TIFF writes a large file, and it optionally uses lossless compression meaning there are no quality losses. Ideal for important master images.

If you might modify and save the file a second time, then use a non-lossy format like TIFF. TIFF files are large, but it's the price we pay, it's how large the data is.

**JPEG** - Joint Photographic Experts Group This is easily the best format for scanned photographs to be used on web sites, or for sending your photographic images in e-mail, because the file is wonderfully small, often compressed to only 1/10 or 1/15 size, which is very kind to modems. However, this fantastic compression efficiency comes with a high price. JPEG uses a lossy compression (lossy meaning "with losses"). Lossy means that some quality is lost when the JPEG data is compressed and saved, and this quality can never be recovered. Even worse, more quality is lost every time the JPEG file is compressed and saved again, so even editing a JPEG image is a questionable decision. JPEG discards image pixel data that is inconvenient for its compression method, allowing phenomenal size results. This "lost data" is seen as lost purity, or lost integrity due to mild corruption of the data, rather like added noise. There is no magic answer providing both high compression and high quality, but some quality losses are acceptable for some purposes.

**GIF** - Graphics Interchange Format This is an older format developed by CompuServe, and it was fantastic in its day, with relatively small LZW (Lempel-Ziv-Welch, same compression as used for PKZIP) compressed file sizes (but nothing like JPEG's small size). However, GIF is limited to only 256 colors, a great match for the older 8 bit video boards, and for graphics, but which makes it poorly suited today for 24 bit photographic images. The file is also large if used for photographic images, as compared to 24 bit JPEG. And GIF files do not store the images scaled resolution dpi value, making scaling necessary every time the file is printed. GIF uses lossless compression like TIFF. JPEG is much better for 24 bit photographic images, and the JPEG file is very much smaller too (although lossy)

**PNG**- Portable Network Graphics PNG was intended to be the replacement for GIF, due to

*Continued on page 10*

## *Manage Photos, Continued from page 9*

LZW patent problems, and due to GIF being limited to only 256 colors. PNG was designed with the advantage of knowing all that went before. PNG supports 24 and 48 bit color with an awesome set of technical specifications and features, sort of the modern universal “be all, end all” of file formats, including superior lossless compression. The PNG basic compression is called the ZIP method, and is like the “deflate” method in PKZIP, but the big deal is that PNG also incorporates special preprocessing filters that greatly improve the compression efficiency, especially for typical gradient data often found in 24 bit photographic images.

PNG may be of great interest for us today, because it is lossless compression well suited for master copy data, and because PNG is noticeably smaller than LZW TIFF. Looks like about 30% smaller than TIFF LZW for 24 bit files, and is about 10% to 30% smaller than 8 bit GIF files. Web browsers Netscape and Internet Explorer at first did not support PNG on Web pages, but they now include support for PNG files on web pages and it might become popular, not to replace JPEG, but to replace GIF perhaps. Most image programs like PhotoImpact, Photoshop, Paint Shop Pro already support PNG, so compatibility transferring files is probably not an issue.

I have picked PNG for saving all my pictures. I have no need to print any of them out and am only interested in archiving them. I feel that in the future, if these need to be reworked or printed out, then the PNG format will work out just fine. I also use the ACDSee program to save my folders with corresponding pictures in them. This program allows me to use thumbnail display and to make the thumbnails any size that I want. By making them small enough, I am able to view 32 photos at one time on the desktop. This is helpful in sorting and rearranging.

When I accumulate 650 MB of photos, I transfer them to a CD-R. Then it is a simple matter to duplicate the CD and make as many copies as I want. At this point, I can give a copy to everyone in my family. This makes the selection of photos available to all

interested persons and assures that the pictures will never be lost due to any one incident.

So far, I have scanned and put on one CD, 1900 photos, many of them black and whites. On the second CD, I have 1100 photos. I estimate that I am about 70% finished with all my photos. Then I will undertake to do the same with about 2000 slides that I have. That, however, will not be as easy, as I will have to see about acquiring a slide scanner.

I have also started to scan all my important documents and put them all in one separate folder. I got the idea about a year ago, when I could not find some very important papers, most notably my college degrees. I sweated about three months and really turned things upside down, and lo and behold, there they were in a very “safe place”. At that point, I decided to scan every paper that meant anything. I dragged out all the birth certificates, my children’s school and college records, military discharge papers, and anything else that I didn’t want to have to search for again.

Scanning text is much simpler than photos. You scan at line art mode. On some scanners, the designation is Editing text (OCR) Using this instead of Gray Scale will make the file about 8 times smaller. This should be scanned at 300 dpi. After scanning, the software can perform the “Edit for Text” operation. At that point, it can be transferred to a text program. There you can delete parts if necessary, label it and save it as a PNG file. I have done this with all my papers and put them into a folder that I named “Certificates”. I now rest easy, and, of course, that folder of originals is always underfoot. I’ll have to find another “safe place” to keep it.

---

*Richard T. Robusto is a member of the Las Vegas PC Users Group.*

*This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.*



# Software Review

## ACDSee 4.0

By Robert M. Banasik

*Reprinted from the PC NEWS, the online newsletter of the 1960 PC User Group, Houston TX.*

With all the interest these days in getting photographs digitized, it is little wonder that many companies are introducing or improving software that will make photographers' lives a little easier. This latest product from ACD Systems allows the user to "Enhance, Manage, and Share your images."

Those three words do aptly describe this software package, but I think many of you will delight in the "Manage" part. After all, once you start using a digital camera or start scanning photos into your computer, it can become a nightmare to try and find a certain image later.

Our task is even more difficult these days, since hard drives can hold so much data. In years past, our job was made simpler because we would eventually store only a few selected images onto individual media such as floppies, Syquest Cartridges, Zip disks, or even tape. Nowadays, it's easy to keep a year or more worth of images locally on your hard drive. So when you need to find one image out of hundreds or thousands, it sure is handy to have a little help. That's where ACDSee shines!

This program acts just like an Explorer window, but instead of just seeing file names you see images as well. When you click on a folder from within this program, you see thumbnails of all your images within that folder. You can use this program to print "proof sheets" of your images, along with options of printing captions or filenames with file size and other data.

During installation you have many options from which to choose, such as "which digital cameras do you want to support?", "which accessory programs and utilities do you wish to load?", and you can even load their image manipulation program. There are over 50 media formats that are supported, so this

program can even be your "fall back" if you end up with an image for which you don't own the proprietary program.

I first installed this on my laptop, which is a Sony 850Mhz Vaio. I then installed it on one of our other workstations and started browsing away. Both installs went flawlessly. I opened a folder containing about 500MB of images, each one averaging about 20MB. This really did choke the program and it sat there chunking data for a long long time. That particular folder represented the entire contents of a full CD of images. After that I learned to make sure my folders were not quite as vast, and things went along nicely. I contacted ACD Systems tech support via their website <http://www.acdsystems.com>.

If you've ever tried to contact tech support for a software program, you might have experienced interminable delays or no response at all. This vendor, however, is different. I left an email message via their website and within an hour or so I had a reply. Not just an auto response, but an actual human really typed something to me and it made sense! Refreshing...If I were handing out grades this company would definitely get an A! They have the best tech support I've seen in years.

How useful is this program? Well, I run a photo lab and imaging center. Many of my customers come in with Smart Media or Compact Flash cards, CD's; you name it. They often want to see their images before ordering prints or enlargements from their files. ACDSee really comes into its own in this type of environment!

All I do is slip in the media card, open ACDSee, and point to the card reading drive and Voilá. Up come the images in contact sheet format so you can see the entire contents of the card quickly. If you want a closer look, just double click on an image and it fills the screen. If you want to edit the image, just click on the editor button and up it comes in Foto Canvas Lite. That's the image editing program that comes with the package and it allows you to adjust contrast, brightness, rotate the image...all the basics plus unexpected filters like emboss, colorize, gaussian blur, etc.

*Continued on page 12*

## *ACDSee, Continued from page 11*

If you have images on your computer and find yourself clicking through directories, this program is for you. This is a great way to organize and catalog them, and also be able to adjust and print them. You can try ACDSee 4.0 for free by downloading a trial off their website. You can also download the full version for \$49.95. I think this is a utility that will be handy to have for years to come.

What the company says:

A full-featured image Viewer quickly generates a high-quality display of your image. You can run slide shows, play embedded audio, and display multi-page images. Video and audio files can be played in the Media Window.

Also, ACDSee has a wide variety of image editing tools that you can use to create, edit and touch-up your digital images. Tools, such as Red-eye reduction, crop, sharpen, convert to sepia tones, emboss, are available for you to enhance and correct images. There are several tools such as exposure adjustment, convert, resize, rename, rotate and mirror, that can be performed on multiple files at the same time.

The new user interface is designed for quick access to tools and there are many customization features. Screen layout, the order of images, toolbar display, and many options can be customized to suit your preferences. ACDSee continues to be a fast and easy-to-use image management package that everyone from novices to professionals can use and enjoy.

System Requirements: Windows 95/98/Me/NT 4.0/2000/XP Pentium class processor with 32 MB of RAM; 256-color display adaptor; 30 MB free disk space; Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher for Help files; 800x600 display.

*Bob Banasik is a digital imaging specialist and president of Best Photo Imaging Center in Brookfield, CT. His company provides photographic and digital imaging services to consumer as well as commercial markets worldwide. He can be reached at bob@bestphotolab.com.*



# Newbies Corner

*by Jim Hally B.U.G. member*

Last month I touched on DIMMs and Memory. I am going to step back to SIMMs first then follow down that road (BUS) a little further. In the most simple terms, your computer has two types of memory, ROM (read only memory) and RAM (random access memory). Once again, I predicate the following as being written to give a general idea of how things work, not as a technically correct piece of information.

## ROM

As with all technology, this is something that is ever changing. You have ROM, PROM (programmable read only memory) EPROM (electrically erasable programmable read only memory) available. Want to get into them? I didn't think so. I will touch on EPROM though. Although it is never covered at any length SIG meetings, I know you have heard the term "flash the BIOS". This is not something you want to try just for the heck of it. In order to do this you must have this type of ROM to be able to do the Flash part. The BIOS can be updated with special software provided from the BIOS manufacturer, to overwrite their software.

## BIOS (basic input/output system)

The BIOS is a set of instructions that tells the computer how it should start. This set of instructions acts as an interface (especially between the chip set and the processor) to the operating system. At this point it is unloaded from ROM and placed in your RAM. Just before you shut down your computer the reverse happens. This is what allows you to access a high level operating system like Windows, which in turn allows you to run applications that use the Windows operating system. An important facet of this is the CMOS battery (complimentary metal oxide semiconductor), This battery draws a little power from your computer to keep itself charged.

*Continued on Page 13*

## ***Newbies - Continued from Page 12***

This battery power is what keeps the set of instructions available whenever we start the computer. It is a combination of these many instructions along with the fact that the BUS, in this case, is only 16 bits wide that causes the boot process to seem to take forever.

### **1994**

When I got my first computer, one of the selling points was the fact that it had 12 Mb of RAM. Comparable computers came with 8 Mb. I knew it had two expansion slots and they needed 72 pin modules. Little did I know and no one told me that 8 of the Mb's was soldered on the motherboard and there was a 4Mb stick in one of the slots. The box it came in told me I could upgrade to "64 Mb". Once again they don't tell you that you have to disable the original 8 to get there with two 32 Mb sticks or modules. The point is that we had entered the world of 72 pin SIMMs.

### **SIMMs**

Single Inline Memory Modules. There are two standards for this technology, 30 pin and 72 pin modules. The 30 pin sticks are a thing of the past but the 72 pin modules are still a popular choice. It is rare to find a memory module with the amount of Mb stamped on it. Most of the time a depth by width specification is stamped on it. The older 30 pin sticks provided date in an 8 bit width, while the 72 pins use a 32 bit width.

Back to basics for a second here. 8 bits equals 1 byte and a million bytes equals a Mb.

A top of the line 30 pin SIMM, for example may be stamped 16x 8 70. The 70 is nanoseconds which we will ignore for now. What do the numbers mean? Well to start off you know it is depth by width. So in this case we know it is a 30 pin module, therefore we know it is an 8 bit width. Now we do the math.  $16 \times 8 = 128$ , divide that by 8 (as in bits) and we get 16 which is Mb because we are dealing in millions of bits. At least back then, you couldn't

just count the chips on the module because it depended on the manufacturer and how he wanted to make the SIMM.

As an example, when on one of my visits to Jim T's one afternoon we found some old 30 pin sticks. He remembered them as being 4 Mb's. The chips numbered 8 but the stamp was 4 x 8 70 so we knew they were 4 Mb not the 8 they looked like. Think of the depth number as intensity or power.

### **Just peachy**

Things went along pretty well for a period of time. The processors could handle 32 bits of data, the chipsets had the same capabilities and we had the SIMMs right there with them.

Along comes the Pentium processor. Now this bad boy can handles 64 bits of data with no problem at all. In order to do that you need a bigger BUS don't you? No problem said the motherboard manufacturers. The chipset crowd says if you can do it, we can do it. We'll make the North Bridge and South Bridge chipsets and it will handle all Mr. Processor wants. The poor memory guys say, hold on a minute fellows, we can't do that with the technology we have. All we can give you is 32 bits at a time.

But wait! If we write the data to a SIMM in bank 0 and a SIMM in bank 1 and you guys move a wire on the motherboard to access both at the same time we can give you 64 bits of data at the same time. With this insight, the requirement of putting two identical SIMMs in the memory banks of a motherboard for a Pentium processor was born. With this also came the caveat that the first two slots of a memory area had to be filled first.

This is known as Bank 1 which consists of banks 0 and 1. Bank 2 consists of 2 and 3.

### **Isn't his fun?**



# FIGHT THE CBDTPA!

From: [www.stoppoliceware.org](http://www.stoppoliceware.org)

## Stop The Consumer Broadband and Digital Television Promotion Act!

### WHAT IS THE CBDTPA?

The CBDTPA is a bill, pushed by the entertainment industry, proposed in Congress by Senators Fritz Hollings (D-SC) and Ted Stevens (R-Alaska), along with Senators Daniel Inouye (D-HI), John Breaux (D-LA), Bill Nelson (D-FL), and Dianne Feinstein (D-CA). The acronym stands for “Consumer Broadband and Digital Television Promotion Act”. Note that the CBDTPA was originally known as the “SSSCA” while in draft form.

### WHAT WOULD THIS LAW DO?

The law would force all new personal computers and digital home entertainment devices sold in the United States to have government-approved “policeware” built-in.

This policeware would restrict your use of copyrighted material on these devices — including music files and CD’s, video clips, DVD’s, e-books, and more.

### WHO COULD GO TO JAIL?

You, if you’re one of the millions of Americans who uses your computers to burn music CD’s, listen to MP3’s, share video files, etc. You’d face up to five years in federal prison and a \$500,000 fine.

Think you’d be able to get around the law by removing the policeware from your personal computer? Think again — anyone who defies the government by disabling or tampering with the policeware on their own computer, in the privacy of their own home or business, would also face five years in the slammer.

Since alternative operating systems like Linux and FreeBSD would most likely refuse to incorporate government policeware into their code, users of these open-source systems would also be eligible for hard time.

### HOW CAN WE FIGHT THIS?

If we have any hope of keeping government policeware off of our personal computers and home entertainment devices, we must act quickly and decisively.

For starters, you can sign our petition opposing the CBDTPA at [www.stoppoliceware.org](http://www.stoppoliceware.org), tell a friend, or if you’re a constituent, feel free to contact the CBDTPA sponsors in the Senate to let them know how you feel.

Please be polite and well-reasoned.

- Capitol switchboard —  
call YOUR Senator! - (202) 224-3121  
Thanks for joining the fight!

- Senator Fritz Hollings (D-SC) -  
(202) 224-6121

- Senator Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) -  
(202) 224-3004

- Senator Daniel Inouye (D-HI) -  
(202) 224-3934

- Senator John Breaux (D-LA) -  
(202) 224-4623

- Senator Bill Nelson (D-FL) -  
(202) 224-5274

- Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) -  
(202) 224-3841

SIGN THE PETITION ONLINE:

[www.stoppoliceware.org](http://www.stoppoliceware.org)



### DISK OF THE MONTH NOTICE!

The DOM has been discontinued. Jim Clear has been ill and cannot prepare the Disk. Until someone comes forward to pick up the effort we will not have a DOM. *Ed.*



## Brevard Users Group Membership Application

First Name \_\_\_\_\_

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Family Membership (\$25.00)

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

### 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

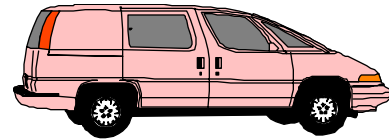
Bob Staples 255-2623 Win95/98

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



### 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

Editor at [jtowns@digital.net](mailto:jtowns@digital.net)

### BUG Officers

#### President:

George Rymer 724-6715  
[grymer@cfl.rr.com](mailto:grymer@cfl.rr.com)

#### Vice President

Larry Wood 783-0530  
[weed87@cfl.rr.com](mailto:weed87@cfl.rr.com)

**Treasurer:** 777-4591

Ted Glaser  
[tedjokes@worldnet.att.net](mailto:tedjokes@worldnet.att.net)

#### Secretary:

Mary Alice Grant 253-5666  
[mgrant@pciol.net](mailto:mgrant@pciol.net)

#### 1st Member at Large:

LaVerne Schamberg 242-0454

#### 2nd Member at Large:

Charles Principato 723-5962

### Committee Chairperson

#### Beginners Help:

Oscar Litke 409-8002

[ozk1joy@wmconnect.com](mailto:ozk1joy@wmconnect.com)

#### FACUG Representative:

Bill Ranck 676-7908

#### Hardware & Modem Doctor:

James Clear 259-3048  
[jtclear@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtclear@cfl.rr.com)

#### Program Director:

Larry Wood 783-0530

#### Library & DOM:

James Clear 259-3048  
Rex Cummings 242-9601

### BUG WEB Page:

<http://www.palmnet.net/~bug/>

### Special Interest Groups

#### Beginners' SIG:

Oscar Litke 409-8002

#### Hardware (Tinkers) SIG:

Bob Schmidt 952-0199  
[rschmidt@palmnet.net](mailto:rschmidt@palmnet.net)

#### Newsletter Publishing SIG:

Jack Nash 253-2793  
[jhnash@pciol.net](mailto:jhnash@pciol.net)

#### Win 95/98 SIG:

George Rymer 724-6715  
Chuck Boring 454-9455

Bob Staples 255-2623

#### Internet SIG and Web Pages SIG

Norm Sharp

[n\\_sharp@bellsouth.net](mailto:n_sharp@bellsouth.net)

### Brevard Users' Group

#### INCORPORATED

P. O. Box 2456  
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456

PRESORTED STANDARD

U. S. Postage

PAID

Melbourne, FL

Permit No. 102

Your membership expires on the date indicated in the upper left of your address label (YYMM). Please allow six weeks for processing the renewal.