SLO Bytes GROUP
SAN LUIS OBISPO PC USERS
HARD COPY

What's New

By Bob Ward

Our May meeting was one not to miss, although I think many of our members opted to attend the Cinco De Mayo festivities in San Luis Obispo. The attendance was not what I expected for such a great meeting but perhaps those who couldn't make in in May will be here for the June meeting which also will prove to be special... More on that later.

George, the one and only Prez of SLO Bytes gave his hour of informative discussion and demonstration; this time the DOS XCOPY command held the spotlight for a good part of the early meeting. More powerful than the COPY command, XCOPY copies as many files into RAM as permitted before moving them into another subdirectory or to another floppy disk. It saves both time and the number of disk accesses. A floppy disk with his lecture demonstration will be available in the library for those who unfortunately missed it. The remainder of the early meeting was devoted to answering questions from the audience.

At 3:00pm I was pleased to introduce Betty Skov, public relations manager for Logitech, Inc. Although most noted for their computer mouse, they have many other products just as interesting. Betty brought her PC clone, VGA monitor and overhead projection system to demonstrate Finesse, Logitech's entry level desktop publishing software priced at $179. First she described the Logitech peripherals used to enhance this DTP program. They included the Series 9, 3 button mouse, and the new ScanMan Plus hand scanner.

ScanMan Plus is an update to their older ScanMan Pro. The scanning color has been changed to yellow/green. Seems the older ScanMan, which used red as the scanning color, made it close to impossible to "see" things colored red. The "color-blindness" has been reduced to a minimum by changing colors. The scanner comes bundled with

Tearbar Feedback

By Jim Bigelow
SLO Bytes PC User's Group

Just to let you know that I tried the printer tearbar suggestion as outlined in .the April issue of SLO Bytes HARD COPY. It proved to be an excellent idea. Having sold my dot matrix printer and recently purchased a Hewlett Packard LaserJet IIP printer, I had some 56 sheets of fanfold left over. Also having shared this planet with the Scotch caused me to try to use up the leftover paper. LaserJets are page printers and require considerable conversion to make them work as continuous paper printers.

Nevertheless, following a suggestion of Bob Hunt, I borrowed some parts from my garden tractor and was able to provide the Laserjet with a paper tractor feeding mechanism. To attach the feeder, I first removed the entire front mechanism of the printer, known as the paper feeder and fusing

CONTENTS

Club Officers

President   George Campbell
Vice President   Sam Powers
Treasurer   Teri Sorgatz
Secretary/Editor   Bob Ward

Don't Give Me Any Static!

By Bob Ward
SLO Bytes PCUG

It's been a frustrating week folks. I have a friend in North county with a new computer and enough static in her house to run the machine without it being plugged in. So, the great guy I am, I thought I would pick up a static strip or mat from one of our many local computer stores and take it up to her. But wait, there isn't a static suppressor to be found anywhere in sight. After several frustrating phone conversations, a false lead and a visit to a few local stores, I thought I might salvage something out of my endeavor by creating a contest. Here is how it works. I will give you a description of my conversations with the many proprietors I contacted. You match up the store listed below with the conversations and bring your results, in writing, to the next meeting. Those of you with all the stores correctly matched up with the conversations walk away with 5 - 5 1/4" floppy disks at the next meeting.

#1——
Hello, this is Bob Ward. Do you carry static mats or static strips for computers?
No we don't but I'm sure store #4 does. But wait their not open today.

#2——
Hi, I'm looking for a computer static suppressor. Do you have any?
One moment please. No, sorry but they're on order.

#3——
Do you carry static mats or strips for computers?
No, we have never carried them.

#4——
Hi, perhaps you can help me. I'm looking for either a static mat or strip for computers?
Hmmm, I think we use to have them around here. Wait a minute and I'll see. No, we used to have a static pad in the corner, but it's not there anymore.

#5——
Hello, I'm looking for a static pad or strip for a computer?
Sorry, our store is in a location where we don't have much static. We don't carry them.

#6——
Hello, do you have static strips or mats?
Yes, we do have static pads that fit under the computer keyboard.
Thanks, I'll be down later to pick one up.
(Finally I'm getting somewhere)

2 hours later at the store.....

Two salesmen; one waiting on a customer the other talking to a friend in another corner of the store. Two people walk out after waiting with purchase in hand. No one want's to wait on them.
Comment: **"You ought to hire more sales people for this store, as the door slams behind them."**
First salesman 5 minutes later while still trying to write up 20 floppy disks someone purchased
"Are you waiting for a salesman?"
Yes I am!
Did you want to buy something?
Yes I do!! I want a static pad for under a computer keyboard.

(He looks around)
Sorry, we're all out.
Well, you had them 2 hours ago!!
Who said?
The woman I talked to on the phone.
Guess we sold them all.

I leave muttering a few expository remarks about their store.

#7——
Entering the store.....
Can I help you?
Yes, I'm looking for a static strip or pad for a computer.
We have mouse pads.
No, I'm looking for a static pad.
We have antistatic spray...

I leave shaking my head!

———————

Now here's a list of stores with a few extra thrown in to make SLO Bytes first guessing game. Can you match them with the above scenarios? Bring your results to the next meeting. Honest folks, the above conversations did occur!

A - Midstate Electronics
B - Radio Shack - Los Osos
C - Witco Computers
D - Pacific Computers
E - Osos Computer Systems
F - Computer Logic
G - Computerland
H - Star Computers
I - Diversified Memory Systems
J - Coastal Computers
K - Cal Poly Bookstore

###

Bits n' Bytes

- If you are looking for a particular shareware program, feel free to ask Bob Ward or George Campbell. Between the two of us we can usually find what you are looking for.

- Let it be known, by the end of 1990, I will be looking for another individual or group of individuals to take over the editorial duties of this newsletter for at least one year. After almost 6 years of cranking out a newsletter each and every month, I'm going to take a break. I'll still put the shareware disks together each month, perhaps write the "What's New" column and give the new editor support by contributing review articles. But the duties of actually creating the newsletter and mailing it to the members is going to be someone elses responsibility. If no one comes forward there will be no newsletter for that time, which will be very unfortunate.

- Anyone living West of Highway 101 in San Luis Obispo, please let Bob Ward know so your new zip code (93405) can be entered into the membership database.

- Many thanks to those members who contribute articles to this newsletter. There's a lot of talent out there just waiting to be heard through this newsletter.

What's New

Logitech's Paintshow +, and for a limited time they will include Catchword, their Optical Character Recognition (OCR) software.

Finesse uses the GEM environment and comes with 5 Bitstream fonts, 5 templates, and 70 clipart files. The newest version 3.1, includes a reworked "hairline" frame feature, an added number of printer drivers and an increase in the number of pages that can be incorporated into a single chapter to 99.

The most unique feature of Finesse is its ability to accept any scanned image from ScanMan Plus or Pro directly into a frame within the DTP chapter. Other desktop publishing packages require the user to first scan a picture into a paint program, save it as a file, then import it into the DTP package. Finesse and ScanMan Plus eliminate the middle step thus increasing versatility and saving time.

At the conclusion of the demonstration several individuals were fortunate enough to win one of many door prizes provided by Logitech. Those with the lucky tickets included: Jim Buenrostro and Shirley Smith winners of Logitech T- shirts, R.N. Eilerman (clear case mouse), Ernest Werbel (Trackman Mouse), Lars Perner (Finess 3.1) and George Tway who walked away with a ScanMan Plus. Congratulations to all, and a big "thanks" to Betty Skov and Logitech for providing our group with a very interesting demonstration.

Next month will be another great SLO Bytes meeting. Of course we'll start out at 1:30 with George giving you another hour of computer DOS information, tips and tricks. At 2:30 pm Suzanne Frieder, representative from Toshiba will talk about the role of laptops in the computer world. She will bring the latest models of Toshiba laptop Computers for you to try and be present to answer questions. Many thanks to Ralph Oneal helping us bring Toshiba to San Luis Obispo.

###

DOS For Beginners

By Bill Shook,
Editor NWA-MCUG Newsletter
October 1989

USING A RAMDISK

A RAMDISK is a virtual disk(ette) drive in RAM (Internal Memory). It has its own drive letter designator (C:, D:, E:, etc) and is used just like any other drive; i.e. copy files to it, delete files, make files (COPY CON command), sub- directories, etc. Unlike physical drives, you can conveniently even make it the size you want, if you have enough memory for it and the programs you want to run. However, it has one major limitation - IT'S VOLATILE! When you shut down, or reboot for any reason, IT'S GONE! DISAPPEARS! EVERYTHING IS LOST! GET THE POINT?

So, when using a RAMDISK, it's a good idea to include in the .BATch file you entered your program from (maybe your AUTOEXEC.BAT file), a routine prior to leaving the file that will SAVE any files that are in the RAMDISK that you will want later. If you don't, and you're like me, you think you'll remember to do it, but you'll get so involved, once in a while you'll forget it, and then all your work is for naught.

A RAMDISK is handy for any type configuration, but particularly a floppy system without a hard drive, and most particularly a one floppy drive system. Files used frequently will load much faster from RAMDISK (remember, it's RAM) than from any type of physical drive. It's a good place to put COMMAND.COM, since many programs wipe out the transient portion and it must be reloaded.

Putting COMMAND.COM there requires a COPY command in your AUTOEXEC.BAT file on boot-up. You will also need the line

SET COMSPEC=C:\COMMAND.COM

(if your RAMDISK is drive C:) in addition to the COPY command. More on file construction later. Having programs load COMMAND.COM from RAMDISK rather than from a physical drive also adds a measure of protection from viruses. When you shut down, it's gone, and any COMMAND.COM contamination with it (contamination can occur elsewhere, but usually it's with COMMAND.COM). It's also a handy place to put a spell checker, or thesaurus, that's used frequently. If you only have one floppy and no hard drive, it's a good way to copy multiple files from one diskette to another (copy to RAMDISK and from there to a destination floppy).

To created a RAMDISK, you need to include it in your CONFIG.SYS file. The entry will be

DEVICE=RAMDISK.SYS

for some MS-DOS versions, and

DEVICE=VDISK.SYS

for others and for PC-DOS versions (check your DOS manual for what your DOS "calls" it. Incidentally, it is not available with DOS below version 3.0). A Side note: the V in VDISK.SYS stands fro "virtual". Default size is 64K. If you want it larger (or smaller), leave a space and add the size you want; i.e., 362, which will approximate the size of a 360K floppy drive. If you use this size and you have a 640K memory system, remember you'll only have 293,360 bytes left for everything else... DOS, application programs, memory resident files (TSR's), etc. 640K is really 655,360 bytes: 640 times 1024. If you're fortunate enough to have more than 640K, you can put it in "extended" memory and save the whole 640K for the other stuff. To do this, add /E (meaning extended) to the command.

Here are examples of typical CONFIG.SYS files, assuming you use FILES, BUFFERS and ANSI.SYS commands anyway (they don't relate to adding a RAMDISK):

SLO Bytes Library

This month we have a variety of new programs for SLO Bytes Library. In addition, there are several updates you might also consider adding to your collection.

#382 CHURMAN - here's a church management program. Keeps track of church members. **KLOK** - tracks computer use for time spent using specific programs. **MICROCRD** - MicroCARD provides menu-driven access to pop-up card files that can be cut-from or pasted-into your favorite text oriented programs or to the MS-DOS command line. **TICK** - look up stock ticker symbol for NYSE, AMEX and OTC.

#383 VGA2EGA - creates EGA .GIF graphic files from VGA .GIF files. (moved from 367) **EGA2VGA5** - take any EGA .GIF graphic file and change it to 256 color VGA .GIF graphic file. **BLD2GIF** - modifies any file captured with VGACAP (also in this file) for viewing. **SQZGIF13** - this is a conversion utility that will convert 256 color GIF pictures that are larger than 320x200x256 (e.g. 640x480x256) and interpolate or "color average" that picture into a 320x200x256 and save it to a .BLD and .PLT format for importing the results VGA2EGA.

#384 CSHOW81B - versatile graphic viewer of GIF and MAC files. (updated and moved from #353) **LBM2GIF** - converts DeluxPaint II graphics to .GIF graphic files. **POST_GIF** - halftones GIF graphic files for output on postscript printer.

#385 BAL400 - If you're into guns and ballistics try this one. Processes trajectories, etc. **FILEBROZ** - With FILEBROWSER, you can view the largest ASCII or WordStar files, and chop them down to size to fit your word processor. Access big files, view

them on the screen, copy specific blocks and print to a designated device. **PCLEARN** - A collection of articles on disk, covering all the essentials every new PC owner should know for getting the most out of their computer.

#386 DISKALIG - align floppy disks with this program. An oscilloscope is a must. **NRFACE21** - a DOS interface for all your programs. Used by programmers to create a standard interface in which to run their programs. Mouse driven. **LINKER** - a utility to help link and compile QuickBasic programs. **SIS1A** - having trouble keeping track of all that software. Try the Software Inventory System 1.0.

Updates:

#353 - CSHOW720 updated to CSHOW81B and moved to disk #384
#190 - School Mom updated to V 3.52
#242 - MiniHost updated from 02/01/88a to 12/19/88
#367 - RESUME updated to version 2. Moved from #332. VGA2EGA moved to #383.
#368 - PC2PC version 1.41 updated to 1.43

$$$ - 4 -Sale - $$$ - 4 -Sale - $$$

First Publisher, Version 2.1 and... Publishers Powerpak both with extra fonts

Publishers Powerpak contains scaleable fonts from 9-72 points that work within First Publisher. Prints to 9 pin, 24 pin or Laser Printer.

All for $60.00

Call Ben Brown @ 239-2527

Tearbar

assembly. This part is easily removed by removing several screws. Some were so tight I could loosen them only by melting the surrounding plastic with a hot soldering iron. (The fuser is not needed to fix the toner to the paper if you drill a hole in the cartridge and pour in about two tablespoonfuls of India ink. Black is preferred.) I fastened the tearbar, taken from Helen's package of Saran wrap, to the new tractor feed mechanism. It works great! By the way, should you try to phone Hewlett Packard's technical support 800 number, you will find that the service is for technicians, authorized technicians only. You use (208) 323-2551 Boise Idaho. HA! HA!, at your expense. But even they were reluctant to advise me in my project. Gee, I figure I saved 32 cents worth of paper.

Note from the Editor - I think Jim just voided his HP warranty by using tractor parts in his laser printer... And I hear he has potatoes growing out of his paper tray. Does anyone know any good "farm" jokes?

June 1990				
Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thur
3 Meeting	4	5	6	7
10	11	12	13	14

Calendar

June 3rd   Suzzane Frieder, representative from Toshiba will feature their laptop computer line.

DOS For Beginners

DEVICE=RAMDISK.SYS

(VDISK.SYS depending on DOS version)

DEVICE=ANSI.SYS
FILES=25
BUFFERS=30

will give a "default" 64K RAMDISK.

Substituting: DEVICE=VDISK.SYS 362 will give a 362K RAMDISK within the 640K, or however much you have in LOW memory other than extended. DEVICE=VDISK 362 /E will give a 362K RAMDISK in extended memory, if you have that much available.

If you don't have a hard drive, your RAMDISK will be drive C:. If you have only one logical hard drive, it'll be C: and the RAMDISK will be D:. If you have a C: and a D: hard drive, it'll be E:. DOS handles this automatically.

You will then have to re-boot to make it effective. But first, if you'll be using COMMAND.COM from the RAMDISK, you'll need to modify your AUTOEXEC.BAT file by adding the following to it (AUTOEXEC.BAT does not need modification if you're not using it for COMMAND.COM or loading any files to it on boot-up):

COPY A:COMMAND.COM C: (With a hard drive, use C: instead of A: and the appropriate RAMDISK drive designator, probably D: instead of C:). Also, if you have COMMAND.COM in a subdirectory, such as \DOS, don't forget to add the path to the COPY command).

Then in the AUTOEXEC.BAT, add:

SET COMSPEC=C:\COMMAND.COM

This tells DOS to look to your RAMDISK, drive C: in this case, when it needs to re-load COMMAND.COM. Of course, the same comments regarding the drive designator given above, also apply here.

###

Witco Computers — June Special !

Complete AT Compatible Computer with the following components:

- 80286 processor running at 12MHz with 0 wait states
- 1MB of 100ns RAM expandible to 4MB on the motherboard
- 5.25" or 3.5" disk drive
- 40MB Seagate hard disk
- 102 key enhanced keyboard
- Hercules compatible monochrome monitor
- 200 watt power supply
- eight expansion slots
- Small footprint cabinet design
- 4 drive bays

Price: $ 999 (monochrome)
$1299 (VGA Color Option)

The warranty is 1 year, parts and labor.
This deal cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount.

The price is available only during the month of June, 1990.
This is the first fully equipped 286 computer we've ever seen at less than $1000.
For further information contact WITCO computers, [805] 549-0811.

Membership card must be shown.
You will be required to sign an agreement promising the computer is for your personal use only and you will not sell it for one year.

###

New Members

Welcome to the following individuals who joined out club in May.

Eric DeHaan	549-9520
Jerome Deitz	528-7136
J.M. Marcum	934-1216
Bernice Meador	528-3334
Thomas Welliver	541-5940

Time does fly! If your listed below, you forgot to pay your dues. Sorry, but we must receive your renewal by the next meeting or you will be dropped from our membership list.

David Andrews
Pat Glau
Keith Gummere
John Read
John Rohde
Alan Tognazzini

Line Noise and File Transfer Problems

By Robert K. Ricketts

Hal PC, Houston TX

Many people have left message on my bulletin board asking me why there are so many "garbage" characters on their screens and why the file transfers are riddles with errors. These garbage characters are really line noise and can be introduced in many different places. One of the more common and familiar introduction points of line noise is the telephone company system, and even here there are several ways noise in introduced. A signal is routed through multiple stations before it eventually makes it to the other end, and some of these stations aren't exactly new. Older areas may have older, less sophisticated equipment that is more apt to be affected by ambient line noise. This is one reason some people continue to have noise problems even after hanging up and calling back multiple times. Also, a given physical connection at one of these junctions may not be up to snuff. If your particular bout of line noise is solved by hanging up and calling back, then it's probable that you were previously connected through an area that has a lot of RFI (Radio Frequency Interference) present, although this is not usually the case.

Another common noise introduction point is in your home. Most residential homes have televisions, radios, microwave ovens, VCRs and if you are reading this, a microcomputer. All of these devices radiate radio waves that can (and often do) get into the phone lines and cause noise. Electrical motors and mechanical dimmer controls can introduce noise into the electrical wiring in your house and cause problems. If your line noise problem does not go away after repeated hanging up and calling back, then you may be suffering from one of these household problems. If you are affected by this problem, you can take steps to eliminate it. First of all, turn off everything except the frig (if it is the frig, then you are out of luck - can't live without your icebox unplugged.) and see if the noise persists. If it goes away, then start turning things back on, checking the computer each time until you see the noise start up again. It may be that a single device is not bugging you but several devices plotting together to annoy you. This elimination tournament may take awhile.

Another area to check is the wiring at your computer. Use noise suppressors on your power connection to both the PC and the modem (if external). Use a shielded RS-232 cable to connect your modem to your PC. Ribbon cables (especially long runs of it) are great antennas and will cause problems. Reroute the RS-232 cable it does not run next to the PC power supply or any other transformer. Many "clone" monitors do not have internal metal shielding and can radiate lots of noise. Make sure the cable does not run near the monitor. If you are particularly adventuresome, you can line the interior of the monitor with foil and ground it with a ribbon-grounding strap. Be very careful if you attempt this. Monitors generate thousands of volts of electricity and can knock you clear into next week. You'd best not attempt this unless you are experienced in electronics. If you live near a freeway or highway, then interference from a CB radio can present a problem. Many interstate truckers have 100+ watts of power (illegally) on their CB rigs and frequently have sloppy amplifiers that can emit spurious radiation all over the radio spectrum.

And now a little discussion about the modem itself. Firs of all, I'd like to clarify a commonly misused term baud. The term "baud" is actually a mans name - J.M.E. Baudot (pronounced Baw-doe), a French telegraphy expert. 1200 and 2400 baud is not the same as 1200 and 2400 BPS (Bits per Second). The usage of "baud" to describe line speed in terms of data through-put is incorrect. 1200 and 2400 BPS modems both operate at 600 baud. Basically, without getting too technical, a baud is a blip of information. 12 BPS modems use sixteen states per blip.

Modems operating at 2400 BPS are much more intolerant of line noise than are modems operating at 1200 BPS. Conversely, modems capable of 2400 BPS operate better at 1200 BPS than do 1200 BPS only modems. If you are being hopelessly attacked by noise at 2400 BPS, try calling back at 1200 BPS. It's very possible that the noise will be greatly reduced or disappear altogether. I know, you didn't buy a 2400 BPS modem just to retard it to 1200 BPS. The brand of the modem plays a part in the immunity to line noise. Some modems can digest more noise (lower signal-to-noise ratio). Most 2400 BPS modems operating at 1200 BPS have approximately a -8 to -10 dB threshold while the same modem has about a - 16 to -29 dB threshold operating at 1200 BPS. For this reason, line quality is much more critical for 2400 BPS operation.

Additionally, a friend of mine who runs a bulletin board from his office has been plagued with line noise at 2400 BPS but very little noise at 1200 BPS. The culprit is the office's centralized telephone system. Many office buildings have a given number of trunks that actually enter the building while there are many, many more extensions within the building. These type of telephone systems have their own controller and line assignment devices and are frequently not as high in quality as a hard-wired Ma Bell line. The acceptable signal-to-noise ratio in some of these inter-office controllers are lower than necessary for reliable 2400 BPS operation but not too low for 1200 BPS.

If you get transmission errors while downloading or uploading a file, don't fret. The Xmodem (or whatever

Bulletin Board Etiquette

By Robert E. Simanski
Monitor, Monthly Journal of the
Capital PC User Group, January 1989

Private bulletin-boards may be open to the public, but they nevertheless belong to the individual running the. You are a guest in the sysop's (system operator) house, and you should show courtesy not only to the sysop but also to the other guests. Here are some common do's and dont's of bulletin-board etiquette.

1. Always give your real name and address when registering. Don't use shorthand abbreviations except for your state; enter the information as if you were giving someone your proper address for a letter. When logging on, do not use a pseudonym or "handle" unless the sysop specifically allows it. Some people will attempt to gain more daily time by registering under more than one name; others will use a false name in order to enter obscene messages or, worse, to upload a "trojan" or "virus" or a hacked version of a commercial program.

Sysops are taking these problems seriously to protect both their reputations and their equipment. Most will not allow you to upload until they've had a chance to verify your registration information. Some have even enlisted the help of government agencies in logging calls. If you give false registration information or you later violate the board's rules seriously, expect to be "locked out", at least temporarily.

2. Give as well as take. There's often a bulletin which will tell you what types of programs the sysop wants on the board and how recent they should be. When you obtain a good public domain or shareware program that meets those criteria, do a file search to see if it's already on the board. (Use wildcards judiciously to pick up possible newer versions of similar filenames.) If the board doesn't have it, take the time to upload it.

3. Participate in the messages. This is the place to get help -- and also the place to give it. Sharing is what bulletin boards are all about. Most bulletin-board software will tell you, in the log-on sequence, whether or not you have mail, and also remind you of any messages that you may have left on the board previously. Read you mail and kill any messages which are no longer needed.

In killing messages, however, try not to break a message "thread" that may involve a large number of messages. Good threads often develop when someone asks for advice and a number of people respond. Along this same line, when you're responding to someone else's message, make some reference to the subject and content of the original message, so that if the thread does get broken, other people will still be able to follow the exchange.

Participate in the messages -- but don't waste other people's time either. Many boards are geared toward specific subjects and interests. If you have a question that's germane to the orientation of the board, don't hesitate to ask it. If you can help out someone else with good ideas or information, jump right in, but try to add something to the discussion that's already gone on.

4. Some boards have conferences, which are essentially special-interest message areas. If a board has a conference that interests you, take part in it. Be willing to share your knowledge and experience.

5. Don't hog the board. If your time allotment is 60 minutes per day, don't spend seven hours a week on any one board. Log on once or twice a week, or call more frequently, but keep the calls short. In other words, eat as much as you want, but don't ask for a doggie bag as well.

6. Don't just hang up on a board when you're finished with your call. Follow the board's specific log-off procedure. Otherwise you'll continue to tie up the board until it "times out" after waiting several minutes for input from you.

7. For the same reason, if you're transferring files, and the board doesn't offer automatic log-off after the transfer, take note of the estimated transfer time and make it a point to be back at your computer before then.

8. Most boards have an option where you can leave a C)omment to the sysop. This is separate from the message area. Don't enter anything here which requires a reply, because the sysop would have to put the reply in the message section. Other people reading the messages would see only half of the exchange. If you have a question for the sysop, put it in the message section.

9. If you run into a problem frequently on a particular board, inform the sysop. Keep in mind, however, that many problems are caused by telephone line noise, which is beyond the sysop's control. When you get garbage on your screen, this is the usual cause. The problem usually persists for several hours, so don't waste time repeatedly redialing. Wait a day.

10. Don't be discourteous to the sysop or to other users in your messages or comments. It's the sysop's board, and whether or not you like it doesn't really matter. You don't have to come back.

11. Pay attention to what's on your screen. Answer the prompts carefully. If you spelled your name or password incorrectly when you logged on, correct it when you're asked to verify it. If the sysop announces new bulletins in the log-on, take time to read them.

SOME USEFUL TIPS

1. Some communications programs have a log option which, when on, will capture almost everything that comes up on your screen to an ASCII text file on your disk. Use it regularly, particularly if you have a hard disk. If you miss something scrolling across your screen, you'll be able to review it later with LIST.

2. Record your first and last names and your password as three separate macros. This will speed up your log-on and also eliminate the chance of a typing error.

Line Noise

protocol) incorporates an error correction mechanism that automatically detects and corrects any errors that may occur during transmission. The very fact that Xmodem reported the error in the first place means that it caught it and corrected it. the only errors you have to worry about are the ones that Xmodem does not report. Any reported error has already been corrected. Emodem, especially the CRC flavored one, is a very reliable file transfer protocol. even if you got 100 errors during transmission, chances are still pretty slim that the file got corrupted. Occasionally, a file will be corrupted after transfer, but many times this may be due to a bad ARCing of the file or perhaps a disk error that may have occurred sometime during the file's past.

###

Etiquette

3. If you have a hard disk, set up separate directories specifically for downloads and uploads. A separate directory for files which you plan to upload can make batch uploads much easier. As for downloads, you'll be unpacking, copying, and moving these files, so things will be easier if they're not mixed in with permanent files.

4. Similarly, set up temporary directories for unpacking archives and unpack only one archive in each directory. The reason? Many archives have a READ.ME or README.1ST file and if two or more archives being unpacked to the same directory each have a file with the identical name, you won't be able to unpack the second "read" file unless you change the name of the first one.

###

Stop Modem Mess-ups

By Betty Rutter, Hayes Technical Support

Original article from New Jersy PCUG as appeared in the PC Report, Boston Computer Society, May 1990

You're sitting at home or in a hotel sending from your laptop to a computer back at the office. There's a beep on the line. You have another call coming in. The "beep" knocks your modem off the air. Your data call is destroyed.

Solutions: The obvious one: Turn off call waiting, or use a line without call waiting. The less obvious one: Modify your modem. Here's how: In all Hayes and Hayes compatible modems, there is an S10 register. It tells the modem how long before it hangs up after losing carrier. In Hayes modems, the S10 register is set for 1.4 seconds. They typical call waiting tone is 1.5 seconds. Solution: Increase the S10 register to 6 seconds (to be sure).

Use your communications software. go into terminal mode, they type: ATS10=60 You have to put this value in every time you power up, because the Hayes 1200 modem, and others, has volatile memory. But the Hayes 2400 and 9600 have non- volatile memory. They remember the six seconds after they've been switched off. The command to write this to memory is: ATS10=60&W.

(New Jersey Editor Note: Those who use Procomm and have volatile memory modems can add the command S1==60 to the init string.)

###

Double Your Printer Ribbon Life
By Bob Ward
SLO Bytes PCUG

Quite by accident I discovered a way to stretch a few extra pages out of your printer ribbon. If you look closely, you'll notice the print head uses only that portion just below the center-line of the ribbon. One day while putting my ribbon back into my printer I put a half twist in it as I inserted the ribbon between the print head and the platten. Then it dawned on me, now the head is striking the ribbon on the portion that used to be above the center line; a new area of inked ribbon previously untouched by the print head. I think this will work only with wide ribbon cartridges like on an Epson FX series.

Club Information

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

Membership: Dues are $18 per year. Newsletter only is $10 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter, full use of the public domain software library and discounts at local computer stores.

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

Disclaimer: Neither SLO BYTES PC User's Group, its officers, editor, or contributors to this newsletter assume liability for damages arising out of this publication of any article, including but not limited to the listing of programming code, batch files and other helpful hints.

Reprinting of this Newsletter: Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted by other user groups if credit is given to both the author and newsletter from which it was taken. Reproduction of articles with a specific © Copyright notice is prohibited without prior permission from the original author.

Advertising: Commercial advertisers, request ad packet from Bob Ward. Members may advertise personal computer equipment or software for free. Submit your ad to Bob Ward.

Direct all correspondence to Bob Ward, 2100 Andre Ave., Los Osos, CA. 93402. Call (805)756-2164 M-F 7:30am - 5pm and (805)528-0121 all other times.

Treasurer: Teri Sorgatz, 832 S. 7th Street, Grover City, CA. 93433 Phone 489-2516

Meeting Times

General meetings are held the 1st Sunday of every month, unless noted otherwise in the newsletter calendar, at 2:30 pm in the Cal Poly University Biology Department, Fisher Hall 286. Special Interest Groups (SIGS) meet at 1:30 - 2:15 pm.

New User's SIG - F.H. 286

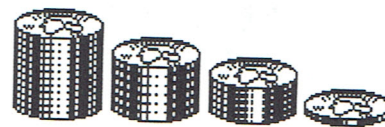Our Public Domain Library is in Fisher Hall 292. Hours 12 Noon till closing.

SLO BYTES BULLLETIN BOARD

(805) 528-3753 2400/8/N/1

PC Files & Message Section

SYSOP: George Campbell

All Welcome - 24 Hours

Treasurer's Report

	Beginning	
Balance:		$1222.08
Expenses:		
Monitor Pig-tails		10.63
Newsletter 4/90		95.30
MEI Micro (disks)		364.50
Deposit (5/7)		362.25
Balance 5/21		$1113.90

DISCOUNTS

Paradise Computers 3485 Sacramento, unit B San Luis Obispo 544-7127	5%	All computers. peripherals and software.
	10%	Ribbons, paper, disks & other expendable items.
Star Computers 855 Morro Bay Blvd. Morro Bay 772-7827	5%	Any software in stock.
	10%	Paper, ribbons, cables, and other supplies.
Computer Logic 973 Foothill Blvd. #4 San Luis Obispo 544-8347	10%	Off list - all computers, software, computer peripherals, and products. Contact Bruce, Paul or Dave for discount.
WITCO Computers 3563 Sueldo, Bld. B San Luis Obsipo 549-0811	10%	Off complete systems, peripherals, supplies but not including software.
	5%	Off computers alone.

Ziff-Davis User Group Magazine Discounts

PC-Magazine - $24.97
PC-Computing - $14.97
Have your mailing label handy for renewals
Call 1-800-777-2547 and ask for your
user group discount