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What's New

GC's WEB TRAVEL TIPS, AND WINDOWS OF THE FUTURE

By Lach MacDonald

THE MARCH MEETING OPENED WITH 62 MEMBERS AND GUESTS PRESENT and peaked at 72. The first session featured George Campbell's demonstration on finding and booking travel via the Internet. He pointed out that locating travel information and bargains includes a wide array of choices, even if you intend to visit your customary travel agent. In many instances, however, you will have access to the same information your travel agent uses and can make your decisions in the comfort of your home at your own pace.

The main travel categories offered are airline flights, lodging and vehicles. George had little luck finding a flight from San Luis Obispo to Manchester, England, until the right airport codes were entered, so you ought first to prefer a web page that gives a menu of codes, or encodes the place name. Major cities with multiple airports present additional choices the buyer may not know about.

If you have Internet access and weren't at the meeting, check out www.expedia.com and www.travelocity.com. For route maps, www.mapquest. If you are not using the Internet, the session could help motivate you to get a modem and an ISP (Internet Service Provider). We have about 30 members who are not yet on the Internet. If they make the move soon, and notify Ray Miklas, we will be enabled to offer Hard Copy as E-mail and save a bundle of your dues money that is currently used to fund the print version of the newsletter. And you can still print out all or a portion of

From President Ray Miklas

THIS MONTH I WANT TO APPRISE YOU of where we stand in acquiring a much-needed projector for our meetings. Our March meeting is a good example of why we need a good projector for our presentations. Both Alan Raul and Bob Hunt were clearly hampered in their efforts in having an acceptable display projected for all to see, especially for the folks in the back. With 70-plus in the audience, there were just not enough seats up front for all who wanted them. Contrast the March display vs. the February display of Power Quest presentation. –Enough said.

Our Projector Fund, as of March 13, 1999, stands at $2,688.96. At our March meeting, Marvin collected $142 in donations and $65 was acquired from the sale of our surplus computers. Clearly we must do much better in donations if we are going to reach our goal of $4,000 any time soon. Meanwhile, we will have to contend with our present projector.

Club Calendar

April 4, 1999

1:00 PM:
George Campbell will answer all your questions about Windows and other compter subjects.
Bob Hunt will host another SIG for advanced Windows users.

2:30 PM:
Alan Oden from ComputerLand, SLO, will give a presentation at the General Meeting titled:

"So… You Think You Want To Be In The Computer Business?"

In this issue...

AAA Map'n'Go, ver. 4.0

By Lee Ibsen, Sarasota PC Monitor, March 1999

COMPUTERS ARE SUPPOSED TO MAKE OUR LIVES EASIER. This is certainly true in the case of travel planning tools like AAA Map'n'Go Version 4.0 from DeLorme. Since my wife and I retired five years ago, our main activity has been traveling by road to various points of interest on the North American continent. Travel Planning software has been a very useful tool that enables us to research various routes and get a fairly accurate estimate of travel times between points so we can coordinate visits with friends and relatives. With the release of Version 4.0 of AAA Map'n'Go, DeLorme has raised the bar another notch.

DeLorme has combined their fairly extensive roadway maps of the US, Canada and Mexico with AAA's updated travel database in an easy to use software package to make trip planning easier and more accurate and enjoyable. Using Map'n'Go is as easy as typing in your start and finish points and selecting GO. Map'n'Go generates a map showing the route and a table specifying your route directions. You can choose various options to suit your needs — quickest, shortest, most scenic or customized route. For example, if you prefer to travel on Interstate Highways as much as possible you can define that as well as defining your preferred speeds. Map'n'Go allows you to avoid specified routes such as toll roads, ferrys, etc. You can eliminate an area you just do not want to go through by blocking that area using a drawing tool.

Once you have chosen your route you can go into the AAA database to examine lodging, restaurants, campgrounds, museums, and various points of interest along your planned route. With a right-mouse click you get a list of AM and FM radio stations in the area. To help you locate a place in an unfamiliar area Map'n'Go includes a FIND feature that pinpoints an address for you by showing it on a detailed map of the area. I find this very helpful when trying to drive somewhere for the first time. If you do not know the address, you can enter the ZIP code, telephone number, or latitude-longitude.

Map'n'Go has full Global Positioning Satellite (GPS) support. This new version includes a GPS voice navigator that provides an audio output of directions as the GPS system senses your location. Version 4.0 also includes support for the popular Palm Pilot PDA.

Another feature that may interest you is the Slide Show and Trip Pix feature that allows you to integrate your trip maps with your photos to document your travels. There is also a Budget Planner to document your expenses and a collection of fun Kids Travel Activities. Internet updates are available to keep you abreast of scheduled road construction, weather forecasts and upcoming events along the routes you have chosen.

System requirements to install Map'n'Go 4.0 include: an IBM PC with a 486DX/66MHz or higher processor, a CD-ROM drive, 8MB of RAM and a minimum of 10MB of space on a hard drive. It runs under Microsoft Windows?95 or Windows NT 4.0 (or later). You will also need a Microsoft Windows-compatible SVGA card and a 256-color monitor and a Microsoft Windows-compatible printer.

I can attest to the quality of the technical support staff because when I first installed the software I ran into a conflict with another program that caused some error messages. I called the DeLorme tech support in Yarmouth, ME, and talked to a very courteous young lady who promptly e-mailed me step-by-step instructions on how to get a clean install on my system. I followed those instructions and had no further problems.

If you are looking for an easy-to-use, up-to-date travel planning software package I suggest you to try out AAA Map'n'Go Version 4.0. You can purchase it locally at Best Buy for $38.00.

AAA Map'n'Go is distributed by DeLorme, Two DeLorme Drive, P.O. Box 298, Yar-mouth, ME 04096, 207-846-7000, email: www.delorme.com

WHAT'S NEW

Continued from page 1

the newsletter if you want a hard copy, for example, of my priceless column.

One piece of paper that you should have and carry at all times is the black on yellow promotional slip that your board has printed to help you recruit colleagues to SLO Bytes. It states our purpose, lists our activities and gives meeting place and times as well as our website: www.thegrid.net/slobytes. If you haven't checked our web page, please do so. If you go to computer stores, Costco, Staples, and other computer outlets, take along the information and strike up a conversation with shoppers in the computer section. I know of at least two members of SLO Bytes from Santa Maria who visited and joined because I told them about our group while shopping at a big box store.

Besides handing out the promotional slips and reporting on the officer/volunteer meeting held prior to the general meeting, President Ray Miklas reminded all that our rental agreement prohibits having food and drink in the meeting hall. (President Ray will have been on KVEC's Technology & You program by the time you read this).

How much did you pay for your 386 model computer? At least $1,000, right. If you had a color monitor, modem, CD and much memory, the price point was probably $2,400. Bob Ward cleaned out three of the old library computers. Bill Avery opened the bidding for $10 and bought the stripped down model that was forsale; it had a 40 MB HD, 2FD, 640K RAM. Two others were sold, one with 60HD and 4MB for $15; and the best of the lot, with 80HD, 8MB RAM and a CD for $40. All had mono video cards and monitors and keyboards. Best of all, THEY ALL WORKED! Bargain basement, for sure. The proceeds add to the club's projector fund, which also gained from several contributions. Your check for $10 in the mail to Marvin Baxendale, Treasurer, will make the new projector a reality.

The demo session was co-pre-

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sented by Alan Raul and Bob Hunt, both of whom graciously agreed to replace the scheduled speaker who canceled on short notice due to transportation problems. Alan described features of Windows NT 5, a program Microsoft is placing as the expected Windows 2000. The NT series includes upgrades to the class of Server Centers operating with 64 GIGS of RAM! The customizable operating system includes audio, word processing and expected categories, but uses Explorer-style screens. Minimum operating environments are 166MMX, requiring 557 MB HD space. Each new product from Microsoft requires testing for compatibility with existing hardware and software, some 3,000 devices offered by 580 OEMs. For example, there are about 2600 models of modems installed and in the marketplace.
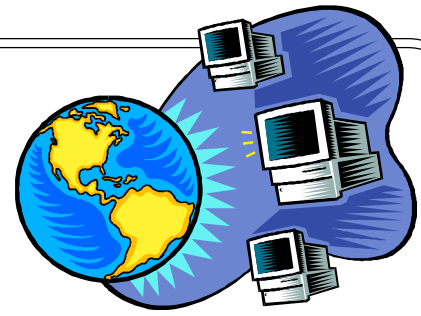
Bob Hunt commented on the user-driven marketplace. Advertising may create our desires, but our purchases in response are what lead manufacturers to offer and develop products. Bob demonstrated Office 2000 on his portable computer. It is a program that will cause you to hesitate if you are on the verge of buying Office 97. Office 2000 comes with 10 CDs and uses a browser-style screen. (Your browser is an HTML reader). Incorporating this feature will enable the user to pop graphics, video and audio into ordinary text documents, creating Internet docs with tables of contents, graphics and hypertext. If you have used a service like bluemountain.com to send animated greeting cards, it seems likely that Microsoft will put those tools on your desktop.

The monthly prize drawings included Photo Recall, won by Sheila Eckert (who also won at the first meeting she attended earlier this year); Calendar Creator DeLuxe by Maxine Bickham, and Adobe Photodeluxe Professional won by Ken Stilts.

Why would anyone want to be in the computer business? Check next month's program listing to find out.

The Surf Board

By Dorothy Kirk, IBM/PCUG
Redding, kirk@snowcrest.net

THERE ARE HUNDREDS, PERHAPS THOUSANDS, OF SITES ON THE INTERNET THAT IN SOME WAY PERTAIN TO SPORTS. Since I am not a sport enthusiast, the sites below are rather broad in their offerings. If you are a sports fan, you may already be familiar with some of the sites. From these broad listings you can link to anything you want in the world of sports. All of the sites this month are about the same, but a few offer things not available from other sites. I suggest that you look at them all and then choose one or two that you like and add them to your Favorites, BookMarks, or whatever you use to jump quickly to favored sites.

CBS SPORTLINE

http://www.foxsports.com – A site with news, scores, schedules, articles about players and plays, a test of sport knowledge, and video playbacks. You can also get loca sports by inputting a zip code. This site also features scores, photos, radio schedules, world sports, superstars, sports on TV, polls, and more.

ESPN NETWORK

http://espn.go.com – All the current information about sports that includes scores, tournaments, news, today's best, TV listings, special articles, ticket buying, and a store.

TOTAL SPORTS

http://www.totalsports.net – Another mega-sports site. This one also includes news, where to find sports on the TV, links to many sites about sports and also provides a link to TOTALCAST CENTER. TOTALCAST which has live access to game scores, lots of information on men's and women's games, standings, teams, and statistics.

CNN SPORTS

http://www.cnnsi.com – Besides most of the features available in other sports sites in this list, this one has latest audio and video clips and a photo gallery.

MSNBC SPORTS

http://www.msnbc.com/modules/sports/tsncover.asp – Here you find more information on scores, news, and links to other sites.

Tips

San Francisco Peninsula Computer Club, March, 1999

RESTART, DON'T REBOOTWINDOWS 95

There are a number of ways to reboot your computer: Press Ctrl+Alt+Del twice, press the Restart button on your system (you know where it is), or choose Start|Shut Down, select Restart the computer, and click OK. But did you know you can restart Windows 95 without rebooting your entire system? (This trick comes in handy after making Registry changes for which you need to restart Windows 95.) Choose Start|Shut Down, select Restart the computer, then—and here's the trick—hold down Shift as you click OK. (tip was past on by Ernest Hints)

SearchPad AI ver. 1.2

By Terry Currier, NOCCC January, 1999

SEARCHPAD AI (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE) IS AN INTERNET SEARCH TOOL for those that have a lot of research to do. If you only have to look up simple things SearchPad is more than you need. It doesn't just query a Web Search Engine to find information you are looking for. It queries all selected search engines simultaneously and discards duplicate results. With it, you can customize your searches to suit your needs and preferences. It supports basic and advanced Boolean queries. It also allows the user to specify "phrase neighborhood" in terms of words, sentences, and paragraphs. SearchPad goes beyond search engines by offering easily definable "accept" and "reject" rules to support the next level of screening.

SearchPad has two modes of working: Novice and Expert. It starts in the novice mode, in which you submit a query, give it a name and tell it to go. It then finds the information and gives the results. Fast and simple—it gets too simple fast. If you have any experience searching, switch to expert right away; it gives you much more control. With the novice mode you can give it feedback after the search to filter out unwanted documents. With expert, it will filter out a lot from the start.

I'll give you an example using the expert mode. To begin you submit a query and give it a name (topic). A query is a word or a set of words. A query is given to find documents related to your subject of interest. For example, I looked up as a topic "maps" (surprise), and the query to look for information regarding "street maps". I then clicked on rules and gave it some restrictions. From that I gave it things to look for such as "streets," "United States," and "search." If those words were within the web pages HTML (they call it a document), then it's told to accept. I told it to go and it proceeded to search for my topic. It comes in handy to watch what it was doing (downloading). I could see there were numerous sites that were not what I really wanted. So I stopped it and put some restrictions telling it what to reject. After that it was more defined as to what to get.

SearchPad is different from other search programs such as WebSeeker in that it will download the document for you to view it later off-line. You can also tell it how many you want to download, up to all of them. Allowing it to download the document makes it faster to view and search for the information later. I am sure all of us have searched for something on the Internet, gone to a "found" website and find it has nothing about what we wanted. Well with the downloaded documents you can quickly search for specific words. They call it Find in Results. So you type in a word telling it where you want it to look for the word. It will then present to you a title list of the documents. Placing the cursor over a line SearchPad will show you the summary, this really speeds up finding what you need. From this you can also quickly search for sites you know you would not want. An example would be for me to look up the word "hiking" from the information. Since I did not want maps on hiking trails, press delete and they're gone.

You can export the information topic; it gives you the title and URL, but not the summary information. Double clicking on the document takes you to the website using their browser, or you can use your default browser. If you downloaded the document, it also allows you to see what the page looks like off-line.

Much like a teacher grading homework, users can give feedback (or rate) the documents. These preferences can be reused for similar searches in the future. Looking at the downloaded documents you can point out documents that are relevant or irrelevant (in short, classify them) based on the presence or absence of key-phrases in the document. Feedback's are then analyzed and stored in the topic. Future documents (which are later downloaded) may be classified automatically using the knowledge stored in a topic, making the searches easier. In addition to this, the feedbacks from one query can be used to classify the results of a similar query that is submitted later. There is no limit on the number of feedbacks you can give. The more the feedback, the better SearchPad learns, as it has more knowledge to classify the documents. Giving it feedback using the Boolean Query is giving the user more control over the search process. The following Boolean operators are supported: AND, ANDNOT, OR, NEARWn, NEARSn, NEARPn. You can group your Key-phrases using parentheses pair (). The following are valid Boolean queries. (Nikon ANDNOT "Autofocus SLR") OR (Canon AND AE) (Donald NEARW3 Knuth) AND "Concrete Mathematics" Note the use of ( ), spaces before the operators, double quotes for Key-phrases with spaces, and ANDNOT and NEARW working on single Key-phrases.

I think SearchPad is very good and much better then using ordinary search engines alone. I found some weak points. While it did cut out duplicates it could do a better job. For example, while looking for maps, it found very similar URLs; http://webcrawler.city.net/maps/, and http://webcrawler.com/index.html. While not an exact duplicate it is close enough that I would like to see it restricted. I'd like to see a sorting capability on documents by title, or web address which would also help get rid of the duplicates. Also needed is an easier way to copy information from SearchPad to save an address, or summary information to word processor or other program.

Right clicking for each item is too slow. The best thing about SearchPad is its support. While doing the review, I had some questions and expressed some of the concerns above. The authors called me from India (yes, that's what I said). They told me version 1.5 would be ready by COMDEX time, which will correct some things. With the 2.0 version sometime next early year, they should have put in all the items I mentioned. I really got the impression that this is their baby and they were going to do everything to make it the very best.

SearchPad works on Windows 95/Windows NT4.0 with a 486 PC or higher machine. It requires 16 MB RAM, 20 MB free space and an Internet connection. It is compatible with Netscape and IE class of browsers. You can go to http://www.searchpad.com and download a 30-day trial version.

The Pentium iii (Katmai)

By George Buttles, 24 K News, March 1999, Official Publication of the El Dorado Computer User's Group

THE OFFICIAL NAME FOR INTEL'S LATEST PROCESSOR (CODE NAMED KATMAI) IS PENTIUM III. What the new opcodes are called is still in the air. Is it MMX2 (MultiMedia eXtensions 2), XMM (eXtended MultiMedia), or KNI (Katmai New Instructions)? KNI seems to be the most popular choice at present.

Intel has begun the pre-launch advertising campaign for the new Pentium® III processors. The campaign includes television commercials and there are even billboards in Santa Clara, Calif. The pre-launch campaign was developed to generate excitement and anticipation for the February 26 launch of the processors. For those of you that missed the TV commercials, they can be viewed at: www.intel.com/home/pentiumiii/spots/

Based on the sixth generation, Pentium Pro micro-architecture, the Pentium III processor offers a robust, new instruction set and architecture enhancements which include:

- frequencies of 500MHz and 450MHz
- integrated PBSRAM L2 cache (512K)
- 100MHz system bus
- 70 new instructions, including Streaming SIMD (Single Instruction Multiple Data) Extensions for enhanced application performance
- memory streaming architecture
- concurrent SIMD-FP architecture
- new media instructions processor serial number

The architecture and instruction improvements enable these rich media/data types:

- real-time MPEG2 encode/decode
- 3D graphics
- AC3 audio, speech
- complex imaging effects
- realistic physics

Early reports from the field indicate that Intel's production process appears to be working just fine. The Katmai die runs reliably at 500 MHz and more importantly it runs KNI. It is marked as requiring 2.0 volts and it seems to run fairly cool.

For you fans of AMD processors and its 3DNow!® instruction set, KNI is going to blow 3DNow! away. KNI not only adds several new SIMD integer instructions to bolster the original MMX instruction set, it more importantly adds a set of SIMD floating point instructions which operate on a new set of eight 128 bit (16 byte) XMM registers. This wealth of registers offers an extremely large opportunity for parallelism where several integer & floating point operations can be executed at once. 3DNow! while extremely powerful, uses only the original eight 64 bit (8 byte) MMX registers, which must be shared between integer & floating point operations, the present implementation allows two operations to execute at once.

For those who are upset with Intel because of the serial number in the Pentium III, I suggest you take a very close look at just how many things in your computer already have electronically readable serial numbers, be it modems, CMOS Real Time Clock's, laptop batteries, NIC's, etc. Anything that has a Flash ROM or serial EEPROM is in all likelihood going to have a machine readable serial number, along with dates and production information.

Late breaking news: One million Pentium IIIs have already been manufactured. A 550MHz version will be available in the second quarter (already completed - just needs production ramping). Both desktop and server versions are ready. The server version is double thickness; has a huge L2 cache bolted on. Over 100 companies are writing software to take advantage of KNI. Many PC manufacturers will have machines ready for delivery on February 26th. Initial pricing for a Pentium III system will be under $2000, falling to below $1200 by this time next year.

Feb. 23, 1999—Intel Corporation today broke the 1 GHz speed barrier for a general purpose microprocessor. This was the first time the gigahertz (one billion cycles per second) frequency has been achieved on a standard microprocessor. The technology demonstration, using a 0.25 micron Pentium® III processor, was shown to an audience of over 1500 industry software and hardware developers attending the Intel Developer Forum. (Note: this technology demonstration used special cooling techniques.)

Intel expects to introduce processors this year using its new 0.18 micron process technology, delivering higher frequencies than current Intel processors. The company expects production of commercial microprocessors operating at 1 GHz frequency in the year 2000.

People Helping People

NAME	PROGRAM(S)	PHONE NO.	HOURS TO CALL
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 Hunt	Win95, Win3.1	461-1444	days
Bob Ward	Netscape, Win '95, 3.11	528-0121	evenings

We could use some more volunteers here. If interested, contact Bob Ward!

Microsoft Visual Studio 6.0—
Enterprise Edition

By Ruben Lopez, IBM/PC UG of Redding, ruben@awwwsome.com

Microsoft's calls its Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition a development system, and that description is a good way to characterize the functions of the applications in this software package. Included within the Visual Studio umbrella are six valuable programs that allow developers to create everything from Windows software to interactive web sites with Java to database applications, and users can benefit from the way these programs complement and interact with each other.

One of the benefits of Visual Studio is that it allows developers to choose the tool and language that is best suited for the task and the one that is most compatible with the skills of the developer. Software applications can be developed with any of the three main development tools, Visual Basic 6.0, Visual C++ 6.0, or Visual J++ 6.0, depending on whether your programming language of choice is Visual Basic, C++ or Java. Web applications are the specialty of Visual InterDev 6.0, and Visual FoxPro 6.0 handles building custom database applications and components. All of the development suites share common IDE (Integrated Development Environment) so the look and feel of each program is consistent, which helps reduce the learning curve. But the most obvious feature of this complete package is the emphasis Microsoft has put on web application development. In addition to Visual InterDev, both Visual J++ and Visual Basic can be used to help create database web applications and components, and the Visual Studio package includes the Windows NT 4.0 Option Pack and two of Microsoft's Developer Edition servers, SQL Server 6.5 and SNA Server 4.0. In fact, calling this the "Enterprise Edition" reflects Microsoft's intent to present this product as a solution for building client/server applications, which would include Internet-based application development.

This was my introduction to Visual Basic, and I was curious to see if I could really create Windows applications as effortlessly as is portrayed in advertisements and magazine articles. I was very pleased to discover that creating apps *really is* as fast and easy as VB users claim. For my first outing I put together a simple "Hello World" app in less than 5 minutes, and from there I was easily able to create an app that displays database info. I can certainly understand why Visual Basic is the most popular language for writing Windows software. The development environment is fairly intuitive; a component Toolbox menu displays basic Windows components (or controls) which the user selects and then places on a form, the "canvas" on which you build your application. Components are easily resized or moved, and double clicking on a control opens the Code Editor window, where language statements are added specific to the control that was clicked. While you still need to know some Visual Basic code, a lot of the repetitive, time consuming chores of writing code have been eliminated by Visual Basic. Select "Start" from the Run menu to view your app, which is optimized for performance with the native-code compiler. Like Visual Studio as a whole, VB 6.0 has several new web-oriented features, including support for ActiveX Data Objects (ADO), which are used for database access, and the ability to develop Dynamic HTML (DHTML) applications. But probably the best of the web features is the WebClass Designer, which lets you create server-side applications and components such as web-based catalog/shopping cart applications, and can be a tremendous help in cutting web development time considerably. Actually, Visual Basic cuts development time however you use it, and with the added database and web enhancements, I have already found it to be very beneficial. For the serious Windows and/or web applications developer, Visual Basic is a valuable, useful, time saving and almost essential tool, and even though I have only begun to discover its benefits, I have no reservations in recommending it. If you can only purchase one of the Visual Studio applications, make it Visual Basic 6.0.

A lot has been said about Microsoft and Java, but simply put Visual J++ 6.0 is actually a very effective tool for writing Java applications for the Window environment. Java purist who desire 100% Java code will be disappointed here; Microsoft uses its own Windows Foundations Classes (WFC) and JavaBeans are not directly supported. VJ++ uses ActiveX components instead of JavaBeans, and if you really need your Beans, you will have to convert them to an ActiveX object. Also, the visual "drag and drop" component feature works very nicely and is quite a time-saver, but is primarily intended for use with the WFC rather than web-based applets. However, the WFC brings an authentic Windows look and functionality its apps, and if you want write to a Windows platform using Java instead of C++ or Visual Basic, this is the way to do it. Microsoft has incorporated plenty of new features into VJ++ 6.0, and one of my favorites is IntelliSense (available in all of the programs in Visual Studio) which is like an automatic code writer. When writing code, if you type a certain character or combination of characters (such as an open parenthesis or an object followed by a dot) VJ++ will pop-up a list of options that you can choose from to complete the statement. You can use the up-down arrow keys to select an option or simply ignore the pop-up and keep on typing. Obviously, this is really helpful and once I became accustomed to its use I found it to be a big time saver. The editor works great, using color-coding to help identify your code, and can also be used to write web pages. The graphical debugger, which has always been one of best features of VJ++, is as helpful and as fast as previous versions. Of course, support for ActiveX is great, and VJ++ can also generate code as executables, ZIP or CAB files. It is also possible to easily convert your Java code to

DHTML, as long as your client browsers are Internet Explorer or you're using Microsoft's IIS server. While it is weak with support for cross-platform web-based development, the strength and focus of Visual J++ 6.0 is clearly on Windows application development.

Visual C++ has some new features since version 5.0, such as improved database/ADO support and a faster compiler, but the functionality of the user interface will be familiar to those who have previously used VC++5. Starting a project opens the New dialog box with selections for the type of application (Win32 App, C++ Source File, etc.). Select one of the AppWizards and VC++ will walk you through the foundational set-up, asking if you want to include elements like multi-document or database support. Then the AppWizard creates the code needed for the foundation of your app, saving you time and freeing you from hand-coding your project's basic framework. The Infoview Pane still displays the ClassView, ResourceView and FileView options for viewing your project classes, resource files and files, respectively, and are easy to navigate. The editor seems unchanged at first glance, but a powerful addition to this version is IntelliSense, which works in the same way as with Visual J++ and saves a tremendous amount of time, not only in coding but also in researching. For example, rather than looking up valid arguments for a function, IntelliSense provides you with the proper arguments and their types, which makes coding smoother and faster. This is a powerful improvement over previous versions that is worth the upgrade to Version 6 alone, and brings VC++ closer to the functionality of Visual Basic. But even though its name is "Visual C++", it still doesn't have the visual drag-and-drop ability of Visual Basic. Aside from the basic interface framework, there are some resources that can be created with wizard help, like menus, toolbars or dialog boxes, but almost all of the logic of your program needs to be hand written, and even the resource wizards don't apply all required code automatically. But this isn't necessarily a bad thing; C++ brings the programmer closer to machine code with more control than Visual Basic, which translates into apps that are faster and more powerful. Mastering the C++ language an extremely useful skill and Visual C++ 6.0 certainly makes it easier for programmers to develop this skill. And since C++ and Java are very similar in syntax and structure, knowledge of Java will aid anyone using VC++.

Visual InterDev 6.0 is Microsoft's development tool for creating web sites and web-based applications, and is especially suited for creating sites using Microsoft's Active Server Pages (ASP) technology. VID's user interface is the same as used by Visual J++, making it easy for the two programs to interact and share projects. Beginning a project requires a connection to a server with FrontPage Server Extensions, either locally or via the Internet. The editor is fully WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) with tabbed views for Design, Source and Quick View, allowing the user to view the page as it would look in a browser. Included are web design features that allow web developers to completely build a site within VID, such as multiple page themes that provide matching backgrounds, buttons and coloring. As with Visual Basic, the Toolbox window contains various components, such as ActiveX controls or HTML elements that can be dragged into the design view and placed or resized to fit the needs of the project. Scripting language support includes VBScript and JScript, which is Microsoft's version of JavaScript. The default server-side script language is VBScript, but your scripts can be written to use JScript if you prefer. Since VBScript is only supported in Internet Explorer browsers, cross-platform client-side scripting will need to use JScript or JavaScript, and even though there are some differences between the two languages, they are quite similar. VID also provides for easy database design and access for connecting ODBC data sources to your web applications. VID automates many of these development functions, coding in both HTML and scripting languages, so site development is easier and faster, but changing the source code can sometimes be tricky. VID writes its own code in its own way, which usually ends up being more code than if the page were hand-coded. Changing or adding to the source code doesn't always turn out the way the user intends because VID can stubbornly insist on the code being written a specific way, and opening a page previously coded in another editor could result in VID making its own modifications that might slightly change the page layout or break the script logic . This can be a bit frustrating, but it isn't a huge problem, and if you create your entire project with VID, you shouldn't have any problems. Actually, those with little coding experience will find VID highly practical and will allow them to create interactive web sites that may have previously been beyond their skills. Overall, the editor and features of Visual InterDev 6.0 are a beneficial for web developers and in fact accomplish the task of providing a useful tool for building data-driven web applications.

Visual FoxPro 6.0 is a development system for building relational database applications and components using the FoxPro language. FoxPro is an object-oriented language that uses classes and objects, and its syntax is somewhat similar to Basic, so experienced C++, Java or Visual Basic programmers should have little problem adjusting. VFP has the ability to create advanced database structures that are more advanced and robust than Microsoft Access while supporting the same drag-and-drop (OLE) usability. Customized graphical user interfaces with menus and toolbars can be built with the Form Designer, and VFP has several helpful tools for designing tables, quires, views and database controls. Additionally, ODBC support allows connectivity to SQL databases

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and makes VFP a valid option for Internet client/server applications. While not currently a popular choice, Visual FoxPro's effortless integration with other Visual Studio tools and its time-saving design functions make it a product to consider when developing custom database solutions to be used with Microsoft technology.

Visual Studio 6.0 includes **Visual SourceSafe**, which provides project-oriented source code version control for projects that are being developed by teams. This ensures that every member of a team working on a project has the proper version of the source code and prevents errors arising from changes made by various team members, and VSS can be used with any tool in the Visual Studio suite. Also included are several new team integration tools to facilitate use by development teams:

Visual Database Tools—offer support for creating complex SQL statements and database views against any ODBC-based database.

Visual Modeler—enables developers to design multi-tier applications.

Visual Component Manager—lets developers easily track find, catalog and reuse components and other Visual Studio project elements.

Visual Studio Analyzer—allows developers to analyze all aspects of a distributed application for effective component flow.

Visual Studio also comes with the **MSDN (Microsoft Developer Network) Library development information reference**, and this is where all of the help files are located for the individual development programs.

Costing $1,619.00, Visual Studio 6.0 Enterprise Edition is clearly intended as a full-service development package for developers. Since the Professional Versions of both Visual Basic 6.0 and Visual C++ 6.0 cost $549.00 each, serious consideration should be given to purchasing the entire suite of tools if there is a need for more than two VS programs, given the extra Enterprise Version options and smooth interaction between the programs. A Developer Edition of Visual Studio can be purchased for $1,079.00 and includes all of the development programs, the MSDN Library and the NT Option Pack, but not the team integration tools or Visual Source Safe. Either way, Visual Studio is a highly useful and productive development suite, and one whose strengths outweigh its weaknesses. I would have a difficult time going back to working without it.

System Requirements:
- A PC with a Pentium-class processor (recommended)
- Microsoft Windows 95 or later or Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 (with Service Pack 3)
- 32 Mb of RAM (48MB recommended)
- Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.01
- CD-ROM drive

Hard drive space required:
Visual Basic—116MB typical, 135MB maximum
Visual C++—302MB typical, 403 maximum
Visual J++—86MB typical, 104MB maximum
Visual InterDev—81MB typical, 98MB maximum
Visual FoxPro—85MB typical, 90MB maximum
Visual SourceSafe—59MB typical, 141 maximum

Microsoft Corp
One Microsoft Way, Redmond, Washington
http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio

More Tips

HAVING TROUBLE FINDING A DRIVER FOR YOUR COMPUTER HARDWARE?

Try Drivers HeadQuarters Website at www.drivershq.com

PROBLEMS RECEIVING E-MAIL ATTACHMENTS?

Have a look at a new product for Windows 95 and NT that has just be released called "e-ttachment Opener" by Dataviz which is supose to allow you to open, view, print, decompress and save the file regardless of your mail software package… For more info check www.dataviz.com or your local Egghead store.

Y-to-K PROJECT UPDATE (Final)

Our staff has completed the 3 years of work on time and under budget. We have gone through every line of code in every program in every system. We have analyzed all databases, all data files, including back-ups and historic archives, and modified all data to reflect the change.

We are proud to report that we have completed the "Y-to-K" date change mission, and have now implemented all changes to all programs and all data to reflect the new date standards. The project team has been disbanded and all contractors have been released.

For the record, the new standards are: Januark, Februark, March, April, Mak, June, Julk, August, September, October, November and December. Also, Sundak, Mondak, Tuesdak, Wednesdak Thursdak, Fridak, and Saturdak.

I trust that this is satisfactory because, to be honest, this Y-to-K issue remains a mystery to me. I do understand that this is a serious global problem, and our team has been happy to take responsibility for the project. But what does the year 2000 have to do with it?

Speaking of the year 2000, what do you think we ought to do next year when the two digit year rolls over from 99 to 00? I'll await your direction."

Project Leader Y-to-K Conversion

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 software drawing at the end of the meetings.

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, 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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Member of
APCUG
Association of Personal Computer User Groups

Meeting Times

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

The general meeting starts promply at 2:30 p.m.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS) meet at 1:00 p.m.–2:15 p.m.

Slo Bytes Officers

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New Members

Welcome to our two new members. We hope we can be of service to your computer needs!

**DON JONES
LOREN J. SCHWIDERSKI**

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Balance	$1,487.91
Income	
Membership Dues	175.00
Refreshments	31.00
Expenses	
IRS Exempt-Org. Fee	$150.00
Refreshments	21.00
Rent (March)	75.00
Copying Expense (Promotion)	55.77
Office (Copying & Postage)	17.93
Staples (Newsletter Copying)	158.09
Bulk Mail Postage	100.00
New Balance	$1,116.15

PROJECTOR FUND

Beginning Balance	$2,481.03
Donations	207.93
New Balance	$2,688.96