

SAN FRANCISCO PERSONAL COMPUTER
USERS GROUP

eBLUE
NOTES

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May - June 2001



Who We Are, What We Do and How You Can Join the Fun!

The San Francisco PC Users Group, founded in 1982, serves as a regional volunteer forum for the exchange of ideas, industry insights and solutions to problems, etc. related to using personal computers having the Intel x86 or compatible processor.

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Annual membership in The San Francisco PC Users Group includes, among other benefits, monthly meetings, a one year subscription to *Blue Notes*, and Internet access. Cost: \$25 for individuals, \$30 for families and \$50 for businesses. E-mail our Membership Registrar, membership@mail.sfpcug.org, or attend a monthly meeting (see details inside and calendar). An application form can be found on the last page of this issue. Once completed, mail it with your payment to the SFPCUG Membership Director, 3145 Geary Blvd., Box 284, San Francisco, CA 94118-3300

Internet Services for All Members

Internet access is a major incentive for SFPCUG membership. Visit our web site: <http://www.sfpcug.org> where you will find, information about *Blue Notes*, the club's dial-up Internet services, activities of our various Special Interest Groups, etc. PPP accounts are available - e-mail: help@mail.sfpcug.org or contact our WebMaster at webmaster@mail.sfpcug.org or 415-665-3599.

The Internet SIG offers access to a shared account for experimenting with Web technology, including CGI scripting. Contact the WebMaster for details.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Users gather in SIGs to explore and solve specific problems related to software and/or hardware. The Calendar will list dates and venues. If a SIG addressing your interest(s) does not exist, call 415-665-3599 or 415-346-2644 to organize one.

Write a Review on New Software and it's Yours, Free!!

Vendors frequently offer new software or books to the SFPCUG so that an interested member can give it a test run and keep the product in exchange for a published review in *Blue Notes*. Our Product Review Coordinator can arrange to obtain software you want to review. Guidelines for reviews appear regularly in *Blue Notes*, or ask the Product Review Coordinator for a copy.

Steering Committee Meetings

The SFPCUG Steering Committee Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month at the upstairs meeting room of Round Table Pizza on Geary Blvd. and 16th Ave.

The SFPCUG Steering Committee discusses issues of immediate importance to the Group and makes plans for future activities. Steering Committee meetings are open to all SFPCUG members. Any Group member having attended two of four preceding Steering Committee meetings is eligible to vote.

General meetings

General meetings are held on the 3rd Tuesday of each month. Doors open at 6:15 PM for SIGs and the general meeting begins at 7PM and end by 9PM

First time guests are admitted free, repeat guests are asked for a donation of \$4.

Location: Meetings now take place in the auditorium of the Community College District Office, 33 Gough Street, (a half-block south of Market Street) San Francisco, CA There is ample free parking in front of the building. Civic Center BART and MUNI is ½ a block away.

The latest information on programs and location for upcoming general and steering committee meetings is available on our web site <http://www.sfpcug.org>. Always check for late breaking news.

Publication in Blue Notes

Follow the structure of a previous article in *Blue Notes*.

- * **Name/version of the subject program/book.** What does the program do and on what operating platform (s)? Does it satisfactorily fill a genuine need, e.g. task, entertainment, utility, etc.?
- * **Reviewer:** name and email address.
Name and reputation of the company distributing the product. Available mail address and phone number(s)
- * **At A Glance:** A 1-to 4 rating (worst to best)
- * **Price:** MSRP, retail or street
- * **System Requirements:** (self-explanatory)
- * **Pros:** Ease of use, learning, etc? Documentation: comprehensive, intelligible? Support? Does it deliver as advertised? If a book, is the author's style smooth or challenging? Is the Index useful?
- * **Cons:** Shortfalls, if any
- * The body of your review
- * Graphics welcome and requested if possible

When addressing technical, complex issues, endeavor to be as comprehensive and street-level clear as possible.

- * Use one space between sentences, two carriage returns at the end of each paragraph
- * Re-read your work carefully, objectively, checking word, sentence and logic flow to ensure you say precisely what you mean to say, clearly
- * Do not use indents or tabs
- * Spell-check your work

Procedure for submitting articles for publication.

Save your article as a pure ASCII file with line breaks, and a **.TXT** extension. You may alternately save your files in Rich Text Format (**.RTF** extension) then send them to bluenotes@mail.sfpug.org. Should special formatting be necessary, forward a hard copy to the Editor. Contact *Blue Notes* staff by e-mail, bluenotes@mail.sfpug.org.

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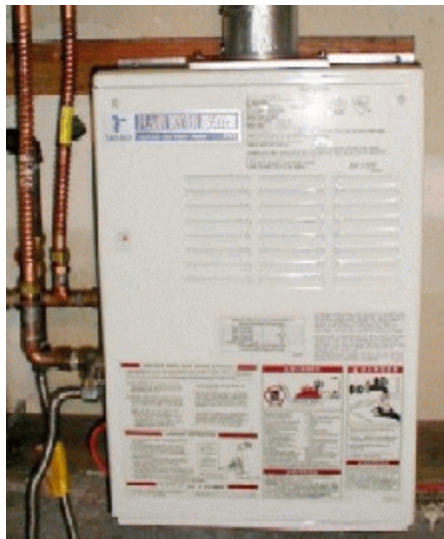
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Hot Water, Tech Bench, and Right-Click

By Butler Crittenden, President

PG&E and Hot Water

Lately I've gotten a big kick out of asking people to guess my latest gas bill. Yes, I know this is a computer club, but some things are perhaps more important than computers.



There's been a need for hot water for as long as recorded history, and no doubt well before that. Computers have been crucial to daily life for only the past very few years.

After the person questioned about my gas bill finally realizes I'm serious, there tends to be a pause and then a guess in the hundreds of dollars. Most people who pay their own utilities have had this experience. I then ask the questionee to sit down, as I don't want to be responsible for any accidents, and casually blurt out \$4.18 cents for 4 therms, 29 days. After they begin to edge away for fear of a powerful whiff from the questioner I hasten to explain that the "no", is not because I've stopped using hot water, but because I now have a flash hot water heater. Which is to say, an "on demand" unit that only fires up, literally, when I hit one of the hot water faucets upstairs in my house. The flash unit is on the right. My upstairs neighbor's is on the left. The day each month the PG&E bills come I can hear screaming from her apartment.

This unit is manufactured by Takagi, and it and similar units are used all over the world, just not in the "good ole U.S.A.," because we're little piggies and proud of it--we've got plenty of energy to burn. Oh, well, we used to in the good old days.

On-demand may not be a solution for everyone, and they are not cheap (twice to three times a regular one), especially if you can't install it yourself. However, only a few months of \$20 gas bills would reduce their cost fast enough. And they're not quite like having Old Bertha fired up 24/365, even when you're out of town or asleep, just in case you want some hot water. A friend and fellow club member has cut his family's gas bill by about 30 percent, and this with wife, three teens, a first grader, and

plenty of company including grandma and cousins. The on-demand unit takes about 45 seconds to reach the shower, instead of perhaps 20 seconds. The water is quite hot at first, requiring it to be turned down before stepping in, but after a minute or two it's necessary to turn it up a hair, as downstairs the flash unit goes from high-heat to normal-heat. Feel free to stay in the shower all day if you want and can afford it. Not being a frequent tub user I can only report what I've heard from my friends--it's just as fast and easy to fill. Wishing to save as much as possible I've changed a hot-water habit or two. First, I now seldom use the hot water in the kitchen sink. The dishes rinse just fine in cold water, and then go into the dish-washer, which both uses the hot water and superheats it. Hand-washing with cold water is usually sufficient. My new washing machine, a front-loading high-efficiency unit, works fine with the cold/cold setting. (Perhaps I'll experiment with hot/cold or warm/cold now that I know the price is right.) The new dryer is a gas unit, which I use for many items but avoid for those that hang-dry well. The stove is gas, and used regularly, although for a single person this is not like the amount a family would require. My heat is from a gas furnace, but like many San Franciscans I don't use it all that often--mostly in the morning or evening to "take the chill off," relying on layers of clothing for really chilly days.

In summary, I'm not saying everyone can go from 30 therms or more down to four, nor that my use will always be so low, but this technology is certainly worth considering. Oh, it does have a "computer" in it.

Tech Bench

Working for Robert Austin handling the Tech Bench at their Oakland



and San Francisco computer shows has been quite an experience--mostly positive, though occasionally pretty frustrating. Club member John Scott is in charge at the San Francisco show, with yours truly, often Ron, and usually Don Oclassen as assistants. At the Oakland show Ron Frederick and I handle the honors, with others often helping. At the last Oakland show Ron brought Tipton Krimont, a dedicated pro with years of experience at a major resale nonprofit. We had Tom McLoughlin helping and getting help; ditto Kathleen O'Connor. "Talkative Tom" Matthews turned up; it was good to see an old member, who is now out and about some medical problems. Tom recruited me into the club back in 1991--at

the club's Cow Palace booth. The shot included here is before a San Francisco Cow Palace show, with Don Oclassen posing.

Robert Austin provides the monitors, keyboards (AT/PS2), mice, power strips, etc. We do our best to provide the brainpower, but when dozens of people start lining up with hardware problems, new hardware installations, questions, advice sought and offered, the pressure begins to build and the fun starts.

It'd be impossible to run through all the tips and tricks we've learned. Example: a computer would let us get into the BIOS screens, but then just flashed before any booting. (It had been working fine--until the teenage son tried to fix something.) We tried swapping the memory, video card, removing extra cards, checking and changing IDE cables, just about everything. Then the owner said something that triggered

the thought that perhaps the Power LED, Power, Speaker, etc. cables had been changed. After pulling them all and re-connecting only the Power cable, it worked fine. Then it was just a matter of getting the rest onto the correct posts. Apparently a "closed loop" cable such as Turbo or KeyLock was plugged into the wrong place and was causing the flashing. I called John Scott to let him know about this one, only to learn he would have caught it immediately. Calls and email posts are how we share the solutions to these "stumpers"--a slow-but-sure way to build up experience.

Rather than go on and on with such tales, let me invite those who are interested in volunteering to join us some Saturday. Paula Mochel, Doug Lym, Don, Tom, Joyce Inouye, Pierre, and a few others have already done so, and I think everyone so far has enjoyed matching wits with the

computers and questions. For the record, Ron, John, and I receive small stipends for our work.

Right-Click, Explorer, and Properties

If there's one thing I've noticed about many Windows users, even some pretty experienced ones, it's that they haven't yet learned about right-click, and they don't use Windows Explorer effectively. Some don't use Explorer at all, and instead stick to the folders view of My Computer when it is double-clicked. They just keep double-clicking folders until finally drilling down to the one they want, ending up with a Desktop full of folders.

Folks, if you don't want to right-click, get a Mac. I've started telling newbies and a few others to walk down the street chanting (under their breath, we don't want any arrests) "Right-click, right-click, right-click," hopefully when their right foot hits the pavement. When the left foot lands the appropriate chant is "Properties, Properties, Properties." I also recommend that people learn to hold the mouse in such a way that they can pick it up with their pinky and thumb, leaving the three middle fingers for left-click, wheel/nothing, and right-click. Being able to pick up the mouse helps when you run out of pad or desk space, and forces you to use the three middle fingers for actual mouse operations. This is a little like talking about chop-sticks, where there certainly is reasonable variation in how to hold the darn things, but you'll never get very far using just one finger, which I've seen plenty of times when it comes to right-click and left-click.

In a basic sense, Explorer is your computer. If the I.R.S. decides they want your computer, they take your hard drive, or so I've been told. I have it on good authority that crooks often use computers in their daily business, just like the rest of us, and have learned that their hard drives are what makes them vulnerable. Hence a series of strategies have been

developed for "instant wipe" of hard drives, and a thorough erase, not a simple reformat or something similar. (No doubt this was the case on the U.S. spy plane that landed on that island in the South China Sea.) If the bad guys, Feds, and hackers have got this down pat, it's about time the rest of us "get it" also.

A good idea is to put the Explorer icon at the top left of your screen, just to the right of My Computer. If you don't like extra icons, learn to right-click My Computer and then (left) touch Explore. If you use the Office Short-cut bar, make Explorer the far left icon, separated from the others by a space. Once in Explorer, learn to use the left and right panels effectively, which primarily means to Expand (click + sign) folders on the left, then click the actual folders to see the content on the right of the slider. And if you have a LAN (Local Area Network), don't forget that the other computers on the LAN can be reached by Expanding "Network Neighborhood" or its equivalent. Then you can drag and drop from one computer to another, a great way to back up VIFs (very important files). (Two computers can be networked for about \$25; new wireless networking is much more expensive but still reasonable, and now works well.)

Get in the habit of using Explorer, and right-clicking files and folders in Explorer. For example, want to know the size of the Windows folder? Right-click the folder, then left-click Properties. The total size will come up, including the sub-directories. Often I want to know the size of just a few files, or a few hundred. Highlight the files in question, right-click / Properties.

- ◆ The basic rule is: right-click = menus/options, left-click = actions.
- ◆ One of the most useful menu items is Properties.

- ◆ Right-click and drag/drop gives the choice of Copy or Move, while left-click and drag **within a hard drive** (e.g., C: to C:) almost always yields Move rather than Copy or Create a short-cut.
- ◆ If you stick to right-click and drag you're less likely to Move a folder when you meant to Copy.

Try right-clicking everything. Start by right-clicking items in Start / Programs and touching Properties. In Windows 98 and above you'll get the details of where the short-cut leads. You can also right-click a program or icon in Start / Programs, hold down the right button, and drag the icon to the Desktop, where you'll then have the choice of Copying or Moving the icon there. If you use Microsoft Office's Short-cut bar you'll discover that right-clicking the icons yields different menus than right-clicking the far left or the dark spaces between icons.

We all know there are hundreds of tips and tricks we'll never know and use, partly because the need does not arise. I've found that a good rule of thumb is that if a need does arise, odds are the programmers have already thought of it. The first place to look is Help, which for some reason often goes begging.

Recently someone asked how to build-in templates into Netscape or Internet Explorer. Netscape includes a Templates folder in its mail composer. Just create the body of the email and Save As into the Templates folder. In future, open the folder, double-click the template, change the details required, add the Address and Subject, and Send. Or go into the Options / User / Signature section and put in the name of a text (.txt) file you've created and saved somewhere, perhaps C:\My Documents\MySig.txt.

In Outlook Express signatures are added under Tools / Options. I use multiple "signatures." One comes up by default (phone numbers and club URL), but I can click Insert / Signature / Club when I want our mail address added. Perhaps not so obvious, I have other "signatures" that are actually boilerplate quotations I like to use from time to time. There's nothing to stop you from having dozens of form letters, your resume, etc., stored as "signatures," ready for easy insertion when needed. Or you could save "templates" in the "Drafts" or "Templates" folder, then open a template (e.g., dues due letter), and Copy / Paste it into a new message window, then Address / Subject and Send.

If you have other such tips and tricks, please send them to me. We'll figure out a way to include them in Blue Notes, or perhaps develop a section of www.SFpcUG.org to host them. All other suggestions and ideas are welcome, too, as our objective it is to keep each other informed, learn as much as possible, and have fun doing so.

Editor's Notes

by Tom McLoughlin

Welcome to the May-June issue of Blue Notes. This issue includes a very timely article for me. It is written by Rod Ream from Southern California, and it is titled "Is Your Windows CD Worn Out? Don't Fret!!" I recently attempted to upgrade my PC and was required to

reinstall Windows 98. To my chagrin, the needed installation was stopped because a certain help file simply could not be located. I thought the disk was damaged. After reading Rod's article, I see another method for solving the problem.

Butler's offering in this issue, President's Message, tells of **Tech Bench**. I am a first-hand beneficiary of **Tech Bench**. Last Saturday, I could not get a switch to work. Solution: rush the PC down to the Oakland Convention Center and **Tech Bench** analyzed and corrected the problem. Another issue was to confirm that a K-6 chip and motherboard, which were previously diagnosed as damaged and beyond repair, were in fact fully functional. This was very good news. I note that a number of potential new members and every day people came by **Tech Bench** with questions that I was asking 15 years ago.

It's worth suggesting that the SFpcUG, in concert with **Tech Bench**, offer online Random Access on our web page. This would give people who come by **Tech Bench** a resource that would offer answers to questions that are a bit more thought out and perhaps researched.

This issue along with Butler's comments includes our syndicated articles by Bob Click and the APCUG. We have a book review from Carol and an offering from Ron Feiertag. Thanks to the both of you.

By the time this issue "hits the street", Pierre Hahn, my co-editor, will be in France for a much deserved vacation. Pierre is pursuing his hobby: Genealogy. *Bon Voyage*, Pierre

If you need to contact me, feel free to do so at bluenotes@sfpcug.org. Take care.

New Officers... Old Officers

The current slate of officers have agreed to serve for another year in their same positions. This slate was voted on and approved by acclamation at the April General Meeting.

President: Butler Crittenden

Vice-President: Don Oclassen

Secretary: Judy Gaer

Treasurer: Harold Charns

Thank you for a wonderful year, and thank you for serving this year.

The DealsGuy For April

**By Bob Click
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group**

New To The Column

Greg Lenihan, editor for Pike's Peak Computer Application Society's newsletter, and Amy Kriston, editor for Baltimore PC User Group's newsletter, e-mailed me about using the column. With lightning-like deliberation, my answer was "absolutely yes." They even included the information for my Web site in their request, which is rare. You will find their club's data and a Web site link on my distribution page.

Pike's Peak has gone to all electronic newsletters and Baltimore is in the process of doing the same, as have a number of other groups. I've been thinking about giving up on this column, but with this continued support, I'm still hooked. I just wish I could get more of the missing groups that use my column listed. Please e-mail me if your user group information is missing. One vendor was not impressed with my number count on the distribution page. How do I explain that it is still incomplete?

I Must Be Important

At a Greater Orlando Computer UG meeting the other evening, I decided to show the members the "AdAware" software I wrote about last month. Since I spend very little time on the Net, and only use a

dial-up connection, I was dumbfounded when it found seven items on my hard drive that it didn't like. A knowledgeable member said they are all spyware. Of course I checked the box to get rid of them. Oh yes, I also have Norton Internet Security.

Talk About Spying!!

Fortunately, I don't get much of it, but many people have a habit of forwarding all kinds of jokes, sayings and other information they think their friends should know about. Some even forward advertisements they think you'd like. Two problems - they don't usually remove all the headers and Cc addresses, and many experienced computer users don't want all that junk. Think about it, you have just compromised all those people's e-mail addresses that were Cc'ed (carbon copy) when they should have been Bcc (blind carbon copy), and they might even be passed on again. I know if I were on that list, I wouldn't appreciate my name being passed around like spam, and possibly put in a "spam" address list.

Further, it is possible for the original sender of a message, usually spam, to include JavaScript code capable of actually reporting back to the original sender information concerning: if you read the message, if you forwarded it to somebody and who it was. It is even possible for this embedded code to capture part or all of any added text you might have forwarded and report it back as well. This JavaScript could also be used to send a proposal to someone and have the private messages of the other participants discussing it sent back to the original sender, unbeknownst to the recipients.

There is much more on this subject, so I suggest you go to [<http://www.privacyfoundation.org>] and learn more about all this.

Learn how to turn off the JavaScript in your software, but that doesn't stop it from still being in the forwarded message to the next person.

How Low Can It Go?

Many consider Net Object's Fusion 5.0 an excellent high-end Web development product and I noticed it listed for a second time in a PC Connection catalog at only \$49.95 after a \$50 mail-in rebate. Looks like they really want your business, so if you are interested, call PC Connection at 1-800-800-5555. It used to be \$495.00 when it was introduced a few years ago.

Prevent The Cat From Chasing Your Mouse

A few months ago I wrote about the CueCat, which was designed to actually be a spy if you installed their software. Now I find it doesn't have to be that way. Some may have read the article by Barbara Kreiss of Amador Computer Users Group about the CueCat, but for those who didn't, Barbara has given me permission to include an excerpt.

She says "Check out [<http://www.readerware.com>], for a product that has been around for a while that now supports the CueCat, and with no tracking. Want to catalog your library? Swipe the bar codes, it does the rest. They actually have Linux support too. It is the CueCat software that does the tracking, so avoid CueCat's software and you have a very useful device with a great price."

While the CueCat is free from Radio Shack, this software will cost you \$40 if you register it.

Pocket Sized Storage

You may remember my writing about the neat little Pockey drive I found at Comdex, and how small it is. I had occasion to correspond

with their marketing manager and asked them for a deal. My Pockey drive easily fits in my tee shirt pocket and the twenty-gig model is the same size. Just plug it into your USB slot, install the drivers, and it comes to life. You also get two USB cables and a cloth pouch for it. I love mine and it does a good job. Inside, it contains a 2 1/2" hard drive. As for speed, it is only limited by the USB capabilities. Go to [<http://www.pockeydrives.com>] for pictures and more info.

Their "Bob Click" offer is thus: Call Pockey Drives direct at 1-877-7POCKEY (1-877-776-2539) and mention "Bob Click." Pockey will give you a \$50.00 discount on the 10-gig drive (MSRP \$299.95, final answer -- \$249.95), or \$80.00 discount on the 20-gig drive (MSRP \$399.00, final answer -- \$319.95). A friend said it's better than you can find on the Web. They didn't mention deals on the 6-gig model. I don't know the S&H. They are great people to deal with.

I might also mention that I was told the reason I can't get mine to work on my Toshiba laptop is because Toshiba used some defective NEC chips in some of their laptops. Looks like I am back gunning for justice again. If you want to know more about that problem, go to [<http://www.usb.org/forums/retail/messages/8286.html>] and check that out.

I've Been Waiting For This One

I was promised this at Fall Comdex in Las Vegas and I finally ran into Dave Whittle again at a local user group presentation. He graciously delivered even better than originally promised. This is a great offer during April and May -- be sure to take advantage. Since these prices are the same as he offers at user group presentations, this is a great chance for small groups with an attendance too small to qualify for Dave's official presentations. I'm sure all of you are familiar with the

products, if not, check their Web site at [<http://www.mgisoftware.com>], so I'll simply list the prices. I was especially impressed when he converted a group of pictures to a panoramic view. Here are the deals:

MGI PhotoSuite 4 (retail \$49.95)-- special \$30.00 MGI VideoWave 4 (retail \$99.95) -- special \$50.00 Bundle of PhotoSuite 4 + VideoWave 4 (retail \$149.90) -- special \$60.00 MGI PhotoVista 2.0 (retail \$49.99) -- special \$25.00 MGI SoftDVD MAX 4.0 (retail \$39.99) -- special \$20.00 Set of all 4 titles (retail \$239.88) -- special \$90.00 Add \$6.95 for shipping (Dave says he'll offer FREE S&H *IF* you write "DealsGuy" on your order!)

You may order by US mail if you pay by check, or by fax or mail if you pay with VISA or MasterCard. Please provide your name, complete mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. Then list the product(s) ordered and the prices. Total it all up and include your check or credit card # with expiration date, and signature. Send your order to:

Webworking Services 653 North 600 East Springville, UT, 84663 Or fax your order (only CC orders) to 1-801-489-0609

All Together Now, Synchronize - Say What?

LapLink was one of the APCUG sponsors at Fall Comdex events and took very good care of us at their event. At the event, I talked to their Sr. Public Relations Manager who sent me this special offer for APCUG members. LapLink's PCsync is normally \$69.95, but temporarily you can purchase PCsync for just \$49.95 (US). They demonstrated it in the presentation and we saw large data files virtually fly from one laptop to another.

Unofficially, USB Could Mean 'User's Super Buddy'

Key benefits include: * Move large files or groups of files quickly * PCsync's ultra-fast USB Network cable and serial cable included! * Designate a folder on your hard drive to share with other PCsync users. * Securely access files over the Internet.

To take advantage of this offer, call LapLink at 1-800-343-8080 and tell them you are an APCUG member.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound.

Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [dealsguy@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [http://www.dealsguy.com] for past columns. Also, I keep adding to my "articles of interest" there.

More

**By Bob Click
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group**

I often write about things I don't like, but I also don't hesitate to write about something I do like. When looking for a CD-RW drive for a new computer a friend just assembled for me, I chose the Iomega CD-RW drive because it was the best deal I saw at the time and I respected the brand, but I am VERY impressed with Iomega's tech support.

I had minor questions and a slip included in the package with tech support information urged me to call if I had any problems. It was a free call, and in spite of heavy traffic, I only waited 10 minutes to have three questions answered quickly by a very friendly and knowledgeable person. What a nice experience. They'll get my business the next time, even if the product is a bit more money.

On the other hand, I bought a Linksys Router with a four-port hub to use for networking my computers, and for the DSL I've just subscribed to. After getting the DSL up and running on it, I had problems uploading my e-mail and any new files to my Web page. I've ended up using the old dialup connection for that. Earthlink's tech support first asked if I had a Linksys router (yes) and suggested that I should get help updating my router's BIOS from Linksys. He said it is a known problem with Linksys routers. I called Linksys tech support and was eventually asked to leave my name and number after waiting 20

minutes. My return call came from Linksys four days later when I was out. Great! Maybe I'm lucky they even took my call, but on the other hand, it was a free call to them. But, my router still isn't working properly and a second call is fruitless so far. Am I expecting too much these days?

***Still Good**

The Pockey drive should still be good this month so call 1-877-7POCKEY (1-877-776-2539) and mention "Bob Click." Also, the Laplink PCsync deal should still be good this month. Call LapLink at 1-800-343-8080 and tell them you are an APCUG member.

Last month, a few people wished I had included short descriptions of the MGI products, so I'll do that:

PhotoSuite 4.0 certainly makes it easy to edit, organize, enhance and share all of your photos. When I say enhance, I really mean it. Dave's enhancements had us rolling in the isles at his presentation. UG price - \$30.00.

VideoWave 4.0, the complete PC and Web video experience. Capture, edit, produce and share your video. All you need to create professional-quality videos with powerful editing and "special effects" tools that are easy to use. UG price - \$50.00. (Bundle of PhotoSuite 4 + VideoWave 4 - \$60.00)

PhotoVista 2.0 creates the most impressive 360-degree Web Panoramas, something a viewer will "experience" rather than just look at. I was impressed when I saw it. UG price - \$25.00.

SoftDVD Max 4.0, a DVD player software delivering maximum performance, total Web integration and superior audio, all with an easy-to-use interface. UG price - \$20.00. (Bundle of all four titles -

\$90.00).

Order by US mail if paying by check, or by fax or mail if you pay with VISA or MasterCard. Please provide your name, complete mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address. Then list the product(s) ordered and the prices. Total it and include your check, or credit card number with expiration date and signature. Send order to:

Webworking Services, 653 North 600 East, Springville, UT, 84663

Or fax your order (only credit card orders) to 1-801-489-0609. Don't miss this golden opportunity, and now for the deals:

***Aladdin Closeout Sale (Both Mac & Windows)**

I've had this posted on my Web site's Announcement page because of the time frame, but I'm repeating it here because that page hasn't had much traffic. Aladdin is having a closeout sale until April 30, which means it'll be over when you read this. However, I talked to them at the FACUG Conference and they said if an order was not very late, they would probably honor it, so don't delay. Here are the items:

The following Aladdin products are on clearance:

IntelliNews 2.0 (Mac) only \$4.95

MacTicker 1.6.1 (Mac) only \$4.95

Sundial California 2.0 AND Sundial Hawaii 2.0 (Mac). Both only \$9.95 - dazzling desktop scenery that moves with the time of day. DragStrip 3.7 (Win) only \$9.95 - One click launches applications, files, Web sites and more. Aladdin FlashBack 1.1 (Win or Mac) only \$9.95 - Add unlimited undos to all your favorite software. Private File 2.0 (Win) only \$9.95 ShrinkWrap 3.5.1 (Mac) only \$19.95 Visit their Web site [<http://www.aladdinsys.com>] for complete descriptions.

How do you take advantage of these great deals? Go to: [<http://www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups/>] and look for the "UG Clearance Sale Order Form" link. Please download the PDF order form and make as many copies as you need to distribute to your members. Or, you can direct your members straight to this site to download their own order form. All orders MUST be mailed in using this order form.

Fund-raisers!! User group officers should be aware of Aladdin's 5% rebate program to an "affiliate" user group which gets user groups a 5% rebate for all of your member's purchases. I doubt this applies to the closeout items though. Get more information on the Announcements page on my Web site, or check the Aladdin Web site.

***Help Yourself To A Little Extra Discount**

O'Reilly Publishing is offering us a little bit extra off the price of certain books until May 13, 2001. Here is what Denise says:

"In celebration of the 1-year anniversary of the O'Reilly/Pogue Press collaboration on the best selling 'Missing Manual Series,' O'Reilly would like to extend a special discount to user group members: Order direct from O'Reilly and receive 25% off all books in the 'Missing Manual Series.' In particular, your members might be interested in: Windows Me: The Missing Manual Windows 2000 Pro: The Missing Manual This is an extra 5% saving above the regular UG discount of 20%! Offer expires May 13th, 2001. To order, call: 800-998-9938 -- ask for Customer Service. When ordering, be sure to give the customer service representative this discount code 'UGMM.'

For product info, go to [www.oreilly.com] (this discount not offered on orders placed online). Please send this message to your UG members. Thanks, Denise."

***An Old Buddy (Software) Captures Your Screen**

Many have used "SnagIt" in the past and liked what it does. I talked to the "TechSmith" user group coordinator recently who offered this discount for my column. There are many uses for capturing all or parts of a computer screen, such as an instructive review of a product, or detailed instructions. SnagIt does all this with ease and outputs it as a graphic, text or video file, and will send the information to the printer, the Clipboard, a file, or as an e-mail attachment from any MAPI enabled e-mail client. A wizard will help if necessary. MSRP is \$39.95, but our user group price is \$35.95

TechSmith's "Camtasia" is harder to describe since it does many tasks. Camtasia's suite of tools produces a video of anything you see on your screen and makes it easy to record, edit and publish high fidelity videos. Use them for computer-based training, product demonstrations, presentations, online help, tech support solutions, sales demonstrations, Web site content and much more.

You can move in closer with zoom and pan the capture frame across the screen for more detail. Use ScreenPad to easily annotate your video with text, arrows and callout boxes. Even "brand" your video with a watermark if you like. Yes, you create standard AVI files or broadcast your screen live over the Internet.

I'm enjoying my review copy and may be a bit over exuberant, so check the TechSmith Web site for better descriptions. [<http://www.techsmith.com>] "Camtasia's" user group price is \$134.95 (MSRP \$145.95). Order these fine programs by calling the sales department at 1-800-517-3001, or fax to 1-517-333-1888. Mention your user group's name. For a better discount, order the "SnagIt/Camtasia Bundle" for just \$152.95.

***Hey Folks, How's The Ol Ticker?**

If you're into stocks, this program puts a stock ticker across the top of your monitor with only the stocks you want on the ticker. Joe Issac wrote about this one in "The Computer File," newsletter of Central Kentucky Computer Society.

WinStock is a powerful stock ticker, client-designed with the serious online investor in mind. US stocks, Canadian stocks, mutual funds, bonds, market index quotes, options, commodities, foreign exchanges and money-market mutual funds can all be tracked and monitored by WinStock. Use it free for 30 days. If you like it, send the guy \$20. No special offer here, I'm just passing it on. See [<http://cws.internet.com/coolapp.html>] to check further and look in "Previous Coolapps" for it. Full time DSL or Cable would make this work best. Lots of great items on that site.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [dealsguy@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. Also, I keep adding to my "articles of interest" page.

From The DealsGuy for June

**by Bob Click
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group**

Not surprisingly, in response to my "junk e-mail" soap-box last month, I heard from people explaining what an important service they are doing by forwarding all those warnings, even though some did admit they had also forwarded hoaxes to recipients not happy about it. I also had e-mail saying, "Thanks for the soap box, but you can't win that one." I know that. I have a couple of filters setup now in Eudora because of people who won't honor my request to stop. Here is a Web site made for those do-gooders: [<http://www.cao.com/hoax>] There, you can pick your favorite hoax and personalize it, then send it to all those people that also still believe Elvis is alive, but don't include me.

***Fun Among Friends**

My wife and I attended the Florida Association of Computer User Groups (FACUG) conference and had a great time. There were about 148 attendees from 27 user groups. The vendor participation was better this year with 17 vendors. Two vendors also did roundtables that were combination presentation and Q & A. If you don't attend your regional conference, I heartily recommend it. It was great to see friends that I only see those times of year.

***That Much!!!**

Many aren't aware that some people learn a great deal about your

computer, browser and other things when you "hit" a URL on the Web (unless your firewall restricts disbursing data). My ISP (Earthlink) offers limited "free" statistics about the hits on a member's Web site, and there are other free services that will also give you even more stats than I get free from Earthlink. For a monthly fee, I could have a lot more info concerning the hits on my Web site through Urchin, who provides the Earthlink stats taken right from Earthlink servers. Perhaps I'll write more about all that in a future column.

Regarding those Web site statistics, I read the latest APCUG Reports [<http://www.apcug.org>] and this issue had a report by Don Singleton listing just one month's statistics for the APCUG Web site. I strongly urge you to read it and you'll be fascinated with what you see. For example, I never realized there were so many different screen resolutions and it was interesting where many of the hits came from. You'll find "Quarterly Reports" listed on the left side of the APCUG Home Page. Take a look.

***Still Good**

The TechSmith items, SnagIt and Camtasia, are still good this month. Order these great programs by calling the sales department at 1-800-517-3001, or fax to 1-517-333-1888. Mention your user group's name. For a better discount, order the "SnagIt/Camtasia Bundle" for just \$152.95. *Some editors have been asking for a shorter column lately, so I am reducing the length by a couple hundred words. Now for some deals:

***A "Mouse Bungee" Is Not What You Think, And It Works Great**

At Space Coast PC Users Group meetings, members are sometimes treated to a demonstration by David Nottingham

[dnottingham@cfl.rr.com] of favorite gadgets he finds (you should see his "gadget vest"). A couple months ago he showed them a "Mouse Bungee." It's a device that holds your mouse cord in the air allowing unencumbered mouse motion. It sounded great, so I inquired about it for the column. They sent me one to try and I LOVE it. No resistance now when rolling my mouse around. No, "Mouse Bungee" doesn't suspend your mouse, just the mouse "cord." It has a stand with dual springs on a slant to hold your mouse cord in the air. Saves me setting something on my cord to keep it slack. Point your browser to [<http://www.mousebungee.com>] for pictures, colors and other information.

You must order it on their Web site's order page and I have a limited time discount for you. MSRP is normally \$14.95 + \$3.95 S&H, but user group members will get 15% off the entire order by typing the special ordering code "EFLX2" into the "promotion code" space. Choose from a nice assortment of colors. For a group order, they will increase the discount. E-mail [webmaster@mousebungee.com] for that info. What great people to do business with! Mouse Bungee won an award at Comdex.

***How's The 'Ol Ticker Again?**

Last month I told you about WinStock, a nice program that puts a ticker on your screen and can be personalized with just the symbols you want to follow. That one cost money, but this month I have another one for you. Several people told me about it, and in fact, I already knew about it but couldn't find the URL to download it. Sounds like many already know about it, so maybe this is a waste, but here it is. It is called TICKER.EXE and you can download it at [<http://www.cooltick.com>]. It is so simple to use and will certainly

serve your purpose. It also can be personalized. Best of all, it is FREE.

***How About Backing Up With Throw-Away Parts**

Last year I read a review by Carl Petzold of PC Users Group of South Jersey concerning a product called "Quick Drive" by H45 Technologies. Quick Drive is a kit containing a molded plastic case (shock mounted), an AC adapter and a data cord (USB or PC Card). It is designed to use a hard drive (could be an old one you have upgraded from). The object is to use this for a backup that you can unplug and put away.

Carl said the installation wasn't bad and it was just the berries. You cannot use Drive Image or Partition Magic from Power Quest, but he didn't say why. He is using the Microsoft backup in Windows 98 that he said does the job.

Quick Drive Kit sells for \$29.95 and the cable you choose is \$49.00. DealsGuy readers get a 10% discount. Call 1-800-373-8181 and tell them you read about this in the DealsGuy's column. Considering the price of a tape backup or Zip drive, and its media, perhaps this approach is better. See their products at [<http://www.h45.com>]. It was a bit confusing to me on their Web site, but if you call, they will answer your questions.

***How About A Better Clipboard**

I've written about two popular replacements for the old "one-at-a-time" Windows Clipboard including the ever-popular "Clipmate," but those cost money. How about a FREE clipboard capable of storing a library of items! Its called ClipBook, and from Microsoft. I looked it up on PC World's Web site and here's where I saw it, although it may be available at other sites:

[<http://www.pcworld.com/hereshow/article/0,aid,15608,00.asp>].

If you have a problem finding it, I did a search for [clipbk.exe] at the download area.

If you have Windows 98, I'm told it's on some versions of the installation disk, but I didn't see it on mine. Read the instructions because you must remove ClipBook Viewer first. I have not tried it, but hooray for good free stuff.

***Unzip Files With a Freebie**

In the Space Coast PC UG's Journal, Ron Ingraham imparted this tidbit he received from Barbara Czenthe. Many of us use the popular WinZip for decompressing zip files. However, if you continue using WinZip, you are asked to pay a registration fee. WinZip is well worth the price, but here is an alternative. It's "Power Archiver 2000" which is said to be almost identical to WinZip. It is available absolutely FREE, and according to the description does everything WinZip does.

You can download it at

[<http://www.pcnineoneone.com/pokpok/arcpok.html>] and click on Productivity Utilities, (which doesn't look like hypertext). You should find it on the resulting list. I haven't had time to try it yet, but you certainly can.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [dealsguy@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. Also, I keep adding

interesting articles (taken from user group newsletters) to my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading.

Is Your Win98 CD Worn Out? Don't Fret!

COMPUTER GURU ROD REAM COMES TO THE RESCUE

Rod Ream, Pasadena IBM Users Group

"Hey Rod," the e-mail started, "have you any suggestions how to get the original Windows 98 CD replaced? The darn thing no longer will install because of an `error' caused by corrupted CAB file."

"I've had to reinstall Win98 too many times to count in the last year," the e-mail continued, "and the CD seems to have a scratch or fault on it. I tried to clean it with a little rubbing alcohol. I would try Old Crow but I have consumed all that in the endless struggles (in lieu of pulling my hair out--cause there ain't any left anyhow...). Thanks."

Rod's reply is the sort of thing you need to cut out and paste on the side of your monitor. It has vital information you'll need if you bump into the same dilemma.

What's the CD Problem? The message about corrupted CAB files can have several meanings; none of them mean the files are corrupted.

* **The CD is damaged.** Not likely unless it's badly scratched, cracked or someone wrote on the face with a ballpoint pen.

* **A timing issue.** Some CD players may be too fast and the data is being corrupted as it's unpacked. You can work around this in a couple ways: From the DOS prompt type setup /?. You'll see an option to run Setup without using SmartDrive. Turning this off prevents file caching for the CD and although considerably slower, may provide a more reliable file transfer. Disabling L2 and perhaps even L1 caching in the BIOS will slow things down even more.

* **AntiVirus software running.** Turn it off! If you are using McAfee, you may have to uninstall it to kill it.

* **An out of balance CD.** Just like a new tire. Rotate it 1/4 and put back into the drive. You'll hear or feel the vibration if this is the case.

The Cab Folder

If the original installation of Windows 98 (or any other version of windows) was performed by a manufacturer, you should already have the CAB files on the hard drive. The usual location would be \windows\options\cabs. If these files exist, you can run setup from that folder, either from Windows or by booting to the command prompt and changing to that folder.

If the contents of the CD \WIN98 folder are not on the hard drive, I'd certainly want to put them there. Aside from not having to hunt for the CD at times like this, Windows will automatically look there whenever it needs a file and will stop asking you to insert the CD.

The best way to copy the files is to boot to the DOS prompt and then use XCOPY, because it has the ability to “retry” difficult files. In your Windows folder, create another folder names CAB. Copy all the files (not the subfolders) from the CD from within the Win98 folder.

Here's How

Since the normal DOS prompt doesn't access the CDROM, you'll have to either re-enable the CD drivers in both config.sys and autoexec.bat or use the W98 boot disk.

Here's the process if you use the boot disk - C: is assumed to be the drive where W98 is installed and we'll assume that the folder named above does not exist: Use the boot disk and select “with CD support.” Note the drive letter that's assigned (I'll use “E” here) E:

DIR WIN98 (This checks to see if the CD is readable C:)

CD WINDOWS

MD OPTIONS

CD OPTIONS

MD CABS

CD \WINDOWS\COMMAND

XCOPY E:\WIN98*.*

C:\WINDOWS\OPTIONS\CABS /S /E /V

When the file copy process is finished, remove the boot disk and CD, then reboot to the command prompt again. You can then run the SETUP from the cabs folder. If you still receive “corrupted” messages, it may be due to bus mastering and you'll need to slow the machine down with one or more of the steps above.

Rod Ream is senior tech support for PIBMUG and president of PC Consulting, 626/280-6850 RodReam@techie.com.

Technology Charges Ahead

17 years of remarkable changes

Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Remember the Big Chill? Right, that's the one--a bunch of yuppies attending the funeral of a buddy. When I watched it the other night, I was struck by the enormous impact technology has had on us in the 17 years since the movie was released.

One character in the movie promises to stay in touch with the others by-get this-writing a letter. Others are scribbling addresses in an old-fashioned Dayrunner appointment book. And if you recall the great music in the film, take note that all of it came from long playing records.

The fact that we regularly use our PCs for both work and play means it's a sure bet we're taking the technology for granted. I wanted to see what tools I use in my home office, things not available in 1983 (maybe not even around two years ago). So I looked at the way

POOCH, a group creating an off-leash dog park in Pasadena, uses technology.

Office Automation

I'm ready to send letters to a dozen members of POOCH. In 1983 I'd make copies of the letter and have to hand write the envelopes. If I got sneaky, I'd use a typewriter, type the addresses on a template, and have the local copy store copy them to labels. Then stick on stamps and labels.

The way I did it today took little time and less effort. I created the letter in Word and used Word's address book to mail merge the letters. Then I used e-stamps to print the envelopes with both an address and postage. (www.e-stamps.com) I didn't have to pay for postage either. It was free because e-stamps wants my business to the tune of \$50 in free postage if I'd just try their software. Cool, no?

The envelope contained 50 business cards to hand out to others while we walk our dogs. It's a handy way to promote POOCH. I designed the cards in 10 minutes using a Publisher template, printing them on the laser onto Avery perforated sheets. (www.avery.com) Want business cards but don't want to leave the house? Design them online at easiest.com. It'll cost about \$20 for 1000 cards delivered to your door.

Staying in Touch

In the old days, POOCH movers and shakers would probably use a phone tree in order to keep in contact.

Today we use eGroups for private e-mail that also lets us share files and chat online. Another list, pooch-subscribe@egroups.com is our public list, the one we use to make announcements to the public. Our Web site, while still incomplete, is at www.pasadenapooch.org.

When we need to have a quick chat, one call to I-link sets up an instant conference call. POOCH member phone numbers are already set so I-link can instantly link everyone into the call. The cost? About four cents a minute per person. (www.i-link.net/v-link/vlrand.jsp)

Technology doesn't seem to know when to stop. When I'm out of the office, POOCH people can get in touch by way of a Motorola PageWriter. Not only does it accept pages but it also lets me send and receive decent sized e-mails.

(www.motorola.com/MIMS/MSPG/Products/Two-way/pagewriter).

My Handspring Visor (which exceeds the capabilities of the Palm for lots less money) accepts modules for dozens of neat-o gadgets. There's a modem, of course, a digital camera, and a silly universal remote control. My favorite? A wireless, always on modem that automatically sends e-mail and checks for incoming messages 24 hours a day. (www.glenayre.net/@ctiveLink/ and www.handspring.com)

Learning and Gathering

As POOCH deals with growing pains, we can learn from-and commiserate with--other dog parks across the country. The Web has literally hundreds of links helping us see how others have dealt with the creation of dog parks. (<http://thedogpark.com> and www.freeplay.org)

And as POOCH develops, we can make use of Hotpaper.com, a site crammed with innumerable document templates. Just fill in the blanks to customize, print, and save well-designed documents, including business cards, stationary, letters, signs, and certificates.

Once registered (it's free), every form on Hotpaper is filled in with your vital stats. Then save the template to Microsoft Word, Adobe Acrobat, or a universal format. Better, POOCH members can fax or e-mail the doc--absolutely free. (www.hotpaper.com)

Flash forward to 2017. Now imagine your kids looking back to the quaint years of 2000. Remarkable, eh?

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World Magazine, frequently writes for Forbes ASAP, and is the president of the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He often writes with his tongue in his cheek. Write to him at stevebass@earthlink.net §

The Internet Explosion!

It's everywhere-and it's terrific

SteveBass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

Wherever you look-the newspaper, radio, even *The New Yorker* for goodness sakes-you'll find someone pitching a new dot.com. For the most part, these sites contain useful, if not spectacularly valuable content. And it's just the tip of the iceberg. Because as we break through into 2000, you'll see thousands of new and exciting sites.

Not more than a year ago, industry pundits (nope, not me) suggested we'd watch television and movies on the Internet. And we wouldn't have to buy software in the future. Everything you needed would be on the Internet, available either for rent, on a per-use basis, or free if you'd look at some advertising.

I was the first on my block to disagree.

I remember arguing with a guy pitching a Web site that lets you share your schedule with others. I explained to him how much more comfortable it was having my contact database here on my PC, safe and sound. *Why in the world I said would anyone in his right mind stick vital data-name, addresses, phone numbers--on the Internet?* (The guy went on his way, ignored my advice, and probably sold his site for millions.)

I still get that feeling of well-being loading my contact manager from my hard drive. But I've also become enamored with a handful of sites. Some have cool applications that let me collaborate with others. Others give me massive amounts of free data storage. Some help me while a few offer entertainment.

Entertain Me!

Movies: MovieHead is loaded with free movies. With Microsoft's viewer or RealPlayer, you can view a movie while pretending to be hard at work. (I have the black and white classic *Bride of the Gorilla*

playing while I write this column. It's a hoot!
www.moviehead.com/cinema/horror/bride_of_the_gorilla.html.)

TV: iCraveTV is an outfit that broadcasts Canadian TV, much to the dismay of the networks. ABC, CBS, NBC, and others are readily available, along with plenty of commercials. Try it, if for no other reason than you can do it.

You'll need RealPlayer. When the site asks you for an area code, use 905. Then lie and say you're in Canada and accept their agreement. Depending on your bandwidth, the picture and sound can be exceptionally good.

Let's Collaborate!

AnyList: If you want to create and share next years holiday wish list so friends and relatives far and wide know exactly what you want, try AnyList. Among other tricks, AnyList lets you collect and collaborate information using surveys, by keeping track of dates and events (say, a project or scores for a sporting event), or by creating a shared journal to keep track of special events. www.anylist.com.

Give Me Some Help!

Keen and Expert City: Even the most hardened, technology-fearing Luddites will be amazed with these two sites.

My favorite is Expert City because of its interactivity. Log onto the site, ask the question, and one of a dozen experts will bid on your job. (You can still try it for free.)

What's the most intriguing is their ability to remotely access my computer and show me, step-by-step, how to resolve a computing problem. Better, I can grab their BuddyHelp applet

(www.buddyhelp.com) and help someone else using the same type of software.

Keen provides advice on hundreds of subjects by old-fashioned means-the phone. Find a subject and click the button. In seconds, your phone rings and you're talking to the "expert." The cost? It ranges from free to 25-cents a minutes. The expertise? Hey, I don't know but I'm sure dazzled by the technology, folks <<smile>> (www.keen.com and www.expertcity.com)

While the Keen and Expert sites are fun, I also have a few favorite help sites, none of which are interactive. But they supply free, solid support:

! 32bit.com forums

<http://www.32bit.com/forums/>

! NoWonder SupportBoard <http://www.nowonder.com/>

! Support City (This is a terrific site! It tells you where to get help, provides manufacturers' site help policy, and links to third party support. <http://www.supportcity.com/>)

! Experts Exchange

<http://experts-exchange.com/>

Storage? We've Got Some i-drive: Last year I looked at Freedrive, a web site that lets me share files with others. Two problems: A kludgy interface and limited space. But I recently found i-drive, a substantially better site that does tons more than freedrive.

I use i-drive in two ways. If I have a large file to share with others (like that Alien Song MPEG you saw at a recent PIBMUG meeting), I

send it to i-drive. You head for my i-drive and pick up the file at your leisure. Why not use e-mail? Because most ISPs limit the size of an e-mail attachment to 2- or 3MBs.

I-drive has other terrific advantages over similar sites. It interacts with my PC: Uploading files is a snap because a small java applet pops on screen with a directory of my hard drive. Click a button and the file's on the way to the i-drive secure server.

The other way I use i-drive is to synchronize my hard disks files onto their server. A small application-i-driveSynch-sends entire directories to i-drive at regularly scheduled intervals. Right, a free backup program for critical files.

I use it when I'm working on a PC World column or the PIBMUG newsletter. Files are saved quickly and efficiently offline.

Another i-drive *big* deal is storage-if you play your cards right, you can have 70MBs.

Start by going to www.mp3.com and head for any music category. Find something appealing (there's lots and most of them have free samples) and click on a specific title. (If you're struggling, try this one: http://artists.mp3s.com/artists/63/liona_boyd.html.)

Then look for the link that says *Save to i-drive* and click it. Once on the i-drive site, register and the music will automatically be sent to your account. By first visiting the MP3 site, i-drive boosts your storage size. I-drive's InfiniteDrive tab can hook you to another music site-Epitonic.com. Do a sideload (essentially a transfer from Epitonic to your i-drive site) and you get a 30MB reward.

One concern I have is security. The site has two privacy statements. They say (look in *Corporate* and then *About Us*) that my data is

encrypted using 128-bit SSL before it's sent from my web browser and their servers. Files are stored on i-drive database servers that aren't reachable directly from the Internet. Data is stored on systems that are fully redundant with fully mirrored drives, and locked in a datacenter that's protected 24 hours a day by security personnel, surveillance cameras, and biometric door locks. Sounds good.

At the same time, they also say, *although information that you submit may be password-protected, i-drive does not guarantee the security of any information transmitted to or from this web site. You agree to assume the security risk for any information you provide using the Services.*

Can a hacker (worse, an unhappy tech support or engineer from i-drive) get access to my personal and private data? I don't *think* so but I just can't be sure.

So for now, everything I upload that I consider important gets encrypted. (Here's a quick and dirty way to do it: Zip the file using PKZIP and password protect the Zipped file.)

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World Magazine, frequently writes for Forbes ASAP, and is the president of the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He often writes with his tongue in his cheek. Write to him at stevebass@earthlink.net

My tale of Woe

*by Richard Robusto
Las Vegas PC User Group*

On Monday, February 26, I turned on my computer and got a message before it would boot up saying that my stack in the config.sys file was not correct. I tried repeatedly to open the config.sys file, but I could not get past the initial message. Well, I said, "No Problem, I'll use my trusty ole Go Back Program." Sure enough, it allowed me to go back 2 days and I booted up into Windows. Guess I took care of that. Now, I'll arrange the stack in the config.sys file. The first keystroke and the system froze up. So I reboot. No luck. Then I try to get to Go Back again. No luck. It would not even begin to start the configuration so that the Go Back screen would come up. After some serious thinking and using a few choice words, I hit upon the idea of using the emergency discs, which Utilities had me make when I first installed the Utilities Program. Ok, I guess I got this problem licked. I went through the procedures that it lead me through. Insert disc 2, then disc 3, then insert Emergency Utilities disc. Then there was a flashing of lights, programs were running and eventually, everything stopped. Well, what could it be? Then I went looking again and I got a message that the C drive did not have any fat clusters and could not be recognized.

When I asked one of my knowledgeable friends what that meant, he told me that I had blown out all my fat clusters on the C drive. I said,

"How bad is that?" I got a loud groan and a bad message. That dreaded word REFORMAT! That meant all my files and anything else I had would be gone. So I took the computer to the Windows workshop on Saturday. A few members who were quite knowledgeable helped me out to get started in reformatting my hard drive. I finally formatted the C drive. Had to do it twice. The first time something went wrong. Ultimately, I got it formatted and got ready to install Windows ME. I had been running Windows 98 but when this problem happened I procured a copy of Windows ME. I was not ready to install ME but with this reformatting and being able to make a clean install instead of an upgrade, I used the ME program. Ok, everything is done and I'm ready to roll. I had my genealogy program on my removable hard drive, so I was able to remove it while formatting and save it. However, after Windows ME was installed and running, I could not access the removable hard drive D. I got a lot of suggestions, such as I needed specific software to let my C drive recognize my D drive, etc, etc. Well, when I got home and set up, I tried to get on line and get my mail. I found that the modem was not working. Great. That meant that I probably needed new drivers to make it work, which I couldn't download cause I couldn't get on-line. So I went down to Apex where I bought the computer and Eldon, the guy who puts these things together, put in the new driver for the modem and then it worked. Then I asked him about the software for the removable hard drive. He took a look and said that the drive could not be accessed cause it was a non-dos drive. Non-dos? What is non-dos and how did it happen? How that happened is a mystery. Probably when I first used the Utilities rescue discs. He said I had to reformat it in order to make it work. (I started to shake) He said, "No way out. It must be done" So he reformatted it and sure enough he got it to work. Of course I lost the entire genealogy program. I remembered that I had made a backup

of the data file about a week before, so I figured I could get it back. When I finally got it back home and working, I reinstalled all the necessary programs including the Genealogy. Then I went looking for my backup disc. I found that I had made that 2 days before all this happened. Talk about LUCK! There must have been about 3 months work in there. I transferred the data files into the program and it gave me a series of warning messages that the files weren't working properly and would not save anything. At that point I started to sweat. With my pulse rate rapidly approaching top speed, I gingerly went in and changed the attributes in the properties windows. Finally, it started to work the way it should. Talk about RELIEF!!! At that point I had to go get a cup of that strong Starbucks coffee. It just reinforces that old saying, Backup! Backup! It's not IF you have a major crash, it's WHEN! Now, if you want to acquire this set of rescue discs, I'd be very happy to send them to you. I don't anticipate using them again as I have forgotten how to spell the name of the company. Are you sure you don't want to blow your fat clusters out on your C drive? I am now back on-line with a nice clean registry, which I am going to tackle next so that when I come over to your house I can fine tune your registry. Of course, that's after I utilize the Utilities rescue discs to get your computer in shape. And if by chance, it happens to blow out the fat clusters in the C drive, never fear, I know the procedure to fix it. Cheers Richard Robusto ricmar12@juno.com 6558 Tulip Garden Drive Las Vegas, NV 89142

Richard Robusto is a member of the Las Vegas PC User Group as well the Southern Nevada User Group. You generally find him at most meetings and he is willing to share and help whenever possible.

e-MAIL

Date: Tue, 1 May 2001

From: Gene Gaines <gene.gaines@gainestgroup.com>

Subject: Bells attempt to control the Internet

SOS: House Telecom Subcommittee Approves Bill Regulating VoIP (sic)

Applications

Need your Help to Defeat HR 1542 and Keep Internet Communications

Regulation Free (<http://pulver.com/hr1542>)

Hi There,

The "Touzin-Dingell Broadband Bill" incorporates for the first time Internet applications and broadband in the legacy telecom regulatory framework. The bill will make it illegal to offer IP based voice services over the Internet and give the Bells hooks to kill off remaining broadband competitors. The US House of Representatives Telecommunications Subcommittee approved "HR 1542" on Thursday, April 26th. Mark-up by the full Commerce Committee is expected as early as Wednesday, May 2nd.

The Internet has prospered precisely because applications remained beyond the reach of regulators. The Bell companies have used regulatory means to build monopoly advantage in virtually all areas of telecommunications. The Bells have so far failed to monopolize Internet applications, such as: email, world wide web, VoIP, ecommerce, streaming, peer-to-peer networking, and others as yet unknown.

The entire bill starting with its title "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act" is remarkably disingenuous. The bill ends Internet freedom and removes any hope for broadband deployment. Existing telecom regulations make no mention of the "Internet". The bill which takes the form of amending existing regulations specifically uses the word "Internet" 50 times. The Bell companies have served and continue to serve as the dominant obstacle to broadband deployment. The Bells have longstanding efforts to protect their lucrative business selling 1970's T1 technology from competition. Bell efforts to deploy DSL appear only in areas where a competitor exists. Their deployments slow, customer service degrades, and prices rise as soon as they weaken or kill off competition. The provisions of the bill include:

-- Incorporates Internet applications in framework established by

Telecom Act of 1934

- Defines for the first time meaning of term "Internet"
- Defines for the first time meaning of term "Internet Access"
- Defines for the first time meaning of broadband "High Speed Data Service"
- Makes voice applications of Internet illegal
- Eliminates limitations on Bell entry into long distance data service business
- Eliminates requirements on Bells to resell broadband related services

In other words, it removes all regulatory restraint on the Bell monopolies leaving no prospects for competition. No matter how the Bells might want to spin the story, actions speak clearly that monopolies produce high prices for sub standard services. Long distance, wireless, and Internet access services have improved in quality with declining prices only to extent competition existed. The Bell monopoly controlled local service has not improved even given increasing prices since the break up of AT&T in 1984.

Applications of the Internet should remain unregulated, with no exceptions for voice applications and services.

Contact your representative in Congress via the switchboard at:
+1.202.224.3121

Please visit (<http://www.house.gov>) (<http://www.house.gov/writerep>) to help you locate the name and email address of your Representative. Please let them know that:

- "The Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act" does neither!
- If they open the door to regulating any Internet service, it will set a terrible precedent.
- Using the Internet for voice communications is a good thing and should not be regulated or taxed. Consumers will be hurt and only the old monopoly telephone companies will benefit.
- Internet voice services are used mostly by low income people for international communications, as a substitute for vastly inflated international long- distance calls.
- This is a new source of privacy concerns, as companies pry apart traffic streams to determine what's "voice".

Please feel free to forward this message to anybody that can help

Please contact your local media outlets and inform them about HR 1542 and that passing it would be a mistake. In order to help stop HR 1542 in the House, we need to get as much Local and National attention focused on this issue as possible.

Editor's Note: the next article is a review of a web site; If you have a favorite website tell us about it.. Send us a short article about it to bluenotes@sfpcug.org

Downside.com.

www.downside.com

Reviewed by Bob Schneider

A journey that begins at Insolvency General Hospital and ends at the Charnel House of Nasdaq. You can proceed directly to the ER by clicking the Deathwatch tab, where last write-offs are being spoken for those firms about to be visited by The Grim Repo. The site's coroner-in-chief is John Nagle, whose specialty is forecasting time of corporate death. Nagle identifies the terminally ill by examining the entrails of their 10-K and 10-Q filings; his instrument of choice is an automatic screen based on cash-flow analysis. (His motto: "When the cash runs out, something bad for stockholders has to happen.") The Deathwatch area also includes tales of beloved stocks recently departed, some of whom seemed the picture of health just a few short months ago. Their gravestones bear tales of bankruptcy, delisting, and securities fraud. It's somehow fitting that these Milli Vanillis of the financial world began life with a tombstone in the Wall Street Journal, and end it with one at Downside.com.

bob.schneider@att.net

Bob Schneider is a prominent wirtter of books and articles including many on the Internet.

Advertising & Privacy on the Internet

by Ron Feiertag

One year ago a different audience read an article that I wrote about advertising and privacy on the Internet. Many things have changed in the past year. The paragraphs after this one, except for the final paragraph, describe what I learned as a result of attending a remarkable event last May. The final paragraph will discuss how things have changed since then.

This article can also be called "What I Learned about Your Private Profile at the @d:Tech Conference". @d:Tech advertises itself as "The world's leading conference on Internet Marketing, Advertising and Commerce", and having been there, that description sounds fair to me. This Conference was held in San Francisco, California from May 8 through May 10, 2000. It was certainly a value packed event, filled with insights. This article includes some of those insights.

Almost everyone who reads this already knows that the Internet has improved a lot, will improve a lot more, and already delivers to us a wealth of information and entertainment, including videos, music, newspaper articles, and data. You can pay for this content on a pay per view basis, similar to pay cable television. Or you can pay for it with a paid subscription, similar to a magazine subscription. Or you can get it for free, similar to network television. Advertisements enable network television to be obtained at no cost to us, and advertisements on the Internet pay for services that we enjoy there that

are free to us. As we enjoy the Internet, it is important to understand what is going on in the background that allows us to use these services for free.

When you arrive at a new web site, you are likely to see a banner advertisement. It is a rectangular box paid for by an advertiser. The advertiser is paying this money for one of several reasons. It could be for the purpose of branding and awareness. This is to make the general public realize that the company or product being advertised exists and is helping to make your visit to this web site possible at no cost to you. Or the advertiser may be trying to create a relationship with you by providing you with information that will tend to persuade you to trust that company. An example of this is the Pampers Parenting Institute, that provides information to new parents, plus services such as chat sessions between new parents nationwide. This will create goodwill for the company and make it more likely that a parent who uses that service would buy Pampers than buy from a competitor who did not help these parents in this way. Or the advertiser could be hoping to sell you something immediately after you learn about what that company has to offer.

An advertiser wants information in exchange for the money that he is spending. He wants to know more than just the number of "page views", which is the number of people who looked at a web page that included his banner ad. He at least wants to know how many times a customer clicked on his banner ad. Often he pays the web site a certain amount of money per click. Eye-catching graphics, or a promise of an interactive experience, or a promise of a solution on a banner ad will increase the number of click-throughs. Other advertisers ask for information about "post-click" events, such as how much time did someone stay at the advertiser's web page after he

clicked on the banner ad, and did a sale result from this visit? Despite what the Declaration of Independence says, all clicks are not created equal. A manufacturer of golf clubs will pay more to get the clicks of a golfer than those of a non-golfer. An advertiser promoting baby food will pay the web site more money for a click by a parent of a baby than he will for anyone else, because the new parent is in the market for what this advertiser is trying to sell. How do they know any facts about the person doing the clicking, including if she is a parent of a newborn? This is where your personal profile comes in. Advertisers would like to know as much as possible about you because then they know which products you may be in the market for and which advertisements to send to your computer's screen. People who do not want their life to be an open book relish their privacy and want the advertiser to know as little about them as possible. How do we reconcile these two points of view? Congress, regulators, advertisers, and concerned citizens will be wrestling with this issue for the next few years. If you want your opinion to count on this subject, you may want to make your opinion known. To get more information on this subject, perhaps the best starting place is the website of the Electronic Privacy Information Center, which can be found at www.epic.org.

Companies are being told that if they do not want Congress or regulators in the Federal Trade Commission making the rules for them, they need to do some self-regulation. They are being told to adopt consumer privacy policies about the information that they gather, and to post those policies on their web sites. One of them said that the general public is not concerned with privacy because his company already posts its privacy policy on its website and very few people who visit that site ever take the time to look at the web page

with the privacy policy. This convinced me to start reading privacy policies whenever I am about to give out information on the Internet. One way that a company can get information about you is to persuade you to disclose it in exchange for something that the company is providing to you. It could be giving you free Internet access or free software, and in exchange for that, all that you have to do is sell your soul, I mean disclose information about yourself. This is called "permission based marketing" and you voluntarily "opt-in" to obtain something of value to you in exchange for this personal information.

The @d:Tech Conference included forty different workshops spread over three days. Because several workshops were going on at the same time, someone could only attend ten of them, so this article only discussed some of what I learned at those workshops that were of greatest interest to me. People had the chance to ask the questions that they were most interested in having answered. Its Exchange Floor had dozens of booths where representatives of dozens of companies could show people what their products do. At its Awards Dinner, awards were given for the best advertising on the Internet. There was something even better than that. The highlight of this Conference was the truly excellent keynote speech by Kevin Roberts, the CEO of Saatchi and Saatchi, a world-class advertising agency that describes itself as a company that seeks to transform its clients' businesses, brands, and reputations. I could not have been more favorably impressed by him and by what he had to show us. I saw advertisements from his company that I would never want to fast forward through because they are better than most of the programs currently shown on television. Kevin Roberts was arguably more entertaining and more informative than any other speaker, speaking about any other subject, anywhere. That is saying a lot, but during the

hour of his speech, there was nowhere else in the world that I would have rather been than in his audience, soaking up everything that he was saying.

One year later the world has changed in many ways. Many dot-com companies raised money by persuading investors that they would attract huge numbers of people to their web sites and that many of these people would view those company's banner ads. The people came and the technology was there to accurately record how many people actually clicked on a banner ad, and a dismally small number of us checked out the "word from our sponsors" that made all of that free content, and the dot-com companies that brought it to us, possible. So many dot-com companies went out of business, or at least had their stock prices implode, that they are often referred to as "dot-bombs". Some of the survivors are starting to charge viewers for their content, others will have a mixture of free content and content for sale, and others are still trying to come up with a strategy that will keep them in business. Enjoy the free content that you find valuable while it is still around, and don't be too eager to avoid advertisements on the Internet or on television. Those advertisements reduce the cost to us of what we find valuable, and the costs that advertisers stop paying will have to be paid by us if we want to continue to have access to that content.

Ron Feiertag is Contributing Editor for Blue Notes and he can be reached at RonE777777@aol.com

LEARNING XML

by Erik T. Ray

Reviewed by M.K. Carol Lee

O'Reilly
90 Sherman Street
Cambridge, MA 02140
(800) 775-7731
www.oreilly.com



At A Glance Rating: **

Price: \$34.95

System Requirements: None. This is a book.

Pro: Detailed explanation of XML.

Con: Difficult-to-follow for beginners.

XML was designed to describe data and to focus on what data is; it is a set of rules for building markup languages. After reading *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML and XHTML in 24 Hours*, which did include a

one-chapter overview of XML, I thought I was ready to proceed to *Learning XML*.

Learning XML provides a detailed explanation of the background and theory of XML. Topics covered, include:

- | XML overview
- | XPointer
- | XLink
- | XHTML
- | Presentation with Cascading Style Sheets (CSS)
- | Document Type Definitions (DTDs)
- | XML Schemas
- | Transformation with XSLT
- | Internationalization
- | Simple API for XML (SAX)

Chapters on how XML evolved and what it is, the actual markup language (including detailed explanations of elements, attributes, namespaces, and entities), connecting resources with links, stylesheets, and programming in XML provides the reader with an understand of how XML can be used. However, the book was short on programming (only one chapter). The author makes liberal use of graphics, tables, and code to demonstrate concepts rather than provided illustrations to the XML programming examples that were provided. The book is not intended as an instruction manual on XML

programming. It is instead intended to give a broad overview of the XML landscape that is evolving. To get the most out of this book, the author recommends that the reader have some familiarity with structured markup, such as HTML, and with the World Wide Web concepts such as hypertext linking and data representation. The book concentrates on theory and practice of document authoring without going into much detail about writing applications or acquiring software tools. These XML programming details was left for other books.

I found the book extremely hard to read and hard to follow. The book is not intended for the beginning level XML student. It is instead intended for someone with an intermediate to experienced-level knowledge of markup language and Web technologies. Because I do not have that level of knowledge yet, I did not find the book useful. I was looking for a book that provided the details for XML programming including the software tools needed to do such programming. However, *Learning XML* may be a useful book for those who want to know the theory behind the technology.

SAMS TEACH YOURSELF HTML AND XHTML IN 24 HOURS

by Dick Oliver, 5th Edition

Reviewed by M.K. Carol Lee

Sams Publishing
201 West 103rd St
Indianapolis, IN 46290-1097
(317) 581-3500
<http://www.sampublishing.com>

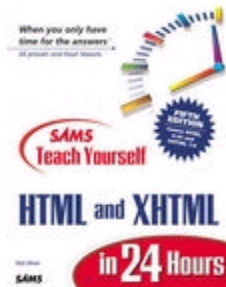
At A Glance Rating: ****

Price: \$24.99

System Requirements: None. This is a book.

Pro: Well organized and easy-to-follow book for learning HTML.

Con: Only a brief introduction into XML.



The title of the book is definitely an eye catcher. I always wanted to learn HTML from scratch and be able to throw down HTML code without using programs, such as Microsoft FrontPage, to help me write the code. So I picked up *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML and XHTML in 24 Hours* hoping that in 24 hours I would be able to do just that.

SAMS Teach Yourself HTML and XHTML in 24 Hours is broken down into 24 chapters, each representing a one-hour lesson on a particular HTML topic. At the end of each chapter are questions (and their answers) and exercises to promote further learning. The first chapter provides a brief introduction to how web pages work and the definition to the acronyms: HTML, XML, and XHTML. Hypertext Markup Language (HTML) is a language for describing how pages of text, graphics, and other information are organized, formatted, and linked together. There are two versions of HTML. One is called HTML 4 and the other is called XHTML 1. The X stands for eXtensible. The addition of X to HTML represents the application of a set of rules that the HTML code must follow in relation to how data is to appear when displayed. XML is used to explain how the data is organized. All the examples provided in the book are compatible with HTML 4 and XHTML (as well as XML 1). Hence, web pages using the HTML describe in the book should be compatible with existing and future versions of browser software.

The chapters that follows in Part I (Your First Web Page) provide instructions for creating a simple web page, linking it to others, and publishing it on the Internet or an Intranet. The chapters in Part II (Web Page Text) provide refinements to the simple web page by adding text formatting details and creating forms. Part III (Web Page Graphics) chapters continue to refine the web page by adding

improvements such as graphics, backgrounds, colors, and animating graphics. Part IV (Web Page Design) chapters go into page design and layout and using style sheets. Part V (Dynamic Web Pages) chapters provide an introduction to embedding multimedia, Java applets, and ActiveX controls. And, Part VI (Building a Web Site) chapters provide instructions for creating a web site with a multi-page layout using frames and details for organizing and managing a web site. The one chapter on XML programming (Chapter 23) is not enough for the reader to learn XML programming extensively but rather it serves more as an introduction of what XML is and what it is intended to do.

In addition to the quick reference guide and glossary, the appendix includes the top 24 frequently asked questions from readers (and their answers) and a listing of HTML and XHTML resources. The resources include a companion site to the book at <http://24hourHTMLcafe.com>. This site offers an assortment of free samples and other items that are referenced in *SAMS Teach Yourself HTML and XHTML in 24 Hours*.

Although I didn't learn HTML in 24 consecutive hours, I could learn it in 24 easy-to-follow lessons. I found the book extremely useful for teaching myself the latest HTML. It is a good addition to any beginning web page designer's library.

PREVIEW

July 17 meeting

Junk Spy Zaps Spam (<http://www.junkspy.com/news/news.html>)

Junk Spy Version 2 is the answer to your junk email problems. *Junk Spy* uses a comprehensive database of clues and detectors combined with several external "black hole" lists to determine which email is junk and which email is not. Best of all, you have complete control over what happens to a message that is marked as junk. You can move it to a folder, delete it, you name it! *Junk Spy* works with any POP3 email program. At the **July 17 meeting**, Sundial Systems will be demonstrating this innovative product. A discounted price will offered to everyone in attendance. For more information on *Junk Spy* visit www.junkspy.com.

Rollin White

Sundial Systems Support Services

<http://www.sundialsystems.com>

Rollin@sundialsystems.com

MINUTES

The San Francisco PC Users Group Steering Committee meeting of March 6, 2001, was held at Round Table Pizza, 16th and Geary.

Present were Butler Crittenden, Judy Gaer, Harold Charns, Pierre Hahn, Don Oclassen, Joseph Puig III, David Ross, Lee Most, Raven Most, and David Caldwell.

The meeting was called to order at 19:05, chaired by club president Butler Crittenden. The minutes of the February 2001 meeting were distributed. A motion was made and seconded that they be approved as submitted. The minutes were approved.

The Treasurer's report – The Treasurer says we still have a healthy balance. Eight memberships were paid this month. Motion to approve was made, seconded and passed. The Treasurer's report was approved.

The Vice-President's report was that the Cow Palace computer show Tech Bench could use more volunteers to hand out flyers and talk to people.

The President's report – Butler is still planning to have a phone-bank evening at his home at some undisclosed time in the future. It was requested that Butler send out meeting reminders at least 24 hours before the meetings in the future. Butler will call Sam Wasserman to

follow-up on the signs. Butler mentioned that he extended memberships by two months for all members who renewed in 2000, per prior Steering Committee decision. He also mentioned that using the database at meetings is handy.

The Webmaster's report – The server is up and perking except for during a power outage last Wednesday. It was also suggested that we get a UPS for the server. Joseph said he would look into what would be required.

The Membership Committee – Renewal notices were sent out by Joseph. Butler suggested that in the future we be more rigorous in asking for renewals. It was also suggested that on months when raffle prizes are low we might consider raffling off a 1-year membership.

The Blue Notes Editors' report was that Blue Notes is doing fine and is ready. It would be out already except for Butler's tardy handing in his column.

The Product Review report was that there is currently nothing new to report. Butler will get the list to Joseph in PDF format to put on the web site.

The Program Chair report is that Zone Alarm is invited for the next meeting but hasn't yet confirmed. Mobility Electronics that makes a universal docking station and is a possibility for some meeting. Macromedia (web tools) is scheduled for April. It was suggested we look for a program chair to ease the strain on Butler. Margie Blum was suggested as a possible person. Lee Most suggested that Asante, which makes DSL routers, would make an interesting possible future presenter.

Old Business – Elections are coming up. Pierre, Butler, and David will work on getting a slate so that Butler doesn't have to do as much.

New Business – It was decided to postpone discussing relocating the server. We need a new greeter. Dorothy was sick last meeting. We also need to get the tickets and extension cord from her.

After a motion that the meeting be adjourned was made, seconded, and passed, with no abstentions, Butler adjourned the meeting at 19:50 hours.

Respectfully submitted, with esteem for our president,

Judy Gaer, Secretary

JUNE 2001

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JULY 2001

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29	30	31				

AUGUST 2001

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12	13	14	15	16	17	18
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	<p>First Tuesday: Steering Committee meeting Upstairs meeting room of Round Table Pizza, Geary Blvd and 16th Ave 7PM</p>
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	<p>Second Tuesday: General questions about Windows and hardware, and minor hardware installations. 2040 Ellis, 3 houses west of Divisadero, 7-9PM (confirm 415-346-9321 or 415-346-2644)</p>
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	<p>Third Tuesday: General Meeting, The auditorium of the Community College District Office, 33 Gough Street, (a half-block south of Market Street) San Francisco, CA CHECK OUR WEB SITE FOR LATEST INFORMATION: WWW.SFPCUG.ORG</p>
--	---

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WEBMASTER Joseph Puig	WebMaster@mail.sfpcug.org 415-564-7730	24 hour recording for meeting information	415-346-2644

**San Francisco PC Users Group
Application/Renewal/Address Change**

Name: _____

Date: _____

(Please type or print legibly.)

Address: _____

Home phone: (____) _____

Work phone: (____) _____

City, State, Zip: _____

FAX phone: (____) _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Please check: Renewal member # _____ New Member

Check type of membership:

please send your check to:

- G** Individual \$25
- G** Family \$30
- G** Business \$50
- G** Outside US \$25

SF PC Users Group
Attn: Membership Director
3145 Geary Blvd, Box 284
San Francisco, CA 94118-3300

Please be patient it may take up to 3 weeks to enable the account

Amount enclosed: \$ _____ (Please do not mail cash.)