

Diablo Blue

September, 2002



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

September 5, 2002 Meeting Announcement *Home Automation*

One of the recent trends of the Rich and Famous is equipping their homes with elaborate alarm, monitoring and control systems. Many large showcase homes are now incorporating control systems which allow control of lighting, environmental and security systems from several convenient locations in the home or from anywhere by telephone or the Internet. It would be fun for some of us regular folks to have these conveniences but they can be very costly. For the September meeting, Charlie Crothers will talk about how the rest of us can afford to install a home control system without having to rip open the walls and pull new cables. The discussion will mainly focus on the capabilities of the X10 protocol, which sends signals through your existing power wiring. Functions such as lighting, thermostats, door entry and home theatre can be controlled from various locations. He will discuss low cost devices which allow your PC to set up timed commands and macros, then download them to an autonomous controller with it's own clock and battery back-up so your computer doesn't need to be on. You won't believe how inexpensive some of this can be. Costs, capabilities and limitations of the technology will be explored as well as where to get hardware, software and sources of additional information.

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 entrance that's on the east side near the southeast corner of the building. Doors open at 6:00 p.m. and the meeting starts at 7:00 p.m.

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.

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CuteSITE Builder

by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

GlobalSCAPE, the publisher of the leading FTP program CuteFTP, has a Web site design package, *CuteSITE Builder*. CuteSITE Builder (CSB) is touted as "The Easiest Way to Create High Quality Web Sites" — and it actually is a very easy to use Web site development tool.

I am evaluating version 3 of CSB, with the intention of seeing whether it can be used to replace the current DVPC Web site. So far, so good! More about this later.

CSB has a Wizard for designing a new Web site. You start the Wizard by telling it what type of site you're building (there are nine type of sites including business, personal, and vacation). You then answer questions specific to that type of site. For example, an Organization site you are asked for the organization name, email address, and for an optional logo file. You are then asked to pick a look for the site; there are 15 looks, or color schemes, available. Finally, you are shown a list of pages for the type of site you selected (the Organization site has 11 page types

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Calendar Problems...

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One thing you do need to be careful about is getting the data to input into the program. If you need help in remembering the dates of various birthdays and anniversaries, it is not a good idea to admit you have no idea when you got married to the person you are asking for help from. Far better is to get a paper calendar and ask if they would be kind enough to help make sure that you don't miss any dates as you put them in your new system. (make sure that you save that calendar to use just in case your system crashes and you forgot to backup the hard drive [which is due on two of the machines at home in 24 days, 15 hours, 23 minutes, and 23 seconds]).

Domain Napping

by Matt Lake, [RegSelect](#)

How would you like to see the Web site you've been working on all year slip through your fingers? You may think it's unlikely, but despite the enormous bureaucracy surrounding the Internet domain name system, dotcom names are falling out of the hands of registrants all the time. The consequences can be embarrassing, costly, and time consuming. When you lose your domain to someone else, you must reprint your stationery with new Web addresses, send out releases to your customers confessing your mistake, and lose untold email messages when your email vanishes into the ether (or worse, goes to the domain's new owner).

But in most cases, it's easy to avoid problems like these. So learn a few lessons from four organizations that recently lost their domains. Take heart that two of them have got their domains back again—but don't assume that you will have the same good fortune as they did. Prepare for the worst—and be happy when it doesn't happen to you.

Fumbling the Ball

In May 2002, two popular nonprofit sites lost control of their domains when they expired and speculators snapped them up. Their stories have some similarities, but have two different endings—one happy for the original owner, the other, not.

CASE 1: MacSlash the Knifed

Damien Barrett had built a very popular Macintosh help site called MacSlash at the obvious domain MacSlash.com. Suddenly in May, he found that instead of the forums, articles, and tips that belonged there, only an under construction page remained. The Future Home of macslash.com apparently now belonged to Vicente Peiro Crespo of Valencia, Spain, and any e-mail sent to Barrett's former addresses or that of the MacSlash administrator Ben Stanfield vaporized in cyberspace.

The domain had expired, "dropped" back into the public domain, and been snapped up by a speculator. The previous owners of the domain "fixed" the problem by registering the .net version of the domain and hosting their site there. The MacSlash community rallied round the cause and registered the .org and .info versions of the domain too. And word spread quickly about the new location of the site.

The MacSlash story has happy ending: The issue became a cause celebre in the Mac community and pretty soon, things got too hot for the new registrant, who returned macslash.com to its original owner.

But not everyone is so lucky.

CASE #2: User Group Gets Mugged

The Pasadena IBM User Group is a long-standing nonprofit organization, so it seemed natural for them to take the .org version of their domain name. There, they built a well trafficked site for their members.

But in May of 2002, the domain expired without notice from the registrar, and was subsequently re-registered by a portal company based in Hong Kong. Ultimate Search redirected the user group's former domain to a generic portal

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

Advanced Developers SIG [Ron Ogg](#), SIG Co-Leader – 415-281-0431

The Advanced Developers SIG is a learning co-op. Every month we choose a topic and let people know where they can learn about it. We then get together and go over the information. We hope that if everyone learns a little on their own, and when we get together everyone can learn a lot. If you are an advanced developer you are invited to join the ADSIG. Beginners will want to get some serious development experience before joining the SIG. See the ADSIG page on the DVPC web site at www.dvpc.org/clarion.html for meeting location, dates, and time.

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!

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

The DVPC Genealogy SIG is a group of computer genealogists who share helpful websites, databases and source information found on the internet. It's an opportunity for members seeking help to put forth a question or problem to the SIG and receive suggestions and advice. When you locate a useful website, database or visit a research facility, please email the group of the details 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. 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 meetings: 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 usually 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 e-mail to creating your own web site and the tools for doing so. September is "Back to School" time. We will be checking out on line classes and resources for the student to be. For more information, please call Craig Peterson at (925) 671-7025 or e-mail him at compmail@pacbell.net.

.NET SIG [Ted Armstrong](#), SIG Leader – 939-5874

The .NET SIG has its meetings on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Concord Police Department building (see directions in the Windows SIG announcement below). The .NET SIG is dedicated to the new Microsoft .NET development tools, the newest Microsoft standard for developing cross-platform stand-alone and web-site applications. .NET tools include Microsoft Visual Basic .NET, Microsoft Visual C++ .NET, and Microsoft

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SIG News...

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Visual C#. .NET developers can take advantage of a common toolbox, debugger, and task window, greatly reducing the developer learning curve and ensuring that developers can always choose the language most appropriate for their task and expertise. .NET gives developers the tools for integrating solutions across operating systems and languages.

The .NET SIG will provide an opportunity for .NET developers at all levels who live or work in the East Bay to network with fellow developers. The SIG will provide speakers on different .NET topics. If you or anyone you know could benefit from this SIG, please come to our meetings. Contact Ted Armstrong at ted1003@yahoo.com for more information.

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.

PC 101 SIG [Craig Peterson](#), SIG Leader – 671-7025

PC 101 (a class on how to use the computer) in on vacation until the **fall**. When we resume, we'll again have classes on the Saturday following the general meeting at 1:00 p. m. at the Community Room of the Concord Police Station, 1350 Galindo Street, in Concord (see directions in the Windows SIG announcement below). The classes will start at 1:00 pm and end at 3:00. Join us in the fall for some hands on, one-on-one help with the nuts and bolts of using computers. Those in the class enjoy the extra time we can devote to each problem and the time to answer questions.

Windows SIG [Ron Ogg](#) (415-281-0431) 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. We discuss the latest version of Windows, demonstrate interesting shareware and freeware, and have random access sessions where we all try to answer SIG members' questions. Everyone who uses, is interested in, or is curious about Windows on their PC is invited to attend. **Note that there will not be a September meeting, since the first Monday in September is the Labor Day holiday. See you on October 7th!**

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.

Domain Napping...

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with links flashing online casino ads and links that generate revenues for the company on a pay-per-click basis.

As of this writing, the user group has not regained control of its domain. However, it continues to operate its site at pibmug.com.

Why Did the Notice go Unnoticed?

Registering domains is like leasing a car: You have the thing under contract for a specified length of time. Once the term of the lease is about to expire, you can extend it indefinitely. And unlike lease cars, a domain only gets more valuable the longer you have it. But the responsibility for renewing the lease is all up to you.

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DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by [Tom Krauss](#), DVPC

Computer Blues

Since there was (yet again) no Board of Directors meeting in August (due to travel schedules etc. etc.), our intrepid DVPC Secretary Tom Krauss has written a very interesting article about his computer experiences. [Editor]

My introduction to computers occurred in the mid 1960s. I was nearing the end of high school and beginning to think, albeit not very seriously, about careers and college. I had had the obligatory meeting with my faculty advisor (my second meeting in three years) to discuss college and careers. He briefly studied my school record and then half asked, half stated "So you're going to be an engineer, huh?"

Although I was astute enough to realize he did not mean the guy at the opposite end of the train from the conductor, I had no concept of what an engineer was or did. So I asked him. His reply was "Well, I see you've taken a lot of math and science, and that's what engineers do."

That was pretty much the end of my career counseling in high school. I never did figure out what engineers do until I got to college and actually met some engineering students. By then it was too late for me, and I was glad.

However, about this time my interest was piqued by a short article about computers which I read in Time magazine. The article probably discussed the potential impact of computers on our society. It may well have painted a picture of the potential impact of computers which at the time seemed like science fiction, but in retrospect was an understatement. I am embarrassed to admit that I can not recall a single key point of the article. But one sentence was inspirational to a high school student contemplating the future, and has remained with me for over thirty years: "Many computer programmers come to work wearing sweatshirts".

I have credited this statement with being the inspiration for my career in computers. I have repeated it to dozens if not hundreds of people over the years. But in all honesty, I'm not certain how much influence, if any, it really had in my becoming a computer programmer. I *do* know that although I have been a programmer for over thirty years, I have never worn a sweatshirt to work.

No, the real reason I write computer programs is because it's fun.

It's fun to push some buttons and then sit back while a device made of plastic, metal, electricity and with almost no moving parts does what I tell it to do. It's even fun when the computer *doesn't* do what I want, and I get to delve into the code to find out why, and then fix it.

But near the end of the 1980s, after almost twenty years of programming, the fun started to dissipate and I began to see computers for what they really are: a tremendous threat to that most sacred of icons, "Life As We Know It".

It's not really the computers themselves, of course. They just do what they are told without passing moral judgment or dwelling on the social consequences of their actions. What computers do is turn people into numbers. And the net result is a terrible thing to behold.

By the mid-1980s nearly every company of any size had at least one PC, and with the PC came a Numbers Guy. His job was to fill a spread sheet with monthly figures from the business and help the Boss spot trends. Everything was reduced to a number: retail item returns, cost of materials, production outages, sales, staff, customer calls, and so on.

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DVPC Board Meeting Minutes – Computer Blues...

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The computer printout became all you needed to know to manage the business.

Changes in these numbers identified business trends and demanded swift action to either augment or reverse the curve, whichever was desirable. If sales were heading down, the charts could be quickly fixed by changing a few numbers in the PC business model (lower prices, increase sales, cut expenses). Managing a business changed from a process of understanding your market and your objectives and planning accordingly to a process of spotting deviant trends in numbers on a spread sheet and changing those numbers quickly. And the number on that spread sheet that had the biggest impact was the head count.

In an office with twenty people, removing two of them reduces personnel costs by ten percent. If these two people have been with the company for a number of years, the cost reduction may be fifteen percent or even more. Do they have names? Families? Lives? It doesn't matter. Do they between them have more knowledge about the product and the business than the Numbers Guy, the Boss and the remaining eighteen people in the department combined? Who knows? Who cares? Even if they are replaced by two people with no experience, there is still a cost reduction since these two will be paid entry level salaries, receive only two weeks vacation, and won't be eligible for benefits for months. And if the replacements aren't hired for two months, that, too reduces expenses.

The computer can give you a pretty informative analysis of your business, but it falls far short of telling the full story. Intangible but critical data is missing. Data such as how to start that old computer in the storage room and then run the special program that creates mailing labels for selected customers, or where are the order files from nine years ago, or *why* do we do things this way?

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Email Meeting Notification Available

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 and these SIGs:

Name _____

Email Address: _____

Advanced Users SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	.NET SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced Developers SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	New Users SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and Entertainment SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	PC 101 SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genealogy eSIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes – Computer Blues...

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Those same spread sheets also hide another danger. It is just as easy to change other numbers than headcount. If you are using your computer model to prove to the Boss that your brainchild new product line will be profitable, it is very easy to let your enthusiasm color "reality" as shown in your analysis. For example, let's say your model shows that the break even point for your new and enhanced Widget is to show a five percent increase in sales. Market research, however, indicates you will only get a four percent increase. You have many options with a computer on your side. Just change the percent increase to five or six or even ten percent. Throw in a factor for a new marketing campaign. Round down the production cost. Presto! You and your PC have created an alternative world!

The point is, with the PC it's easy to make the numbers come out the way you want them, and way too many people do just that. When decisions are made based on bad data, you may be making a good decision in that context, but the invalid data invalidates your decision.

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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:

Bring a Friend to a DVPC Meeting
Help Them Grow their PC Knowledge
Help Grow DVPC Membership

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes – Computer Blues...

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This brings me to the third abuse perpetrated by users of the PC. I feel this is the worst because it allows the perpetrators of the above machinations to prosper and escape unscathed. There are two actions here.

The first ties back to the use of the PC to model a business. With a reasonably good model there is indeed some ability to forecast the future. The astute manager can use these forecasts to guide the business. But if nothing seems to work, if the numbers keep coming out bad no matter what, sometimes the temptation is there to get out of Dodge before the posse comes looking for you. The crafty executive can work the good ol' boy network and be long gone before the shareholders have a hint of a problem.

The second action is the ability to blame someone else. The Research department built the model wrong. Marketing misread the market. Sales missed the numbers they provided (or were handed). Or even the lamest of all, "The computer screwed up". Pulling all this data into the computer and using software to model and project shifts the focus from the people who are truly responsible, whose job it is to make the right decisions.

Sadly, "It's their fault, not mine!" is becoming the mantra for America, both at the personal level and at the corporate level. Finding someone else to blame is the name of the game. But remember, it's not the computers' fault. Computers don't change the facts, lay off valuable employees, defraud taxpayers, skim from the company's profits, give multi-million dollar bonuses to executives who screwed up so they will leave — **people** do.

Domain Napping...

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Naturally, domain registrars are all too keen to keep their customers—the competition among domain registrars is fierce. The governing body of the .com domain system, ICANN, has accredited more than 50 registrars, and hundreds more companies resell domain services. So most registrars send out not one but several reminders to their customers to re-register their domains early and often.

Both MacSlash and PIBMUG used the registrar Dotster, which sends out automatic reminders at T-minus 45 days, 30 days, and 15 days before the domain expires. In fact, Dotster is so vigilant, the company even sends out reminders to former clients who have transferred their domains to other registrars.

But MacSlash and PIBMUG did not get their reminders. The jury is still out as to what happened with PIBMUG, but MacSlash traced the problem to over-vigilant spam filtering. When the group registered macslash.com, they used Apple's iTools email service, which provides free email at the mac.com domain. Unfortunately, the service's spam filtering treated repeated requests to renew domains as unsolicited commercial messages, and threw them into the bit bucket.

The Domain Graveyard

Once a domain expires, it enters a no-man's land for an unspecified length of time. During this time, the domain is on hold—it does not resolve to the previous registrant's site, but it can't be reregistered. Sometimes, the on-hold period lasts for only hours, sometimes for weeks.

The .com registry, run by Verisign's Network Solutions division, holds on to all the expired domains until it's ready to "drop" them en masse back onto the market.

And once an expired domain drops, it's up for grabs by anyone with \$10 to \$35 to spare. And an entire aftermarket has sprung up around expired domains. Companies like DomainsBot, The Unclaimed, and Daily Expired Domains com-

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Domain Napping...

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pile lists of on-hold domains for subscribers, and domain registrars including Network Solutions and Dotster maintain services for their subscribers to snap up domains as soon as they drop.

The aftermarket for expired domains creates a feeding frenzy among speculators, which is bad news for domain holders who let their domains expire. Once a domain is reregistered, the only recourse the original domain owner has is to go through ICANN's dispute resolution process (which is outlined at www.icann.org/udrp). During disputes, ICANN tends to favor copyright holders and people with legitimate claims on a domain—which would act in favor of PIBMUG's claim against Ultimate Search. But the process is a time consuming hassle, and ICANN doesn't give preferential treatment to previous owners of domains who let them expire.

Losing the Ball Completely

Not every organization has control over its own domain. Sometimes, a company without strong technical resources will give the reins to an outsider who seems to have a better handle on the situation. This can have disastrous results—as a theater company and a housing authority found out earlier this year.

CASE #3: Taking a Domain by Barnstorm

The oldest continuously operating community theater in Pennsylvania, The Barnstormers Theater outside Philadelphia, bought a Web site package from a small hosting company two years ago. The company took control of everything—domain registration, Web site hosting, and updates. This was great for the small volunteer-run theater...until the hosting company went bust. The Web site disappeared, and any visitors to the group's domain name got an error message. The Barnstormers' contact at the now nonexistent host went AWOL, and left them high and dry.

The theater found free hosting for its Web site at GeoCities, and rigged up an ad-laden version of their site there. But nobody involved knew how to handle the domain issue, so they had to change their Web address at the various arts and theater portals, search engines, and periodicals that listed them.

When the domain finally expired, a fan of the group snapped it up and arranged for new hosting for barnstormerstheater.com at a local community site.

But unlike Barnstorm's good fortune, there are disasters.

CASE #4: Housing authority...without authority

A city housing authority in Delaware (which asked not to be named in this article) outsourced most of its technical services to a pretty reliable company throughout the 1990s. The support company developed and maintained the Authority's general infrastructure, including an intranet.

At the time, there were no plans for a public Web site, but last year, an office manager submitted plans and a project management timeline for a public site that she could develop and manage herself. When she came to register the Authority's domain name, she found that the .com, .net, and .org versions had all been registered years earlier. The registrant was their IT company, which used the names as a bargaining chip for taking control of the Web devel-

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Special Raffle Promotion

Bring a guest to a *DVPC* meeting, you get 10 Raffle tickets!
If your guest joins at the meeting, you get 10 Raffle tickets –
and your new member guest *also* gets 10 Raffle tickets!!

Domain Napping...

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opment project—a potentially lucrative contract.

Who Owns Your Name?

Possession is nine tenths of the law. If you register a generic sounding domain name or one that matches a business you own and run, you have a good case for keeping it. And if someone else does so on your behalf, you won't easily be able to wrest control of the domain back. If another Barnstormers theater had registered barnstormerstheater.com when it dropped, the original owner would have no recourse through ICANN or the law courts. The only other recourse would be to buy back the domain at whatever price the new owner wanted — and prices can run into the hundreds or even thousands.

Five Cardinal Rules for Domain Owners

If these horror stories have given you the fear, take heart. A few simple guidelines can keep you from suffering the same fate.

Rule #1: Control your own domain

Make sure your name and contact information appear in your domain's owner and administrative contact fields. Hop over to your registrar or to betterwhois.com and enter your domain name in the form. The site will return the domain's whois information (who is the owner, who is the technical contact, and so on). Your name, address, and current email address should be in the owner (or Registrant) and Admin Contact fields. If it's not, follow your registrar's instructions for updating them.

Rule #2: Keep contact information up to date

The most important information in any domain record is the admin contact. It's to this email address that domain registrars send their reminders. If you ever decide to switch to a different registrar, all the confirmation email messages go to this email address. If you've changed ISPs, or you've hired a new office manager, you'll need to update this email address immediately. Different registrars handle the update procedure in different ways—some registrars let you do this by logging in to administration Web pages, some require notarized written proof.

Check with your registrar for details.

Rule #3: Keep your own records

Don't rely on your registrar for domain renewal reminders—we've already read how two organizations come to grief over that. Check the whois information for all the domains you have registered. At the bottom of the whois record, you'll see details like these:

Record last updated on 1-May-2002.

Record expires on 12-Oct-2004.

Record created on 12-Oct-1999.

Plug that "record expires" date in big bold letters into your PIM, your diary, and your wall calendar. Tattoo it on your wrist if you need to, but make sure that a month before that date, you pay the registrar for another year or two of

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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

Domain Napping...

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registration.

Keep a Lock on Your Domain

Some domain registrars provide a service called domain locking. If you're paranoid that someone may try to hijack your domain, check with your registrar about how to turn on the lock. This prevents anyone from transferring ownership of your domain (not an easy or likely thing for most domain holders, but possible for hackers targeting high-profile sites).

Of course, it also prevents "slamming" by unscrupulous registrars who send bogus domain renewal notices that actually transfer your domain to a new registrar. You don't lose control of your domain this way, but you often end up paying more or losing services like free hosting or e-mail forwarding. And even high-profile companies like Network Solutions seem to regard this as a legitimate marketing tool.

Keep a Backup

What's the first thing you do when you hit a Web site that's not what you were expecting? You check the Web address for typos, right? If it looks right...you figure you copied it down wrong and replace the .com with .net, or .org, or even .info until you see what you're expecting.

Anticipate this behavior, just in case someone manages to get control of your main Web domain. If you have the .com, .net, and .org versions of your domain name in reserve, all redirected to your main site, you'll have an instant quick fix for any domain napping problems. Sure, this will set you back a few bucks—but it gives you more flexibility in the long run.

And it's pretty good for bragging rights, too.

Copyright © 2002 by Matt Lake. Reproduced with permission. Article reproduction coordinated by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group. Matt manages two dozen domains, and maintains a domain buyer's guide called RegSelect. Matt Lake manages two dozen domains, and maintains a domain buyer's guide called RegSelect. Matt has written for many publications, including PC World, CNET, Computer Currents, and ZDNet. You can reach him at webmaster@regselect.com, because his spam filter's is never set beyond "Stun."

CuteSITE Builder...

(Continued from page 1)

(including calendar and events), and you check off the ones you want to include in your site. You can later insert additional pages, and modify any of the pages created using the Wizard. The pages include navigation links to the other pages in the site, and these links are smart enough that the link to a page on that page is not a link (you don't need to link a page to itself!). If you don't want to use the Wizard, you can choose from seven templates or "roll your own" by starting with a blank page. Regardless of how you start, you add your own text. You can add links, images, tables, navigation, and your own HTML or other custom code. Pages are stored as a single .tlx file; the Publish Web Site command generates the HTML pages to a folder either on your PC or using FTP on your Web server.

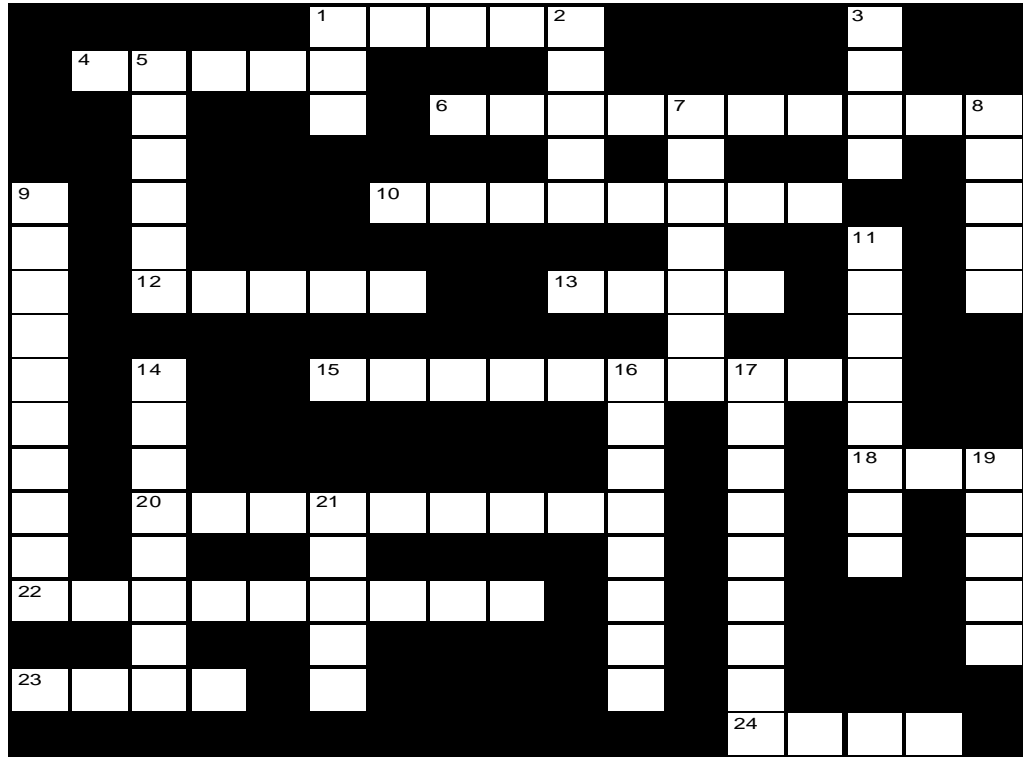
The list price of CSB is \$69.95. However, GlobalSCAPE has a special 20% discount offer for DVPC members through September, making CuteSITE Builder only \$55.95 plus tax and shipping. Go to [the following link](#) to take advantage of this Internet-only offer: www.globalscape.com/pcug.

If you would like to see what CSB can do, go to www.dvpc.org/csb to see the test version of the DVPC Web site.

Give a DVPC Membership Gift Certificate!

by [Craig Peterson](#), DVPC

Computer Crossword
"School Daze"



Now that the kids are starting back to class, we thought you might like to remember what it was like. If you need some help, you could try taking a class in computer science, or you can check out the answers at www.dvpc.org/solution.html.

Across

- 1. Thin sheets of wood pulp used by students to doodle, write phone numbers of cute new students, and (sometimes) notes from class
- 4. To eat, give to the teacher, or use for homework
- 6. Old fashioned electric mathematic device
- 10. What the teacher expects you to learn this year
- 12. Most important part of the school day
- 13. Old fashioned data storage device
- 15. Class where you find out that those in Washington DC didn't take this class
- 18. Class that helps you realize just how hard it is to draw a straight line
- 20. Old fashioned manual mathematic device (2 words)
- 22. Class that tells you where you are and where you might travel someday
- 23. First chance to tell your teacher that you were sleeping in class
- 24. Class where you find 100 new ways to make a bird house

Down

- 1. Manual printing device for long term storage of data
- 2. Something that measures, helps draw straight lines, or leads a people

- 3. What to study when things just don't add up

- 5. Manual printing device for short term storage of data
- 7. Clothes that "All the kids are wearing"
- 8. Event to get out of class to show how much everyone likes the football team (at least more then they like going to class)
- 9. The football and dance combination where former students start to realize why they left high school
- 11. Sport that lets the 200 pound kids to get their letter on their jacket
- 14. Item mom told you never to run with
- 16. Type of computer or place to store phone numbers of cute new students
- 17. Class where you find out how to balance a checkbook
- 19. Sport that lets the kids who can run faster then the cops can get their letter on their jacket
- 21. Class where you try to overcome your fear of being in front of a crowd

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 415-281-0431 (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 16 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 Umlauft. 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: www.dvpc.org.

DVPC Officers and Directors

Alan Mildwurm, President/Programs 510-770-5770 (work)

Nicholas Chase, SIG Coordinator 680-4211 (home)

Will Crites, Publicity 938-1291 (home)

Charlie Crothers, At Large 829-2237 (home)

Dick Curry, At Large 376-5541 (home)

Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary 676-7522 (home)

Tom Krauss, Secretary 689-9960 (home)

Jessica Mildwurm, Treasurer 829-5858 (home)

Ron Ogg, Newsletter Editor 415-281-0431 (work)

Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home)

Stan Umlauft, Web Site 458-5560 (home)

The Board of Directors usually meets the week following the general meeting. 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, by email to bod@value.net, 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. Hear up-to-date information about monthly and SIG meetings, information about DVPC for potential new members, 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

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: _____

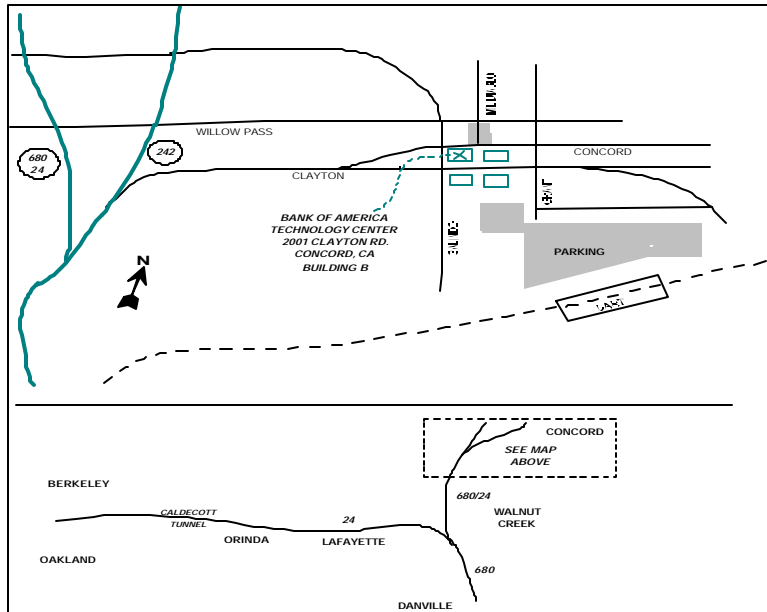
On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members for distribution to DVPC members only. Please check how you would like to be listed: **No listing** _____ **List Name and Home** _____ Work _____ phone number(s) _____

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 buildings. Enter the door on the east side near the southeast corner of the building. 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 2002 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
2 Labor Day Holiday <i>(No Windows SIG meeting this month - see you in October)</i>	3	4	5 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New User's SIG 6:30 p.m.	6	7 PC 101 SIG <i>On Summer Vacation</i>
9	10	11 DVPC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house	12	13	14
16 Genealogy eSIG <i>See SIG News on page 4</i>	17	18 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.	19 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m. Advanced Developers SIG 7:00 p.m. NETSIG 7:30 p.m.	20	21 <i>Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net</i>
23	24	25 Education & Entertainment SIG 7:30 p.m.	26	27	28
30					<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