



### ***Brevard Users Group***

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*THE NEXT MEETING  
OF THE  
BREVARD USERS GROUP  
WILL BE ON  
September 18, 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!**

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September 3rd--Also VJ Day, 1945!



**Mary  
Alice  
Grant**  
Secretary

## **BUG Meeting**

George Rymer, President started the meeting at 7pm. He introduced the rest of the officers, the SIG's and their Chairman. He also announced that Chuck Boring went to NC to visit his sister before her death. We wish his family our sympathies. There were just a few questions pertaining to problems with computers. All questions were answered.

The BUG club now has their own domain and web site: bugclub.org. Eric Arnold has designed the web page and will be working with Norm Sharp to keep it updated. If you have suggestions or comments on the web page, please send to Eric on the following address: <http://home.cfl.rr.com/cm3/index.html>. If anyone is interested in learning how to set up a web page, please call Norm.

The speaker was Terri Dickerson and his subject was photographs.

Mr. Dickerson had several types of cameras for the members to look at. He gave a quick synopsis on each and how they work. The difference in each one such as a point and shoot with a zoom, 35 millimeter camera with more options, and a digital camera. He stressed that exposure and composition is two things to look at when taking a picture. For instance, when taking a portrait type picture take it at 100 mm. For a wide-angle picture go for less than 50 mm. When purchasing a digital camera, the more pixels the camera offers, the better and larger the picture you will have. However, be sure that you have a printer that will be able to print a picture from a digital camera with a large pixel base.


Mr. Dickerson suggested that when taking a picture if you will mentally divide the frame of the picture into

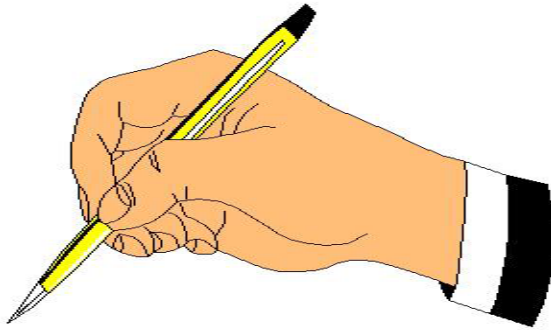
*Continued on Page 14*

## **Executive Meeting , 12 June 2002**

Attendance: George Rymer, Larry Wood, Mary Alice Grant, Charles Principato, LaVerne Schamberg C.M. Corley, Jack Nash, Jim Townsend

1. MAG read the prior Executive meeting notes from 8 May 2002. George made a motion to accept notes as read; LaVern seconded the motion, passed.
2. No Treasurer report as he was out of town.
3. A request from George was made to obtain the past meeting notes from the former Secretary, Darryl Trap. MAG volunteered to speak to Darryl.
4. A motion was made by LaVern to print the past Executive Meeting notes that have been read and approved in the BUG Club Newsletter. This was seconded by Charles Principato, voted and passed.
5. George will take over the inventory job of all equipment and software present within the BUG Club. There will be an initial inventory taken then every January this list will be reviewed and turned over to the new administration in February.
6. LaVern will not be present for the Club Meeting on Wednesday 19 June 2002. Charles and Larry will work the front desk during her absence.
7. Jack Nash will check with the Library to see what rooms may be available for an afternoon SIG for Windows after he returns from his vacation. If possible, a Windows SIG will begin in September timeframe for those who have problems driving after dark.
8. So far approximately 13 Old BUG Club Newsletters CD's have been sold. They will be available for purchase during Wednesday's meeting.
9. George is still waiting for the \$80.00 rebate from his purchase of Quickbook software for the Treasure of the BUG Club. Once he receives the \$80.00, it will be turned in for the BUG Club's checking account.
10. George had some discussion with Norm Sharp for a Web name for the BUG club. However, with his wife's illness, he hasn't been able to follow up. She is now better and he plans to get with Norm for further discussion on a web site.
11. A motion was made by Charles and seconded by Larry to close the meeting at 7:10pm.

Respectfully given by  
Mary Alice Grant, Secretary  




## Treasurer's report

By Ted Glaser

### Account Balances as of 31 JUL 02

Checking Acc't	\$ 417.92
DDDW Savings	\$ 2151.66
Petty Cash	\$ 25.00

### New Members: Welcome Aboard!

Arnold, E - #1185  
Wadler, D - #1186

### The following have renewed: Thanks!

Adams, D - #1078  
Baker, J - #1009  
Brown, C - #1055  
Craig, R - #1161  
Fitzgerald, J - #1060  
Hanson, A - #984  
Hughes, J - #1138  
Moser, L - #1016  
Perkins, W - #1132  
Price, F - #1075  
Thomson, R - #1076  
Wheeler, A - #1079  
Wojnar, T - #1160



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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.



# Make Your Own PDF Files

by "Paul Witheridge" [ssuccess@ebtech.net](mailto:ssuccess@ebtech.net)

*Paul is the Shareware Librarian of the Sarnia Computer Users' Group and a Past President.*

One of today's biggest computing irritations is competing standards! While there are standards out there for such things as e-mail, file transfer and Internet protocols, and HTML coding for web display, someone is always "pushing the envelope" (to be polite) or "ignoring them" (to be blunt). Document sharing is an example.

Many think that Microsoft Word is the standard for documents but it is only one in a field of word processors. At one time, they simply pretended each other didn't exist and if you created a document using one word processor, you couldn't share it with others who were using a competitive product.

Now, at least the major brands provide the ability to convert between formats but often at the expense of some of your painstaking efforts to create that Beautiful Format. Enter Adobe and the Portable Document Format (PDF). If you can create (or "export to") a PDF file with your word processor, you can produce a "stand-alone" document that anyone can see or print exactly as it was created fonts, pictures, whatever but without the program that created it! Catch? Of course there's a catch!

First of all, you need the Acrobat Adobe Reader to see/print these. Yes, it's free; but it is a few megabytes in size and usually has to be downloaded and installed. But how to create the PDF in the first place? Are we still somewhat at the mercy of the Adobes, Microsofts and Corels? Read on!

There are two freeware (free for non-commercial, home use) programs that can enable you to create (and read) standard PDF files (as well as postscript files): MakePDF, (<http://www.lexacorp.com.pg/soft/makepdf22.zip>) a freeware utility for converting the postscript translations from GhostScript to a Portable Document Format file and GhostScript, (<ftp://mirror.cs.wisc.edu/pub/mirrors/ghost/AFPL/gs703/gs703w32.exe>) a free postscript interpreter which translates postscript documents. NOTE: If the version numbers change, the above links will become outdated.

If you visit the Lexacorp site first, there is a link there to GhostScript as well as to MakePDF. Stuart also offers several other MAKEPDF tips and tricks

at <http://www.lexacorp.com.pg>

After downloading both of these, install GhostScript by double-clicking the GS703W32.EXE file. Then simply unzip MAKEPDF21.ZIP into the folder of your choice (no installation needed). I must assume that the reader can do this using their favourite compressed file unpacker. Then, you need to define a printer that can produce postscript output such as the HP Laserjet III PostScript+ in your selection of printers.

You do not need to have this printer connected, you merely need to add/install it as if it were installed and configure it to send output to a .PRN file. Here's how. In Windows, click Start|Settings|Printers and then double-click 'Add Printer'. Choose 'Local Printer' and click 'Next'. Now select the printer you'd like, making sure that it can produce postscript.

The HP Laserjet III PostScript+ is an obvious choice but other manufacturers are available on the list you'll see. After selecting one, you'll be asked where to output your data and this is where you will choose 'FILE:' and then click 'Next'. Most likely you will not want this to be your default printer, but this option is always available later if your needs should change. Click 'Next' and then 'Finish' and you will most likely be prompted to insert your Windows installation CD in order to retrieve the necessary driver files. After the printer driver files have been copied, you will be prompted for a PRN filename (in case you wanted to print a test page). You can click 'Cancel' to skip this step. Did you know that you could also rename this printer installation to something more helpful like PostScript Creation? Right click it and rename!

Once the process is complete to this point, you will have an additional printer option whenever you wish to "print" a document from any application you are using. When choosing this new option you have just installed, you will be asked for a filename and destination folder since the output will not be a "hard copy" on paper, but a .PRN file on your computer.

We now need to create a way to easily send these PRN files created by your newly installed postscript-capable (phantom) printer driver to MAKEPDF which will use GhostScript to finally create the PDF file. One way to provide this "con-

*Continued on page 6*

### **PDF files, continued from page 5**

nection” is to add a shortcut in your SendTo links that will appear when you right-click a file in Windows Explorer (or other file manager) and select ‘Send To’. Open your \Windows\SendTo folder and right-click a blank spot. Click New|Shortcut and insert a command line similar to the following, but insert the proper path for your installation of MAKEPDF in place of the square bracketed portion. [C:\Utils]MAKEPDF.EXE Click ‘Next’ and then name it MakePDF or whatever you like. Click ‘Finish’ and you’re done. Now you can right-click any PRN file created by your phantom printer and then choose SendTo|MakePDF to create your PDF file. You could also create a shortcut on your desktop in the same way and just drag and drop PRN files onto the icon.

There are a few other clever tricks the more advanced user can perform either by defining a new filetype (see end of this article) or using macros in your word processor or creating a custom printer port or having your PDF sent directly to your e-mail client but you can read about those in Stuart McLachlan’s (author of MAKEPDF) Readme text file that comes with MAKEPDF. Most of us will be quite happy with a shortcut in the SendTo folder!

#### **Using MAKEPDF**

The first time you send a PRN file to MakePDF, you will be asked if you want to locate the GhostScript program. Click ‘Yes’ and browse your way to the GSWIN32.EXE file which, if you used the default location will be in the C:\GS\GS7.03\BIN folder. [Note that there are two similarly named executable files at this location. The one with the ‘C’ is for command-line operation.] Single-click the GSWIN32.EXE file and click ‘Open’ and this path will be saved in a MAKEPDF.INI file for future reference and you won’t have to repeat this step. MakePDF will now open and you will see the path and filename of your (input) PRN file and the same path but different file extension for the output PDF file. Unless you want the PDF file to be put somewhere else or have a different name, you can accept the default offering. There are options offered, most of which I usually ignore; but here is a brief explanation of them as I understand them:

**Delete Input File** - deletes the PRN file after it

has been translated to save collecting large numbers of these intermediate files. **Lower Case Output** - produces a PDF filename with all lower case letters for feeding to other applications which may require that. **Sticky Output Directory** - use this if you want the folder you set in ‘Output Filename/Directory’ ALWAYS to be the destination of your PDF files. **View Output File** - check this if you want Acrobat Reader to open your new PDF as soon as it’s created. **Auto-Exit on success** - check this to save having to click the ‘Quit’ button. **No Messages** - all message boxes are suppressed. I wouldn’t recommend this for the beginner. Choose the version of PDF file you wish to create and after a few seconds, you will see a confirmation dialogue box that the process has been successful. NOTE: In case your intended recipient has an older version of Acrobat Reader, it may be best to create an older version PDF. The resulting PDF file you have now created can be double-clicked to be opened in Acrobat Reader and it will appear exactly as you created it in your original application and anyone with Acrobat Reader can do the same. And print it! But the Reader does not allow editing, just reading and printing. This can be a very good thing when you don’t want your document altered by others!

#### **For The Advanced User**

For the more adventurous, (once you are comfortable that you have everything working) you could even establish a new filetype (change PRN to something completely new that is not already registered on your computer) so that a simple double-click on files of that type will start MAKEPDF and open them. This involves first avoiding any of the extensions already listed in Start|Settings|Folder options|File Types and then in there creating a ‘New Type’ and specifying a command line similar to the following to open those files: “[C:\Utils]MAKEPDF.EXE” %1 /D/V1.2/OC:\My Documents\PDFfile.PDF again, inserting the proper path for your installation in place of the bracketed portion. NOTE: If you have difficulty with Acrobat Reader opening PDFs with a double-click, I’ve found that a reinstall of Acrobat Reader usually solves this.

*Reprinted from the Computer Club of Ocean County,  
NJ Online Newsletter*



## Newbies Corner

by Jim Hally B.U.G. Member

### Memory Trifecta

I didn't start out to do a three part series but here we are.

### SIMMs and DIMMs

One of the differences between these two memory modules is their make up. A 72 pin SIMM has 36 pins on each side of the module but they are connected. The data is organized into memory banks. This offers a redundancy and safety factor but it also hampers the speed at which the data can be transmitted to the CPU. Forgetting about address pins and such (other important things) the data is written to these pins and when the CPU asks for the data, it is sent along the BUS. If the BUS is wider (I-95) than what the 36 pins can send, so be it. Add another factor is that the speed of SIMMs sending data is around 70ns (nanoseconds), a minute amount of time to anything but a computer or CPU.

To over simplify things, let's say we have an amount of data to be sent to the CPU and that data will take up 144 pins. Right off the bat we know it will take 4 sends to get the data to the CPU,  $144 / 36 = 4$ , and to send all the data it will take 280ns. This is called the RAMs latency.

This is one of the reasons why the Pentium CPUs required two matching SIMMs was to fill up the BUS with data. This type of RAM (DRAM) was also asynchronous. By that I mean it had to get ready to start transmitting the data. It had its own clock cycle, which was manipulated by the chipset. The chipset would say Hey RAM get ready to send your data, the CPU is waiting. Kind of like clearing your throat before you speak. This getting ready to speak part or organizing your memory bank is what constituted part of the 70ns. This was called precharging. After the 36 are sent the pins are deactivated. The precharging allows another 36 to be ready to go to the pins to be sent.

But wait! That can't be!

Remember, we spoke of impulses, or on and off switches. In reality this is called clock cycles. With modern CPUs and wide Bus channels the clock

cycles are really quick. The CPU can digest the data in 1 to 3ns. All CPUs have a built in wait state. Once it digests the data and endures its built in wait state and requests more of the data. The CPU is saying gimmiethedata. The SIMM is responding with here comes another 36.

The slower the memory you are using (or the more modern CPU) the more wait states you have to endure which will really take its toll on performance.

### DIMMs

Two very important pieces of technology came down the pike, DIMMs and SDRAM.

With DIMMs we now had 168 pins with 84 per side. Gone was the redundancy but feature was the fact that all 168 pins could send the data. The 144 items of data that would have the SIMM do 4 sends was done in one fell swoop. Not only could this fill the wider BUS with data, it also accomplished this in about 20ns. This was accomplished by sending the one 84 pins side first and as it left, that side was being precharged as the other 84 pin side went. So before the whole 168 pins was sent the two banks were being charged and sent at an alarming rate. This is a direct benefit or SDRAM (synchronous). By that it shares the clock with the CPU and the chipset.

Another unique facet of SDRAM is that it creates its own wait states. The time has not come that allows RAM to work at the same speed as the CPU. In reality, it will probably never catch up. By taking over the wait state from the CPU and putting in on the SDRAM module the SDRAM allow the CPU to do other processing things until the data arrives. The CPU goes from saying gimmiethedata to I'm ready when you are. All those impulses asking for the data take processing power. It becomes a clean running process.

### More SDRAM

SDRAM is not rated in nanaoseconds like DRAM. They are rated in MHz. The main reasoning behind this is so you can match it with the BUS speed on your motherboard. Common MHz's are PC 66, PC 100 and PC 133. I believe there is a PC 266 out as well.



## ***NWA-PCUG Newsletter Article*** **Are User Groups Infected With Funnel Vision?**

*by Lynn L. Kauer, President/Editor, Saginaw Valley Computer Association.*

Funnel vision is a malady that too often infects small organizations. This malady isn't restricted to user groups per se as it can infect any organization. The development of the malady originates from the thinking that only information gathered from a closed group is important or meaningful. I've seen the writing of editors pleading for articles from their members so that they will have something to put into their publication. This article is intended to bring to light my thoughts and opinions I've come to realize since I became involved as editor over eight years ago.

It is no secret that the SVCA exchanges newsletters with other user groups. They are a wealthy source of information and differing ideas that we use for a number of purposes. I've long seen a pattern that I call "Funnel Vision" that can invade a user group and cause its demise. There are many forms.

When I speak of funnel vision I am speaking to how a group attains information. We all know that a funnel is a cone shaped device that is large at one end and tapering to a small opening at the other. We use a funnel to pour liquids or powders into containers with small openings. The reason is that the liquid we are pouring into the funnel may originate from a saucepan (larger source) that contains a lot of liquid but by its very shape doesn't allow a small stream to flow from it. Thus, the funnel contains the overflow, the transfer of liquid is contained, and the liquid is transferred into the smaller container.

User groups are small containers while the APCUG community is the larger container. If we learn to use the resources of the large community we can use the information to educate our members.

### **Symptoms of the Disease**

As I scan the newsletters we receive, and those I access online, I find two distinctive forms of funnel vision evident. The worst form are the newsletters that contain only advertising with a short message from the President covering the reports of the

groups last meeting or where he or she last traveled. There is no information transferred to the reader except for advertisements. I've often wondered why the group wants to spend its money publishing each month. Possibly it's because it is a source of revenue and the monetary reward is all that is important to them.

The less insidious form of funnel vision is more widespread. These newsletters are by and large a good-looking publication with a decent layout. The funnel vision becomes evident when it becomes apparent that only members of the group are contributing to it. Sadly, the editor has elected to only publish articles written by its own membership.

As I watch them over a period of time it becomes apparent that few new insights or ideas are being shared. All the information is basically being recycled into new forms of wording but little new information is offered.

Over the years I have watched the publications of these groups diminish in size. One that I looked forward to reading each month has shrunk from a 12 page to a 4-page publication because of lack of content. Every so often an article will appear by one of its writers that contains a tip or trick, a warning, a new idea or an insight about something the writer experienced the purpose of publishing a newsletter.

Sometimes, I receive a newsletter where the editor has left a page or two blank with a note on it that reads: "This page is blank because nobody contributed anything this month." While it is intended to encourage writers to contribute it has a negative effect. People join user groups for two purposes: to be informed or entertained. When people are cajoled into having to write something, even if it's trivial, this is in my opinion funnel vision at its worst.

### **Reviews**

Too often publications contain nothing but reviews written by its members. I'll admit that I am not one to get really excited about reading reviews. I'm not opposed to publishing reviews but I feel that there is a need for balance. My reason for speaking on reviews is that I see it as a form of funnel vision because it again restricts information to a closed group. An argument is that it is a method of getting people to write and contribute to the newsletter.

***Continued on Page 9***

### ***Funnel Vision, continued from page 8***

The intent is to have the writer develop into a person who will write creatively.

Yet, if the only information attained is from the closed group where do the seeds of creativity come from? How creative can a person get if all they are reduced to is writing a review in order to have something to print in a newsletter? Possibly, if they were exposed to articles written by authors of other groups they would get the vision and motivation to write something truly creative. When they see what others do they learn to see outside of themselves and look at new products and ideas with a new purpose.

#### **Looking Through The Funnel**

To this point I have been speaking of how I perceive some groups look at their organization through a funnel. When the focus of information is contained from within their own group they are looking at the user group community from the large end of the funnel and seeing it restricted by the small end their own group.

I suggest they take the funnel, turn it around and look through it from the small end. You'll see a bigger picture. This bigger picture is the APCUG community. I, as an editor, scan newsletters printed and electronic for fresh new information and use them in our publications. No, the SVCA is not unique in this approach. Some of my favorite exchanges are the newsletters that also contain a nice mix of articles written by their own members plus those attained from others. These groups have learned to use the whole APCUG user group community for information and support. There are no blank pages in their publications.

I've watched the larger group publications like Big Blue and Cousins of Canada and Capital PC User Group of Washington DC. They originate from large member organizations that have people within their membership who write a series of articles focused on their areas of expertise. As I've watched their publications through the years I found that they also use articles from other groups. The point is, they too contribute and acquire from the entire APCUG user group community.

#### **Conclusion**

The point I have been trying to make is to encourage editors to use the entire user group community as a resource. There is a wealth of information available and some ideas that are totally new. To attain these resources all that they have to do is to turn their funnel around to see the bigger picture. There is no need for a group's publication to go wanting for a lack of articles. Use the resources from those who learned how to use a funnel for the greater vision of the APCUG community.

***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.***



### **INKSAVER A REVIEW**

*submitted by Jack Fischer*

Did you ever have something that works, but you don't know why? That is my experience with InkSaver software that controls the amount of ink your printer uses. Does it work? Yes. How? I have no idea! After you load this software, via a CD ROM, it presents a chart showing color graphics, color photos, and text samples, at various ink savings from 0% to 75%. From this chart, you can choose the ink reduction you desire. I settled on a 45% savings for Black, since I could not detect any significant difference between that and full ink. I only use color that automatically prints from ads, etc., so I wasn't too particular with that aspect and kept it at 45% savings also. Color photos showed a big drop off in quality at lower ink settings, so I would not want to reduce the ink consumption for these.

If you tell the program the unit cost of your print cartridges, and use each year, it will determine your savings at each of the selections. In my case, it showed I will save \$202.50 annually. Since the MSRP of InkSaver is \$34.99, the savings seem quite worthwhile. It should be available at your favorite software store. This was easy to install and simple to use. I have not detected any negative aspects, just a worthwhile way of saving some money. InkSaver supports most recent models of HP Epson and Canon printers. The packaging lists the specific models. Contact them at [www.strydent.com](http://www.strydent.com) or call 1-800-663-6222.

No MAC version yet.



## Windows XP: As Good as it Gets

**Bass discovers few crashes, great performance, and a minimum of headaches with XP Pro**

*By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group*

Kvetching about an operating system is therapeutic. Believe me, I've done lots, saving regular visits to my shrink. But my complaining has almost bottomed out since I made the full-time switch to Windows XP Pro.

You caught that, right? I said almost. The reason is that even though I'm wildly pleased with XP, there are still a few features—and loose ends—I don't like. I'll describe a few of them in this and subsequent columns, and show you how XP has built-in ways to make the changes. (Of course, that's one of my primary kvetches — finding the spots to modify XP isn't obvious and requires digging.)

To play fair, I have to warn you that I'll also do some proselytizing. I'm going to do my best to win you over, so to speak, for your own good. That's because once you get over the hassle of Product Activation, and Microsoft's annoying single license policy, I really think your computing experience will increase substantially.

I need another soapbox minute or two. Many of the PC World letters I receive complain, sometime bitterly, of a Microsoft conspiracy to force you into upgrading your system. Readers go on to say that in order to use XP, they'll need to replace some of their devices (printers seem to be the first one not to work), or stop using old, 16-bit programs written for Win 95.

I'll concede and agree with many of the readers that Microsoft should have done a better job with previous Windows versions, then we wouldn't be stuck in the corner having to upgrade.

But the reality is that if you want a slick operating system, one that's likely to make your computing day smoother and your workday more productive, you'll have to upgrade. [Set Soapbox to Off].

No More Stinkin' Crashes

You probably know that XP is a pretty interface hung on Windows 2000's architecture, so it resists crashes extraordinarily well. That's true for XP but not necessarily for programs that still plow headfirst into the bit bucket. For instance, Eudora, my e-mail program, locks up when I try embedding what it considers a too large image into a message. And Internet Explorer also has a way of choking and freezing on some sites, doing its best to imitate a deer in headlights.

With Win 9x, the Eudora and IE crash could bring the system down; even if it didn't, I'd reboot to clear out any leftover holes in memory. Win XP contains the crash and stops it from contaminating the rest of the system. Using Control - Alt - Delete, the three-finger, soft-boot salute, calls up Task manager, one of XP's shining lights. Click on the toasted app and it's history.

Crash Reports? No, Thanks.

Of course, with Microsoft at the helm, nothing as cool as Task Manager's handling of a crash can be left alone. Microsoft insists on meddling by sending itself the details of the crash. No doubt, the crash report does provide clues, often vital ones that you can review, to explain why a program crashes.

But once I've looked at a report — say, Eudora's paige32.dll bug that Qualcomm won't fix — I'm no longer interested in seeing it pop up. So I've turned parts of the feature off. (From Start, Control Panel, Advanced tab, Error Reporting.) This dialog gives me choices, and they're good ones. I can get the report but not send it, opt to hear only about programs or XP's errors, or even add specific programs to watch.

Zap, You're Restored

GoBack was the first successful utility to save snapshots of a PC's hard drive and let you restore the drive to a time when things were running well. It shouldn't surprise you to see a similar feature in Windows XP. (Roxio's GoBack, \$40, download at [www.roxio.com](http://www.roxio.com).)

*Continued on Page 11*

## **Windows XP, Continued from Page 10**

Quick aside: Many of Microsoft's niftier features are from the brain trusts of third-party companies. Woody, creator of dozens of Office, and specifically Word add-ons, said that to me in a private e-mail recently. More in another column.

XP's System Restore does just about everything GoBack does, just not as well. Nonetheless, it's an improvement over the way it worked in Windows ME, and a handy tool. I create a Restore point just before installing a new application. If the installation goes kablooey, I use System Restore to jump five minutes into the past and get my system going again.

I use it so often, I pinned it onto my Start Menu for easy access. Try it: Find System Restore in All Programs, Accessories, System Tools and right mouse click on the icon and choose Pin on Start menu. Easy, no?

### **System Restore's Problems**

The problem? System Restore isn't perfect. While I haven't had a problem in the 25 times I've used it, some reports on the Internet talk about DLLs that should be gone after a System Restore, are still on the system.

One thing Microsoft doesn't tell you is that each Restore Point (and system checkpoints, those restore points XP does automatically) takes up disk space.

You can dump all but the last system point by using XP's Disk Cleanup tool. Open Disk Cleanup, by clicking Start, choose All Programs, Accessories, System Tools, select Disk Cleanup, and choose the More Options tab. (Shortcut: From Start, Run, type cleanmgr.)

*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](http://www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp) and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at [www.pcworld.com/bass\\_letter](http://www.pcworld.com/bass_letter).*



## **Technology. Love it...or else!**

This story is so true it is hard to believe.

In March of 1992 a man living in Newton, Massachusetts, received a bill on his as yet unused credit card stating that he owed \$0.00. He threw it away. In April he received another and tossed that one, too. The following month the credit card company sent him a nasty note stating they were going to cancel his card if he didn't send them \$0.00. In retrospect, he probably should have let them do that. Instead he called the company and was informed that (are you ready for this?) the problem was the result of a computer error. They told him they'd take care of it.

The following month he reasoned that, if other charges appeared on the card, then it would put an end to his ridiculous predicament. Besides, they assured him the problem would be resolved. So he presented his card for a purchase. It was declined. Once again he called. He learned that the credit card had been canceled for lack of payment. They apologized for (here it is again) another computer error and promised they would rectify the situation.

The next day he got a bill for \$0.00 stating that payment was now overdue.

Assuming that this bill was yet another mistake, he ignored it. But the following month he received yet another bill for \$0.00 stating that he had ten days to pay his account in full or the company would take necessary steps to recover the debt. He gave in. He mailed in a check for \$0.00.

The computer duly processed it and returned a statement to the effect that his account was paid in full.

A week later, the man's bank called him asking him why he wrote a check for \$0.00. He explained the problem at length. The bank replied that the \$0.00 check had caused their check processing software to fail. The bank could not now process ANY checks from ANY of their customers that day because the check for \$0.00 caused a computer crash.

The following month the man received a letter from the credit card company claiming that his check had bounced, that he still owed \$0.00 and, unless payment was sent immediately, they would institute procedures to collect this debt. This man, who had been considering buying his wife a computer for her birthday, bought her a typewriter instead.

Have another great day!



## Top Ten Signs

### You're About to Get Ripped Off

by Fred Showker, Orange Coast IBM PC User Group

The problem with e-mail these days is it's becoming increasingly difficult to tell the difference between legitimate "offers" and a scam rip-off. The old Madison Avenue adage "If it doesn't sell, they don't keep advertising" is always true—so it's obvious that unsolicited e-mail (aka: UCE, Spam) must be working or they'd no longer be doing it. So, all you folks out there who actually respond to spam, please don't. Here are ten key rules to think about before you click the reply button:

1. If there are more than two slashes in the domain..., trash it. Look at the domain. If you can count more than ONE, slash after the dot-corn, beware. All of the following said they would send me 25,000,000 e-mail addresses on CD for just \$299.00. Here's a flash: you can't get that many email addresses on a CD... SCAM. All four, and many others like them lead to dead ends, only wanting your money:

<http://Ihomex.coolcortnect.com/member3/justhits/>

<http://www.megspace.com/internet/justhits/>

<http://www.stas.net/3/justhits/>

<http://www.fteehost.nu/members/justhits/>

These are also freebie hosting sites, see #9 below).

2. If the domain is generic it's out to lunch. Any self-respecting and on-the-level business with an honest offer will NOT use an IP number instead of a URL address. Instead, they use these to avoid detection, and to rip you off.. <http://207.173.123.243:524> spells trouble.

3. If they say use this or that... use neither. Con-artists these days know they will be shut down—it's only a matter of time. So in order to sucker in more people they'll list several domains, hoping you'll move to the second one if the first one already got shut down. Many even say "If one doesn't work, use the other!" That's your queue to use neither.

4. Who sent it is not who gets it... don't let them get you. Look carefully at the address of the sender. Now go through the piece and look at any email addresses in the post, including headers. If they're not the same—beware! They should at least be from the same domain. (That's the part after the @

5. If they tell you to talk to a robot... tell'em no! Many get-rich schemers and rip-off artists today tell you to call their toll free number, leave your name, address and phone number so they can call you back. They prey on the very poor, and the elderly. Their yarn is convincing - but don't expect them to call back....

6. No real name means no real person.  
dhckj@msn.com,  
i27452@compuserve.com?ey2jygeynf@yahoo.com...who are they trying to kid? These addresses are generated by spam robots who open accounts at the freebie web sites, send mass mailings, change the name, send more, then cancel the account before they're detected. They should be outlawed—really all they want is to SELL your address to other marketers.

7. If there's no address... you don't want to go there! Check the spammer's web site for a physical address. If you don't find one, there's a reason why: they don't want to be tracked down by anyone who they've done wrong... most especially the FBI. If there's a phone number, call it. Ask for their address. A recent spam from "Vortal Toner Supplies" absolutely refused to give an address - another said they didn't give out the address to anyone no matter what. They turned out to be an illegal, offshore gambling operation owned by a company in L.A. Never reply or buy.

8. Don't touch it! If it has to do with money but they're from another country other than your own - get away quickly. E-mail has exploded with insurance quotes, bogus stock tips, shady refinancing debt services or home mortgages from the likes of Great-LoanRates@6aaa.fsnet.co.uk, whpost I O986@avtechk.com. cn. These people cannot fulfill their promises... they're ripping you off.

*Continued on Page 13*

### **Top Ten Signs, continued from page 12**

9. If they're using a freebie account... you can't afford it. If you think about it for a moment, it's rather obvious that you wouldn't want to do business with anyone using a freebie email account. If they've got nothing to lose, then they've got nothing for you! Several of those below admit openly that their clientele is 88% spammers. All of the following freebie sites are responsible for the majority of spam:

netcolony.com  
nctdest.com  
netnet.com.  
sg newmo.net  
oceanfree.net  
postmaster.com  
prontoma@.com  
telsurf.net  
turbomail.net  
usa .com  
verizon.net  
venzomail.com  
virtualactive.com  
bigfoot.com  
webmail.co.za  
wickedspeed.net  
yahoo.com  
India.com  
freehosting.com

10. - If it's too good to be true... it is! The other day a UCE told me I could look like Cindy Crawford in two weeks. (Picture that!) Another said I no longer had to worry about the IRS... yet another said it could get me out of financial trouble... dozens of them each day want to sell me millions of email addresses. All of these are blatant lies, and most certainly a rip off. Most spam today wants only to get your e-mail address validated. So never, ever reply. Never. They want to sell the names to other spammers, or poor suckers who actually think they can get rich sending unsolicited e-mail.

These ten warning signs are the main things to watch out for. There are others which I'll explore in a future issue. Just keep them in mind, and laugh at them as you drag them to the trash... where the e-

mail, and their senders, belong.

\* Note: for you disbeliever's out there, I challenge you to attempt to track down all the spam you get in a month. You'll discover very quickly how many scammers there are out to get you.

I have received 4,223 spams since January 1, 2001 Here is a list of the most frequent spammers. All the rest sent under 24 spams. As you can see, the top spammers are the 'freebie' sites.

286 Yahoo.com  
276 hotmail.com  
156 china.com  
112 aol.com  
106 msn.com  
61 usa.net  
55 lycos.com  
42 netscape.com  
42 angelfire  
41 headwind.de  
41 earthlink.net  
39 uole.com  
37 looksmart.com  
32 compuserve .com  
32 wshost.net  
31 verizonmail.com  
30 mac21.com  
30 ara bia .com  
27 myrgv.com  
25 emau.-prom.net  
24 neovi.com

*Fred Showker is a designer, consultant, writer and speaker. He has published 60-Second Window and DT&G Magazine online since 1990, and is director of The Graphic Design Network which includes The Design & Publishing Center at www.GraphicDesign. corn. (1994) He was a co-founder of both The User Group Forum on America Online (1987), The User Group Network at www.User-Groups. net, (1994) and the Designers Bookshelf (1996) He founded Showker Graphic Arts & Design in 1972, has been an avid computer activist and supporter since 1984.*

*Published in July 2001 Orange coast IBM User Group newsletter README .DOC. •*



### **Bug Meeting continued from Page 3**

thirds and then place the subject of the picture into the crosshairs of the third it will be more pleasing to the human eye.

Some pictures need the help of Adobe® PhotoShop Elements or similar photo processing software to complete the process of a great picture. The contrast may not be exactly as you want and that can be changed with PhotoShop Elements. Or you may want a different background, or change some colors to give the picture that extra personality from you the photographer. The cheapest way to take many pictures is with a digital camera with the extra capability of looking at the picture before it is downloaded onto the computer. Film should always be placed in the freezer to keep it from aging so quickly. Mr. Dickerson gave a very good talk on photographs.

The club gave away to members a CD stomper, blank CD's, and stationary for the computer.

The meeting ended around 8:30pm and all seemed to be pleased. See you next month.



### **Prez Sez, continued from Page 1**

Remember folks, it is "Members helping Members".

I plan to attend COMDEX in Atlanta this month. In conjunction with the tail end of COMDEX, the *First Ever* meeting of the "South-east Regional User Group Conference" (SRUGC) will occur. I plan to attend that also. I hope to make contact with and enlist some Big Name Presenters at both of the events. You never know until you try.

Mr. Jerry Mannis, the Manager of the local CompUSA has graciously volunteered to send one of his employees to speak at the *September monthly meeting*. The *subject* will be *Digital Cameras*, something I know we are all interested in. See y'all next month

George



### **FOR SALE**

A box containing the following computer parts:

1. Sony 2X CD-ROM internal drive.
2. 4 MB SIM (72 pin).
3. Two 14.4 Kb. internal modems.
4. VGA video adapter board.
5. External 9600 baud modem with all cables and AC to DC converter, includes phone line isolator..
6. Polarized glass and hangers for a 14 or 15 inch plain glass screen monitor.
7. A 3 button MS mouse.
8. 101 key keyboard with large connector and adapter to small connector.

\$15 OBO for the entire contents of the box.

If interested call Norm Sharp at 724-5877 or email nsharp2@cfl.rr.com



Acer USB color flat bed scanner model #620U with software and manuals. Used very little and works great on a Win 95/98 system with USB. Asking \$25 OBO.

Contact Norm Sharp at 724-5877 for more info or e-mail nsharp2@cfl.rr.com



### **DISK OF THE MONTH NOTICE!**

The DOM has been discontinued. Jim Clear has been ill and cannot continue his outstanding effort. Until someone comes forward to pick up the task there will be no more disks., Ed.



## Special Interest Groups

### 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.

### IMAGING SIG

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

### NEWSLETTER SIG

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

### TINKERS SIG MEETS

on most Sundays at  
Bob Schmidts house.  
Call 952-0199 for directions  
and to verify meeting.

## BUG Club Information

### BUG E-MAIL LIST

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

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

### BUG Board of Directors

Meets the second Wednesday of the  
month at C.M. Corley's home.

Time 6:00 pm

Call 253-3050 for directions.

## 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

### Benefits of Membership In The Brevard Users Group

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

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## Brevard Users Group Membership Application

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

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Family Membership \$25.00

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

## Brevard Users Group Directory

### Meetings:

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



### Membership

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

### Mentor Program

John McNeil 723-5550 AutoCad

Frank C. Miller 729-9589 Graphics

Al Buchanan 728-2789 Works 4.5

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

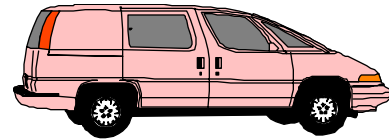
Bob Staples 255-2623 Win95/98

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:

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[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

#### Disk OF the Month:

**A volunteer is needed to take over the Disk Of the Month position.**

#### BUG WEB Page:

<http://bugclub.org>

### 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 [nsharp2@cfl.rr.com](mailto:nsharp2@cfl.rr.com)

### Brevard Users' Group

#### Incorporated

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Melbourne, FL 32902-2456

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