



# Brevard Users Group



October 2002

AN FACUG PRIZE WINNING NEWSLETTER

## Pres Sez !

By George Rymer

Good Day BUG Folks, it is my pleasure to join you once again in our monthly Newsletter. Since the last communiqué, I have been to Atlanta and attended the NETWORLD + INTEROP COMDEX. It is billed as "Where the Worlds Leading IT and Networking Events Connect". It was very interesting, but obviously designed for the Commercial Industry and not us "Little Ole Users". There was lots of wireless communications, and some of that perhaps would be interesting to some of us PC Users, for wireless networking and Cellular Web Communications. All of that occurred 9 thru 13 September.

The BIG thing that was the MOST ENJOYABLE, was the FIRST EVER meeting of the SRUGC (Southeastern Regional Users Group Conference). This convened on the evening of 13 September and continued thru 15 September, still in downtown Atlanta. Since this was the very first gathering and formation of this group, it was a "Guess What" for the people that organized and put it together. They were hoping for 50 attendees. Well Guess what? they exceeded that by 40% or better! There were people from as far west as Texas and as far north as Canada, not to mention

Vermont, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, North & South Carolina, Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi and yep, you guessed it, FLORIDA.

This was also a big stride in forming a cross-platform type group, where PC users and Apple (MAC) users shared everything. As a matter of fact, the largest single group of attendees came from Miami and the "Gold Coast Macintosh Users Group, Inc." Although the "Apple" people had a great showing, they were outnumbered by the PC folks. The point is though, we all had a good time and learned a great deal from the roundtable discussions. There wasn't any inter-service rivalry so to speak. I think we all agreed that both platforms have good and bad qualities, just like the pros & cons of anything else. Obviously, we would argue that "Our System" is the best, but admitting that the other has some better points.

The Vendors, *Adobe, Microsoft, HandSpring, Borland, Apple, Other World Computing, Filemaker, Smart Computing, Imagine*

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

Managing Editor                      Jack Nash  
253-2793                                      [jhnash@pciol.net](mailto:jhnash@pciol.net)  
Assistant Editors                      Ed McEwen,  
[jtowns@digital.net](mailto:jtowns@digital.net)                      Jim Townsend  
Contributing Editor                      George Rymer

Newsletter Volunteers:  
Distribution:                              John Williams  
Scanning:                                      Norm Sharp  
Home Page:                                  <http://bugclub.org>

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

Brevard User's Group  
PO Box 2456  
Melbourne, Fl. 32902-2456  
or E-mail [@jhnash@pciol.net](mailto:@jhnash@pciol.net)

***THE NEXT MEETING  
OF THE  
BREVARD USERS GROUP  
WILL BE ON  
October 16, 2002  
AT 7:00 pm  
IN  
Melbourne Library  
on Fee Avenue  
Visitors welcome!***

**Visit the BUG CLUB web site  
for the latest schedule  
and speaker information a:**

<http://bugclub.org>

**There will be a drawing  
for Door Prizes!**

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Mary  
Alice  
Grant  
Secretary

18 September 2002

### BUG Meeting

George Rymer, President started the meeting at 7pm. He apologized for our “temporary library” spaces we were meeting in, the Children’s part of the library. We were pre-empted by another group from the regular room in the library. Hopefully we will be able to meet there next month. Other than the very short chairs we had to sit on, it worked. George attended COMDEX in Atlanta, Georgia which was mainly about networking. He then attended the So. Reginal PC User Group meeting, (SRPCUG) he stressed that anyone could go to the User Group meetings and in fact, it would be good for each individual to go. The SRPCUG has good information for those people who may be thinking about taking a position as an officer in the future.

The club now has it’s own domain and web page called: Bugclub.org. Eric Arnold is the Webmaster and he is encouraging all to look on the web site and offer any feedback on what you may like to see on the site.

The speaker was Lincoln Brown from Comp USA and his subject was digital cameras.

Digital camera’s consists of taking pictures, res saving pictures, downloading to the computer, and saving or burning onto a CD. Camera 101 – what do you look for in a digital camera and what is best for you? If you plan on using the camera for mainly taking pictures of the family, at 5 to 15 ft, then you do not need the best digital camera on the market. If you are planning on sending all/most of your pictures via email, you do not need the best camera on the market. If you plan on taking the camera on vacation and taking pictures with panoramic view you will

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### Executive Meeting Minutes

14 August 2002

#### Attendance:

George Rymer, Larry Wood, Mary Alice Grant, Charles Principato, LaVerne Schamberg , Ted Glaser, Jack Nash, Jim Townsend and Eric Arnold

1. MAG read the prior Executive-meeting notes from June 2002. George made a motion to accept notes as read; LaVern seconded the motion, passed.

2. Treasurer report: checking: \$417.92; Savings:\$2,151.66.

3. The FACUG Fall conference will be held in Ocala on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October.

4. COMDEX has returned to Atlanta and will be held at the World Congress Center 9-13 Sept.

5. The first South East Users Group Conference will be held in Atlanta on 13-15 September.

6. NOTE: President George Rymer will not be able to attend BUG meeting, as he will be attending above conferences in Atlanta.

7. Terry Dickerson will be speaker for BUG Club meeting to be held on 21 Aug and he will speak on photography and digital pictures. In September we are trying to get a gentleman from COMP USA to give a talk on hardware for digital imaging. An interest of printers was suggested for a speaker in Oct.

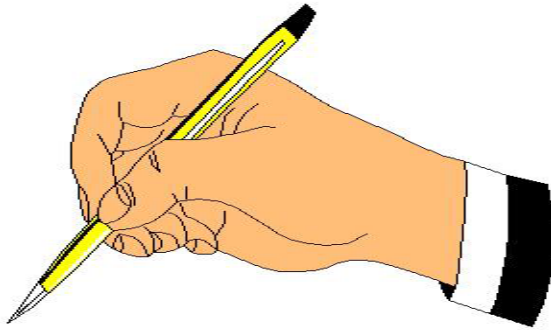
8. There have been 16 Newsletter CD’s sold so far. The funds have been turned over to the Treasurer.

9. Quickbooks Basic have been purchased and turned over to the Treasurer. This software was acquired from BJ’s in the amount of \$158.99 and we have received a \$80.00 rebate, which is now in the checking account of the BUG Club.

10. A laptop computer has been purchased for the club in the amount of \$500.00. It has a 13.25” TFT screen, 350 processor, 64 Mz memory, 10 Ghz hard drive, CD rom, 1.44 floppy drive, Touch pad, 56K modem, net3work card, sound card, USB, plugins for speaker, microphone, printer, serial, monitor and PS2 mouse or keyboard. An external mouse is included.

11. MAG made a motion to change the motto of the BUG Club to read: Members helping

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## Treasurer's Report

By Ted Glaser

### Account Balances as of 30 AUG 02

Checking Acc't	\$ 766.74
DDDW Savings	2151.66
Petty Cash	25.00

### New Members: Welcome Aboard!

Pirrera, B - #1187  
 Pofandt, W - #1188

### Renewals: Thank You!

Barrett, C - #1137  
 Davie, D - #531  
 Evans, R - #1010  
 Frankenfield, J - #1013  
 Gillis, K - #955  
 Millett, D - #420  
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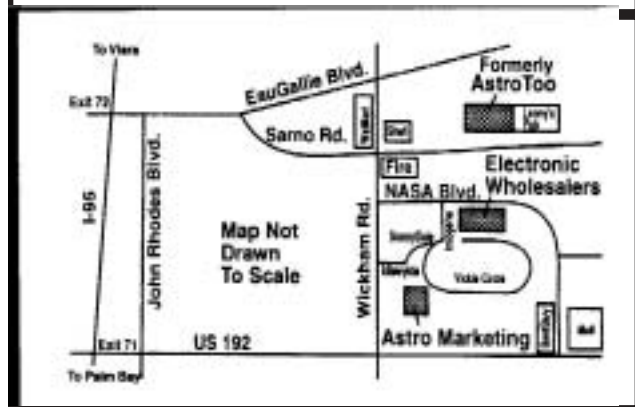
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Web Site: [AstroToo.com](http://AstroToo.com)

Email: [Astro@AstroToo.Com](mailto:Astro@AstroToo.Com)

### NEW LOCATION!



## Newsletter CD

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

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

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

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

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

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



## Software Review, Easy Thumbnails

By Rick Mattingly

Digital cameras and optical scanners result in images — lots and lots of images. Keeping track of all those images quickly becomes a real chore. Often, the only way to determine which image file is the one you are looking for is to view the image contained with an image viewing utility. Image files can be, and most often are, quite large, complicating the issue even further.

The solution is to use "thumbnail" views of the image files. Thumbnail images are nothing more than a miniature duplicate of the original, much smaller in physical and storage size. Accessing the thumbnail images is fast and they take up very little storage space. While it is true that you can create a thumbnail view of an image with most graphic software applications, it can be a real pain to manually set up the software to resize each image. A better route is to utilize a dedicated thumbnail software application for this task, as well as a quick thumbnail image viewer.

"Easy Thumbnails" by Fookes Software is a great choice for this job. The official description of Easy Thumbnails v1.0 reads as follows: "A handy utility for creating accurate thumbnail images and scaled-down copies from a wide range of popular picture formats. An elegant interface makes it simplicity itself to find your images and select them for processing individually, in batches, or in whole folders, using a well-designed file selector and built-in image viewer. You can use slider controls to rotate images and adjust their contrast, brightness, sharpness and quality, and preview the results. Thumbnails can be created in any existing folder or a new folder, and you can identify them clearly by adding a prefix or suffix to their titles. If you're an image processing enthusiast, you will appreciate the option of choosing from a selection of six size-reduction algorithms for the best possible results."

Easy Thumbnails is a small utility that does a really nice job with an elegant, yet simple interface.

Oh, and I must not forget to mention what a great tool Easy Thumbnail is for maintaining Web site images. And now the best part — Easy Thumbnails is freeware!

Go to Fookes Software on the Internet at <http://www.fookes.com> to snag your very own copy of this great utility. While you are there, also check out the other great software products available, including "Album Express" for creating picture albums of your images, and "Mailbag Assistant" to enhance management of your e-mail. Also, be sure to take a look at "NoteTab," one of the most powerful ASCII text editors I have yet seen. NoteTab is available in a free "light" version (amazing!) or as a powerhouse "pro" version for only \$19.95. Classy, functional software from Geneva, Switzerland by Eric G. V. Fookes. Definitely worth a look.

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October 12 (Celebrated Oct. 14)

## HANDS ON THE KEYS, PLEASE

by Gary English —A Prompt Newsletter, May 2002

### Meat and Potatoes

Let's start with the old stand-bys. If you have attended the New Users' SIG, you will have learned Alt+Tab to cycle between open programs, and Ctrl+X, Ctrl+C, and Ctrl+V to Cut, Copy and Paste respectively. You will use these four *all* the time.

Others that you should know are Alt+F4, which will close the active window, and F1 to bring up Help. These all are fairly universal and work in all versions of Windows.

You should also have learned about using the Alt key + the Underlined letter key on the menu to select any menu item in a Windows program. Using the arrow keys and Enter key will let you move around and select menu functions. While you are looking around, check for designated shortcut key combinations. They may come in handy. For example, if you look on the File menu in *Word*, you will note that Ctrl+S evokes the Save function. Use this one religiously and often. You will not regret it.

### Dessert and Coffee

Those with Windows keyboards have a couple of special keys that are quite handy, the Menu key and Windows Logo key. The Menu key is basically like clicking the right mouse button. It will pop up a context-sensitive menu for wherever the cursor is located at the time. This is real handy to get to the text formatting functions in *Word*, for example. You should investigate which menu comes up under what conditions in all your programs.

The Windows Logo key is a bit more versatile. If you press it by itself, up pops the Start menu. You can then use the arrow keys, other letter keys, and the Enter key to select programs or menu items. It is real quick and I don't have to find the mouse under all that stuff on my desk. The Windows Logo key, along with other keys, acts as a kind of special switch to get quickly to a bunch of Windows functions. For example, to get to My Computer (Windows Explorer), just press Windows Logo Key+E

and up pops Windows Explorer focused on My Computer. How about if you need to search for a file; try Windows Logo Key+F to get to the Search or Find dialog box. Say you want to get to the desktop quickly: try Windows Logo Key+D. This does the same as clicking on the desktop icon in the quick launch tray, which minimizes all the open programs. Hit Windows Logo Key+D again it will put everything back were it was. Or, say you need to get to Windows Help quickly: try Windows Logo Key+F1, and then use the Tab or Shift+Tab to move around in Help.

For some slightly more advanced features, try these. To get quickly to the Start/Run feature, use Windows Logo Key+R. This is a quick way to get to System Configuration Utility (MSCONFIG), for example. Just press Windows Logo Key+R and type MSCONFIG and press Enter. Or say you want to look at or change Windows Properties. Instead of finding and right clicking on My Computer, hit Windows Logo Key+Pause (Break). It is usually next to Scroll Lock. Yeah, I don't use them much either.

If you have Windows XP, you will see a couple of new features. If you use the Accessibility Features, you can get quickly to the Utilities Manager with Windows Logo Key+U. Or to get quickly to the Login Welcome Screen, use Windows Logo Key+L. One of my favorites is to use the Windows Logo Key, then hit U twice to shut down my **XP** computer. It works really quick and is easy to remember.

### The Benefit

Besides saving time and easing *Mouse Elbow*, using the keyboard can sometimes get you out of a tight spot where nothing else will work. For example: Say your mouse quits in the middle of the Great American Novel you are writing in *Word*. Knowing how to save your work, close down all your programs and reboot Windows will be a lifesaver. Better to learn it now before you really need it. Right?

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### *Hands On Keys, Continued from Page 6*

In our situation above, what can you do? Try using Ctrl+S which will save your work in *Word*. If you have not named your file, it will open the Save As dialog. Using Tab, the arrow keys, and the Enter key will let you pick a location, enter a name, and save your file. You can then use Alt+F4 as necessary to close your programs and take you to the Windows Shutdown dialog. Use Tab and the arrow keys to select Reboot or Shutdown, as appropriate. You may need to play around with this in a junk file until you figure out what works best and makes most sense to you. Then practice it several times. This is really good insurance.

Finally here are a couple of bonus shortcuts I use all the time. Let's say you are in Windows Explorer, and you want to visit a commercial site like <http://www.ford.com>. Just type the middle part—"ford"—in this case—then hit Ctrl+Enter. Explorer will fill in the "http://www" and the ".com" part. This can be quicker than grabbing the mouse and searching through your Favorites.

Have you ever been frustrated by the AutoRun CD Feature in Windows? You know, when you put a CD in the drive and a program automatically starts to run. Well, if you don't want that to happen, just hold down the Shift key till the CD Drive light stops flickering. You can then release the Shift key get on with your business. Neat, or what?

*Reprint from P. C. Communicator, Sun City Center, FL*



### *Secretary's Report, continued from page 3*

need a camera with a 3 power or greater "optical" zoom. Digital zoom is a multiplier of the dots/pixels. The problem with a "digital" zoom when you zoom, it multiplies the dots making more dots; therefore, if you enlarge it the picture may become fuzzy or not as clear. Optical zoom is better. A panoramic view requires a high quality lens. If you plan on taking these kinds of pictures, look for a camera with a better quality glass lens. Mega pixels act as the film of the camera and the size and quantity of the dots or pixels allows for a better and clearer picture. Especially if you plan on enlarging the picture. A camera higher in pixels and high power optical zoom will be the better camera; but it may not be the one for you. Something else to think about is what are you going to do with the picture once taken? Are you going to print them, keep them on the computer or CD, or view them on the TV screen? All are factors when considering the purchase of a digital camera. There has been a 300% growth in digital cameras just this year and is a clear indication of how popular the digital camera has become.

Mr. Brown gave a very good presentation under "abnormal" conditions. No computer, or microphone, but he was able to convey the message and answer all questions. Thank you Mr. Lincoln Brown.

The club gave away to members a stack of blank CD's, and Norton System Works software.

The meeting ended around 8:30pm. Next month's meeting is scheduled for 16 October 2002. See you there!



Visit the BUG Club Web Site at  
<http://bugclub.org>  
Got Questions? Go to the Forum and Ask!

## DC AutoEnhance Automatic Digital Camera Enhancer and Batch Processor

by Larry Anders, Librarian  
Tampa PC Users Group

Many of us by now have bitten the bullet and purchased a digital camera. With the prices ranging from \$79 to well over a \$1000, there is a price range for almost everyone. I know because I am on my second one and considering a third.

Although the photographs from digital cameras have gotten much better since my first Sony Mavica of five years ago, they are still not perfect. They all seem to need a little something, whether it be brightening, sharpening or something to make it perfect. Now, I am not saying that the photos I take with a regular film camera are all perfect, but in some sense there's not much I can do about them once the picture is developed and printed, unless I want to scan them in one at a time and "fix" them. At least the digital photos are somewhat ready to be "fixed", or probably better put, adjusted to your liking.

Most any graphics program today will import the image produced by your camera and let you make the adjustments you deem necessary. I have reviewed a few of those programs in this newsletter in the past, such as:

JASC Paint Shop Pro, Adobe PhotoShop Elements, and my favorite, because it is free, Digital Camera Enhancer from MediaChance. The one problem I have with all the above software is that only one photo at a time can be processed. Most of the time that is okay, but recently I published a large amount of pictures to my Web site and it took a couple of hours to prepare the photos. By preparing I also mean resizing for optimal loading on a PC that doesn't have a broadband Internet connection. Two hours to process these photos was totally unacceptable, so I went looking.

NOTE - William LaMartin, our newsletter Editor and Webmaster, tells me that Adobe PhotoShop can batch process graphic images. But at over \$600 for the latest version 7, and a learning curve that will take me into the next millennium, I

decided to look elsewhere. (PhotoShop is no doubt the best program of its kind on the market for professionals, which I am not.)

I searched the Internet and found a few programs and almost wrote an article on EyeBatch Image Processor, until I visited MediaChance's Web site, <http://www.MediaChance.com>, again and found my favorite program had been upgraded to a commercial batch-processing program called **DCEAutoEnhance (DCE)**.

(The free version is still available under the camera tools section.) There is a fully functional evaluation version of **DCE** available for the download. The only restrictions on the eval version is that you can only batch process five photos at one time and the evaluation period is only good for 30 days. That is more than enough to put **DCE** through its paces. It only took me five minutes to know this program belonged in my arsenal of tools. Enough for the history ... on with the review.

**DCE** has all of the tools of its free sibling but it also goes quite a bit further when adjusting and enhancing batches of photos. I know what you're thinking: "How can you adjust all photos the same if each one was taken at different times, under different conditions." Well, MediaChance uses something called **Exif Metadata** that your digital camera stores with the images and processes that data accordingly. (I didn't know my camera stored anything other than the image.) So **DCE** knows whether the shot was taken with or without flash, in the day or night, etc., and adjusts itself accordingly.

Some of the features shown and talked about at <http://mediachance.com/dce/features.html> are:

- Automatic Balance (most digital photos are a little dark, This will balance out the light and contrast.)
- Remove Blue Cast (removing the extra blueness brings the sharp color back.)
- Adjust Mid-Tones
- Enhance Colors (with this you can give a boost to the colors — without over-processing them.)
- Enhance Details
- Remove Hot Pixels (this removes the "dust"

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## ***DCAutoEnhance, continued from page 8***

or white dots from photos that have a longer exposure time, like evening shots without a flash.)

- De-noise the Image (the new high megapixel cameras might add more detail than we really need. This filter smoothes out the roughness while leaving the needed detail in.)
- Portrait De-Focus Filter (this was included especially to smooth out skin tones.)
- Resize the Image (this is the real time saver for me. I feel I get a better photo by taking higher resolution snapshots and then reducing the size before uploading to the Web.)
- Finds the JPG

If you decide that **DCE** does the job for you, send MediaChance the \$35 registration fee so they'll keep making good software.

*Reprinted from cswf.org July 2002, of the Computer Society of West Florida.*



## **Defrag Tip**

It is very important to regularly defragment the file structure on your hard drive to insure maximum efficiency. However, a common complaint when running Disk Defragmenter, and similar utilities, is that the operation never completes. Disk Defragmenter appears to be caught in a loop and restarts over and over. This typically is caused by a write to disk operation which alters the file structure causing the defrag operation to reset. Common culprits in this scenario are programs loaded and operating in the background, such as screen savers and virus protection applications.

Before running Disk Defragmenter, close these types of applications first, then run Disk Defragmenter. While at it, it is also a good idea to close as many other open applications as possible from the Task Bar as well. With these applications out of the way, Disk Defragmenter should run a continuous defrag operation and complete normally.

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*Editors comment: The BUG club recommends that you use a program such as "Enditall" to close all running programs before running Disk Defragmenter. Enditall is available for download on the BUG Web site.*



## **Home Office: The E-Mail Rules-- Manage the Medium**

*By Steve Bass, Contributing Editor, PC World.  
Copyright 2001, PC World, reprinted with permission.*

Like getting e-mail? Cool, I'll forward you some of mine. Be careful what you ask for, though. I send roughly 22,000 e-mail messages a year and receive more than twice that amount. How do I know? Eudora, my e-mail client of choice, tracks all my e-mail use, reporting, for example, that about 3500 of the messages I received last year had attachments, of which I read only about 60 percent.

I have e-mail secrets: tips to make it easier to read, and pointers for handling attachments. They're yours--and if you e-mail me, please promise to use them. E-Mail That's Read All Over Unless you're vacationing on a desert island, your time is tight. So is mine. If you send me a long message and I don't know you, I probably won't read it--especially if it has an attachment.

Lengthy messages from friends I read when I have the time. (Okay, so I scan them. Sue me.) My point? If you want your messages read, consider your recipient. That's what these rules are all about.

Think short: Limit the message to three paragraphs, tops, each with no more than four sentences. If you must include more, introduce points with short previews--for instance, "Deadline? Did I miss it?"

Stay plain, Jane: Avoid the fancy formatting, flowery backgrounds, and gaudy colors that new versions of e-mail software allow. Many people still use e-mail programs that support plain text only. Also, what's cool on your monitor may look like hell on mine. And geez! That extra coding increases download time when my notebook's using a 56-kbps dial-up account.

One person, please: If you're sending an e-mail to a large group of people, hide the recipient list to

***Continued on Page 11***

## From the Webmaster

Hello--

Thank you for allowing me to create the pages, which make up the new BUG Club's web site. For the last four years, I have spent a minimum of 8 hours a day writing web pages! Within this time, I've had several opportunities to control the pages at the server level. This has been a very rewarding experience, as well as educational and challenging!

When I rejoined the Club, I realized there was something missing! (Our own Domain Name) So I proceeded to write a proposal which described the procedure and costs the Club would incur to acquire it's own domain name. At the same time, I searched for an appropriate domain name, and was pleased to find bugclub.org was available for registration.

After submitting the proposal to the Club's board of directors, I was pleased to find an overwhelming level of enthusiasm in all the Club's officers! The board met for discussion in less than a week's time, and my proposal was approved unanimously. They set a maximum spending limit of \$225, and gave me full control to contact the host of my choice, so I proceed with the registration of the new domain name.

PowWeb.com in San Diego, CA was selected as the host, then I proceeded to create the new domain for the club. The cost for 26 months was only \$201.48, well below the budget limit. While waiting for the Club's check to arrive and clear at PowWeb.com, I proceeded to create the initial set of pages for the new web site. Within my reach were two older web pages, and two old Newsletters. Just enough information to structure the pages to my liking.

To see the new pages online, I copied the first set on to another member's RoadRunner homepage space. Then I emailed the temporary URL's to the Bug Club officers, requesting they quickly evaluate them. Soon, several more pages were added, and after seven days, the Clubs check had cleared and the new domain was activated. By this time, there were 14 pages finished and I immediately installed them on the new server.

With the server in full operation, additional two pages were added along with some powerful serverside features! There is now a Guest Book, Server Statistics, Form Mail, and a Polling Script, which allows for questionnaires on the pages! Setting up and installing the additional features took several days. Whenever possible, I search the web for new and interesting features which can be added to make the Club's pages more exciting. Currently, I found a Script set which when installed, will be an online calendar of events. This should simplify the posting of our meeting schedules and will be setup for online access by a club member, who will keep the calendar current!

At this time, I would like to invite all members who visit the Club's web site, to feel free to send comments, suggestions, materials, and criticisms to me (webmaster). There is a webmaster link at the bottom of every page, by simply clicking on the link; you will be able to email your perspectives to me! Remember that this is **YOUR** club, and your voice is important! **If you don't speak up, nothing will ever change!**

Sincerely,  
Eric Arnold  
(Webmaster)



**Halloween October 31--BOO!**

### *E-Mail Rules continued from page 9*

keep the file size down. It's all right to use your e-mail app's carbon copy (cc) feature if you need to let everyone know who else is getting the message, but otherwise use the blind copy (bcc) feature. Address the message to yourself (or leave the "To:" field blank, if your software allows it) and bcc everyone else.

In Outlook Express, select View and check All Headers. In Outlook, choose View and check Bcc Field. In Netscape 6, click the To field and scroll to Bcc. Eudora's the easiest--just fill in the "bcc" field.

Clean it up: Forwarded messages are usually overloaded with annoying angle brackets (>), extra spaces and carriage returns, and uneven word wrapping. That's one reason why I don't read them, and you shouldn't be surprised if the messages you forward aren't read either. You can scour the e-mail you forward to get rid of the gobbledygook. All it takes is a quick cut and paste into The ECleaner freeware utility that's available at our Downloads library. ([http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file\\_description/0,fid,6492,00.asp](http://www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description/0,fid,6492,00.asp))

The ECleaner can be accessed from Outlook 2000's Toolbar; I keep it on my Windows 98 Quick Launch Toolbar. In order to use ECleaner on your Outlook 2000 toolbar, you'll need to download their add-in. It's located at <http://members.tripod.com/schin26/ecaddin.zip>.

Unfortunately, The ECleaner doesn't remove the e-mail headers in the original message, so you need to delete them manually before forwarding. (AOL users have to work harder. AOL doesn't show you the forwarded message's sloppy formatting, so copy the message into a text editor, clean it up, and paste it into a new AOL e-mail.)

*Reprint from the online NL of the Midland Computer Club*



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

*Media - MacAddict Magazine, Maximum PC, Atlantic.NET, Alpha Software, MAC Office, O'Reilly, Mindshare/MacTopia and more. The presentations were very, very good and the food was outstanding. The Vendors provided Dinner on Friday night (Adobe), Breakfast (Apple), Lunch (Handspring) and Dinner (Microsoft) on Saturday and Breakfast (Filemaker) and Lunch on Sunday. Plus, Morning and Afternoon Breaks with drinks and snacks (Other World Computing). I can't remember when I've eaten so much. The Vendors were very gracious and gave away a ton of goodies. Hats, T-Shirts, Hardware, Software, Backpacks, Trinkets, you name it. Borland gave away some Very Nice Sports Bags. Microsoft gave away lot of software, two Pentium 4 Motherboards, with Intel 1.7 processors. Adobe gave away several copies of Photoshop Elements and other goodies. Handspring gave away a Treo 180. Combination Full Feature Mobile Phone (with Speaker Phone), Palm OS Organizer, Wireless E-Mail, SMS Text Messaging and Web Browsing. Guess Who Won This !!!!??? Check my picture holding this little Beauty. It was unbelievable to me, because I never win anything. Thank you Handspring !!!!* The next Meeting of one of the three groups is the FACUG Meeting on October the 13th in Ocala, FL. This is just a one day affair. The BIGGIE is the APCUG meeting 16 - 20 November in Las Vegas, NV. and is held in conjunction with the BIG COMDEX. There you'll get to see most anything your heart desires. From Computers to Croupiers and Monitors to Mademoiselles. If you have a few dollars you don't really need, this is a great place to go to get rid of them and have fun doing it! The best thing is you don't have to be an Officer in the group to attend any of these sessions, all you have to do is be a member of the Users Group, (BUG).

**I'll close for now, hope to see y'all next**



## Newbies Corner

by Jim Hally B.U.G. member

### One More

I wasn't going to do this but this was a follow-up I couldn't resist. One of the last things I covered was the fact that RAM speed was in the neighborhood of 133 MHz. Some of you are running something slower and that is all well and good. What is important to understand is, the relationship between the CPU and the RAM. Just as apples don't go with oranges, a BUS speed of 133 MHz isn't going to go with a 100 MHz processor. The motherboard will have been built to accommodate a much faster CPU, let's say a 750 MHz one. My information tells me the best BUS and RAM speeds are 256 MHz. Even at that, it is still only one third of the 750 MHz CPU we are talking about.

### What Gives?

Is that 133 Ram slowing down my computer? Well, yes and no. In the first of the series I mentioned clock cycles. In last months column I touched on it. (If I had any inkling I would take it this far I would have done a better job.) At 750 MHz, a CPU can really chew up some data. One of the benefits of a faster CPU is shorter wait states. Because it gobbles up the data the wait states are more in number thus increasing the time wasted by the faster CPU. The goal now is to cut down on the unproductive time and give the CPU something to do. The way to do that is to provide it with data.

### An analogy

Let's say you own a local hardware store and employ three people. Your first problem is how much inventory do you keep on hand? How much in on the shelf and how much do you keep in the stock room? When you run low on say 1/4"x 1" bolts, do you have stock that your employees can bring from the back or do you have to wait for a delivery? Are they going to hang around looking at the nearly empty shelf and say Yep! That truck will be here Tuesday. In other words, they are not being productive by stocking the shelves. The storeowner is at the mercy of the transportation company that will bring the bolts from who knows where. Now look at the big building supply warehouse in town. They have

shelves 16' high just filled with inventory. They run out of bolts on the lower shelf and one of the employees brings down another box from the upper shelf. They are being productive when customers are not present.

### Cache

It is pronounced like cash. Glad we got that over with. There are two levels of cache, L1 and L2. Think of L1 cache as being the stuff on larger shelves of the big warehouse, but instead of screws we are thinking data. It is easily and quickly accessed. It is also expensive. Somebody has to pay for the shelves as well as the cost of inventory. I mean, how many 1" bolts do you need to keep in stock?

Today's CPUs keep a spot on the silicon for the L1. Once again you have to consider cost and space available. This is some high priced real estate. By being on the same silicon the access time for L1 is 2 to 8 ns.

Now, the local guy just can't jack up the roof and put in taller shelves can he? No, but he may consider buying a semi-trailer and keeping in out in back of the store for his higher volume products. Even without a computer system, he would need to keep track of his stock with SKU's (stock keeping units). He could put a little T on the shelf price sticker, which would indicate that there is stock in the trailer for this item. The items in the trailer would be his L2 cache. Being outside the store it would take a little longer to access the items but they would be on the property. The access time for L2 cache is 5-12 ns. A good idea for the items in the trailer would be to put the SKU numbers on the boxes. In reality we have a little redundancy here. The T on the shelf means we have more of the item and the SKU's on the boxes indicate what is in the box.

When supplies start to run low the owner must get the product from a supplier (main memory) Obviously, this is a much slower process 10-50ns. The idea here is to order supplies that you need or think you will need. Gee, if you start selling these 1" bolts aren't you going to need washers and nuts to go with them? You place the order and load it into cache (trailer).

*Continued on Page 13*

## *Newbies Corner, continued from page 12*

If someone comes in and buys half your bolts you have to send someone back to the trailer and get some more. While they are there you might as well have them bring up some washers and nuts as well. When the person brings back the three items the redundancy gets stronger. He knows where the nuts bolts and washers are in the trailer L2 cache. The bringing to the fore of the related items is known as a cache block. If he has to go back again he knows exactly where they are. There is no need to access the supplier (main memory). Everything will be either on the shelf, L1 or in the trailer, L2. The little T and the SKU's indicate location of the items or in our case data.

### **Cache is King**

One early morning we try to open a file called Oct02. The first thing the CPU does is look for it in L1 cache. We know it is not there. The CPU then looks in L2. Again it is not there. This is commonly known as a cache miss. More correctly it is called a compulsory miss. This is because the file wasn't anywhere near the caches this morning. The next place to look is in Main Memory. Well it is not there either because we saved the file to the hard drive last night. This initial request is what takes the longest. The file is brought up from the hard drive and put in main memory.

The CPU knows, by way of programming code, that the file was created in Word. Word is then executed and the code to make Word run as well as the data in Oct02 is loaded from the hard drive into main memory as well as L2 and L1 cache. L1 cache isn't that big so in reality it is going to get most of the code and a bit of the data. L2 will get all of the data and a bit of the code.

When I press the page down key the CPU says Hey! L1 do you know how to do that? Sure do is the reply. L1 to L2, Do you know how to do that? Sure do, and I know where page 2 starts. The advantages of a large as well as an efficient cache are numerous. It is the efficiency of a great cache that helps tremendously in your computers speed.

I walk a fine line in getting in too deep on this subject. I hope I gave you enough to think about.



## **Help Sources**

*Reprint from P. C. Communicator; Sun City Center. FL. April 2002*

For help with Microsoft Windows and Windows software products:

<http://www.microsoft.com/windows98/>

[usingwindows/default.asp](http://www.usingwindows/default.asp)

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

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

<http://www.microsoft.com/WindowsME/support/solutions/default.asp>

<http://www.fixwindows.com>

Everything you can possibly imagine related to computers:

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

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

<http://www.deja.com/computing.shtml>

<http://www.smartcomputing.com>

Multimedia tutorials on over 100 different software applications:

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

For help on just about anything:

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

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

<http://www.zdnet.com/zdhelp/stories/main/0,5594,2673000,00.html> (10 Tech Supp sites)

Tons of freeware and shareware:

<http://www.simtel.net/simtel.net/>

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

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

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

Support for Microsoft products:

<http://support.microsoft.com/directory/>

Price Comparison Shopping

<http://computers.cnet.com/>

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

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

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

<http://saleshound.com/>

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

<http://www.pricescan.com>

<http://www.e-town.com/>

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

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

*Internet help by Dale Oliver,  
from NWA-PCUG September 2001*



**Executive Meeting, continued from Page 3**

Members instead of Users helping Users. Charles Principato 2nd and it was passed by unanimous vote.

12. Eric Arnold gave a briefing on the cost to the club to start our own domain name and web site. A motion by Charles Principato was made to give Eric permission to set up the domain and web site and purchase for two years not to exceed \$225.00. Ted Glaser 2nd the motion. Passed. Eric will work with Horace Browne and Norm Sharp to get our own web site up and working.

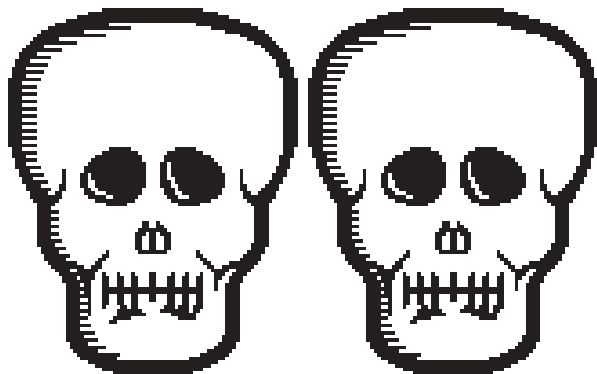
13. Eric Arnold created a sheet/flyer about the club with information on all meetings. A sample flyer was passed around. Executive officers had a few changes and Eric will make the changes. Then flyers will be passed out. This is done in order for the public to get information about the BUG Club and hopefully bring in new members.

14. APCUG has a newsletter contest. Question, do we want to submit the BUG Club Newsletter? Answer, yes. Good luck Editors!! Jack Nash will submit.

15. It was requested that a statement be printed in the newsletter, "We do not condone illegal copying of software." This will be done.

16. Ted Glaser made a motion for the meeting to close and Charles Principato 2nd. Meeting ended 7:38pm

Respectfully given by  
Secretary, Mary Alice Grant



**Trick or Treat!!**

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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

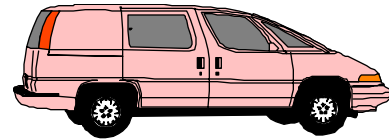
Bob Staples 255-2623 Win95/98

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

Atn: Treasurer

P. O. Box 2456

Melbourne, FL 32902-2456

& e-mail to the Newsletter at

[jimtownsend@earthlink.net](mailto:jimtownsend@earthlink.net)

### BUG Officers

#### President:

George Rymer 724-6715

[grymer@cfl.rr.com](mailto:grymer@cfl.rr.com)

#### Vice President

Larry Wood 783-0530

[weed87@cfl.rr.com](mailto:weed87@cfl.rr.com)

#### Treasurer:

777-4591

Ted Glaser

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

#### Secretary:

Mary Alice Grant 253-5666

[mgrant@pciol.net](mailto:mgrant@pciol.net)

#### 1st Member at Large:

LaVerne Schamberg 242-0454

#### 2nd Member at Large:

Charles Principato 723-5962

#### Committee Chairperson

#### Beginners Help:

Oscar Litke 409-8002

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

#### FACUG Representative:

Bill Ranck 676-7908

#### Hardware & Modem Doctor:

James Clear 259-3048

[jtclean@cfl.rr.com](mailto:jtclean@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

### Brevard Users' Group

#### Incorporated

P. O. Box 2456

Melbourne, FL 32902-2456

PRESORTED STANDARD

U. S. Postage

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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.