

HARD COPY

A PUBLICATION OF SLOBYTES, SAN LUIS OBISPO, CA

VOL. 13, NO. 8

www.thegrid.net/slobytes/

AUGUST 1997

COMMENTS

BY BOB WARD, SECRETARY

LAST MONTH THE WORD WAS "Network". Jerry Mintz worked overtime both during the SIG, showing how to install a network, to his demonstrations during the general meeting in the large lecture room where we got a feel for file sharing, playing games, and setting up file permissions.

Networks are important, especially in the business community, although I don't think a blanket statement of, "if you have two or more computers, then network them" is necessarily true. In business situations, home or office, where you must share files, then a network is appropriate. I have 3 computers at home running most of the time and we share files on occasion with a floppy disk. We share our laser printer between two computers with a \$15 device that derives power from the parallel port and toggles back and forth between two parallel ports waiting to capture a signal from one of them. A network might be nice so we could use the laser printer with the computer located in the other part of the house, but if you have to walk to another room to first turn on the computer and laser printer, then go back and pick up the printed pages, one might as well copy the file from the remote computer onto a floppy disk and use it with the computer attached to the laser printer to begin with. Maybe that makes me "primitive", but my philosophy is to use the simplest, least expensive method to get the job done. After all, I still love my C:\>

Continued on page 2

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Losing more than a file... losing your operating system

BY JERRY MINTZ, SLO BYTES

MANY OF US HAVE SEEN our favorite program stop working. If we are lucky we can find the program disks or CD ROM and may even remember how to load the program. In Windows 3.1 the run setup or install will normally bring the program back to life. In Win '95 there is a system software install/uninstall function which installs programs with a few mouse clicks. But when Win '95 does not perform, we lose our semiautomatic installation by Windows function.

We have to think and make some decisions. If we have a data base, card files, spread sheets, e-mail addresses, book marks, and other

Continued on page 5

« CALENDAR »

AUGUST 3RD

Matt McCann

from

Parson's Technology

will demo

Quicken Family

Lawyer 8.0,

Family Origins and

Address Book

in addition to

other Parson's

programs if time

permits.



« IN THIS ISSUE »

COMMENTS

Bob Ward 1

TROUBLE SHOOTING

Jerry Mintz 1

SURFBOARD

Dorothy Kirk 2

PHOTORECALL

Bob Ward 3

IF DR. SEUSS...

..... 4

THANK YOU

..... 4

NEW MEMBERS

..... 4

PERSONAL WEB PAGES

Phil Shapiro 7

HELP

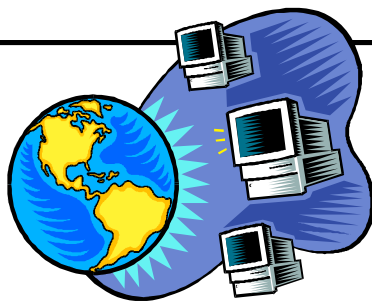
..... 7

CLUB INFO

..... 9

THE SURFBOARD

BY DOROTHY KIRK,
IBM/PCUG REDDING



THERE ARE PLENTY OF SITES THAT ONE CAN BUY AND SELL COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE. Computer window shopping on the Internet can be a rewarding or a disappointing endeavor. It depends on what the expectations are in the first place. To actually buy computer hardware or software over the Internet could very well be a frustrating and bitter experience. Why? Because many sites are not secure if you use a credit card, many times there is no data available to inform one about the reliability of the product or its manufacturer, if there are complaints they may be ignored, it may not turn out to be what you expected, or the quality is less than promised. To be sure, there are many well-known companies such as Adobe, IBM, and Microsoft that are dependable and reliable and you can buy with confidence.

The sites in this month's article may or may not be dependable and reliable. These sites are intended to be used as a reference to find out what is available at what price. If you decide to sell over the Internet, make sure that you get your money. After looking what is available on these sites, look at your local store; I think you will be pleasantly surprised to find that they are very competitive. In addition, you get on-the-spot help and repairs, if necessary.

APPLIED COMPUTER <http://www.applied-computer.com/> They claim to be the World's Biggest Computer Store Online with 170,000 items plus specials and popular items.

NETBUYER [http://www.netbuyer.com/smartdna/sc?C4/cgi-bin/nls_ax.dll/P_index\\$0](http://www.netbuyer.com/smartdna/sc?C4/cgi-bin/nls_ax.dll/P_index$0) The site compares thousands of products, product reviews, the opportunity to buy from Web vendors, and special offers.

COMPUTER ESP <http://uvision.com/> Scans and compares over a million prices from major computer cyberstores in the US and Canada. Updates over 100,000 prices a day average. Includes information on rebates and user testimonials, as well as the Top 1000 of their most popular products.

The following addresses are sites for used, refurbished, closeouts, etc. of computer stuff. If you buy any of these things, make sure documentation is included, find out the shipping charges, and EST. Local buying may turn out to be better. Computer stores in Redding may have a bulletin board with cards advertising used hardware or software; check the classifieds in the local newspapers, and check our local providers who might have their own users classifieds.

AOL NETFIND http://netfind.aol.com/aol/Reviews/Shopping/Computer_Mart/Auctions_Flea_Markets_and_Used_Equipment_Dealers/index.netfind.html

BROKER NET HOME PAGE <http://alba.colloquium.co.uk/www/brkernet/brokernet.html>

COMPUTER RESET <http://www.wipp.Unicomp.net/c-reset/>

INBUS ENGINEERING <http://www.inbus.com>

ONLINE COMPUTER SWAP <http://www.creativelement.com/swap/>

QUANTITY WHOLESALE BUYERS AND SELLERS <http://www.artelsources.com/>

SURPLUS TECHNOLOGY GROUP <http://www.surplustech.com/>

THE USED COMPUTER MALL (tm) <http://www.usedcomputer.com/>

TIMELINE, INC <http://www.digisys.net/timeline/>

US COMPUTER EXCHANGE <http://uscomputerexchange.com/>

COMMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

prompt!

Last month about ten people huddled around a monitor in the "neophyte" group located in the museum. This coming month we will permanently move to room 289. I hope to have an outline to distribute to attendees as well. This gives the audience something to write on and me a guideline to follow so we don't get off track. In the middle of my presentation, I suddenly found myself answering questions about Netscape and Eudora. Although I'm happy to answer such, I don't want to take away from the basic purpose of the SIG, to teach beginning Windows 3.1X and 95. Those questions may be answered in either of the other two SIG's going at the same time. As usual George is in 286 and Bob in 287.

We're in the middle of a fund raiser for our projection system. Over one hundred tickets have been distributed. Hopefully all will be sold and more wanted by the next meeting. You can contact Bill McNamara (466-9684) or myself (528-0121) and we can get more tickets to you. First prize is a full color flatbed scanner, 2nd prize 800MEG tape backup, with 3rd prize being a Win '95 keyboard. All drawings will take place during our September meeting. Sell 5 tickets, get another one for free. Bring a friend into the club as a member and get 3 months added to your own membership. Here's a couple freebies that take little time or effort to cash in on.

This month only, we will not add to the shareware library, nor will the 4-in-1 disk be updated. The reason being, the meeting was one week later than usual because of the Independence Day holiday, and I will be on vacation for a week until the day before the next meeting. This allows little time to copy disks and do all the other club duties that I've inherited.

I do look forward to the next

Continued on page 5

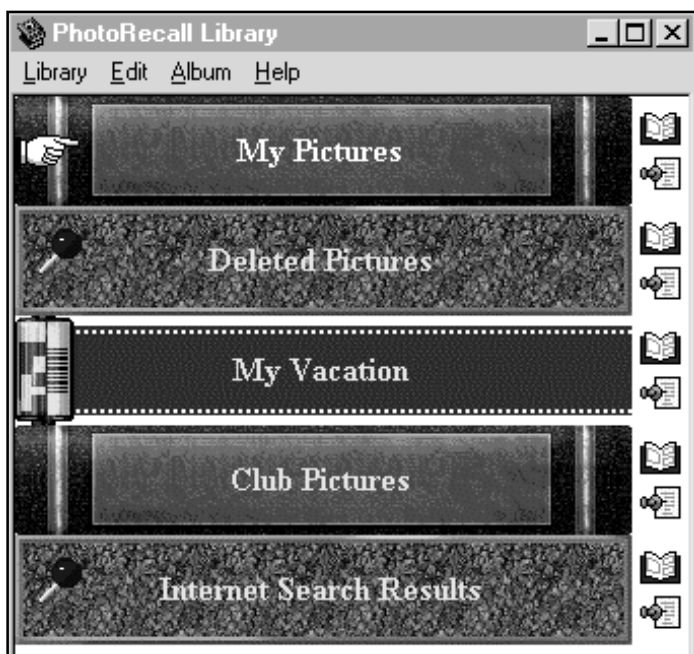
PHOTORECALL

BY BOB WARD, SLOBYTES

IF YOU'RE LIKE ME YOU HAVE AN UNORGANIZED COMPUTER ROOM. Connected with that comes a hard disk with more files than space, with little or no thought to organization. Wouldn't it be nice if I could organize at least one thing on my hard disk? **PhotoRecall** to the rescue... for my graphic programs at least. I've still got pictures of our club when we reviewed a digital camera several years ago. I've got pictures of the family that come with Konica Picture Show processing. And I have graphics in many different subdirectories used in desktop publishing. Well, that's fine, but I need to organize them all in one program.

This digital photo management system, is used for cataloguing, and manipulating your photographs or clipart. Photographs can be loaded from digital cameras, scanners, Internet virtual photo albums or from any subdirectory on your hard disk.

Open the library and you can create portfolios, each used for a specific category of pictures. For instance put all your vacations together, put the club pictures in another portfolio and newsletter clipart in another. You can load pictures from files, from several digital cameras, a Corel Image or from your scanner. Pictures may be added one at a time, or by whole subdirectories. The pictures are placed into an album, similar to a regular picture album you might have sitting on a shelf at home. You can choose from 3 different picture sizes; large pictures with one per page, medium pictures 4 to a page and small "thumbnails", 15 to a page. By double clicking on any picture it loads it into PhotoRecall Darkroom where the fun begins! You can resize, crop, rotate, vignette, wrap the image around a sphere or a cylinder. I made some wild renditions from my original photo. You can adjust the contrast, brightness or the amount of RGB in a color photograph. If



you really want to get fancy, click on the magic wand icon to change your picture to a mosaic, posterize it or create an embossed rendition. Should you have another favorite graphics editor PhotoRecall probably integrates with it. If you use PictureIt!, PhotoShop, PhotoDeluxe, PhotoSuite, PhotoPaint, just to name a few, they may be used instead of PhotoRecall's Darkroom. For faster loading in future sessions, you can store a copy of the picture file in the database and/or a thumbnail image.

We're not done yet. PhotoRecall has a Portable Player feature that allows you to create a stand-a-alone, self running program that will sequentially display a group of photos. You can distribute the disk through the internet or email a whole photo album to family or friends. The Portable Player runs only under Win 95 or NT. Sorry Macintosh users :-((

I created a stand-alone file using 13 black & white club images with a 3 second cycle and the file was about 450K. After making the file it asks me if I want to preview it, save as a file or email it somewhere. You can include notes attached to each picture as well. Perhaps you would like to print your album. No problem. Under each picture it gives the filename, including directory path, and the date of creation.

Perhaps you have heard of PhotoNet? (<http://www.photonet.com/>) Certain photo service dealers have a PhotoNet option where, after receiving your pictures, they are placed on the PhotoNet Internet server for 30 days where you can view them, share with other people who have your file ID number or simply email them

Continued on page 4

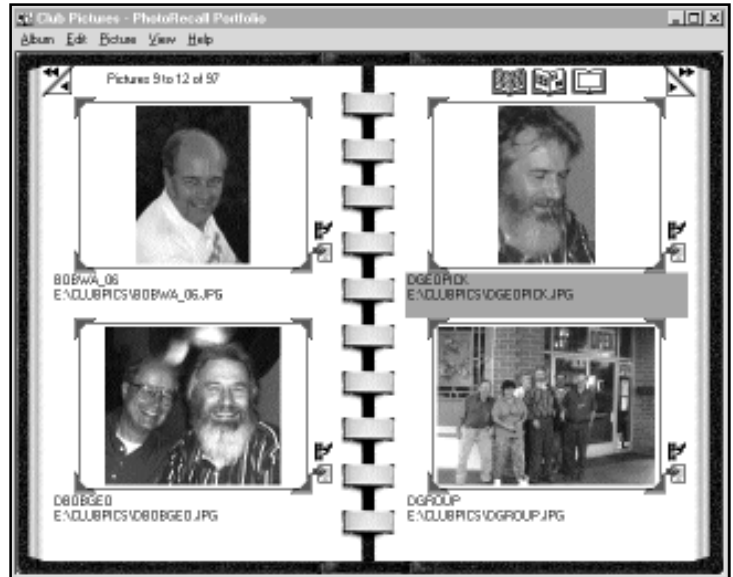
PHOTORECALL

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

for free. You can order reprints, enlargements, etc. over the internet as well for a small charge. PhotoRecall has a selection that connects you directly to PhotoNet through your IP.

Under their help menu you can send mail directly to their on-line support. The program comes on CD-ROM, contains a small "getting started" booklet in the jewel case with all other help being derived from the help menu or through the Internet. As simple and intuitive the program, you really don't need more. Most things can be figured out by clicking on icons.

The program is moderately priced and comes on CD-ROM. Suggest retail price is \$79.00 with a street price of ~\$49.95. My suggestion; it's a keeper. Easy to use, intuitively simple, and it gets the job done. The only "fault" I found, which was quickly rectified by tech support, was how to load a directory of pictures all at once. I found the command under "browse" pictures. I was looking for it in the more logical place, "load" pictures.



PhotoRecall ver 1.0

G&A Imaging Ltd.

975 St Joseph Blvd.,

Suite 227

Hull QC, Canada, J8Z 1W8

<http://www.ga-imaging.com/>

IF DR. SEUSS WERE A COMPUTER CONSULTANT

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
And the bus is interrupted as a very last resort,
And the address of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,
Then the socket packet pocket has an error to report!

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
And the double-clicking icons put your window in the trash,
And your data is corrupted 'cause the index doesn't hash,
Then your situation's hopeless, and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on your cable on the gable at your house,
Says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,
But your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,
That's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall.

And your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,
So your icons in the window are as wavy as a souse,
Then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,
"Cause as sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy on the disk,
And the microcode instructions cause unnecessary RISC,
Then you have to flash your memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM,
Quickly turn off your computer and be sure to tell your mom!

—Unknown Author (from the Internet)

NEW MEMBERS

WELCOME to...

Mary Moses

and

Joseph Lucifer

our newest

SLO Bytes members.

We hope we can be of service
and answer any computer
questions you might have.

THANK YOU FOR THE DONATIONS!

Ernest Miller donated a 486-25DX
motherboard with 8Mb of RAM. We
will use this to upgrade our library
computers.

Virginia Sawyer donated various
computer books to SLO Bytes.



TROUBLESHOOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

data that is only on our hard drive, format and reinstall clean is not our first choice. When Windows goes down it is panic time for most users as Windows takes all of our programs that run only in Windows down with it. Windows '95 is so stable unless we use Windows '95 daily, we will not have the opportunity to troubleshoot Windows often if at all if we are fortunate. Most of us do not have a clue how to troubleshoot Windows and Windows '95.

Troubleshooting starts with preventative maintenance. Defrag and Scandisk are weekly/monthly operations that are absolutely necessary to prevent problems. Ignore the % of fragmentation and "Just do it!" Defrag detects problems with the files that require scandisk to repair and provides a help icon to load scandisk if necessary. Exiting windows properly is not waiting for the brown safe shutdown screen message. Exiting properly is shift delete yes to all faxes sent and received, pictures and images you have already printed, and last years data files.

Forget the trash can which saves your unneeded data just in case and remove non essential files, copies of your faxes, e-mail, Microsoft Network, Microsoft paint and other programs you never use. Our files seem to take more space than we realize. When was the last time you noticed how much free space is on your hard drive. Windows will not run with less than 8 Megs of free space. To remove components you did not know you had installed, you don't and won't use, click on start, click on control panel. Click on Add/Remove programs. Select Windows setup in the properties sheet. A check mark next to the component indicates that the component is installed. Start at Accessories and then click on details to remove the components that you never use. After clicking those components you want to remove click OK.

This is my experience working on a challenging system that would boot to the windows flag screen but would not open the desktop. A 486-33 with 8 Megs of RAM and a 120 IDE Hard Drive was unstable in Windows 3.1. I installed Windows '95 as a last resort. The first problem since January installation was a call on June 1 because Win '95 would not boot to the desktop. Troubleshooting

Continued on page 6

GRID AD

COMMENTS

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

meeting, even after a 9 hour drive home the day before. Matt McCann from Parsons Technology will be our guest speaker. Parson's has always been my favorite "small software" company from which to buy software (compared to a LARGE software company, such as Microsoft). They offer a wide variety of software covering many subjects. Three products he will demonstrate include Quicken Family Lawyer 8.0, Family Origins for Windows for you genealogy buffs, and Address Book for Windows. Time permitting, he will show other programs offered by Parsons. Their software is excellent, easy to use and reasonably priced. Do yourself a favor (and us too)... show up to this meeting. Bring a friend, a relative (for the genealogy program) or your address book.

A few months ago the club entered the "**Intergalactic 10 Newsletter Contest**" sponsored by Lotus Development Corporation. Newsletters were divided into 3 categories based on the number of pages. We are considered a small newsletter with 12 or less pages. **We received the honor of being chosen the best in the category of Content and Navigation—Taking Advantage of PDF Hypertext Capabilities.** Hmm, does this mean I need to continue putting the whole newsletter on the Internet to win awards? It did come along with a copy of Lotus WordPro 97 which remains in shrink wrap until I have time to look at it.

There are two other contests to enter. Hopefully I'll have time to gather the newsletters and get them in the mail before vacation. Perhaps we'll win a projection system ;-)

Till the next meeting, enjoy your computer. I'll enjoy a week without it, fishing pole in hand...

**LIBRARY
IS ON
VACATION!**

TROUBLESHOOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

is isolating the problem. Adding another 8 megs of RAM would not help if the hard drive or hard drive controller had died. Is the problem hardware or software?

I pressed F8 after the BIOS announcement and the Power On Self Test screen. If you have Microsoft Windows 95 Startup Menu screen, your hardware is definitely working. Your choices are normal, logged, safe mode, safe mode with network support, step by step confirmation, command prompt only, safe mode command prompt only and previous version of MS-DOS. Selecting normal which is the default will likely produce a rerun of your unsuccessful boot.

The second option Logged creates Bootlog.txt which is a record of what loaded and what did not load. You will run using bootlog.txt then use edit to look at bootlog.txt. What you will see is the loading Device=C:\windows\himem.sys followed by loadsuccess = C:\windows\himem.sys. It is not a bad idea to check Bootlog.txt when everything is working properly and to print a copy of your bootlog.txt to use one fateful day as a reference.

You can attempt to try starting in safe mode. If you just added a new modem or other board and Windows '95 won't behave, safe mode can get you slowly onto the desktop and into the systems folder to make corrections if necessary. Despite the plug and play we still plug and pray that we don't have an IRQ conflict. Trial and error plus patience.

If Windows '95 does not detect the hardware you picked up at a swap meet, it is not likely to be compatible with Win '95.

Step by step confirmation is the same as a shift F8 at boot up. You step through the config.sys and autoexec.bat instructions one by one. I was able to step through all the drivers.

Selecting command prompt only allows you to check files. Checking

the autoexec.bat found temp=C:\dos. How interesting. Since there were fewer than a dozen files in .tmp status the computer had likely been shut down properly.

The command prompt option allows you to determine how much room is on your hard drive. DIR or CHKDSK will tell you how much free space you have. From the command prompt I ran setup from the hard drive. I was fortunate to have decided that if Windows broke down, this system is too slow to reload Windows from floppy drives. If I could not find the serial number after finding the floppy disks, I would have no Windows Setup. If I did one thing right last January, I copied Setup to a directory I called Win95set.up. All that is necessary is to cd win95set.up and type setup. After the welcome, the wizard, the directory, the setup up options, your computer is analyzed. Naturally, the 486-33 120Meg had too little room on the hard drive to run setup.

I do not recommend a larger windows program than necessary. Most of us act as if the first installation or each installation of Windows is permanently burned into the hard drive. If you don't have a sound board, what do you need multi media files for? When or if you add a sound board, you can add sound and multimedia files. Go light on the options you want installed with Windows'95. A typical installation has a calculator that is not necessary. If you use Winfax and Juno, do you need Microsoft fax (2M with viewer) and Microsoft Network (Exchange 3.5M + Mail 600K). If you only use a standard pointer, do you need to load the collection of animated and non animated pointers. If you are not networked to another computer, why do you need NetWatcher? A compact installation loads only Disk Defragmenter, DriveSpace, Note Pad and ScanDisk. Windows'95 automatically installs these four tools. You can remove unused tools before you have to delete files or remove unused tools and accessories to have sufficient room on your hard drive to operate Windows'95.

While you are deleting files and removing tools, consider saving your eardrums and emotions by printing a hard copy of the data that can not be lost before you run setup. I could print essential phone numbers in the phone book in Juno's subdirectory in dos from edit. If the mouse does not operate use the shift key to highlight the essential numbers rather than print the officers of Juno's e-mail addresses. I was fortunate that I did not lose the WinFax phone book. At fifty cents a call to long distance information, copying your e-mail and fax telephone directory can save more than time. I was lucky.

When you see Finishing Setup you are in the home stretch. When you chose your time zone and option to change automatically between Daylight and Standard time, some think the installation is through. I definitely recommend closing the Welcome to Windows box and clicking on defrag in the accessories group. The drive was not only 17% fragmented following installation, the drive had an error that required scandisk to correct.

After Windows '95 would not boot, using setup to correct suspected corrupted files restored Windows'95 operation. Although I had made and left a startup disk, I could not find one and neglected to bring one with me. Always run scandisk, which is on the startup boot disk to see if there is a disk problem. If the system boots successfully from the startup disk, you may have a corrupted Sys.com file in windows. If you can get a command line prompt c:\> you have a software rather than a software problem. Use device manager in system properties to detect IRQ and DMA channel conflicts when two or more hardware devices try to use the same interrupt lines or memory access channels. Watch out for what I call the classic device that is too old for Windows to recognize. Classic is too vanilla or plain a word for some. A 24 carrot gold expression for old or classic is legacy. Older hardware that is "classic" or "legacy" hardware may

Continued on page 8

WHY DO PEOPLE SET UP PERSONAL WEB PAGES?

BY PHIL SHAPIRO

THE IDEA OF A PERSONAL WEB PAGE IS INTRIGUING in many ways. At first blush, the idea seems wholly self-indulgent. "Why would anyone want to tell the world about themselves?" is a common first reaction. I, too, thought personal web pages self-indulgent—until I started visiting some on the web. What I found was real people daring to explore a new form of expression, unashamedly telling the world who they are and what they care about. In truth, personal web pages are a whole new form of self-expression. Even people who have personal web pages might not comprehend their full meaning. This article explores some of the ramifications of personal web pages—and the reasons why a person might choose to have one.

One reason someone might set up a personal web page is that they feel their resume doesn't accurately reflect who they are. A personal web page can be infinitely richer and more detailed than a resume. And it can include recorded music, book reviews, scanned color artwork, recorded poetry, whimsical humor, children's stories and a whole bevy of other indications of who you are. If resumes are one-dimensional, black and white representations of human beings, then personal web pages can be multidimensional, multicolored representations. If you have ever

looked at your own resume immediately reacted with the word "harumph," you're well on your way to setting up your own personal web page.

Another reason someone might choose to set up a personal web page is that they get tired of having to explain about themselves. It takes real effort to have to bring someone up-to-date about who you are, what you care about, and what you've done in your life. At the very minimum, it takes about two hours to tell someone you've met about your background and interests. Think of the times you've met someone new and how tiresome it can be to have to launch into your entire life history. Set up a personal web page, and skip all that repetitious yapping.

People speak at about 300 baud, and read at about 9600 baud (or faster). If someone is interested in learning about your background or interests, they could do it 32 times faster by visiting your web page than by sitting down to talk with you in person.

Wait, wait, wait, I can hear the objections already. Sure, there are good reasons for people to sit down to talk with one another face to face. But it can be tiresome, boring, and repetitious for people to have to explain the same things over and over again to each and every person

they meet. Each of us is given a fixed number of minutes on this planet. We need to cut out the repetitious talking and move on to the more meaningful conversations, or risk being condemned to small talk for the rest of our short lives. <soapbox mode off>

Other reasons for setting up a personal web page? They let people quickly find out who you are. Last month I sent the Washington Post newspaper a letter to the editor. Two days later I received a phone call from a technology editor at the Post, verifying information in the letter. The editor happened to mention that his dad and my dad might have worked together in UNICEF in the 1950's. How would he know that? From my web page.

My web page also serves as a fast "authenticator." My letter was on a topic relevant to my work, and my web page let the newspaper to do some fast fact-checking.

Along the same lines, a personal web page can serve as an "authenticating" device when people buy or sell second-hand items over the Internet. If you're going to send money to a seller, wouldn't you feel more comfortable if you could first browse their personal web page? Likewise, wouldn't you feel more comfortable first browsing a buyer's personal web page before sending them your valuables?

BECOMING CONNECTED TO OTHERS

Often we journey through life knowing little about each other. You

Continued on page 8

◆ PEOPLE HELPING PEOPLE ◆

NAME	PROGRAM(S)	PHONE NO.	HOURS TO CALL
Jeffrey Mintz	Computer Networks, Win95, Netscape 3.0, Internet	547-9668	Sat 12-6, Sun 12-6
Jerry Mintz	Word 6	547-0774	Sat 12-6, Sun 12-6
Ross Kongable	MS Publisher	489-4046	M-F 2-6, Sat 2-8
Bill Roch	Ami Pro	466-8440	anytime
Don Morgan	Word 6.0, Equation 3.1	543-6241	anytime
Richard Weilacker	Win '95, DOS	967-2963	anytime
Dan Logan	Internet, MS Publisher	927-0515	M-Sat 8-6, Sun 12-6
Gary Peterson	All Internet apps	438-5837	anytime
Bob Ward	Netscape, Win '95, 3.11	528-0121	evenings

PERSONAL WEB

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

probably know little about any of your neighbors. You could live for 50 years on the same street and be unaware that one of your neighbors shares some of the exact same interests as you.

Truth is, most of us don't have a clue about each other. Even close friends continually surprise me with interesting facets of their lives I had never known of before. If these friends had set up personal web pages telling about themselves, I might have come to know them sooner and in greater depth. I could have learned who they were three years ago, rather than today.

One fascinating aspect of the world wide web is that it offers the opportunity to shorten the time period involved in discovering background information about friends and colleagues. By visiting a person's home page you can find a lot about who they are and what they're interested in.

Why is it important for people to know about each others' lives? It's important because otherwise we could all pass through life without the slightest idea of what anybody else is doing. This would be a shame because of the enormous number of missed opportunities for people to connect with each other.

The reason personal web pages are so interesting is that they allow us to better understand where each of us is coming from. And the more you know about where a person is coming from, the better you'll be able to understand who they are.

Human beings are multifaceted. For instance, I happen to have a strong interest in educational technology. But I'm also very interested in special-needs computing, video production, multiculturalism, philosophy, music, history and ethics. One of my strongest interests is equitable access to technology. I also try to follow the arts, for the arts dignify the soul.

My interests and hobbies are all laid out publicly on my web page. Interests and hobbies are a good starting point for building a personal web page. But if your web page is merely a list of interests and hobbies, you're overlooking one of the best tools for letting others learn about you. If you want others to gain a view into who you are as a person, you need to include creative and expository writings on your web page. How you write, and what you choose to write about, reveal essential clues as to who you are as a person.

We live in a world where most of us pass thru life oblivious of our fellow travelers in time. The world wide web is a powerful tool for making all of us a little more informed about each other.

So take time to learn who your fellow travelers are. Take time to tell them who you are. You may be surprised at the connections that result.



Phil Shapiro is a freelance writer and computer consultant. He recently added RealAudio classical and folk guitar melodies to his web page, and takes special pride in the whimsical children's stories on his page. He can be reached at:

pshapiro@his.com and <http://www.his.com/pshapiro/>

The above essay is one of thirty essays in the book, Thinking About Online Communications. Excerpts of these think-piece essays can be found at: <http://www.his.com/pshapiro/taoc.excerpts.html>

Need some ideas of how to make a lively personal web page? Check out the very witty and amusing web page of computer columnist Rosalind Resnick. <http://www.netcreations.com/rosalind/>



TROUBLESHOOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

work fine in DOS or Win 3.1, but will not have plug and play capability. Device manager shows any device conflicting with something else in the system.

Be kind and have compassion for whoever will operate your computer six months, a year or two years in the future. If you use your computer daily, use scandisk and defrag weekly. If you use your computer only on weekends, use defrag and scandisk monthly. If you need windows to run your e-mail, fax, or Internet programs, or play windows games, you are not excused from routine maintenance because you are not printing your term papers every ten weeks. Windows needs a little help to run dependably. That operator in the future could be you on April 15th doing your taxes or any date wanting to send a fax to notify a warehouse that your shoe size on the invoice is incorrect.

PUBLICIZE YOUR WEBSITE HERE FOR FREE!

Next time you're out & about the Web
stop in and see a fellow SLOBYTES MEMBER!

Dan Logan: THE TRI-TIP COMPUTER NEWS at www.thegrid.net/dlogan

Andy Black: LOCAL 132 UNION—Representing Employees of the Southern California Gas Company at www.local132.com

Vern Moore: PASO ROBLES AMATEUR RADIO CLUB at www.fix.net/~jparker/prarc.htm

Joyce Segor: MEGAN'S FRIENDS BED AND BREAKFAST RESERVATION SERVICE:
<http://www.ErnestAllen.com/tr/ca/Megan'sFriends/> and <http://members.aol.com/royalway/index.html>

If you would like your WebSite URL to be listed here please e-mail
Bob Ward at bward@thegrid.net *Members only please!*

CLUB INFORMATION

HARDCOPY 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. Newsletter only is \$16 per year. Full membership entitles you to our monthly newsletter, full use of the public domain software library and discounts at local computer stores.

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.

Reprinting of this Newsletter: Articles from this newsletter may be reprinted by other user groups if credit is given to both the author and newsletter from which it was taken. Reproduction of articles with a specific © Copyright notice is prohibited without prior permission from the original author.

Advertising: Commercial advertisers, request ad packet from Bob Ward. Members may advertise personal computer equipment or software for free. Submit your ad to Bob Ward.

Direct all correspondence and newsletter submissions to:

BOB WARD, SECRETARY
 2100 Andre Ave.
 Los Osos, CA. 93402
 (805) 756-2164

MEETING TIMES

General meetings are held the 1st Sunday of every month, unless noted otherwise in the newsletter calendar, at 2:45 pm in the Cal Poly University Biology Department, Fisher Hall 286.

Special Interest Groups (SIGS)
 meet at 1:00 to 2:30 pm.

General Info SIG / Internet SIG:
 Fisher Hall 286

Win95 SIG / Beginners SIG:
 Fisher Hall 287

Neophyte SIG:
 Fisher Hall 289



TREASURER'S REPORT

SLO Bytes PCUG Expenditures May, 1997

Beg. Chk. Bal.	+ 980.98
Expenses:	
Newsletter 06/97	- 126.34
BBS Phone	- 10.70
Long Dist. Cgs.	- 19.91
Flyers	- 32.18
	- 189.13
Deposit 07/13/97	+ 300.00
Dividend 6/30/97	+ 6.93
	+ 306.93
New Balance	+ 1098.78
PROJECTOR FUND—GOAL: \$4,000	
Opening Balance	+ 513.02
Donations (July)	+ 130.00
Dividend 6/30/97	+ 5.43
	+ 648.45

SLOBYTES OFFICERS

President	Geo. Campbell
Treasurer	Bill McNamara
Secretary	Bob Ward
Editors	Bob Ward & Teri A. Sorgatz

SloBytes BBS

(805) 528-6172
 28,800 / 8 / N / 1
 PC Files (16,000+)
 and Message Section

SloBytes WebSite

www.thegrid.net/slobytes/

FLOPPY DISKS 4-SALE AT THE MEETING

DSDD 360K Formatted Floppy Disks with labels, tabs, & sleeves55 Each
DSDD 360K Formatted Label Over Floppy Disks45 Each
Generic High Density Formatted Floppy Disks (5.25" X 1.2 Mb)70 Each
Generic 3.5" X 720K Formatted Floppy Disks70 Each
Generic 3.5" X 1.44 Mb Formatted Floppy Disks70 Each
New Library Disks	1.00 Each

All Disks fully guaranteed against defects.