

Diablo Blue

September, 2000



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

September 7, 2000 Meeting Announcement

Proxim Symphony

Home networking is all the rage. But how do you connect two or more computers in your home if you can't easily run wires between them? Proxim suggests that you use their Symphony Cordless Networking Suite. You can Connect your computers together without wires, share a single Internet connection, cover multiple rooms and floors with a solution that's ideal for home and the small office, and no networking experience is required. Here's your chance to learn about cordless networking at the September DVPC meeting.

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 **PC 101**, our New Users SIG class run by [Craig Peterson](#) on how to use the computer, at 6:15 p.m. We will be looking at the next chapter of our textbook "Teach Yourself Computers and the Internet Visually". The book can be ordered by contacting Craig Peterson (compmail@pacbell.net). 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!

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President's Corner

by Alan Mildwurm

My vacation is over and I'm not yet ready to resume normal programming. We traveled to Yellowstone, the Grand Tetons, the Dinosaur National Monument, and then a short stint to Vegas. Lots of fun.

I've been playing with a new Internet enabled phone. It actually works very well but when in the outback, service is spotty. With a small screen and all text, the slow speed of the connection is really not noticeable at all. I'm not sure how useful this is, but it is cool. By setting up a special web page (on your computer) you set up the type of information you can access on your phone. I can't wait for version 2 (i.e. a bigger screen, in color, with video).

Next meeting, we are pleased to welcome Proxim (www.proxim.com). We will see a working demo of wireless home networking. For those unable to string wire, this is a terrific way to establish a network in your home — or out to the backyard!!!! This should be a very interesting presentation.

See you on September 7th.

Ken's Korner by [Ken Fermoye](#)

Intel Faces Strong Challenge from AMD

Is the WinTel dominance over the PC universe crumbling at the edges? The synergistic combination of software and central processing chips forged so successfully by Microsoft and Intel is far from losing its place as king of the computer hill, but it is facing new challenges.

For Microsoft, of course, the main problem it faces is the legal one, the threat of being broken up into two separate companies. A lesser thorn in Bill Gates' side is the growth of Linux and other open source code, including Apache, which rivals NT in the Internet server arena.

In the case of Intel, the clear and present danger comes from AMD and its expanding impact on the central processing unit (CPU) market. AMD's current Athlon chips already have leapfrogged Intel offerings in some respects and a recently-announced cross-licensing deal with Motorola promises to result in high-performance copper-based chips running at more than twice the speed of today's fastest mainstream CPUs.

This could make AMD an even more formidable competitor for Intel, which has not yet announced plans for a similar copper interconnect technology.

Only a few years ago, AMD was strictly a minor league player. Its products were the poor relations of the CPU family, while Intel was Big Daddy, Big Mama and Big Brother, all rolled into one.

The K6 processor marked the beginning of AMD's rising fortunes, but a modest one. The chip was used only in lower-priced computers, and vague rumors surfaced that it might not be fully compatible with all Windows features and some applications. That was fully laid to rest with the advent of K6-2 chips, but the gurus advanced new doubts. Would AMD be able to produce the chips in adequate quantities to win respectable market share?

Then came the K7 chip. It attacked Intel right in the heart of its most lucrative product area: high-end, premium-priced, cutting-edge processors for power or work station users and other early adopters willing to pay top dollar for the latest and greatest in computerdom.

Better known as the Athlon, the K7 processor is totally different from that of the earlier K6 series. The processor has an internal architecture, which uses Digital Equipment Corporation's Alpha EV6 system interface technology. This gives it a system bus interface of 200 MHz, capable of delivering data transfer rates of up to 1.6 GB/sec. The EV6 can scale up to 400 MHz in future, as faster processors arrive. The Athlon has a 128 KB L1 cache broken into two 64 KB instruction and data caches each. It is a .25 micron chip with 22 million transistors

By contrast, the latest Pentium III (PIII) processors run have a 100 MHz system bus. The PIII has a 32 KB L1 cache. Both processors have a 512 KB L2 cache. It is also a .25 micron but with 9.5 million transistors

The Athlon employs enhanced 3DNow! technology. Instead of the original 21 instructions meant to improve the floating-point capabilities of the processor, the K7 has 45, or 24 new instructions. They are designed improve the processor's performance in speech-recognition and video processing, and to provide enhanced functionality for Internet browser plug-ins. They also add new digital signal processor (DSP) instructions, to enable better communication with soft modems, ADSL, and sound.

The PIII fits into a Slot 1 motherboard based on the Intel SE440BX-2 chipset. The Athlon fits into a Slot A motherboard based on the AMD-750 chipset. This chipset consists of two chips, namely the AMD-751 and AMD-756. The first controls the 200 MHz front-side bus, system memory, AGP, and the PCI bus. The second one controls the PCI-to-ISA bridge, USB interface, and EIDE interface for both UltraDMA/33 and UltraDMA/66.

What does all this mean in practical terms? Essentially there seems to be little difference between the K7, or Athlon, and equivalent PIII chips when it comes to running typical productivity programs: word processing, spreadsheets, presentation apps and the like.

Where the Athlon outpaces the PIII in most cases is in high-end tasks, such as CAD and other graphics-intensive processing where good floating point capability is important. This is a major improvement in an area where previous AMD processors were notably weak

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Ken's Corner...

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Despite AMD's improvements, Intel PIII chips still seem to have an edge in 3D performance and remain the best choice if you do such 3D tasks as animation and rendering.

As for the AMD-Motorola alliance to produce copper-based processor chips, it's far too early to tell how successful the effort will be - though the combination is intriguing.

Announcements so far report that Motorola's Semiconductor Products Sector, Austin, Texas, will contribute its manufacturing expertise to the effort, moving both parties to a 0.18-micron, and then to a 0.15-micron design rule with its HiPerMOS copper interconnect process technology.

In return, Motorola will receive the rights to AMD's flash-memory patents, allowing it to begin offering high-density, low-power embedded flash micro controllers sometime next year. The two companies will conduct jointly staffed programs in Austin and at AMD's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif., and will share development expenses.

Keep tuned for more information on future developments.

Check Out WordWeb 1.61, Free Dictionary, Thesaurus

Do you ever get stuck for the meaning of a word, or grope for a synonym that eludes you completely? The handiest tool I've found for such occasions is a software program called WordWeb for Windows.

In fact, I count it as one of the most valuable utilities currently installed on my computer. And the basic program, Version 1.61, is free for the downloading! There is one version for Windows 95/98/NT and another for Windows 3.1. Sorry, DOS diehards, there's no version for you.

As a writer, avid reader and major crossword fan, I've depended on dictionaries since childhood. I taught my kids to use them from the time they were very young, often much to their chagrin. ("Dad, how do you spell ___?" "Look it up; you know where the dictionary is." "Aw, Da-a-d, do I *hafta*?) But they've thanked me since for that training.

In the five months since I discovered WordWeb, I find myself making fewer trips to the bookshelf for my hard-bound Webster's University dictionary or to the big Webster's unabridged version on its own stand in the living room. Instead, I click on the WordWeb icon on my desktop or, if I'm using Word, I simply open the Tools menu and select WordWeb from it.

Version 1.61 contains definitions and synonyms for 120,000 root words, 100,000 synonym sets, many antonyms, a host of proper nouns and more. It also has an installation feature that allows you to tie it to Word, as mentioned above. The Setup program asks if you want to include a template to make WordWeb available from within MS Word.

(I only wish a similar option was available for WordPad, which I use for a lot of my writing, but I guess that might be difficult.)

I've tried WordWeb on several of my computers and it runs fast on all of them, even the oldest model with a 225MHz CPU. It not only comes up fast when using it on a stand-alone basis, but pops up definitions and synonyms in its own window from within MS Word in a hurry, too

All you have to do to get a definition or synonym while in Word is highlight or just click your cursor on the word you want to check. Then open the Tools menu and click on the WordWeb icon.

At the top of the WordWeb dialog box is the Lookup line, which contains the word you want defined. (If you use WordWeb outside of MS Word, you must type in the word at this point.)

Below that line is the definition window, then comes a series of tabs: synonyms, antonyms, types, etc. You click on whatever tab you want to get additional information about your Lookup word.

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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. We won't have a meeting in September, but will meet on October 24th at a new location: the San Francisco State University Extension at 1990 N. California Blvd., Suite 20, in Walnut Creek across the street from the Walnut Creek BART station and upstairs from the Federal Express office.

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 usually 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. 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. There won't be a meeting in September, and we will have a new meeting location starting in October. Check the Clarion SIG web page for further information.

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

As you know, the DVPC Genealogy SIG is now like a web "list group." Each month, members of this SIG are emailed helpful websites and databases. It's an opportunity for members seeking help to put forth a question or problem to the SIG and receive suggestions and advice. If you locate a useful website or database, please email the group so we also can take advantage of this information. If you wish to be included in this Genealogy SIG, please email Peggy Johnson, pegszone@aol.com.

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.

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SIG NEWS...

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The SIG would like to recommend the following sites: 9/4 (Labor Day) <http://www.dol.gov/dol/opa/public/aboutdol/laborday.htm>, 9/10 (Grandparent's Day) <http://www.grandparents-day.com/>, 9/19 (International Day of Peace) <http://www.people4peace.com/idp/>.

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.

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 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

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SIG NEWS...

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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 commissioner's 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 Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Everyone who uses, is interested in, or is curious about Windows on their PC is invited to attend. We won't have a meeting in September because of the Labor Day holiday. See you in October!

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.

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: No August meeting **Time:** Timeless! **Location:** Indeterminate!!

Bank Account: \$2,000 (approximately)

Because Alan decided he would have to take a vacation, the Board was left dangling in the wind without a place to go or a reason to meet. Well, it *is* summer, and we all need vacations, don't we?

Check back next month, same time, same place, and Tom's musings will resume for everyone's interest and amusement!

Ken's Corner...

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It's even simpler than it sounds, actually.

You can download the program at www.netword.demon.co.uk/wweb/.

Developer Antony Lewis also offers two other programs, including WordWeb Pro, which adds several features to the basic utility:

1. Wildcard word searches. For example: ??d??ek would find the word midweek.
2. Find straight and multi-word anagrams. For example WordWeb Pro finds powder brow + many others.
3. You can edit and add to the dictionary/thesaurus as well!

The first two items are especially important to crossword fans (like me!), and the latter is a big benefit for

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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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Phone: (925) 943-5769

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E-Mail: info@value.net

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- ADSL
- Frame Relay
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- Web Hosting
- Centrex ISDN
- Custom Business Solutions

Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

Ken's Corner...

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anyone.

Cost of the Pro version is just \$18.

The third program Lewis has written is Crossword Compiler, which turns you into an instant crossword puzzle constructor. This one costs \$45 for the full version but a demo version, restricted to 10x10 squares, can be downloaded for free.

Lewis also offers various word and language lists to add to the programs, as well as assorted bundles.

I started with the free WordWeb utility, then upgraded to the Pro version. I like the "add & edit" feature, and the wild card and anagram features are helpful when you're trying to solve a really tough crossword puzzle. WordWeb Pro takes up 7.74MB of hard drive space. The base version is about 1MB smaller.

Frankly, I think the free version of WordWeb is one of the best deals you will find on the Internet but check it out for yourself at the URL given above.

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Corel News by The Corel User Group Program

Free Download of Corel® Presentations™ 9 for Windows® Now Available for the First Time!

Corel Corporation announced that Corel® Presentations™ 9 for Windows®, Corel's dynamic presentation application, is available as a free download at www.corel.com. With the free download of Corel Presentations 9, users can create captivating, high-quality slide shows and drawings that will leave a lasting impression on an audience. The product's ease of use and adaptability will guide and support any consumer's ability to produce great presentations. Until now, Corel Presentations 9 has only been available as part of WordPerfect® Office 2000 and CorelDRAW® 9 Office Edition. For the first time, consumers can now experience the power and proficiency of Corel Presentations as a stand-alone product.

To read more of this press release and others please visit www.corel.com/news.

Special Offer for WordPerfect® Office 2000

Corel Corporation announced it is partnering with eToll, Inc., a leading provider of integrated digital solutions for consumer commerce, to launch a special software purchase offer for customers of eMachines.

eMachines — an industry leader in providing Internet enhanced, low-cost, high value personal computers, as well as Internet advertising, portal and software distribution services — will offer customers who purchase an eMachines personal computer the opportunity to purchase WordPerfect Office 2000 OEM version at a discounted rate. This suite of office solution software is designed for maximum ease of use and features word processing, graphics, spreadsheets and Web publishing capabilities.

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Support **Diablo Blue** Advertisers!

Corel News...

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CorelWORLD™ User Conference Enters the 21st Century

Attend the CorelWORLD™ User Conference for an incredible opportunity to learn more about Corel's graphics and publishing products! CorelWORLD 2000 is being held from September 10 - 15, 2000 in sunny San Diego, CA and is designed for ALL users of CorelDRAW, Corel PHOTO-PAINT®, Corel VENTURA™, as well as for Webmasters and content creators.

Hosted by best-selling author and noted commentator Rick Altman, CorelWORLD brings together acclaimed trainers, specialists, software developers, artists and more. Attendees are offered professional-grade presentations, troubleshooting, technical support, expert advice & analysis, special workshops and focus groups, as well as a chance to meet fellow users from all over the world!

For complete information about the conference, visit CorelWORLD 2000 on the Web at <http://www.altman.com/corelworld.htm> or call conference headquarters at 1-888-DRAW-NOW (1-408-252-5448 outside North America).

In this month's Freebies

- o Brand new clipart and photos
- o Three new CorelDRAW scripts
- o Retro-themed spray lists and image lists
- o and more

Visit www.designer.com/freebies to find ready-to-use clipart, brushes and more — all free* for the taking.

* Internet service provider, telecommunications and other charges may apply depending on usage and location.

TIPS & TRICKS

Blending objects along a freehand path in CorelDRAW® 9

In CorelDRAW 9, you can blend objects along a freehand path. This feature allows you to create a customized path for a blend to follow instead of using a straight line.

To blend objects along a freehand path:

- o Open the Interactive Tools flyout, and
- o click the Interactive Blend tool.
- o Press ALT, and draw a freehand line from one of the objects you want to blend to the other.

Switching to the previously used tool in CorelDRAW® 9

In CorelDRAW 9, you can switch to the previously used tool. This feature lets you easily switch between frequently used tools.

To switch to the previously used tool:

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Get Involved! Learn!

Join a SIG today!

Corel News...

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- o Press SPACEBAR

Searching the contents of files in WordPerfect® 9

In WordPerfect 9, you can search the contents of files for specific information. This feature is useful when you want to find information but do not know in which file it is stored.

To search the contents of files:

- o Click File, Open.
- o Click the Advanced button.
- o If the Advanced Find dialog box displays the text string: Filename contains "*.*", double-click the text string to display a form with list boxes.
- o Click the list box with Filename selected and choose Content.
- o In the box that contains "*.*", type the information for which you want to search.
- o Click the Find Now button.

PRODUCT SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT

Did you ever want to know who was going to give your group a Corel presentation? This new column will provide you with a background on Corel Corporation's Product Specialist team. We will be highlighting one Product Specialist per issue.

In this issue, we spotlight Laura McElwain, Corel's User Group Programs Manager.

Meet Laura McElwain, the brains behind Corel's User Group Program. Laura has held a couple of different posts here at Corel. She first joined Corel in April 1999 as a Quality Assurance Specialist, specifically doing Y2K testing. She came over to join the Product Specialist Team in March 2000, and was recently promoted to User Group Programs Manager.

Favorite Corel Product: Laura is a big fan of WordPerfect 9 because it is so easy to use. The Reveal Codes features were particularly handy in the creation of this newsletter.

Best/ Worst Road Experience: Laura enjoyed her recent drive down the 401 with the lovely and talented Graphics Product Specialist, Mona Jennings. They visited the Quinte Macintosh Users Group Society in Belleville, ON. Says Laura, "The group was so friendly and receptive. They were really appreciative of our visit."

Must Have Item on the Road: Toothbrush.

Hobbies/Interests: When not busy with her User Groups, Laura plays soccer, and generally likes to exercise a lot! When she is standing still, she likes to read a good suspense novel or to watch a really intense thriller.

Moving? Changing Your E-mail Address?

Tell us so you will continue receiving Diablo Blue!

E-mail your name and new information to changes@dvpc.org

Bring a friend! Get them to join DVPC!

Keyspan USB Parallel Printer Adapter by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

Ever run out of ports on your machine? With all the new toys and dongles to hook onto our machines, I seem to always be fighting either the port or IRQ war. USB is nothing short of a godsend! Being able to plug and unplug devices into my machines without worrying about ports and interrupts is almost asking for too much. (Okay, things don't ALWAYS work, but it does mostly!). I love being able to move peripherals around to different machines or to put them away when I don't need them without the terror of re-cabling, etc.

So, when I learned about the Keyspan USB Parallel adapter, I was very interested. You see, I have a few printers and I like to use different printers for different applications. This cable allows me to hook a parallel printer to the USB port on my computer. What's the big deal? For those of us with parallel zip drives or Clik drives or other parallel (legacy) devices that demand and don't share a printer port (i.e. no pass through), this allows me to keep both devices up and running. I can hook up multiple printers without running out of interrupts, and I can keep my port stingy devices running as well. The cable provides bi-directional (IEEE-1284) compliance. You need a windows 98 or 2000 machine and a compatible printer. The list seems to cover most HP printers and many Epson, and Canon machines. There are a sprinkling of other machines on the list but the web site has a growing list of printers. Just because your printer isn't listed doesn't mean it doesn't work, it just may not have been tested. Installation is a snap with the provided CD and manual.

I tried it on my HPs and Epsoms and had no problems. In fact, it works perfectly. My computer and printer never knew the difference. For \$39.95 MSRP this thing is great.

MailKing: A Software Review by Walt Parsons, DVPC

At the August Windows SIG meeting Walt Parsons presented *MailKing*, an ageing but still useful e-mail client. While many e-mail clients such as Outlook and Eudora allow sending e-mail messages to groups of addresses, *MailKing* is the only one that allow the user to personalize the message and to send out the messages individually unless you buy a much more expensive program. This is especially important if you are sending out 20 or more messages. Some internet providers, and AOL in particular, have SPAM filters that will vaporize an incoming e-mail if there are more than a certain number of addresses for that provider in a group e-mail message. In the case of AOL the number is something less than 18. The sender is not notified that the message has not been delivered. This is very disconcerting if you are sending out meeting notices or an e-mail newsletter that people are waiting for. Ron Ogg sends out a notice to people who subscribe to the Internet version of *Diablo Blue* with the password for the current month's issue. He uses *MailKing*, which interfaces to the DVPC membership database which is in Access 97 format.

Each message can be personalized using information from the mailing list database such as the person's first and last name.

There is also a method for inserting text if certain conditions are met. For example it might be possible for Ron to include the notice to a person whose dues are due that month in his monthly *Diablo Blue* message.

The mailing list can be imported from various common database programs and from the contact list of programs like Outlook and Eudora. This mailing list then can then be filtered to tailor the message to a certain group of people. For example if the dues paid field show that the person has let their dues expire their e-mail address could be removed from the mailing list.

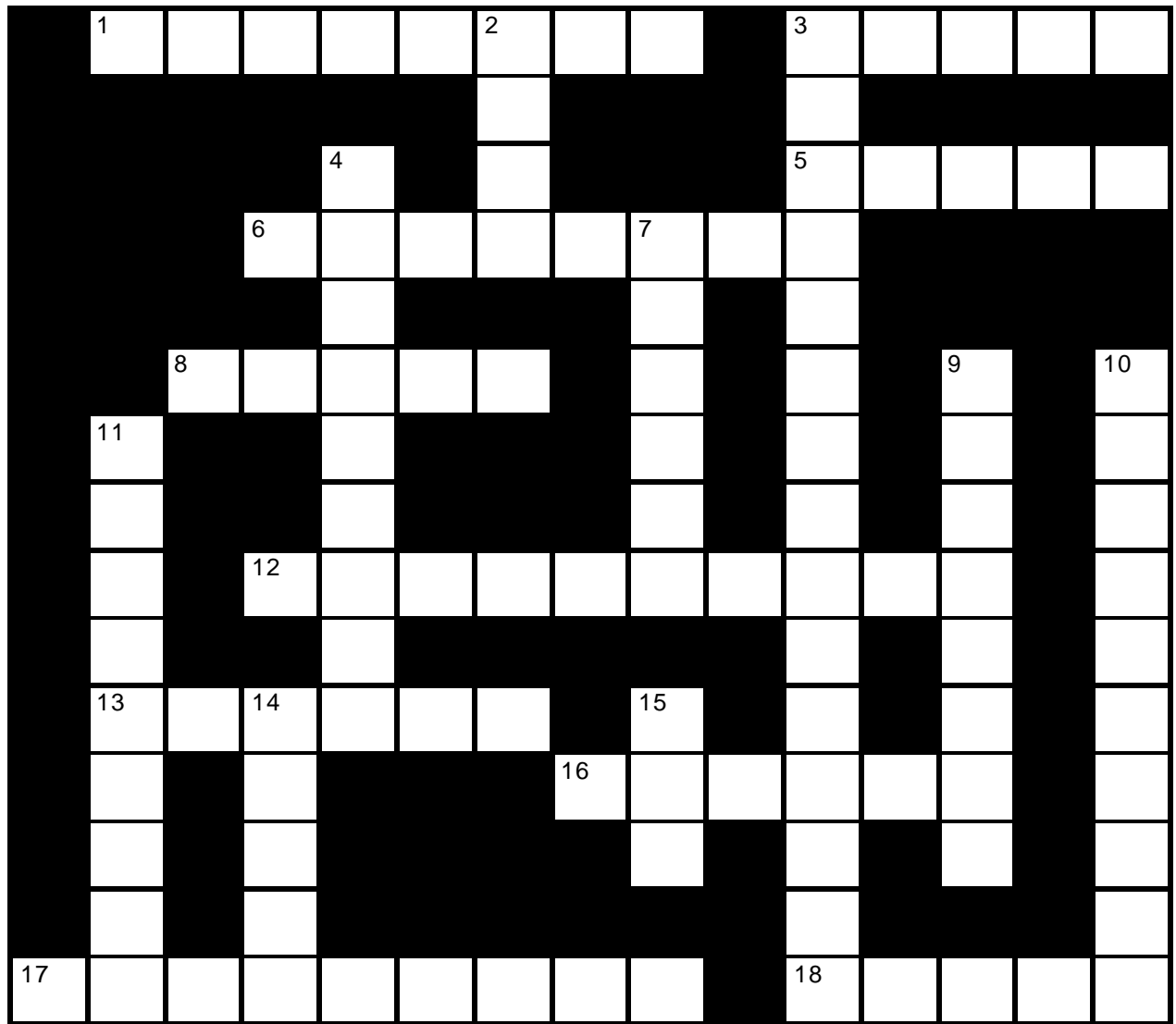
There are some shortcomings to the present version. The main one being that it can not read the current version of some database programs. For example Microsoft Access 2000 data base will not work. In these cases, the user has to export the mailing list as a comma-delimited text file.

The 3.0 version of the product is available from Message Media for \$199.00. BUY.COM has version 2.0 available \$39.00 and the upgrade to 3.0 is free by accessing the MessageMedia site. For further information go to:

www.messagemedia.com/solutions/mailking/

**Computer Crossword
"Back to School"**

by [Craig Peterson](#), DVPC



Across

- 1 Item never carried to school no matter how bad the cafeteria is (8)
- 3 Wood pulp based information storage medium (5)
- 5 Non-permanent writing material for use with group projects (5)
- 6 Portable storage device (8)
- 8 Time measurement device (5)
- 12 Device for optical enhancement of studying small objects (10)
- 13 Correction device (6)
- 16 Erasable writing device (6)
- 17 Device for optical enhancement of studying far off objects (9)

18 Measurement device (5)

Down

- 2 Collection of written material (4)
- 3 Device to keep pens from marking up your shirt and you from getting a date (2 words) (6,9)
- 4 Portable power (9)
- 7 Manually operated calculating device (6)
- 9 List of classes and appointments (8)
- 10 Semicircular measuring device (10)
- 11 Manual calculation device (9)
- 14 What used to be given by students to their teacher, now donated to the schools by Silicon Valley company (5)
- 15 Permanent writing device (3)

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

As the younger members of the club (as well as the kids and grandkids of the rest of us) head back to school, let us remember what parents had to buy and kids had to carry on that first day of school (though back when we went to school (walking 20 miles uphill both ways in the snow...) all we had was a slate and a piece of chalk...)

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: _____

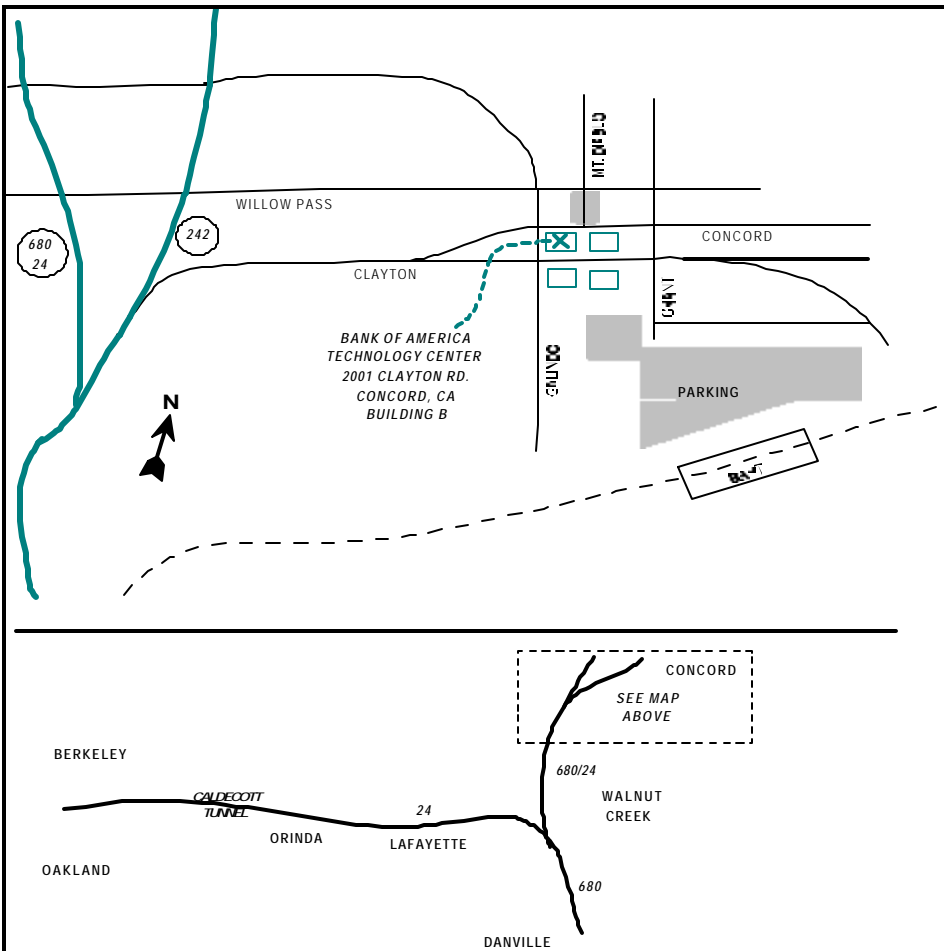
City/State/Zip: _____

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 September 2000 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</p>				1
<p style="text-align: right;">4</p> <p>Labor Day Holiday Windows SIG <i>No meeting this month</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. PC 101 Class and New Users SIG 6:15 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p> <p>Real Estate SIG <i>No meeting this month; see the web site</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">11</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">18</p> <p>Microsoft Project SIG 7:30 p.m. Genealogy eSIG <i>See SIG News on page 4</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>Photo SIG 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p> <p>Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p> <p><i>Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Newsletter Editor: rogg@value.net</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">25</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">26</p> <p>Access/Visual Basic SIG <i>No meeting this month</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Education & Entertainment SIG <i>On summer vacation</i> Clarion SIG <i>No meeting this month</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>Linux SIG 7:00 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>

TO:

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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