

SLO Bytes HardCopy

Volume 14, Number 9

www.thegrid.net/slobytes/

September, 1998

Winners! Winners!

by Lach MacDonald

September 8 was the date and the drawing fund-raiser for a new projector went as scheduled, thanks especially to Ray Miklas, interim treasurer. Ken Stiltz won first prize, the Hewlett Packard DeskJet 694C (an upgrade from the prize originally announced; Bob Ward took advantage of the price drop to improve the prize). Second name drawn was Ken Stiltz; hey, all you had to do was buy more than one ticket! Ken graciously declined and Ed Faeth won the UMAX Astra 610P flatbed scanner. Two 101 Keyboards were won by David Bates and Zoras Colglazier.

CORNHEAD WISDOM

The meeting actually opened with a bearded John Muir lookalike wearing a Cornhusker roofer plastic hat; it was George Campbell introducing the subject of buying stuff via the Internet. George's \$20 chapeau is related to a trip to the Bay Area to witness a sports event between Nebraska and some other team. It seems Kathy Yakel, his spouse, hails from that prairie state and they wanted to wear something that would make them easy to spot on TV. Duh, George, there may be more than one Cornhead on the video-but then, there won't be many with a luxurious beard, and only one next to Kathy. Sorry, folks, no graphic to accompany this item.

As previously, George generously furnished a handout of his topic, and I expect it to be elsewhere in this issue. Highlights of his talk on finding web-

Printers or Mountains?

by Nancy Watts

In case you've forgotten the first column of your July news letter, ALPS Micro Dry color printers use a process so dry that images can be handled right away, or you can pour water on your image—without making an unintended batik.

Some times ago
I decided I didn't need a color printer because of costs and because of what I call poor color adhesion. I hope they bring me a free printer!

Anyway, if you want "color-safe" T-shirts or Christmas or Hanukkah cards, *come on down to Dana Street* the first Sunday of the month.

Metallic inks and white for printing on colored paper or a black T-shirt for Big Bob of the Ward? (I have driven him mad). Oh, well.

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SLOBYTES CALENDAR

October 4, 1998
ALPS electric Co. will demo their high end resolution instant dry color laser printer

November 1, 1998
Aladdin Systems, Inc.

December 6, 1998
Christmas prizes, saies, and elections of new officers—
With Bob W. needing to scale down, give some thought to these elections, please.

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

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The Complete National Geographic

by Donald Rosenfield, NOCCC - August, 1998

This is an impressive program, the complete 108-year run of the National Geographic Magazine on 30 CD-ROMs. The install program, located at the start of each of the discs, gives you your choice of a 10MB or a 100MB installation on your hard disk. You can browse through 178,567 spectacular images, 9,480 fascinating articles, through more than 188,500 pages!

One of the options during installation is a Web site connection to www.nationalgeographic.com. On registration, you receive National Geographic photos.

You have complete freedom to choose any article from any issue, zoom up the pictures, rotate those pictures, print any page if needed for a report, and so on. Also, you can search the front covers for articles of interest. In regular use, you will see thumbnail images of a year's worth of covers at a time. Clicking on a year date, you get the contents menu for that year.

The Search feature allows you to access the vast database of The Complete National Geographic, whether your interest lies with an article, a picture, or even an advertisement. Once you have an article there are various ways of examining it. I find it easier to read using the zoom feature. If you don't have a .22 dpi 17" screen as I do perhaps you might want to use a higher zoom level for greater clarity. My wife has no difficulty viewing these pages on her 14" VGA monitor, however; but her eyes are younger than are mine. Any articles that you find of special interest can be bookmarked to be returned to later from the Edit Bookmark dialog.

If we ever move again I don't think I'd want to move our National Geographic magazines. We have them back to 1960 and Chris' mom had them back to about 1923. The pace of scientific knowledge presented by the National Geographic Society telescopes time with most knowledge in a particular field changing each decade, what with new discoveries, new techniques of imaging, new field techniques; it's mindboggling! Now a simple Search will keep us up-to-date in the covered fields of interest.

Minimum System Requirements for Windows 95 and 3.xx: a 80486DX 33 MHz processor. Windows 3.1x running under MS-DOS 6.0 or higher or Windows 95 8 MB of RAM, 10 MB free hard disk space. VESA Standard VGA 640 x 480 resolution x 256 colors, Windows compatible sound card, Dual speed CD-ROM drive Optional: printer capable of 300 dpi resolution

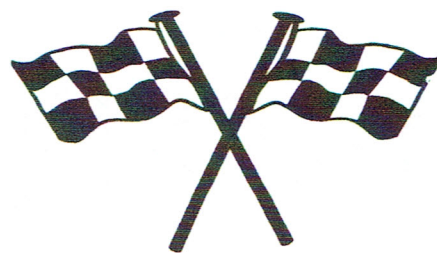
The Macintosh 68030 33 MHz processor running System 7.5 or higher and the rest of the above requirements will run the program.

I got my 30-CD-ROM set at Price Club. With an original price about a year ago of \$199.95, they had it at \$149.95. This year I bought it for \$129.95 and found at the register that there was a coupon for an instant rebate of \$20!

#

Donald Arthur Rosenfield somewhere in Virginia. Quantum Cosmologist, Astronomy SysOp, AntiArpshifologist, Author/Lecturer, and Astronomy Merit Badge Counselor. cardar@earthlink.net

I picked up my copy at Costco for \$129 less \$20 at the checkstand... Bob W.



Calendar Creator 5.0

A Software Review by Vinny Labash
Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.
August, 1998

Calendar Creator is the perfect program for a busy person with a packed schedule. The program offers great flexibility and ease-of-use in creating calendars, printing them, and managing your appointments and contacts. Text and graphics can be inserted virtually anywhere on the page. It's even possible to insert a small calendar inside a larger one. With over 5,000 clip art images and the ability to import as many graphics as you like into the program, personalization takes on a whole new meaning. There are enough format controls in the program to customize every square inch of your calendar. You can add pictures, change text size, style and color, create borders, control shading, date ranges and more. You can easily produce a personal calendar that is both professional looking and useful.

Installing Calendar Creator is as easy as things can get. Assuming your auto play function is working, simply insert the installation CD-ROM into the disk drive and follow the prompts. As part of the installation procedure, you are offered the opportunity to register your program on-line, a nice time saver.

A very effective option is the program's ability to schedule an event multiple times at regular, or irregular intervals. For example, if you play poker on the second and fourth Thurs-

Continued on Next Page

site bargains, avoiding misrepresentation, types of fraud and use of links, include the following:

- * You can find odd items like a bamboo fishing rod, or as he demonstrated, a Cornhead hat.
- * You can verify if merchandise has received logo endorsements or awards by going to the related site, often via links.
- * There are escrow services that will hold your money until you get what you have ordered.
- * You should print your order so you will have the details in case a dispute arises because merchandise is not what you ordered, is not as described, or doesn't arrive at all.
- * Always use a credit card because you then have a way to cancel the order or dispute with the seller.

George referred to local sites, free classifieds, and the previously described auction sites. I mentioned that one can check out the websites of the big box stores like Staples, Office Depot, and Circuit City to get the latest pricing and rebate offers, then compare with the local big box store. In the case of Circuit City, this enabled me to earn double rebates.

FUTURE, FUTURE

About 60 members were present for the talk by member and prolific writer Dan Logan (dlogan@grid.net) whose comments were generally futuristic. Describing Windows 98 as a "minor upgrade" Logan forecast technology-driven improvements that will take advantage of hardware such as USB, DVD, Multiple Monitors, Firewire, Graphic Ports, IR, FAT 32, smaller chips, etc.

The consensus of discussion of Windows 98 seemed to be that the upgrade is the source of various installation problems and a clean new installation is preferred. (Incidentally, eight faithful attended Bob Hunt's

day of each month, Calendar Creator can track it for you. It will even sound an alarm as an audible reminder of important events, as you define them. The alarm feature can play a sound file, launch an application, or print out a message notifying you that unless you leave the house with fifteen minutes, you'll be late for your poker game.


The Address Book is versatile, easy-to-use, and works like a real address book, storing business and personal addresses, phone, fax, cellular and pager numbers all in one location. You can group your entries into categories such as My Poker Buddies, Computer Vendors, and Dieters Anonymous. Address Book will also allow you to store E-Mail addresses and Web sites. E-Mail can be sent to any E-Mail address in your list, or direct dial by clicking on a phone number. You can import information into the Address Book if your data is in comma separated variable (CSV) format. All information exported from Address Book is in CSV format.

The number of printing options is truly staggering. There are so many options that the program verifies every setting to ensure there are no conflicts before printing anything. If your calendar is too large for your paper, Calendar Creator will prompt you to change your settings. Most calendars can be printed using the default settings. As you become more experienced, you will probably use the print capabilities to produce more sophisticated calendars.

Calendar Creator is well suited for tracking individual schedules in a busy office, or multiple schedules for one person. A nice touch is the ability to bring up a master schedule so you can see everything that's going on in your office or family. The program will help you get organized and stay that way.

You can find Calendar Creator 5.0 at a street price of \$45. The Learning Company, One Athenaeum Street, Cambridge, MA 02142, (423) 670-2020, <http://www.learningco.com>

See Next Column



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per month

*all memberships require a one-time activation fee of \$25

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Toll-free tech support
Statewide access
Super fast network
All digital lines



Internet Shopping Can Be Safe and Fun

by George Campbell

Advantages

- Shop from Home or Office
- Find Anything Online
- Low Prices...Sometimes
- Infinite Variety of Goods
- Find Unusual and Rare Stuff
- No Sales Taxes...Sometimes
- Delivery to Your Door
- Easy to Compare Prices
- Frequent Special Offers
- Notification of Sales

Disadvantages

- Vendor May be Unknown
- Can't Examine Merchandise
- Shipping Delays
- Difficult to Return Items
- High Shipping Costs
- Takes Money out of Area
- Some Risk of Fraud
- Unwanted Email
- No Helpful Salespersons
- Chance of Disappointment

Finding The Merchandise

- Use Search Engines Like Yahoo to Get Lists of Vendors
- Watch TV and Print Advertisements for Web Site Addresses
- Check Classifieds on Yahoo and other Places for Used Merchandise
- Try Internet Malls and Group Sites for Access to Multiple Vendors
 - Bookmark Sites you Like and Watch for Sales Regularly
 - Sign up for Notification of Special Offers and Sales

Buying Safely

- Use Credit Card When Possible For All Purchases
 - Insist on Secure Credit Card Forms
- Read the Fine Print and Ask Questions by Email Before You Buy
- Check Longevity of Vendor and Look Closely at Quality of Site
 - Check Awards and Association Memberships
- Watch for Hidden Charges and High Shipping Costs...Get the Total!
- Compare Price for Similar Merchandise Locally...It Could Be Cheaper
 - For High-Value Private Party Purchases, Use an Escrow Service

Hottest Shopping Sites

Yahoo (www.yahoo.com)
Autobytel (www.autobytel.com)
Amazon Books (www.amazon.com)
Computers.com (www.computers.com)
Interactive Collector (www.icollector.com)
SafePurchase (www.safepurchase.com)
Ebay (www.ebay.com)

Indexes by Category. Great Classifieds!
New Automobiles
Best Internet Bookstore!
Locate Best Computer & Access Prices
Central Web Site for Antiques Dealers
Internet Escrow Service for Private Sales
Best Internet Auction Sites

Winners! Cont from p. 3
By Lach MacDonald

SIG on Windows 98). Win 98 benefits include ease of networking, printer sharing, extra HD space.

A Common Sense Tip worth repeating: don't switch from Win 95 to Win 98 on the eve of a giant project due the next day.

Another TIP: look at the currently inexpensive network cards and consider linking your old computer and your new WIN 98 machine. Some folks do the same with a null modem for data exchange and use the old computer like an extra hard disk.

Dan mentioned Outlook 98, which can be downloaded from Microsoft replacing Outlook Express. It works like a PIM (information manager, formerly an address book).

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP
Ray Miklas had some help from Marvin Baxendale. In October Marvin will be at the entry desk to help you renew your dues and buy disks. We're really appreciative of Ray stepping in to succeed Bill McNamara, and now to Marvin who will help finish out the year.

MORE WINNERS, WINNERS
In addition to the raffle drawings, we had our usual membership bonanza with a wide range of prizes: Postit Notes (Bob Gold); Quicken 98 (Shirley Smith); Windows 98 Made Easy by Dan Logan (G. W. Berger), a Porche item (P. Cook); an Microsoft Pen (Earle Bolgermann); Keychain and Computer Resource Guide to SLO by Dan Logan (Bob Grover), Tote Bag (Ben Hansen) and another Quicken 98 (Debbie Schmidt).

So, to keep up the theme of the sub-headings, **BYE, BYE** (until October, that is.)

Nuts & Bolts Deluxe Edition

A Software Review

by Herb Goldstein

Member of the Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group, Inc. May, 1998

The name sounded appealing. What's more, many of you have inquired about it. Sorry, there was nothing I could tell you. I hadn't seen it in action, and the folks at Helix Software turned a deaf ear to our repeated valid requests for a review copy. It seemed like a hopeless situation; and we gave up at further attempts to report to you on this product, until something interesting happened in the software industry. Network General, a much respected company devoted to network solutions, merged with some well-known names in the utility software field to form Network Associates.

You are likely familiar with some of the merged companies. To begin with, there is McAfee, a name synonymous with virus protection. Most Internet surfers have also heard of PGP (Pretty Good Privacy), devoted to preserving your on-line anonymity. Then there is the elusive Helix Software, that we pursued unsuccessfully for months to bring you information on Nuts & Bolts. With Helix, now under the enlightened umbrella of Network Associates, our requests were welcomed and drew a quick and positive response. The result is the overdue answers below to your many inquiries about Nuts & Bolts.

What Network Associates did was to take the best of the varied products found in McAfee's recent suite of utilities (including its famed anti-virus tools), and combined it with an updated and revised Nuts & Bolts.. They further spiced this combination with some additional exciting utilities like an expanded version of Helix's popular utility, Hurricane, and produced one superb product, the new Nuts & Bolts Deluxe Edition. It is a super contender for first place in the utility software class against Symantec's Norton Utilities and Cybermedia's First Aid. In a recent shootout between the three in the March 24th issue of PC Magazine, "Editor's Choice" top honors went to Nuts & Bolts.

For PC novices, you need to know something the rest of us, often from bitter experience, already do-the very first thing you should install on your computer after its operating system is a good utility! The purpose is to both keep your computer and everything in or attached to it functioning properly, and to prevent it from developing any of the many problems to which computers are notoriously subjected. To perform this wide range of tasks, Nuts & Bolts Deluxe Edition provides an unbelievably vast array of extremely impressive tools:

1. REPAIR AND RECOVER:

* **DISK MINDER**- Examines your complete system and diagnoses a wide variety of problems that it fixes if it finds. Repairs and recovers damaged files and drives. The equivalent of the Norton's excellent Disk Doctor and works equally as well.

* **IMAGE**- Creates and saves an image of your critical disk files which it can restore if your drive becomes corrupted.

* **RESCUE DISK**- If your PC won't boot up, this contains the critical files that will get you back up and running.

Continued on Next Page, Column 3

Bits & Bytes of Info

By William A. Parradee, GSBUG, Inc.

More E-mail Virus Info

Microsoft Patches for Patches

Microsoft offered another patch for the Outlook 98 and Outlook Express 4.x security flaw. The first patch was offered in July. The updated patch was released in mid-August. Get it at <http://www.microsoft.com/security>

The first patch corrected a security problem with unopened e-mail attachments. Extra long file names on them cause buffer overflows. The long file name may contain other harmful code which can run on your computer.

Later, Microsoft found another security flaw. The latest patch fixes that and includes the original fix released in July.

Netscape Patch

Some Netscape products have the same flaw covered by Microsoft's first update. An update should be ready by now. I don't know if Netscape also has the second flaw found in Microsoft's products. To find updates when using Netscape, select Help, Security.

Eudora Patch

Qualcomm has a patch for the e-mail attachment problem on Eudora at <http://www.eudora.com> and will soon release Eudora Pro 4.1 with that problem fixed.

Bogus E-Mail Patch

A false patch for the Internet Explorer e-mail security flaw is being sent to users. It claims to be from Microsoft. It says it is from IESupport@microsoft.com with "FREE! Your up-

grade for Microsoft Internet Explorer" on the subject line. The fake patch sends outbound e-mail to Bulgaria. It may do other things not yet determined. The name of the false patch is IE080898.EXE. Do not run it. Delete it.

Antivirus Companies Merge

McAfee Associates merged with Network General last year to form Network Associates. Now Network Associates has bought Dr. Solomon's Software. Some product lines will be combined. Others will remain separate.

Dr. Solomon's is known for high ratings on virus detection and cleaning. Network Associates is said to have a good user interface and update capabilities. Technical support and driver updates are expected to be available indefinitely for the Dr. Solomon antivirus software.

Free Antivirus Program

The MS-DOS version of F-Prot is free for individual use. It works fine on Windows computers. Many MS-DOS and Windows users of F-Prot believe it to be among the best antivirus checkers available.

The latest release is available at <http://www.simtel.net/pub/simtelnet/msdos/virus/fp-302.zip> and other locations. The zip file contains 1,657K. A Windows version of F-Prot is available for a small charge. The last time I tried to download a file from Simtel, it was painfully slow. About 350 BPS when it should have been almost 3000.

Internet Explorer 5

IE5 is expected to remedy problems with undersized fonts from some sites that are difficult to read, or long waits while IE does fancy things on the screen. A beta version is available

Nuts & Bolts Deluxe
by Herb Goldstein cont. from p. 5

2. CLEAN AND OPTIMIZE:

* **DISK TUNE**- Disk defragmentation and optimization. Offers several unique options for the process like eliminating free space, organizing files by usage frequency, and optimizing the swap file. Does an excellent job quickly.

* **REGISTRY WIZARD**- Troubleshoots and permits you to repair, cleanup and tuneup the registry. Similar to the utility registry cleanup utility in Quarterdeck's CleanSweep. Be cautious with all registry cleanup utilities.

* **REGISTRY PRO**- An advanced registry editor.

* **CLEANUP WIZARD**- Recover hard disk space by eliminating unneeded and unwanted files. Root out and eliminate duplicate, orphaned, old and other categories of files. You maintain full control in the process so as to avoid possible errors in selection of files.

* **SHORTCUT WIZARD**- Find, repair and eliminate orphaned shortcuts.

3. PREVENT AND PROTECT:

Continued on p. 9, Col 2-3

Wide Carriage Printer

Star - 24 pin printer
New ribbon included
Replacement cost \$ 395.00
Price \$ 100.00

Bill McNamara

Wmac@jps.net
466-9684 Ext. 3

Continued on Next Column

Bytes & Bytes Continued on page 7

from Microsoft for hardy computer users.

IE5 is said to include Dynamic HTML, XML, and Cascading Style Sheets 2 (CSS2). CCS2 lets IE5 users drag and drop on a Web site. Thus, they can change a Web site's looks without actually affecting the Web Site. Off-line browsing works better. Images are saved in the same folder with the HTML file that uses them.

Netscape Communicator 5

Netscape expected to offer a beta version of Communicator 5 by the end of the year. It probably will include Dynamic HTML, CSS2, and Extensible Markup Language (XML). The standards were not completed when previous releases were made.

Browser Incompatibilities

Web developers mainly blame Microsoft and Netscape for browser incompatibilities that greatly increase the cost of Web site development. For example, an accelerator claims you can surf the Web much faster. But it isn't compatible with your browser. Many software makers and Web site developers are frustrated by such things. Web site developers must ig-

nore new features or make several versions for the different browsers.

The Web Standards Project (WSP) is trying to set standards for Web development. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) has guidelines for Web software and display. WSP asks for cooperation with these guidelines by Microsoft and Netscape.

Hackers Release Windows Surveillance, Control Tools

In Las Vegas, at the Black Hat Briefings conference, Back Orifice was released. L0phtcrack 2.5 was to be released a few days later. Unscrupulous hackers can use these programs to take over a Windows 95 or Windows 98 system or view secure transfers between Windows NT servers.

The Black Orifice program can be sneaked into a computer by e-mail and in other ways. The computer user may not know the system is not under complete control.

L0phtcrack 2.5 allows hackers to get PPTP authentication packets on a network. Windows NT machines use PPTP to make transactions between machines and remote clients.

Did you see this Win 95 utility?

By David Sherman
dsherman@iwaynet.net

Columbus Computer Society, 4/98

Long-time WOPR contributor Vince Chen wrote a special utility for that issue called Twofer. It's an amazingly useful critter. It starts up two copies of Windows Explorer, side by side, so you can click and drag between the windows. Vince built in some very cool customizing tweaks - you can size and place the two windows any which way and Twofer will remember. You can also pick different starting folders for each window. I've become a Twofer fan. Use it all the time.

And it's free for the download - just pop on over to-
[Http://www.pccomputing.com](http://www.pccomputing.com) and download Twofer. Full instructions for installing and customizing Twofer are in the March issue of PC Computing (out now in the USA). An early version of twofer.zip went out without the readme.txt file.

If you got the early one without the instructions, drop by <http://www>.

Continued on Next Page

Continued on P 9, First Column

People Helping People

NAME	PROGRAM(S)	PHONE NO.	HOURS TO CALL
Jeffrey Mintz	Computer Networks, Win95, Netscape 3.0, Internet	547-9668	Sat 12-6, Sun 12-6
Jerry Mintz	Word 6	547-0774	Sat 12-6, Sun 12-6
Bill Roch	Ami Pro	466-8440	anytime
Don Morgan	Word 6.0, Equation 3.1	543-6241	anytime
Dan Logan	Internet MS Publisher	927-0515	M-Sat 8-6, Sun 12-6
Bob Ward	Netscape, Win '95, 3.11	528-0121	evenings
Bob Hunt	Win '95, 3.11	461-1444	days

A new version of Microsoft Dial Up Networking (MSDUN) will prevent L0phtcrack's harm in Windows NT. MSDUN is in beta release.

Beware of Bogus Software Company

An angry parent complained about a "bogus software company" in the alt.comp.shareware newsgroup recently. A salesperson phoned and claimed someone there had expressed interest in the product. Neither he nor his wife had done so. The shareware was offered with no obligation to buy. A credit card number was needed to ship the product. I will omit further details and the company's name. Unsolicited phone calls and credit card numbers are a dangerous combination.

Software Library News

By Bob Hudak
E-Mail: rsh532@aol.com

I came across a program that should be of interest to Win 95-98 users. It is free-ware so it does not require registration to use all of its features. Following is a copy of a review I captured. I was not able to load this program on the club computer. I am in contact with the author to find out what my problem is. Liz loaded it on her machine without a problem. It is V-3.07 so any loading problems should be taken care of. The problem is with the club computer.

PrintKey 08-26-98

by Alfred Bolliger

PrintKey is a system tray-based freebie that lets you do a real "Print Screen" just like in the good ol' DOS days. Whenever the program is active, press the PrintScrn key (or other configured key) on your keyboard. The program's

main window pops up to give you several options. The capture can be centered, stretched, reduced, copied to the Clipboard, converted to grayscale, and saved as a .bmp or .jpg file. In addition, you can choose to invert colors, add a frame, mirror the image, print user info and footer text, insert the date and time, and print in landscape or portrait mode. If desired, instant print-screens can occur without going through the dialog box.

Then press a button to send your image directly to your printer. Press Alt plus your hotkey to print just the active window, or select a rectangular area of the screen to print. You'll also find buttons for Printer Setup and for launching your default .bmp viewer/editor. PrintKey is a fast way to get hard-copy captures without having to use traditional screen-capture methods and the price is definitely right.

FREE!

The best way to learn how to do real work with the computer is to volunteer to help on some project. This month I helped to create a database with name, address, telephone number, and e-mail address. I was just helping a friend who was a little short of time.

First, I needed to scan the list of names from a printed roster. Not having a scanner, I reached out for help from a couple of overworked club members. The next day, with a text file in hand, I was wondering how to put all this info into the database program Rapidfile, a great DOS program. It is pretty easy going from one database to another, because all database programs can do this. But starting out with a text file is something else. There might be an easy way to do it, but I just brought it into my word processor and typed in all the commas to turn it into comma delineated form. It's lucky that there were only 85 records.

After this, everything was easy except

Liz Orban, GSBUG,

Editor of GSBUG Inc.

E-mails: lizorban@earthlink.net lizorban@mrinter.net

Demo Day

As editor, I recently received an e-mail offering jobs demonstrating hardware and software products for major computer resellers. MarketSource sent the e-mail to say they had open positions beginning September 11, 1998 running through the end of 1999 for companies including Dragon Software and NEC. Pay varies by account and ranges from \$12 to \$20 per hour. Contact me for a copy of the e-mail or check with www.marketsource.com

E-Tech

At COMDEX last November, I subscribed to a to-be-issued magazine about new entertainment and electronic technology. I had seen lots of computer toys at COMDEX that I hoped would come to market some day, and this magazine seemed like a good way to keep track of them. The magazine seems to concentrate on cameras, DVD, digital TV, images and virtual reality.

One article on the Universal Serial Bus (USB) shed some light on what peripherals that will soon be available for connection to this port. The high bandwidth of the USB, 100 times faster than a serial port and 10 times faster than a parallel port, makes it possible to use new toys and peripherals. The article mentioned telephones which do not need special add-in cards, digital audio, digital cameral, virtual reality goggles and data gloves, and in-car computers. Since the USB is hot swappable, a new user can join a multi-user game "on the fly." Since you can share peripherals between PCs, small businesses can share phones, security devices and displays. Also, with so many devices based on USB, peripherals can be connected and moved between car, home and office. I'm excited about it. Are you?

*Did You See This Utility? Cont. from p. 7
by David Sherman.*

pccomputing.com again and pick up the latest version (if it is not there when you download try again later).

A few people have struck a problem where Twofer can't find MSVBVM5.DLL. This is a Visual Basic 5 runtime file that is installed by a wide range of programs, including many from Microsoft itself (like IE4). Due to the DLL's size (MB) and relative ubiquity its not included with Twofer. You can get the required file from the WOPR 'Essential Software Updates' page <http://www.wopr.com/> if needed.

Software Library News cont. from 8

for printing a double column roster using WordPerfect V 6.0 DOS (what else!). I had to get a couple more club members involved to get me straightened out.

So the lesson here is that it really pays to belong to GSBUG and have such a great knowledge base to draw upon when doing more then playing with icons....

Editor Liz Orban of GSBUG Cont. from p. 8

Windows95 CD-ROM

For those of you trying to learn the basics of Windows95, we have an interactive training CD-ROM available in the club library. It was created by a company that publishes training videos and CD-ROMs and made available to the public at the price of shipping in an attempt to get further orders. I hope you will take advantage of it and use it.

iMac

If you read the August issue of *Computer Currents*, you might have seen an article on the new Macintosh. Although you couldn't tell in the magazine, it's turquoise-colored! And it seems to be targeted at entertainment and imaging users. It comes with a 10/100Base-T Ethernet network adapter, an infrared port, stereo speakers, etc. There is no floppy drive; instead Imation and Iomega make USB superdisk (120MB floppy) and zip drives for the iMac. A USB enabled SparQ drive is also supposed to be available by the end of the year. Epson and Hewlett-Packard have USB adapters for their printers and are promising USB printers for the iMac, and there is a USB scanner from Umax. These high speed peripherals are ideal for those interested in games, photos and movies. CorelDraw 8 for the iMac is also supposed to be available by early September. CorelDraw 8 for the Mac will also handle CorelDraw for Windows and Illustrator files, and save files in HTML.

Nuts & Bolts By Herb Goldstein cont. from p. 6

* BOMB SHELTER- Stands by in memory to intercept and fix program crashes and freezeups. Does an excellent job. Equal to First Aid's very effective crash preventer.

* TRASH GUARD- Equivalent to Norton's Recycle Bin. Permits recovery of accidentally deleted files.

* WIN GAUGE- Equivalent to Norton's System Doctor. Constantly monitors a number of system functions and will alert you of any incipient problem. Well behaved and does not conflict with other programs. Easily customized to monitor just those functions you select. Provides for a multitude of configuration options.

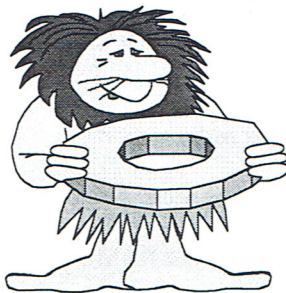
4. SECURE AND MANAGE:

* EZ SETUP- Allows customization of Windows, your desktop, startup programs, icons, startup and close screens.

* LAUNCH PAD- Customize desktop icons and their placement for easy accessibility and launching.

* STRONGHOLD- Encrypt and Decrypt sensitive files.

* SHREDDER- Permanently and positively eliminates files you want to get rid of.



Continued on next page

* ZIP MANAGER- A file compression manager. Zip and unzip files intuitively. Easily customized.

Other complete utility programs in this deluxe edition include:

1. VIRUSSCAN- McAfee's complete top-notch anti-virus program. Automatic virus detection and removal.
2. WEBSKAN X- Anti-virus protection for all your on-line (Internet, e-mail, etc.) activities.
3. PGP (Pretty Good Privacy)- Assures privacy in your Internet and e-mail activities. Permits you to encrypt and decrypt files and provides for digital signature and message verification.
4. Year 2000 Fix- Checks and corrects your computer for year 2000 compatibility.
5. HURRICANE- The only proven effective RAM enhancer and a whole lot more. It includes:

* Discover Pro- Will give you every conceivable bit of intricate and advanced information about your computer that you could ever dream existed, plus a good deal more. When it comes to system info, this has everything else beat, hands down!

* Boot Accelerator- Faster boot-up.

* Launch Accelerator- Much faster launch of individual applications.

* Reverse Cache- Permits instant restarts even after program is closed.

* Cache Compressor- Compresses cache contents to greatly increase cache effectiveness.

* RAM Expander- The only RAM compressor that really works!

* Print Cache- Spools your print jobs to RAM, thereby increasing printing speed.

* RAM drive- Any surplus RAM is utilized as a super-fast RAM drive.

* Wingauge Pro- Monitors your system and warns you of potential problems.

* Discover- Very complete system analysis and diagnosis.

Another area where Nuts & Bolts overwhelms the competition is in installation. You are given much wider and more effective control over what you want to install or not. Furthermore, unlike the competition, you have greater control over what modules start up with Windows.

WOW!! That's almost all you could say about this spectacular collection of utilities. The only thing more amazing than the impressive contents of Nuts & Bolts is its street price of around \$40. That is little more than half the cost of the competition's packages. Considering the sheer weight of its many components, it's easily worth more than twice as much.

In practical usage and in our tests, Nuts & Bolts works for the most part just as advertised, although with some exceptions. We could not get Hurricane to install its RAM and cache utilities. Windows froze solid in successive attempts and forced us to finally give up on including those few items in our armamentarium. We did not see it as too much of a loss since the effectiveness of most of what we could not include applied primarily to machines with 8MB of RAM or less. Ours was running 32.

The Nuts & Bolts package includes a concise and very informative booklet detailing all the program's features along with a very small one devoted to the McAfee anti-virus program. No manual and nary a mention was included for Hurricane. Network Associates offers toll-free tech support. As is the case with just about every software publisher these days, be prepared for some lengthy hold times. We were unable to uncover any FAQ's or other support at NAI's web site. In consideration of the newness of the enterprise, we expect this may change in time.

An on-line update feature is provided to keep you current. You can easily run the update or any other of the program's modules by clicking the Nuts & Bolts icon on your desktop. The modules are organized and individually listed as we have done above. It is then a simple matter of clicking on the applet you want to run. Some of them that you had previously selected to do so may already be running in memory and will appear on your task bar. Two years of free virus updates to McAfee are included.

We were very impressed with this outstanding utility package. To run Nuts & Bolts, you will need a minimum of a 486 PC, 8MB of RAM, and 15 MB of free hard drive space. Network Associates, (800) 338-8754, www.nai.com.

Continued on next column

Club Information

HARD COPY 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 \$25 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter, full use of the public domain software library, and drawings at the end of meetings.

Article Submission: Deadline for submission of articles is the 10th of each month. Articles should be provided in ASCII format without any type of for matting from your word-processor including tabs, indents, extra spaces, or highlighting. We prefer articles on disk but will accept hardcopies if necessary.

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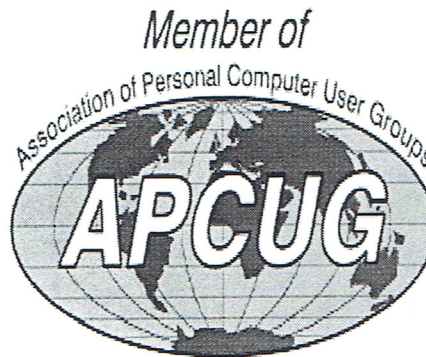
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Meeting Times

GENERAL MEETINGS are held the 1st Sunday of each month. Meeting location is the San Luis Obispo I.O.O.F. Hall on Dana Street.

The general meeting starts promptly at 2:30pm.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS) meet at 1:00pm - 2:15pm



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