SLO Bytes HardCopy

Sheldon and Logan Windows 98

We are fortunate to have Dan Logan and Tom Sheldon as members of our computer user community, excellent Plain English, writers who live in SLO and northern Santa Barbara county.

Dan Logan is a book publisher, freelance writer, and journalist living in Cambria, California. His most recent books are <u>Windows 98 Made Easy</u> and the <u>Computer Resource Guide</u>: <u>San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria.</u>

He publishes an on-line magazine called <u>The Tri-tip Computer News</u> (http://www.thegrid.net/dlogan/), a web site for computer users from Lompoc to San Simeon on California's Central Coast; a printed newsletter called <u>The Tri-tip Computer Newsletter</u>; and a weekly electronic publication called <u>The E-mail Tri-tip</u>.

In his 20 year writing career, Logan has published over 600 articles in more than 40 magazines and newspapers, including the *Los Angeles Times, San Francisco Chronicle,* and the *Orange County Business Journal,* and *California Business, Orange Coast, Valley, USAir* and CFO magazines.

Besides being a journalist, Logan has been a technical writer in the pharmaceutical and medical device industries for over 20 years. In recent years he has been developing manufacturing documentation for companies seeking ISO 9000 implementation and registration.

Logan is on the board of directors of the San Luis Obispo-based Central

SLOBytes to Auction off All Assets!

by Lach MacDonald

Ooops! I overstated that headline to get your attention. But due to the weather, summer vacation, Independence Day, a virus, astrological conjunctions and cosmic rays, attendance was down at the July meeting, although it bounced back up for August.

I was asked if I had quit writing these meeting reports. Not so; nor was I fired. The copy just didn't get into the Editor's E-mail; she has since switched ISPs. Rather than repeat the July report, I've incorporated some of the material in this August column.

WHATTAMIIBIDD?
I couldn't resist a headline inspired by George Campbell's July report on Auctions. There was an excellent handout, included on page 4.

SLOBYTES CALENDAR

September 6, 1998
Dan Logan will discuss his new book on Windows '98 and writing.

Ocotber 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, sales, and elections of new officers— With Bob W. needing to scale down, give some thought to these elections, please.

About 40 of the 60 members attending in July heard George explain buying and selling via auctions on the Internet. George noted that there are three or four hundred sites offering auctions, most at a two per cent average charge for sales. He demonstrated by locating a Chubb fishing rod, a mining stock certificate, a Philco TV and a Minox B camera. Auctions are nifty for locating prices obtained on items similar to something you have for sale. Immediately after the meeting I signed up for Ebay.com, a site George recommended. It is amazing how detailed the bidding action is; bids are restricted to given increments, with your highest bid hidden until that level of bidding is reached. As George predicted, bidding picks up the pace on the last day of the auction. Buyers and sellers candidly evaluate each other, so you can instantly find out if there are any gripes out there; though we were advised not to take too seriously the plaudits, which can be generated by one's cronies.

I'm experimenting with some thrift shop items that we would normally offer to local dealers. We may not end up selling the Minox spy camera via the auction, but it is a reasonable way to have a ball park figure of what a local dealer could be asked to pay.

MUST YOU WAIT UNTIL DECEMBER 1999?
In August George furnished another great handout on 2YK (year 2,000) problems, with URLs (Uniform Resource Locator—a way of locating information on the Internet) devoted to the millennium computer glitch, and a $1 disk in the library with YES2K, a free fix, for those who want to check out their hardware and software.

George predicted the major computer manufacturers will offer BIOS chip additions or software fixes, but those machines of 386 and older will proba-

News Bytes

By Mark Ogram
Tucson Computer Society, May, 1998

Just what is the cost to correct "00." The "year 2000" problem has an estimated cost for some of the larger companies ranging from $179M (Owens Corning) to $600M (Citicorp).

Never to miss an opportunity for an income source, the FCC will be imposing fees on Internet Phone companies. The fees are the same as those imposed on traditional phone companies. Remember, Clinton had asked the states to keep the Net a "tax free" zone; he apparently didn't mean to include the Federal government.

Bill Gates' appearance before the Feds doesn't seem to have stemmed the inquiries into Microsoft. The Judiciary Committee Chairman, Warren Hatch, has demanded that Microsoft remove its gag restriction placed upon its licensees under contract. Even Democratic Senator Leahy, a supporter of Microsoft, supports the demand from Hatch.

On the heels of the increased scrutiny by the Feds, the rumor is that several states have begun their own investigation into Microsoft's activities. The rumors also indicate that the states' inquiries may go further and look into alleged abuses in the credit-card industry.

Microsoft views itself as the victim in the whole Federal investigation arena and the company also feels that it has grass roots support for its actions. In an attempt to fight the Feds and the many states conducting their own investigations, Microsoft has contemplated a media blitz of positive news articles and letters to the editors.

The legal troubles that Microsoft faces may be growing. The rumor is that the Justice Dept. is pushing ahead with a

Cookies

George Buttles
24K News, El Dorado Computer User's Group
August, 1998

One of the many aspects of the Internet, which travels unobtrusively between your computer and its destination, is a little guy called a cookie. What is a cookie? What does it do? Are cookies good, bad, or ugly?

All material on the Web is formatted in a general, uniform format called HTML (Hypertext Markup Language), and all information requests and responses conform to a similarly standard called HTTP (Hypertext Transfer Protocol). When you access a site on the World Wide Web, such as the EDCUG Home Page, your Web browser will send an information request to CalWeb's computer, the host of EDCUG's site. This computer is called a Web server. The Web server will respond to the request by transmitting the desired information to the your computer. Once there, your browser will display the received information using the HTML format.

Cookies are pieces of information sent by a Web server and stored in your computer, ready for future access from the originating Web server. Cookies are embedded in the HTML

Coast Software and Technology Association.

Tom Sheldon is no stranger to the computer industry. Since the late 1970s, he has worked as a computer programmer, consultant, and network administrator. He has been designing and building networks since the invention of Ethernet. Tom has written 30 books, including "Windows 98 Made Easy," "Windows 95 Made Easy," the "Encyclopedia of Networking," and the "Windows NT Security Handbook." His articles have appeared in *PC World Magazine, PC Magazine, Byte Magazines,* and *Windows NT Magazine.*

Dan Logan runs a computer and software testing laboratory where he does research for Microsoft, Novell, and other companies. In addition, Tom is familiar to thousands of computer users who have learned by watching his best-selling educational videotapes. Tom lives with his family on the Big Sur coast of California. He enjoys mountain biking, kayaking, and golfing.

A copy of "Windows 98 Made Easy" plus a copy of the "Computer Resource Guide: San Luis Obispo and Santa Maria" will be donated by our speakers for Prizes or the Projector Fund.

The Library?

Maybe it is time to hook up to the internet. (See http://filepile.com/nc/start) with no long distance call or FTP. You can also receive 500 email messages a year, each crammed with new or updated shareware (http://www.cdrom.com/simtel.net/)

Few PUGs keep a full shareware library. Discussion to come in September: Note Lach's estimate that 15 to 20 members do use the Library.

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new charge that the company is conducting an "illegal maintenance and extension" of a monopoly. The Feds are trying to file the case before the May 15 (now June 25) release date of Windows 98.

Perhaps a lot of the troubles Microsoft is having with the Feds is self-inflicted? A federal court order forces Microsoft to allow PC makers to hide the Explorer logo; in what has to been seen as obscene finger gesture to the federal judge, Microsoft says that it has no plans to provide this "hiding" function for Windows 98.

Another major force in the PC industry is facing some serious inquiries from the Feds. A federal judge has ruled that there is a "substantial likelihood" that Intel violated antitrust laws in its treatment of its own customer, Intergraph. Intel was ordered to provide technical information to Intergraph.

3Com has won a settlement from Microsoft on the use of the name "Palm PC" which Microsoft had intended to use on its handheld computer. 3Com

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filed suits in Germany, Italy, and France to protect the company's "PalmPad" trademark; a a month later Microsoft settled and will now use the term "palm-sized PCs".

If you think PC prices can't get any lower, next year you may be able to buy a PC for less than $400. That is the estimate coming from National Semiconductor who has announced a new chip that will make that pricing available. The big loser in the deal is Intel who has been hit hard by the under $1K price.

Instead of using Sun Microsystems' JAVA, HP has decided to market its own version of JAVA which is more compatible with the HP line of printers. On the flip side, IBM has agreed to work with Sun to create a JAVA operating system. The software should be available by this summer.

Your PC and many consumer electronic devices may work more closely in the future. Microsoft and Sony have agreed to work together to allow the two types of products to communicate with each other.

Going...Going...Gone!

Working with Auctions on the Web
by George Campbell

Great Sites, with URLs

EBay—http://www.ebay.com
Probably the biggest auction site on the Internet, with categories for virtually everything. Because it's the biggest, thought, sale prices can sometimes be higher than on other sites.

Yahoo's Auction List—
http://www..yahoo.com/Business_and_Economy/Companies/Auctions/
Yahoo is always a good source for information, and this link takes you right to an indexed list of auction sites you can use.

Internet Auction List—http://www.internetauctionlist.com/
Another really good list of auctions, again indexed by category.

Tips on On-line Auctions

When you Bid
- Watch yourself and avoid bidding too much for an item. Know normal prices for items you bid on
- When searching for items, be sure to try all appropriate keywords. Real bargains can be found when sellers list items in the wrong category or with poor keyword choices.
- Bookmark items you bid on so you can check how your bid is doing later.
- On the last day of an auction, be sure to check your items frequently, especially as the time for the end of the auction approaches. Bidding is fast and furious then.
- Watch for hidden charges, like shipping and handling.
- If you win an auction, contact the seller quickly and arrange payment and shipment.
- If feedback is available for buyers and sellers, check the seller's feedback before bidding. If you're happy with a seller later, add a good comment after you get your item.
   With antiques, watch for fraudulent items, just as you would any time.

When You Sell
- Be sure to put a minimum bid or reserve price on items of high value, keeping in mind that too high a reserve or minimum bid can stifle bidding.
- State in your description any shipping and handling charges.
- Be sure to use the right category for your item.
- Use smart keywords in the title and description of your item.
- Accept only money orders or cashiers checks in payment for items, and specify that in your descriptions. If you accept personal checks, be sure to say that such checks have to clear before you ship the item. Most buyers use money orders.
- If possible, use the auction site's tools to include an image of the item.
- Describe your item fully, including any flaws which may be present. This helps prevent returns.
- Contact winning buyer immediately after the auction, and be prompt in shipment, and package items carefully to avoid damage.
- If you accept personal checks, wait for the check to clear before shipping.

bly not be supported. As he itemized software that uses dates (amortization tables, spreadsheets, accounting, banking, genealogy, etc.), the doomsday aspects of this problem became apparent.

You need to know if your mutual funds and investments are at risk. Dare you take a train or plane? Will your car tell you it is time for an engine check? Will the flowers arrive for your grandkid's January, 2000 wedding? Will your small business cash flow dry up? Who will be sued on the theory they should have been prepared?

Tune in next month, or actually next year when George promised to return to the subject. Meanwhile, see his handout entitled "Y2K and Your PC" on page 10, and check out your computer manufacturer's web sites, your financial accounts, and general information at http://www.year2000.com.

information flowing back and forth between the your computer and the server. Cookies were implemented to allow you to customize the information you receive and/or provide personalized information back to the server. For example, cookies are used to tailor a Web search engine to your personal tastes or to store shopping lists of items you have selected for purchase while browsing through a virtual shopping mall.

Essentially, cookies make use of specific information transmitted by the Web server onto your computer so that the information might be available for later access by itself or other servers. In most cases, not only does the storage of personal information into a cookie go unnoticed, so does access to it. Web servers automatically gain access to relevant cookies whenever you establish a connection to them, usually in the form of Web requests.

First the cookie is stored in the your computer without your consent or knowledge. For example, with customizable Web search engines like My Yahoo!, you select categories of interest from the Web page.

The Web server then creates a specific cookie, which is essentially a tagged string of text containing your preferences, and transmits this cookie to your computer.

Your Web browser, if cookie-savvy, receives the cookie and stores it in a special file called a cookie list, without any notification or consent. As a result, personal information (in this case your category preferences) is formatted by the Web

THE WINDOWS 98 HUNT

Windows 98 was the subject of Bob Hunt's SIG., demonstrated on his PCIII Portable (of his own construction), plus an overhead projector.

Bob set up in the library/refreshment room where the 486 and two 386s gave access to our hundreds of shareware disks. His sessions are drawing 15-20 participants with lots of free consulting advice being dispensed.

Ray Miklas handled the treasurer's desk in July and August. There are fewer than 20 tickets left for the drawing at the September meeting.

Jerry Mintz and Bill Avery are putting a lot of effort into securing programs of interest and they welcome

Big Blue will spend about $100M on advertising intended to promote its Internet computers and business network computers.

Microsoft has announced that Windows 98 will be released on June 25, 1998, with a price tag of $109. Look for discount prices of about $89.00. The pre-release media blitz has been particularly noteworthy because of its absence; when Windows 95 was released, the media blitz was all encompassing.

Amid all of the problems facing Intel, the position of CEO is being handed over to Craig Barrett (a top lieutenant to Andrew Grove) in May.

The owners of Apple are extremely happy with the work that Steve Jobs has done, so much in fact that they have agreed to let him stay on for as long as he wants as "temporary" CEO; the search for a "permanent" CEO is put on hold.

An interesting fact: several months ago Steve Jobs sold all of his shares, save one, in Apple.

The economic news from Apple is good; sales from the Mac showed the first increase in two years; and, profits from the company ($55M) exceeded the expectations of Wall Street.

server, transmitted, and saved on your computer.

When, at a later time, you direct your Web browser to that same server, the browser will, without your knowledge, transmit the cookie containing the personal information back to this Web server.

Cookie uses:

Save the password and user ID for a particular Web site.

Store personal preferences for a start page that is accessed when your browser is started. Both Microsoft and Netscape use cookies to create personal start pages.

Collect selected items from a shopping list for an on-line store. A cookie would remember all the CDs you wanted to buy even if you were disconnected from the Internet. Upon re-connection those CDs would still be in your shopping basket.

Site personalization. Let's say you want to have MS-NBC always come up with the sports news. A cookie would remember you had selected this option.

Compaq posted a surprisingly low profit for the most recent quarter. Amid warnings of future difficulties, the company said that they were in the black only $16M.

AMD felt a larger loss than it had hoped. The loss of $55.8M was explained away by a slowdown in the industry; the company has put some of its production problems behind it, so it is hoping that the next quarter will be more rosy.

Although Intel did slightly better than their reduced expectations for the current quarter, the company warned that the next few quarters will be level or even slightly down. The point was further stressed when Intel announced that it will give a pink slip to 3000 employees.

The maker of computer networking equipment, 3Com, saw its most recent quarter's profit fall through the floor. Whereas the prior quarter's profit was $179.1M, the latest quarter was a paltry $13.9M.

The financial report from Silicon Graphics isn't going to be good. In fact, the company said that it will report a significant net loss" with revenues being well below expectations.

What's the value of Yahoo? If you believe Wall Street, the company has a value of $6.09B.

The Commerce Department is keen on the Internet. The Federal agency estimates that commerce on the Net could exceed $300B by the year 2002.

Free, Free, Free

Well, Not Exactly Free. But with Lach's Titles and Subtitles, it is in keeping with this month's honesty.

Tickets are $5 each. Books of 6 are $25. (6th ticket free *for you*)

Proceeds to benefit our overhead projection fund.
3rd & 4th Prizes--Win '95 Keyboards...(Maybe you won't have to re-enter on some keys.)

To do a civic good, get tickets from

Abort, Retry, Ignore

from: "Henry A. Watts" <hank@CAMDesigns.com>

Once upon a midnight dreary, fingers cramped and vision bleary,
System manuals piled high and wasted paper on the floor,
Longing for the warmth of bedsheets, still I sat there, doing spreadsheets.
Having reached the bottom line, I took a floppy from the drawer.
I then invoked the SAVE command and waited for the disk to store,
Only this and nothing more.

Deep into the monitor peering, long I sat there wond'ring, fearing,
Doubting, while the disk kept churning, turning yet to churn some more.
But the silence was unbroken, and the stillness gave no token.
"Save!" I said, "You cursed mother! Save my data from before!"
One thing did the phosphors answer, only this and nothing more,
Just, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

Was this some occult illusion, some maniacal intrusion?
These were choices undesired, ones I'd never faced before.
Carefully, I weighed my choices as the disk made impish noises.
The cursor flashed, insistent,.waiting, baiting me to type some more.
Clearly I must press a key, choosing one and nothing more,
From "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

With my fingers pale and trembling, slowly toward the keyboard bending,
Longing for a happy ending, hoping all would be restored,
Praying for some guarantee, timidly I pressed a key.
But on the screen there still persisted words appearing as before.
Ghastly grim they blinked and taunted, haunted, as my patience wore,
Saying "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

I tried to catch the chips off guard, and pressed again, but twice as hard.
I pleaded with the cursed machine: I begged and cried and then I swore
Now in mighty desperation, trying random combinations
Still there came the incantation, just as senseless as before.
Cursor blinking, angrily winking, I saw what I had seen before.
Reading "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

There I sat, distraught, exhausted, by my own machine accosted.
Getting up, I turned away and paced across/
the office floor.
And then I saw a dreadfull sight, a bold and/
blinding flash of light,
A lightning bolt cut through the night.
A gasp of horror overtook me, shook me to/
my very core.
The lightning zapped my previous data, lost/
and gone forevermore.
Not even "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

To this day I do not know, the place to/
which lost data go.
What demonic netherworld, may keep the/
precious bits in store?
Beyond the reach of mortal souls, beyond/
the ether, into black holes?
But certainly as power runs dry, and RAMs/
upon the cord rely,
You will someday be wand'ring, lost on/
some Plutonian shore,
Pleading, "Abort, Retry, Ignore?"

News Bytes   Continued from Page 5

Netscape's fortunes haven't been too good lately, so the company is doing some re-organization in hopes of reversing its fortunes. An entire division is being established with the express purpose of managing the company's website.

Amid fears that the sales of PCs are falling, Microsoft let the word out that its latest quarter will be better than expected.

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

your tips of knowledgeable people who should be considered as guest presenters.

INTRIGUES OF THE INTERNET

In July, Jerry introduced Ralph Perez, (Cal Poly grad and MBA, with Cal Coast On-Line of Grover Beach) who is experienced as a web page designer and beta tester of high-end programs. Perez is involved with Cobalt Entertainment, Internet radio and educational broadcasting and other cutting-edge activities. If you are looking for qualified people in this field, Perez advises that there is the San Luis Obispo Association of Internet Professionals, of which he is an active officer.

Ralph's presentation was mostly Q. &A. ranging from security encryption, advantages of local ISP synergy groups, ploys of squatters who seized site names and peddled them to legit owners for up to $25M, and several related issues.

Some interesting points:
* An artificial intelligence program for the Internet is on the horizon for $399.
* Banner ads pay the bills for services like Bigfoot, Hotmail, Player Plus.
* Banks and phone companies are likely to be offering more ISP "service give   aways" in order to build future market share.
* Big companies want to the market share in order to direct consumers to their   advertising and marketing on linked web sites.
* Internet is policing squatters' abuses of domain names.
* Biometric voice recognition for I.D. will squelch some of the internet fraud. Meanwhile, guard your credit card and personal info.
* As an aside, if you are buying or selling a car, don't overlook the Kelly Blue Book, at www.kbb.com.
[Note: My intention in these reports is not to save members the effort of attending meetings, but to reflect the main points and highlights. If you loved Cliff Notes, you'll get by, but if you want to get the most out of the

meeting, be in class!]

THE NORTON SYSTEMS DOCTOR WILL SEE YOU NOW: Attendance was up for August, with about 95 enjoying the humor and information. Lyle D. Louks presented for Symantec, describing the Norton Utilities products. He described using disks for a mobile, being a pastor for 20 years, getting a Commodore 64 and teaching himself programming, and changing careers by going to work for Fifth Generation, producers of the great Fastback program, abandoned alas by Symantec. Louks, however, was moved by the new company to Eugene, Oregon, where he provides tech. support for the many users of the extensive line of Norton products.

Norton Utilities features include Optimization Wizard and Systems Doctor. User Group discounts are available on eleven Symantec packages until 10/2/98. This includes Norton Anti-Virus 4.0 on CD for $20 (Retail $70); Norton Utilities 3.0 for Win 95 at $30 (Retail $80), and Norton Crashguard Deluxe 3.0 for $20 (Retail $50). PCAnywhere32 8.0 enables you to take control of another computer (anywhere, by definition) and diagnose and fix its ills via modem, $57 (Retail $150).

If you have any Symantec product, you will want to use the Online ProductSupport, http://service.symantec.com. You can use Q.&A. to find articles dealing with your problems, get a discussion group answer on a 24-hour turnaround, update your programs (first thing out of the box, get the latest version), find out about anti-virus developments, browse a store, etc. One benefit of SLOBYTES membership is the giveaways based on a randomized computer program. The July membership drawings included a PC Expo T-Shirt (Bob Grover), English Mouse (Irv & Jessie Reynolds), Typ-

ing Instructor (Les Stephenson-for the 6th time in a row!), a 50-cartoon video (Bill Roch), Battle Chess (Gene Yuan), Web Design (Bob Ward), and the grand prize, the pricey Goldmine 4.0 Contact Manager (Ralph Jones). In August Ray Miklas and Vi Sawyer won the two sets of Norton Utilities contributed by the presenter. Other freebies included 11 games on CD (Ralph Jones); screensavers (Dan McGauley), tricolor highliter (Rob Robinson), Dragons Speech Recognition with hardware (Bill Kelleher), Quickbooks slinky (David Harris), Money 99 stickynotes (Mart Huntermark), Resume Maker (Maxine Bickham) and Studio M, a multimedia program which Bob Gold relinquished (won by Guy Kuncir).

As the song goes "See you in September."

The Bug Fix

(and other Software Updates)
MBUG PC Newsletter, Monterey Bay PCUG, Jan, 1998
JAVA Risks:
Netscape Communicator & IE 4.0 When the browser builders decided that downloadable "applets" such as ActiveX and JAVA were a good idea, they opened a Pandora's box of potential risk to your computer and even the local area network. So far, no damage has been done but the risk has been documented. Your best protection is to disable such functionality or at least put security on high and visit only reputable sites.

Latest with Netscape Communicator is that a researcher has found that the LiveConnect feature which permits JavaScript code and Java applets to talk to each other creates an opportunity to breach system security and the potential to run agent applications on your computer. Part of your defense here is to download the latest Communicator 4.03 at: http://home.netscape.com download/client_download.html. I per-

A cookie can provide Website tracking. This allows a web site designer to track what information on his site interests each visitor.

Targeted Marketing can be used to build up a profile of where you go and what advertisements you click on. This information is then used to target advertisements at you which they think are of interest.

Security

An HTTP Cookie cannot be used to get data from your hard drive, get your e-mail address, or steal sensitive personal information. Early implementations of Java and JavaScript could allow people to do this but for the most part these security leaks have been plugged. But HTTP Cookies can be used to track where you travel over a particular site, This site tracking can be easily done without using cookies. Using cookies just makes the tracking data a little more consistent.

A server can only access a cookie that has been sent from itself. It cannot access any other cookies on your computer. At one point, servers could access other site's cookies, but this problem was plugged a long time ago.

Many Web sites, particularly those that offer on-line sales, provide a form for your name, address, and other information. If the form contains sensitive information such as a credit card number or mailing address, the cookie can be delivered over a Secure Sockets Layer, which encrypts the information as it travels between your computer and the Web server. The site will clearly inform you when this is the case.

Most browsers will (optionally) alert you when a server is trying to set a cookie on your system. It will tell you what the cookie value is and how long it will last before it is deleted. It then gives you the option to accept or reject the cookie. Normally this option defaults to off.

Remember, cookies cannot gather information from your system. They can only be used to save infor-

mation that you volunteer and report that information back to the Web site that originated the cookie. Some cookies are delivered with an expiration date/time. However, even un-expiring cookies are deleted when you quit your browser.

For more information on cookies check the Cookie Central Web site on the Internet. They have a rather complete Cookies and Privacy FAQ section and provide detailed instructions for enabling cookie alerts in most browsers.

sonally use Netscape 4.03 and do get a lot of warnings about potential security risks even when downloading updates to Netscape itself. IE 4.0 has a similar problem as well as IE3.0 running on Windows 3.1. Microsoft does have a fix for 3.0 and is working on the fix for 4.0. For more information on this, go to:
http://www.microsoft.com/ie/security/javamischief.html

Smart Suite 97 Interim Update Program

At http:www.lotus.com/ you will find a full set of downloads to update the various components within Smart-Suite97 - Lotus 1-2-3, Freelance Graphics 97, Approach 97, and Word-Pro 97. The WordPro update is over 5 megabytes in size and a definite must have,

WordPerfect Suite 8

When the standard product was originally released, it was shipped missing CorelCentral component that also included an Integrated copy of Netscape Communicator 4.0Ia. The box was a coupon for a free" copy of the update, $9.95 shipping and handling fee is not an option. If you didn't get it, get it! If you do, you get a completely updated CD-ROM copy of the Suite including

CorelCentralNetscape Communicator along with hundreds of bug fixes and program improvements

"enhancements." Also (at least was) included, a copy of the 1998 Grolier Multimedia Encyclopedia. You can get the update only, about half a meg of patches, at ftp.corel/pub/wordperfect/wpwin/8/wp78spl.exe but this patch does not include all the fixes and enhancements included on the CD.The Bug Fix etc. (Continued) Nuts & Bolts Helix Software For those who listen when Clint says "buy" and bought Nuts & Bolts, there are two updates available from Helix for the program. Depending on how early you bought, the level of updates needed is different. Full information on the updates is available at: http://www.helixsoftware.com/n&b_udates.html Current mainteance release is version 1.03 and is available on CD by calling (718) 392-3100, which is what I did but I also downloaded the updates while waiting. Office 97 As mentioned in last month's newsletter, SR-I for Office 97, which can be obtained at: http://www.microsoft.com/office/office97/servicerelease along with details of the update. The update lets you save documents in native Word 6, Windows 95 format instead of RTF, provides enhanced support for P0P3/SMTP Internet Mail as well as several new viewers, converters plus minor updates and program enhancements. Microsoft also provides a lot of freebies and support files for all their products. Virus Updates While you are in an updating frame of mind, be sure to check out your virus program update site.

These generally change monthly as more and more viruses are found. Your computer is under siege and you need to have the latest ammunition in the battle against viruses. Internet Updates Note A big problem with updates via the net is that the updates "go away" at some point and are no longer available. Also, if you have to reinstall, then you not only have to reinstall but also apply all the patches you got over the net. If a fully updated CD is available such as in the case of WordPerfect Suite 8 and Nuts & Bolts, you are miles ahead to have the updated CD.

Y2K and Your PC!

The Concerns

1. You r Hardware...Is it Y2K compliant?

Problems here are related to your computer's BIOS and CMOS Ram, where date information is handled and stored. Older PC's may have BIOS chips which use 2-digit dates. More recent PCs may still have CMOS Ram which does not automatically handle the 1999-2000 roll over.

2. Your Software...What about Dates?

Only software which uses dates is potentially affected. Databases, Spreadsheets, Accounting programs, Financial Planning software, and others may have problems with calculations involving Y2K dates. Will it recognize 2-digit year fields correctly. Most other software is not a concern.

3. Your Data Files...What about Them?

Spreadsheets and database files could be a problem, even if the software which uses them is Y2K compliant. For example: If you created a database or spreadsheet, using 2-digit year data, you'll run into problems with any date-related calculations.

4. The Rest of the World...Will It come to an End?

While your PC may be vulnerable, it's not the biggest problem. Y2K problems may affect many aspects of your life, particularly in the financial arena. Banks, Airlines, Investments, Insurance, and all Government Agencies may be affected in some way.

The Solutions

1. Your PC...Check it Out!

Well before the year 2000 rolls around, you should run a diagnostic program to determine whether there is a problem with your hardware. Fixes will be available for most BIOS and CMOS problems from your hardware vendor or other sources. See the URLs below for downloadable software which can test your PC. **Check now so you'll have time to take care of any problems!**

2. Your Software...Upgrade to Y2K Versions

Most software vendors are developing, or have already developed Y2K compliant versions of programs which are likely to be affected. For critical applications which use dates, you need to contact the publisher and make sure you have a Y2K compliant version or a patch for your current version. Check the web sites for all programs. If you use vertical market business software, check now! **Don't wait until December 1999!**

3. Your Data...Make Changes, if Necessary

If existing data files for spreadsheets and databases you use currently have a 2-digit year fields, you'll need to change these to 4-digit fields, even if your software is Y2K compliant. You may have to do this manually, creating a new version of the file. Often, this is just a matter of changing the date format and resaving, but could be more complex. For vertical market business software and accounting software, check with the vendor now! Don't wait until December 1999.

4. The Rest of the World...Check it Out!

Start asking questions now, about those with whom you do business. Banks, Stockbrokers, Insurance Companies, Financial Planners, etc. Find out what they're doing about Y2K problems and how it may affect you. Most will have information on their web sites about this matter. Watch the news over the next year and check web sites which offer Y2K information for further developments. **But don't panic! The world's not going to come to an end!**

Check these URLs on the Web!

http://www.zdnet.com/pcmag/special/y2k—Good info on all aspects, plus lots of software.
http://www.year2000.com—General information on Y2K issues.
http://www.survive-2000.com—Information and downloadable testing software here.
http://www.nai.com—Network Associates, Inc. Toolbox 2000 software for testing and solving problems.
http://www.Symantec.com—Symantec/Norton 2000 Y2K software, available Sept or Oct...
Plus the web sites for your computer manufacturer and software companies.

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.

Disclaimer: Neither SLO BYTES PC User's Group, its officers, editors, 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.

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Nancy Watts
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San Luis Obispo, CA. 93401
543-3107
nwatts100@Hotmail.com

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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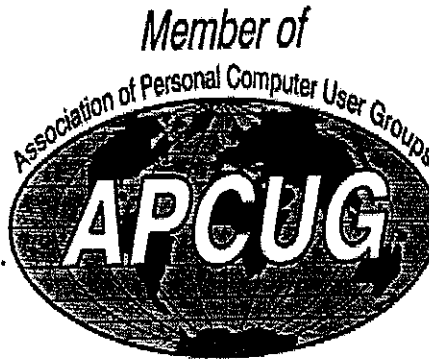
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Floppy Disks 4-Sale at the Meeting

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