



April 3, 2003 Meeting Announcement **PowerQuest and DVPC Board of Directors Election**

April is the month when DVPC members vote for who will be on the Board of Directors for the next 12 months. See the article on page 6 with the list of candidates for the Board, and be sure to come to the meeting and vote. Of course, we'll also have our regular monthly meeting and PowerQuest (www.powerquest.com) will show us their latest products, including PartitionMagic, DriveCopy, DrivelImage, and SecureClean.

Version 8 of PartitionMagic is now available, and we'll see a detailed demonstration of its capabilities. PartitionMagic lets you manage your hard disk space by creating or merging partitions, converting to FAT32 or NTFS, support for partitions up to 160 MB, and with the included BootMagic it has the ability to run multiple operating systems from one hard drive.

Be sure to see the PowerQuest special offer on page 7 which will save you up to 57% on great software.

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 on page 4). Please use the entrance that's on the south side 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. 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.

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 will have one of our pre-meeting games, with a great prize for the winner! Also, as usual, we'll have library disks and those great DVPC mugs (version 2) for sale, SIG news, and some of our usual great door prizes.

What's Inside

DVPC Calendar	Page 2
Email Notification	Page 2
Information About DVPC	Page 3
Membership Application	Page 4
Directions and Map to DVPC Meetings	Page 4
SIG News <i>Nick Chase</i>	Page 5
Board of Directors Election <i>Ron Ogg</i>	Page 6
Web Pages for Beginners <i>Todd Stauffer and Que Publishing</i>	Page 6
California Copy Source Ad	Page 6
UGR PowerQuest Special Offer <i>Gene Barlow, UGR</i>	Page 7
Aladdin Ships New Stuffit Deluxe 8.0 for Windows <i>Alladin</i>	Page 9
Special Raffle Promotion	Page 9
Prime Film 1800 Slide Scanner Hardware Review <i>Alan Mildwurm</i>	Page 10
Technobabble <i>Lowell Shatraw</i>	Page 12
Computer Crossword <i>Craig Peterson</i>	Page 13
DVPC Board Meeting Minutes <i>Tom Krauss</i>	Page 14
Public Gets a Chance to Comment on DMCA <i>Ron Ogg</i>	Page 14
Ramblings <i>Ron Ogg</i>	Page 15
Task List Programs <i>Jerry White</i>	Page 16

President's Message

by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

With apologies to our editor since my first letter got lost in the ether and – as always – this is being rewritten at the very last minute!

Our April meeting will bring back our good friends Gene and Linda Barlow from PowerQuest. Gene will be demonstrating PartitionMagic 8 (together with other products including DriveCopy and DrivelImage). See my review of this essential disk management utility in the November, 2002 issue of Diablo Blue at www.dvpc.org/blue/2002nov/dvpc2002nov.pdf. And be sure to see and take advantage of the special offer from Gene and Linda on page 7 of this issue of *Diablo Blue*. Discounts like this are one of the reasons that it pays to be a member of DVPC!

Also in April we will hold our annual elections for the Board of Directors. I appreciate all the work (eating pizza, discussing our new projector, and in general solving the problems of our computer world) that the Board has engaged in this past year. There's still room on the Board for you!

With the budget crunch in our state, I would like to encourage our members to share their extensive computer knowledge and volunteer to assist in a school, library or elsewhere. You can make a difference!

DVPC April 2003 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5
See SIG News starting on page 5 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations			DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New User's SIG 6:30 p.m.		
7	8	9	10	11	12
Windows SIG 7:30 p.m.		DVPC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house			
14	15	16	17	18	19
Genealogy eSIG See SIG News on page 5		Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.		Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net	PC101/PC201 Classes Now meeting at the Concord Library 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See SIG News on page 5
21	22	23	24	25	26
			Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m. Advanced Developers SIG 7:00 p.m.		
28	29	30			

Email Notification

We provide an email notification service for the current month's *Diablo Blue* password, the DVPC monthly meeting, and information about SIG meetings as well. You have to be a current, paid-up member to receive this service. To read the current month's issue of *Diablo Blue* on-line you need to receive these monthly email messages, so print this page, fill out the form, and mail it to DVPC, PO Box 3244, San Ramon, CA 94583, or bring it to the sign-in desk at the monthly meeting. Or, if you prefer, you can send an email message to nopaper@dvpc.org with your name and email address and your favorite SIGs.

Send me email notification of each monthly Diablo Blue password, the DVPC meeting, and the following SIGs:

Name _____

Email Address: _____

Advanced Users SIG					New Users SIG
Advanced Developers SIG					PC 101/PC 201 SIG
Genealogy eSIG					Windows SIG
Internet SIG					

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 stories about your PC experiences. Send your articles or member ad copy as email attachments to the Newsletter Editor, rogg@value.net.

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 format 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 ad copy as email attachments to the Newsletter Editor, rogg@value.net. 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), awm@mildwurm.com

Nicholas Chase, SIG Coordinator 680-4211 (home), nachase@yahoo.com

Will Crites, Publicity 938-1291 (home), bugkiller@aol.com

Charlie Crothers, At Large 829-2237 (home), ccrothers@attbi.com

Dick Curry, At Large 376-5541 (home), racorinda@pacbell.net

Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary 676-7522 (home), pegszone@aol.com

Tom Krauss, Secretary 689-9960 (home), tkrauss@astound.net

Jessica Mildwurm, Treasurer 829-5858 (home), jess@mildwurm.com

Ron Ogg, Newsletter Editor and Web Site 415-281-0431 (work), rogg@value.net

Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home), compmail@pacbell.net

Stan Umlauft, Web Site 458-5560 (home), stanu@honeybee.com

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 calendar page, 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 by leaving a message on the DVPC voice mail 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 Web-based newsletter of the Diablo Valley PC Users' Group.

Editor: Ronald Ogg, Membership: Peggy Johnson

Please submit articles and columns to the Newsletter editor by email at rogg@value.net

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The Diablo Valley PC Users Group is a non-profit corporation.

DVPC is a member of APCUG, the Association of PC Users Groups, www.apcug.org

Get Involved! Learn! Join a SIG today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Print this page, fill out this form, and enclose it with your check for \$30.00 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, 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: _____

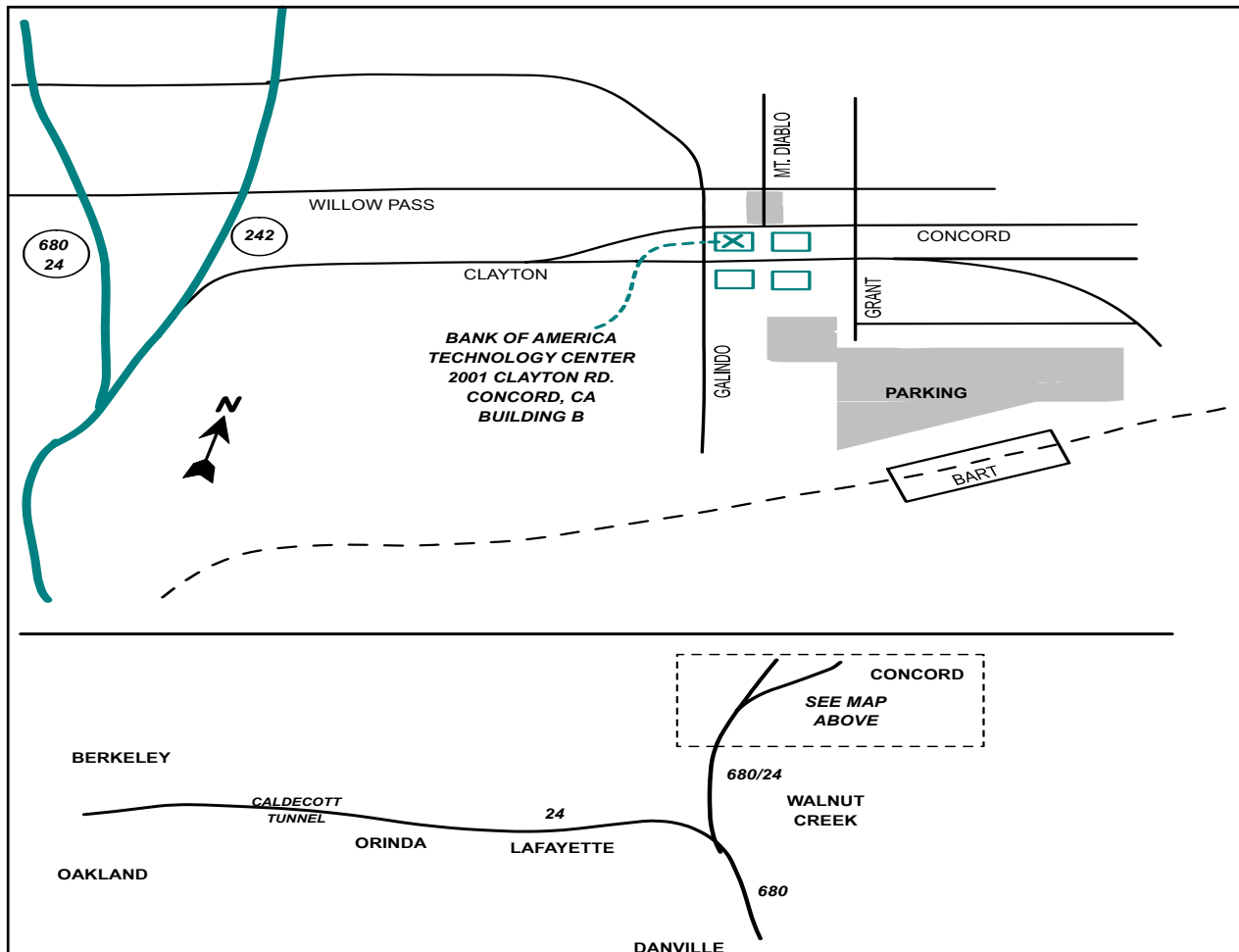
On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members for distribution to DVPC members only. Please check how you would like to be listed: No listing _____ List Name and Home _____ Work _____ phone number(s) _____

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!



Advanced Developers SIG *SIG Co-Leaders Ron Ogg, (rogg@value.net) and Bill Morris (bill@soft-trak.com)*

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.

Our regular scheduled meetings for the remainder of the year are cancelled. Soft Velocity is going to do some product launches by the end of the year. These along with the current ASP templates may give us some interesting topics. Keep in mind that the group is not strictly a Clarion for Windows platform and is open to and encourages topics relating to other programming and computer related subjects.

The best way to keep informed about the Advanced Developers SIG, including meeting dates, times, locations, and topics, as well as any schedule changes, is to send an email to Bill Morris (bill@soft-trak.com) asking to be put on his email announcement list for the ApDev SIG.

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. The Advanced Users SIG is for anyone interested in discussing advanced topics such as hardware and software issues, cutting-edge technologies, networking, servers, troubleshooting, etc. Please join us to participate in this very informative and educational forum. We hope to see you at the meeting!

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.

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.

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. For more information, please call Craig Peterson at (925) 671-7025 or e-mail him at compmail@pacbell.net.

Many of us have not only filed our tax returns before the April 15th deadline, but have gotten our money back that we overpaid last year. Some of us not only used our computers to compute and fill out the forms but also to e-file as well. However, there are a few of us who, as they read this, will need to file for an extension because it will take four more months to figure out what we owe. In any case, join us as we look at tax help on line this month.

New Users SIG *Craig Peterson, SIG Leader – 671-7025*

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.

PC101 and PC201 Classes *Craig Peterson, SIG Leader – 671-7025*

PC101 is a beginning class on computers. This pair of hands-on classes is designed to not only answer questions that the new user might have, but to also challenge the members who do not feel comfortable with hardware and software to expand their knowledge and skills so that they may take full advantage of their computer.

Starting on April 19 our meetings are moving to the Concord Library at 2900 Salvio Street, and will be held on the third Saturday of the month from 10 am to 2 pm.

PC201 is a series of lectures that will be given by experts in different areas of computers and technology. The first of these PC201 classes will take place from 12 noon to 2 pm on April 19 at the Concord Library at 2900 Salvio Street. Look for more information on this class on the web site and in April's newsletter.

SIG News...

(Continued from page 5)

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.

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 680 Freeway take Monument Blvd. east and continue to where it changes to Galindo; the Police Department building will be on your right a short distance past the signal at Cowell Road.

Board of Directors Election by Ron Ogg, DVPC

The DVPC Board of Directors election for 2003-2004 will be held at the April DVPC meeting. **Everyone** be sure to come to the meeting, see a great presentation, and **vote!** We're happy to report that the current Board members have agreed to run again:

Alan Mildwurm, President/Programs 510-770-5770 (work), awm@mildwurm.com

Nicholas Chase, SIG Coordinator 680-4211 (home), nachase@yahoo.com

Will Crites, Publicity 938-1291 (home), bugkiller@aol.com

Charlie Crothers, At Large 829-2237 (home), ccrothers@attbi.com

Dick Curry, At Large 376-5541 (home), racorinda@pacbell.net

Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary 676-7522 (home), pegszone@aol.com

Tom Krauss, Secretary 689-9960 (home), tkrauss@astound.net

Jessica Mildwurm, Treasurer 829-5858 (home), jess@mildwurm.com

Ron Ogg, Newsletter Editor and Web Site 415-281-0431 (work), rogg@value.net

Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home), compmail@pacbell.net

Stan Umlauft, Web Site 458-5560 (home), stanu@honeybee.com

You can add your name to this list! See any of the current Board members before the April meeting, and we'll be glad (excited, thrilled!) to include you as a candidate (new blood is **good**).

Web Pages for Beginners by Todd Stauffer and Que Publishing

Book excerpt from: Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Edition

The excerpt below is a sample chapter from *Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Edition* from Todd Stauffer and Que Publishing. This chapter covers the tools needed for creating a Web page and acquiring server space to host the site. This hands-on tutorial teaches readers the fundamentals of creating Web pages, along with more advanced ideas like message areas, chat, and e-commerce options to make the page look like it was created by a professional. Whether you are an experienced computer user or a beginner, this book provides you with all the information you need to have a Web page up in no time and is a great jumping off point for learning more advanced web technologies.

(Continued on page 8)

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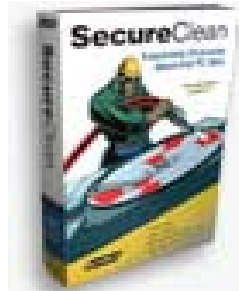
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10% Discount for DVPC Members with this Ad!

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PartitionMagic V8
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Sold to (Please Print):

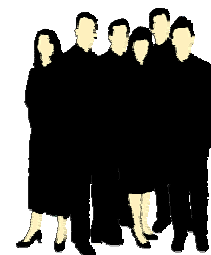
Send Newsletter

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ St: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____



Group: Diablo Valley PC Users Group, Special User Group Order Code: **UGOCT02**
(To protect your privacy, the above information will **NOT** be given to others.)

Products Purchased:

_____ Bundle PM, DI, SC, ED (List \$230)	x \$99 = \$_____
_____ PM PartitionMagic V8 (List \$69.95)	x \$35 = \$_____
_____ DI Drive Image 2002 (List \$69.95)	x \$35 = \$_____
_____ SC SecureClean V3 (List \$49.95)	x \$25 = \$_____
_____ WipeDrive V3 (List \$39.95)	x \$20 = \$_____
_____ ED Educational CD (List \$39.95)	x \$20 = \$_____
\$5 S&H Fee (Mail/Web orders only) = \$_____	
Total = \$_____	

Payment Options (Check One):

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User Group Relations
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www.ugr.com/order/
Or print and give this form to us at the April DVPC meeting.

Terms:
These prices are only available to user group members and their guests and are good for 30 days. Products may be returned for a full refund within 30 days of purchase.
User Group Relations
Gene & Linda Barlow
gene@ugr.com
linda@ugr.com
(801)796-7370

Web Pages for Beginners...

(Continued from page 6)

**Note: These elements have been removed for the purpose of this article. To view the images and notes, tips and tricks included in the chapter text from the Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, visit <http://snurl.com/absolutebeginners> and click on the link for sample chapters.*

The Basic Tools

HTML documents are nothing more than plain-text documents with markup commands that instruct a Web browser to arrange and format text in certain ways. Other commands are used to add images, hypertext, and multimedia to the page, but those commands are still plain-text commands that are interpreted by the Web browser.

The plain-text nature of HTML documents means that all you really need to hand-code HTML is a text editor application. It can be something as simple and friendly as Windows Notepad or the Mac's SimpleText editor. You have similar choices in other operating systems – vi or emacs in any Unix and Unix-like OS, and TextEdit in MacOs X.

The main issue to remember is that your documents need to be saved as plain-text or ASCII documents, so your text editing application must be capable of saving such documents (as opposed to, say, Microsoft Word format or Rich Text Format). You can use a word processing application to create your HTML documents, as long as you save the documents as plain-text.

If you do opt to use a word processor (which I don't really recommend), note that many of them have the specific option of saving files as HTML documents. Generally, you *don't want to do that because the word processor translates* the page, as typed, into HTML, adding markup to maintain the appearance of the document in your word processor. In other words, it ignores the HTML markup that you've entered yourself and adds markup so that the page appears with the tags intact when displayed in a browser.

Instead, you should save the document as plain-text, text, or ASCII text, but with the filename extension .htm or .html (more on that later).

Ideally, though, you'd use either a text editor – which can be very basic or rather specialized – or an HTML editor that enables you to edit the HTML *source code* (the text and markup) directly. Let's look at each possibility.

Text Editors

As noted, you can opt to use the simple text editors included with your operating system. In Microsoft Windows, it's Notepad; in the MacOs it's SimpleText or TextEdit. Unix and Linux systems offer a number of text editors, from basic to sophisticated.

If you'd like to move up to the next level, however, you'll find that a good programmer's text editor may be helpful in creating and organizing your HTML code. Popular editors for Microsoft Windows include TextPad (www.textpad.com), UltraEdit (www.ultraedit.com) and EditPlus (www.editplus.com), among many others. The Macintosh has fewer text editors, although BBEdit and BBEdit Lite (www.barebones.com) are very highly regarded for both MacOs 9 and MacOs X. (MacOs X also includes Unix-style text editors via its Terminal application.)

Most text editors you come across are designed to work well for HTML authoring, as well as other types of markup and programming. You'll find that some of them automatically recognize markup as such, turning them into different colors for easy viewing. Others may offer a toolbar button for displaying an HTML document in a Web browser (to test how it looks and whether hyperlinks are working correctly), a spell-checking feature, or other interesting options. Experiment a bit to find a text editor that really works well for you.

HTML Editors

The other type of editor you might consider downloading or purchasing is one that's specifically designed for HTML documents. These editors come in two basic flavors – source code editors and WYSIWYG editors. WYSIWYG, which stands for "What You See Is What You Get," means you're editing the Web page as it will look in a Web browser. In this case, you're not marking up text and adding HTML commands and elements, but rather typing text, importing images, and moving items around on the page, much as you'd do in a word processing or desktop publishing program.

Because Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages focuses on editing XHTML source code (the raw text and markup elements), WYSIWYG editors are not discussed in the book itself, but you can go online to find "Graphical Editors," a chapter that will introduce you to some of the more popular graphical editors, such as Dreamweaver and FrontPage. You'll find that a WYSIWYG editor is a great tool to have on hand for prototyping and editing Web sites. That said, it's important to learn the raw XHTML first, particularly if you aspire to do Web publishing professionally, because no WYSIWYG editor is perfect. They can't always adhere to

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

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

Web Pages for Beginners...

(Continued from page 8)

the latest standards, they aren't all capable of more complex tasks (such as scripting or interactive elements), and sometimes you need to "dig into the code" to get them to work exactly as you'd like them to. If you want to go beyond a text editor, you might look into one that's specifically designed to help you edit HTML source code. For Microsoft Windows, some recommended editors include HotDog Professional and HotDog PageWiz (www.sausagetools.com), HandyHTML (www.silveragesoftware.com), and CoffeeCup HTML Editor (www.coffeecup.com). For Macintosh, popular options include PageSpinner (www.optima-system.com) and WebDesign (www.ragesw.com).

If you need to watch out for anything with HTML editors, it's that they're up-to-date and support the level of HTML (or XHTML) that you want to use for your authoring. For the purposes of this book, you should use an editor that supports HTML 4.01 Transitional or XHTML 1.0 Transitional, if it's an option. (If you're trying to create strict documents, you can use XHTML 1.0 Strict if the editor supports it). Older HTML editors may support an older standard, or may recommend elements or markups that don't conform to the newer standard. You can probably still use them; just be aware of the differences.

Copyright © 2003 by Que Publishing. Author Todd Stauffer. Reproduced with permission. Article reproduction coordinated by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group. Excerpted from: Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Edition, Todd Stauffer, ISBN: 0-7897-2895-8, US \$18.95. For More Information or to Order Absolute Beginner's Guide to Creating Web Pages, 2nd Edition or any other Que Books visit www.quepublishing.com.

Aladdin Ships New StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 for Windows from Aladdin Systems, Inc.

Watsonville, CA – March 4, 2003

Aladdin Systems, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary of Aladdin Systems Holdings, Inc. (OTC BB: ALHI), today shipped StuffIt Deluxe® 8.0, the newest version of its popular "designed for Windows® XP" compression and file transfer utility. New Wizards allow users to compress and transfer files via FTP and email. The new StuffIt® X file format, provides users with better compression, strong 512 bit encryption, and error-correction features.

StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 includes exclusive productivity features including:

- Task automation, one-click compress and mail from Microsoft's Word, PowerPoint and Excel.
- The StuffIt Catalog™ generates a dynamically updated list of all archived data on the user's PC and on the network making it easy to manage archived data. These features offer the greatest flexibility and most choices to maximize bandwidth and communicate with other computer users.
- The StuffIt Wizards make the "Compress and Email," FTP archive creation, uploading and file exchange features of Microsoft Office easier to use. The Wizards' step-by-step interface allows users of all experience levels to accomplish common file transfer and compression tasks.

"Our goal with StuffIt X was to design an archive format with the Internet in mind," said Matthew Covington, StuffIt product manager. "StuffIt X offers improved compression, security, and safety with its redundancy feature that allows users to recover lost or damaged data."

Independent tests confirm (<http://compression.ca/>) that StuffIt's improved compression is now the best available. Savvy Internet users will appreciate the advance in StuffIt's compression technology because smaller files move across the Internet faster, which

(Continued on page 10)

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!!

Aladdin Ships New StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 for Windows...

(Continued from page 9)

means less waiting for downloads and email attachment transfers.

StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 helps computer users save time with unique features. The SEA Builder™, a document distribution system, creates self-extracting archives that open automatically. Options to display text messages to recipients and email notification of successful delivery are available to give the sender peace of mind. StuffIt Express™ Personal Edition works seamlessly with Microsoft Scheduled Tasks to automate routine tasks, such as data backups, at regularly scheduled times.

StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 Features and Benefits

- Creates the smallest compressed archives
- New! StuffIt Catalog makes it easy to keep track of all compressed and archived data
- New! StuffIt Wizards allow users to create backup archives and transmit archives via FTP and/or email
- New! 512-bit encryption for maximum privacy protection
- Add Files to an archive based on user-defined criteria
- One-click compress and mail from Microsoft Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Custom Self-Extracting Archive document distribution system creates archives that open automatically and send email confirmation of successful delivery
- Unique data backup and file transfer automation with StuffIt Express' seamless integration with Windows Scheduled Tasks
- Search for files buried in Zip and StuffIt Archives with ArchiveSearch™
- Prevent file corruption during Internet transfer (add error-correction to selected files)
- Access any compressed or encoded file, download, or email attachment
- Browse and Manipulate StuffIt and Zip archives

Pricing and Availability

StuffIt Deluxe is \$39.99 and is available directly from Aladdin, major retailers, and mail order catalogs in the US and Canada, and select dealers worldwide. StuffIt Deluxe and other Aladdin products are available from Aladdin's international partners at www.aladdinsys.com/store/intlpartners.html.

The StuffIt Standard Edition 8.0 for Windows is also available.

Registered owners of previous StuffIt Deluxe, StuffIt Lite (now called StuffIt Standard), DropStuff or DropZip versions can upgrade to StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 for \$14.99, directly from Aladdin at www.aladdinsys.com/store/upgrades.html. All customers providing a StuffIt Deluxe 7.5 proof of purchase after 1/12/03 are eligible for a free downloadable upgrade to StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 for Windows.

StuffIt is available for the Windows as well as the Mac OS®, Linux, and Solaris™ platforms at www.stuffit.com. Users can register StuffIt at www.aladdinsys.com/register/index.html.

System Requirements

StuffIt Deluxe 8.0, is compatible with Windows 98 SE, ME, 2000, XP Home and XP Pro. It requires 64 MB RAM and 20 M of disk space.

Prime Film 1800 AFL Slide Scanner – A Hardware Review by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

Every time I go through my garage I am reminded of a job that I have set out for myself.

There are at least 10 file cartons filled with slides, negatives and pictures that need to be organized. I have pledged to begin this task every winter and every summer for at least the last 2 years when I got all the thousands of pictures, slides and negatives together and put them in the 10 boxes. I used to take slides when I traveled, and I also have lots of old negatives which are in desperate need of organizing.

(Continued on page 11)

Support DVPC – Get a friend to join!

Prime Film 1800 AFL Slide Scanner – A Hardware Review...

(Continued from page 10)

Since now we only shoot in digital format, I want to migrate many of these old slides and pictures to new CD's and DVDs. (I recently transferred some 50 year old 8mm film to VHS and CD which allowed my mother and other relatives who don't have movie projectors to enjoy these family classics.)

Of course you can always take your old pictures, slides and negatives to the photo shop and they will gladly do the transfers for you. Gets the job done but it is very expensive if you have a lot of material. The most efficient way is do to it yourself with a slide/film scanner. Not only will the scanner pay for itself, but you can use the included software to fix and enhance your photos. And that is something the photo shop will not do on a picture by picture basis without having to pay them an enormous extra amount – if they will do it all!

At Comdex I saw PACIFIC IMAGE's PF1800AFL (www.scanace.com) and was very impressed with its abilities and quality. As you can see, I wasn't the only one who was impressed; the unit won an award at CES!



The unit stands 238mm- 9.5 inches(L) x 103mm-3.5 inches(W) x 177mm- 8 inches (H) and weighs a little over 4 pounds. Installation was a snap. The manual clearly instructs you to load the software first. The scanner comes with Adobe Photoshop Elements (version 1) and the Cyberview 35 TWAIN drivers. The unit is compatible with Win98 SE, ME, 2000, and XP and the Mac. Your system should be at least a 300Mhz Pentium II with 128 MB of RAM and needs to have 200 MB of free disk space –not including your own storage requirements. The scanner can handle 35mm ROLL film, slides, and filmstrips, and has an optical resolution of 1800 x 1800 dpi. Color mode scanning is at 42 bits per pixel. You can scan either Negative, Positive or B&W film. This translates to the ability to scan and enlarge a photo to 8.5 x 11 with no quality loss! It takes a little over 20 seconds to scan a slide (single pass) and the file size at 1800 dpi is about 13 MB at 24-bit color. In other words, not too large!

By first loading Photoshop Elements, the scanner immediately recognizes the program and includes it in its' "Acquire" menu. Of course, if you prefer to use other software, since there is a TWAIN driver you should have no problem. After the software is loaded, plug in the unit with the provided USB 1.1 cable and the computer will do the rest to install the Cyberview drivers. The installation should take just a few minutes.

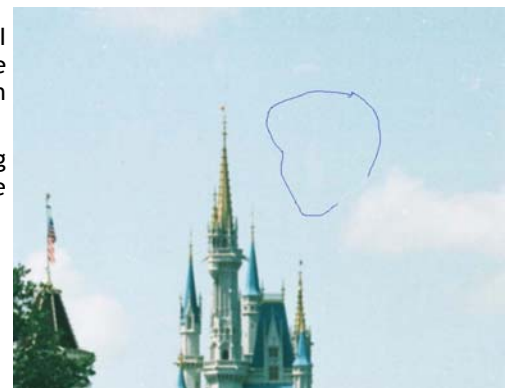
As mentioned, you can either scan a slide or a filmstrip. To scan a mounted slide, open the door in the front of the unit. It will lock in place and push the slide into the scanner. (Image pointing left with long side in last). There is an eject button when you have completed the scan. There is an automatic feeder for filmstrips and 35mm film. (If it is less than 3 frames it must be cut and mounted in the provided holder and used in the slide slot). The feeder is very cool and DOES NOT SCRATCH the film. A terrific feature of this unit is the ability to batch scan the film. The software allows you to prescan all or selected frames. Once you have scanned the film, your controls allow you to make color and other adjustments to improve your product. Your frames will show up in the preview windows allowing you to work on them. Of course you can select the file type for output and adjust Color Balance, Color Channels (levels and curves), resolution, zoom, balance, auto focus, etc.



In this "before" picture at the left, I scanned a 20 year-old plus negative which had several scratches outlined in blue.

In the picture at the right, I am using Photoshop Elements to get rid of the scratches.

Total time to fix – a few minutes!

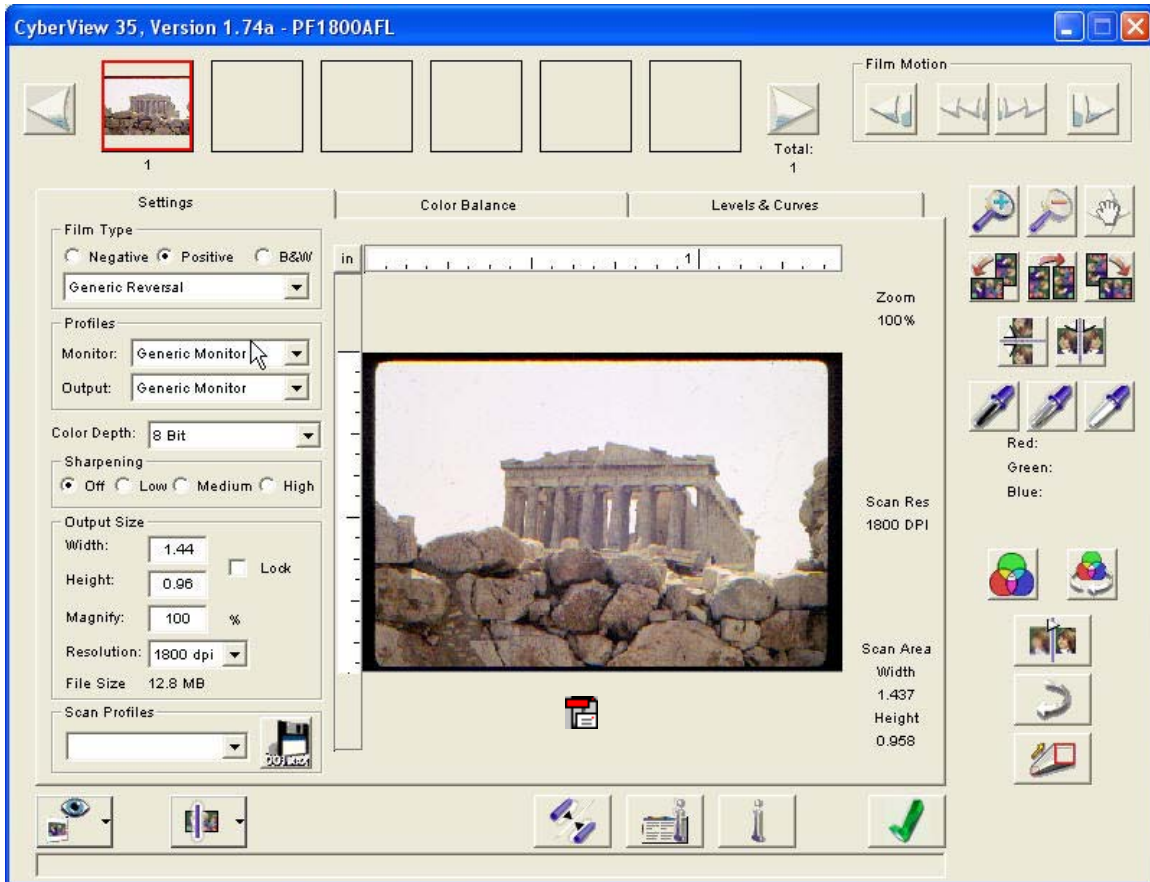


(Continued on page 12)

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

Prime Film 1800 AFL Slide Scanner – A Hardware Review...

(Continued from page 11)



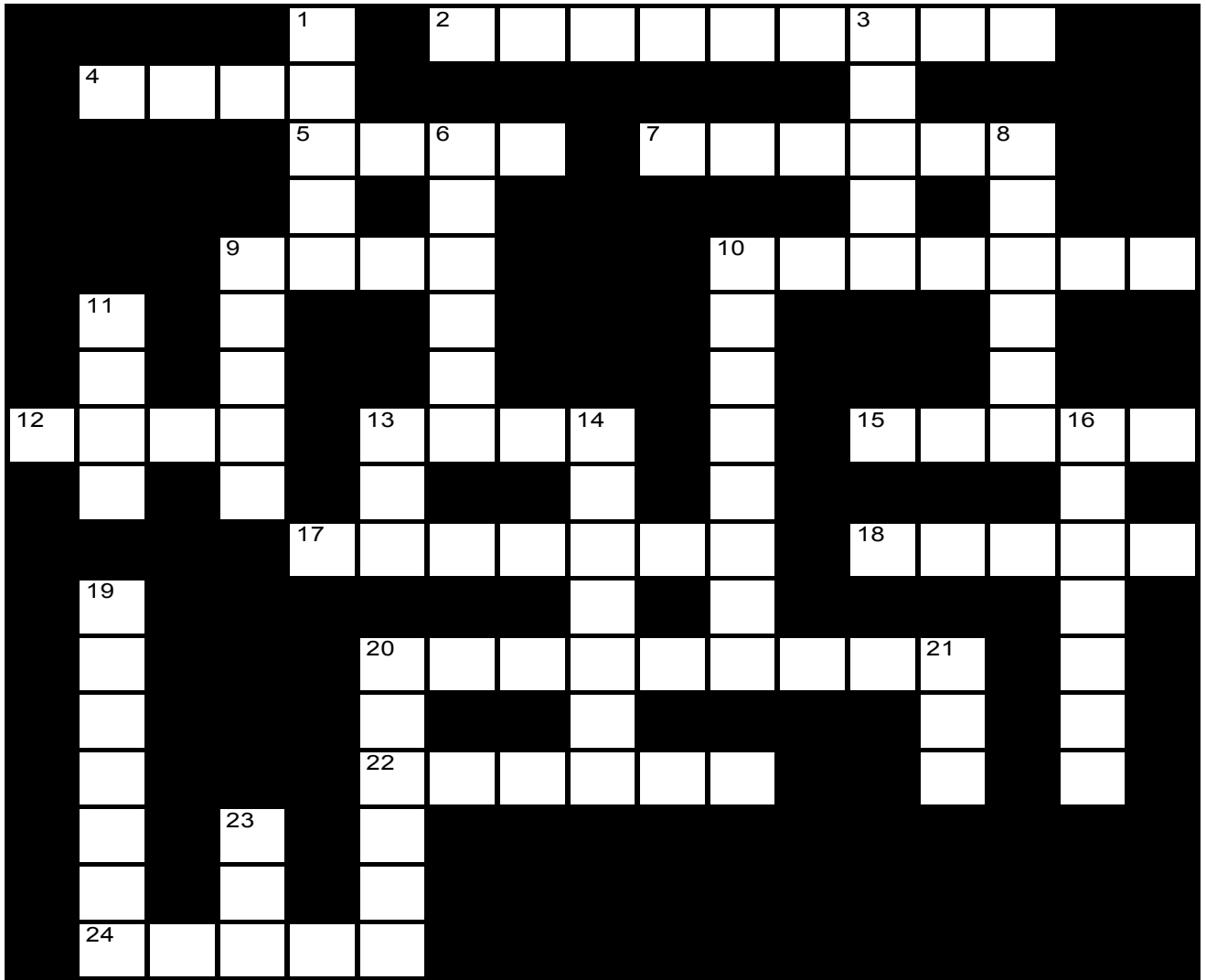
As seen in the above screen shot, the Scanner software is very easy and intuitive to operate. This is a very easy to use and effective scanner. It is very solid and well made. I am informed that Costco on-line often runs specials on Pacific Image products including this and other models. For a consumer with lots of images to scan, this would be a good value. My wish list would include USB 2.0 but in all honesty the scans made it to the computer very quickly. I would also like to have the ability to scan Advantix type APS film – of course I have enough 35mm slides and negatives to scan for a LONG time! The MSRP is \$225.00.

Technobabble by Lowell Shatraw, Computer Users Group of Greeley

Technobabble, that's what most users and readers say about the use of acronyms in reading materials today. There's a reason it's called TECHNO BABLE. It is technically oriented. And it may seem like BABLE to you because you don't understand it. Let's say your AA mode of the external A/D you use to get on the Internet was showing it was off on the lites and to show where you were on the Internet the AGP of your system was slow. Or, you need to get the bits off the depot so you can install the software. Now if you didn't understand that, you're not alone when you say "talk to me in English please. I don't understand what the heck you are telling me!" Well, that *is* English, but it is a special kind. When technically oriented people get together to discuss things, they tend to fling those acronyms around as though everyone should know what they are talking about. This does promote a faster conversation between those that do understand the BABEL. Problem is, some don't. And therein lies the issue. When discussions occur, not everyone understands the acronyms being used. Maybe the level of the discussion should be brought to a level, maybe without acronyms being used, so everyone can understand. Some acronyms can be used, as long as they are defined when they are used so everyone understands them.

So, next time you are discussing apps (applications) and you need the attn (attention) of the listening audience, or you need to BCC (blind carbon copy) someone in the email message, be sure the audience is still with you and understands you. To get an idea of some of the acronyms used in the conversation of BABEL, go to this site www.cis.columbia.edu/glossary.html and look over the list. I'm sure you will then have a better understanding of what you read or hear.

Computer Crossword
by Craig Peterson, DVPC
"Earth Day"



Along with the coming of Spring, picnics, and the last of spring training for your favorite baseball team, we find Earth Day observed this month. Join us as we look at this planet we call home. If you're totally stumped and need help, you can check out the answers at www.dvpc.org/solution.html.

Across

- 2. Type of rock
- 4. Pile of sand or Science Fiction book
- 5. Large mass of stone or a member of the WWF
- 7. Smaller version of #9 Down
- 9. Water that falls from clouds
- 10. What the earth is made of
- 12. Small chamber hollowed out of the earth
- 13. Frozen vapor
- 15. Smaller version of #7 Across
- 17. Original landmass of Earth
- 18. A small stream
- 20. Electromagnetic discharge from a cloud
- 22. Crystal used in timekeeping
- 24. Form water takes when below 32 degrees Fahrenheit

Down

- 1. Latin for Earth
- 3. Large body of water
- 6. Ravine
- 8. Limestone used in buildings
- 9. Water that flows to the sea
- 10. Land raised up by geologic forces
- 11. Highest point of #10 Down
- 13. Large body of water
- 14. The atmospheric conditions for an area
- 16. The study of living things and their environment
- 19. A type of cloud
- 20. The form water takes between 32 and 212 degrees Fahrenheit
- 21. The form water takes above 212 degrees Fahrenheit
- 23. What whales were hunted for 150 years ago

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

A small but select group met on Tuesday night March 11 at Alan's house, and the business discussed was also small but select.

Ron showed color (yes, color!) copies of the new brochure. Truly an outstanding triumph of graphics and grammar. Just looking at it made me want to become a member. And so will your friends when you hand a copy to them!

Despite a flurry of email regarding video projectors this past week, less than a minute was spent on this topic. Ron had sent out an email with an ad for the Mitsubishi XL1U projector for \$1,995, less than half what new projectors were going for just a few short years ago. Alan countered with the Epson Powerlite 52C for \$1,199.95. Tonight we briefly acknowledged that we are still a few dollars short of either of these sums. However, if the prices keep dropping and our bank account rising (both of which are happening), we may soon be able to make a purchase.

Alan reminded us that Board elections will be held at the April meeting. That put a damper on things as we each paused to offer a prayer that we will be replaced by a write-in candidate. The moment quickly passed, however, and we got down to serious business (i.e., digressions).

Actually, these business matters were interspersed amongst the usual wide range of unrelated topics. Ron explained with great feeling why he is not a fan of Linux. We discussed media players such as Windows Media Player (good) and RealPlayer (not good: it sends information about you back to the company). Ron had a Dell catalogue and showed us an ad for a desktop computer with a 30 gig hard drive, 1.8 gig processor, 128 meg SDRAM, CD burner, network card, Windows XP loaded and more for under \$400 (okay, so you have to buy a monitor separately – it's *still* cheaper than a 486).

Much of tonight's conversation was a trip down memory lane. Ron knew and worked for Adam Osborne and provided us a glimpse behind the scenes at history in the making, relating anecdotes regarding the development of the Osborne 2. We heard about the Hayes modems, Brown Bag Software (yes, their business plan was to sell software in a brown paper bag, and they actually did so, at least a few copies). Paperback Writer (the computer program, not the Beatles song), early brands of printers, and many other entertaining historical trivia.

When these PC companies were struggling to succeed I was struggling in my own career to keep up with the IBM numbering scheme for mainframes and their peripherals, so I had very little first hand information to contribute. But it was fascinating to listen to. I found myself enjoying the opportunity, from the vantage point of thirty years later, to learn of bad and good decisions made, and to marvel at the people and the personalities that influenced, or in some cases failed to influence, an industry and a generation. And in a way it was reassuring to be reminded that lack of common sense, greed, stupidity and corporate criminal activity are not really a modern phenomenon indicating that the world is suddenly taking a turn for the worse. Rather, they are merely an indication that the world is not getting any better.

Public Gets a Chance to Comment on DMCA by Ron Ogg, DVPC

You probably know what the DMCA is – the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. This perversion of existing law and practice was passed by those in the hollowed halls of our Congress in 1998. What it does is remove rights we've always had under copyright law. One of those rights is the elimination of our ability to make a copy of something we've purchased for archival purposes. The DMCA also includes two broad prohibitions – bypassing copy-protection technology and distributing a program that bypasses copy-protection technology. Both enable the implementation of copy-protection on CDs and DVDs and video tapes and broadcast TV. Bye-bye TIVO and ReplayTV; bye-bye DVD recorders.

The film industry, in particular, wants to prevent anyone from making a copy of a DVD, and is making one of the major thrusts using the DMCA to go after anyone who makes hardware or software that can be used to copy a commercial DVD – and if that works, they will want to prevent you from being able to copy a commercial video tape as well.

TV broadcasters want to prevent you from being able to skip commercials on broadcast TV. The way that's done is with a digital video recorder – a Tivo or ReplayTV unit. SonicBlue, which manufactures the ReplayTV units, was sued by the three major TV networks because (1) ReplayTV allows viewers to record a program and AutoSkip commercials, saying this will tempt advertisers to pull advertising, and (2) ReplayTV allows viewers to record a program and share the program with others by transmitting a digital copy of the show over the Internet.

The music industry has been unrelenting in using the DMCA to prosecute and shut down peer-to-peer mp3file sharing services, the most notable being Napster. Whether you agree with those who copy music and distribute it through services like the lamented, but gone, Napster, or not, their next step is even more frightening. The RIAA (Recording Industry Association of America), which is the record publishing industry association, is planning to sue individuals who have been actively swapping mp3 files on line. Their first step in this effort was to demand that Verizon identify individuals who might be active file swappers. Verizon refused, and the

(Continued on page 15)

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Public Gets a Chance to Comment on DMCA...

(Continued from page 14)

record industry went to the Federal District Court in Washington D.C. and obtained a ruling (<http://news.com.com/2100-1023-954658.html>) requiring that Verizon comply. Verizon has appealed the decision, and their appeal is pending. The RIAA request was based on the language in section 512 of the DMCA. Section 512 permits a copyright owner to send a subpoena ordering a “service provider” to turn over information about a subscriber. The service provider must promptly comply with that order, and no judge’s approval is required first. The RIAA asked the court for an order compelling Verizon to reveal the name of a Kazaa subscriber they thought might have been swapping hundreds of mp3s.

So, what’s the problem? It’s that the DMCA circumvents the copyright law. Peter Coffee, perhaps, put it best when he said in his column (see www.eweek.com/article2/0,3959,867464,00.asp):

At some point, someone has to go back to the source of congressional authority to grant patent and copyright protections in the first place – “to promote the progress of science and useful arts.” Historian Garry Wills has observed that this clause in the Constitution is unique in that it states a reason – unlike the other clauses in Article I, Section 8, which merely grant the powers “to lay and collect taxes ... to coin money ... to establish Post Offices,” and so on.

What can we – you and I – do about the DMCA?

One of the avenues newly opened is a series of hearings that will be held by the Copyright Office in Washington D.C. and California; the California locations and dates have not been announced. Anyone can submit a request by April 1 to testify during the public sessions in Washington, D.C. on April 11, April 15, and May 2. Once the dates and locations for California have been set, you will be able to submit a request to testify somewhat closer to home. For information about submitting a request, go to the Copyright Office public hearing page at <http://www.copyright.gov/fedreg/2003/68fr13652.html?tag=nl>.

Another avenue is to go to the Anti-DMCA web site, www.anti-dmca.org. There you can send an automated fax to Congress protesting the CBDTPA – the Consumer Broadband and Digital Television Promotion Act – which will give content companies the ability to veto devices like the VCR, DVD recorders, Tivo and ReplayTV time-shift recorders, and the digital Walkman among others. And it’s easy to see how this could be extended to personal computers. And you thought the DMCA was the only thing we had to worry about!

Ramblings by Ron Ogg, DVPC

A Google “Feature”

Google is amazing. It has all of these neat features that you can trip across. I received an email message from someone at work asking about a “privacy danger” that he had received in an email message. Here’s the content of the message he received:

Subject:IMPORTANT: Privacy of Telephone #, etc.

I thought you should be aware of this. There is a new feature that makes it possible to type a telephone number into Google’s search bar, click the search button, and have a MapQuest page returned as a result. Any person wishing to discover the physical location of a phone number, be it a home or business address, could use this feature to locate a physical street address, and receive explicit directions on how to get there from anywhere in the country. I typed in my phone number and got my full name, address, and map to my house. One positive use of this feature could be to determine the location of, say, an party for whom you may only have a telephone number. On a negative note, this feature could also be used by an angry party to find out where you live. Google has made available an option that will allow anyone to remove their tele phone number from the database that is linked to the mapping feature. You will first need to check if your number is listed in this manner by attempting a search – entering your full telephone number separated by dashes (e.g., xxx-xxx-xxxx). If the number appears in the mapping database, an icon resembling a telephone will appear next to the first or second entry on the results page. Clicking on this icon will take you to a page containing a description of the service, and a link to request your number be removed from the database. Many people are unaware of this danger. If this type of stuff bothers you... You might want to remove your number from Google’s list... If you want to remove your information from the list... It is very easy to do. Just follow the instructions on the page. This is all you have to do... Go to www.google.com then type in your phone number. See how accurate the map is... linked to your phone number. Just for your INFORMATION...

Well, gee, I’m not concerned, worried, or think that this is a danger. Let’s talk about what’s happening here. There are a large number of telephone white pages lookup sites on the Internet. Since we’re in SBC (formerly the late, lamented Pacific Bell) territory, you can go to www.sbc.com, click on “Find a phone number” on the right, and you’ll be taken to www.smartpages.com/whitepages/?From=SBC.com/ where you can find a phone number and address for a person by entering their name, city, and state, or look up a person and their address by entering their phone number. Given the address, you can go to Yahoo Maps or MapQuest (or Expedia Maps or any other map site), enter the address, and get a map showing where they live. So, doing the same using Google is a shortcut to accomplishing this task. Still think it’s a problem? OK, get down to your friendly local public library, find the white pages phone book, look up the person by name, write down their address and phone number, find a street directory (like the Thomas Bros. Series), and find the map for their address. Very manual, and unless your library has a reverse-lookup phone direc-

(Continued on page 16)

Ramblings...

(Continued from page 15)

tory (some have these) you can't look someone up by their phone number. If the person has an unlisted number like my sister, you won't find anything in either SMARTpages.com or using Google. If the person has their number listed but not their address, you will find their name but not their address and there won't be any Yahoo Maps or MapQuest icons.

So, now you know why I'm not concerned, worried, or think that this "feature" of Google is a danger.

IBM Recalls Monitor

If you have an IBM G51 series monitor that's about 5 years old, it may have been recalled. The model number that have been recalled all start with the digits 6541, and are **6541-02N**, **6541-02E**, **6541-02S**, **6541-Q0N**, **6541-Q0E**, and **6541-Q0S**. If you have one of these monitors, it could overheat and produce smoke and create a potential safety and fire hazard, and you should go to www.pc.ibm.com/g51recall/ and follow the instructions you'll find there.

Windows XP Product Activation when Reinstalling

If you need to completely reinstall Windows XP on a PC that already has Windows XP installed, but you're worried about the hassle of product activation, here's a trick you can use. The activation code is stored in an encrypted file named wpa.dbl. You can copy this file to a diskette, blow away and reinstall Windows XP on the same computer, then copy the wpa.dbl file back to the PC. Here are the step-by-step instructions:

1. Format a diskette
2. Start Windows Explorer, navigate to the c:\windows\system32 folder, and copy the wpa.dbl file to the diskette
3. Remove the diskette, and reinstall Windows XP
4. Restart the PC, and press function key F8 when the startup text is displayed
5. Select Safe Mode
6. Insert the diskette from step 3
7. Start Windows Explorer, navigate to the c:\windows\system32 folder, and copy the wpa.dbl file from the diskette
8. Remove the diskette
9. Restart the PC

Note that you cannot use this trick to install Windows XP on a different PC. It **ONLY** works on the same PC that was activated originally.

PowerToys for Windows Media Player for Windows XP

You probably know about PowerToys for Windows XP (go to www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp). Did you know that there's a PowerToys for Windows Media Player for Windows XP? This set of PowerToys has the Windows Media Player Tray Control, Media Library Management Wizard, Playlist Importer for Excel, Windows Media Player Skin Importer, and a new Skin.

To download the PowerToys for Windows Media Player for Windows XP, go to:

www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/download/bppowertoys.aspx and have fun with media!

Ink Cartridge Problems by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Have you purchased an inkjet printer recently? And have you looked at the ink cartridge for that printer? I mean, **really** looked at it, or the box it came in, or the wrapper that it was sealed in, or the information leaflet that was packed inside the box it came in? Maybe if you have you may have noticed an "install before" date on the outside of the box. You probably didn't pay any attention to that date – it was probably like the "use before" date on a carton of milk but without the problem of the ink turning sour you may have thought, if you had actually noticed that date. Well, maybe you should pay attention!

Many of the printer manufacturers are building little chips into their ink cartridges. These chips are read by the printer electronics. That's to improve reliability, or performance, or quality, the printer manufacturers say. Yup, **sure** it is, and they think we'll all fall for that tale, too. Wrong!

Have you read about Lexmark? Their new inkjet printers have circuitry that reads the chip in their ink cartridges, and prevents recycled or refilled cartridges from working. So, buyer beware! You better off buying genuine Lexmark ink cartridges, even if they are more expensive.

And HP has a chip in some of their ink cartridges, too. This one is even more fun. On the outside of the box there's a manufacturing location and a date. And 30 months from this date you printer will absolutely refuse to continue using that cartridge. Regardless of how much ink is left in the cartridge. Of course, 30 months is a long time. But if you find a real deal on ink cartridges, you might be tempted to buy a bunch. And it's quite possible that, as you get around to using one of those cartridges, the 30 month life might run out before the ink does. So, again, buyer beware! Check the date on the box when you buy a cartridge, add 30 months to it, and make sure you'll use it up long before the resulting expiration date arrives!