



Brevard Users Group



August 2003

PREZ SEZ !

By George Rymer

At the June 26th Windows/Imaging SIG a member asked the question, “Why should he remain a member”? He stated that his neighbor had dropped out of the club and he was contemplating the same action. It seems they are both “Newbies” and feel most of the discussions are over their heads. This came as a surprise to most of the group, as we were under the impression that we were meeting the needs of everyone attending, and no-one had asked for a “Beginners SIG.”

After some discussion we discovered that “Newbies” sometimes just don’t know what questions to ask. It isn’t just not wanting to appear dumb, (we all know there aren’t any dumb questions,) but not knowing what or how to ask the right question for the problem they have. Now we’re all been in that position at one time or another, but as we become more and more proficient we tend to forget the problems beginners have.

While Jim Hally writes a good Newbies Corner for the Newsletter, there is nothing like a “Hands on, One on One” Instructional Session to show the way. As a result of this “Eye Opening” complaint, Larry French, Jack Nash and Jim Townsend have volunteered to start

another SIG to be held at 6:30, just before the Windows SIG, to try and address this problem. Should the interest and participation in this prove worthwhile, we can expand the time that we devote to it by either starting earlier, or extending the time and starting the windows SIG later.

There are a number of ways we can work it, **IF** there is enough interest shown to make it worth while. The decision is up to you, our members. You must make your desires known. There should be a reasonable percentage of the membership that desire this and will support it.

Our whole purpose in being, is to Teach, Help and Learn. I would request that those members who have advanced beyond the Newbie stage not come to the Newbies meeting and ask questions that are beyond the Newbies range. Save those questions for the Windows SIG. We don’t want to intimidate them in their own environment . I would say, come and listen, refresh your memories and perhaps you can assist in providing a solution to the problem. The course we follow is up to you

See you next month George



Table of Contents

Prez Sez	1	Open Office/Star Office	7
Secretarys Report	3	Alpha 5 Data Base	9
From the Webmaster	3	Windows No	9
Treasurer’s Report	4	Copying Files	12
VicMans Photo Editor	5	Win XP Install Tip	12
Pica Loader	6	Newbies Corner	13



**Mary
Alice
Grant**
Secretary

BUG MEETING 16 July 2003

Our President, George Rymer was out of town, so the Vice President; Lucille Wagner presided and opened the meeting at 7pm.

She introduced the rest of the BUG Club officers and then introduced the night's speaker, Mr. Carmen Sidoti from Prudential Insurance and Financial Services.

The web site for Prudential is:
www.prudential.com.

Mr. Sidoti encouraged all to visit the site and see what they have to offer for the monetary planning of financial services. At the site you will find topics on money management, research, stock quotes to see how the market is working, financial planning, and retirement plans.

He also said that it was important to look at asset allocation and fill out the form to start a portfolio. This will help map out investments or a retirement plan. Stock quotes are given on the site in real time, and mutual investments at the end of each day.

A synopsis of the stock market from the 1950's to present day was given. It is important to remember that what goes down must come back up. With that in mind you should diversify your investment. Stay invested and maintain a well-diversified portfolio. You do this based on your needs or what your risk comfort level is. Also, you should always reaffirm why you started investing in the first place so as to keep the investment at the level you wish.

When investing it is better to place the monies in several stocks over the long run instead of investing

Continued on Page 8

From the Webmaster:
By Eric Arnold
Controlling SPAM email

Like everyone else, my INBOX is constantly bombarded with unsolicited email. The most effective solution I have found, is to create a "RULE" in Outlook Express. This was not very practical with Netscape v4.x, as it limited the number of entries and used a logical "AND" to distinguish each item. The AND function would require all the blocked words be present in each message!

Outlook Express enabled me to create a "RULE" for select words to block, and has an "Apply Now" function to test your ""RULE". This is so easily done, and the result is more junk in my "DELETE" folder than in my "INBOX". Here is how I do it!

- * First, select the common or objectionable word within a newly arrived email, then copy it using your mouse.
- * Then click on: **TOOLS, MESSAGE RULES, MAIL**, then click on **NEW**.
- * Then in the top box, select: **"Where the message body contains specific words"**.
- * Then in the middle box, select: **"Delete"**
- * Then in the bottom box, click on: **"contains specific words"**, then type in or paste the objectionable word.
- * Then in the bottom box, name the **NEW Rule: "Blocked Words"**

To test your Rule, click on "Apply Now", if all is well, the email should be moved to the Delete folder! This procedure does not work well with phrases, and is case sensitive. Which means you may have several occurrences of the same word using a different case. Such as: spam, Spam, SPAM or S P A M. At present, my "Blocked Words RULE" has over 90 words such as viagra, mortgage, porn, smut, etc...

This does not work on all emails, as the spammers insert images in the body of their messages, which have no text to block! The only solution for these is to select "Block Message" and these will occasionally end up in the Delete box!

Try creating a new folder called "BUG Club", and a new Rule to place ALL incoming BUG messages in to the "BUG Club" folder!



Treasurer's Report

By Ted Glaser

July 17th 2003



Expense

Capital Equip
 Repairs/Maint
 Prizes/party
 Newsletter
 Printing \$ 191.28
 Mailing \$ 60.00
 Office Supplies
 Postoffice
 Rent (PO bx)
 Stamps
 Bulk Permit
 Photocopies
 Professional Fees
 FACUG
 APCUG
 FL Dept Rev

Web Site

Sub Totals

Income
 Dues \$ 150.00
 CD Sales
 Donations
 N'ltr Ads \$ 25.00
 Interest

Assets:

Checking Acc't \$ 634.02
 Savings Acc't \$1,960.88
 Petty Cash \$ -

Renewals:

Baker, J. # 1009
 Clancy, W. # 0975
 Derby, V. # 0588
 Hally, J. # 1006

New Members:

Brinegar, J. # 1208
 Kurtz, K. # 1209



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
EMail: Astro@AstroToo.Com

NEW LOCATION!

MAILBOXES & MORE

1280 Sarno Rd (321) 255-9330
Melbourne, FL 32935 Fax (321) 255-9319
Email: mailboxesmore@aol.com

PC Gaming Arena

"LAN GAMES"

The Gamer's Choice



23 Top-End gaming rigs all
networked together using
high-speed SDSL

nateshaw@pcgamingarena.com

Melbourne, FL 32935

(321) 751-7242

**D.C.
Computer
Management**

Repair & Services
Custom Built
IT Networking
A+ Certification
LINUX Experienced

3341 Jupiter Blvd.
Palm Bay, FL 32909
321-917-8731

venenatues@techemail.com
Duane S. Chapman

Free Stuff *by Neil Van Oost Jr.*

VCW VicMan's Photo Editor

VCW VicMan's Photo Editor states in its Overview that it "is a versatile image editor with intuitive, original, easy-to-learn interface and a variety of features. This powerful application is user-friendly, offering users the simplicity of image editing, high productivity and easy customizing abilities".

When first opening the program, it displays a small screen giving options to: Watch animated tutorials of which there are three - one in the program and the other two online, work with the program, or view the help file. I watched the animated "The power of cloning" tutorial. This feature is only available in the "Pro" version. I had to watch the tutorial several times as it went by pretty fast.

The two online tutorials would not come up when I tried them. Well, back to the program, I loaded up the program and opened a picture. The picture opened up and was showing me just a small part of the image, a little fiddling and use of the help files lead me to discover that there are two windows, the Editing and the Preview windows.

I had some trouble finding the Preview window as it was under the Editing window and I had to move the Editing window aside to find it - would have been nice to have some place in one of the pull down windows to switch between the two in case you loose track of the Preview window.

But there is a solution at hand, just click the "More Features" tab and "Suggest a feature" or if you find that you want a very special feature you can have one custom developed (for a price) by clicking the "Order new feature".

The picture I selected was one taken early morning, just starting to get light, branches covered with snow, camera looking up through them at the sky. The digital picture came out with everything tinted blue. I figured this would be a good test picture. It didn't take long playing with the color correction controls to make this snap look like it was taken in daytime. The program has many, transformation controls, plugins, and filters to make a "picture junky" happy. It may not have all the bells

and whistles of the "big boys", but it is still in progress. Also it takes a bit of playing around with to be able to get from here to the "there" you want to go to.

VCW VicMan's Photo Editor 7.0, is a free, powerful yet easy to use image editor for Windows 98/ME/NT/ 2000/XP. Main features:

- * 20+ image file formats support
- * Adobe Photoshop compatible plugins support
- * Nearly a hundred pre-installed filters, transformations and effects
- * Edit and preview images at any scale
- * Handy drawing tools: Pencil, Brush and Eraser
- * Color selection and replacement tools
- * Selection tools: rectangular, freeform, and Magic Wand
- * Text and gradient tools
- * Color tolerance tools with separate options for each of the three color channels
- * Gamma correction tool
- * Brightness, saturation and contrast adjustment
- * Adobe Photoshop compatible filters support
- * New faster and more productive engine
- * Powerful cloning tools (PRO version only)
- * New improved interface
- * Different types of brush and gradient tools

User support system includes detailed online help and animated tutorials. The direct download link is: <http://www.vicman.net/soft/phedinst.exe>.

If you like the program and decide to upgrade it to the "Pro" version with all the features it's only \$29.95

Overall I liked the program, on a five star scale I would give it 3 1/2, it has some nice features, but I found it a little bit hard to fast track the learning curve and it has a couple of bugs, perhaps as I play with it more it will become easier to use.

I am sure that this program will evolve into something to give the "Big Boys" a run for their money and I will keep my eye on it.

A fairly nice Photo Editor from our friends in Moscow, Russia. Why don't you download it and just give the "free" version a try, you might just like it. <http://www.vicman.net/index.htm>

Copyright Computer Club of Ocean County, New Jersey



PicaLoader 1.18

A Review by Neil Van Oost

Gold mine for a "Picture Junkie". I have always collected pictures and clip art, I have over 500,000 scans that I have done over the years, mostly clipart - black and white. A couple of years ago I reviewed a program that downloaded pictures from a web site automatically. It did a good job at the time, but was limited as to how many levels it could go into a site and missed a lot of good pictures that it could not get to because of the various ways web sites are constructed. Well, there is a new big gun in town, "PicaLoader."

I have been playing with it for over two weeks now and tonight I finally decided to sit down and do this review. In those two weeks I have been downloading an average of 500 to 3000 pictures a night depending on the sites and sizes of pictures and how I set PicaLoader up and how long I leave it run. At 8:15 PM I started PicaLoader running on <http://www.baldeagles.com/> hoping to get some nice pictures of eagles to use for a screen saver, well its now 8:35 PM and PicaLoader has downloaded 206 web pages and found 66 pictures that met my size restrictions, it has filtered out 334 that did not, and did not download 6 pictures that it found were duplicates.

I looked at a preview of the thumbnails downloaded, expanded, with a click, a couple to see what they look like at full size on the screen, and it looks like so far I have about 32 of the bunch for my screen saver.

Just what can PicaLoader do? Well here are a few of the things it can do: Download up to 50 threads at a time (with a dial-up connection 5 at a time is just about right - I'll bet it really hums on a cable connection). It has an advanced HTML Analyst Engine, it can follow almost every link, including JavaScript, VBScript, and JScript links and it acts as security against viruses and malicious scripts. It has an advanced Picture Filtering Engine, PicaLoader includes several picture filter profiles, i.e. High-Definition photos, GifAnimation, 800X600 Wallpaper, 1024X768 Wallpaper, etc. And you can define your own picture filter profile to filter pictures by Size, Definition, Type, etc.

It filters pictures by analyzing a picture file's

header recorder, no need to download entire picture to your machine. It can search a sequence of pictures and search for a picture sequence by number, even if the pictures in the sequence are not visible on the target site.

PicaLoader can save every picture's name, size, create time, download time, referring URL, and the picture's notes.

It also has many ways to Manage Downloaded Pictures and View Pictures - you can even run a slide show with them. You can view all the particulars and download a limited function version for evaluation at PicaLoader's Home at <http://www.vowsoft.com/index.htm>. With trial version you can only download 500 pictures each time you run it and the program will expire after 30 days. A full version sells on the site for \$49.95; educational institutions can purchase at a discount, see site for details.

Now for what I like and dislike about the program: Its great, I like almost everything about it. Installation - no problems, Setup - check out the online tutorial, Help - very good, both within the program and on line. Speed - chugs right along. Problems - crashed on me two times, both during Norton's once a week system and virus check.

Other than that I don't like the way pictures are saved, let me explain: PicaLoader saves each picture with a unique name within the program, you can copy or move one picture at a time and retain the original file name but if you move or copy more than one (using the check feature) you get the file name plus the unique characters that PicaLoader has assigned.

Example: Original file name = , eagle01.jpg - PicaLoader name = eagle01_FyBj9IkLh80Q.jpg But that is not a problem to worry about as in an upcoming newsletter I'm reviewing a hot new file renaming program. Other than that, it's like I said,

"It's Great - try it out."

Well its 10:15 PM now and I'll pause the program, check the run monitor stats and restart it later. Total web pages downloaded 574; Total pictures saved 316; Total pictures filtered out 1272; Did not download 12 duplicates, and has 2332 pages queued for download. The program has left the starting site and is following all the links it can find. I set it up to follow the links anywhere they lead on the web.

Overall I'll have to give PicaLoader 4 1/2 stars out of 5.

From The Computer Club of Ocean County



OpenOffice/StarOffice 6 vs Microsoft Office

by Ken Hreha khreha@netzero.net
NWA-PCUG Newsletter Article, January 2003

Have you ever wondered why people don't drive a Kenworth or Peterbilt tractor-trailer truck to and from work each day? Or why a private pilot would choose a Cessna 172 over a Boeing 747? Or why someone would use a Murray riding lawn mower to cut their lawn instead of a CAT Earth Mover? Ridiculous comparisons? I know! After all, why would any rational person go to such extreme "over kill" just to get a simple, routine task done? However, that's exactly what people do almost every time they buy a copy of Microsoft Office! Just like these examples represent extreme "over kill", so does using Microsoft Office represent over kill for the majority of computer users!!

Up until now, PC user's had little choice if they wanted to be able to access and create Word Processor / Spread Sheet / Presentation Graphic files that were compatible with the Microsoft Office format. Although Word Perfect, Lotus SmartSuite and a few others have claimed to be compatible with the de-facto standard in office software, the truth was, they were not. About the best a home or small business user could hope for was that Microsoft's \$100.00 "WORKS" program would do the trick. (NOTE: Up until the release of Star Office in May 2002, Microsoft's suggested retail price for WORKS was \$99.00! It has since been reduced to \$49.00.) The need to read and write Microsoft compatible formats left users with no choice but to pay whatever price the Redmond software monopoly demanded. That is... at least up until now!

Frustrated by Microsoft's steadily increasing fees; their ever more restrictive licensing practices; costly new upgrade policies; endless security issues; activation code copy protection; not to mention Microsoft's arrogance and almost total lack of support to all but the largest of users; has left many people searching for an alternative to Microsoft's "Office" suite. That wish was granted with the

release of OpenOffice.org and its commercial counterpart, Star Office version 6 earlier this year.

Building on the Star Office version 5 programming code that Sun Microsystems bought from its German creators a few years back, Sun released the code to the "Open Source Software Community". After 18 months, slightly over 10,000 programmers across the planet volunteered their time to create just over 7.5 million lines of code to create OpenOffice.org version 1. This is complete MS-Office compatible office suite complete with a MS-Word compatible word processor; an MS-Excel compatible spread sheet; an MS-Power Point compatible presentation graphics program; PLUS a Math Editor; Vector Drawing Program; HTML Editor and Desk Top Publisher. And in keeping with the practices of the Open Source Software Community championed by Linux, the program is entirely FREE to anyone who wishes to download the 74-MB files from their web site. (<http://www.openoffice.org>) Versions are available for Windows 9x; Linux; Solaris; Mac10; and the Unix operating systems. Since the program utilizes XML, files created under one operating system can be readily accessed and used by any of the other supported operating systems.

However, (for those who feel that anything that's free can't be any good), there's the \$74.95 commercial version of OpenOffice.org, known as Star Office 6.0. This is a commercially packaged and boxed version of OpenOffice that contains all of the modules noted plus numerous additional features. These additional features include; an excellent 400+ page user's manual; a data base module; additional translators; clip-art; extra fonts; a Thesaurus; plus quality assurance testing and certification by Sun Microsystems; as well as fee based technical support by Sun. Naturally, the package contains a professionally labeled distribution CD containing versions for all the noted operating systems.

Users will find that the look and feel of all versions of Star Office and OpenOffice.org are identical. And while the interface is slightly different than Microsoft's, it's not hard to rapidly get accustomed to. The hot key combinations, (such as

Continued on Page 8

Open/Star Office Continued from Page 7

CTRL-P to “print” / CTRL-S to “save”), are the same as in the Microsoft versions. So are the menu bars and nearly all of the icons. Probably the single biggest change most users will encounter is the location of the “Page Setup Commands”, which are under FORMAT —> PAGE, instead of FILE—> PAGE SETUP. Also both versions default to Metric units and European paper sizes. This can be disconcerting the first time one prints something out !

Testing by the author and others have shown that OpenOffice.org and Star Office do a reasonably good job in importing and exporting files into and out of Microsoft Office 97 / 2000 / XP formats so long as they are not heavily formatted. Also, macros and VBA applications created in Microsoft Office do not always get translated accurately by either OpenOffice.org or the Star Office 6 programs. Both also tend to be a bit “slower” to load and to respond to keystrokes and mouse movements than MS-Office applications. This can be frustrating at times if one is working on a heavily formatted document, such as a page layout done in the Desktop Publisher module. However, both OpenOffice and Star Office will run just fine using a Pentium 200 / 96-MB RAM / 2-MB video / Windows 95 system. Try running Office 2000 or XP on that hardware platform !!

The bottom line one must ask themselves is whether or not all of the ultra high end features available in Microsoft’s \$500.00+ Office Suite are really needed ? They also must look at their computer system and operating system as well. Office XP requires much more power than OpenOffice or Star Office do. (As a side note, the next release of Microsoft Office due out in the spring of 2003 will require nothing less than a system running Windows 2000 or XP. Given the hardware requirements of XP one must again take into account if the TOTAL cost of Microsoft Office is truly justified ?) Analyze how you use your software then decide if a Mac Truck is needed when a Mercury Cougar could do the job required for significantly less cost !!



Secretarys Report Continued from Page 3

the whole amount at once. Nobody knows when the market will go up or down and that is why you may want to stay in the market over the long term. It is important to practice fundamentals of investing to keep your investment growing.

Several prizes were given away and the meeting ended at 8pm. I was again disappointed in the low number of club members’ attendance, especially for such good speakers. Maybe next month not only will you club members come to the meeting, but bring a friend. See you next month.

Respectively given by Secretary,

Mary Alice Grant

FAST MAIL
N More

For All Your **PACKing & SHIPing** needs

ONLINE AUCTIONS

1270 N. Wickham Rd., Suite 16
Melbourne, FL 32935

US mail
UPS
Airborne
FedEx

Notary
FAX

Jim Mateosky
Phone: 321-757-0755
Fax: 321-757-0714
fastmail@attglobal.net

ITALO AVOSSA Owners JOE ZARSKI

SAN REMO RESTAURANT



(321) 254-0655 www.geocities.com/sanremos/
1400 N. Harbor City Blvd.
Melbourne, FL 32935 Open 7 Days

Alpha 5 [Home Edition]

An exceptional Database, a 5 Star, CNET and PC Magazine Awards, both are their Maximum Ratings.

By Bill Ranck, BUG member.

Alpha 5 has dozens of helpful Wizards and over 40 Predifined Templates. They call them Genies, which make setting up your database very easy.

It has a very powerful report writer, so you can create high quality output, including: personalized letters, reports, invoices, and mailing labels. You can design reports simply by dragging and dropping fields. You can create customized letters using the built in mail-merge feature. You can add conditional paragraphs, multiple fonts...even pictures to form letters.

The Magazine Computer Shopper [which was started in Titusville Florida] said this is “the end of the difficult database!” PC World says that “if your looking for a database that’s easier than Access and yet offers plenty of power, then you would do well to consider Alpha Five- a simple, powerful and elegant rational database!”

Steve Workings, a Database Consultant says “Alpha Five is my fast, indispensable and dependable database program.”

It comes with a tutorial on the CD and a hard copy of it with the CD.

I have had the Borland Database, the Word Perfect Database and one by an ex IBM employ, they all were problematical. Alpha Five is the answer.

For more infomation and screen shots of the program go online to:

<http://www.alphasoftware.com>.



Windows No

The Next Big Thing From Microsoft?

by Jorge Lopez, MCSE

Reprint from Orange Bytes

NL of the North Orange County Computer Club

In a surprise last-minute move that took many in the industry from behind, Microsoft announced on Tuesday that it will be releasing the upcoming consumer version of its Windows XP operating system—previously known as Windows XP Media Center Personal Edition Professional

Plus under the greatly simplified and easier to market moniker “Windows No”. Microsoft claims the change was strictly for marketing purposes and was not in response to media criticism that the original name was too stodgy and cumbersome for a consumer product.

Also on Tuesday, Microsoft released a “Gold” edition of Windows No to members of the Microsoft Developers Network, so that they may get a head-start on creating the killer applications MS hopes will drive widespread adoption of the new OS.

I have been a beta tester of the new OS for three months, and I can tell you without exaggeration that this release is going to be huge. The new features and tighter integration found in Windows No are nothing short of spectacular. This OS is amazing; a definite must-have for all MCSEs.

Let’s start with the name. “Windows No.” It rolls off the tongue a lot easier than “WinXP MC PEPP”, as we were calling it before. It’s a simple, elegant, intuitive name...much like the OS itself. I wasn’t exactly pleased with the original name, so I am thrilled they decided to change it to something snappier and more descriptive of the operating system’s positioning as the home PC successor to the “Windows Me” operating system.

Continued on Page 10

Windows No Continued from Page 9

Whereas Windows Me was all about making the user comfortable with the computing experience, Windows No will be focused less on individuality and much more squarely on digital copyright protection and limiting what a user can see, hear and do.

Microsoft CEO Steve Ballmer elaborated on the reason behind the change during Tuesday's press conference: " 'Windows No' is all about building on the previous 'Windows Me' brand and taking it in the direction that Microsoft wants it to go today". With built-in digital rights management, automatic updates, background reporting, detailed event logging, and tighter integration between the OS and critical components like Windows Media Player and Microsoft Office, 'Windows No' will enhance the user experience by protecting the rights of digital content providers and improve the trustworthiness of the Microsoft platform."

The move was pure genius on Microsoft's part. The name "Windows Me" perhaps gave many users the mistaken impression that the computer and operating system were theirs, and that they were free to do whatever they wished with it. However, this was never the case, as Microsoft is trying to make clear with the recent name change. On your personal computer, Microsoft retains ownership of the Windows operating system, and under the terms of its new End User License Agreement, the computer hardware it runs on.

You the user are just paying for the right to use it. Unless you behave according to the terms of use, you can lose that right regardless of whether or not you paid for the software. By clicking "Accept" when you turn on the computer for the first time, you agree to be legally bound by the terms of the license agreement and the acceptable use policy, both of which may change at any time without notice. This is exactly the way it should be. A computer isn't some tool you buy to own like a toaster or a hammer that you can do whatever you please with.

A computer is a tool that owns you. Microsoft,

after being lax for far too long on the subject of digital rights protection, is finally using its EULA to tighten the leash around consumers' necks. Not maliciously, of course, but more like the gentle correction of the choke chain we use on our dogs.

With the new Windows No, we are also seeing Microsoft begin to transition itself from a software company to a service company. When users install No for the first time, they will be greeted with an urgent request to sign up for Microsoft Passport, which will protect a user's credit and bank card numbers by storing them on a secure Microsoft server. If the user dismisses the request by closing the box, Windows No will assume the user didn't see the message and will helpfully display the message again every time he or she logs on.

I've tried Passport and it's an excellent service. You just enter all of your credit card numbers and account information, and once it is verified to be accurate, the message will go away. Not only does this definitively tie a user's identity to an individual machine so a profile can be built based on web visits, purchases, and communications, it also guarantees the safety of your personal information as you now have all of your critical numbers in one place—a password-protected IIS server in Redmond—instead of scattered haphazardly around your home. The special bonus is that Microsoft only charges \$2.99 a month for the service of storing this information; most of us spend fifty times that on coffee in a month so it's not really fair for anyone to complain.

Another benefit is that whenever Microsoft's EULA changes or the Windows license expires, it can be renewed automatically by deducting credits from your passport account, which you'll greatly prefer to Microsoft bothering you with legal notices or raiding your home (<http://www.divisiontwo.com/articles/newsburst3.htm>) to perform a software audit.

Windows No is a departure from previous operating systems that used Internet Explorer as the desktop shell. The shell of No consists of Windows Media Player 9, which will make it easier for

Continued on Page 11

Windows No *Continued from Page 10*

Microsoft to push adoption of its secure Windows Media Player (.wma) audio format over the less secure, lower-quality mp3 format. This is going to be a welcome change to many longtime Microsoft System Administrators such as myself, as it will make it easier to protect our office networks from mp3 infections. It's high time the industry as a whole moved away from the stone-age mp3 technology into something more robust with features that content providers will enjoy. A song recorded in mp3 format has many limitations; it can't expire, it can't prevent itself from being copied from device to device indefinitely, it can't even execute scripts! The WMP format addresses all of these issues with copy protection, required expiration dates, and a powerful runtime environment that can execute both web and shell scripts on play. Since an mp3 can't incorporate any of these secure technologies because the format is too primitive, as far as I'm concerned it is a virus and should be treated such which is why I'm glad the new MS Antivirus technology built into No will detect and delete mp3s within seconds of them appearing on the computer's hard drive. It's like having a little cop right inside your computer.

A new requirement for the use of Windows No is an Internet connection. This is a further departure from previous MS operating systems, as prior to this an Internet connection was always optional. However, for Windows No to function properly, it must have the ability to "call home" often for important security patches and rights management updates.

Windows No needs to check at least three times a day with Microsoft to verify that the license is intact and the user hasn't modified the computer's hardware in any way. If it cannot accomplish this task, the operating system will disable itself, preventing the user access to his or her files until Microsoft is provided a full and acceptable explanation via their Activation Hotline.

The OS also uses the Internet connection to synchronize the system clock, which helps law enforcement pinpoint exactly when an illegal or infringing activity occurred on your machine. When an operating system can detect unauthorized

content, remove it from your system, inform law enforcement officials, and automatically levy a fine against your credit or checking account, all while you wash the dishes in the other room, that's one degree of separation. That's life with the new Windows. The operating system is still about a month away from being released to the public, but when it is, I have no doubt that Microsoft will have another big winner on its hands. In a time when many technology companies are having a very hard time bringing in any sort of money at all, Microsoft continues to amaze the industry with new and innovative ways to extract even more.

Jorge Lopez is a DeVry graduate with an MCSE certification and is currently working as a Windows LAN Administrator. Reprinted with permission from www.divisiontwo.com

Editors Note: Windows No is an imaginary product. The article is satire. If you want to see how close to reality the satire is, read the EULA.TXT file on the WinXP CD-ROM.



A big **Thank You** to Radio Station **WFIT, 89.5 on your FM dial.**
For announcing our meeting schedule.

A "Round Tuit"

We are pleased to present you with a "Round Tuit", these are very valuable, take proper care of it !

You can now complete all the tasks that you said you would do "as soon as I get a round tuit"



Copying Files to CDs

Most third-party CD-burning programs let you select the files you want to burn, then they copy those files from the existing locations during the burning process. But when you drag and drop files to your CD-RW drive in Windows Explorer, Win XP actually copies the files to a temporary directory. This is handy, because you can burn the files to a CD later, even if something happens to the original. On the other hand, it means that you must have up to 700MB of free space on your hard drive to hold the copies of the files you want to burn.

But that's only half the story. If you watch the CD Writing Wizard while it's in action, you'll see that during the first several minutes, nothing is being written to the CD-RW drive, and the displayed message reads Adding data to the CD image. Before burning a CD, Win XP creates a complete image of the final CD on your hard drive. The good news is that this should help prevent the timing problems that can cause CD burn errors, because the disk heads won't have to bounce around to find your files. The bad news is that another 700MB of hard drive space will be used.

Putting those two parts of the process together, if you decide to drop a full CD's worth of files onto your CD-RW drive, you need to make sure you have 1.4GB of free hard drive space.

*Reprint from
Front Range PC Users Group Newsletter*



Oliver's
AUTO BODY
Frame Straightening • Collision Specialists
723-2208
1405 Lookout Terrace • Melbourne, FL 32901

Windows XP Installation Tip

by Rick Mattingly

If you are installing Windows XP, Professional or Home Edition, and your system is equipped with an Iomega ZIP drive - pay attention! In some cases, the Windows XP installation process may confuse the ZIP drive configuration and reassign it as the C: boot drive! This event may occur whether the XP installation is a new install or an update of Windows 98. I have witnessed this situation twice now and it is quite frustrating. You complete the lengthy installation process only to discover that the hard drive has mysteriously become something other than Drive C.

The recourse? Temporarily disconnect the ZIP drive and completely redo the Windows XP installation - profane language optional. After the Windows XP installation is complete, reconnect the ZIP drive and reboot. The operating system will then see the ZIP drive and properly assign a drive letter for it.

If you have a ZIP drive installed on your system, avoid this potential problem altogether by disconnecting the ZIP drive before commencing the Windows XP installation! Microsoft has acknowledged this problem with issuance of "Microsoft Knowledge Base Article 304776."

*Reprint from
Front Range PC Users Group Newsletter*



**NATIONWIDE
WHEELCHAIR**
1536 Cypress Ave.
Melbourne, FL 32935
255-5549
Mary Ann
CONSIGNMENTS - SERVICES - RENTALS
MEDICARE - MEDICAID
NO MONEY OUT OF POCKET
POWER CHAIRS - SCOOTERS
NEW & USED CONV VANS
OUT OF BREVARD
1-877-255-5560
Toll Free  **Fax 255-5692**
www.nationwidewheelchairlift.com

Newbies Corner

by Jim Hally B.U. G. member

Are You Being Served?

In 1994 I bought my first computer. I bet it took me 6 months to finally make the decision. It was a Packard Bell SX2-50 with 12 MB of RAM and a 350 MB hard drive. The operating system was Windows 3.11 for Workgroups. It cost me \$1,400.00 which included a 15" monitor. I had no idea how to use it. I didn't set it up for a week. Maybe I was waiting for some divine intervention.

Packard Bell provided a tutorial, which was of some help but I knew I needed more than that. I had some friends who had computers but the only time I saw them was in a bar someplace. Somehow the instructions I received never made it to the computer. I was getting nowhere. I guess that isn't exactly true but I wasn't getting where I wanted to be, fast enough. I don't really know where that is but I know I am not here yet. I went out and purchased a Windows 3.1 book and started in. I am still learning and will continue to learn.

In November of '94 I joined the B.U.G. Club hoping to get some help. I didn't get much at first but that is not the Club's fault. I think we had a Windows SIG at the time but I was so unsure of myself I didn't go. My only source of information was the monthly meetings. I would go to the meetings knowing down deep that I should ask a question or two. I never did ask those questions, at least not at first. I guess I really didn't know what to ask. I would go to the meetings hoping beyond hope that someone else would ask my question so I wouldn't have to. It never happened. I would wait until the next month and once again nobody asked my question. I felt that all the people in the club were way beyond me as far as knowledge. I incorrectly assumed they couldn't be bothered answering my basic question when they were discussing PKZIP 1.1, the Bulleting Board Service and Pro Comm Plus. I had no idea what they were talking about. I thought PKZIP was a new potato peeler for the Army. Still, I went every month.

Finally one night I had all I could stand. I had my question written down on a sheet of paper. I raised my hand and when noticed I stood up and blurted out my question. All of a sudden I had an answer to my question. After the meeting a fellow came up to me and expounded on the explanation I was given. I was told the time and the place of the Windows SIG and encouraged to come by. I had broken the ice. I had no fear of these gurus. Hell! They had to start somewhere just like me. Was it the clubs fault I didn't have answers? Well, maybe a little. Was it my fault? You betcha. All I had to do was stand up and ask the question. I didn't do it, at least not at first. I know some of the things at the Windows SIG seem to be over your head. Trust me on this. It is amazing what you will learn by just being there and listening. You may not be in the same boat as the person who asks the question but someday you will. It may not be the same situation but it will be close. By being at the meetings this stuff sinks in. You will have somewhere in the back of your mind what to do next or where to look for the answer. If nothing else you will be able to write down what you did and ask the question on where do you go from here. You will learn how to be prepared to ask a question. By that I mean have plenty of information available for the gurus.

On this front I have found a good way to ask your question and write your answer. First of all, write down everything that may even remotely affect the question. List things like the operating system you are using, the program, the hardware in your computer all that may help someone give you a good answer. As far as the answer goes you can help yourself out there as well. You know darn well there are going to be several steps to the answer. Write your question on a piece of 8 1/2" x 11" paper. In the area where you are going to write the answer make a few shortcuts. On the left hand side of the page write down Left click on 3 or 4 lines then write Right click a few times. Then write Go To a few times. Type In a few times. At this point go back and repeat the lines starting with Left click. When you get the answer you will not have to be bothered with writing down Left click and such all the time. Just

Continued on Page 14

Newbies Continued from Page 13

write in the step next to the appropriate step. As an example if saving a file is your question.

(On Your Sheet) [You write in]

Left Click [on File on the Menu Bar]

Left Click

Left Click

Right Click

Right Click

Go To [down to Save As]

Go To

Type In [a file name to replace highlighted text]

Type In

Left Click [on Save]

Left Click

Of course it is more complicated than that. I only use this little demo as a way to show you how to use the template you made.

Once you get your question answered you will be able to modify your answer sheet to something that is comfortable for your style of writing the answer.

What you have to keep in mind is there is a lot of work involved in being proficient with computers. It is a constant learning experience. The more you put into it the more you get out of the computer. I know computer books can be boring. I would suggest you make a purchase of one that is to your liking. I would go to Barnes and Noble and to Books a Million here in Melbourne and browse through them. You don't have to study it from cover to cover. Try to find something you can use as reference. I probably wouldn't spend too much on

it. I will take the liberty and say you will outgrow the book and be looking for something with more detail in a short time. I have several for different programs and refer to them all the time. Most of the people, whom I look up to, do the same thing.

Make the effort and let the club help you where you need it. That is what we are there for. The club Motto is Members helping Members. Tell us your problems and we will help in any way we can. Our club guru, Chuck Boring is very good. On a rare night, someone will stump the master. As good as the man is, he just can't answer a question that hasn't been asked. Never be embarrassed to ask a question. Regardless of how new you are or as advanced as others seem to be you have the right to ask the question. We all had to start somewhere.

Consider this

You are probably using a version of Windows on your computer. The name is Windows, not Magic. You have to learn as you go. Imagine yourself at 16 and someone gives you the keys to a car and an operators manual. Would you automatically know how to drive?

You will notice the same faces at the SIG meetings. These are people who are eager to learn. They may not have a question that night but they are listening and learning. Somewhere down the line they will recall something they heard at the SIG that will allow them to work through the problem at hand.

I write this column with nothing but good intentions. This is a column written about 11 times a year for our club. So far I have done about 48 columns. Now and then a Newbies Corner column is published in newsletters across the country. That has to say something for the effort that goes into it. I know how hard some of this stuff can be. This is from the same guy who had a hard time asking that first question. The Newbies Corner CD is available to club members for a \$5 donation to the club. It is a pretty good reference source by itself. Even if I do say so myself.



Special Interest Groups

WINDOWS SIG

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

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.

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

BUG Board of Directors

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

Sponsorship Rates

	4 Months	8 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.

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.

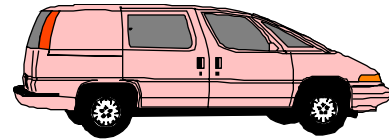


Membership

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



MOVING?

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

Brevard Users' Group
Atn: Treasurer
P. O. Box 2456
Melbourne, FL 32902-2456
& e-mail to the Newsletter at jimtownsend@earthlink.net

BUG Officers

President:

George Rymer 724-6715
grymer@cfl.rr.com

Vice President

Lucile Wagner 723-1719
sunshinelu1@yahoo.com

Treasurer:

Ted Glaser 777-4591
tedjokes@earthlink.net

Secretary:

Mary Alice Grant 253-5666
mgrant@pciol.net

1st Member at Large:

Tom Wojnar 729-3013

2nd Member at Large:

Dave Hixon 723-7168

Committee Chairperson

Beginners Help:

Oscar Litke 409-8002
ozk1joy@wmconnect.com

FACUG Representative:

Bill Ranck 676-7908

Program Director:

Eric Arnold 254-3423

BUG Web Page:

<http://bugclub.org>

Special Interest Groups

Beginners' SIG:

Oscar Litke 409-8002

Hardware (Tinkers) SIG:

Bob Schmidt 952-0199
RSchmidt@cfl.rr.com

Newsletter Publishing SIG:

Jim Townsend 728-5979
jimtownsend@earthlink.net

Win 95/98 SIG:

George Rymer 724-6715
Chuck Boring 454-9455
Bob Staples 255-2623

Webmaster:

Eric Arnold
webmaster@bugclub.org

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.