HARDCOPY

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What's New

—By Bob Ward, Editor

IN THE ABSENCE OF LACH MACDONALD, I was given the job of taking notes for last months meeting. I think I used to do this under the What's New column. As not to break from tradition, I'll tell you "what's new," and perhaps what is not so new if you did attend the meeting.

Turnout was pretty good considering it fell on Easter. I believe we had between 40 and 50 members show up. In the past we've always held meetings, holidays or not. Although some may not be able to attend, we have found it more disruptive to change dates, get the information to everyone (some don't read their newsletters) and then avoid the phone calls from those who show up on the traditional first Sunday, just to find the lights out and the doors locked.

Everything started off quite normal. Our normal Bob Hunt was in the dining area demonstrating new and profound things in Win 95 and Win 98. Our normal George Campbell was in the main hall with our not-so-normal projection system. Since I could not be two places at once, I can't really attest to what Bob Hunt was talking about, but he's never at a loss for words and everyone keeps coming back to his SIG. George spent his opening minutes dispelling some of the myths and fables about the, now famous Melissa Virus. I've know a couple people who fell for it, myself not being one of them. My software is so old it wouldn't recognize it as a virus anyway. You get this virus through email, ONLY if you are using Microsoft Outlook mail system (Hurray for my side... Eudora user!). It was written in Visual Basic and runs a Word Macro. It's smart enough to take off any protection scheme found in

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Xara 3-D

—By Bob Ward, SLO Bytes PCUG

IF YOU CREATE WEB PAGES either for a living or just for the fun of it, you realize how frustrating it becomes to get just the right graphic or banner to fit you scheme of things. A few months back I was made aware of three products developed and marketed by an English firm called Xara.

I immediately downloaded their demo products and was amazed at the simplicity and power of each. I will endevor over the next couple months to write about these products culminating in a demonstration at our June 6th meeting of all three products.

Xara-3D does not contain rows on rows of buttons to push, nor 1,000 different features. But what it does, it does very well with the simplicity of a well thought out, yet powerful program. Xara 3-D creates banners, logos and titles from your existing True Type fonts with amazing ease. They also support international character sets, so you are not limited to English. Add to this small icon shapes imported as Windows metafiles for a very powerful, easy-to-use program.

Control of text, including superscript, subscript, bolding, underlining, is available. Line spacing and kerning, two characteristics found in desktop publishing packages, may also be used to get the exact image you are looking for.

If this isn't enough, I find the real

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Club Calendar

SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1999

❁ 1:00 P.M. ❁

Q & A

❁ 2:30 P.M. ❁

Alan Oden from ComputerLand, SLO, will give a presentation on being in the Computer Business

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Allaire HomeSite 4.0—HTML Editing Tool

—By Ruben Lopez, IBM/PC Users Group of Redding, website@awwwsome.com

THERE ARE DOZENS UPON DOZENS OF HTML EDITORS available to web site builders, and with many of these editors in the $100 - $200 price range, it can seem quite difficult to choose the one best suited to a developer's particular needs, since no one likes to spend that much money only to find out that the purchased program doesn't do everything that the developer needs to get done. However, a few programs stand out from the rest as valuable web site tools, and HomeSite 4.0 from Allaire is one of those programs.

HomeSite is not a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) visual editor, but is a serious feature-packed HTML coding tool for those who are familiar with HTML. The HomeSite editing environment contains three tabbed views (Edit, Browse and Design) and toolbars loaded with coding shortcuts, such as paragraphs, line breaks, tables, forms and frames, in addition to ASP (Active Server Pages) and CFML (Cold Fusion Markup Language). Toolbars can also be customized to add proprietary tags, such as tags used with specialized scripting engines. HTML is written in the Edit view, which is color-coded and can be customized to the user's preferences. Toolbars are intuitive and convenient; clicking on the "Font" button opens a dialog box that allows the user to select font type, size, color, etc, and then inserts the font tag into the selected area of code, or the user can simply ignore the toolbar and write the tag manually. HomeSite can be set to auto-complete your tags, adding a closing tag after an opening tag is written, or opening a drop-down list of attributes for tags (i.e. <table>) which allows the user to chose the proper attribute. Additionally, these features can be turned off if the user would rather just write out all of the code, which gives HomeSite a lot of flexibility. Several pages can be opened at once, with all open pages represented by tabs at the bottom of the editor window, making it easy to tab between pages. Spell checking and validation options are easily started from the main menu, toolbar, or with custom keystrokes, and validation can be set to validate as code is typed. The user can even choose which one of several HTML versions to use when validating tags, and HomeSite will also verify your hyperlinks and estimate the download time of your page. Out of all these features, one of my favorites is the advanced Replace feature, which remembers previous replacements in a drop-down list so that you can use them over, if necessary (a great time-saver). And for those who feel less experienced with HTML, HomeSite includes HTML wizards to walk the user through creating web pages.

Clicking on the Browse tab opens the internal browser view, which is used to see what the page looks like in a web browser. If HomeSite detects Microsoft Internet Explorer, it will use IE as the internal browser, but it uses its own internal browser if IE is not available. HomeSite cannot use other browsers, like Netscape Navigator, as internal browsers for the Browse view, but files can be viewed with any browser on your system by using the external browser toolbar button, which opens the selected file in the chosen browser outside of HomeSite.

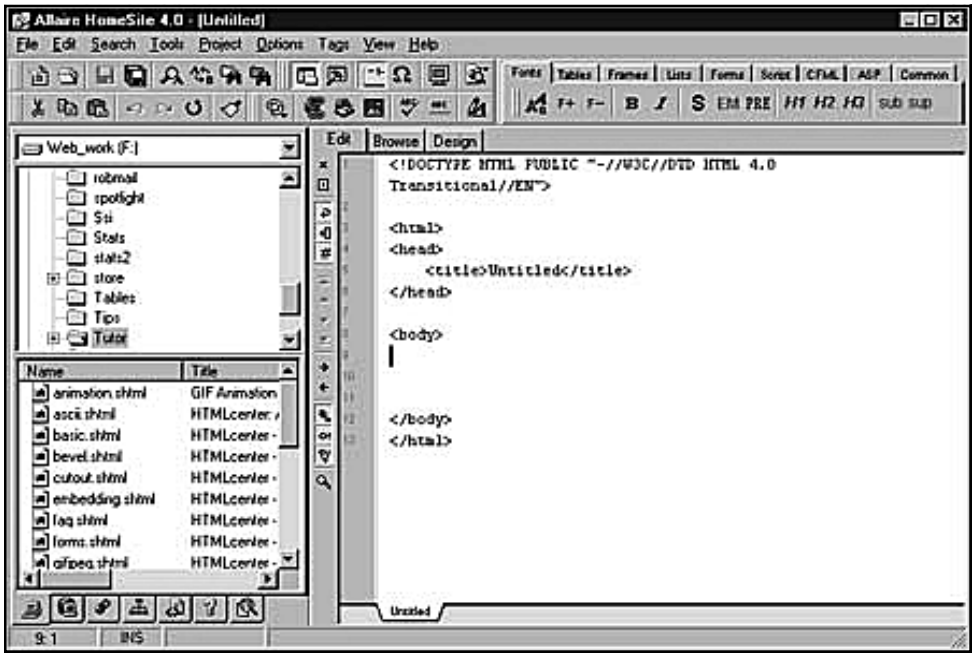
Although HomeSite is not a visually based WYSIWYG editor, the Design view provides a WYSIWYN (What You See Is What You Need) interface that allows developers to layout the page design visually, which is great for table and image placement. While not as flexible as a true WYSIWYG editor, the Design view works well as long as the user understands and accepts its limitations, which are not very limiting at all. I have found the Design view to be helpful in starting a page with a general layout, then switching to the Edit view to add customized code.

One of the big advantages of HomeSite is that it does not alter your code, either the HTML or any other scripting code on your pages. Many WYSIWYG editors are notorious for changing HTML code to their own proprietary structure, but HomeSite will leave your code alone, so that you can open a .html, .asp, or .cfm web page written with Microsoft FrontPage, Claris HomePage, or Notepad, and HomeSite will not change the code. If you use HomeSite's validation, it may complain about the code you are using, but it won't change it.

Personally, I have never been impressed with most HTML code editors, and even though I know several people who recommend HomeSite, I was reluctant to leave the comfort of my favorite WYSIWYG editor. It didn't take long, however, to become impressed with HomeSite's time-saving features, and it has not only become one of my primary web site development tools, but also a tool I rely on to help make my job easier and faster.

Requirements: Win 95/98 or NT 4.0, Pentium Processor, 10MB free hard drive space, 16MB RAM, CD-ROM Drive. Price: $99.00.

ALLAIRE CORP.
One Alewife Center
Cambridge, MA 02140
888-939-2545 www.allaire.com



WHAT'S NEW

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Microsoft's Word Macro generator. It attacks Microsoft Outlook and Word 97 & 2000 only. It doesn't attack PC-Write ver 2.52 circa 3/86 or edlin (for those of you who remember the word DOS and what it stands for).

So here's the trick… IF WORD WARNS YOU THAT A MACRO IS ATTACHED, DON'T OPEN IT. Because it may be a nuisance, some people turn off the dialog box which warns you a macro is attached. Uh Oh, No No, you got bit.

The good thing about this virus is that it appears the perpetrator has been caught. He may have been a smart programmer, but knew little how to cover his tracks on the internet. He will probably have some time in jail to improve his stealth capabilities and learn how to pick locks. Let's hope they don't give him a computer and a phone line.

George said that viruses created with Visual Basic don't take a genius, just some basic programming knowledge and an evil mind. At least this virus didn't cause your hard disk to eviscerate itself out through your 3.5" floppy drive. It was much less destructive, but still offensive. It looks up 50 of your friends email addresses that you thought were safe in Outlook's phonebook, and sends it to them as well. If you receive any email that says, "Important Message From", delete it immediately and the attachment that comes with it. It appears virus hackers are trying to outdo each other now. This opening message does not appear in some of the mutants and it can now be found on Excel Macros as well. Because this virus is re-sent to 50 people who used to be your friends, it is overwhelming email client servers, temporarily shutting some of them down. It's difficult to sort out the important mail from the trash; a similar experience awaits us all every time we open our mail boxes. Several precautions and solutions are available on the Net, too numerous to mention here. Go into Alta Vista search engine and type "Melissa Virus". You will find more information than you can possibly read in a week.

George then "lightened up" a little and pointed us toward the best places on the Net to buy a car—new or used.

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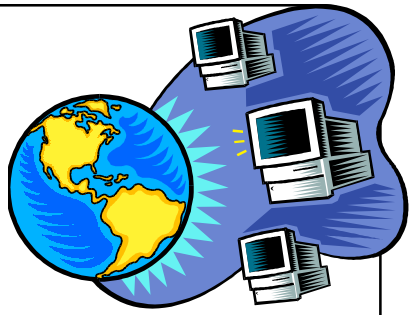
The SurfBoard



—By Dorothy Kirk, IBM/PCUG Redding

IF YOU AREN'T RETIRED YET, someday you will be… willingly or not. This month is devoted to sites that should be helpful to all *age-challenged* individuals. If you are retired or on the brink of it or need to do some planning for retirement, the sites below are crammed with information. Many of these sites are sponsored by the US government. Lots of medical information for any age is included. The travel and medical sites should be of interest to everyone.

US ADMINISTRATION ON AGING http://www.aoa.gov
Lots of information on aging issues, studies and programs, and a list of local agencies that provide services.

SENIORLAW HOME PAGE http://www.seniorlaw.com
Provides information about Medicare, Medicaid, estate planning trusts, and the rights of the elderly and disabled.

SOCIAL SECURITY http://www.ssa.gov
Has all that you need to know, and more, about Social Security.

HEALTH CARE FINANCING ADMINISTRATION http://www.hcfa.gov
This is the source for information about Medicare and Medicaid.

MEDICARE http://www.medicare.gov
More detailed information about Medicare.

HEALTHFINDER http://www.healthfinder.org
The federal government's gateway to health and medical information. This site has links to other online publications, databases, government agencies, and not-for-profit organizations that offer reliable health-related information.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH http://www.nih.gov/health
Has information about hundreds of diseases and provides links to other useful resources.

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE http://www.nlm.nih.gov
The official Web site of the Bethesda, Maryland-based National Library of Medicine. It provides a direct link to Medline, which provides nearly nine million references to medical papers and abstracts from thousands of biomedical journals.

TRAVEL, RECREATION, & NETWORKING http://www.intecon.com/senior/strec.html
Lists sites of interest to seniors for travel and recreational opportunities. Includes links to recreation sites, museums, good deals, great adventures and much more.

NIA AGE PAGE http://www.nik.gov/nia/health/pubpub/healthgy.htm
Warnings for seniors about scams that promise anti-aging products, arthritis remedies, cancer cures, etc. Medical links concerning fraud and help for victims.

SENIORS-SITE.COM http://www.seniors-site.com
Written especially for seniors. Includes classified ads, special offers, message boards (28), low cost Viagra on approval, and more.

TRAVELTIME http://www.twltm.com
Hot deals for travelers—special senior deals soon. Very low costs for anyone from sites in California to all over the world. You'll be surprised!

GET OFF YOUR ROCKERS http://www.geocities.com/yosemite/rapids/2990/goyr.html
A California club that involves seniors in many physical activities. Ever try rafting?

Making Money in Cyberspace—Book Review

—By Marsha Brandsdorfer, S.F. Peninsula Computer Club, Mar.-Apr., 1999

"WE'VE ALL HEARD OF THOSE BOOKS THAT CRY OUT "READ ME! I have all the success secrets to making easy money." Maybe you've even forked down your $20.00 or more to get a copy of this American dream.

Well, what I liked about the book "Making Money in Cyberspace" (copyright 1998) by Paul and Sarah Edwards and Linda Rohrbough is that these writers are realistic in their approach in advising their interested readers on how to make money starting or expanding a business on the Internet. They do not write a "quick rich scheme book" but a thorough, detailed book on the obstacles and the advantages on having a business on the Internet. Phrases like "cyberspace," "information superhighway," "World Wide Web" and "on-line" are all terms to describe the Internet.

The Internet has been gaining more and more exposure the past few years and becoming popular and useful. When I need particular information, I use the Internet. I can get maps and directions off the Internet, search for books and book reviews, job sites, Chamber of Commerce information, read articles on the Internet.

The authors of this book explain that "the person viewing information on the Internet is more than likely to be viewing information he or she selected." Now because of this, "the level of concentration of an Internet surfer (or user) is much higher than that of the same person in a television viewing mode. Direct eye contact is made with the monitor, and the viewer is actively selecting, listening to, and reading material on the screen." (Page 19).

Unlike "get rick quick schemes," the authors of this book show that having a business on the Internet doesn't just mean put a web site up, and wait for the money to roll in, because it doesn't work that way. They show that, like any other business, work is involved. There are various methods to decide on a business and ways to help a business develop and grow.

The authors suggest that there are four main principles for building a successful business on the Internet. These are to: specialize, keep up with your e-mail (electronic messages), which is another popular feature of the Internet, give people a reason to view and come back to your site from time-to-time, and to provide lots of information.

The authors give an excellent example of a specific web-based business I thought was interesting. They tell the story of a man named Bob Harris, who was a retired women's shoe designer. His wife Penny needed hip-replacement surgery in 1992 and was depressed after her surgery since she had to use metal crutches, and people were drawn to it and constantly inquiring into Penny's health condition. To cheer Penny up, Bob designed a decorated set of crutches and an attractive customized cane. Now, unwanted sympathy turned into interest about her attractive cane. People also inquired how they could obtain such a cane, so the couple went into business.

Originally the couple sold the canes by special orders to gift shops and by mail order. Bob's son came up with the idea of having a Web site to sell more of his canes. A professional Web page designer developed the page for Bob and Penny using photos and art work of their canes. They call their business "The Harris Company" and are promoting their page (http://www.walkingstick.com) by submitting the site to search engines, brochures and articles in newspapers. They have their Web page designer help them in responding to their e-mail. (Pages 188, 189).

Keeping up with your e-mail means to respond promptly to inquiries. You should, if possible, spend a few hours every day to answer your e-mail. To provide a reason for people to return to your web site, the authors say "there has to be something worth coming back for. This can be accomplished in a number of ways, including offering changing images people find compelling, handy reference information, software updates, etc." (Pages 31, 32).

For instance, I use the web site (http://www.yahoo.com) because (a) it provides maps I can print out for when I need directions; (b) it is a search engine so I can use the site to search for other sites I am looking for; it allows me to have free e-mail access on its site; and (d) I like to read the updated news articles which it provides.

The authors of this book suggest another way to have people return to your site is to give something valuable away, such as free software. Personally, I like going to web sites that give me "free information." For instance, the law firm of Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati has numerous articles on their web site (http://www.wsgr.com) relating to law in layman terms. These articles are very interesting to me, so I have read many of them and the site does provide updates and new information. Their hope is, of course, to have people become knowledgeable of their large law firm and perhaps also gain new clients and more publicity.

What kinds of businesses are on the Internet? You could have an existing business which you expand onto the Internet. As I mentioned above, the law firm of Wilson, Sonsini, Goodrich & Rosati, for instance, already exists in office buildings, but wants to expand by sharing information about the firm and articles on the law on the Internet.

You can also have a web-based only business on the Internet. For instance, I like going into (http://www.amazon.com) to look for books. This web site sells books exclusively on the Internet. They sell new books at a discount and they are sent to the buyer by mail order (snail mail). They also have reviews and information on the books, interviews with some of the authors and you can send in your own reviews on the books you've read.

The authors state: "The difference between those who've sold successfully on the Internet and those who haven't is more than just the amount of work put into the project. It has to do with knowing who your customers are, making the shopping process easy for them, providing good-quality images, and establishing yourself as an expert." (Page 63).

"Most successful web sites are built as a result of saying 'Why would I want to come to this site, buy this product or subscribe to this service?'... Knowing your customer can have a lot to do with knowing yourself." (Page 64).

For instance, probably the people who came up with the idea for the web-based book site (http://www.amazon.com) decided that they like reading books, would want a site where new books could

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MAKING MONEY

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be purchased at a discount and received easily by mail, and a place where customers could read reviews before they buy. The site also has interviews with some of the authors, such as the recent interview with fiction writer John Grisham to coincide with the issuance of his new hardback novel, "The Testament."

The authors of "Making Money in Cyberspace" suggest images are important on a web site because the Internet is a visual place and "your site expresses who you are and what you can do." (Page 67). However, they mention that complex images may take awhile to download and then your potential clients and customers may lose interest and go elsewhere. "Simple but elegant visual images: may be the key towards a successful site. (Page 67). At a book fair in Burbank a few years ago, I spoke to the designer of the web site for the Advanced Book Exchange (http://www.abebooks.com). They have a simple symbol they use on their home page. It shows a little green head with white glasses reading a book. His hair is the color red and the hair also looks like fire or flames. I was told Advanced Book Exchange uses this symbol because it is attractive, makes its point that this site is related to books, and is not a complex, detailed graphic and therefore easy to download.

I am using a lot of my own examples, but the authors of this book do give many of their own to illustrate points they are trying to convey. They also mention and illustrate examples on many other aspects on running a business on the Internet. For instance, among other factors, they suggest what to look for in searching for an ISP (Internet Service Provider) to host your web site. They give suggestions on how to build your web site and keep it interesting; using a domain name; how to make your site load faster; using search engines and links to help others find your site; promoting your site; how to get paid; and the obstacles and advantages of credit card access, including the security issues involved with this. They also list approximately 125 ideas for Internet businesses which range from being a web page designer, art dealer on-line, selling business stationery, developing and selling electronic greeting cards, real estate agent, teacher instructing on-line classes, therapist, technical writer, and many, many others.

In conclusion, I think this book is clear, concise, well written and researched, and I highly recommend "Making Money in Cyberspace" to people who are considering starting a business on-line or are the least bit curious. I found the book to be very informative, realistic with its suggestions and easy to understand. You can purchase your copy at (http://barnesandnoble.com) for $12.76, plus postage and handling. Good luck, and happy reading.

WHAT'S NEW

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Edmunds was our first stop (www.edmunds.com). Here you can read independent reviews of new cars, look up option codes, safety information, recalls, holdbacks, rebates, and most importantly, dealer invoice prices. You can receive legitimate quotes from dealers who subscribe to Edmunds quote service, and sign up for extended warranties after purchasing a car. Microsoft has a service (www.carpoint.com) that takes you through a series of questions if you are looking for a used car and prints out a list of those available that fit your needs. You can also shop for a new or used car at www.autobuytel.com. Pick out the used car of your choice and they will tell you what is available 50 miles from your zip code, 100 miles, 250, etc. AllData (www.alldata.com) has an interesting twist to the automobile market. They sell data to auto repair shops, service bulletins, and recall lists. Although it is a subscription service they do have some free things. You can look up their recall list to see if you car was in a national recall.

One last URL with which I have had personal experience is Kelly Blue Book (www.kbb.com). It is similar to the others but here you can get the official blue book price on your used vehicle. This is great for both buying or selling a used car. It's also a good idea to take advantage of their free "lemon check". Just plug in the Vin number and see if the car you are about to buy was put back together with beer cans after a serious accident.

The internet makes it easy to get the upper hand when purchasing a new car. The beginning of this year we were in the market for a new car. After thoroughly doing our homework over the net, we did our shopping over the phone, basically telling the dealership what we were willing to pay for a car. We knew all the dealer codes, the hold backs, incentives, and invoice price. When you start talking their lingo, it puts the shoe on the other foot. They can't play any games when you know as much as they do. Either they accept YOUR terms or you dial another phone number! We struck paydirt at Home Motors in Santa Maria!

Whew, we finished the early meeting. You can tell old "jabber mouth" hasn't

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XARA 3-D

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fun comes in creating text shadows and animated GIF or AVI files. So let's start at the beginning.

Opening Xara 3D isn't difficult. As with any Win 95 program, just click on the icon and wait. Fortunately your wait is short lived as the program loads in a mere 5 seconds. The opening screen has 6 buttons unique to the program with another 4 or 5 buttons common to most Windows programs. The (T)ext button opens a windows where you select any of the truetype fonts loaded on your computer. Type in any word, sentence, or acronymn, including uper ascii characters. From this screen they can be bolded[1], italicized[2], or made hollow[3]. You can adjust the kerning, size, justification and more. I did not find a way where you can mix fonts. You can mix fonts and attributes only when text is on two separate lines. Each character on a single line holds the same attribute.

The (E)xtrude button creates a 3 dimensional aspect to your type written words. You can change the depth of your 3 dimensional type, matt or gloss the front of the font and change the color by clicking on the color pallet[4]. The (S)hadow option lets one choose among two types of shadows, manipulate the transparency and well as the blur of the shadow. The less transparent the more solid the shadow. The greater the blur, the more diffuse the background[5]. Colors can also be chosen from the color palet. By holding down the left mouse button and moving the cursor you can change the viewing aspect of the text. Try turning it, flipping it upside down or backward. It's all so easy and fast![6]

With the te(X)ture option, you can insert any bitmap JPG, GIF or PNG file that comes with the program or anyone of your choice and it will replace the plain face of the text with the your file of choice. By the use of slidebars, the picture (now part of the text face) can be enlarged, or made smaller, rotated or even change the X, Y coordinates. Background (shadow) texture can also be changed in a similar manner.[7]

Text can be modified with the bevel option. This changes the corners of the text by adding different renditions to the leading edges. You have 15 choices here from a 30 degree bevel to a triangular corner. The degree of each bevel is controlled by changing the depth. For instance, a triangular face with a depth of 80[8b] will appear more pronounced than a depth of 20.[8a]

Jumping over the animation button for a minute, we click on the lightbulb which brings up lighting and highlighting of your text/graphic. Using the three adjustable light arrows you can select color and direction of the light which falls on your text. To adjust the depth of the shadow, which makes the text appear to be closer or further from the page, a fourth arrow is used. [9]

Although this program could easily stand on the above merits alone, add the ability to animate your creation and you have something quite unique! Clicking on the (A)nimate icon puts your text into a new frame where you can adjust the frames per revolution and the frames per second. For example, should you choose 24 frames per revolution and 12 frames per second, it would take two seconds to make one complete revolution.[9a] Likely, 12 frames per revolution and 24 frames per second would have it spinning two times a second. You can rotate the text on any axis or change the rotation by placing the mouse on the text and changing the position. The swing option lets each letter turn up to 360 degrees on it's own axis rather that the whole word rotating.[9c] You can pulse the text where it will shrink and grow at a predetermined rate. Rotation can occur on a verticle or horizontal axis or even a polar axis. Just click on the icon of choice. The highlighting lights can rotate with the text or remain stationary giving two different effects. Choose rotating the front face only so after 180 degrees you see the front again or a full, 3 dimensional rotation showing the back face of the text as well. The latter can make the saved GIF file quite large.

After creating your text, depth, texture and rotation, it can be saved as a Xara-3D file for further editing at a later date, or exported as a 3-D bitmapped file, or an animated GIF or AVI file. During the export, you will be given a chance to choose the color depth and size of the font. Keep in mind, these files can get large, and large files are not a friend of the internet. Always choose the minimum number of colors you can get away with, 16 or 32 if possible and keep the font size small. It can always be enlarged on your web page with little loss in clarity. I have created files, some as large as 150K which, by choosing color and font size, can be reduced to 32K or less. If your page takes too long to load, even pretty graphics are not enough encentive for one to wait. Users will go elsewhere.

It is impossible to do a worthy review of a program this powerful without showing examples. References to examples will be found on www.thegrid.net/slobytes/. Click on the Xara 3-D icon which will take you to a separate page showing examples of what Xara-3D can really create. Note in this review the superscript numbers. These correspond to the examples found on the homepage. Be patient while the page loads. Even though I've done my best to keep the files small, combined, it will take awhile to see the whole page. It's worth the wait.

In conclusion, this program can be summed up in one word: EXCITING!!! To put it in simple terms, I love my Xara 3-D and enjoy using it often. Don't take my word for it, jump on the internet and download your own trial version. Find it at www.xara.com/xara3d/. For $39 you can order it right over the internet, and receive a code number to change your trial version to a full version. They will also follow it with a CD-ROM in the mail. You can order it by mail if you wish to wait for your copy to be sent from England.

Xara 3-D, Ver. 3.0—$39.00
XARA LTD.
Gaddesden Place , Hemel Hempstead
Hertfordshire, HP2 6EX, UK

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.

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written this column for awhile. It's getting loooonnnnnnng!

By the end of the early meeting which disbanded around 2:20, our co-chair and VP, who has the job of lining up speakers, was becoming nervous. A program chairs worst fears are that a guest speaker does not show up. I can attest to this. Although I had never been stood up the day of the meeting, I have had some close calls. Unfortunately, Alan Oden, our speaker from ComputerLand, had no way of contacting us as his father became seriously ill that morning. Mistakes are nothing more than a learning lesson. Now all speakers have the pay phones number at IOOF and we will have a number where we can reach them. Hopefully Alan will not have to try out that new phone number as we are inviting him back for a second try this coming month.

So what do you do when the speaker doesn't show up. You ask either George or Bob Hunt (maybe even me when you are really desperate) to think something up in 5 minutes and demo it for one hour. "Bob, Bob Hunt, we have a problem." Yes Bob did come to our rescue. He always has something to say anyway about everything, so he settled down into Word 2000 and gave us some pointers.

Those of you who receive email that has been forwarded from Adam and Eve through the generations to your mailbox, know what the >>>>>>>>>>>> mean. But how do we get rid of them when we don't want to do on to others as they have done on to us? You open up both your email program and Word. With the left mouse button depressed, drag it across and down your email until the whole thing is highlighted. Then go to your edit menu above and copy (Ctrl-C) the highlighted. Move to your wordprocessor and paste it into a new document (Ctrl-V). Now using the search and replace routines found in Word and other processors, search for ">" and replace with "nothing". You can speed it up by having it search for the maximum number of arrows you have in a row, for example 5 (>>>>>) and replace it with nothing. After cleaning up the email, reverse the procedure, copying your clean document back into your email package and send it on its way to your friend. They will appreciate a clean copy and probably think you thought up the joke all by yourself! You would think something so annoying could be taken care of with a button on the newer email packages. "Push here, >>> will die!"

Bob also went over table functions and data forms. Data forms can be used for entering data which will appear in the table. He talked about "autofit", adding columns, rows, and more. Our thanks for Bob, putting together an interesting hour on such short notice.

Well folks, I think I've worn out my welcome. I'll pass the baton back to Lach this coming month. *See you at the meeting!*

The NEW Microsoft Keyboard ; -)

—From the Internet

MICROSOFT CORPORATION HAS JUST ANNOUNCED a new PC keyboard designed specifically for Windows. {Sources say a Macintosh variant is in the works.} In addition to the keys found on the standard keyboard, Microsoft's new design adds several new keys which will make your Windows computing even more fun! The final specs are not yet set, so please feel free to make suggestions. The keys proposed so far are:

1) GPF KEY
   This key will instantly generate a General Protection Fault when pressed. Microsoft representatives state that the purpose of the GPF key is to save Windows users time by eliminating the need to run an application in order to produce a General Protection Fault.
2) $$ KEY
   When this key is pressed, money is transferred automatically from your bank account to Microsoft without the need for further action or third party intervention.
3) ZD KEY
   This key was developed specifically for reviewers of Microsoft products. When pressed it inserts random superlative adjectives in any text which contains the words Microsoft or Windows within the file being edited.
4) MS KEY
   This key runs a Microsoft commercial entitled "Computing for Mindless Drones" in a 1" x 1" window.
5) FUD KEY
   Some thing to do with the display… self explanatory.
6) CHICAGO KEY
   Generates do nothing loops for months at a time.
7) IBM KEY
   Searches your hard disk for operating systems or applications by vendors other than Microsoft and deletes them. (Is very effective at removing Netscape).
8) MSN KEY
   With a single keystroke you will install and setup the world's second slowest web access (AOL takes first place). And you thought it was tough deleting all of the SetupMSN files from Win 95!
9) RW95 KEY
   Stands for Re-install Windows 95. Because it's usually a weekly ritual for most Win 95 users, why not make it easier?
10) FDISK KEY
   Microsoft's new compression utility gives you 100% data compression guaranteed. Could stand for Format Disk, but we all know what it really stands for.

Group Forms to Develop Universal Printer Driver

—By Ephraim Schwartz, Info World Electric [Reprinted from the March 1999 issue of *User Friendly*, the journal of the Los Angeles Computer Society.]

WORKING QUIETLY, AN INFORMAL GROUP OF THE LEADING PRINTER MANUFACTURERS is working to create a single universal print driver that will replace the more than 3,000 drivers that are currently required.

The goal is to have only one driver included in the operating system, or a Universal Printer Driver Format (UPDF), with the individual characteristics of a particular printer described in a text file residing within the printer itself.

"We are hoping the [bi-directional] characteristics of the UPDF will help IT managers, in that less support of printers is needed," said Sandra Matts, chair of the UPDF committee in the Printer Working Group (PWG) and an engineer scientist for Workgroup Color LaserJets at Hewlett-Packard, in Boise, Idaho.

"They won't have to configure every client's computer for each printer the client will use."

Commands would reside in the text file within the printer to invoke the printer's capabilities. If a user wanted to do duplex printing, for example, the text file would send the correct data stream.

On the operating system side, the driver is universal. It is on the client side that unique features are described.

"There is no such thing as a device-independent data stream," said Harry Lewis, a member of the PWG and a printing systems architect at IBM Printing Systems Division, in Boulder, Colo. Every device may have different characteristics that can change.

A so-called meta-language developed by the PWG, would be able to describe all of the features of the printer for access by the single driver in the OS.

"Basically, it is similar to PostScript page description language," said Dan Wright, another PWG member and the product manager for alliances for standards at Lexmark, in Lexington, Ky.

According to group members, the finished driver will be available for testing in eight months to one year, with another two months needed for interoperability testing before it ships.

The universal driver will require the support of operating system vendors, such as Microsoft, as well as Unix operating system vendors. Currently, Microsoft ships a CD with more than 3,000 printer drivers with each package of Windows NT.

Microsoft support appears to be in place, according to Paul Moore, program manager for Windows NT 5.0 printing.

The Redmond, Wash. Software company currently has Unidrive 5 in Beta 2 of NT 5.0, which is similar to technology that might be used as the basis for the UPDF, according to Moore.

Moore believes the UPDF will benefit IT departments. "We think that a lot of IT manager problems arise from having too many printer drivers. The benefits [of a universal driver] would be all around," Moore said. "It will reduce the administrative load."

The single driver as envisioned by members of the PWG allows a UPDF to query the printer device for capabilities.

"Today, we really rely on the user selecting in the UI features of the printer," Matts said. "It's really a best guess at times. UPDF will allow our drivers to truly know what is attached to the printer at the start of the print job.

The Printer Working Group can be reached at www.pwg.org Ephraim Shwartz is an editor at large for InfoWorld.

Lost & Found

—By Jim Karsjens, NOCCC, March 19, 1999

"BLESSED IS THE CEPTIC FOR HE SHALL BACK UP." We continually talk about the necessity of backing up your data regularly, but how many people regularly backup on a systematic basis. PowerQuest, maker of Partition Magic, Drive Image, and Drive Copy has come to our rescue again. Rather than spending thousands of dollars to send your hard drive to a data recovery center, Lost & Found lets you automatically recover and restore data from drives on which the file allocation table (FAT) or directory has been lost or damaged, or from corrupted media caused by a disk crash or logical system failure. You can even recover files after reformatting, provided you have not written over them. If the disk is spinning and the read/write heads and electronics are functioning properly, Lost & Found can do a sector-by-sector analysis of the disk, report back its findings and assist with the transfer of recovered data to another harddrive, floppy or zip drive.

The program comes on two 3 1/2" disks, installs from the A: drive, and does not need to be installed prior to your problem. The program consists of three parts: recovery, restore and backup modules. The program analyzes your drives and reports the odds of recovery of any corrupted or lost file. The odds of recovery are color coded - Gray (files cannot be recovered). Red (poor chance of recovery), Yellow (reasonable chance of recovery, White (Root directory), Blue (previously recovered, Bright Green (directory okay—files present), Dark Green (directory okay—no files).

The program is easy to install and run. You must boot from the floppy in the A: drive with its installed copy of Calderas DOS. The floppy has a hidden key, and must be in the A: drive for the program to work. The floppy disk has a serial number on the front which you must type in before you can use the program. This is a one computer program and it is automatically "registered" to your computer system when you install it. After being installed on one computer, it will not run on a second computer. If you need to recover a drive from a second system, you must purchase another copy. If you have many systems to run, PowerQuest has a multi-use program called Search & Rescue.

Security of files has now changed. Have you ever purchased or sold a used harddrive that had been formatted prior to sale thinking that all the information is gone? This program is extremely powerful and capable of recovering just about anything you delete.

Suggested retail price $69.95 User group members may purchase Lost & Found at a special price of $30 by ordering from the secure web site at www.ugr.com/order. Indicate the special price code of UGEVAL99 with your order. The special user group price makes the product a bargain to buy and hopefully never use.

POWERQUEST CORP., PO. Box 1911 Orem, UT 84059
Tel: 800/226-8977 www.powerquest.com

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
Association of Personal Computer User Groups
APCUG

New Members

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

Tony Streiling & Glenn Geissinger

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. to 2:15 p.m.

A Message from the President

WE DID IT! With the $1,000.00 anonymous donation, we have collected $3,856.75 (as of April 1999) in our Projector Fund. I have ordered an InFocus LP425z, 900 ANSI Lumens Projector, which should arrive by the time you read this. I have asked Marvin, and he has provided a list of donors to the Projector Fund. This list does not include all donors because some just dropped cash in the collection box without providing their names. I know that I speak for all members when I express a sincere "Thank You" to all of you who have contributed, and a special "THANK YOU" to you, Anonymous, because without your donation we would still be reaching for the goal. Here are the donors:

Anonymous	$1,000.00
Thomas Bennett	100.00
Robert Vulgamore	40.00
Ray Miklas	20.00
Guy Kuncir	17.93
Ed Faeth	15.00
Bill Avery	10.00
Fred Cook	10.00
Laudell Ludwig	10.00
Jeff Spry	10.00
Multiple cash donations	125.00
TOTAL	$1,357.93

At the risk of sounding greedy… I would like us (maybe the ones who have not contributed so far?) to continue with the Projector Fund collections because we still need a spare lamp ($300+) and possibly a tripod ($100?) to allow for an unrestricted view of the screen.

—RAY MIKLAS

Treasurer's Report

APRIL 14, 1999

Checking Account	
Beginning Balance	$1,116.15
Income:	
Membership Dues	650.00
Refreshment Donations	23.24
Interest Income	6.90
Expenses:	
Liability Insurance	183.00
Room Rent	75.00
Copies	16.73
Refreshments	19.88
New Balance	$1,501.68

PROJECTOR FUND

Savings Account	
Beginning Balance	$2,688.96
Deposits (Donations)	1,150.00
Dividends	17.80
New Balance	$3,856.76

President	Ray Miklas
Vice Pres.	Guy Kuncir
Secretary	Bob Ward
Treasurer	M. Baxendale
Editor	Bob Ward

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