The Outer Edge

Dulcie Apgar, after a sketch
by James Whistler

The Friendly Computer Club Helping Make Computers Friendly

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Attendance at the
November general meeting
107 members and 3 guests
We welcome 3 new members
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To Contact CIPCUG

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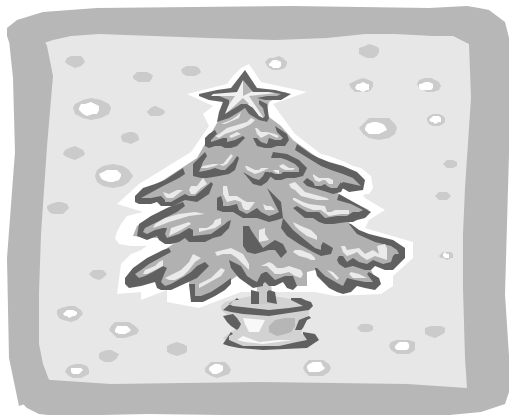
Highlights

COMMAND.COM
By Andy Toth, President

The perfect software application, myth or reality. I am currently on that quest, or maybe I've always been on that quest. A few of the vendor presentations discussing digital image processing included Microsoft Digital Image Pro (Picture It), MGI Photosuite, and Adobe Photoshop Elements. Each of these has its pros, cons, and gee whiz tool. Do any of them do exactly what I want to do? Hard to say — I am not sure of exactly what I want to do. Some things I did not realize could be done. After seeing the capability, I start to envision how I could use this tool. Before I even understand how to use it I am searching for a better or the best way to do it.

Image processing is but one arena of software applications. I am bombarded daily by software that improves something I did not know existed in the first place. There may be something out there that is perfect for me, but I will probably never find it. What I have decided is to select software I will use and learn how to use it before I search for the "Holy Grail" of that type of application. The CIPCUG TOE articles and SIGs have helped me decide on a product set to learn and to help me add new tools to my tool box. I find that I am barely scratching the surface of what is capable. It takes time and effort. Where is this going?

CIPCUG gets a number of requests each month on software to review. Maybe one of these is the perfect one. I plan on having these posted on the Web site. With 300+ members, that diamond in the rough can be found. If each member of the club reviewed a piece of software each year that they used/tried, the TOE would be a new newslwetter. It could even be freeware that was downloaded. I realize that writing an article can be intimidating. It can be a very simple one: Where did it come from, what was it expected to do, did it do it, what did you like or dislike, and, will it continue to be used? Simply put, nothing more than explaining it to someone else. Maybe another member will see that diamond or just want to try it. Think about it. I joined to learn, and learn I have. Each club member has talents and tools that add to and complement the whole, and that is what makes CIPCUG.

I am looking at changing the format of the SIGs. I would to have two of the monthly SIGs be a sequence of three to six months. It does not necessarily have to be the same moderator. The sequence on XP the OS by Rick is well attended. The StarOffice/OpenOffice ended in November with its tenth offering. I am looking for ideas and moderators. One sequence to put together might start with creating a digital photo album, include some digital editing, maybe a little HTML, and end with creating a DVD that friends and relatives could view on their TVs. Sound ambitious. Not for the members of CIPCUG.

Root Directory

**Wanted: Advertising Manager
The Outer Edge needs someone to sell ads in
TOE to computer-related
businesses in the county. Anyone
interested should contact Andy Toth or John
Weigle at any meeting
or by e-mail.**

3D-Album to be shown in December

Programs

Jerry Lee will show 3D-Album at our December meeting on Saturday, Dec. 7 (see map and schedule on the back cover).

Here, from the company's Web site <www.3d-album.com>is some information about the program:

The product is to create VCDs and more. You can create VCDs and DVDs from 3D-Album Presentations with Visviva Animation Capture. This software converts animated 3D photo shows into various video formats, including MPEG, MPEG2, AVI, WMV and RealMedia Movies.

The Web site allows for a free download of Visviva Animation.

"Get ready to jet off on the most fun adventure through time you'll ever take. You'll love seeing how a paper airplane flies onto your screen and unfolds into a full size photo. It then folds itself back up, flies off and a new plane flies in. This style lets you write a poem or tell a story in your own voice for each photo."

3D-Album offers a photo album with shadowing, lighting, reflection, and motion blurs effects and provides interactive control of the album in a 3D world. With more than 70 3D styles — and the collection is still growing — there are themes for wedding, reunions, graduations, parties and more.

3D-Album's animated television-style headlines allow title designs.

"With 3D-Album, building professional 3D photo shows is as easy as 1-2-3! You can create multiple albums with cool 3D transitions on CD, or build albums on your Web or as e-ail attachment."

As usual, the meeting will be in Freedom Center at Camarillo Airport.

Other coming programs:

January — Panda Software (tentative), Panda Antivirus Titanium <www.pandasoftware.com/titanium/main.asp>

February — TBA

March — TBA

April — Power Quest

If you have a program request or suggestion, please give it to Craig Ladd by e-mail (vicepresident@cipcug.org) or at any meeting.

SIGs

All our Special Interest Groups are presented at Ventura County Computers. From the 101 Freeway, exit at Telephone, take Telephone south to McGrath, turn left and go one block. Turn right on Goodyear and then right again into the second driveway. Unit 117 is the back, right corner of the industrial building.

The Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are sponsored by CIPCUG and led by volunteers. There is no charge for

December door prizes

The club door prizes for December are:

Microsoft Sidewinder Game Voice

Microsoft Sidewinder Game Pack

LiteOn CD-Rewriter 32x12x40x

Estimated retail value $175

We have two types of raffle tickets: one for any prizes offered by the presenter and one for club-provided prizes. The tickets for the presenter's prizes are free and limited to one per member. The tickets for the club-provided prizes are $1 each, $5 for six tickets, $10 for 13 tickets and $20 for 26 tickets and are available to anyone.

SIG reminders available by e-mail

To keep members up to date on coming SIGs, Andy Toth has agreed to offer an e-mail reminder service to club members. Sign up and he will automatically send you a reminder about two days before each SIG, indicating the topic, location, and date.

We hope that this service will remind more people about coming SIGs. Check the front page of the CIPCUG Web site in the "Latest Page Revisions" or at the bottom of the SIG INFORMATION page. Or, if you want to sign up without going to the Web page, send an e-mail to <siglist@cipcug.org> with the subject line "subscribe" to be placed on the list.

members to attend. If no moderator is listed, the SIG is not officially scheduled. Check the Web page before you attend to make sure there will be a moderator.

Here's the SIG schedule for the end of November and all of December:

Tuesday, Nov. 26: Andy Toth Open Office — Drawing capabilities

Monday, Dec. 9: Michael Shalkey — Sending Christmas e-mail (possibly a slide show presentation)

Tuesday, Dec. 17: Rick Smith XP — Configuring User and Computer Policies User Policies

Because of the Christmas and New Year's holidays, there will be no SIGs the last two weeks of December. Have a happy holiday.

The invitation is out to anyone who would like to lead a SIG to volunteer to do so. You don't have to an expert in a program. You just need enough experience with it to show off some of the basic features. For more details, talk to anyone who has presented a SIG or to any officer.

E-mail greeting cards can be dangerous

Computer gremlins worked against us last month and the Q&A for October did not arrive in time for the November issue. This issue includes both the October and November reports. — Editor

November business meeting

The club officers gave their usual reports. Helen Long mentioned that there are new pictures on the Web site. The ISP technical support page has been updated and now includes alternative phone numbers for residents of Camarillo, Oxnard and Thousand Oaks.

Q&A session

Toby: First, a couple of items. Don't open e-mail greeting cards. It used to be that you could go out, fill in a form and send one to a friend. They would receive an e-mail saying, "You have a greeting card, click here," and it would go out to the Web site and display the greeting card for you. This was a great way for companies to gather e-mail addresses, which they used for spamming purposes. Hallmark was better than most, and they would honor requests to delete you from the list, without selling the lists that they deleted. But the rest of them were pretty much spam harvesting organizations.

However, things have changed. There is one now called "Friend Greetings." It tells you that someone you know is sending you a greeting card. It preys on your curiosity to find out what friend was sending this to you. When you get it and click on it, a little window with a license agreement opens so you can click "I agree." But if you open

it up there is a whole lot more text that you don't see initially, and down in there is language that allows them to monitor what you do on your computer, have the computer report back to them everything you do on the Internet, run programs on your computer. They pretty much have rights to any information on your computer and to run anything they want to, in perpetuity. Basically you've given it away for free — not for free, in return for this valuable greeting card. It also has the right to harvest your address book. It is widely being regarded as a virus of the type called a Trojan — that is, a program that is installed on your computer and then phones home. Don't install it. It is basically another form of spam harvest, a very, very effective one.

Q: Doesn't Zone Alarm prevent your computer from sending information out?

A: It does, but I'm not sure how this particular program is going to work with Zone Alarm. In order to install it you are going to have to tell Zone Alarm that it is OK. It needs access to the Internet because, after all, the greeting card is on the Internet, and if you are going to read it you need to get to the Internet. Once you've done that you've given permissions in Zone Alarm, and probably it will have permissions forever more. I suspect it will probably defeat Zone Alarm unless you are careful. I don't know that for a fact, and I'm not really going to test it out on any of my computers.

But I would never, ever trust any software over native human intelligence. Be aware, be proactive, use your head and think about it. Don't rely upon

Executive Committee Meeting Notes

November 2002   By Martha Churchyard

The CIPCUG Steering Committee Meeting was held Nov. 5, 2002 on at the home of Andy Toth.

Present: George Lakes, Andy Toth, Ralph Duchacek, Ken Church, Art Lewis, Helen Long, Martha Churchyard.

The officers gave their reports. Helen Long discussed

proposed SIGs for December. There will be no SIGs the last two weeks because of the holidays.

Art Lewis is working on an independent review of the club accounts, and updating club ByLaws, and gave progress reports on these projects.

More Q&A: Upgrading USB, virus hoaxes

some inanimate software to do your thinking for you, or you will be sorry sometime.

Q: I have an Intel motherboard, a D815EEA; it will run up to 866, but on the motherboard it has USB, I assume 1.1. I recently bought an external hard drive, and it will run on 1.1, but it is 40 times faster on 2.0. If I plug a USB 2.0 PCI card in, do I have to do anything to the 1.1 that's running off the motherboard, or will the 2.0 run OK?

A: Once you install it, it will run OK. It just has to be plugged into the right slot in order to get the speed off your hard drive. You don't have to worry about disabling 1.1. They're backwards compatible, so your computer will just get a signal from a 1.1, it won't know that it's coming through a 1.1 bus, or that it's just receiving a 1.1 signal. You understand what I'm saying?

Q: I have a question about Windows Media Player. I'm unable to hear any sounds when I try streaming video. I can play a CD, and a sample track that came with Windows Media Player, but I can't play a track that I rip off an audio CD.

A: Can you hear any MP3 at all?

Q: I don't know. This was a .WMA file when I took it off the CD.

A: If it's just a standard CD, when you rip it, it almost always comes off as an MP3.

Q: I did it with Windows Media Player, and the little track thing on the bottom is moving, and it says it's playing, I'm just not hearing it. It played when I copied it, but it won't play when I try to read it back. But yet the sample that comes with Windows Media Player plays. It worked at one time a long time ago, and I don't know what I've done to break it.

A: Where's Andy?

Andy Toth: The only thing that I can possibly recommend is if you bring up your full mixer and make sure that the CD, the WAV, and one other format, are enabled. Sometimes those are muted, and depending on how the source went in it will play in one of those three.

From audience: Maybe he's missing a codec. He can restore it by installing the latest Windows Media Player from the Web site.

Toby: I was given this e-mail somebody got that says, "A new virus has been discovered that has been classified by Microsoft as the most destructive ever. This virus was discovered yesterday afternoon by McAfee, and no vaccine has yet been developed. The virus simply destroys sector 0 from the hard drive," and so on. The title is "A Card for You." There are a whole bunch of variants of this out there. As soon as they say that Symantec and McAfee can't detect it, it's a hoax. Guaranteed. If it were real, there would be a dated reference with a link to the Web page, so you could verify it. It says "discovered yesterday," but this thing has been out on the Internet maybe five or six years. Microsoft will never classify a virus as the most destructive ever. If by chance something came along that really deserved that title there is zero chance you would not have heard it on the evening news, on the front page of the newspaper, on every radio station known to man. You could not miss it if you were alive and awake.

Frequently these things will tell you that you probably already have the virus, or the sender sent you the virus, and tell you to delete a file off your computer to be safe. I think the current one going around gets rid of some part of the Java engine. Don't do it! It's a hoax. They are just telling you to delete parts of your Windows system. If you have Me or XP, you can't even do it. It will say, this is a protected operating system file, and you are not allowed to delete it. But other versions of Windows will let you. You have to use common sense — discovered yesterday, but no link and no date, it's guaranteed to be a hoax. Anything more than 0 exclamation marks, it's a hoax.

Last month we were talking about getting Explorer to open to the folder you want. Here's how to do it. Create a shortcut, and where it names the program, explorer.exe, add slash, e, comma, and then the path that you want to open up. For example, Explorer.exe /e,c:\ *(We did not receive the expanded version of this answer that was promised by the member who gave it to Toby. It should be*

More Q&A: No msconfig, monitor choices

available in the next TOE — Editor)

Q: Msconfig is missing from my Windows 2000.

A: Guess what; if you have Windows 98 you can copy it from your Windows\System folder to the System32 folder in Windows 2000. When it starts, it will give you an error message about missing some config files that aren't in Windows 2000, but it will still start up and you can go through your startup list and make changes, because that part of the registry is the same. There are some other tools that you can use, but that one will work, and that's kind of a nice little tip.

Q: Somebody is sending me messages from an att.net address that are just pages of gibberish.

A: That is a MIME header. Somebody has their MIME turned off and it's not translating, or it's a corrupted MIME. It's just a bunch of machine code. MIME is a method of encoding digital information in ASCII characters (text you can display on your screen). It translates machine code into something that can be displayed, and then you have a decoder at the other end that translates it back into machine code. If that process fails, you have a bunch of machine code on your screen that doesn't do anything. Either there was an error in the transcription of the MIME code at the other end, in which case it wasn't valid MIME, or at your end your MIME is turned off or your MIME is misconfigured. Figuring out how to fix this can be a black art, but basically have a friend send you a JPEG or something like that, and if you can see it in your message your MIME is working properly. If someone in particular is sending you these messages, their MIME encoder isn't outputting them properly. Frequently MIME gets messed up between Macs and Windows.

Q: I only see this very occasionally, so isn't it more than likely the sender's problem?

A: Probably somebody has something old. My guess would be that they have something old that is not properly configured. The other possibility is they are sending it out from AOL or CompuServe, who are notorious for corrupting MIME on the way out. Remember, both of those were created before there was an Internet. They have their own e-mail systems. They have attempted to bolt backwards-compatible stuff on to make the Internet work on their systems, but it's not a rewrite from scratch, and it's not completely compliant.

Q: Could you comment on CRTs versus LCDs using Adobe Photoshop? In a reasonable price range, say no higher than $700. Can you get good color on LCDs or should you just stick to a CRT?

A: The LCDs, the thin panel displays, are better in almost every respect. There are two things about them that are a little different that you need to be aware of. If you are a gamer, one of those guys who likes to shoot 'em up in real time with an opponent on the Internet, you won't like a panel monitor because the refresh rate is lower and by the time you see the enemy they will have shot you. The other thing is that you want to make sure to get a monitor that you can see well at its optimal display setting.

If you get a regular CRT monitor — assuming you have a video card and it is a reasonably recent monitor — you can right-click on the desktop, go to settings, and change the resolution. You can go from 640 by 480, to 800 by 600, to 1024 by 768, 1280 by 1024, etc, and they will all look equally resolved — even though the print gets increasingly smaller as you increase the resolution. You get more characters on the screen, but they get smaller and smaller, and you get to a point of diminishing returns for some of us. With the panel monitors, the size of the dots is not electronically controlled, they are physical. Therefore, there is a resolution that the monitor was built for and all other resolutions are what they call dithered. They will try to adjust things in order to smooth out jaggies, and so forth, but the resolution it was built for will look much, much clearer than any other resolution. As a result, you want to make sure that the resolution of the monitor is compatible with your eyes and you can live with it.

More Q&A: Projectors and AOL 8.0

So why would anyone want to buy one of these things if they are more limited and not as fast? Two reasons: They are much smaller and take up way less desk real estate. The second reason is that they have much better color saturation; the blues will be deeper, brighter blues, the reds will be more vibrant, and so forth. For those of you doing static graphics, still pictures, they tend to be much nicer.

From audience: Another reason is zero EMR. We don't worry about EMR any more, I realize that. However, I'm a little nervous about having 25,000-volt electrons 6 inches from my eyeballs, even though it's all supposed to disappear on the phosphor.

A: Some are more concerned about that than others, but that's a valid reason to want to switch. The cost on the panels is coming down. One thing you need to be aware of is that a 15" panel is about the same size as a 17" CRT monitor. I don't know why they did that.

Q: Please comment on the contrast ratios on the LCDs.

A: Generally you will have higher available contrast ratios on LCDs than you do on CRTs.

Q: I'm interested in a projector like we have here at the meeting. Could you tell us a little bit about what to look for?

A: First of all, they are expensive. It's pretty easy to pay $5,000 or 6,000, and it's very hard to get down close to $1,000. One of the things which makes them expensive is the resolution. The cheap ones are mostly 800 by 600, which is what we have; the expensive ones are what they call XGA, which is 1024 by 768. You can't get much higher than that without getting real expensive. The second thing that impacts the price is the brightness of the unit, usually expressed in terms of lumens. That is a measurement of how bright the picture is at a certain size and distance from the screen. The picture will get less and less bright as we move back, or as we zoom out. The low end now is about 1100 lumens. The more expensive ones are about 2000 lumens. The third thing is size and

weight. The problem is when you get 600- and 700-watt bulbs in small containers they get very hot, so heat dissipation is a limiting factor. In my opinion, in most circumstances it isn't all that important to pay for the XGA. In a large room like this, the letters are already so small that after a certain point nobody can read them. A higher resolution would make it worse. In a small conference room, XGA might be nice, but then you don't need the lumens.

Q: Can't you select large fonts to make it more readable without changing the resolution?

A: Yes, but not all programs honor the display of large fonts. The menus will be larger, but a lot of the things that you are trying to demonstrate won't be. If you use large fonts, you may as well use a lesser resolution. It does about the same thing. And you can save some money by going with the lower resolution.

Q: I have Windows 98 and AOL 7.0. AOL is offering 8.0. Is there any particular advantage at this time to upgrading?

A: I guess I haven't talked about AOL enough. Supposedly, AOL 8.0 is a kinder, gentler virus than 7. (Laughter.) But given AOL's track record I would probably wait a little while before you install it. Don't worry, you'll get another 100 disks in the mail.

Comment from audience: I have the AOL virus because a year ago I bought a new Gateway computer and I fell for the offer of AOL free for one year. I have AOL 7 with Windows XP Home Edition. The reason I'm commenting is that I looked at the details of how you convert to version 8, and they suggest that you keep 7 in a separate folder and see how you get along with 8. So even AOL is cautious. And I looked at the 20 advantages that AOL 8 would give me, and none of them did anything for me.

Q: Why do we find someone else in our AOL account every so often? We can't use it because it's busy. We dial up, and it says it is already in use. In other words, our identity has been stolen.

A: That happens a fair amount. Don't be sur-

More Q&A: Denial of service attacks

prised if your identity gets stolen on any system, but it is very common on AOL. The next thing that will probably happen is your e-mail account will get turned off, because it has been abused by spammers. If they haven't yet, maybe it's because you have a different password on your e-mail and they haven't gotten in there yet. I would contact AOL and have them change the password over the phone.

Q: Could you tell us a little bit about the Internet denial of service attack that took us down at the beginning of the week? I understand that there was a denial of service attack on about eight of the main servers that took us down, I think it was on Monday.

A: It didn't take everything down. For instance, we weren't down. But in general this is how it is done. We talk sometimes about Trojans, and being safe, and some of us may suspect we have Trojans installed on our computers, but if it's not interfering with anything we're doing, we may not be too concerned about it. The hackers will penetrate tens of thousands of sites where they install their own software on the computer and take control of it. Then they set them all up with scripts that at a certain date and time start requesting information as fast as they can from a list of servers.

These servers have quite a bit of capacity, but it isn't unlimited, and the hackers have an unlimited choice of computers that they can use in an attack. They begin to request information at an incredible rate. The servers can't serve all these phony requests for information, and they break down under the load, so they can't serve legitimate requests for information either. Essentially, portions of the Internet will go dead. These attacks are called DDOS, Distributed Denial of Service attacks. They are fairly common. If you want to read a really good discussion of it, though it gets a little bit geeky, Steve Gibson has been hit twice. Go to <grc.com> and read about it on his site.

Please do take it seriously if you think it's possible you have a Trojan on your computer. Be careful to get rid of it. Most of the common vari-

ants are detectable, and Zone Alarm will help you get rid of them. But do be a good citizen because it's your duty.

The other aspect of it is that the FBI or whoever investigates these DDOS attacks cannot get directly to the hacker unless they can find some link between your computer and the hacker. The normal way they do that is, when they find out you participated in the DDOS attack, they know you weren't guilty, but they will come and gather your computer for evidence. When the investigation is complete they will give you back your computer — in 3 years or so. So it behooves you just as a practical matter to try to make sure you don't have any of these Trojans. The guys who install them don't want you to be alarmed so they tend to be pretty benign in terms of what they do to your computer, so you won't take any action to get rid of them.

October business meeting

For the record, Andy announced that Frank Segesman was the first recipient of the lifetime membership award.

The new "Secret Guide to Computers" has arrived. The update includes sections on Visual Basic and a few other applications, and club members get a substantial discount. The club officers gave their usual reports.

Q&A session

Q: Apple for some time has had the ability to add color to a folder in Windows Explorer so you can spot key folders. Microsoft doesn't have this ability. Is there some program that does that?

A: Windows XP, Windows 2000, Windows NT…

Q: I'm on Windows 98.

A: In Explorer in XP you can customize folders, or even use a picture.

Comment: I think the new PowerDesk has this feature too, but I wouldn't swear to it. *(I checked, and it will let you color folders. PowerDesk is formerly by Ontrack, but see the last issue of*

More Q&A: Graphics, system resources

TOE. — Editor)

Q: (Reading question): Scanned black and white image saved as BMP file, what is the best app to add text, add color, and how?

A: You need a graphics editor, something that will handle a BMP file. You can use the Paint program that comes with Windows. I like Paint Shop Pro. Some of the people here are Photoshop users. There are a lot of shareware ones. IrfanView is freeware.

Q: Can you show us how you check your system resources?

A: (From audience): Right click My Computer, go to properties, Performance, or go to Control Panel, System.

Q: (Reading question): Adelphia cable modem connection to computer is either Cat 5 or USB 1.1. Does either provide any download speed advantage?

A: That's not the operative thing. First of all, USB has been horribly unreliable and unsatisfactory in the field. Several companies that started out doing USB have discontinued it. In addition, the equipment to try to plug two computers into a USB connection is either nonexistent, doesn't work or is vaporware. I'm probably slandering someone who has something marginally working, but it isn't worth it and it's hideously expensive. Get the industry standard Ethernet card and a $2 cable and you can plug four computers into it. With another hub you can add up to 249 computers or so, and run them all out of your house on one connection. You can't do that with USB. I strongly urge you not to mess with USB. One other thing: If you can, try to get a static IP address (although with Adelphia you don't have any choice).

Q: Shields Up with Zone Alarm says I am stealth. Is there any other thing I should be doing to be more secure?

A: Some ports end up being stealth. You can shut down the ports if you're not using them, if you find out what port it is. In other words, if you find out if it's port 80, you can turn off all requests for HTTP information, and so on. It depends what port it is. You can turn them off, but I don't think there's much point in it, because all of the hackers are looking for people who have open systems. There are so many newbies out there with open systems that it just isn't worth their time to attack a system where the port is stealth. That may or may not be able to be broken into if you are a hacker. It's problematic and time-consuming and it's a one-off deal. They have scripts that can run into almost any port that's wide open. From a practical standpoint, unless you think you're a special target of some hacker, somebody you injured many years ago, who is now a wizard hacker, I wouldn't worry about it too much.

Q: I'd like to use my computer to help me record radio programs and end up with an audio cassette tape, either recording from the Internet or from the radio. Are there any programs that might assist me with that?

A (Mike Shalkey): I do it every day. Just make sure you have a regular patch cord from Radio Shack, MIDI to MIDI. I do Line Out from your audio sound card, not Speaker Out, to the microphone jack of your little boom box. Do you have a cassette recorder that has a little mini microphone jack? Plug it in there. The interesting thing is you will hear "You've got mail," everything that is supposed to come out of your speakers will now come out of the tape deck. If you hit Record, it will record it all. If you are listening to an Internet radio station, just hit Record.

Q: Is there a program that would enable me to record as a VCR does, when I'm not there at a prearranged time?

A: (Inaudible from audience) He knows it exists, he's heard it advertised on the radio, but he can't remember the name of it.

(From audience): He can use his VCR to record radio programs. Just plug the output of your radio into the audio input of your VCR, and program the VCR for the time you want to record. I do it all

More Q&A: Web video, startup programs

the time, and it's a lot cheaper than audio tapes.

Q: How can I download the video from a Web page, like a speech or something like that, so you can listen to it again?

A: Are you talking about video that's on the Web page? If it has a little thing that says "watch the video" or whatever, right mouse click on the icon, and save the source as a file to your hard drive.

Q: I have a question about scanners and software. I have a Visioneer scanner with PaperPort software. Do I have to use that software or can I change?

A: I have no clue. Does anyone know? (Inaudible comment) Omni Pro will run with the Visioneer? Try that.

(From audience): Your scanners, digital cameras, and so forth, all use what's called TWAIN. TWAIN is a special driver to take images off of things. If you have Photoshop, you can go "TWAIN Acquire," and it will list the devices that have been set up with TWAIN Drivers. Photoshop will import that picture straight from your scanner. But the scanner has to have the TWAIN drivers installed. (Inaudible question) Yes, as long as you have TWAIN. You can go under your Windows folder, and there should be a subfolder called TWAIN. If that exists, the TWAIN drivers are in that folder and they will import an image to Photoshop, Paint Shop, etc, as long as you have the other physical drivers to run the scanner, the device drivers.

Q: I wonder what is controlling what TSRs are loaded on Startup?

A: (Demonstrating on club computer). Run MSCONFIG, the Startup tab. Uncheck to your heart's content — until you blow it up. (Laughter). Most people want the system tray, systray and Explorer. You can't get rid of the mouse, because the wireless mouse will suddenly stop working. You can turn off the scheduler. I have no idea what SSDPSRV is, but if it has SRV in it, that's a service, and particularly if they are in the WINDOWS \SYSTEM directory, turn those off with caution. Turning off state manager will create problems. PC health just checks on how well the computer's running, some diagnostics, you can get rid of it.

(From audience): I found there are five things you need in Windows 9x: scan registry, task monitor, system tray, and your two load profiles, one at the top and one there on the bottom. If you have a mouse that's running remote, you have to have that, and your keyboard, if you have a special keyboard. Don't eliminate your antivirus. You can pick and choose the rest of them.

(Toby) Whatever your peripherals are that you want to use, don't cut them off.

Q: Could you tell us about the Word Exploit that's come out, where you can embed stuff in Word and send it to someone for editing, and thereby steal or look at any files they might have on their computer?

A: I don't know the technical details of this, but generally you need to be careful of Word documents that you import and know where they're from. That's a general rule you should apply to anything you receive. If you receive a document from somebody you don't know or somebody you don't trust, it's not worth opening it up. That goes for Excel spreadsheets, too. If you want to open Word documents, open them in WordPad. WordPad will open most documents. It won't display them quite correctly, but you see what's in it. If there are any viruses in them, they won't execute, because WordPad doesn't have the Microsoft scripting language that runs them. There is also a Word viewer program you can download from the Microsoft site that does not have scripting either.

Q: Why not just run a virus scan on them?

A: The only problem is that the very newest designer viruses might not be in your week-old virus definitions. I've gotten very cautious about this because two years ago the server on which CIPCUG and Ventura County Computers run their ISP — with all of our e-mail accounts, all of our Web ac-

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More Q&A: Shutdown, e-mail problems

counts — got the Code Red virus. The virus definitions were completely up to date. We got the virus two days before Symantec identified it. You can't protect yourself from every virus. Being up to date is not a guarantee.

(From audience): Besides, this is not a virus. This is a feature in Word, called "lists," and so there is no way any virus program will ever detect it or shut it off.

(Toby) But Microsoft will put some security in that, probably. But it will probably come out in a security patch rather than in an antivirus update.

Q: Another question I had was about Windows shutdown problems. I have a friend who has been running OK, and then she got broadband. Since they installed DSL she can't shut down the computer properly, and I'm trying to help her out.

A: First of all, there is a Windows 98 trouble-shooting document in the Microsoft Knowledge Base <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;Q238096>. These troubleshooters all go some 20 items or so, and the last item in both cases is, if that doesn't fix it, format the hard drive and reinstall Windows. Microsoft is not able to fix every shutdown problem. They occur because some program is not closed properly when Windows goes into its shutdown. Windows shutdown is sitting there waiting for the program to close, and it won't or can't close, sometimes because a service or dependency that it needs has already been shut down as part of the shutdown process. It didn't go in the right order.

Anytime you install new software and suddenly have a shutdown problem, you have a problem with a program running in the background that is not shutting down. It usually — but not always — will be one of the programs you just installed, in this case the stuff that comes with the DSL that runs the PPPoE connections. The Enter300 software is famous for that, so that's probably where that comes from. But there are others, and it can happen with anything.

Debugging is a matter of trying to turn things off in MSCONFIG; and sometimes that will work.

You can use the troubleshooting document in the Microsoft Knowledge Base. For your specific Windows system, search on "Tshoot shutdown," and the list of hits will include the list of trouble-shooting steps. You can go through those, but by about item 12 or 13 you will want to kill yourself — and there are about 20 of them.

Q: I was getting rid of some temp files in Windows Me, and I came across some that I wasn't too sure about. Under Restore there are dozens of files named CPY.TMP, all about 1K. What would these be?

A: Probably something that didn't shut down gracefully, that was in an error state when you closed down. The files that don't have today's date can safely be deleted. Technically there could be recoverable data in them, for instance if you had a Word document open and shut down without closing it, there might be some new stuff that you had written in those little temp files. Theoretically you could go in and recover the missing keystrokes, but in actuality it's never worth the effort; it's easier to just re-create it.

Q: Someone told me that Norton does its virus updates weekly, on Wednesday nights, so I go in on Thursday mornings and update once a week. Is that accurate?

A: No. If some ugly, nasty virus hits their radar screen with big numbers of infections Norton will issue a release the instant the release is available. They will not wait. They do try to do at least a weekly maintenance update. Some weeks no viruses worthy of the name come along, but they still do an update, because they will have some maintenance type stuff. But if there is a new Klez virus, or something that is infecting everybody, an update will come out instantly. Usually you will know about those if you listen to the news reports, and you can do a manual update. So the weekly will work, but don't expect it to pick up any of the really big stuff.

Q: So just a regular weekly is sufficient, there's no particular day that is any more magic?

A: The updates are on Wednesday. Thursday's

More Q&A: AV updates, reinstalling Windows

probably a good day, that'll work. But what I am saying is, it will work for the general issues, but be aware of the fact that if Friday some big virus hits, start updating every day — either that or just don't turn your computer on. (Laughter).

(From audience): I just wanted to make one comment about viruses. Where I work the first thing we do every morning is go to Norton and check the updates. And we probably average getting virus updates three times a week, at least. So once a week I don't think is sufficient.

Q: I have another question: I've been running Windows 98 for about three years. I heard someone say recently that every once in a while one should reinstall just to clean things up. Is that true?

A: If it starts to run slowly, or have all kinds of funny little problems that don't lend themselves to fixes, yes. Eventually Windows will corrupt itself and needs to be reinstalled.

Q: I have a Gateway notebook running Windows 98 SE. When I've had problems with it getting hung up trying to boot, it says, "not responding." I've found that it helps to go back to your previous registry, using regscan or something like that. You might lose some programs but sometimes that can bring your system back to operation.

A: Yes, you can restore previous registries, and if you have your computer working well, save it

More Q&A ...

and give it a name so you know it's a really good copy.

A lot of times that will work nearly as well as a complete reinstall.

Q: On Windows Me, when you start Windows Explorer, how can you get it to go just to the C: drive and not that stupid My Documents folder?

A: Depends on where you open it up.

Q: On my version of Me it's right there on the title bar, the quick launch bar. It goes to My Documents, and I haven't been able to figure out how to change it.

A: (Demonstrating on club computer) If you right click on the Start menu, it goes to the start menu so you can make changes to your program settings in the menu. If you right-click on My Computer, it goes to My Computer and it opens up all the drives. That's the most useful one.

Q: Yes, but I hide all that stuff on my desktop, because I like my wallpaper. I just like the quick launch button down there on the shortcut.

A: There's a switch on the command line for the shortcut, if you go to the icon properties.

I think you can add a path, or put a "start in," I'm not sure, but it can be done. Play around with the settings in the command line, or look it up in the Knowledge Base. And you can also do it in File Types, by editing the properties and putting some commands after it that will tell it what to open up in by default.

Editor's corner
Change is the only constant

You might have noticed some changes in TOE this is-sue.

First, of course, is the amount of space devoted to the question-and-answer reports. That is a one-time-only change because, as noted in the Q&As, we didn't get the October report in time for the last issue, so we doubled up this time with both October and November.

Second, and more permanently, unless I hear major ob-jections, is the move of the Root directory to page 2. I've been trying to include more information in the Root direc-tory and divide it into two sections: CIPCUG news and Other items. As the number of articles increased, I had to make the type smaller, move the contents to another page or stop adding items.

The last choice seemed to defeat the purpose of giving readers a complete guide to TOE, and making the type much smaller would have made it hard to read. That left only one choice: Move it to another page.

Because the executive committee minutes are much shorter than they were when I became editor, it seemed logical to move them and open up the space on page 2 for an expanded table of contents. We're also about to run out of space for the list of past officers in the masthead, another reason to open up some space on the page.

Moving the Root directory inside leaves its old location on page 1 available for teasers. These will vary from issue to issue, depending on the content, of course, but I'll try to highlight some of the best items inside — and possibly use, as I did this issue, some kind of seasonal illustration.

Moving this column is also temporary. I needed a full page for the Beginners Class, and 19 seemed the only spot.

* * *

For the past couple of months, Word has been telling me that the normal.dot template was corrupt. I'd heard of the problem before, so I deleted it, knowing that Word would rebuild it the next time I opened the program, only to find it corrupt again and again. I scanned for viruses and found none (yes, my definitions were up to date).

I finally did a Google search and found this site, <http://www.ceo.woll.catholic.edu.au/technology/word_normal/>.

It has an explanation for the problem and an auto-mated way to fix the it. The cause is double clicking on the Word icon on the tool bar (why this would corrupt a tem-plate isn't clear on the Web site, but it apparently does).

The software fix rebuilds the normal.dot template. Since I stopped double-clicking on the icon — I removed it to remove the temptation — the problem seems solved, so I guess the explanation is correct.
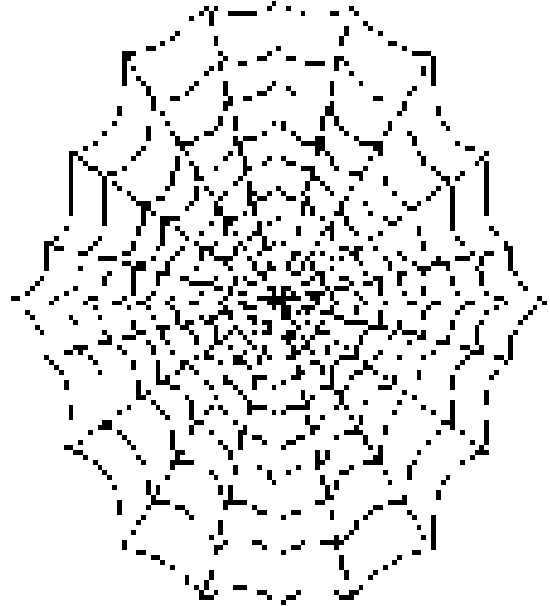
— John Weigle, editor

New pictures up; server upgrade coming

I finally got the pictures to display in the Club Photo Page 3. What a mess that was. For some reason or another, I decided to use long file names that are a bit more descriptive and I might remember what the image is two months down the road. Who am I kidding? When we are talking about over 400 images, you aren't going to remember anything beyond 30 minutes. I have seen other Web pages use the long file names with no problem. What happens is, when they don't display in your browser, you cannot view the file names from your server to verify the spelling of the image files because Windows in all its smartness, abbreviates the names and you can't tell what is on the server. When I went back to the short file names, it worked like a charm. Why make trouble for yourself? Do what works!

I am going to bring up a bit of ancient history — I strongly urge all of our CIPCUG ISP members to check out Toby's page concerning the new server upgrade information. Go to Toby's Web site at <http://www.vccomputers.com/newmail.cfm> for complete details and information on changes to make in your Outlook Express or other e-mail program. The changes may come sometime in the month of December, and we will be contacting our ISP members by phone when it happens. Believe me, you WILL KNOW when it happens! You will still be able to access the Internet; however, you will have to make two very minor changes in your **Outlook Express** settings before you will be able to open up your mailbox. You can open up OE and check "Work Offline" and make your setting changes, then hit the "Send/Receive" menu item, and if there is a little angel sitting on your shoulder, your mailbox should open up without any problem..

Some of you are still hitting the panic button when you have a problem dialing in. I keep telling you that you aren't holding your mouth right. Oxnard, Camarillo, and Ventura people all have two different numbers they can use for dial-up. If one line is busy, try the other one. The dial-up numbers are 289-1479 and 200-1000 and 200-1010 for Ventura and Oxnard; and 200-1000, 200-1010 or 601-0166 and 601-0194 and 230-1046 for Camarillo. The Fillmore, Ojai and Santa Paula people might want to refer to Toby's Web page (New Server/Dial-Up Numbers) to see if you have other alternatives. Any time you need to access Toby's home page, check the <www.cipcug.org> page, and his page is the very first listing in the TOC.

Have you all checked out the new page that Andy has put on the club's Web site? This is labeled UG Discounts. (User Group Discounts). He is adding many new listings, so be sure to check it out. Many of the vendors are extending discount deadlines beyond the time they visit our meetings. He has already posted Partition Magic; IOLO Technologies System Magic; EBOOK Systems Flip Album; Rogers Systems; JASC; Alladin Systems Stuffit, Dragstrip, Sundial, Flashback and more.

He is working on several others as this is written. Keep checking this page out.

Membership report: Is it time to renew?

By Ken Church

<membership@cipcug.org>

Welcome to the following new members: Igor Lozenicins, Marlene Nagy, and Jacklyn Sanford.

Attendance at the November 2002 general meeting:
107 Members
3 Guests
Total membership: 340

RENEWAL INFORMATION

The **renewal**/New Mbr dues are $**25**/$35 for single membership, $**30**/$50 for two or more family membership.

Please send your renewal payment to:

CIPCUG MEMBERSHIP
P.O. BOX 51354
OXNARD, CA 93031-1354

Or bring your payment to the December meeting.

October 2002 renewals past due, Final Notice:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Date
0941	Clark	Reagan	200210
0037	Hosford	Victor	200210
1073	Lopez	Lillian	200210
0510	McKeefery	Genevieve	200210
0772	Reich	Estelle	200210
0262	Strecker	Mike	200210

November 2002 renewals past due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Date
0388	Armstrong	Bob	200211
0516	Cantarini	Billy	200211
1074	Chaison	Doris	200211
0944	Coon	Donn	200211
0738	Dutro	Georgia	200211
0907	Fenton	Karen	200211
0635	Godwin	John	200211
0945	Gorelik	Donn	200211
0946	Gorelik	Patricia	200211
0490	Jones	Emerald	200211

November 2002 renewals past due: (Continued)

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Date
1075	Krieger	Robert	200211
0781S	Kurowski	"Ski"	200211
1077A	Levy	Marielle	200211
1077	Levy	Miguel	200211
0634	Mansfield	Arthur	200211
0996	Ostanock	Stephan	200211
0997	Pacheco	Laura	200211
1046	Snyder	William	200211
0273	Valentine	H. W.	200211
1076	Weeks	Bob	200211

December 2002 renewals due:

Mbr#	Last Name	First Name	Pd to Date
0829	Bates	Don	200212
0748	Burckhard	Jake	200212
1044	Cohen	Jerry	200212
1042	Connors	Timothy	200212
0908	Cronin	Richard	200212
1080	Erickson	Arline	200212
1045	Franco	Ernesto	200212
1078	Gentile	Tony	200212
1000	Grether	Arline	200212
0390	Kelly	Bob	200212
0830	Kiceniuk	Taras	200212
0643	Kinoshita	George	200212
0993	Ladd	Craig	200212
0749	Landreth	Bill	200212
0049	Lewis	Art	200212
0750	Markussen	Arne	200212
0825	Pinkerton	Ron	200212
0171	Ranson	Stan	200212
0828	Rosenbloom	Jean	200212
0827	Rosenbloom	Richard	200212
1079	Schrum	Jerry	200212
1001	Toth	Andy	200212
1049	Toth	Lisa	200212
1048	Ulam	Frederick	200212
0645S	Wallace	Sandra	200212
1081	Waters	Bill	200212
0125	Zakas	Len	200212
0650	Zakas	Trish	200212

Microsoft shows off holiday projects

By John Weigle

<jweigle@vcnet.com>

A holiday bag full of Microsoft goodies was opened for us at the November meeting.

Matt McCann, representing Microsoft Mindshare, showed off Digital Image Pro, Tablet PC and Pocket PC and mentioned that new versions of Age of Mythology and Golf are available for the holidays.

Digital Image Pro is a photo-editing program, and this year's version is much better than last year's, McCann said, because it has given several features new names that make them easier to find.

One of its most impressive features is "flash," which adds the effects of a flashbulb or strobe when applied to dark areas of a picture.

It also allows users to airbrush out glares, remove wrinkles and red eye, adjust lighting and automatically fix pictures.

Filters and plug-ins are easier to use than they were in earlier versions, he said.

Cropping is possible in a variety of shapes, and it's easy to change the size of pictures and change size while maintaining the aspect ratio.

The program has templates for a variety of calendars, McCann said, noting that his parents still rave about a personalized calendar he gave them even though they also received more expensive presents, too.

Digital Image Pro is "a full suite of things" and costs about $100 retail, although it's available for about $75 with a variety of discounts.

The Tablet PC is a regular laptop computer with two buttons that let the user lay the monitor down and write on it with a special stylus just as one writes on a piece of paper with a pen or pencil.

The Tablet PC runs with special applications under Windows XP, he said, and can save what he writes in his handwriting or convert it to text.

It works with a wired or wireless network, he said, demonstrating how data can be changed on a Pocket PC and moved to the Tablet PC, or vice versa.

Users can search documents for word in either text or the handwritten version. Another feature lets users copy a Web page, mark it up with notes or other markings (such as circling an item) and e-mail it to another user.

The Tablet can convert writing to text — "There is a training process," he said — and also has voice activation. "It's turning into a very robust little unit."

The Tablet PC comes from several makers, including Acer, Compaq and Toshiba, he said, adding all the versions have "lots of cool things."

The Pocket PC comes with a cradle to recharge its batteries and connect it to another computer through a USB connection, he said. It also has an

F1—Your Help Key
(Revised Oct. 14, 2002)

CIPCUG INTERNET SERVICE

(For general Internet and Communications programs, see Communications/Internet)

Jerry Crocker,   486-0308, 6-10 p.m.
    normsplumb@aol.com,
Roland Fleig,   983-8707, mornings
    schwable@cipcug.org,
George & Arline Lakes, 983-2969, 2-10 p.m.
    thelakes@cipcug.org,
Helen Long   642-6521
    helen@cipcug.org
David D. Minkin,   484-2974, 5-12 p.m., weekends
    dddave@QuixNet.net
Claude Whelchel,   482-4017, 8-12 a.m.
    claude@cipcug.org

COMMUNICATIONS/INTERNET (GENERAL)

World Wide Web	DM, TS
Compuserve.	DM
Note Tab Pro.	TS
Procomm Plus	DM, WB

DATABASES

dBASE.	GM

DOS   RP

EDUCATIONAL / CHILDREN TZ

E-MAIL

Eudora	JT
Lotus:CCMail.	DM
Outlook	TS
Outlook Express	TS, AT

FINANCIAL

Quicken	JD

GENEALOGY   TL

HARDWARE, UPGRADING JM, JD

HTML   TS, AT

NETWORKS   TS

OS/2   LZ

SPREADSHEETS

Lotus 1-2-3	GM
Microsoft Excel	DM, AT
Quattro Pro	DM

UTILITY PROGRAMS

Norton Utilities	DM, JD
PCAnywhere	DM
PC Tools .	WB
XTree Gold.	DM

WORD PROCESSING

Microsoft Word	BW, DM, MR
WordPerfect.	DM, GM, JD

WINDOWS

Windows 3.1	DM, JM
Windows 98, 95	DM, JM, AT (98)
Windows Me	JT, AT
Windows 2000	TS, AT
Windows NT	TS

Initials	Name	(805)
AT	Andy Toth	604-7538 (e)
BW	Bart Wood	482-4993 (e)
DM	David Minkin	469-6970 (cell) (5-11 p.m. weekends); dddave@QuixNet.net
GM	Gracia Marks	484-7572 (e)
JD	John Daily	650-0029 (b)
JM	Jerry McLoud	(818) 889-6176 (e)
JT	Jim Thornton	987-1748 (d)
LZ	Len Zakas	388-8452 (b)
MR	Marvin Reeber	984-1974 (b)
RP	Robert Provart	498-8477 (b)
TL	Terry Lee	tdlee28@hotmail.com
TS	Toby Scott	289-3960 (d) tech@cipcug.org
TZ	Trish Zakas	388-8452 (b)

Practice safe computing:
Back up
Back up
Back up

Are you tired of looking at all the ads on your free Internet or free E-mail service? Are you looking for a reliable ISP at a reasonable price? How does $15 per month plus $15 processing fee sound to you? You will also have the advantage of a special DOMAIN name; however, it may not be a name of your own choosing. It is the name of the club that provides this service to its members; CIPCUG.

To sign up, contact one of the club's techies in the F1 — YOUR HELP KEY (page 17) under CIPCUG INTERNET SERVICE. Call one of them you may know or one in your area and they will be glad to provide you with the details necessary for signing up. Checks should be made payable to CIPCUG and forwarded to Treasurer, c/o CIPCUG, P. O. Box 51354, Oxnard CA 93031. Don't forget to include the $15 set-up fee in your first sign-up check. You may make payments in three-month, six-month or annual increments. (Renewals can also be mailed to Treasurer; just be sure to mention the dates that your check is to cover).

We have had over a year of flawless service to our club members. There is no program to install, you will be making use of the programs that are already on your computer. It is a simple matter to talk you through the set-up as it is today — much easier than it was in the past. If you are the least bit timid about setting up your computer for our service, a club member will be glad to come to your house and make the necessary set up arrangements. How many ISPs do you know who will do this? Our agreement will also give you a 5 MB Web page allowance.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call any of the Tech Support team and they will either answer the questions or find out the answers for you.

Treasurer's report
By Art Lewis

October 2002

Category Description	10-1 through 10-31, 2002
INCOME	
ISP Income	1,215.00
New members	105.00
Publication sales	-277.00
Raffle	44.75
Renewals	530.00
TOTAL INCOME	**1,617.75**
EXPENSES	
Coffee-Doughnuts	59.00
Corporate Expenses	105.50
ISP Expense	523.00
Storage	50.00
TOE	470.29
TOTAL EXPENSES	**1,244.79**
TOTAL INCOME – EXPENSES	**372.96**
Unrestricted Funds	$ 6,717.00
Restricted Funds	3,076.00
Bank Balance 10-31-02	**9,793.00**

More on Microsoft holiday products

Active Sync feature so users can synchronize it and a desktop or laptop computer.

"As you work on your computer, you're your documents can move with you," he said.

Many themes are available for the desktop, he added.

Pocket Streets and Trips software will link to GPS devices so users can follow their trips on the map on the screen.

It also has Microsoft Messenger, he said, adding that he and his daughter talk more on the Internet than they do on the telephone.

File explorer on the Pocket PC will look at all computers on the network it's attached to.

McCann said he was a Palm user until about two months ago, but after using the Pocket PC "it's really tough to go back." The Toshiba Pocket PC is about $600, but prices are coming down.

Beginners Class
November 2, 2002 - Michael Shalkey

Start | [icons] | 10:49 AM

START MENU **TASKBAR** **SYSTEM TRAY**

Start Menu

When you press the Windows key or click on the Start button, up pops this menu.

Programs: Provides quick access to most of the software on your computer

Favorites: Quick access to your favorite web pages

Documents: Quick access to the last 15 files you saved (no matter what application you used) AND your MY DOCUMENTS folder

Settings: Access to Control Panel, Printers, Task Bar, Folder Options, etc.

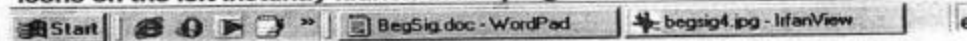**Find:** To locate files on your computer or the Internet

Help: Windows Help files (least used feature on your computer)

Run: Start programs from your computer or DOS Prompt

Shut Down: The proper place to turn off or restart your computer

Task bar:
Icons on the left instantly launch those programs

Start | [icons] | BegSig.doc - WordPad | begsig4.jpg - IrfanView

Boxes in the middle show what programs are open and being used.

(Alt Tab will switch between them.)

System Tray

Shows the time and displays icons of programs or utilities that are running in the background.

Tips and Tricks

Settings – Taskbar/start menu – Start menu programs – Advanced

Gives you a Win Explorer-like window that allows you to change the name of your programs – which, if you only use one starting letter or number per menu, lets you launch without the mouse.
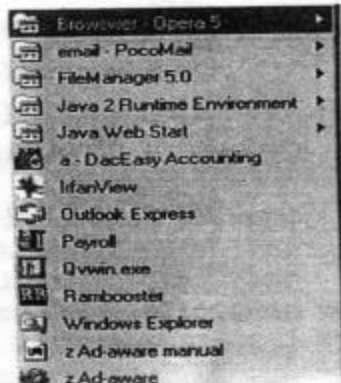
In this example, I can launch IrfanView by typing: Windows Key, P, Q, I

The Outer Edge

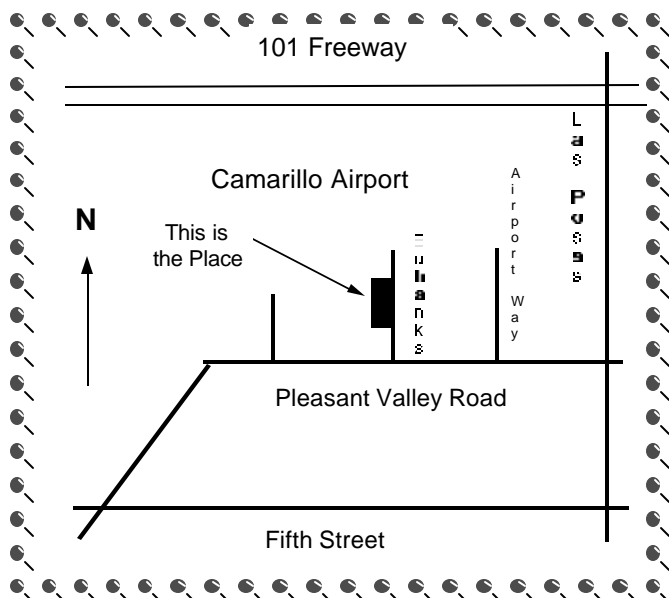Channel Islands PC Users Group
P.O.Box 51354
Oxnard, CA. 93031

DATED MATERIAL
Please Do Not Delay

DUES REMINDER

If the number after your
name is 0212, your mem-
bership dues are payable
in December 2002

DECEMBER 2002 MEETING OF
CHANNEL ISLANDS PC USERS GROUP

Saturday morning, Dec 7,
at
Freedom Center,
Camarillo Airport
515 Eubanks (at Pleasant Valley Road)
Camarillo, Calif.

Meeting Schedule:
0845-0930 Beginners SIG
0845-0930 Internet SIG
0930-1030 Business meeting, Q&A
1030-1055 Break - Please contribute requested
                    amounts for coffee & doughnuts
1100-1200 Program (3D-Album) and drawing

Many programs available for reviews

Developers of the following software have asked if we'd review the programs in TOE. If you're interested, contact the editor <jweigle@vcnet.com> for a copy of the full e-mail. The descriptions are provided by the companies asking for reviews.

If you review a program you can keep it, give it away or donate it back to the club as a door prize. Reviews should, at least, give a general idea of what the program is supposed to do,

More on progra[m]

how well it did it, how easy or hard you found it to use and any general comments you have on it.

AhaView 2.0

It is a fast and powerful full-featured picture viewer, image converter and digital image management tool that is becoming essential to everyone ... AhaView is created to be the intuitive and professional graphic imaging software that lets you view, organize, enhance, share and print your images quickly without slowing down your PC. It requires no learning curve and offers a fast and efficient way of managing hundreds of pictures in your PC.

Advanced Administrative Tools 5.0

Protect your data, privacy and valuable computer system with Advanced Administrative Tools (AATools). AATools is an essential security diagnostic tool for anyone who wishes to protect their computer and all the valuable data it contains. ... AATools is just the testing utility needed to verify the integrity of your security and firewall functions. AATools investigates and gathers information concerning your computer, network status, and service availability. To put it simply, AATools performs an inspection on everything that is vital to the network security, includ-

nication and problem solving.

WebQuiz 2002 for Windows

An affordable and user-friendly software program for creating and developing Web questionnaires, tests and quizzes. Whether your needs are for education, business or entertainment, WebQuiz 2002 is a real time saver when it comes to creating quick questionnaires or quizzes that are smart, sharply focused and effective. ... It supports four different question types (multiple choice, multiple answer, true/false, fill-in-the-blank) and it can create highly interactive and self-evaluating tests. The product includes several ready-to-use professional templates, which can be used to customize the quizzes.

Capsa 2.1

A powerful yet simple-to-use tool for monitoring and analyzing network activity. Capsa (Colasoft Application Protocol Sniffer & Analyzer) is a powerful TCP/IP Network Monitor and Analyzer program which lets you trace TCP connection states and monitor IP packets over the local network host. In addition, Capsa goes beyond the functions of normal monitors and packet decoders. It supports and decodes many different protocols such as POP3, SMTP, HTTP, TELNET, FTP and more. Capsa even lets you capture and save passwords and e-mail content in Outlook Ex-

press Message formats. Capsa gives you flexible control over which packets you want to reject with powerful customizable filtering options. It captures data in real-time, "off the wire", from a live network connection. Capsa also lets you analyze data from a capture file, allowing you to check up on the network as and when you want to. Powerful packet viewing options allows you to customize how the captured packets are viewed, filter any duplicates, as well as copy captured data. Network monitoring and analyzing is a breeze with Capsa since its interface is similar to Windows Explorer. It also automatically loads protocol drivers, so install requests for missing drivers will be a thing of the past.

Modem Booster 3.0

Modem Booster optimizes your internal settings automatically and speeds up bandwidth regardless of modem, system or configuration. Modem Booster optimizes your computer system's hidden settings so that your internet connection is set up for maximum efficiency... Works with all ISPs, including AOL, CompuServe, MSN, NetZero, Prodigy and AT&T WorldNet Connections.

ArtIcons 3.20

ing the utilization of tools to check open ports, proxies, email lists, Internet applications and generate system information. All these concern your computer security and safekeeping.

Vypress Messenger 3.1 for Windows

Vypress Messenger is the Swiss Army Knife of instant messaging solutions for business Intranets, LAN, WAN and Networks. Its powerful features enable real time two way peer-to-peer communication between staff of various levels and workgroups within company. Especially effective in a large corporate environment, its wide ranging message broadcasting options allows multiple message conferencing and file sharing, resulting in a more streamlined method of commu-