

HARD COPY

SLObytes

a publication of the san luis obispo pcug vol. 16 · no. 02 · february 2000

what's new

by lach macdonald

Well, in just about one year we will enter the new millennium (that is, January 1, 2001 AD), but at least we are in Y2K on the calendar. Alan Raul opened the first meeting of the Year 2000 with a well-organized Power Point presentation using his laptop and the SLObytes projector purchased last year. These demonstrations certainly have improved visually, and the effort put into preparation is much appreciated. About 40 members attended the session while 10 others enjoyed a lively Q&A Windows session led by Bob Hunt.

Alan's overview of Linux (pronounced "Lih-nucks") reported on this fast-growing operating system created by Linus Torvalds. The Unix-style system is noted for speed, reliability, and affordability-it can be downloaded for free, or you can buy a version from several vendors. First posted by Linus Torvalds on the Internet October 5, 1991, the O.S. attracted a host of developers and programmers because the source code is free.

The whole installation takes 1.6 Gigs plus a swap file and may consume much of your time in the free download. Alan downloaded the Corel version, 326 Megs that took 20 hours. A distributor's version usually costs less than \$50 and includes a manual, limited phone or E-mail tech support, and third-party applications. Another route is to purchase one of several books on Linux, as they offer the usefulness of a manual and often include the O.S. on a CD.

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scanning basics

by Tom Monturo

The scanner you buy is a hardware device. It will usually come with two kinds of software; one a photo or graphic processor for handling graphics, and the other an optical character recognition (OCR) package for recognizing characters from printed matter.

Scanners will do two different jobs:
 * they scan graphics, either in color or in black and white, and place the graphics into files for your computer, or
 * they read documents and turn them into files that your word processor or text editor can process.

Resolution
 Resolution is generally described in "dots per inch" or dpi. Unfortunately there is a great deal of confusion in the term as it applies to screen, scanner, and printer. A screen resolution of 800 x 600, typical of 15"

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CLUB CALENDAR

february 6

1 pm

Bob Ward will show us how to burn music CDs. Time permitting we'll look at DIALPAD and Netmeeting

2:30 pm

CommUnique will demonstrate their cutting edge graphic software, including BladePro, Fandango, and more.

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what's new

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Linux reached Version 2.2 in 1999 and is running on 7 to 10 million computers, finding fans in small businesses, ISP's and some corporate use. Regional user and newsgroups on the Internet and the Cal Poly Linux user group are sources of information and assistance. Problems encountered include incompatibility with hardware such as Windows modems and printers, USB devices and some partitioning software. An HCL (hardware compatibility list) is available to assist in installation problems.

Alan recommended Phatlinux.com as the source of Phat Linux which can be installed in a Windows partition, does not disturb your Windows O.S. and takes up only 185 Megs. Phat Linux, developed by two 15-year olds, costs less than \$30.

Ten Reasons to Run Linux (Alan quoting an article by Bill McCarty): Recreation, Curiosity, Learning, running a Server, Low Cost, Community of Users, Aesthetics (because it is a model of simplicity and elegance), High Performance (more efficient use of resources), Networking (TCP/IP, firewall stuff), and Status (hey, something we all recognize it is important to avoid co-workers' disrespect!)

Following the Power Point presentation, Alan gave a demonstration of Caldera Systems OpenLinux 2.3. The O.S. is compatible with browsers Internet Explorer, Netscape and Opera. He recommended use of \$12 hard drive racks and removable hard drives so that you have no fear of destroying your main operating system. A 13.3 Gig HD at Staples was priced at \$130 and included software.

Cliff Burchardt and Bill Avery combined two fascinating topics for their presentation, amateur radio and astronomy. They were assisted by Pete Lawn (whose call letters WA6DFU were translated as Dumb, Fat and Ugly). Pete was the gopher. He drove his vehicle south on US 101 while Cliff and Bill tracked him by computer, using the GPS satellite link, and talked to him enroute, then brought him back. Well, actually, Pete returned on his own.

Bill explained that he was led to electronics through amateur radio, then to computers. He gave us an introduction to amateur radio from "The ARRC Handbook 2000" using Acrobat Reader. The CD is available on loan to prospective amateur radio folk who would like to learn more about the subject, or may be purchased locally for about \$40.

Bill explained that the GPS grid system permits one to locate a mobile radio anywhere in the world. An example, Mike sailed with his cat from Morro Bay to the Marquesas Islands in three weeks, while locals followed his voyage by radio.

Changes in licensing to encourage the handicapped and to lower Morse code speed to 5 words per minute, and to issue no code licenses are efforts to

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computer tips

You don't need a fancy graphics program in order to get a screenshot of what's on a computer screen. Using any windows-based program, just hit the Print Screen key on your Keyboard and then paste the clipboard into any Windows-based program like WordPad or Word.

- Mike Vincent

If you are working at a DOS Prompt (command line) from within Windows, you can easily switch between full-screen and Windows mode by simply holding down the Alt key and pressing Enter at the same time.

- Mike Vincent

To show long filenames in DOS simply enclose the long filename with quotation marks. For example, to switch to the Program Files subfolder, type cd "program files" on the command line and press Enter — no more confusing DOS filenames!

- Karen Gibson

To display the volume icon if it's missing from the system tray — or, conversely, to remove it — do the following: click the Start button, point to Settings, select Control Panel, double-click Multimedia, and click the Audio tab (if it doesn't already have the focus). Select — or deselect — the option Show Volume Control on the Taskbar. Click OK to save the change and close the Control Panel.

- Karen Gibson

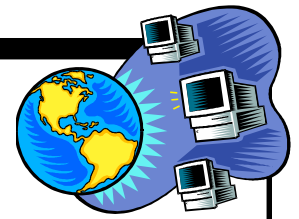
To change the background of an open folder in Windows Explorer by changing its wallpaper or background color. From the menu, choose View,

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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	Win '95, '98 Win3.11	461-1444	days
Bob Ward	Netscape, Win '95, '98, 3.11	528-0121	evenings

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



the surf board

by dorothy kirk, ibm/pcug redding, kirk@snowcrest.net

Here we are in February again the month that includes Valentine's Day and, this year, February 29th. Traditionally, in the past, Valentine's Day has been a day when you sent special greetings and/or gifts to the person that you loved romantically - spouse or sweetheart. Today it is common to send loving (or comic) messages to just about anyone. The Internet is full of sites to help you with this endeavor. There are sites that will help you make or send online cards and lots of gift suggestions. [Am I being cynical if I think that a lot of this expansion of the Valentine traditions is commercially inspired?] The sites below are just a few of the many sites dedicated in some way to Valentine's Day. There are included web sites to make crafts, buy gifts, buy flowers [Try local florists first.], send online greetings, recipes, games, poems, sites for kids, a Valentine quiz, pictures of valentines, songs, collectibles, stories, history, a movie, and more. Whew! Take your pick.

VALENTINE BE MINE <http://www.techdirect.com/valentine/history.html> - History of the Valentine. Examines the history of Valentine's Day cards and different stories about how the holiday came to be.

ST. VALENTINE <http://www.catholic.org/saints/saints/valentine.html> - A traditional Roman Catholic version of the life of St. Valentine.

GOD'S VALENTINE <http://www.members.carol.net/~asmmsks/valentin.htm> - Offers a Christian look at Valentine's Day with a Christian perspective on the story and a selection of Christian links.

JERRY'S HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY PAGE <http://wilstar.com/holidays/valentn.htm> - Valentine's Day is not like it used to be - a short history.

AMORE' ON THE NET <http://www.holidays.net/amore> - Entertainment and fun for you and your family - stories, Valentine Day cards, holiday crafts, and a valentine movie to download for your loved ones.

NANDO <http://www.pcfowers.com/PCF/default.asp> - Buy online Valentine's Day flowers, gifts, collectibles and more.

ORIGINAL SONGS OF LOVE http://www.invision.net/cupid/valentines_forever_songs.html - Enjoy songs to play or download.

VALENTINE'S FOREVER WISHES <http://www.invision.net/cgi/wishesarchive.pl> - Don't know what to write in a personalized Valentine's Day card? This site has many originals.

VALENTINES FOREVER QUESTIONNAIRE http://www.invision.net/cupid/valentines_forever_quest.html - How romantic are you? Take this Valentine test.

VINTAGE VALENTINE ART <http://www.tssphoto.com/valentine.html> - A colorful collection of Victorian Valentine art.

VALENTINE GIFT IDEAS <http://www.valentines.com> - Gift ideas for most anyone - women, men, kids, teachers, parents and grandparents.

ARE YOU SENDING THE RIGHT FLOWERS? <http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/5806/valentines/val6.html> - Lists flowers and their meaning.

VALENTINE'S DAY POETRY <http://www.geocities.com/EnchantedForest/Dell/5806/valentines/val7.html> - Four love poems.

VALENTINE CLIP ART <http://www.sutter-home.com/dot/valen1/> - Cupids, bears, animals, hearts, etc. plus 4 secret links.

AWESOME CYBER CARDS <http://www.marlo.com/holiday/v/vale.htm> - All kinds of Valentine's Day cards to send online. It's free and private.

VALENTINE <http://www.breathitt.simplenet.com/Holidays/Valentine/Val.html> - Nine Valentine sites for kids.

CYRANO <http://www.nando.net/toys/cyrano.html> - Get help in writing a love letter or a Valentine's Day card.

VALENTINE'S DAY EPICURIUS http://epicurious.com/e_eating/e04_valentine/valentine.html - Epicurious' contributions to the holiday. Lots of recipes and suggestions.

WILSTAR VALENTINE WORD SEARCH <http://wilstar.com/holidays/puzzles/valentinepuz.htm> - Contains many word searches related to Valentine's Day.

FTD.COM <http://www.ftd.com/> - Send flowers online.

1ST IN FLOWERS <http://www.1stinflowers.com/> - Flowers and gifts online.



What's New

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increase interest in the hobby. Fans enjoy making contact from remote sites, exchanging post cards with people worldwide who have been contacted by AR,

the association of shareware professionals – a primer

By Harold Holmes

The Association of Shareware Professionals (ASP) was formed in April 1987 to strengthen the future of try-before-you-buy software as an alternative to conventional retail software.

Today, it's a vibrant international organization with almost 700 shareware authors, distributors, and marketers who can help shareware professionals create and run their businesses. The ASP's members create and market some of the finest software available today.

ASP members' software spans the spectrum, from high-quality accounting and inventory programs for business, to award-winning utilities and games for all computer users. While some of our members' programs, such as WinZip and Paint Shop Pro, are international best-sellers, there are thousands of other excellent business tools, Internet applications, games, educational programs, graphics and multimedia programs that are top-shelf, and available at moderate prices.

Shareware is a method of software distribution, and not a type of program. In fact, try-before-you-buy software is being discovered by traditional "shelfware" companies, and will soon dominate the marketplace.

If you're looking for moderately priced, high-quality software, please visit the ASP's web site at <http://www.asp-shareware.org/membersearch.asp>. You can do a keyword search and, for most programs, you can purchase them securely online, directly from the author's web site. Or you can visit our members' web sites and download free trial version of their programs. We encourage you to try our software before you buy it.

Do you have questions about specific shareware programs, or about shareware in general? The ASP maintains a public newsgroup on our news server. You're welcome to visit the newsgroup, and post your questions or comments. Hundreds of our members visit this newsgroup every month, and would be happy to try to answer your questions. Just point your web browser to news://news.asp-shareware.org/asp.Public_Discussion

ASP members are always looking for beta testers. They need people who would be interested in trying their programs before they're ready for prime time. Beta testers get to see programs months before anybody else, get their ideas incorporated into the programs, and most end up with a free copy of the program for their efforts. If you'd like to become a beta tester, visit our public newsgroup, and post a message that mentions the types of programs that you're interested in.

If you're a software developer, we hope you'll consider joining the ASP. We offer a wealth of information about how to start a software business and how to market shareware, as well as technical programming information. Our members-only newsgroup has more than 22,000 messages on threads about all areas of program development and marketing. ASP members are always eager to help other ASP members. We hope you'll visit the ASP web site, and try some of our members' fine software.

- **Harold Holmes**, President
The Association of Shareware Professionals
president@asp-shareware.org

tips

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Customize This Folder, and select Choose a Background Picture. Then, click Next to let the wizard help you pick a background picture or color.

- Karen Gibson

Shutting down Windows at the end of a long day can seem a hopelessly long process when you're trying to get out the door. Create a shortcut on your desktop for a fast one-click shutdown of Windows. Right-click on a blank area of your desktop and choose New, Shortcut from the context menu. In the Command Line text box, type the following:

```
c:\windows\rundll.exe  
user.exe,exitwindows
```

Click Next. Give the shortcut a meaningful name, such as "Exit Windows 98", in the Select a Name for the Shortcut text box. Click Finish. Now you can simply double-click the icon to exit Windows.

- Karen Gibson

More great tips may be found at:

<http://www.emazing.com>

library up for sale

Both our software library and our CD-ROM library are up for sale. The software library consists of 763 disks, some 360K, many 1.44K format. Last update was July, 1998. Most of the programs are very usable and compatible with Windows '98.

Price: \$100

Our CD-ROM library which numbers approximately 60 CD ROM's has many useful programs, including clipart, shareware libraries, programs, and more.

Price: \$75

this coming month by bob ward

Well, I'm not sure what's really happening at the general meeting, but since I'm the one presenting the early meeting this month, let me give you a little peek into what we will be doing. Music has become a large part of the internet. There are thousands of budding artists out there, each one wanting to become another Elvis. And what better way to distribute your talents but through the internet. Probably the most well known site for music from unknown artists is www.mp3.com. Here, for a fee, individuals or groups who might have already created their own CD, have the opportunity to let people try out some of their music before they buy. Should one decide to buy their music, CD's are reasonable prices at about \$5.99. The MP3 site is easy to search by artist, genere, or song titles. You then have the option to listen to individual pieces while connected to the internet or download them as MP3 files. Each piece comes with a description of the song, a bio of the artist and artists with similar styles, their musical influences, group members, the instruments they play and much more. Some groups make their whole CD available for download over the internet.

The site also has a new feature where you can place your favorite songs on their server, make your own albums, and listen to them at anytime over the internet. Downloading songs can be a bit laborous at most MP3 files run 3.5 to 4.5 MB each. The pleasure of downloading MP3 files is directly proportional to the speed of your internet connection.

You might ask, "so what is this MP3 stuff I am hearing about". MP3 is a type of audio file compression which is about 10X better than its predecessors. The counterpart to a 3.5MB MP3 file is a 40MB WAV file. In order to make music CD's that can be played on any CD player, they first must be converted to a WAV format. This is done by using any of several

shareware or free programs available on the internet. The most popular is probably WinAmp (www.winamp.com). The jargon that goes with the conversion of an MP3 music file to a WAV file is called "ripping". Once MP3 files have been converted, the user can "burn" their own music CD's which can be played on any CD player. So you ask, if MP3 is so great why arn't their players out there for them. There are, in abundance. They are small and have no moving parts as they use RAM to store MP3 files. Depending on the amount of RAM your MP3 player has on it you can play 8 hours or more of music. The music is downloaded via your computer to the MP3 player. Music can be added, deleted or reconfigured by using computer software. To date, as far as I know, they do not have a dual player out there that will play both standard music CD's, and those with an MP3 format.

I will also be showing how you can take a "normal" music CD and convert the songs to MP3 format. So we will be going through the whole process of searching for music, downloading MP3 files, ripping them, and creating personal music CD's. We'll even add a fancy label to the CD ROM.

Time permitting, I want to introduce a couple new (well pretty new to me anyway) programs found on the internet. One is Dialpad (www.dialpad.com), the other, Microsoft's Netmeeting. The ability to talk to others via the internet by using microphone and speakers is not a new concept. I was doing this a couple years ago with ICQ. But till late it was always a computer to computer connection. With dialpad, you can call people nationwide from your computer **to their telephone** for FREE! No, it's not perfect, sometimes there is a bit of skip or choppiness, but that is easy to overlook considering the price. Dialpad creates a telephone directory on their server for your favorite long distance phone calls. The advantage here is that you can use Dialpad on anyones computer and have access to your telephone book. A simple name and

password is all that is required to enter the program.



Talking to Teri in NetMeeting

Microsoft's netmeeting (free download) is more business oriented and requires a computer to computer connection over the internet. The advantages of using NetMeeting are several. Looking at the buttons above, you can send files, write and draw on a whiteboard, speak through a microphone or type, and easily transfer files back and forth. If you have one of those little webcam's that sits above your computer, such as Teri in the picture above, the other person can see you as you speak or type. We hope to make contact with Teri during the meeting next Sunday to demonstrate this software, time permitting...

Hope to see you there. The early meeting starts promptly at 1pm.

free computers may not really be free in the long run

by Ken Fermoye [Ken's Korner],
kfermoye@earthlink.net

CEBUG Swatter, November 1999

Which adage do you believe? "Don't look a gift horse in the mouth" or "There is no such thing as a free lunch." When it comes to taking advantage of many of those "free" computer offers being hyped recently, you'd best consider the latter one.

First came the giveaway offers from Free-PC and clones. They promise a free computer to people who are willing to watch continuous ads. The deals include all sorts of restrictions on your Internet activity and require that you agree to answer questionnaires and otherwise give up aspects of your personal privacy.

So, in a sense, you do pay a price for the "free" computer. You lose a great deal of privacy and have restricted Internet access. Anyone with the slightest trace of paranoia won't be comfortable with these deals.

Then came free computers from Internet Service Providers (ISPs) like Gobi and InterSquid. They give you a "free" computer in return for a long-term (30 to 36 months) contract for Internet access service, at higher-than-normal rates of \$26 to \$30 per month. These rates will really seem excessive in a few years for reasons explained below.

Next, we got a spate of partnerships between companies like eMachines, Compaq, large electronic retailers and various ISPs or online services such as CompuServe and Prodigy (which are not true ISPs).

Most of the latter offers don't give you a free computer after all. Many are like the one Circuit City and Fry's chains have been promoting in partnership with CompuServe. Staples has a similar tie-in with MSN, Microsoft Network. Mac fans also are being wooed with offers of "free" iMacs; more on that later. They offer rebates, usually \$400.

The Fry's deal is typical. It includes a \$400 rebate on a \$499 "eMachines/Compaq" computer with 366 Cyrix III MMX-enhanced processor, 64Mb of SDRAM, 4.3Gb Ultra DMA hard drive, 56Kbps modem, but no monitor. It's a decent, low-end, entry-level home computer. You pay \$499 up front and wait for the \$400 rebate "within 45 days of credit approval...from eMachines/Compaq/CompuServe Internet Service."

Ah, but the cost doesn't stop there. Part of the deal is that you must sign a "contract commitment to a 3-year/36-month subscription for CompuServe 2000 Internet Service at a monthly rate of \$21.95." And therein lies the rub. (You didn't really think that Steve Case, honcho of AOL, which owns CompuServe, would really play Santa Claus, did you? Not blooming likely!)

That monthly cost is 10-20% over the going rates (currently running from \$17.95 to \$19.95) The kicker is that \$21.95 may be double, even quadruple, what industry analysts and other experts project Internet access to cost in the not-too-distant future! Some predict monthly access fees may go as low as \$5 within a few years, as reported in the Los Angeles Times during July. Why? There are several reasons.

1. Telephone and Internet gurus report that competitive effects of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 are finally beginning to appear. We have already seen long-distance rates drop substantially, to as low as 8 cents per minute in some cases. This ultimately means lower costs for Internet Service Providers.

2. Broadband technologies that offer fast Internet access are beginning to show significant growth. More users will turn to DSL (Digital Subscriber Line) and cable access, as they become available. DSL and cable not only offer fast access, the "always-connected" benefit and simultaneous multi-user capability, but they can be very competitive in cost compared with current dial-up access rates. This is especially true for users who have a second phone line, dedicated to modem use, because that line can be dropped if you get DSL or cable.

So if you sign a 3-year contract for Internet access at \$20 or \$22 per month and access rates drop to \$10 or \$12 in 12 or 14 months, your "free" computer won't be so free after all. And don't think you can terminate your service contract early to take advantage of lower rates. Read the fine print. The CompuServe contract "requires repayment of \$400 rebate plus a \$50 cancellation fee" for early termination.

As Bank of America Securities analyst, Kurtis King, commented in a L.A. Times Business Section article (July 3), "These contracts are pretty onerous. There's nothing free about the offers."

How about the Free Mac deal? All details weren't clear at this writing, but it appears that the offer requires a 3-year commitment to Internet access with Earthlink at \$19.95/month and submission of a demographic profile. The latter would be used to target advertisements to specific users.

FreeMac plans to distribute 10,000 free machines in October. I have no information yet on what penalty would

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scanner

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monitors, applies to maximum pixels displayed, where a pixel is the smallest visible unit on the screen. Such a monitor has an actual horizontal screen size of about 10.5". At 800 pixels divided by 10.5", its resolution is about 75 dpi.

Scanner resolution is a specification that describes the maximum number of dots that can be sent to the computer. Since there is a practical maximum of about 300. Charge Coupled Devices that can be mounted on the scanner light bar; any claimed resolution that exceeds 300 dpi must be interpolated. That's not necessarily bad, but it does depend partially on the quality of the scanner software.

Printer resolution is also expressed in dpi, but can be misleading since printers must place a series of dots on the paper to create the illusion of shades of gray or, for color printers, to

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free

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be invoked if you try to terminate the contract with Earthlink before 36 months have elapsed.

[Author's Note: Just as I was finishing this article, I received an offer of Internet access through MSN, the Microsoft Network, at \$11.99 per month. The deal is available through Costco, a large membership retailer, and requires a 3-month prepayment (\$35.97) but no long-term contract. Take this as an omen of things to come!]

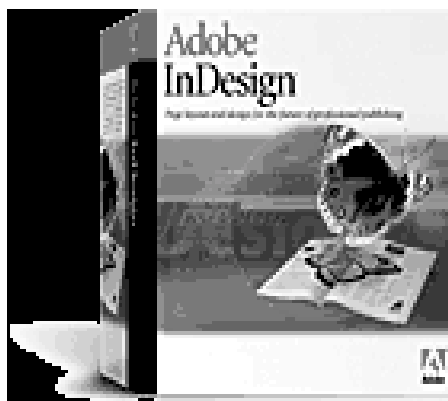
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Woodland Hills, CA 91364-3005—
Newsletters, Editorial Services,
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"In the beginning was the Word.." And don't you forget it!

february 2000

Adobe® InDesign™

Jorga Riggenschach, TCS Vice President
Tucson Computer Society



Adobe InDesign 1.0 software is Adobe's newest professional product for page layout and design. The idea behind InDesign is to boost creative freedom, efficiency and accuracy by creating a product that works seamlessly with Adobe Photoshop and Adobe Illustrator.

Confused? Let me try to explain it. Cross-platform compatibility is already the hallmark of Adobe products, but InDesign is for a very specific niche. Look at any popular magazine and notice the blazing color spreads that

accompany feature stories. Look at the art work and the text. Notice the mix of font sizes, flashy sidebars, and graphics. And everything fits to the smallest degree within the spread which usually runs from two to ten pages.

Consider what it takes to create something like this and how difficult it must be to hand off all the information included in the spread to a printer who must exactly duplicate the designer's layout. Now we are visiting InDesign territory.

The user Interface is similar to Illustrator, PhotoShop, and PageMaker; so theoretically, it should be easy for a user of one of these (like me) to step right into this program. The program offers a very nice, interactive tutor and the User Guide is very handy.

It didn't turn out to be quite as easy to use as I had expected, but that's primarily my fault; it seems like I'm always behind schedule and in a hurry. Instead of hanging in there, I often switched back to PageMaker because it was familiar, fast, and easy to use. I will say that the more I use InDesign, the more I appreciate it. It really does live up to all the claims Adobe makes. So let's look at some of those features.

I'm using NT 4.0 and I guess I had gotten behind on my Service Packs, because it wouldn't install without a minimum of Service Pack 4. The problem was quickly solved; I downloaded Service Pack 5 and the installation went smoothly. And the usual high-quality Adobe uninstall program is also included. It was created with modular, extensible coding. Basically you have a core program and collection of plug-ins, so when you want to add some new feature you can just load it in the plug-in folder.

When you start InDesign, a screen similar to Illustrator, PhotoShop, and PageMaker comes up. You can create a maximum of ten pages to a spread. These applications tend to be very dense and intense and layers are the way you juggle everything. By locking layers you can manipulate items on a layer without messing up everything else. And, of course, there are master pages so you can set up the underlying theme and structure the way you want them.

A nifty feature involves "island spreads" or gatefold or accordion foldouts. You can select "island spread" from the Pages palette and, regardless of what else you do, these pages will be preserved as facing pages.

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HARDCOPY

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InDesign

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Nested text and graphics frames are a super feature. Any object can be a frame and you can paste a frame within a frame. Through all of this, everything remains editable. There are gradient fills and strokes.

Bezier paths (nonlinear forms for creating curvilinear shapes) created by the pen tool can introduce unusual designs to the layout. Clipping paths allow you to mask or clip areas of imported images or vector graphics (object-oriented graphics that use geometrical formulas to represent images. The other method for representing graphical images is through bit maps/raster graphics composed of a pattern of dots.)

Another fun thing that InDesign can do is scale and shear text and graphics frames for some interesting effects and the text remains editable. As far as I know, no other program has this capability.

Other sweet features include the ability to work on the pasteboard (you'll love this if you've ever goofed as I have and imported a huge graphic that covers everything up and you can't even find the corners to resize it.) I love multiple undo and redo, document wide layers and multiple views of the document. (As far as I'm concerned, when you are working on a layout, the more simultaneous views you have, the better.) There is support for pages as small as 1 pica (1/6 inches) or as large as 1296 picas (18 feet). Creating an eighteen-foot page is way beyond what I do, but the idea is certainly intriguing.

Of course, InDesign has support for paragraph and character styles and there is an amazing range of actions available. And zooming is a piece of cake with InDesign. (I love the idea of "zooming." It sounds so recreational.) You can go from a 5% view to a 4,000% view or anywhere in between; this is very handy for those little adjustment that you constantly have to make.

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Another thing I really admire about Adobe and InDesign is that fact that it was created with modular, extensible coding. Basically you have a core program and collection of plug-ins, so when you want to add some new feature you can just load it in the plug-in folder and you are done. You don't have to mess with upgrades and relearning programs you are already perfectly happy with.

And for you Quarkies, InDesign opens QuarkXPress files, so you switch to some really good products and bring your work with you.

In this short review, I haven't been able to even scratch the surface of what this program can do. I didn't even mention color management or preflighting and packaging files. And I forgot to tell you about the palette that has a list of linked files that you "placed" in your document. As usual, I'm running somewhat behind schedule. Besides that, Review Coordinator Robert Thompson has been rightfully nagging me to finish and publish my review. I've barely had InDesign for a month, but I know I'll be using it for years. That's the way Adobe products are.

Requirements:

- Pentium or faster processor (Pentium II or faster recommended)
- Microsoft Windows NT 4.0 Workstation with Service Pack 4, Windows 98, or later operating system
- 48 MB of RAM installed (64 MB or more recommended) 75 MB of available hard-disk space for minimum installation
- CD-ROM drive Video card that supports 256-color at 800x600 (24-bit, high-resolution recommended)
- Adobe PostScript Level 2 or higher printer

HARDCOPY

scanner

continued from page 7

show variations in color. A 600 dpi laser printer may place anything from 0 to 600 dpi on a line to express 256 shades of gray from white to black.

You choose the resolution you wish when you scan material. Do not assume that you should scan everything that will be printed at the same maximum resolution of your printer, i.e., if you have a 600 dpi printer, don't assume you should scan at 600 dpi. Here are some suggestions for choosing scanner resolution.

When scanning gray scale or color images, using either a color or a black and white printer:

- * with a 300 or 360 dpi printer, use a scanner resolution of 50 to 100 dpi.
- * with a 600 or 720 dpi printer, use a scanner resolution of 100 to 150 dpi.
- * when scanning black and white images or for OCR, use the full scanner resolution.

Handling Graphics

At minimum, if your scanner software permits - and most do - adjust the image level or tone before sending your graphic image to your photo enhancement program. Then, if necessary, use a sharpening filter.

An Excellent Source of Information on the Web:

Wayne Fulton's "A Few Scanning Tips" <http://www.scantips.com>

This article is brought to you by the Association of Personal Computer User Groups, an international organization to which this user group belongs. The author, the late Tom Monturo, was the editor of microCHIP (micro Computer Happenings In Poughkeepsie), the newsletter of the Mid-Hudson Computer User Group in Poughkeepsie, New York.

february 2000

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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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 promptly at 2:30 p.m.

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

slobytes website

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for sale

Do YOU have some computer-related item you would have like listed in this space? Contact Bob Ward, Editor at 756-2164.

treasurer's report



january 17, 2000

OPERATING FUND

Beginning Balance	\$1,447.44
Income	
Membership Dues	250.00
Interest	7.72
Expenses	
Room Rent	75.00
State Filing Fees	10.00
New Balance	<u>\$1,620.16</u>

EQUIPMENT FUND

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Interest Income	.33
New Balance	<u>\$52.74</u>



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