

HARD COPY

SloBytes

a publication of the san luis obispo pcug vol. 16 · no. 09 · september 2000

what's new

by lach macdonald

Thanks to several contributors for this month's report.

Ray Miklas counted 61 attendees at the August meeting. Ray also announced that the Bob Hunt's early Win 95/98 SIG, so ably moderated by Bob Hunt and lately missed because of Bob's work schedule, MAY BE resumed by Jim Kiraly. (Details need to be worked out at this point.) Jim is quite knowledgeable in the Windows Operating Systems and volunteered to work with Bob Hunt to resume this popular program.

Incidentally, SloBytes members are invited to attend the 12 noon Board meetings (held before each monthly meeting). This is a good way to become acquainted with the volunteer activities that keep the organization alive and well. However, only officers and board members are allowed to vote.

Ray Miklas <rmiklas@bigfoot.com> also recommended Dan Logan's site at <http://www.thegrid.net/dlogan/home.htm> as a way to keep up with Central Coast computer developments. Ray said, "Just go through all his links on the left side of his home page for all computer related info available here on the Central Coast."

Charles Barney, President of the Central Coast Computer Club in Santa Maria, picked up our old library of programs. (Our Disk Library consists of about 750 floppies of various sizes. All are indexed and on our locator disk, disk storage cases and hard copy print-out index binders.) He also invited any of our members to attend the CCCC UG meeting in Santa Maria. For more details visit them at: <http://www.cebug.member.apcug.org/fourseas/>

The early general SIG ran on

awaiting Gene Barlow's arrival. Alan Raul and Guy Kuncir covered a range of topics.

Topics covered by Alan, fielding questions from the audience: restoring a clean history boot registry file, Google search engine and how to add a Google link button to the IE links bar, and Guy Kuncir's Drive Image problems.

Alan Raul's demonstration of Google, a very popular Internet search engine should appeal to all the Internet Surfers. Google's index, comprised of more than 1 billion URLs, is the first of its kind and represents the most comprehensive collection of the most useful web pages on the Internet.

Alan showed how to add a Google Browser Button to Microsoft Internet Explorer. Adding Google browser buttons to your personal toolbar gives you access to the same search technology available at www.google.com, without taking away from your existing screen space. This technique can be tried with other search engines.

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CLUB CALENDAR

SEPTEMBER 3RD

—1:00 p.m.—
It's the
ALAN & BOB Q & A SHOW.
Back by
Popular Demand.

—2:30 p.m.—
JIM TINLIN
System Admin.,
Surfari Internet (local ISP)
will talk about
Surfari.net operations
and the ADSL service
they provide.

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PowerQuest Corporation & Caldera Systems

a press release from gene barlow

Whether you're an experienced PC user or a novice, PowerQuest's award-winning programs give you the tools to manage your hard drive like an old pro.

Caldera Systems OpenLinux eDesktop 2.4 is high-performance desktop software, an optimized set of applications and tools targeted to perform specific functions, and is designed to be managed locally by the user and/or remotely by a corporate system administrator.

Come to our next user group meeting and learn all about organizing & protecting your hard drive from **PowerQuest Corporation**, as well as discovering one of the most powerful and easiest OS's to install, OpenLinux 2.3 from **Caldera Systems**. Gene Barlow, who is well known throughout the user group community, will be the guest presenter. As time permits, he will demonstrate many of these exciting products & answer your questions as well. Special User Group Prices on all of these products will be available for you to purchase at the meeting & take home with you. Gene will bring handouts and exciting door prizes as well. It should be a super meeting. Bring a friend and don't miss it! For more information see <http://www.ugr.com>

As an organization tool, **PartitionMagic V5** is unique. Create, resize, merge, and convert partitions without destroying data! Exceptional ease of use with wizard functionality makes partitioning tasks effortless. PartitionMagic helps you to quickly convert from NTFS to FAT/FAT32 or Primary to Logical and Logical to Primary. PM includes **BootMagic** for safe, effortless switching between multiple operating systems, such as **Caldera Systems OpenLinux 2.3**.

Once your computer is set up, it's time to create a backup copy with **Drive Image V3**. Drive Image allows you to create a compressed image file of your hard drive and conveniently store it to another hard drive or removable media. Drive Image supports Zip, Jaz or most other removable media. Then, if your hard drive needs to be restored or upgraded, simple pop in the image file and, presto, it's back to its original state.

Then, PowerQuest's **Datakeeper 3.0** is the backup solution for Windows 95/98 that continuously backs up system files and data with no user intervention. Once Datakeeper 3.0 is configured, you don't even have to think about it; your data is automatically backed up.

Want to Undo System Changes? Now you can with **SecondChance**. Whether caused by a virus, a software incompatibility, or an unintentional operator error, the result is still the same. Your system does not work like it did yesterday. With SecondChance, you can return your system back to the way it worked before.

Finally, a data recovery solution **Lost & Found V1.01** from PowerQuest. Rather than spending thousand of dollars to send your hard drive to a data recovery center, Lost & Found lets you automatically recover and restore data AFTER accidental (or even intentional) data loss, or from corrupted media caused by a disk crash or logical system failure.

what's new

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With Google Search on your browser, you can search the Internet by simply highlighting a word (or phrase) on the page you are viewing and clicking the button. You can also click the Google Browser Button and a small Java script will open a box where you can enter a word (or phrase). A Netscape version is also available. More information can be found at: <http://www.google.com/buttons.html>

There are other ways to browse the Internet using Google. You can search by such categories as Arts, Business, Computers, Games to Society, Sports and World and everything in between. You can specify a category by going to: <http://directory.google.com/>

You can use a "special search" feature in Google by limiting the search to U.S. Government, Linux, BSD, Apple Macintosh, University Search, including Stanford, Brown, BYU, & others by clicking the links located under "Special Searches" at: <http://www.google.com/about.html>

Gene Barlow's presentation began at 2:20 PM and finished at 4:05 PM. The previous Hard Copy summarized the PowerQuest products: Partition Magic, Drive Image, DataKeeper, Second Chance and Open Linux. Gene (1) reviewed his recommended HD partition set-up arrangements and its use; (2) Partition Magic 5.0; (3) the new Drive Image 3.0; (4) Data Keeper and its file back-up utility; (5) Second Chance and its system undo's features; (6) Open Linux tutorial and program, 2 CD package. The handout Hard Drive Utilities Summary is excellent, telling how to organize your

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people helping people

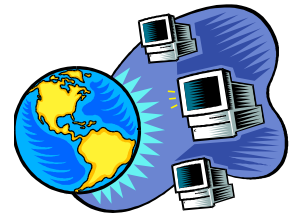
NAME	PROGRAM(S)	PHONE NO.	HOURS TO CALL
Bill Roch	Ami Pro	466-8440	anytime
Don Morgan	Word 6.0, Equation 3.1	543-6241	anytime
Dan Logan	Internet, MS Publisher	927-0515	M-Sat 8-6, Sun 12-6
Bob Hunt	Win '95, '98 Win3.11	461-1444	days
Bob Ward	Netscape, Win '95, '98, 3.11	528-0121	evenings

We could use some more volunteers here. If interested, contact Bob Ward!

the surf board

by dorothy kirk

ibm/pcug redding, kirk@snowcrest.net



Logograph, translations, grammar, logo, logotype, -logue, syntax, syntactic, linguistics, semantics, morphology of language. logogriph - all of these have to do with words and how they are put together to make some sort of sense. In fact that is what this month's pages are all about—word origins, word plays, word puzzles, writing, letters, grammar and more. The word logophile is used several places throughout these pages, but I could not find a single dictionary definition for the word in any of six dictionaries that I referenced. Is this a new word? At these sites you can find famous letters and original letters, translation helps, a cryptograph breaker, a cliché finder, find a slogan, new words, little known words and phrases, word trivia and oddities, create an artificial language, common errors, and, last, but not least, a list of Burma Shave slogans. There should be something for everybody; I found researching this topic one of the most interesting I have attempted.

A COLLECTION OF WORD ODDITIES AND TRIVIA <http://members.aol.com/gulhigh2/words.html>—“Of” apparently is the only word in which an F is pronounced like a V. “Taxi” is spelled the same way in 9 languages. These and many, many more such word insights are available at this site - 16 pages. Did you know that there is sign on Interstate 15 near Baker, CA that reads “Zyzz Rd”?

A WORD WITH YOU <http://www.wordwithyou.com>—This is a daily on-line column featuring little known words and phrases. It includes a cartoon panel and short article. Play the special hangman game. In particular, check out Links; if the selections this month are not enough for you this will surely satisfy your interest.

THE WORD SPY <http://www.logophilia.com/WordSpy/>—A site devoted to a daily entry of recently coined words, existing words that have enjoyed a recent renaissance and older words that are now being used in new ways. Example: 1. genre kill = the process of destroying a cultural category by inundating the category with copycat products 2. Danny Boy = a news story or column that contains fabricated data. [I wonder if you can apply these words to politics?]

CLICHE FINDER <http://www.westegg.com/cliche>—If you have been searching for just the right cliché to use, this is the place to find it. “It’s always darkest before the dawn”, “Thick as thieves”, “By hook or crook”. 3,300 indexed clichés!

CRYPTO CRACKER <http://www.wordplays.com/crypto.html>—A tool to help you crack word ciphers.

THE DIALECTIZER <http://www.rinkworks.com/dialect>—Translate whole pages or passages of text into comic dialects. How about Elmer Fudd?

THE LANGUAGE CONSTRUCTION KIT <http://www.zompist.com/kit.html>—Do you have a yen to create

an artificial language? It’s worth a look. You will either decide “It’s cool!” or “What a geek you must be. Get a life!”

COMMON ERRORS IN ENGLISH <http://www.wsu.com/~brians/errors/errors.html#w> <http://www.wsu.edu/~brians/errors>—If your attitude cannot be defined into two polarized alternatives, then you’re ambiguous, not ambivalent. What’s the difference between weather, wether, and whether? Actually it is a very good reference for writers who are in doubt.

BULWER-LYTTON HOME PAGE <http://www.bulwer-lytton.com/>—Enter a contest to compose the first sentence to the worst of all possible novels. Read this year’s winners.

TRANSLATE <http://babelfish.altavista.com/translate.dyn>—This web page claims to translate anything, but then hastens to add that you can’t expect perfection. An example: English- nose, French - nez, German - Wekzeugspritze, Portuguese and Spanish - nariz, Italian - naso. Also translates between other languages.

BURMA SHAVE SLOGANS http://www.nidlink.com/~dgookin/burma_shave/index.html—Remember those old Burma Shave ads along the road? They are all here.

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE UNFORGETTABLE LETTERS <http://www.usps.gov/letters/>—Explore the power, humor and drama of the written word. Hear and read letters from the front, poets, authors, artists and composers, letters to Santa, Presidential letters and love letters. It takes a bit to catch onto using this site well, but persistence is worth it.

RIVERTROUT.COM <http://www.rivertrout.com/>—“Come unwrap the secrets of the trout’s festivities”. Read letters of reason, passion, and hope. This is a rather unusual site. If you have Real Player you can get audio.

PUZZABILITY <http://www.puzzability.com/puzzles/index.html>—A new game every week with a question every weekday.

CROSSWORD LINKS <http://www.crosswordtournament.com/links.html#15>—This is for crossword puzzle addicts. Lots of links to crossword puzzles and crossword puzzle help.

WORD PUZZLES <http://thinks.com/webguide/wordpuzzles.htm>—All kinds of word puzzles - anagrams, cryptograms, word games, word search, riddles, crosswords, and more.

BRAIN FOOD <http://www.rinkworks.com/brainfood/>—A devious collection of puzzles - word games to logic puzzles. All require thinking power. [A way to stave off senility?]

what's new

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hard drive, run multiple operating systems, protect your hard drive and recover lost files. It is easy to see why the PowerQuest products have become so popular.

Ray reported that "Gene, as always, put on a cool, extended presentation, in the quite warm (temperature) meeting room. We always gain some very necessary drive maintenance knowledge when PowerQuest presents it's products to our group of computer-savvy members." The User Group deal offered by PowerQuest through Gene includes \$100 worth of products for \$80. You can order at <http://www.ugr.com/order/order> using Special User Group Order Code *which you can get by contacting Ray Miklas or me*. You must act in 30 days. You may also contact Gene or Linda Barlow at barlow@ugr.com or (801) 796-7370.

Those winning the prizes donated by Barlow were Marvon Fenton (PowerQuest Second Chance v2) and Eugene Yuan (Cauldera Linux Quick Start CBT Computer-Based Tutorial).

Incidentally, Gene Barlow may start representing Golden Bow Systems in addition to PowerQuest and Caldera Systems. They produce Vopt99 for Windows 95 and 98, a defrag utility which is substantially faster than the default Windows defrag program. You can find them at <http://goldenbow.com/>

Thanks to Ray, Guy and Alan for the info in this report.

computer tailgate sale

Hardware, Software, and more.

Bob Ward is cleaning out his computer room. Check out the great bargains in the parking lot directly behind the kitchen during the meeting. Yep, everything is in the stationwagon, and yes, it does have a tailgate.

goback? *caution!!*

by james f. kiraly

If you are using a GoBack version prior to 2.21, my experience in upgrading may help you to avoid or correct a serious problem that might arise.

The upgrade to version 2.21 is via a file named "gb_v221_update.exe" which is a free download from <http://www.adaptec.com/support/advisor/cdrupdates/goback.html>.

The program proceeds to uninstall a prior version of GoBack, including any history file. It then is supposed to shut down the computer and reboot, following which it installs the new version (requiring the CD number from the original program disk).

In my case, it only got as far as shutting the computer down. Upon attempting to reboot, the computer requested insertion of a floppy boot disk as no operating system could be found to complete the rebooting. I successfully used an emergency boot disk, but the operating system could find no disk drive other than the floppy drive. In other words, as far as the computer was concerned, there was no hard disk!

Fortunately, I maintain backup copies of my boot and CMOS information (using Norton Rescue Disk). Restoration of those backups restored my hard disk. Rebooting then proceed properly, following which the GoBack update program again took control and completed the installation of the new version.

I have no idea whether this was caused by something about my particular computer configuration or software, but do believe that it is at least partially the result of GoBack's modification of the boot record. Since the results could have been disastrous without the boot information backup, I have decided to uninstall GoBack and rely on the Win 98 backups of its system files and backups of important files. If you decide to continue using GoBack and upgrade to the latest version, I would caution you to be sure you have backups of you boot information.

finding people online

the umbrella, july 2000—the online journal of the hampton roads (va) computing community

UseNet Newsgroups—If the person has ever sent email to a UseNet group, try the following: Send mail to: mail-server@rtfm.mit.edu with the following one line in the BODY of the note: send usenet-addresses/<name> (name is the name of the person you are looking for. The name can be a full name, first and last name, or last name only.)

UseNet Newsgroups online for a name via DejaNews—<http://www.deja.com/usenet/>

Usenet Address finder on-line—<http://usenet-addresses.mit.edu/>. Usenet postings between July 1991 and February 1996.

Internet Address finder—<http://www.iaf.net/>

WhoWhere? PeopleSearch—<http://www.whowhere.com/>

InfoSeek's People Finder—http://infoseek.go.com/find/people_finder.html

Yahoo People Search—<http://people.yahoo.com/>. Includes the old Four11, White Page Directory, and the old LookUP! Directory

InfoSpace Find—<http://www.infospace.com/>

MSN White Pages—<http://in-115.infospace.com/info.msn/email1.htm>. Includes the old InfoSpace Accumail.

World E-mail Directory—<http://www.worldemail.com/>

Switchboard Find A Person—<http://www.switchboard.com/bin/cgiga.dll?MEM=1>

Excite Find A Person—http://www.excite.com/reference/email_lookup/

Also Bigfoot Find People—<http://www.bigfoot.com/>

Telephone directories worldwide—<http://4whitepages.4anything.com/network-frame/0,1855,7343-78030,00.html>

Got a number? Find the Name—<http://www.anywho.com/telq.html>. Reverse Lookups

Use Netscape Communicator's People Search—<http://form.netscape.com/peoplesearch/index.html>

to surge, or not to surge

by bob click, greater orlando computer user group

People purchasing new computers often ask what to do about power line and lightning protection. To emphasize the importance, it's better to understand household electricity, what it is and what affects it. Lets analyze all this, but in a visual manner.

Electricity in your home (in the USA) is rated at an "average" of 117 volts and is referred to as "AC" (Alternating Current). There are basically two different types of electrical power, AC and DC. Direct Current (DC) is so named because it maintains a near constant voltage of a certain value at all times, such as the 12-volt system in your automobile. DC is not normally used in the home any more except in unusual situations. Alternating Current (AC) is electrical power with the voltage constantly changing from one polarity to another (from positive to negative to positive, etc.).

For long distance transmission, DC decreases in voltage and is expensive to convert from one voltage to another. AC maintains its voltage better with the assistance of transformers that greatly increase the voltage for long distance transmission, then drop it back down for home use.

To illustrate AC electricity graphically, lets visualize or draw a large "S" laying on its side with a horizontal line running through the middle of it. Let's call the horizontal line "0" volts, and the bottom of our S will be -117 volts. The top of the S going above the horizontal line will be + 117 volts. Note that the value of our electricity starts at 0 volts dropping to 117 negative volts, then rises back up to the "0" volts line, continuing on up to positive 117 volts, then back down to the 0 level as the electron flow continually reverses. In our electricity, this complete "sine wave" takes place 60 times each second, continuing one after another in our graphical representation of electricity in your home.

In a perfect world, the voltages I described would remain constant, but in reality many things affect them. Electric Companies try to regulate power at a proper level, but certain conditions can still affect those voltages. For example, in hot weather many people turn on devices using large amounts of electricity, such as air conditioners, greatly loading the power line. The Electric Company has to compensate, although the voltage "could" still decrease if power lines are overloaded. If loads suddenly get lighter, the voltage can rise (dangerous for your computer) in spite of the Electric Company's regulation.

Sometimes a factory or business in an area has equipment using high amounts of electricity causing sudden surges up or down quicker than Electric Company equipment can adjust for. Some surges described would be seen as "spikes" in the graph you just drew, not to mention a possible low-voltage situation. Lets draw a very narrow V upside down on top of the + portion of the sine wave. That will be the spike and you can see that it would exceed the 117 volts your computer equipment is designed to operate at, possibly damaging components in its electronic circuitry.

In your own home, turning on a high-consumption device (such as a toaster, or especially an air conditioner) can cause voltage spikes in the home's electricity and also causes spikes when turned off. In my case, the computer room is in one end of the home and the electrical service box (entry point) is on the other end, making a long electrical run to the plugs in my computer room. Turning on the copier in that room, which initially draws heavy current, causes my computer's Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) to "beep" me that the supply voltage has gone below acceptable limits. That didn't happen when my copier and computer were on plugs closer to the power panel.

Lightning often strikes power lines and the resulting spikes can be carried down the line into your home's distribution system and into any unprotected electronic equipment. The Electric Company can only regulate so much, so lets examine protection for all this.

Surge protectors have unique electronics built-in that can smooth out those surges, dips and spikes in the electrical sine waves just illustrated and are designed to maintain the power's voltage at the correct level. The cheaper ones have a minimal amount of components and are actually not good protection. Many people prefer to turn on the computer, monitor and peripherals with one master switch (laser printers should not be included). That's fine if you have surge protection to handle such a surge,

but you should check that capability when choosing your protection. If it doesn't list those ratings in the brochure, it's probably not that good, so look for better equipment. Mine specifically stated that in its paperwork.

Good surge protectors will probably run about \$60.00. Many also carry up to \$25,000 insurance protection for excessive surges and lightening strikes. However, read the brochure to see if it's good in the event of a direct lightning strike. Some aren't.

You might think that if one is good, two might be better. Not necessarily, I'll explain later. If you can afford it I recommend an Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS). Why? Many areas often have a very short interruption of the power that doesn't effect most clocks, VCR, etc., but the computer notices. All of a sudden, it is rebooting and you've lost everything since your last "Save," not to mention the improper shut down and possibility of file corruption. Everyone has had power go out at one time or another and that's when a UPS devices provide surge protection as well as a temporary electrical source if the power fails. They mostly come in two types. Some switch extremely fast to a backup battery, automatically keeping your computer going. Another type lets your computer actually run off the battery and keeps it fully charged to supplement what your computer needs. I have no preferences there. They are available in different capacities. For the home computer, I suggest a 400 volt/amp capacity. Should your power go out and fail to come back on, it offers temporary power for easily halting your task, saving your data and shutting the computer down properly, probably allowing a maximum of 20 minutes.

A cheaper one (with a 250 volt/amp capacity) allows about six-to-ten minutes. That's still OK if you're at your computer when that happens and work fast to shut down. These times are for the average home computer and monitor, not including a printer. A laser printer should not be on the same surge protection as your computer and monitor because of a laser's high power

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surge

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consumption. A UPS is not necessary for a printer or scanner; however, separate, but adequate, surge protection is advised.

While the UPS is also a surge protector, it is typically not as good in the role of a dedicated surge protector, but will still do the job well enough. So why not use both? Two surge protectors will combine their ratings. But if combining a surge protector and UPS, microsecond timing involved in surge protection could conflict with the timing in the UPS. Surge protection companies say you can use a surge protector in the line "before" a UPS, but not after if you really want to use both. In fact, in the event of a lightning strike, their \$25,000 insurance may be void if they find you had both and connected them backwards.

A "Smart" UPS can also be upgraded to let your computer keep a continuous log of the power's voltage. Other software is available that will automatically save data, then shut down your computer if it is unattended when the power fails. Want another reason to buy a UPS — while a good surge protector can smooth out the spikes and maintain a proper voltage for you, "low voltage" on overloaded lines can also damage your computer equipment or cause data errors. A surge protector cannot make voltage out of thin air to accommodate a low voltage condition, but a UPS has backup batteries to compensate for it.

It's a known fact that lightning strikes ride in more on your phone line than they do on the power line, so it's also a good policy to include surge protection for telephone lines. Here in Florida, we are in the "lightning capital of the world" so many Florida residents make it a policy to unplug the power and phone lines to the computer as an added security during lightning storms (in the event of a direct hit), even though they own surge protection.

Does that fully insure me? Not necessarily — one of our club members did just that, dropping the power cord on the floor next to his receptacle. When he received a close lightning strike, it jumped from the wire inside the wall, through the wallboard, to the power cord attached to his computer. Considering the distance between the earth and clouds, that short

jump was no problem for lightning. His case was certainly unique though.

In summary, my advice is to buy high quality surge protection. Better advice (in my opinion) is to buy a UPS for your computer and monitor and separate surge protection for a laser printer or scanner. It's also important to add telephone line protection, either incorporated in the power's surge protector (or UPS), or separate telephone line protection. The dual protection is better because of the built in ground to shunt away the surges. It always appalls me when I see a salesperson sell somebody a \$1500 computer with a \$12.95 surge protector, which is almost useless. Surge protection is sort of a "pay me now, or pay me later" situation.

Surge protectors and UPSs are rated in "joules" and I recommend a rating of 90. Lesser ratings will still protect your equipment, but will often destroy themselves when hit by a surge if their rating is exceeded, and will require replacement. Surge protectors are mainly for upward surges and spikes. UPS devices can handle both upward and downward voltages, but are not quite as good at surge protection. In spite of everything I have described above, "absolutely nothing" will protect you in the event of a direct lightning hit.

One other thing to keep in mind is that the "metal oxide" devices in most surge protectors do wear out and it's wise to replace a surge protector about every four years. If the many choices of surge protection confuse you, seek a "knowledgeable" person in your user group for advice. Don't depend on the store's salesperson.

* Special thanks to my friends Paul Witherage from "Sarnia Computer User Group" and Ron Klair of "Central Florida Computer Society" for critiquing this article and offering their suggestions to improve it. Paul is a computer consultant in Sarnia, Ontario and Ron is a retired space engineer in Orlando, FL. Ron [rklair@cfl.rr.com] also writes a monthly column on space activities for both the Lockheed/Martin retiree and CFCS newsletters and makes it available to others.

Article courtesy of the Association of PC Users Groups (APCUG).

outlook express message-handling rules by john buck , stanford palo alto ug newsletter, june 2000

Outlook Express allows you to block messages from specified senders or to specify other message-handling rules.

I've just received a message from a sender I don't know. Judging from the title of the message, I don't even want to read it. I don't want to ask the sender to stop, because that can result in me getting more messages, possibly from other senders. So that I don't have to read additional mail from this sender, I selected the message, then clicked "Message/Block Sender .../OK", starting at the menu bar. Until I change my Blocked Senders List, messages from this undesired sender will be sent, unread, directly to my Deleted Items area. To edit my Blocked Senders List, I click "Tools/Message Rules/Blocked Senders List", starting at the main Outlook Express menu bar. Then I can edit the list.

Outlook Express also lets you create and edit other message-handling rules. As with blocking messages from a specified sender, you start by clicking Message as described above. Similarly, to edit or delete a rule, you start by clicking Tools as described above. For more information about blocking a sender or creating a rule for some other situation, use Outlook Express Help.

ICQ 2000

by cheryl floyed, 1960 pcug, june 2000

I just got the new ICQ 2000. Unlike my normal mode of operation, I had no idea it was out until an "ICQ cyber buddy" sent me an ICQ message asking if I'd seen the new version. They were floored when they found out that I hadn't even heard about it! I asked her what her thoughts were on it, wondering if it was even worth my trouble to go to the site. (You KNOW what I mean if you've ever been to ICQ's site, even though it has improved drastically over the years)

Her first impression was much like mine. It's kinda weird. Yep! Profound as it is, that was it. Weird. The interface is different. I wasn't happy... I was comfortable with my ICQ and didn't want it "AOL'd". (For those of you that don't know, AOL bought it a year or so ago and we've all been just waiting for the shoe to drop!) But she was happy with it overall so I thought; I'd better at least check it out. After all, I know I'll be getting questions about it soon! I'm supposed to be the ICQ Guru! (HA!)

Aside from the unusual interface, which we'll get more into later there are quite a few new enhancements. The first, and most touted, is the support for working behind a firewall. Yes, I know, supposedly it did before, but it was limited! VERY limited! So limited, that most people behind firewalls say that it didn't work! They claim this has been resolved, although I can't say from personal experience, YET! You don't have to go very far to find the new Shortcut Bar. You are probably quite familiar with the quick launch bar in Windows. Microsoft put a similar item included with Office, (which, in my opinion, is simply annoying) and there are various other similar programs available for download at almost every shareware site on the Internet. ICQ's new Shortcut Bar is a take-off on these other programs. The nice thing about it is that it resides along the right edge of your contact window. I've found it handy and since I have my ICQ contact window open anyway, it isn't in the way. You can set the auto-hide feature of the Shortcut Bar so it only appears when you hover your mouse over the right side of your contact window. I tried this but found I prefer to leave it available. It's easy to add and remove buttons and you can even add your own files and apps to this bar along with ICQ's choices. Possibly the reason I like to leave it available is because of the very improvement that I think really makes this new version.

You can set your contact window to auto-hide at a specified time interval. For the past several versions you've been able to have the contact window pop up on any incoming event, but that feature is now truly useful. You can have your contact window pop up when you need it, and once it hasn't been used for 30 or 60 seconds, it quietly slips into the background until it is needed again. Now that's handy! Don't even have to think about it.

Another fine addition is the new Split Message Mode. Have you ever been having one of those conversations that is slow enough, or you are busy enough, that you are constantly checking your message history with that person so you can see what the topic of conversation happens to be? Well, this happens to me all the time! I'll be visiting with two or three people and one of them will be a slower typist and pretty soon I have no idea where in the conversation we are. The Split Screen Mode looks similar to a chat. Each message is added to the screen so the entire conversation is available for viewing and it makes it seem more like a conversation. This is not the mode I'd use regularly, but it is nice to have around.

If you dig a bit deeper, you'll find better security. While they don't promise your IP won't be given out, they do try a bit harder to hide it. They've added what they call Answering Service but it's mainly just an easier way to change your "away" and "busy" messages; not that anyone sees those after just a few times of catching you in one of those modes.

And you'll find some decent customization choices, like being able to contract (or expand) certain parts of menus to cut back on clutter and improve readability. If you are using ICQ, you'll know they have been trying to become all things to all people. They've added email, web pages, paging system, alarms, to-do lists, communities, and now a newsletter. Some of these additions are nice, like the quick search. It can be really helpful.

If there are any die-hards out there, you'll be happy to know that the skins

community is already running wild. You'll find enough skins for your new ICQ to keep even the most avid skins fan happy. If you don't know what skins are, go to www.skinz.org <<http://www.skinz.org>>. ICQ is only one of the many programs that can be skinned.

So, bottom line, should you upgrade? That's what everyone always wants to know. Well, let me tell you this, I have a friend, my best friend, that networked her house. When she did, I suddenly could not just ICQ her. Each and every message I sent to her waited and waited before deciding to leave my machine and head for hers... sometimes would not go out at all. I'd have to send the message through email or something. Knocking on wood, those days are over:

I immediately notice that all my messages went out to her so quickly that I'd barely pressed the Send button before it was gone. This alone made the upgrade worth it to me. I was also having a weird conflict that made my ICQ contact window drop to the desktop even though I had my preference set to always stay on top. That problem seems to be solved too. I don't know why, but it is working better for me. Which by no means says that it will be all that important to you.

If you like your current version, stick with it. If you are behind a firewall, you may want to think about the upgrade. None of the features are worth the risk that is always involved in trying new software; particularly the first run. Of course, I know there are going to be those of you that have started your downloads even before you've gotten to this paragraph because you are too much like me, you need the latest and greatest. I do have one major complaint the new system seems to have a bigger footprint. My resources were run through the wringer with the new program. It takes a whopping 12%. Your results may be different, I hope so, but be prepared to go back to an earlier version if your system slows. Mine didn't slow down so I'm keeping it for now. See ya out there!

Tudie (aka Cheryl Floyed) is the Internet SIG Leader for the 1960 PC User Group. She can be reached at cheryl@floyed.com.

winders 98

author unknown, reprinted from CEBUG (Computer Erie Bay Users Group)

ERRONEOUS SHIPMENT

It has come to our attention that a few copies of the Southern edition of Windows 98 may have accidentally been shipped outside the South. If you have one of the Southern editions you may need some help understanding the commands. The Southern edition may be recognized by looking at the opening screen.

It reads WINDERS 98 with a background picture of the General Lee superimposed on a Confederate flag. It is shipped with a Daisy Duke screen saver.

Also, NOTE:

- Recycle Bin is labeled Outhouse.
- My Computer is called This Infernal Contraption.
- Dialup Networking is called Good Ol' Boys.
- Control Panel is known as the Dern Dashboard.
- Hard Drive is referred to as 4 wheel drive, and floppies are them little ole plastic disc thangys.

OTHER FEATURES:

Instead of an error message you get a winder covered with a garbage bag and duct tape.

OK = ats aww-right

cancel = hail no

reset = awwwww, shoot

yes = shore

no = Naaaa

find = hunt-fer it

go to = over yonder

back = back yonder

help = hep me out here

stop = ternit off

start = crank it up

settings = sittins

programs = stuff at does stuff

documents = stuff I done done

Also note that Winders 98 does not recognize capital letters or punctuation marks.

Some programs exclusive to Winders 98:

tiperiter.....A word processor

colering book.....a graphics program

addin mershene.....calculator

outhouse papernotepad

juke-boxCD Player

iner-net.....Microsoft Explorer

pichers.....A graphics viewer

IRS.....M/S accounting software

IRS2.....M/S accounting software with hidden files

coon dog.....American kennel club records

fishin.....Bass Anglers Sportsman Society records.

NRA.....National Rifle Association

shot gunRemington Arms price list

rifle.....Winchester price list

pisstel.....Smith & Wesson price list

truck.....Ford & Chevrolet dealers in AL by zip code

house.....Nearest trailer home repair service by zip code

carsame as truck just need two lists in North Carolina

cuzzins.....family history usually a 3 meg file

tax records.....usually an empty file

shells.....ammunition inventory another 3 meg file

bud.....list of Budwiser dealers by zip code

parts.....nearest junk yards by zip code

docveterinarians by zip code

We regret any sheeit it may have caused if you received a copy of the Southern edition. Y'all may return it to Microsoft for a replacement version.

Cordially yers, BILLY-BOB GATES

handy, hidden windows 98 utilities

by greg lenihan

(excerpts from an article by greg lenihan of the pikes peak computer application society in colorado springs, colorado.) as found in the weav newsletter, web enthusiasts association of victoria, june 2000

These utilities can be accessed by typing the commands below into the Start →Run box.

Link Check Wizard

Command: chklnks.exe

This wizard is found on the Windows98 install CD in the directory ToolsReskitDesktop. It scans all of the shortcut files on your system, and checks to see if the link points to an existing application or document. If the associated application or document is not found, it lists that file as a dead link, giving you the option to remove it. Copy Chklnks.exe to your Windows directory and create an icon on your desktop to use it.

IP Configuration Tool

Command: winipcfg.exe

This tool provides the current information about your IP address assigned when you connect to your Internet Service Provider. It includes your subnet mask and the gateway your ISP is using. This information can be helpful in connecting your system to other computers on the Internet. IP Config is found in your c:\Windows directory.

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

club information

HARD COPY is a monthly publication of SLO BYTES PC User's Group located in San Luis Obispo, California. Information in this Newsletter is derived from both our own membership and other PC User Group Newsletters. The purpose of this publication is to inform our members of meetings and provide information related to the use of IBM PC's and compatible computers.

Membership: Dues are \$25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter, full use of the public domain software library software drawing at the end of the meetings.

Article Submission: Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Articles should be provided in ASCII format without any type of formatting from your wordprocessor including tabs, indents, extra spaces, or highlighting. We prefer articles on disk but will accept hardcopies if necessary.

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meeting times

GENERAL MEETINGS are held the 1st Sunday of each month. Our meeting location is the San Luis Obispo I.O.O.F. Hall on Dana Street.

The General Meeting starts promptly at 2:30 p.m.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS) meet at 1:00 p.m.-2:15 p.m.

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for sale

Do YOU have some computer-related item you would like listed in this space? Contact Bob Ward, Editor at 756-2164.

treasurer's report



august 8, 2000

OPERATING FUND

Beginning Balance	\$2,051.98
Income	
Membership Dues	200.00
Refreshments	24.25
Dividends	10.69
Expenses	
Room Rent	75.00
NL Xerox	40.76
Postage	99.00
Mailing Lables	26.92
New Balance	<u>\$2,045.24</u>

EQUIPMENT FUND

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Misc.	5.00
New Balance	<u>\$58.39</u>



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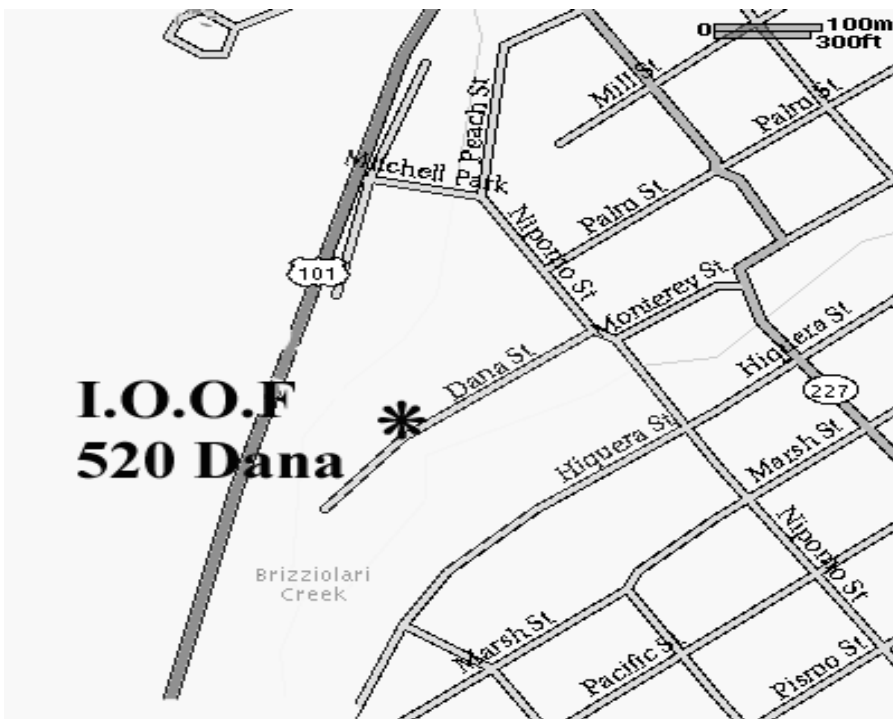
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Next Meeting
Sunday
September 3rd

1:00pm
Early SIG's

2:30pm
JIM TINLIN