

SAN FRANCISCO PERSONAL COMPUTER *eBLUE*  
USERS GROUP *NOTES*

**Volume 21 Nos. 7-8**  
**July - August 2002**



## 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](mailto: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](mailto:help@mail.sfpcug.org) or contact our WebMaster at [webmaster@mail.sfpcug.org](mailto: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.sfpcug.org](mailto:bluenotes@mail.sfpcug.org). Should special formatting be necessary, forward a hard copy to the Editor. Contact *Blue Notes* staff by e-mail, [bluenotes@mail.sfpcug.org](mailto:bluenotes@mail.sfpcug.org).

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**Email Spam  
A Review of  
JunkSpy and ChoiceMail  
by Butler Crittenden  
president, SFpcUG**

**D**o you remember that first ad on the Internet? Back in '95 or so? It generated newspaper articles and widespread horror. As a naive, idealistic ex-professor I joined the chorus. It'll open a flood-gate, I opined. The "net" had been the preserve of the scientific and academic communities, and they didn't want or need ads to make their lives complete. But such thinking is both anti-American and anti-capitalist, and didn't last long. Web sites loaded with ads proliferated, soon after which junk email began to appear. Today "spam" is a significant cottage industry. Like so many in our club I've been deluged with it and decided a couple of months ago to "do something."

When Sundial Systems' JunkSpy representative came to our club last summer I bought a copy, but there were problems using it with Microsoft's Outlook Express and I shelved the project. Then I installed Windows XP Pro on my main computer and wondered if JunkSpy

(<http://www.junkspy.com>) would work with it. "Yes," and there is a product upgrade (ver. 2.01), which now works with Outlook Express. Sadly, here ends the good news. After a month of use and frustration I uninstalled JunkSpy.

JunkSpy works by detouring all mail through their filters and, in Outlook Express, routing all messages adjudged "junk" to a JunkEmail folder. There they can be inspected and those that are not spam can be forwarded to [notjunk@junkspy.com](mailto:notjunk@junkspy.com) to "train" their filter. Spam in the Inbox should be forwarded to [junk@junkspy.com](mailto:junk@junkspy.com), also to help improve their filter. When the smoke cleared after a month of use, my JunkEmail folder contained some 600 messages, a little over 200 of which were incorrectly identified. Most important, the training didn't work and the same errors kept occurring. For example, some 18 posts from Microsoft were labeled "junk," despite several corrective "notjunk" forwards. A list I'm a member of yielded 160 "junk" messages, again after I attempted to train the filter to let them through. All in all I sent some 60 messages to "notjunk" and 149 messages to "junk" as Forwards. I really tried to make JunkSpy perform as I hoped it would, but alas in the end I abandoned the program.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of JunkSpy is that all the spam gets through, although it lands in a designated folder for easy inspection. But you still have to be insulted and abused while checking the contents of the junk folder. Given the huge error rate, however, it's essential that all the

“junk” gets through, as plenty of it is not junk. Is there a way around this? You bet, and I had two different products recommended that apparently work the same way, and actually do the job. Plus both send the spammer a message that the message has been blocked. Of course many bulk emailers send from fictitious addresses and will never see the message that they’ve been blocked, but if the ISPs permitting the spam begin getting millions of such messages they may have to rethink their own stupid behavior. And a few of the actual spammers will have their mailboxes filled with such messages, which might slow them down a bit as well. What we’re talking about here is the moral equivalent of war.

I mentioned two programs. The one I have **not** tried yet is MailWasher (<http://www.mailwasher.net>). It has a free version, and registration for nonbusiness users costs from \$3 to \$20 -- voluntary and depending on your generosity. Hopefully someone in the club will try MailWasher and do a thorough review for eBlue Notes. I’m not sure that I will check it out carefully, despite it appearing to be excellent, due to installation of ChoiceMail, which is a joy after so much ugly spam and my frustration with JunkSpy.

ChoiceMail (<http://www.digiportal.com>) costs \$39.95, but they’re willing to give a 15 percent discount to club members, bringing the price down to \$33.96. Installation was easy -- I double-clicked the downloaded file and followed the “wizard” prompts. Outlook Express (or your email program)

must be closed first, however. The key to ChoiceMail is the “white-list,” which is all the email addresses in your address book plus all the people you Reply to after installation. Additionally there are other ways to add people to the white-list. One way is through “permission management,” where all messages from, for example, Microsoft are automatically accepted. Another way is to keep an eye on the daily list of unknown senders and add acceptable ones to the white-list. Of course this takes a little more time the first few days than will be required later, but at least once on the white list there won’t be any more false rejections. Typical examples for me are [magazine@tikkun.org](mailto:magazine@tikkun.org) and [rkm@cyberjournal.org](mailto:rkm@cyberjournal.org), both of which are “lists” I’m on but did not have in my address book, as email goes to a different address.

As intuitive as ChoiceMail is, there is no substitute for checking their manual on some of the finer points. It’s downloadable as a .pdf and runs some 51 pages. There are warnings about how to install when an antivirus program is present. (E.G., for Norton 2001 or earlier, NAV must be left running.) There are also suggestions for dealing with newsletters, making on-line purchases, and on-line billing.

I can foresee a problem with ChoiceMail or MailWasher for users who *expect* a lot of email from people they don’t know. Obviously some businesses receive thousands of posts from unknown persons, and someone selling on eBay or listing something on craigslist may find this approach

to filtering to be a hindrance to doing business. I'm not yet sure of the best way to get around this. An "exceptions rule" could be created easily enough – if, say, the "subject" line mentioned craigslist or eBay. But getting 100 percent compliance by senders would be unlikely, and some personal monitoring of the traffic would be required, which is essentially the advice referred to above, in the manual.

ChoiceMail's site says it "can configure both Outlook Express (versions 5 and later) and Eudora (versions 4 and later) automatically. ChoiceMail informs me that their next release, 1.4 due in mid-September, will include auto-configuration for Outlook as well as support MSN and all POP email systems using authentication or SSL. Until release 1.4, Outlook 98, 2000, 2002, Netscape, and others require manual configuration. ChoiceMail currently does not support secure password authentication or SSL, so wait for 1.4 if you use MSN or another service that requires this kind of authentication.

I started my white-list with some 567 names, and after five days it's up to 605, as I've recognized and added listbots and other legitimate senders. So far I only missed one close friend (using an alternative email address from his main one), which was resolved when he filled out the form sent to him asking for name, email address, and why he wanted to reach me ("new address"), which I immediately accepted. Meanwhile the following posts were rejected unseen, unread, and with an automatic note to the sender:

Tons of Great Sites Absolutely FREE!!!, Stop paying too much for InkJet cartridges, Get high legally, and the usual assortment of investment advice, how to "add 3-4 inches" and "improve performance," buy Viagra, lower my mortgage, etc.

Conclusion: I'm giving 4.5 hearts out of five to ChoiceMail, and two hearts to JunkSpy. Perhaps I'm being a little too harsh about JunkSpy, as it was the winner of *PC Magazine* **Editor's Choice** (May 7, 2002) for antispy tool. I haven't used MailWasher, which looks more complicated than ChoiceMail, but also looks effective and intuitive. For those who are sick of spam I recommend ChoiceMail highly, even if you have to wait a couple of weeks for the new release.

You may try ChoiceMail for 14 days before you buy it or purchase it immediately with a credit card by going to

<http://www.digiportal.com/product4.html>.

In order to receive the discount, click on the buy button and then read/accept the license agreement. After this, you'll be taken to a page that asks for an affiliate code. To get the 15% discount enter our code:

**1sfug27w**

**Are You XPerienced?**  
**by Todd Rosen**  
**Monthly Questions and Answers**  
**For Windows XP**

**I am always on the Internet. From time to time I get a pop-up window near the clock on the Windows XP “Start Bar” that tells me there is an update ready to install. Is this a Windows XP update and who is sending me this message?**

A new feature of Windows XP if on the Internet is automatic updating. There is no charge for this service and updates will not be installed unless you start the installation.

If on the Internet, Windows XP intermittently checks with the Microsoft Website for any needed updates. If an update is found, the icon of the World and the MS Flag will appear in your Start Bar system tray along with a pop-up window stating “New updates are ready to install”. When you click on this icon, a

“Ready to Install” window will appear telling you about the update.

Read the information listed and click on the Settings button as well. You need to be comfortable with the update that you are installing.

Microsoft updates have been known to make PCs lock up or incorrectly run. It is possible that after installing the update you might have to uninstall it. If you don’t know what update was just installed, you will have problems uninstalling it.

You do not need to install the update if you think that it could cause problems. Use “Add or Remove Programs” from the Control Panel if you need to uninstall the update. If you want to check for additional updates through the Internet go to [windowsupdate.microsoft.com](http://windowsupdate.microsoft.com). If you are not on the Internet, you can order an update CD from Microsoft for a nominal charge. Finally, you can turn off/on the automatic update by right mouse clicking on the “My Computer” icon from the desktop and choosing “properties”. Click on the “Automatic Updates” tab and adjust accordingly.

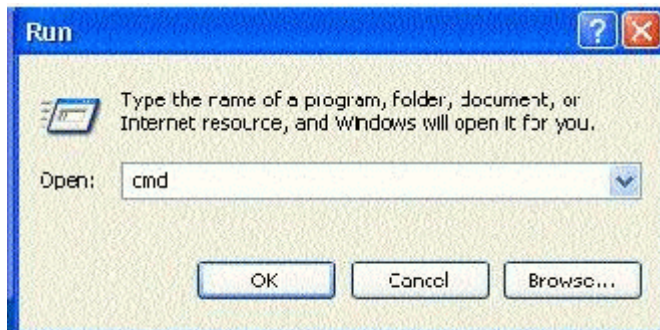


## I still like using command lines from a DOS screen. Are there any new command line tools in Windows XP?

Yes there are new command line tools (but why would anyone want to use them?). To get to a DOS screen in Windows XP, click on the “Start” button from the Start bar and click “Run”.

At the Run Line type “cmd” and a DOS screen will appear.

Some new command line tools are:



Bootcfg.exe - Sets up the boot.ini file's properties.  
Driverquery.exe - Displays the current loaded device drivers.  
Eventcreate.exe - Writes events to event logs.  
Eventquery.vbs - Extracts events from the log and writes them to a file.  
Eventtriggers.exe - Launches an event based program.  
Gpresult.exe - Displays the Resultant Set Of Policies.  
Logman.exe - Starts and stops performance data collection.  
Netsh.exe - Replaced the netdiag.exe  
Openfiles.exe - Displays the list of open files and connected users.  
Pagefileconfig.vbs - Displays the current pagefile size and location.  
Reg.exe - Displays and sets registry entries.  
Relog.exe - Resamples performance counters at specified intervals.  
Sc.exe - Starts and stops Win32 services.  
Schtasks.exe - Displays or sets scheduled tasks.  
Shutdown.exe - Shuts down and optionally restarts the computer.  
Systeminfo.exe - Displays system information.  
Taskkill.exe - Terminates a running process.  
Tasklist.exe - Displays all currently running processes.  
Tracerpt.exe - Prints a trace analysis report.  
Typeperf.exe - Displays performance data on the command line.



**Part of Windows XP new features is IE6 and Outlook Express.  
Can I create folders in Outlook Express to save my mail in?**

Yes. With Outlook Express opened, click on File -> Folder -> New.

In the bottom box, highlight "Local Folders". In the top box type the name of the folder that you want to create. Once created, Drag & Drop files from another folder (like Inbox) into your new folder. **My Contacts have disappeared from Outlook Express in my new Windows XP. Can I get it back?**

Yes. With Outlook Express opened, click on "View" and "Layout". Click the appropriate boxes on the "Windows Layout Properties Box".

**I can purchase a copy of Windows XP cheap but it says on the disk, Not For Retail Sales. What does this mean? Should I buy it?**

This is an OEM version of Windows XP software sold by Microsoft to specific PC manufacturers for the purpose of pre-installation on computer systems. I would not buy it. PC manufacturers buy these OEM versions at a cheaper rate because they buy large quantities of the licenses (1000's++) from Microsoft. The PC manufacturers have an agreement that they will only sell these copies of Windows XP with PC sales. If a PC manufacturer is found selling these OEM copies, they can be sued and Microsoft can stop selling product to them.

The OEM Windows XP copy is the actual full version of Windows XP. Microsoft however does not support OEM versions. The individual PC manufacturer that sells these copies supports these versions of Windows XP. If purchased and problems arise, you probably would not have support. **Windows XP Helpful Websites:**

Visit [go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=7128](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=7128) to view a video comparison between Windows XP and Windows 95.

Find the latest security updates for Windows XP at [go.microsoft.com/ fwlink/?LinkId=6441](http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=6441).

For free Microsoft training, go to [www.microsoft.com/insider/learning/lessons.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/insider/learning/lessons.asp).

Windows & .Net Magazine has terrific information at [www.winnetmag.com](http://www.winnetmag.com).

For other Windows XP "How To..." articles, view [www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/default.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/using/howto/default.asp).

**Todd Rosen. HAL PC Windows & Internet Instructor.**

**Mobile Computing  
by Chuck Horowitz  
On the road, again**

I recently received an advertisement from IBM (Milwaukee, WI) to buy direct from them. The ad has an IBM A Series notebook with a 1.7 Gigahertz Intel Pentium 4 processor, 256MB of RAM, a 60 Gigabyte hard drive, a 15 inch UXGA ISP TFT screen with a 64MB ATI Mobility FJRE GL 7800 graphics card, an Ultrabay 2000 DVD-ROM/CD-RW combination, an integrated 802.11 wireless technology, integrated Bluetooth and some software. This notebook weighs 7.1 pounds and has a 2-hour Lithium-Ion battery. IBM's price is \$3,240. If you're looking for a desktop replacement, this might be the way to go (with some changes of course). IBM can be reached at 800-426-7235 ext. 4863 or [www.ibm.com](http://www.ibm.com).

**A Pennsylvania company called Estari, Inc. will bring to market by the end of this year a notebook with two screens, called 2-VU. It has two 15-inch digital screens and will run Windows XP and Estari document-management applications. You are able to view two full-page documents at the same time and change one while reading the other. According to FAQs on the product website at [dualscreen.com](http://dualscreen.com), the 2-VU blends the traditional book format with the mass storage, computing and document management capabilities of a dual-screen laptop. Several scientific studies have shown that reading in portrait-**

**mode, 8.5 x 11-inch format, increases reading speed, comprehension and retention. The company can be reached at 800-430-1518.**

The University of California at San Diego has a wireless bus. Students and Faculty can surf the web, check their e-mail and download information (at speeds of 2.4Mbps) while on the road. The bus has an 802.11b LAN linked to the web by a Qualcomm 3G wireless network.

**Gateway, Inc. (Sioux City, SD) and your local neighborhood Gateway store have the Solo 5350LS notebook. The 5350LS has a 1.06 Gigahertz Intel Mobile Pentium III processor, 256MB of SDRAM, a 20 Gigabyte Ultra ATA hard drive, a modular 3.5 inch floppy disk drive, a modular 24x CD-ROM drive, an integrated modem and an integrated 10/100 Ethernet connection. Gateway's price for the Solo 5350LS is \$1,399. Contact Gateway at 888-203-4556 or [www.gateway.com](http://www.gateway.com).**

Last month I told you about Dell Computer Corporation's (Round Rock, TX) Inspiron 8100 notebook. This month I'm going to tell you about their Inspiron 8200. The 8200 has the new mobile Intel Pentium 4 processor running at 1.70 Gigahertz, a new enhanced 15 inch UXGA TFT screen, 128MB of PC133 SDRAM, a 20 Gigabyte Ultra ATA hard drive (expandable to 40 Gigabytes), the new 64MB DDR AGP 4X NVIDIA GeForce4 440 Go graphics card (that's a mouthful of graphics card), a fixed internal 8x Max. DVD-ROM, an 8-cell Lithium-Ion battery, an internal modem and an internal 10/100 Ethernet connection. The 8200 is priced at \$2,599. Dell can be reached at 877-274-7375 or [www.dell.com](http://www.dell.com).

**Did you know that during the anthrax scare in Washington, DC, last fall, BlackBerry users were able to reach co-workers while many who depended on landlines and cellular phones were unable to communicate. Also, when the terrorists attacked the Pentagon, the phone lines were tied up and the BlackBerry was the means of communication between Pentagon employees.**

Speaking about the BlackBerry, their 5810 handheld allows you to make and receive phone calls and wireless email. Check them out at [www.blackberry.com](http://www.blackberry.com).

**Here's a good one! M-Systems makes the DiskOnKey, a USB device that works with Windows, Macintosh and Linux. The DiskOnKey can be clipped to a shirt pocket and comes in capacities from 8MB (for \$30) to 128MB (for \$150). For Windows 98 Second Edition, you have to download drivers (for free) from M-Systems web site. They can be contacted at 866-347-5665 or [www.diskonkey.com](http://www.diskonkey.com).**

Now here's an interesting and innovative item. VKB (Jerusalem, Israel) has a virtual keyboard for your mobile devices. This keyboard uses laser technology to project a bright red image of a keyboard onto a flat surface from your device. An optical recognition device detects which keys your fingers hit, no matter how fast or slow you type. VKB also has a virtual mouse.

**Hewlett-Packard Company (Palo Alto, CA) has the Omnibook xe3L notebook. This machine has an Intel Mobile Pentium III 1.13 Gigahertz processor, 512MB of RAM, a 30 Gigabyte hard drive, 1 15**

**inch XGA TFT screen, a DVD-ROM and CD-RW and a built-in miniPC modem/LAN combination. The cost for the xe3L is \$2,299. H-P can be reached at 800-307-6397 or [www.hp.com](http://www.hp.com).**

If you're looking to get into mobile computing at a greatly reduced price, PC Mall (Torrance, CA) has just the notebook for you. A Toshiba Satellite 1000-S158 with an Intel Celeron 1.06 Gigahertz processor, 256MB of RAM, a 15 Gigabyte hard drive, a DVD-ROM, a 56Kbps modem and a 14.1-inch Active-Matrix screen. Their price is \$948.99. PC Mall can be contacted at 800-555-MALL or [www.pcmall.com](http://www.pcmall.com).

*Chuck Horowitz is a HAL-PC member and can be reached at 281-486-6043 or [chuckh@hal-pc.org](mailto:chuckh@hal-pc.org).*

*E-mail me at [mfoster@hal-pc.org](mailto:mfoster@hal-pc.org) with any comments you have and tell me what you want to see here.*

**Parental Control Software  
by The Reviews Team  
Insight into Internet filtering software**

**Preface.**

1. These reviews represent what you might typically expect to find at your local store. If nothing here suits your needs, there a dozen more on the web. But more importantly, these reviews provide good insight into what you can and cannot expect from Internet filtering software. There are limitations in what these programs offer, but properly configured, they can help prevent access to objectionable sites.
2. Read the companion article on "...Comments" first to give yourself a better perspective to determine which program or approach best fits your family's needs.
3. As usual, when you install a program, go to the vendor's web site and get the updates.

**Charles W. Evans, Reviews Editor, Hal-PC**

July - August 2002

**CyberSitter 2001**

*Solid Oak Software* is very aggressive in identifying offensive Internet content and equally tenacious in searching out the bad words in chat room text and e-mail. You do have to make choices about what you will/will not accept or if you want to "filter" e-mail. Download it from their site and try it for ten days, and if you like it, buy it on-line. It fits on a floppy disk! It achieves this aggressive stance through a combination of highly tailored filtering capacity and recognition of questionable content on individual web sites. It is a snap to install and quick to configure and set the control limits for your particular kid. (But you can't configure for individual users.)

Choose from more than 31 filters. Default blocking includes: sex, illegal activities, drugs, PICS rated adult and violent content, hate and intolerance, illegal guns/violence. Select one or more of the remaining 25. Updating is simple. Actually, there are two update buttons: filters and lists. The user interface is not as fancy as some other programs, but quite adequate. You cannot view the proprietary filter lists. But, you can customize web blocking, AOL's AIM, newsgroups and IRC text. Most sites that are blocked will appear as a "page error". There is no particular notice to the viewer that it is a blocked site. Of the many additional sites you can block, both "Job Search" and "Pokemon" are included.

The *Time Schedule* is simplicity itself. Click on the "Time" tab and you have a window with seven days in one-hour increments. Just click on the time-segment you will permit Internet access and CyberSitter does the rest.

***EBLUE NOTES***

It will log the time spent and save to a log file. Ditto for attempts to access blocked content or sites. CyberSitter will e-mail a log of these attempts to parents. You can disable, temporarily, the program and if you forget to re-enable, there is a built-in timer that will do it for you. However, if your operating system is Windows 95/98, the activity log can be read by anyone since it is a text file and not password protected. What does this mean? If you can read it, you can edit it and edit out the stuff you don't want parents to know about. No problem if you use NT4, 2000 and XP.

I thought I'd lost my modem when I logged onto AOL and tried to set AOL's "Parental Controls" for e-mail and AIM. I kept getting a "lost connection" error message. Actually, I had not turned off CyberSitter and it would not allow me access to AIM. (Once I turned it off, I could set the controls.) I also tried it with Yahoo! and Hotmail. It will allow chat, but blanks the bad words. There are two quirks: it is not very good at plurals or any variation of bad, four-letter words, and it puts an icon in the system tray. All you have to do is bring it up and temporarily disable the blocking. Go figure. It works with Windows XP, but there are a few glitches, none significant. Oh yes, there is an uninstall program.

This is a stout program and it will take care of most anything thrown at it. List price is \$39.95 and it works on all versions of Windows from 95 up. Filter and file updates are free. For more info and the free, ten-day trial download, go to [www.cybersitter.com](http://www.cybersitter.com).

## Cyber Sentinel 2.0

*Security Software Systems* takes a different tack to Internet filtering from CyberSitter and Cyber Patrol. It does not use blocking lists. Parents can now proactively analyze, filter and block sensitive or explicit info from view. It is word based and you can customize this word list based on your family's word-use policy. It is the equivalent of a surveillance camera for Internet activity! It goes one step further than blocking objectionable sites and makes a log of attempts to access prohibited sites. Would you like to limit Internet use? Like CyberSitter, it is easy to limit access to certain hours. The configuration menu is simple and easy to understand.

Based primarily on their word list, *Cyber Sentinel* acts as a site blocker, e-mail monitor, real time chat room monitor and word processing filter. It will not block objectionable graphics-only sites (no words). You have a choice of two modes of tracking your child's Internet activity: *Active* or *Stealth*. As you would suspect, in the Stealth mode, tracking is transparent or invisible to your child. Your child will see a warning in the Active mode and they have ten seconds to exit the prohibited site. To help protect your child from what they see, there is a built-in library of words and phrases to monitor content — useful for chat rooms and protection from predators!!

CS continually monitors these sources (in/out) using a real-time watch guard. Your child can only view or send allowed words. For instance, it can be used to scan e-mail, browser screens, search engines, chat room messages, spreadsheets and most any other application that runs under Windows 95B up. Keep in mind that this program is used primarily to

monitor sexually explicit material and highly vulgar words. However, you can stop an unauthorized user from transferring credit card numbers, street addresses, phone numbers, e-mail addresses and other info onto the Internet. Set it up to take screen shots of objectionable sites and you have a complete picture of your child's surfing.

To achieve its goal of blocking porno content, it "reads" the content of each page and scans for predetermined words or phrases from its library list. You might add your own words or phrases, such as body piercing, bomb parts, gun modifications, etc. But remember that it will not block or filter graphics and picture-only pages that are objectionable.

You shouldn't buy it solely for this reason: it is built on technology developed with the aid of the FBI. The FBI monitors chat rooms and news groups for patterns of words used by on-line pedophiles, who, it is estimated, make up to 20% of the chat room users.

#### **A few words about the two modes: *Active and Stealth***

The Stealth mode operates behind the scene while keeping track of violations. It does not flash a message, but captures, like the Active mode, the offending site/page/screen and stores it in a secure database. You can instruct it to capture and close as well.

The Active mode is visible. Once a violation is detected, the Enforcement Mode takes over and does one of the following actions:

1. Warns the user they are at a prohibited site.

2. Capture and log offending screen.

3. Close offending application immediately.

4. Capture and close application.

5. Issues a warning not to proceed.

6. Issues a warning and if not exited within a few seconds, the objectionable screen is captured, logged and shut down.

Don't let it out, but there is a password override, which is an excellent control device.

**CB can be used both for home and business. Two quirks: it is not easily uninstalled and for some reason it unexpectedly activates. Operates on Win 95B and up. This is a strong, comprehensive program for blocking offensive sites. Retail price is \$59.95 for the single-user version and it includes updates for one year. For more info and updates go to [www.securitysoftware.com](http://www.securitysoftware.com).**

#### **Cyber Patrol 5.0**

**Surf Control's** history of its Cyber Patrol filter program is mixed. It was one of the first programs on the market, but has mixed results in its list of disallowed web sites and their word list. I typed in several web addresses that sounded like porno sites (I made them up) and CP let me access each one. I didn't try the word list, but so far I'm not impressed. If I add my own



web addresses, it would be after the fact and I'd rather my child not be the guinea pig. On the other hand, it is a rigorous program based on web site addresses (the technical term is URLs ). Buy the program for \$49.95 and you get a year's subscription to blocked sites. Ditto for each succeeding year - \$49.95 a year. Download the two lists daily if you'd like. That is you get a CyberNOT Block List and CyberYES sites. I'd suggest you download a 14-day trial version first. But do not forget your password – it is an act of congress to get if you forget it. I didn't, but it would not accept the one I used when I needed to add web sites! Boo. CP allegedly has a professional staff to judge individual sites as acceptable/not acceptable. They do not publish this list — and I assume this is for competitive reasons. You can go to their web site and enter any that you have found to be objectionable.

CP does what it says: controls access to sites deemed not suitable. You can override this and add to the list or make your own list. Since the LIST goes to the page level, objectionable terms in the web address need not preclude one visiting the site. You can totally restrict access to the Internet or set limitations about the kinds of web pages your child can view. You choose which features and pages of the Internet you will allow, including the web, chat rooms, news groups, etc. If a no-no site is accessed, you'll see a CP warning screen rather than the actual web page.

To block access, simply select the categories you feel are not suitable. If there are other sites you don't want your child to access, add them to the CyberNOT List. This would include how much time and when they can use the Internet. This program really is password protected — two levels at that!

I especially like: block search engine results by description; different filter levels for different family members; prevent disclosure of your child's personal info; and custom filtering where you choose the appropriate web site. CP does one thing especially well, compared to other programs: it was able to intelligently differentiate between sex and breast and generally allowed access to medical oriented sites containing otherwise objectionable words. There are not age-specific defaults. I also like having the capability to set up as many as nine family members with different configurations for each one. What is good for a six-year old is insufficient for a sixteen-year old.

CP succeeds in fulfilling its goal, and if you are willing to fiddle with Cyber Patrol a bit, it can be your children's best friend and protect them quite well. Removal requires the master password. For more info on support, to download the trial program and updates, go to **www.surfcontrol.com**. Support is either by phone or e-mail, both free, with your paid subscription.

**Editor's Note: Norton Internet Security and McAfee's Guard Dog** are two other Internet security and filter-control programs you should consider. Both are highly recommended. You will notice that **Net Nanny** is not included in our reviews. It used to be one of the best, but lags behind in its ability for filtering and technology.

E-mail me at [mfoster@hal-pc.org](mailto:mfoster@hal-pc.org) with any comments you have and tell me what you want to see here.

## Jump Start

### Five Steps to your Family Roots

from

*the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.*

#### Step 1. Identify what you know about your family.

Write what you know about your ancestors on the pedigree chart. Start with yourself (no. 1). If you don't know exact dates or places, estimate them. Gather more information from family members and relatives.

Look at family Bibles, journals, letters, obituaries and other records. When you find new information, write it on your pedigree chart.

#### Step 2. Decide what you want to learn about your family.

**A. Choose an ancestor** from the pedigree chart about whom you would like to know more. If possible, select an ancestor who was born before 1900.

**B. Identify questions** you want to answer about your ancestor, such as "When and where did he die?"

**C. Select one question** as the objective. In general, find out about the ancestor's death before the marriage and the marriage before the birth.

**D. To view or print** a Research Log, go to:

[www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset\\_rg.asp?Dest=G1&Guide=ResLog.asp](http://www.familysearch.org/Eng/Search/RG/frameset_rg.asp?Dest=G1&Guide=ResLog.asp)

**Tip:** On the research log, write your ancestor's name, the objective (event in question), approximate date of the event, and the locality (place of the event).

#### Step 3. Select records to search.

There are two main types of genealogical records:

**A. Compiled records:** Records of previous research by others, such as a biography, family history, or genealogy.

**B. Original records:** Records created at or near the time of an event, such as birth, marriage, death, or census records.

Generally, when selecting records, search compiled records first, and then search original records.

#### Step 4. Obtain and search the record.

When you are at our Family History Center (there maybe one in your city), you will want to:

**A. Obtain the record.** Use the call number from the Family History Library Catalog to locate a microfilm, microfiche, or book. If necessary, ask a staff member to assist you in obtaining the record.

**B. Read the record.** Instructions for operating microfilm and microfiche readers are on the machines. A staff member will assist you in operating the computer.

**C. Search the record.** Look for facts and clues. Search broad time periods. Check for spelling variations. Record the results on the research log. You may make a photocopy of what you find. Even if you do not find anything, note that on your log. This will help you avoid searching the same record again at a later time.

### **Step 5. Use the information.**

**A. Evaluate the information** found. Did you find the information you were looking for? Is the information complete? Does it conflict with other information you already have?

**B. Copy new information** onto the pedigree chart. You can also obtain copies of a family group record from a staff member and record information there.

**C. Organize newly acquired records.** File photocopies in a convenient, organized way, such as by family.

**D. Share the information.** Share your newly discovered information with interested family members.

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SPACE STATION - Has Fifth Residents !

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/>

GENESIS - Launched 8 August to the Sun

<http://genesismission.jpl.nasa.gov/>

CASSINI - To Arrive SATURN July 2004

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/cassini/>

MARS ODYSSEY 2001 - Inflight to Mars

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/odyssey/>

MARS GLOBAL SURVEYOR - On Orbit

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/mgs/>

GALILEO - Orbiting Jupiter

<http://galileo.jpl.nasa.gov/>

***BLUE NOTES***

STARDUST - Comet rendezvous 2004

<http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/>

SPACE SHUTTLE - Next launch 19July

<http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/>

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#### A. INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

Busy Stay on Tap for Expedition Five Commander Valery Korzun and Flight Engineers Peggy Whitson and Sergei Treshev. Four spacecraft -- two shuttles and two Russian Progress cargo ships -- are slated to visit the station, and two Expedition Five spacewalks are on tap. The first shuttle flight is STS-112, which will deliver the S1 Truss to the station in August. Then, STS-113 is scheduled to deliver the P1 Truss and the Expedition Six crew to the orbital outpost in mid-October. See URL:-

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/station/assembly/index.html>

Now orbiting at 240 miles the 67-ton, 143-foot long, space station can be viewed from the ground - for viewing opportunities see URL:-

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/realdata/sightings/>

#### B. GENESIS - Launched 8 August to the Sun

30 Nov. marked the official start of science collection for the Genesis mission with the opening of the science canister. On December 3, the

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spacecraft extended its collector arrays to catch atoms from the solar wind that will imbed themselves in specially designed high purity wafers. After two years, the sample collectors will be re-stowed and returned to Earth for an exciting mid-air recovery of the sample return capsule. The samples will be stored and cataloged under ultra-pure cleanroom conditions and made available to the world scientific community for study. For information on the flight path and orbit go to:-

<http://www.genesismission.org/mission/index.html>

#### C. CASSINI - Mission to SATURN (Launched 15 Oct 1997)

A kaleidoscopic movie made from about 1,200 Jupiter images taken by Cassini reveals unexpectedly persistent polar weather patterns on the giant planet. Long-lived storms and globe-circling belts of clouds are familiar features around Jupiter's midsection, easily seen even in still pictures. Closer to the poles, though, still images show widespread mottling that appears chaotic. Cassini shot the images in infrared light to cut through Jupiter's upper haze and show the clouds underneath in black and white. The movie clip combines those images taken over a span of 70 days into a sequence less than a minute long. The version centered on the north pole and another version showing the entire planet are available online from JPL at:-

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/videos/jupiter>

and from the Cassini imaging science team's site at:-

<http://ciclops.lpl.arizona.edu>

***BLUE NOTES***

Recent maneuvers targets the correct position for a Jupiter gravity assist allowing Cassini to arrive at the Saturnian System for a Phoebe flyby and Saturn Orbit Insertion. Cassini passed most closely to Jupiter, at about 6 million miles away, on 30 Dec. 2000 providing a 'gravity assist boost'. This giant planet's gravity will also bend Cassini's flight path to put it on course for arrival into orbit around Saturn on 1 July 2004. For pictures of Jupiter and information on where Cassini is today, see URLs:-

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/missions/current/cassini.html>

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/cassini/>

#### D. MARS ODYSSEY 2001 - NEW MISSION (Launched 7 Apr 2001)

After arriving at Mars - the aerobraking phase was completed late January 2002. Odyssey is now in its desired circular orbit, and the science mapping mission has begun. It's mission is to explore the planet, carry a suite of scientific instruments to study the Martian surface, and provide vital information about potential radiation hazards for future human explorers. Follow mission progress at:-

<http://mars.jpl.nasa.gov/odyssey/>

#### E. MARS GLOBAL SURVEYOR (Launched 7 Nov 1996 - arvd Mars 12 Sep 1997)

Mars today is a cold, dry, desert world. New observations are expanding our understanding of the martian climate and may indicate the climate is

changing significantly even today. This suggests even larger climate changes have occurred during the planet's recent history and may again in its future. The observations were made during a full martian year, 687 Earth days. Mars might someday become warmer and wetter, as it was during its early history. More than 30,000 images of the planet Mars are now available in a web-based photo album -- the single largest one-time release of images for any planet in the history of solar system exploration. These images of Mars are now available at URL:-

[http://www.msoss.com/moc\\_gallery/](http://www.msoss.com/moc_gallery/)

<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/pictures/mars>

<http://photojournal.jpl.nasa.gov/new>

#### F. GALILEO (Launched 18 Oct 1989 - arvd Jupiter 7 Dec 1995)

Galileo recently passed within about 63 miles of Jupiter's moon Io. Planned observations for the remainder of the spacecraft's current swing near Jupiter include a series of images of the planet's atmosphere, a farewell color study of its icy moon Europa and navigational imaging of the small moon Amalthea. Recent observations of Europa indicate a global ocean below its frozen topside. If true, that subsurface ocean may well host volcanic activity driven by tidal interaction -- constant pushing and pulling forces caused by massive Jupiter and the planet's other moons. Such a warm and wet environment nurturing life in the moon's past, or even today, makes for reasonable speculation. Images and information are available at URL:-

<http://jpl.nasa.gov/pictures/io>  
<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov/pictures/jupiter>  
<http://galileo.jpl.nasa.gov/>

G. STARDUST - launched 7 Feb 1999 to meet Comet Wild-2 in 2004 (Lockheed Martin)

Stardust recently completed the first Cometary and Interstellar Dust Analysis of particles encountered indicating a surprising presence of large tar-like molecules that scientists said could have played an important role in sparking life here on Earth. Scientists are anxious to study it so they can learn more about the formation of Earth, other planets and life. This first successful attempt demonstrates the capability to "catch" interstellar particles and return to Earth in 2006. For latest status, images and their relative trajectories see URLs:-

<http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/mission/scnow.html>  
<http://stardust.jpl.nasa.gov/>

I. SPACE SHUTTLE - Current Launch (by Team of Lockheed Martin & Boeing)

Jul 19 - - STS-107 Launch, Space Shuttle Columbia (US) -?? NOW on HOLD/Delay ??

This mission is to carry experiment racks and three stowage and resupply racks to the station - and will complete the assembly of the Canadian

Mobile Servicing System (MSS) installed during STS-110. For schedule update see URL:-

<http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-107/>

**The DealsGuy  
For July 2002,  
by Bob Click,  
Greater Orlando Computer Users Group**

This was a frustrating month for me. I certainly get a lot of junk e-mail. I have used Eudora Pro version 4 as my e-mail software for some time because it was doing what I wanted and I feel I have fewer consequences if I trigger a virus. Most spam I delete by looking at the header, although with my version, I have not found a way to turn off the message preview.

One night I was deleting spam and all of a sudden the program froze when I hit delete. I had to use ctrl-alt-delete to close the program and even had to reboot. From then on, I had problems with Eudora (couldn't delete) and it finally would reboot my computer when I tried to start the program,

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***BLUE NOTES***



causing an improper shutdown because it started scandisk on the startup. I removed Eudora and reinstalled it.

It ran pretty good for a couple of days, but finally the same thing happened again so I tried using Outlook with the same results, but worse. At the same time, I seemed to be having problems with other things on my machine. I suspected a virus, but my Panda AV found nothing when I scanned my drives and Panda updates each day. Things got so bad that I finally had a friend help me check things out, then Fdisk my hard disk and reinstall the OS in case there was a strange virus.

In the meantime, I used my laptop for a few days to download my e-mail and read it. All of a sudden the same thing happened. Eudora locked up when I tried to delete a spam message. In each case, there was no attachment. These spam messages were very colorful as though they reached out to the Web, as many of the other spam messages do. After that, I stopped using the laptop because I had no AV on it and wondered if perhaps whatever was affecting my desktop machine had spread to my laptop through the network.

At this point, I am reloading software on my desktop machine and trying to figure out what to do with my laptop. I am certainly going to install an AV on it, which I already have. It will be the Panda Titanium, which ran invisibly on my desktop machine. Panda gave me their Platnum to try so I'm putting it on the desktop. I certainly hope it is telling me the truth. I would think that after a month of updates, it would have caught any virus that was a month old. Another friend thinks my machine simply ran out of resources. I'm skeptical on that one because of the corruption.

I hope my machine is clean when I send this out. At any rate, I have very little this month because vendors are not responding, and two deals are still cooking, not to mention the lack of time. One item is from our good friend Dave Whittle for MGI software. Roxio recently acquired MGI and since Roxio hasn't communicated any plans for supporting users groups, Dave is proactively reducing his inventory of MGI-logo software.

Another item is something I saw demonstrated at a user group meeting I attended, and the members all liked it. Let's take a look at them.

### **\*Dave's Deals**

I'm inserting Dave's words: "PhotoSuite is the all-time best-selling, easy-to-learn and easy-to-use digital photography favorite. It's an all-in-one package offering digital photo editing, stitching, touchup, organization, enhancement, ready-made templates, web site creation, e-mail sharing, and much more.

"VideoWave 5 is an all-time favorite digital video editing package offering easy-to-learn video editing, plenty of special effects, transitions, text effects, slow and fast motion, automatic scene detection, and now, DVD authoring and CD and DVD burning. Make up to a 20-minute DVD with just a CD-R and a CD burner!

"PhotoVista 2.0 is the best way to create an immersive 3D panorama that gives you the power to share that 'being there' feeling with family and friends.

"MGI Cinematic is video at its very easiest for home users and novices. You shoot the video; we'll make the movie! Offering much of the power

of VideoWave, it has a wizard-driven interface and extra transitions and templates especially for home movies.

"PhotoSuite Mobile Edition is for Palm-OS handhelds, including any Palm, Handspring or Clie, including color or black and white units. It simplifies the storing and sharing of your digital pictures and video on your Palm-powered handheld device.

"MGI PhotoSuite 4 Platinum Edition -- (retail, \$49.99). Special \$18.00, saving \$31.99.

MGI VideoWave 5 -- (retail \$129.99). Special \$50.00, saving \$79.99.

Bundle of PhotoSuite 4 + VideoWave 5 -- (retail \$179.98). Special \$65.00, saving \$114.98.

MGI PhotoVista 2.0 -- (retail \$49.99). Special \$20.00, saving \$29.99.

MGI Cinematic -- (retail \$89.99). Special \$35.00, saving \$54.99.

MGI PhotoSuite Mobile Edition -- (retail \$24.95). Special \$10, saving \$14.94.

Any 3 products -- (retail up to \$269.97) -- only \$80, saving \$189.97.

Any 4 products - (retail up to \$319.96) - only \$90, saving \$229.96.

"Add \$7.95 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 money order, or by e-mail, fax or phone if you pay with VISA or MasterCard. Please provide your name, complete mailing address, phone number and/or e-mail address along with the product(s) you'd like and the total price you expect to pay

based on the above. Mail orders to: Webworking Services, 653 N 600 E, Springville, UT 84663. Phone orders to 1-801-489-0605. Fax orders to 1-801-489-0609. E-mail orders to [orders@webworkingservices.com](mailto:orders@webworkingservices.com).

"Don't miss out on the great prices for these highly popular, highly-touted products. Tens of thousands have been sold to user group members nationwide during the past three years. These are the easiest to learn and the easiest to use products you can find, yet they're powerful enough for almost everyone, including many professionals!"

I've watched Dave's presentation a number of times and have always been impressed with what he can do with all these products. I own one MGI product and it certainly did what I wanted easily.

### **\*What, Another Free Office Suite!**

I was at a Space Coast PC Users Group meeting one evening and their very able Webmaster, Curt Potsic, did a great demo on this fine office suite that will do the job if you don't need the gargantuan work of MS Office or Corel Office Suite. He was even using voice recognition during his demo. I took the description below off the Web.

"EasyOffice 2001, a Powerful but easy-to-use office suite. EasyOffice includes Easy Word, Easy Spreadsheet, Easy Presentation, Easy Bar Coder, Easy Web Page Creator, Easy Contact Manager, Easy Bookkeeper and Easy Speaker. EasyOffice is self-explanatory -- No manuals to read. EasyOffice automatically gets you working with the Internet -- one click sends your document as e-mail. Save your files on the Internet. Create great looking Web pages. EasyOffice 2002 is compatible with Microsoft files."

It's hard to find the freeware version, but when I looked it was at [[http://www.e-press.com/demo\\_downloads.html](http://www.e-press.com/demo_downloads.html)]. I'm told it's also on ZDNet and c/net. [<http://www.download.com>], doing a search for EasyOffice. Or try [<http://www.winsite.com>], [<http://www.tucows.com>] and [<http://www.zdnet.com>] doing a search for EasyOffice.

It is only free for personal use. However, I saw it on the Provantage.com site for \$21.00 and it would be worth that to be able to avoid the nag screens and be able to download the upgrades to it when they come out, if I understood it right. Be sure and read all the latest improvements introduced this year, such as its EazyZip, EazyBackup, etc. What a deal this is.

\* 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, or disgruntled, I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [[Bobclick@dealsguy.com](mailto:Bobclick@dealsguy.com)]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. There are also interesting articles from user group newsletters on my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading.

## Giverny

Being a proud grandfather I must show off! In May 2002, I took my grand children as well as their parents to my land of origin, France. One of the many places visited was Giverny, a small town outside of Paris. My son-in-

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law took some photos (using a Sony PD100A DV camera) and I had one of our member, Paula Mochel, use her expert knowledge (of PhotoShop) to do a montage from some of these photos.

Claude Monet (1840-1926), the famous artist, well known for his paintings of water-lilies, took his inspiration from his garden in Giverny, where my three grand children took to their sketch pads to demonstrate that they too can be artists!

With such outstanding subjects, the artist's garden and the new young artists one could not miss. I need to thank the photographer for outstanding photos and Paula for her artistic bend and technical knowledge of PhotoShop in taking a bunch of photos and reducing them to two pages.

**Pierre M. Hahn, Editor**

By the way if you have some pictures you would like to show from your work, trips, designs... please forward them with a short note and we will publish.

[Bluenotes@SFpcUG.org](mailto:Bluenotes@SFpcUG.org)

***BLUE NOTES***









## Macworld 2002

We were watching a few commercials about the computers that brought Apple a lot of acclaim and success in the recent past. These commercials showed perhaps the best looking computer ever, and we were about to be told that Apple would stop selling them. Suddenly the iMac became "the Old iMac" and it would be replaced by "the New iMac" which looked totally different despite its similar name. There was plenty of room for skepticism and it might take a super salesman to persuade people that this change could be for the better. Fortunately for Apple, it had a super salesman in front of this huge audience: its chairman and founder, Steve Jobs, and we were attending the Macworld 2002 Conference and Expo. Macworld is held every six months in San Francisco (where I was) or at the Jacob Javits Center in New York City where it takes place from July 15 to July 19, 2002.

To help Steve make his case, copies of the new issue of Time magazine were later given to everyone in the audience. The cover story had the title "Flat-out COOL" and the magazine's cover had a photo of the New iMac with Steve Jobs smiling on the screen of his company's newest computer. His audience at Macworld listened as he explained why he felt that "this is the best thing we've ever done." The most prominent part of the New iMac is its 15 inch screen which can be tilted at whatever angle its user chooses, while its computing power was tucked away in its small base. This was truly a revolutionary redesign and its price was very competitive.

The audience listened as the new computer was endorsed by an expert on photography, Annie Leibovitz; an expert on music, Seal; and an expert on movies, Francis Ford Coppola. We were told that personal computers

including the New iMac would be the hub of our digital lifestyle. The spokes would be camcorders, MP3 players including iTunes, DVD players including iDVD2, digital cameras, and handheld devices including the Palm. We were also given an update on Apple's many other products, especially its operating system Mac OS X. After the keynote, people could go to classes or to the exhibit hall.

The Macworld Conference had dozens of classes ranging from "Small Business Management Made Easy" to "Internet Security for the Rest of Us" to "Getting Started with Home Movie Making".

The exhibit hall was packed with hundreds of companies showing their products for the Mac. Of course Apple had a very large presence in order to let people get hands-on experience with the New iMac and to experience its entire line of computer hardware and software products.

What follows are some of the highlights from my tour of the exhibit show floor.

Nikon had a "Coolpix Digital Gallery" of photos taken with their cameras. Canon also had a digital image gallery, and each photo in its display was shown in three different sizes. It also displayed its digital cameras, bubblejet printers, multimedia projectors, camcorders, and scanners. Lexmark had an all in one device that would print, scan and make photocopies at an affordable price. Brother had a machine that would do all of that plus fax and videocapture. If you hooked up a camcorder or VCR to Brother's model MFC-7300C, you could videocapture by freezing any frame and printing it.

To improve the sound coming from your computer, Harman Kardon had the SoundSticks speaker system to enhance music, movies and gaming. It could be connected to your computer's USB port. Their slogan was "It's time your ears enjoyed working at the computer." Another one of their solutions was called the Champagne Speaker System.

Sound could also be directed to your computer: IBM was presenting



ViaVoice software that allowed people to input data by speaking. It came with two microphones: one microphone would capture what you say while the other one would capture the sound from the room and subtract it out from what the first microphone captured, in order to cancel the noise and reduce errors. ViaVoice has a 160,000 word vocabulary and you can add your own words to that vocabulary. If you prefer to use a pen as your input device, for example for Adobe's Photoshop software, Wacom had two solutions on display: their Intuos2 professional graphics tablet and their Cintiq combination graphics tablet and LCD for graphics artists. They also had artists at their booth showing how those products could be used. Some of their products were so popular that by the last day of this expo, Wacom and several other companies sold out products that they brought to Macworld.

Maya from Alias/Wavefront is used by artists for animation and visual effects. It was used in the Zorro price slashing advertisement for Wal-Mart and in the movie "Spider-man". During Macworld there were a series of scheduled demos at the Alias/Wavefront booth showing how Maya software was used by Lucas Film and other creative companies to dazzle their audiences.

Iomega held a poetry slam to let people here know more about their removable storage products used for backing up files.

For a hardware solution to secure your hardware, Noble Security Systems used steel cables that attached to Apple's security tabs. It can anchor your computer to a desk. BookEndz showed its docking station that could be used to quickly convert a portable iBook into a complete desktop system.

Microsoft was presenting its Office software for the Mac OS X. Its PowerPoint presentations could be made into a QuickTime movie, with QuickTime transitions between slides. The other products in its Office suite were also tailored to maximize the capabilities of the Mac OS X operating system.

World Book displayed its multimedia encyclopedia where one entry

chosen at random was a video clip of President Franklin D. Roosevelt giving a speech, and another of its many entries was a video clip of a young woman doing a gymnastics floor exercise.

Space.com had software that would let you see how the nighttime sky looked at any date. It allows astronomy enthusiasts to track planets, satellites, comets and asteroids. Its products include "Starry Night Backyard" and "Deep Space Explorer".

Perhaps the coolest thing I saw at Macworld was the Onadime Player Plus. This mixes images and sounds, like a light show at a rock concert. It gives songs a visual dimension, increasing our enjoyment of that music. Onadime also has a free player that can be downloaded from its web site.

There was a special user group area in the exhibit hall where attendees could learn more about computer user groups. You could increase the size of your own user group if you take advantage of this type of recruiting opportunity at Macworld and other computer shows.

From the keynote speech, to the greeters at the door of the exhibit hall who wore "Ask Me" caps and tee shirts, to the Internet cafe where people could check their e-mail or surf the web, to the MacGames Area where dozens of computers had different games on each one that you could try out, to Mac Show Live where there were a series of interviews with experts on all sorts of Mac-related topics, to the many vendors showing off their hardware and software solutions, Macworld provided the knowledge and fun that we were here to experience. You can experience it too, by attending the next Macworld in New York City or San Francisco.

**Ron Feiertag**  
**Contributing Editor**

## Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

The San Francisco PC Users Group Steering Committee meeting of **June 4, 2002**, was held at Round Table Pizza.

**Present** were Butler Crittenden, Judy Gaer, David Ross, David Caldwell, Ron Feiertag, Pierre Hahn, and Don Oclassen. The meeting was called to order at 18:26 by club president Butler Crittenden. The May 2002 minutes were distributed and approved after a motion was made and seconded they be approved as written.

**The Treasurer's report** – The treasurer was not present but Butler distributed his report. Our healthy balance continues. The report was approved as written.

**The Vice-President's report** was informal regarding an anticipated RCN broadband installation.

**The President's report** – Butler plans to bring two alternate websites to the meeting (either on disk or from the internet) to show the club. We had 45-

50 people at the last meeting. He emailed Kaitlin Duck Sherwood re the next meeting and also emailed Jeff Marchi re doing a future Random Access.

**The Webmaster's report** – The webmaster was not present. SFpcUG site is operational, however.

**The Membership Committee** – We had one new and six renewal memberships this month.

**The Blue Notes Editors' report** – Publishing Blue Notes without missing items was agreed upon, again.

**The Product Review report** -- Butler is working on a list of available products.

**The Program Chair report** is that for June meeting we have Kaitlin Duck Sherwood; author of Overcome Email Overload; July is Dave Johnson, gobeProductive; August meeting, Lenny Bailes playing guitar and recording; September meeting is Eric

Johnson Microsoft, Digital Photography.

**Old Business** – Ron did send the contest info to the secretary. Relocation of the server is still under discussion. If we have our website hosted then the current facilities can continue to be used for Internet purposes. Discussion about use of club email ensued.

**New Business** – Information from Comdex will be coming soon. Any member can attend APCUG events, being an officer is not required. APCUG's early bird rate is \$60. Exhibits-only Comdex registration is free.

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. After seconding, the motion passed with no abstentions. Butler adjourned the meeting at 19:07 hours.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Gaer, Secretary**

The San Francisco PC Users Group Steering Committee meeting of **July 2, 2002**, was held at Round Table Pizza.

**Present** were Butler Crittenden, Judy Gaer, David Ross, David Caldwell, Ron Feiertag, and Pierre Hahn.

The meeting was called to order at 18:30 chaired by club president Butler Crittenden. The minutes of the May 2002 meeting were distributed. A spelling correction was made. A motion was made, seconded and passed that the minutes be approved as corrected.

**The Treasurer's report** – The treasurer was not present due to open-heart surgery. Butler reported Harold was recovering well. Butler distributed his report. Our healthy balance continues. The report was approved as written.

**The Vice-President's report** – Don Oclassen called prior to the meeting to say he could not come as relatives were visiting.

**The President's report** – Butler will bring the two alternate websites to the meeting (either on disk or from the

internet) to show the club. We had 40-45 people at the last meeting. He announced that the next Tuesday meeting at his house would be an exploration of some Microsoft web sites that discuss a major problem discovered with windows XP.

**The Webmaster's report** – The webmaster was not present.

**The Membership Committee** – We had two renewal memberships this month. Butler said there are more that the treasurer has not had a chance to process yet.

**The Blue Notes Editors' report** – The next issue is being started and should be out in 2-3 weeks.

**The Product Review report** was that Butler is working on a list of available products.

**The Program Chair report** is that for June meeting we have Kaitlin Duck Sherwood; author of Overcome Email Overload; July is Dave Johnson gobeProductive; August meeting, Lenny Bailes playing guitar and recording; the September meeting is not yet set. Eric

Johnson is no longer with Microsoft. Butler will contact them to see if we can get a replacement speaker from them.

**Old Business** – Ron will enter us in the APCUG contests. He will wait for the new issue to enter Blue Notes.

**New Business** – David Caldwell suggested we start again having a New Users SIG before the meeting. Butler will look into it. David also suggested we have a publicity chairperson to put an ad in the free announcements of Computer User magazine. Butler will see if he can find a volunteer to do it.

A motion was made that the meeting be adjourned. After seconding, the motion passed with no abstentions. Butler adjourned the meeting at 18:59 hours.

**Respectfully submitted,  
Judy Gaer, Secretary**

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please type or print legibly.)

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Work phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

FAX phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check: \_\_ Renewal member # \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_ New Member

Check type of membership:

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

please send your check to:

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.)