

Diablo Blue

June, 2000



The Monthly Newsletter of the Diablo Valley PC User's Group

July 6, 2000 Meeting Announcement

Keyspan

Happy Fourth of July! At our first meeting after the official start of summer, we're going to have Bill Gram-Reefer of Keyspan who will demonstrate their USB product line. Keyspan is perhaps better known for their Mac peripherals, but they have a lineup of PC products as well: a high speed USB serial adapter; a USB PCI card for PCs that don't have USB ports; a USB parallel printer adapter for Windows; a USB hub, and a Palm organizer USB adapter for connecting your PDA to a PC's USB port. Perhaps the most interesting device is the Keyspan Digital Media Remote. The Keyspan Digital Media Remote is a powerful infrared remote which allows you to control multimedia applications on your computer in the same convenient way that you now control your home TV. Great for PowerPoint, QuickTime, DVD players, CD players, and MP3 Players! The Keyspan Digital Media Remote controls your multimedia applications by sending them the same keystrokes that you do when you control the application from the keyboard. For example, if your program uses the "N" key to advance to a new slide, the Keyspan DMR Remote Control can send the same key to your application allowing you to control your application from across the room.

DVPC meetings are held in the lobby conference room in Building B at the Bank of America Technology Center office complex in Concord, located near the northeast corner of Clayton Road at Galindo (see the Map to Monthly Meetings on page 15). Please use the main entrance of the building, which is in the center of the front of the building that faces Clayton road.

Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. We will have the next installment of [\(Continued on page 10\)](#)

What's Inside

Curmudgeon's Column <i>Walt Parsons</i>	Page 2
SIG News <i>Nick Chase</i>	Page 4
Switch to the <i>Diablo Blue</i> Web Edition	Page 6
<i>Krishna Copy Center</i> Ad	Page 6
DVPC Board Meeting Minutes <i>Tom Krauss</i>	Page 7
<i>Email Meeting Notification</i>	Page 7
<i>Value Net</i> Ad	Page 8
Cookies <i>Ron Ogg</i>	Page 9
Ken's Korner <i>Ken Fermoyle</i>	Page 10
Mentor List Coming "Real Soon Now" <i>Ron Ogg</i>	Page 12
Computer Crossword <i>Craig Peterson</i>	Page 13
June Crossword Puzzle <i>Craig Peterson</i>	Page 13
Information About DVPC	Page 14
Membership Application	Page 15
Directions and Map to DVPC Meetings	Page 15
DVPC Calendar	Page 16

President's Corner

by Alan Mildwurm

I think I have been done in by DSL. Actually, I think the culprit is PacBell's email servers. You see, I wrote an article and a President's Message last Friday and emailed it to Ron from my office. Little did I know the email never made it. Ron called me Monday evening just as I was getting ready to leave for a class to let me know he didn't get anything from me. So, here I am at the San Ramon campus of DVC just before my class, hacking out a replacement article to make deadline. After our PacBell presentation last month, a member asked me to write an article comparing DSL at the office with our cable at home. Well... While not very scientific, my experience is that PacBell's email sucks. This is not the first problem I have had. At my office we subscribed to an email service which PacBell has refused to forward to us because they think it is spam. (It's a newsletter on recent legal developments — PacBell may be right on that one!) Also, it would appear that email sent out doesn't always make it. So, I am still (overall) more

[\(Continued on page 9\)](#)

Curmudgeon's Column by [Walt Parsons](#), DVPC's Official Curmudgeon – Accept No Substitute!

ALERT: DO NOT install the Microsoft Security Update!!!!

At least not until you read ALL of the voluminous warning material found on the MS web page where the update is found.

Some of the things the update does are a minor nuisance and are probably worth the effort in order to slow down the use of the OUTLOOK contact list to propagate viruses. After the update every time another program attempts to access or use the OUTLOOK contact list a warning screen pops up and asks whether it is okay for an unnamed program to access OUTLOOK. For example when I attempt to synchronize the contact list on the Palm with the Outlook Contact list this warning pops up. I can allow the Palm program access to Outlook for various times ranging from 1 minute on up.

What is completely unacceptable is that when an attachment of a type found on a list of "level 1" program types is seen on incoming mail Outlook trashes the attachment. The "level 1" program type list is supposed to be a list of executable programs that could possibly be a virus. Some of the "dangerous" program types are .bat, .com, .exe, .inf, .lnk, .mdb, .scr, etc.

Now did you happen to notice that ".mdb" is one of the villain files? MS Access users will recognize it as the extension used on Access data bases.

Now I happen to exchange a data base with a friend on a monthly basis and since my friend does not have a broadband modem, it is about a 20 minute job for him to transmit the data base to me as an e-mail attachment. When I got the e-mail it was noted that the former attachment was no longer there since it was dangerous. (It said: "*Outlook blocked access to the following potentially unsafe attachments: 1999 NCNC roster.mdb*")

First off I did a file search through my entire hard drive hoping that Outlook had stuck the offending file in a quarantine folder like Norton Anti-Virus does. No such luck. It was gone, kaput, finished, wasted, etc.

I feel that MS should have handled the "bad" files the way Norton AV does. Norton puts up a big screen saying that a file has a virus and should Norton delete it, put it in quarantine, or run it. I put it in quarantine until I have time to run a Norton diagnosis on the file. Now why couldn't Microsoft do the same thing. That way I would immediately recognize the file as the Access data base file I was expecting and instructed Outlook to put the database file in the Access folder. Probably too simple an idea. I wrote to Microsoft with the suggestion but I didn't even get the courtesy of a response to my e-mail.

By the way, my friend and I solved the problem (with an assist from Ron Ogg) by having him send me the file as a zip file. Worked fine.

DSL Hell

In last month's *Diablo Blue* we heard about Alan Mildwurm's experience with a DSL installation in his office. My experience was a little different, maybe because it was an individual non-business installation.

Here's is my experience...

Placed an order on 4/28/00.

It was to be placed on one of my existing phone lines. I was given a service order number but no installation date. I was to be notified within 5 days when my installation would be made.

(Continued on page 3)

Curmudgeon's Column...

(Continued from page 2)

On 5/8/00, ten days later I called the "800" number I had been given and asked for my installation date. I was connected within 2 minutes. After several minutes of hemming and hawing by the service representative, I was given a date of 5/24/00 between 8 am & 5 pm and was told to call again on the installation date for a narrower window

5/24/00 8:53 am, 27 days after I had placed my order, I called the "800" number and after identifying myself the customer representative agreed that I was on the schedule for that date but he'd have to check with the installation foreman to get a better time. He put me on hold and disappeared for several minutes. When he did finally get back to me he said that the installation people had me on their schedule for 6/6/00. This is 13 days after my "assigned installation date" .. He didn't know, or wouldn't tell me, why his data base didn't agree with the installation force's data base.

5/31/00 A Pacific Bell installer showed up check out my phone line. He had not bothered to make an appointment and was lucky to find me home.

6/6/00 8:44 a.m., 40 days after I had placed the order I called "800" number in order to get a more accurate appointment time so I wouldn't have to stay home all day. I was referred by the service representative to the DSL installer's phone number. Left a message on their message set asking for a better appointment time and with a request to be called back. Nobody called me back.

6/6/00 14:30 - Got a phone call from Virginia, the DSL installer saying she'd arrive in 25 minutes.

6/6/00 15:00 - Installer arrived. Did outside work. Installed splitter at interface box. Brought wire in for a DSL terminal box in my computer room. She installed the Ethernet card and DSL modem. Modem worked okay until 17:30 when it lost synch and didn't restore for the rest of the evening.

Virginia was new at the DSL game having been an ordinary phone installer up to two weeks before. She had been put through a short training course which made her a DSL and Network "expert". Every little while she'd get on her cell phone and call somebody back in the office for advice.

She tried to install software but ran into trouble. By this time her "guru" had gone home so she had to give up on the installation and said she'd return at 8:30AM Wednesday (6/7/00).

6/7/00 9:30AM, 41 days after placing my order, Virginia, the installer returned. The DSL signal was once again synching. After removing a few unused and obsolete TCPs the needed software installed properly. From there on the installation went smoothly. As of about 10:30AM I am working on DSL.

Final task is the DSL project: Write a Curmudgeon article about my experiences. Comments on my DSL service. When DSL works it is great. But, as our speaker from Pac Bell at our meeting a month ago said, the DSL only improves the transmission between your home and the ISP, Pacbell.net, in my case. It does nothing to improve the service from the ISP or from the WWW.

To test out the new DSL service I accessed the Microsoft update page to get a "critical update". It must have been a busy time on that web page because I'd see the progress bar move real fast for a moment and then it would stop cold for a few seconds, jump ahead again, wait a few seconds, etc.

On the my second experiment I downloaded a program during a quiet time and what would have been a ten minute download at 56K came through in less than one minute. Am I satisfied with DSL? YES!!!!!!

Am I pleased with Pac Bell's installation forces? What do you think? NO — it was lousy. Virginia was a

(Continued on page 12)

SIG NEWS *Compiled by [Nick Chase](#), SIG Coordinator, DVPC, 680-4211*

See the DVPC Calendar on [page 16](#) for the date and time of each SIG meeting.

Access/Visual Basic SIG [Ron Ogg](#) (283-7900 Ext. 201) and [Ted Armstrong](#) (939-4096) SIG Co-Leaders

The Access/Visual Basic SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. If you are interested in Access or Visual Basic, be sure to join other programmers at each month's Access/VB SIG meeting. Check out the Access/VB SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_vbaccess. See the web page or the Clarion SIG announcement below for directions to the meeting.

Advanced Users SIG [Jeff and Sharon Noyer](#), SIG Co-Leaders – 778-4348

The Advanced Users SIG meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 4208 Amargosa Drive in Antioch. Directions: Go east on Highway 4 through Antioch to the Hillcrest Avenue exit. At the light at the end of the exit ramp, go right onto Hillcrest Avenue, and then stay towards your left. At the 3rd light, Hillcrest Avenue turns to the left. Go left and stay on Hillcrest. (Landmark: "The Crossings" Shopping Center is at intersection). At the 4th light, go left onto Wildhorse Drive. (Landmark: 7-Eleven on corner at intersection). At the 2nd left turn, go left onto Meadow Lake Drive. At the 4th right turn, go right onto Amargosa Drive. 4208 Amargosa Drive is the 3rd house on your right, blue and white one-story. The Advanced Users SIG is for anyone interested in discussing advanced topics such as hardware and software issues, cutting-edge technologies, networking, Windows NT Server and Workstation, troubleshooting, etc. Please join us to participate in this very informative and educational forum. We hope to see you at the meeting!

Clarion SIG [Ron Ogg](#), SIG Leader – 283-7900 Ext. 201

The Clarion SIG meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. Check out the Clarion SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_clar. TopSpeed's Clarion 5 is a powerful object-oriented database development tool that competes with products like Visual Basic and Delphi and even products like PowerBuilder. If you are an advanced Clarion developer you are invited to join the SIG. This is a SIG for advanced users, so beginners will want to get some hands-on experience before joining.

Directions: take Highway 24 west to the Central Lafayette exit, and keep to your left to the stop sign at Deer Hill Road at the end of the exit ramp. Turn left onto Deer Hill Road, and continue to where it dead ends at Happy Valley Road. Turn left onto Happy Valley Road. Turn right at the traffic signal at Mt. Diablo Blvd. Take Mt. Diablo Blvd. through the next traffic signal and turn left into the driveway at 3685/3687. Immediately turn right into the parking lot in front of 3687. Take the elevator to the third floor to the door on the right just before the end of the hallway. See the Clarion SIG's Web page for a map. If you get lost, call Ron Ogg at 283-7900 Ext. 215.

Genealogy eSIG [Peggy Johnson](#), SIG Leader – 676-7522

The DVPC Genealogy SIG has become an "eSIG". In other words, it will be like the various genealogy sites on the web with "list groups." If one of us finds a useful site, database or software, we will pass that information on to the other members of the SIG. Also, if one of us has questions or would like assistance or fresh ideas, we can broadcast our request to the other members.

The DVPC Genealogy SIG is now like the genealogy sites on the web with "list groups". All DVPC members who sign up will become a part of this "list group". Useful websites, databases, procedural information or questions can be directed to the group as a whole. Members can respond and share their experiences, insights, answers or ask questions, and hopefully, share their success stories. There is a tremendous amount of information for the genealogist on the web, and we need to share this information.

If you want to be included, please send your email address to Peggy Johnson at pegszone@aol.com. I will provide each member with an updated list of members' email addresses. In your sign-up email, state the

(Continued on page 5)

SIG NEWS...

(Continued from page 4)

surnames, locations and time periods you are searching. This information will also be sent to all in the group, and each of us can then keep an eye out each other.

Education and Entertainment SIG [Alan Mildwurm](#), SIG Leader – 510-770-5770

The Education & Entertainment SIG usually meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Montevideo School in San Ramon at 7:30 p.m. except now during the summer when the school is closed. Check the DVPC web site (www.dvpc.org) for information about each month's meeting. The E&E SIG is oriented to exploring the best in education and entertainment software for the PC. Come back in the fall when everyone is invited to attend our meetings, and bring your kids along - they'll have a great time, too! Directions for our next meeting in October: Take 680 to Bollinger Canyon Road, go west to San Ramon Valley Blvd., go south to Montevideo Rd. and turn left. Proceed east on Montevideo about 3 blocks to Broadmoor and turn left. The school is 1 block on the right. We meet in Room 22.

Internet SIG [Craig Peterson](#), SIG Leader – 671-7025

The Internet SIG meets at 7:00 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at Computer Renaissance, 959 Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. We cover everything about the Internet, from browsing and email to creating your own web site and the tools for doing so. For more information, please call Craig Peterson by email at compmail@pacbell.net or by phone at 671-7025.

The SIG would like to recommend the following sites:

7/4 (Independence Day) www.bostonharbor.com/july4.html; 7/14 (Bastille Day) members.aol.com/Holimuser/Bastille.htm; 7/29 (NASA's Anniversary) www.nasa.gov/.

If you like these sites or have others you would like to share, come to the next Internet SIG meeting. There you can find and share all that is out there in the "wild, wild web".

Linux SIG [Mark Allen](#) SIG Leader (680-7746)

The Linux SIG has a new meeting night, the fourth Thursday of each month in the Fireside Room of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Concord at 7:00 p.m. The SIG will be exploring the usefulness of Linux, primarily for the power computer enthusiast on the workstation, but it will also be sponsoring special emphasis nights exploring the web server and administrative server, skills development for expanding Linux markets and workshops for advanced computer tweaking strategies. Our own InstallFests for people who can experiment with their equipment are inevitable. I'd like to see as many current DVPC members who have an interest in the possibilities of Linux at the meetings as possible, to see what directions we should concentrate on. We should have some seasoned Linux system testers on hand to speak, plainly, about what is possible and what currently isn't on the hardware and software sides and what areas of the computer world market Linux is likely to be useful in. We would appreciate it if you would read some of the materials on the Linux SIG News page on the DVPC website for directions to the meetings, site links, and member white papers on different aspects of configuring, learning, and using Linux.

Microsoft Project SIG [Elias Asmar](#), SIG Leader – 299-8500

The Microsoft Project SIG meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at InterPro ADF's office at 3569 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210 in Lafayette. Park in the lot behind Radio Shack. The entrance to suite 210 is at the back of the building. Enter through the door marked "210" at the parking lot end of the walkway from the street and take the stairs to the second floor. Everyone who is interested in Microsoft Project and project management is invited to attend. If you plan on attending, please call Elias Asmar at 925-299-8500, Fax 925-299-8511, or send an email message to him at:

elie.asmar@iadf.com.

(Continued on page 6)

SIG NEWS...

(Continued from page 5)

New Users SIG *Bill Earl, SIG Leader – 939-5874*

The New Users SIG holds its meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular DVPC monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at Bank of America building B. We discuss whatever is confusing or puzzling new PC users. If you are a new user of PCs who would like to meet with other new users – and some experienced users who can answer your questions as well – then join us at the New Users SIG meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior to each DVPC monthly meeting. Also, remember that PC 101 (a class on how to use the computer; see the Meeting Announcement on page 1 for more information) will start at 6:15 in the back of the room. The classes are open to all members.

Photo SIG *Chuck Graham, SIG Leader – 680-1333*

The Photo SIG meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 7:00 pm at Graham Family Photo, 5100-35 Clayton

(Continued on page 10)

Switch to the Diablo Blue Web Edition

*"I am a real computer person and as such recognize the ultimate reality of the '**Paperless Society**'. In keeping with this spirit and in an effort to help DVPC reduce overhead costs, I say "Nay" to a written newsletter. Give it to me electronically, I want to get my copy of DVPC's Diablo Blue off the Web. (I can always print it out on blue paper and don't even have to admit that I did!)"* Turn in this form at the monthly meeting – or email to nopaper@dvpc.org

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email address for meeting notification: _____ Also notify me about these SIGs:

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DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

Meeting Date: 6/7/2000 **Time:** 7:00 pm **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

Bank Account: \$2,000 (approximately)

We started late and slow this month. First there was a grief recap of Microsoft's appeal options. Then the Treasurer's dad reported a bank balance of \$1692.87 with about \$300 pending deposit. This abundance of course precipitated a discussion of video projectors, Ron filling in for Charlie who was en route from down south. As usual, Ron had a fistful of the latest catalogues and ads. There was a blessedly brief discussion of the shortcomings of our current machine (has problems with XGA and the occasional laptop), and I hate to admit it, but I was beginning to agree with Ron.

I was rescued from moral collapse by someone saying "Charlie's just driving up!" (Charlie lives across the street from Alan.) Ron grabbed his catalogues and ran out the door crying "Charlie! Charlie!" and I suddenly realized that DVPC was in great danger: Should Ron return with Charlie, who knows what they might convince the rest of us to buy?

I was easing myself out of my seat, ostensibly to get a drink, but in reality to sneak over and lock both Ron and Charlie out, when Ron came back in alone. Charlie, having driven from San Diego through several cities' rush

(Continued on page 11)

**Get Involved! Learn!
Join a SIG today!**

Email Meeting Notification Available by Ron Ogg, DVPC

We're providing an Email Notification service for the DVPC monthly meeting, and for SIGs as well, for all current, paid-up members. If you're interested in receiving an email message announcing each monthly meeting, and for the SIGs you attend, fill out this form and mail to the address on page 16 of this copy of *Diablo Blue*. Note that there's no separate notification for the New Users' SIG since it's held on the same night as the monthly meeting.

Send me Email notification of each monthly DVPC meeting:

Name _____

Email Address _____

Also send me Email notification of each of the SIG meetings I've checked below:

Access/VB SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Linux SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced Users SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microsoft Project SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarion SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photo SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and Entertainment SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Real Estate SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genealogy SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

Attn: DVPC Members!
Value Net is your best value for
ADSL (for home or office)!

Value Net
doesn't charge **Value Net**
extra for ADSL!

ADSL is a remarkable new technology that allows fulltime high speed connection to the Internet, and Value Net isn't even charging you for it! For home (single station)ADSL, you only pay our regular low monthly rate (see below), and Pacbell charges only \$39/month for the DSL line. For this low flat rate, you are always on, at speeds that put dial-up to shame!

Special plan for DVPC members:
PPP Dial-up \$15/mo (when paid quarterly)
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Value Net Internetwork Services
2855 Mitchell Dr., Ste 105
Walnut Creek, CA 94598

Phone: (925) 943-5769

On the Web: www.value.net

E-Mail: info@value.net

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- **Centrex ISDN**
- **Custom Business Solutions**

Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

Cookies by [Ron Ogg, DVPC](#)

No, we're not talking about the chocolate chip kind. We're talking about the web page kind.

The main purposes of cookies are to identify who you are to a web site. Information can be store in cookies like your user ID and password (so you don't have to enter them every time you go to that site), or a cookie can store information about all of the items that you put into your shopping cart during your last visit to the site.

However, cookies usually work in conjunction with a database on the web server that stores the information about you. This database is secure, and the information about you is not accessible to any other web sites that might snoop into your computer looking at your cookies. In this scenario, a cookie includes only the information about the web site that stored the cookie and a unique ID that is used to look up your record in the database. That database record has your password or what you put into your shopping cart during each of your prior visits. The database could also store your credit card number, your name and billing and shipping addresses, or other information that pertains to your visits to that web site. Data in the database can be collected when you fill out a registration form or place an order. Information like what links you clicked on can also be collected by the web server, tracing your visit to that web site (but not to other web sites) on a page-by-page basis.

Why doesn't the web server just store your information in a cookie and put it on your hard drive? There are two reasons:

1. There may be too much information to store in a cookie. Cookies are usually small records. In my Cookies folder the record sizes are 67 bytes to 379 bytes, and over two thirds are under 100 bytes.
2. If the cookie contains all of the data, and the cookie is deleted, the web site loses all of the information it took time to store about you.

Many people object to web sites storing cookies on their computers. If you don't want them, you can turn them off. In Internet Explorer click on Tools, Internet Options, Security, Custom Level, and select what you want to enable or disable. You can even have IE prompt you every time a site tries to place a cookie on your PC. Similar settings are available in Netscape. Remember, if you do block cookies you may not be able to visit web sites that require that cookies be enabled, you can't have the web site recognize you automatically, and you may not be able to make purchases at many e-commerce sites.

Cookies aren't sinister, aren't destructive, can't store personal information about you that you haven't provided, can't grant access to any other information on your hard drive, and can't be read by a web site that didn't store them originally. Give cookies a chance; they can make use of the web more convenient.

President's Corner...

(Continued from page 1)

impressed with cable even with a few slowdowns this past morning. Nothing, it would seem is perfect!

This month, KEYSpan will be doing a presentation on their USB products. I have been using one of their parallel cable adapters with no problem. I think you will be very interested in seeing their product line. In August I hope to have two presentations on Internet Security. One company provides a software solution and the other presenter is a speaker on the general topic of Internet security. At this point, I think we will do our Home Networking presentation in September with Proxim and their Symphony wireless networking adapters that let you connect all the PCs in your house without having to run wires between them.

Sorry for the short and hurried look of this article but...

Support **Diablo Blue** Advertisers!

SIG News...

(Continued from page 6)

Road, Concord. Vineyard Center at Ayers Road next to KMart. Call for directions at 925 680-1333 or check out our map at www.grahamphoto.com. Please bring anyone that is interested the Photo SIG. Please continue to let me know what your interest are. Also be sure to see our page on the DVPC web site at www.dvpc.org/photo.html.

Real Estate SIG *Bill Thompson, SIG Leader – 693-0174*

The new Real Estate SIG meeting location is still being researched, so meetings have been postponed until a new location can be finalized. The relocation is required because the Insurance Commissioner's office is prosecuting 5 other title companies for current RESPA violations. My boss and I are trying to figure out how to side step the commissioners office and make our efforts legal. If you have any ideas they would be appreciated. Contact SIG Leader Bill Thompson at (925) 998-8530 or email at thompson@dlsnetwork.com for additional information.

Windows SIG *Ron Ogg (283-7900 Ext. 201) and Walt Parsons (934-0775), SIG Co-Leaders*

The Windows SIG usually meets at the Community Room at the Concord Police Department Building on the first

(Continued on page 12)

Ken's Korner by *Ken Fermoyle*

In California, red means stop, green means go, and yellow means go faster. In that vein, here's a very yellow tip specifically for those of us with cable and DSL modems. You can reserve memory (RAM) for any given IRQ; by increasing the default value for your network card, you may be increasing its throughput and performance. Right-click on 'My Computer' and select its Properties. On the Device Manager tab, press the Properties button (if/when 'Computer' is selected). Note which IRQ your network card is using. Next, open up SYSEDIT.EXE (using the Run command in your Start Menu) and edit the SYSTEM.INI file. Under the [386enh] section, add: IrqX=4096 (where 'X' is your network card's IRQ). Save, reboot, and enjoy! Now, I'm not one for benchmarking, but system speed (overall) hasn't decreased since applying this tweak. Of course, I also have 256 MB RAM.

July 6 Meeting Announcement...

(Continued from page 1)

PC 101, our New Users SIG class run by [Craig Peterson](#) on how to use the computer, at 6:15 p.m. This month we'll be looking at the next section of "Teach Yourself Computers and the Internet Visually". Members who would like to order the book for home study can contact Craig at the meeting or by email at compmail@pacbell.net for information. The classes are open to all members.

We'll also have the Networking Table from 6:30 to 7:00; if you have something to sell or trade, need technical help, or just want to exchange views, visit the Networking Table. We may have one of our ever-popular mini-auctions with great products, so bring your checkbooks and cash! Also, as usual, we'll have library disks and those great DVPC mugs (version 2) for sale, SIG news, random access, and some of our usual great door prizes.

See you at the meeting!

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes...

(Continued from page 7)

hours, was too tired to come to the meeting. The crisis thus passed, and we proceeded with our regular business.

Old Business:

Club PC Upgrade: Nick's idea of getting a new monitor through Sony has not worked out and we again gave Craig confusing and contradictory instructions and sent him off to buy a monitor.

Speakers: Alan announced that in July we would have Keyspan and Proxim; and in August Active Concepts. There was some vagueness to this schedule, but that is normal. Some vendors can't plan more than three days in advance, and the fluidity of the job market can also result in your scheduled presenter moving to the competition the day before their scheduled appointment with DVPC.

Alan mentioned that we should continue with our Board (read "Ron Ogg") presentations, and a discussion of topics followed his comment. Mark suggested security/privacy as a topic to cover, and that relates to one or more of our pending vendors. Then we discussed having an authoritative speaker like Jim Warren or Larry Magid.

After more discussion possible agendas, something was tentatively decided and we moved on. According to the last note I took on this, in August we will have Active Concepts, and either a guest speaker or one of us will talk on security/privacy.

Brochures: Peggy and I had reviewed the current draft of the brochure put together by Mark. He had sent me an electronic copy to edit, but that turned out to be more difficult than one would think. First off, it was built using Microsoft's Publisher 2000, and I have Publisher '98. Mark warned me that the 2000 edition warns of potential problems using older version to edit documents created using 2000, and he was right.

I am not a big fan of Publisher. There are aspects of it that are less than intuitive, and my training as a programmer has taught me never to read the directions, so I tend to fumble a bit, sometimes finding a way to do something in fourteen steps that could actually be done in three. Let's just say that by the time I was through, most of the words were the ones I wanted to use, and were generally in nearly the correct place.

I had printed a couple of samples, and my fellow Board members added their two cents to my changes. But I gave the file and the task back to Mark to fix, washing my hands of the matter.

New Business:

Random Excess: There was additional discussion public speaking, file associations and DSL. Joe Silva, in a minute of confusing pontification, made the shrewd observation that it is "hard to follow the train of thought of the Board: Amen!

Then there came a point in time when we wanted to ask Craig a question but couldn't find him. His papers were still on the table and no one remembered seeing him leave, but no one remembered at what point he left. Knowing Craig is a postal employee, our first concern was for the safety of Alan's family and ourselves (maybe not in that order, but you get my point). A quick search of the house failed to turn him up. Some of us were beginning to get worried: if we kept wasting time looking for Craig, we might be here extra late. We got back to business, although people still kept looking around at every strange sound.

A few minutes later Craig was spotted out the front window walking on the sidewalk, coming to the front door. Now we knew he must have gone out, but still no one remembered it. It seemed somehow out of character that he felt a sudden urge to walk or jog around the block. The mystery was solved when Craig came in and announced that he had gone out to his car to get something and had been working on his car for the past twenty minutes. His hands were dirty and greasy, so we bought his story.

Bring a friend! Get them to join DVPC!

Curmudgeon's Column...

(Continued from page 3)

nice lady but she sure didn't know much about computers. PacBell's "web hog" advertising campaign succeeded beyond their wildest dreams leaving their installation people swamped and necessitating throwing untrained people into the gap.

6/23/00 - End of DSL project. Article written and sent to Ron Ogg.

Minor complaint: Companies that sell a software program from their web page promising two week delivery and then never bothering to let you know that the product had been back ordered and would be delayed several weeks. (In fact I still haven't received the product.) The Federal Trade Commission has a rule that a merchant has to deliver their product within a month or has to state their delivery time. If they are unable to ship within a month or by the stated delivery time, they **MUST** contact the customer explaining the problem and offering to cancel the order. Unfortunately our great government in action doesn't seem to do anything to enforce the FTC rule so it is ignored by most merchants. I guess it is up to us curmudgeons to keep an abeyance file for delivery dates and if the selling merchant doesn't deliver on schedule to contact the merchant and raise hell.

As always, if you have any good material for this column, please send me either an article or the details by e-mail or snail mail. Sorry, but my memory is not good enough to take verbal reports.

That's all for now. See you next week.

SIG News...

(Continued from page 10)

Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. We won't meet on July 3 because of the July 4th holiday. See you in August when everyone who uses, is interested in, or is curious about Windows on their PC is invited to attend.

Here are directions: The Concord Police Department is at 1350 Galindo Street in Concord. From the 242 Freeway take Clayton Road east to Galindo and turn right; the Police Department building is 3 blocks south on your left. From Highway 24 take Monument Blvd. east and continue on Monument Blvd. to where it changes to Galindo; the Police Department building will be on your right a short distance past the signal at Cowell Road.

Mentor List Still Coming "Real Soon Now" by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

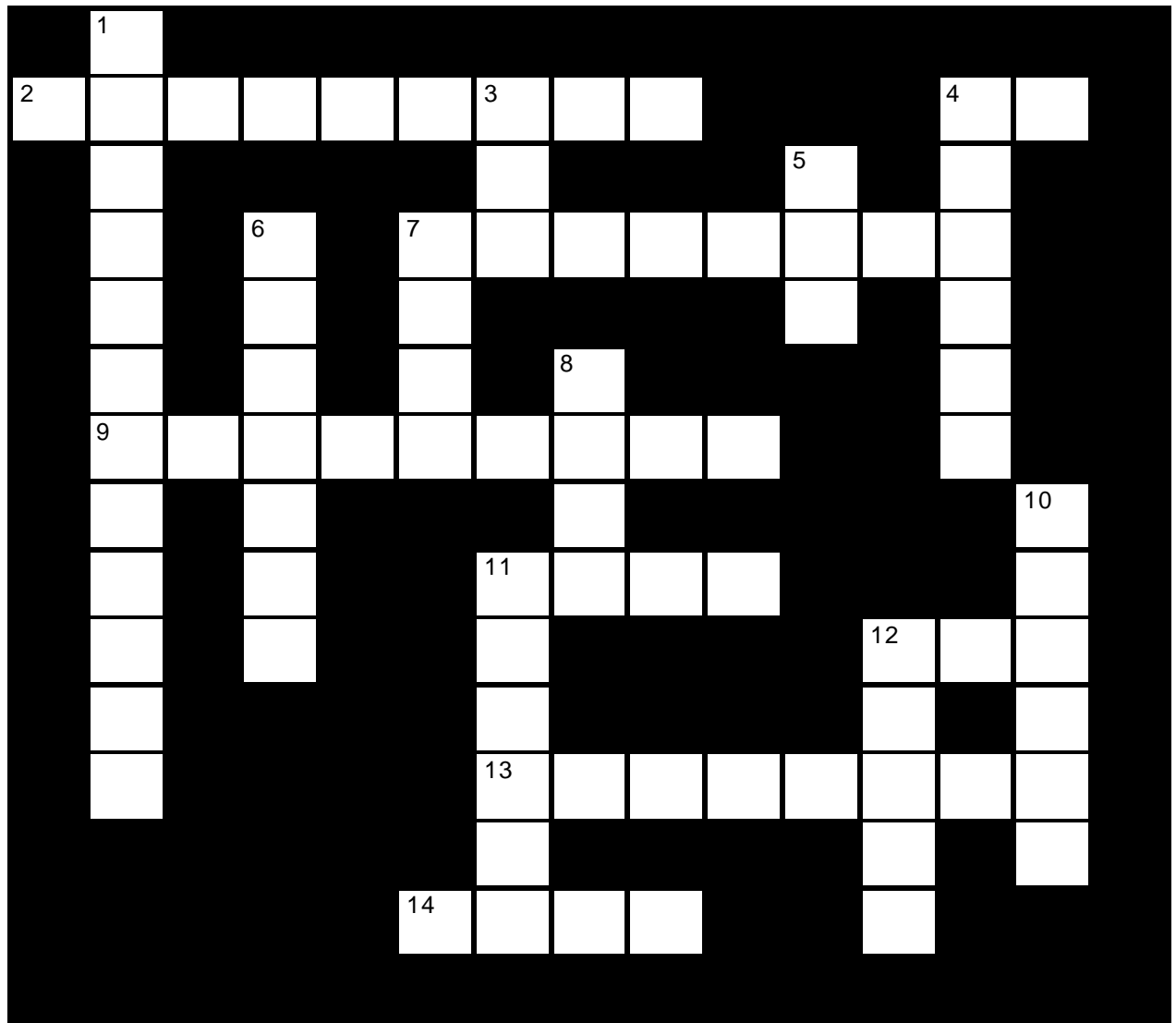
We've had a large number of knowledgeable members sign up to be Mentors to allow DVPC members to take advantage of this storehouse of knowledge. We'll be adding a Mentor page to our web site maybe not so "Real Soon Now" (*apologies to [Jerry Pournelle](#)*). This page will limit access to DVPC members by requiring the same monthly login ID and password sent to members for access to the current on-line edition of *Diablo Blue*. You'll be able to look up the mentors for a particular software package or hardware product, and contact them by email to pose your question.

Now the Mentor page has been even further delayed because your editor moved, and now is on a project that takes him to San Francisco Monday through Saturday.

So check the DVPC web site in July and, hopefully (with fingers crossed over a bed of four-leaf clovers that have been blessed by a Leprechaun who was on his way to a pot of gold), the Mentor page may be up and running by the end of the month!

Computer Crossword, June 2000
“Independence Day is in July”

by [Craig Peterson](#), DVPC



Across

- 2 To follow a logical format with little instruction (9)
- 4 Input/Output (2)
- 7 Peripheral input device (8)
- 9 To make two or more machines work together. (9)
- 11 A female connector (4)
- 12 Internet Service Provider (3)
- 13 Unauthorized user (8)
- 14 Macintosh term for system files (4)

Down

- 1 Type of error (12)
- 3 International Organization for Standardization (3)
- 4 Type of printer (6)
- 5 Graphics Interchange Format (3)
- 6 To line up rows of text vertically (7)
- 7 Joint Photographic Experts Group (4)
- 8 A programming language (4)
- 10 To bring a file created in one application into another (6)
- 11 Method of expressing date (6)
- 12 Method of sorting files (5)

About the July Crossword Puzzle by [Craig Peterson](#), DVPC Librarian

July 4th is when we celebrate the birth of our country (and a nice time to shoot off fireworks as well). This month the puzzle has words that start with the letters “I” and “J”.

Diablo Blue Article and Ad Information

Diablo Blue needs articles from the members of DVPC. See your name in print! Achieve fame and fortune! (Well, maybe just some limited fame in Contra Costa County...) We are particularly interested in product and book reviews and articles about your PC experiences.

Commercial advertising is available in Diablo Blue. Prices are \$75 for a full page, \$40 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page for one insertion – or get three consecutive insertions for the price of two. For more information, call editor Ronald Ogg, at 283-7900, Ext. 201 (days). Members of DVPC can submit personal classified ads that will be printed in Diablo Blue for three insertions at no charge. The rules are simple: up to 9 lines (as we typeset it), material must be suitable for publication (the editor is the sole judge of suitability), the member must be in good standing (current dues paid), and ad space is available on a first-come first-served space available basis only. If you want fewer than three insertions note that on your ad copy. If members want their business card reproduced, the rate is \$10 for one insertion, or \$25 for three insertions. The card must be horizontal and must be scannable.

Send your articles or member ad copy as email attachments to the [Newsletter Editor](#). See the deadline information in the Calendar on page 15 of each issue of Diablo Blue.

DVPC on the Internet

DVPC has a web site on the Internet - thanks to our Web Team: Ron Ogg and Stan Umlauf. You can surf your way to our own domain and home page by starting your favorite Web browser and typing the following URL; be sure to save it in your browser's hotlist so you don't have to type it each time: <http://www.dvpc.org>

DVPC Officers and Directors

Alan Mildwurm, President/Programs 510-770-5770 (work) Mark Allen, Publicity 680-7746 (home)
Nicholas Chase, SIG Coordinator 680-4211 (home) Charlie Crothers, At Large 829-2237 (home)
Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary 676-7522 (home) Tom Krauss, Secretary 689-9960 (home)
Jessica Mildwurm, Treasurer 829-5858 (home) Ron Ogg, Newsletter Editor 283-7900 Ext. 201 (work)
Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home) Stan Umlauf, Web Site 458-5560 (home)

The Board of Directors usually meets on the Wednesday evening following the general meeting each month. Check the DVPC Calendar on page 16 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*, or the DVPC home page on the Internet (www.dvpc.org) for the meeting date, time, and location. You can reach any of the officers and directors by talking to them at the DVPC monthly meeting, or leaving a message on the DVPC voicemail system.

DVPC Voice Mail System

DVPC has a computer-based voice mail system. The phone number for the DVPC VMS is 925-556-1449. This communication vehicle provides members with up-to-date information about monthly and SIG meetings, potential new members with information about DVPC, and a message center for Board of Directors members and SIG Leaders.

Diablo Blue is the monthly newsletter of the Diablo Valley PC Users' Group. Editor: Ronald Ogg, Mailing: Peggy Johnson
Please submit articles and columns to the Newsletter editor by email at rogg@value.net
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DVPC is a member of [APCUG](#), the Association of PC Users Groups

DVPC is a member of [UGNN](#), the User Group Network News Service



Support DVPC — Get a friend to join!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Enclose a check for \$30.00 for one year's dues with printed edition of *Diablo Blue*, or \$25.00 for one year's dues with access to the Internet edition of *Diablo Blue* (\$20.00 for students who must enclose a copy of current Student ID), made payable to **DVPC** and mail to:
DVPC User's Group, PO Box 3244, San Ramon, CA 94583

Renewal _____ New Member _____ Referred by current member? Name _____

Name: _____

Company/School: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

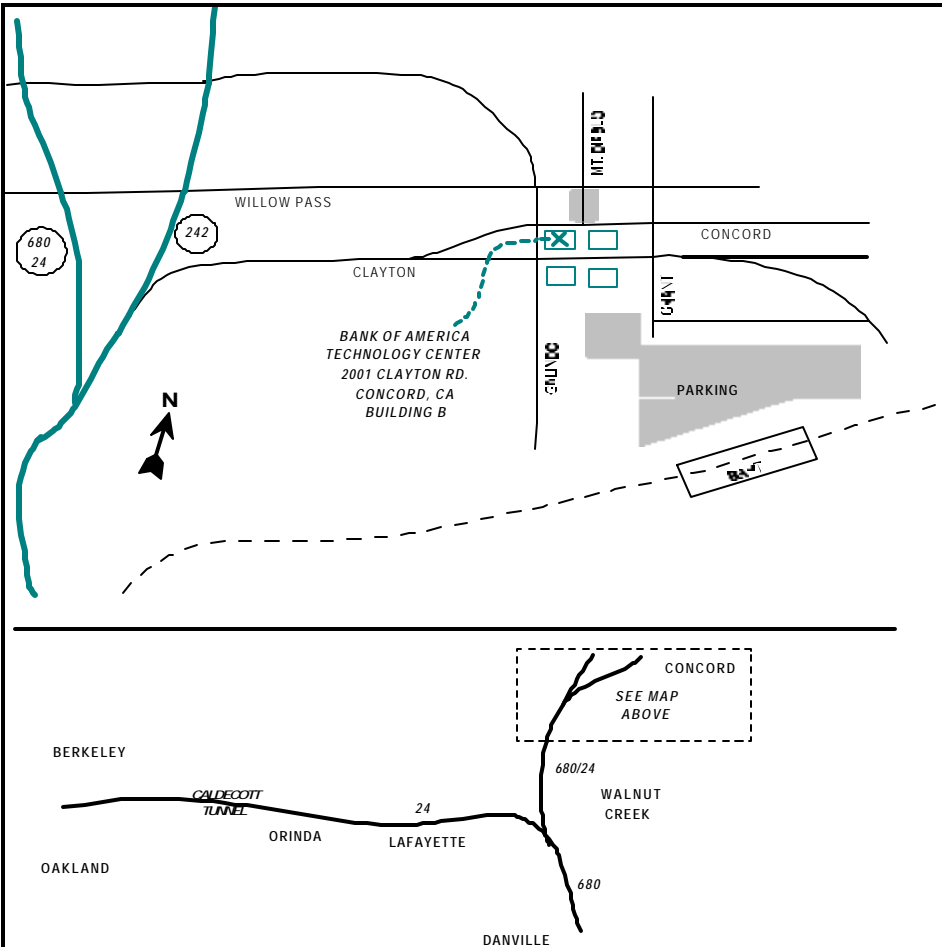
City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members **for distribution to DVPC members only**. Please check how you would like to be listed: **No listing** _____ **List Name and Home** _____ **Work** _____ **phone number(s)** _____

I'm also interested in these SIGs: _____



Directions to Bank of America Building B in Concord

Take the Clayton Road exit off of the 242 Freeway, and go east on Clayton Road.

After about 1½ miles you'll come to Galindo, and you'll see the Bank of America complex of four high-rise office buildings.

Building B is the first building on your left, at the northeast corner of Clayton and Galindo.

Parking: Turn right on Grant Street (the first block past Galindo), then right into the BART parking lot at the back of the BofA complex. Or turn left on Galindo then right onto Concord Avenue to find street parking.

Be sure to observe parking regulations! Concord parking officers are very efficient!

DVPC July 2000 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
3 Windows SIG <i>No meeting this month because of July 4th holiday</i>	4 July 4th holiday	5	6 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. PC 101 Class and New Users SIG 6:15 p.m.	7
10	11	12 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house	13	14 Real Estate SIG <i>No meeting this month; see the web site</i>
17 Microsoft Project SIG 7:30 p.m. Genealogy eSIG See SIG News on page 4	18 Photo SIG 7:00 p.m.	19 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.	20 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m.	21 <i>Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Newsletter Editor: rogg@value.net</i>
24	25 Access/Visual Basic SIG 7:30 p.m.	26 Education & Entertainment SIG <i>On summer vacation</i> Clarion SIG 7:30 p.m.	27 Linux SIG 7:00 p.m.	28
31				<i>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</i>

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Diablo Valley PC User's Group
PO Box 3244
San Ramon, CA 94583