

SLO Bytes Hard Copy

A publication of the San Luis Obispo PC Users Group

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August 2003

July SLO Bytes Meeting Review, by Alan Raul and Ray Miklas

The early General SIG meeting with Alan Raul began with a quick look at what's happening in the world of digital cameras. Digital cameras are getting smaller and have more features. Some of the latest entries into this segment of the digital camera market are the Canon G5, Nikon Coolpix 5400 and the Sony V1. These digital cameras are coined "prosumer cameras." This means they are digital cameras made for the consumer but have professional features.

The big players in the digital camera market today are Sony, Canon, Nikon and Olympus. It was noted that Sony is one of the world's largest manufacturers of CCD image sensors, which are used in digital video cameras and other similar devices. According to company estimates, it has an approximate 50 percent share of the entire market and 60 percent share of the market for digital still camera devices.

The two types of image recording devices found in digital cameras today are the CMOS and the CCD.

Some of the digital camera media used today is:

Compact Flash (Type I & II)
IBM (Hitachi) MicroDrive
Smart Media
Secure Digital
Floppy
CD
Memory Stick
Memory Stick Pro
xD-Picture Card
I-Stick

An image tank also known as a digital wallet is used to transfer images from your memory device to a holding location until you can get back to your computer. These are very handy on long trips when you have a limited number of MB for storage. Just a couple of examples of a digital tank are the Super DigiBin made by LeadingSpec http://www.leadingspect.com/prod_sdb.htm and the Image Tank G2 made by Jobo http://www.jobodigital.com/products/image_tank_g2.htm

For more information on digital cameras go to the following web sites:

Digital Photography Review

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

Steve's Digicams

<http://www.steves-digicams.com/>

Also demonstrated was the new PowerQuest Drive Image 7.

What's new in new PowerQuest Drive Image 7?

- Support for creating backup images directly from the Windows operating system.
- Create backup images directly to CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-RW, DVD+RW (including backups that span media).
- Restore backup images directly from CD-R, CD-RW, DVD-RW, DVD+RW and DVD-RAM, including spanned sets.
- Full support for saving backups to USB and FireWire drives.
- Mounting and dismounting of multiple backup image files directly from Windows Explorer.
- Export backup image feature lets you combine or create spanned sets.
- Improved interface and wizards.

PowerQuest Drive Image 7 also includes Drive Image 2002, which makes it an excellent value.

If you want to have the ability to create incremental backup images then you might want to consider PowerQuest V2i Protector 2.0 Desktop Edition for a modest price increase. It has the same features as Drive Image 7 with the ability to do incremental backup images but does not include Drive Image 2002.

A new beta web site from GOOGLE called FROOGLE was demonstrated. FROOGLE allows you to find products for sale from across the web.

<http://froogle.google.com/>

Ray stopped the show so we could get some of Nancy Vrooman's favorite munchies. Ummmmm... GOOD!

After refreshments and a lot of chit-chat among members, we opened our main meeting with **Our featured speaker David M. Streb**, MCSE-CEO of Exiis Corporation, a Microsoft Certified Partner. David's topic was: **"How to Reduce or Prevent Spam Mail"**

The first part of David's presentation consisted of a PowerPoint presentation which was aimed primarily at business organizations. It pretty much described how the Exiis Corporation goes about in tailoring its approach to solving potential security issues in the LAN that the business organization is running. This is best described on the Exiis home page <http://www.exiis.net>

"At **EXIIS.NET**, we believe there is no 'Standard' installation. Each client is very unique in their security requirements. We look at each facet of their network--from the physical layout, network design, and security policies, to the level of protection they have against viruses, Spam mail, and wireless technologies."

The second half of David's presentation consisted in describing various methods that we can use to defeat spammers and prevent viruses from penetrating our individual computers. He showed us some comprehensive and innovative methods for reducing, blocking and preventing spam from entering our email system. At the end, the question-and-answer session was most productive and lasted for quite some time, where members had their specific concerns (regarding spam) answered.

President's Message

At 1 PM Ralph and Alan will be demonstrating the new SLO Bytes Bulletin Board located at <http://users.boardnation.com/~slobytes/>

A computer question/answer session will follow the demonstration.

Some interesting web links:

- - - - Does Microsoft owe you money?

A California judge on July 18 gave preliminary approval to a landmark settlement under which Microsoft will pay \$1.1 billion to settle a class-action suit that claimed it overcharged consumers for Windows.

<http://www.townsend.com/media/microsoft.html>

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

(800) 203-9995

- - - - The whole world at your fingertips!

You can read any on-line US and International newspaper by visiting this web site search tool.

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

At 2:30 PM, our featured speaker will be Doug Chanley, representing **Alpha Software Inc.** Doug will be providing an overview of **Alpha Five Version 5**, a relational database system.

Alpha Five Version 5 (A5 V5) is the most feature-filled database and application development tool ever released by Alpha Software in its twenty year history. With Version 5 you will be able to track, report, and manage any information related to an activity or organization -- be it about people, projects, images, equipment or facilities. Version 5 introduces fundamental innovations to database software and adds a huge number of new capabilities that will appeal to users of all skill levels. The system is designed to provide the user with enormous power and flexibility in manipulating and reporting on data, without requiring the user have programming skills. Alpha Software Inc. is located in Burlington, MA. Their products are outlined on www.alphasoftware.com/products/default.asp

In his presentation, Doug will provide database basics (what they are, including basic and relational database structures, and how to use them). He will present the Alpha Five database specifications and outline some of the

system's capabilities by describing the Control Panel, Building Tables and Sets, Field Types, Adding Field Rules, Design Techniques (for forms, reports, letters, and labels), Database Operations, and Action Scripting. He will also discuss use of A5 V5 with MS Word Mail Merge and MS Excel.

Doug has been using Alpha Software database products since 1990, first applying their DOS-based Alpha Four Version 2.1 and continuing with subsequent DOS versions until Alpha Five Version 1, a Windows-compatible system, was released. He developed his skills at the "learn by doing" school of hard knocks, starting out by developing business and home applications for personal use and moving to applications useful to his workplace. As President of Doug Chanley Personal Consulting, Delano CA, he spends about half of his time in consulting and development system applications. He is also part of a larger team working on projects with other developers in the Southern California area.

Ralph Sutter, our able Webmaster, has been busy lately in acquiring our slobytes.org domain and moving our website from TCSN/Surfari.net to Gisol.com server where we will have much more space for our large website. We are certainly very grateful to TCSN/Surfari.net for hosting us (free of charge) during the last few years. (Read Ralph's write-up, below, in this Hard Copy).

August raffle. Marvin will continue to sell the \$2.00 raffle tickets (\$3.00 for non-members) at his table during our meeting. This raffle will consist of two programs from Microsoft: **FrontPage 2002** and **Publisher 2002** (these are not upgrade versions). These products were donated to us by the Microsoft "Mindshare User Group Team". The drawing for these prizes will be at the end of our August meeting. The first ticket drawn will qualify the holder to choose one of the products and the second ticket drawn will receive the remaining product. You don't have to be present to win, so mail in your check to Marvin (543 Gularde Rd., Arroyo Grande, CA 93420), or buy it at Marvin's table at our August meeting. If the winner/s is/are not present at our August meeting for the drawing, Marvin will contact the winners and resolve (with both parties) who receives which product.

You are invited to take advantage of the **money saving offer that KCBXnet (aka Slonet)** is extending to all current and future members of SLO Bytes. If you chose to subscribe to KCBXnet as your dial-up ISP, you and SLO Bytes will benefit. You will be billed only \$17/month and SLO Bytes will receive \$2/month from KCBXnet. Check out our web site's Announcements <http://www.slobytes.org> for further details.

If you have any **used ink-jet printer or toner cartridges** bring them to our meeting. We collect them (at Marvin's table) and turn them over to "Make A-Wish Foundation" who generate much needed funds for their organization by refurbishing and selling them.

--Ray Miklas

Webmaster Notes

The SLO Bytes web site recently moved to a new home. While the URL remains www.slobytes.org our Internet Service Provider is now Global Internet Solutions. In the past, our host had been TCSN. That organization provided us with free and reliable hosting for several years. On July 17th, with the encouragement of the SLO Bytes Board of Directors, I moved our site to GISOL. We now have much more storage space for expanding the site. Here are some recent additions. Perhaps you have noticed the Web Gallery. You'll find it at www.slobytes.org/photos This on-line photo album is the ongoing effort of Gary Docherty and other members of our HTML SIG. Whereas HTML SIG used to upload our practice pages to the free web hosting site, Topcities.com in exchange for an advertising banner on all of our pages, we now can practice on our own sub-domain, without the distraction of banners.

At the suggestion of Alan Raul, I just finished creating a bulletin board. To learn more about the SLO Bytes Bulletin Board, I invite you to point your browser to www.slobytes.org/bboard.html. The bulletin board itself resides at <http://users.boardnation.com/~slobytes>. Please use the new bulletin board to post questions and to answer the questions of fellow SLO Bytes members.

The HTML SIG is excited by the expanded resources available through GISOL and look forward to adding new content to the SLO Bytes web site. If you have ideas for the web site or comments on how to improve it, please

contact me at rsutter@pw-x.com.

Ralph Sutter
SLO Bytes Webmaster and HTML SIG Organizer.

Editor's Recommended Readings

The Users Group Network of Granada Hills CA publishes a newsletter "TUGNUT" <http://www.tugnet.org/> with the current issue complete on it's web page. There you will find a menu with, among other items, a section of ARTICLES from back issues, mostly by members. Most are informative and a few are humorous. I call your attention to "Hunting the Wild Computer" on the 2003 list.

I have previously called your attention to Woody's Windows Watch at <http://www.woodyswatch.com> and to Kim Komando's daily tip at <http://www.komando.com/newsletter.asp#friends> for informative articles. These however are weekly and daily e-mails and can become pervasive as they carry advertisements which are almost spam-like.

Editor's note:

If you have any comments, suggestions, wants, don't wants, beefs and/or ?????, please e-mail me at junate@charter.net.

Treasurers Report

June 15, 2003 - July 15, 2003

Income

Membership Dues	\$350.00
Refreshments	\$27.75
Raffle (Front Page & Publisher)	\$42.00
Dividends	\$6.59

Expenses

Rent	\$75.00
Refreshments	\$37.98
Checking Account	\$3,000.28
Balance	
Savings Account Balance	\$777.82

New Members

John Mathias
Audrey Chamberlain
Mitch Browne

Club Information and Meeting Times

SLO Bytes, a PC Users Group dedicated to educate its members in the use of personal computers, digital devices and software, meets on the first Sunday of each month at the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (IOOF) Hall at 520 Dana Street, San Luis Obispo. All meetings are open to the public at no cost. Special interest groups meet from 1 to 2:00 PM and guest speaker presentations begin at 2:30 PM. Contact Guy Kuncir (489-1395, gkuncir@charter.net) or visit www.slobytes.org for additional information about SLO Bytes and the scheduled presentation.

Hard Copy is a monthly publication of SLO Bytes PC Users' 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 PCs and various Operating Systems.

Membership: Dues are \$25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter via e-mail, technical assistance, raffle gift drawing at the end of the meetings, a voice in the affairs of the club, and comradeships.

Article Submission: Deadline for submission of articles is the 15th of each month. Articles should be E-mailed to

the editor at junate@charter.net

Disclaimer: Neither SLO Bytes PC Users' Group, its officers, editors, or contributors to this newsletter assume liability for damages arising out of this publication of any article, including but not limited to the listing of programming code, batch files and other helpful hints. Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted by other user groups if credit is given to both the author and newsletter from which it was taken. Reproduction of articles with a specific Copyright notice is prohibited without prior permission from the original author.

Outside SIGs

HTML-Internet SIG normally meets at 6:30 PM on the Monday following our Sunday General Meeting at Ralph Sutter's home in Arroyo Grande. Call Ralph at (805) 489-8678 for directions

Linux SIG normally meets on Thursday at 6:30 PM (following our Sunday's General Meeting) at KCBX.net [a.k.a. SLONET] Training Center, 4100 Vachell Lane, SLO.

SLO Bytes Officers/Volunteers:

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Ralph Sutter (Secretary/Webmaster/HTML-Internet SIG) rsutter@pw-x.com
Bill Avery (Contributing Columnist/Win95/98 SIG)
Alan Raul (General SIG/Linux SIG)
Nancy Vrooman (Refreshments)
Peter Stonehewer (Refreshments)
Nate Wallenstein (Editor and contributing columnist)
Ken Stilts (Set-up/Clean-up)
Cliff Buttschardt (Set-up/Clean-up)
John Enos (Set-up/Clean-up)
Bill Palmerston (Set-up/Clean-up)

SLO Bytes Website www.slobytes.org

PDF version of this mailing and previous **Hard Copy's** are available at <http://www.slobytes.org/news.htm>