

Diablo Blue

August, 2003



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

August 7, 2003 Meeting Announcement Reallusion

The August 7th DVPC meeting will feature Randy Duke from Reallusion. This graphics software publisher has three products: *Effect3D Studio*, *It'sMe*, and *CrazyTalk*. *Effect3D Studio* allows anyone, from beginners to experienced designers, the ability to create professional 3D animated graphics. Content galleries let you drag-and-drop effects to your projects. Hundreds of backgrounds, 3D objects, rendering effects, material settings, lighting and animation effects are included. *It'sMe* let's you create personalized & fully animated 3D characters of yourself, your friends, or anyone from just a single photograph. *It'sMe* makes it simple for anyone to create custom 3D characters that dance, move, and show emotion. *It'sMe* quickly adds dynamic animation to any multimedia production or website. *CrazyTalk* is a tool for creating animated talking images from your digital photo collection, or using over 150 different pre-fitted images from optional *ImagePacks*. Using *CrazyTalk*'s proprietary morphing facial wireframe, by matching the facial contours of the wireframe to the contours of the image, you can apply over 20 expressions and gestures such as smiling, frowning, crying and laughing to the image. *CrazyTalk* then gives a voice to your photos by allowing them to lipsync with audio recordings and spoken text messages. You can even record your own voice using the built-in audio recording function. *CrazyTalk* comes in Home and Web editions. The Web edition adds the ability to create interactive talking content can be published on your website or imported into tools like FlashMX. The ActiveX web player can be controlled by JavaScript giving you the ability to react to user driven events. Reallusion also publishes sets of PowerPoint presentation templates, *PresentPack*, in business, educational, professional, and personal packs. 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.

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President's Message

by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

Summer weather at last! It is 102 degrees outside and I am enjoying this weather. Something about long warm days make it seem like a holiday – even when you have to work. (So what good would complaining do – might as well enjoy it – or move north.)

Our August meeting will be fun. Randy Duke from REALLUSION (www.reallusion.com) will demo their three key products and EVERYONE may get a beta copy of their latest product. To “incent” you to come out on a warm summer eve, you will also have the opportunity to purchase their products at a tremendous price – assuming you don't win it in the raffle! Reallusion has a host of 3D graphics and animation programs that are really fun. The products are easy to use and add real character to your work.

I have also signed us up with the O'Reilly User Group Program. O'Reilly publishes many excellent books and we now will receive a 20% discount. Go to www.oreilly.com or call 800-998-9938 to order your books and use our club code: DSUG. We are also eligible to discounts on their conferences and tutorials. O'Reilly will provide books for a review so check out their of-

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DVPC August 2003 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2
4 Windows SIG 7:30 p.m.	5	6	7 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New User's SIG 6:30 p.m.	8	9
11 Genealogy eSIG See SIG News on page 5	12	13 DVPC Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house	14	15	16 PC101/PC201 Classes Meets at the Concord Library 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See SIG News on page 5
18	19	20 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.	21 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m. Clarion SIG 7:00 p.m.	22 Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net	23
25	26	27	28	29	30 See SIG News starting on page 5 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations

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
Clarion SIG						PC 101/PC 201 Classes
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

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

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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: _____

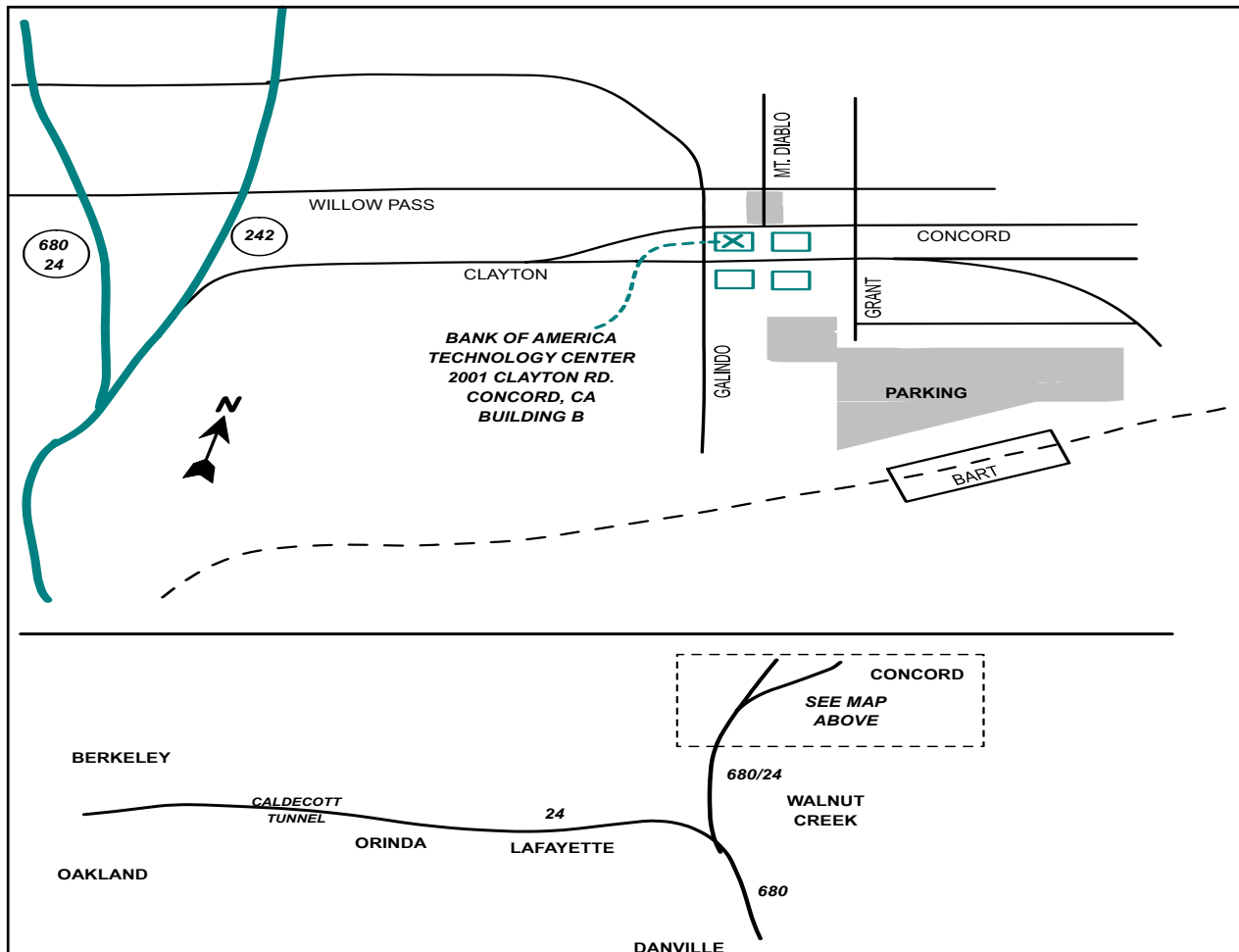
On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members for distribution to DVPC members only. Please check how you would like to be listed: No listing_____ List Name and Home_____ Work_____ phone number(s)

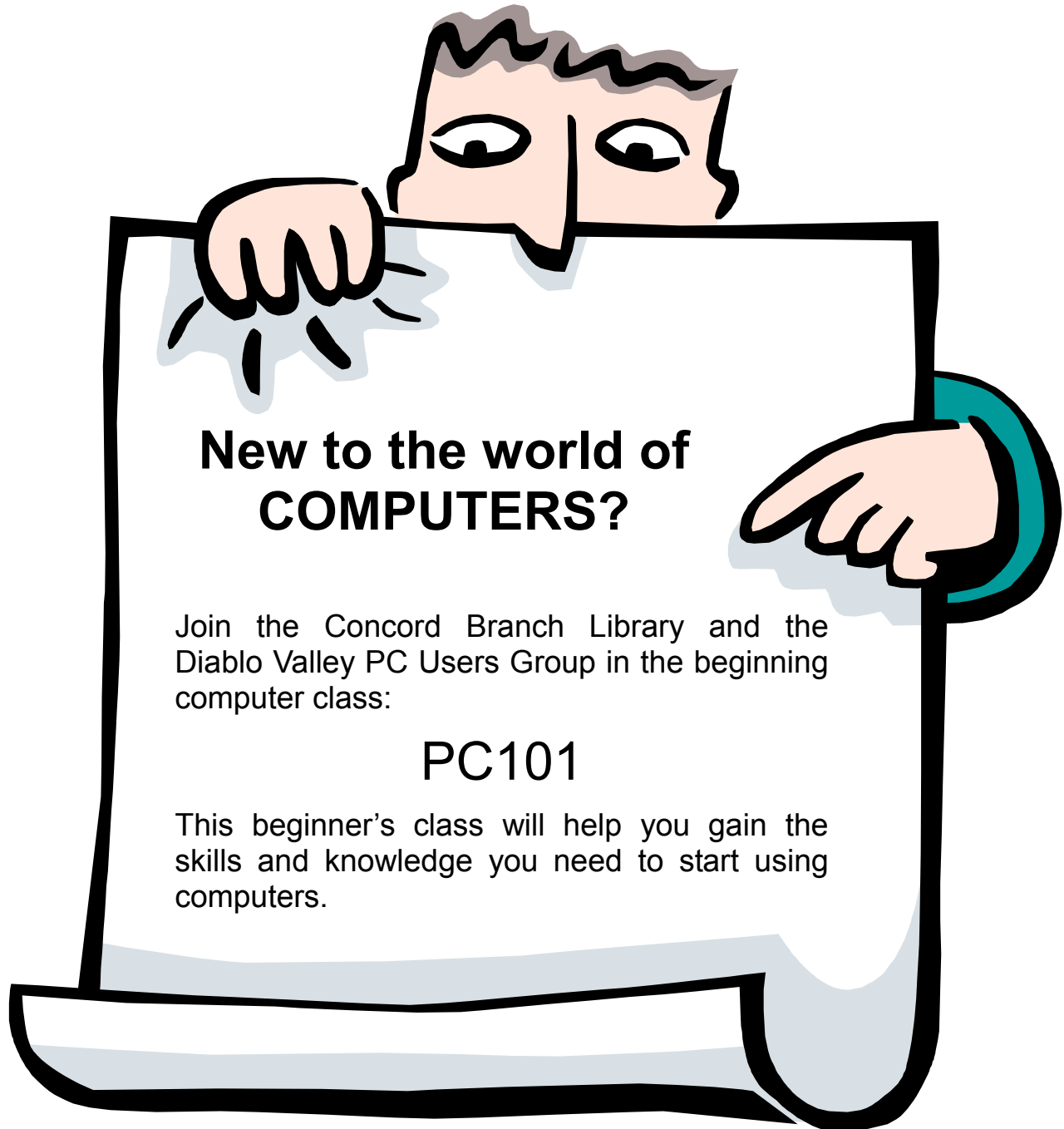
I'm also interested in these SIGs: _____

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!



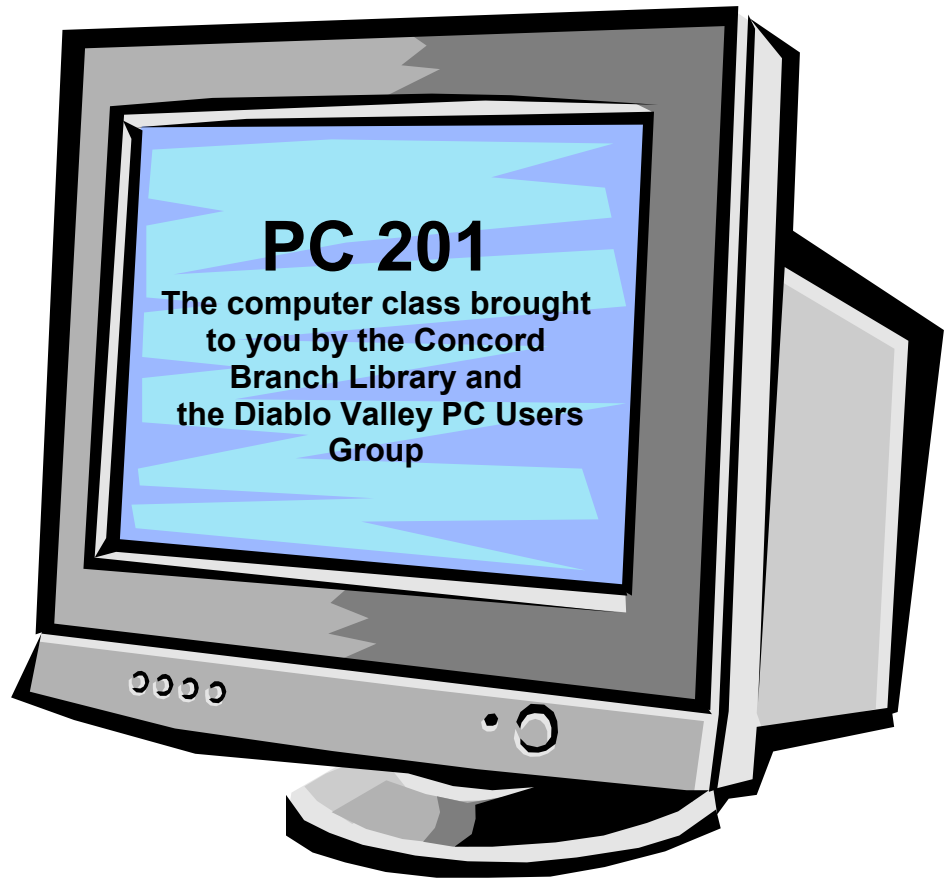


The next class will be August 16th from 10 am until 2 pm. This month we will cover **Unit #5 – Linking Your Computer to the World**

All classes are at the Concord Branch Library's Community room, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, CA.

Space is limited, so sign up at the information desk at the Concord Branch Library.

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MICROSOFT WORD

Microsoft's Word is useful and powerful. About 90% of the newer computers in the US come with Microsoft Word pre-installed. For many users, it is the only word processor they ever use.

Join us Saturday, August 16, 2003. Tom Krause will show you how to use this program as well as help you answer questions you may have on how to use it more effectively.

The class will be held from 12:00 noon to 2:00 p.m. in the Concord Branch Library's Community room, 2900 Salvio Street, Concord, CA.

This free class is brought to you by the Concord Branch Library and the Diablo Valley PC Users Group.

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.

Clarion SIG SIG Leader Bill Morris (bill@soft-trak.com)

See the Clarion SIG page on the web at http://www.desine.com/svcug/sv_meet.htm for meeting location, dates, and time. The best way to keep informed about the Clarion 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 Clarion SIG.

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 eSIG, 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.

“Hot enough for you?” I don't know about the rest of you, but that question tends to be a bit irritating if I happen to be dripping with sweat and hoping that a blackout isn't caused by all the air conditioners being cranked up high throughout the county. Join us this month as we look at weather resources on line as well as tips for keeping cool while surfing on line on August 20th.

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 takes place on from 10 am to 2 pm and PC201 takes place from noon to 2 pm at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, on the third Saturday of each month. Look information on future classes on the DVPC web site and each month's issue of *Diablo Blue*.

PC101 is a beginning class on computers. Offered in conjunction with the Concord Branch Library, it helps introduce computers to and empower the person not comfortable with the technology. This month we will be looking at communication using computers in a class titled “Linking your computer to the world.” Class space is limited, so sign up at the information desk at the Concord Library, 2900 Salvio Street, CA 94519-2597. The class will meet August 16th from 10 am to 2 pm in the community room of the Concord Branch library. For more details, see page 5.

PC201 is a series of lectures that will be given by experts in different areas of computers and technology. This month we will have Board Member Tom Krauss show us how to better use some of Microsoft's programs. In a class titled “Microsoft Word and other work related programs.” Join us as we look at and get a better understanding of the software that is on 90% of the computers we use. The class will take place on August 16th. For more details, see page 6.

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. **The Windows SIG is going to be on vacation during August because of travel and during September because of the Labor Day holiday. Have a great summer, and we'll see you on October 6!**

President's Message...

(Continued from page 1)

ferings!

Well, I am working hard in my hammock. In fact, while writing this on my PDA and listening to *O'Donnell on Computers* (www.everythingcomputers.com) on KSFO (Saturday morning at 560 on your AM dial), I managed to be the fifth caller and won a zip-linq (www.zip-linq.com) cell phone charger. Does it get any better?

Curmudgeon's Corner by Walt Parsons, DVPC's Official Curmudgeon — Accept No Substitute!

Writing the President

An article appeared in the Sunday Contra Costa Times (7/20/03) telling about the new email system at the White House. According to Jimmy Orr, a White House spokesman, the new system is an "enhancement aimed at improving communications".

It is still possible to send an e-mail to the president the old fashioned way by writing to president@whitehouse.gov but you will receive an automated reply but there is no guarantee your message will be read or responded to, said Jimmy Orr. The automated reply encourages you to use the web based new system by going to www.whitehouse.gov, and, after looking real hard in the small light colored type at the top of the page, click on "Contact". This leads you to as many as 9 pages where you have to fill out a series of detailed forms. This supposedly guarantees that you will get a personal response from somebody within 24-48 hours.

The first form starts out by asking whether the sender supports White House policy or differs with it! Now this is a stopper right here. How can anybody tell what White House policy happens to be at the instant you are writing? <g> The cynics among us (who, me?) will say that if you click on Disagree your message will be dumped at this point.

After you have jumped through all hoops on all nine pages of forms, the potential email writer is asked to choose a subject from a limited list of subjects. (I wonder if there is a subject for "I want to donate big money".) This undoubtedly enables the White House staff to send you a canned response without wasting any more time reading what you had to say. Finally, you are invited to write your message. After the message is sent the writer must wait for an automated response asking whether the writer intended to send the message. The message is forwarded ONLY after the writer responds to the confirmation email.

Jimmy Orr apparently has such a low opinion of email that he suggests that you might want to use snail mail instead to write to the President.

The newspaper article states "Some internet usability experts think the new method for sending messages is not doing much to enhance communications between the White House and the public". That is probably the understatement of the year.

Post Script: After I wrote the above article I tried to actually send a message using the new system. Everything went fine until I got to the point for personal information. One of the required fields was to provide an e-mail address. I accordingly filled in my e-mail address and clicked on "continue" to move on to the 4th page BUT I got an error message saying that I had to fill in an e-mail address. Tried again - same error message, Tried another e-mail address - still the same error message. Being a cynic I tried to send another message but this time stating that my message was to agree with the President's policies. The web page STILL balked at the point of taking my e-mail address.

AOL Kills Netscape by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Well, AOL has finally dumped the first commercially successful browser, Netscape Navigator, from its product line. AOL will lay off 50 Netscape developers. AOL says they will continue to support the current Netscape users, and will keep the Netscape Web portal (www.netscape.com) running for the foreseeable future. AOL purchased Netscape in 1998 at the height of the dot-com boom, for a huge 4.2 billion dollars. However, because of an also huge increase in the price of Netscape shares between the time AOL made their offer and when all shares had been tendered, the total purchase price had ballooned to a totally ridiculous 9 billion dollars, more than double their original offer. I think we have to say that AOL lost a bunch of billions on this deal!

AOL has developed the open-source Mozilla browser source code, and has turned it over to a foundation that will continue its development and free distribution. However, without AOL providing funding for Mozilla development, there are questions about the success of the project. Only time will tell. The foundation will oversee development of Mozilla. AOL announced that they will donate \$2 million to the foundation and give it all the Mozilla trademarks and logos. Despite AOL's attempts to move Mozilla into the browser mainstream, it has almost zero market share. A major and highly publicized effort was made by AOL to convince Apple Computer to adopt Mozilla, or at least Mozilla technology, as the browser for the Macintosh computer. This effort failed when Apple announced their own browser design, Safari.

AOL, of course, needs a browser to integrate into their AOL web software. In June AOL signed a 7-year agreement with Microsoft to use Internet Explorer. In their announcement, AOL said they selected Internet Explorer because it was "superior to Mozilla".

The Blue Nowhere – A Book Review by Walt Parsons, DVPC

Author Jeffery Deaver is well known for his well written mystery thrillers such as *Bone Collector*, *A Maiden's Grave*, *The Devil's Teardrop*, etc. They usually feature some specialty in law enforcement such as forensic investigation, forgery detection, and crime negotiation.

The Blue Nowhere is something we can relate to since it is about computers and computer people. In this case, the villain is a cracker located in the Silicon valley who is able to “seize root” in key computers – ranging from the cell phone company’s operational computers, DMV, Police, FBI, Hospital records – and then control them. Phate, the villain, is able to crack the toughest encryption schemes including the US Defense Department’s best DES. Unfortunately, he frequently manipulates his victims so he can kill them just for the joy of it.

His virus, named “Trap Door,” can get into a machine and gain complete control of it without the victim even being aware of it. One time he stopped a police computer’s internal fans causing the computer to overheat and burn up. He is also able to control a victim’s computer so everything the victim looks at or sends is displayed on Phate’s computer. If there is something disruptive that can be done with computers, he has done it. At one critical point Phate enters Santa Clara’s traffic control computer and causes every stop light in Santa Clara to show green both ways causing chaos and allowing the villain to escape the police just as they are closing in on him. In other words, Phate is a real bad guy and needs to be stopped.

The heroes are in the California State Police Computer Crimes Division. Desperate to catch Phate, they enlist the services of a convicted hacker who is in prison. In the end the battle is between the two hackers. One trying to locate the bad guy so he can be captured and the other trying to get the good guy off the track and even to get him killed.

The story has more twists and turns than Vasco Road.

The book even has a glossary of computer terms such as Bot, Demon, MUD, phreaks, warez, etc.

Warning – don’t start the book late in the evening, or you won’t get any sleep that night.

P.S. The Walnut Creek city library has a copy of this book – as soon as I return it.

Google Pocket Guide – A Book Review by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC



By Tara Calishain, Rael Dornfest & DJ Adams

Published by O'Reilly Press

GOOGLE-IZE: v, using the Google search engine

I may have just coined a word! Want to know the tallest mountain on Mars? Or troubleshoot why your X-10 Home Automation system isn't working just right? Or find something in Microsoft's Knowledge Base? *Google-ize* it. In other words, use the Google search engine (www.google.com) to find your answer.

I find that I use Google every day to find out everything from product information to genealogical research – try putting in your last name! Or a phone number! Or “phonebook: restaurant San Francisco”!

Google is an incredible resource for finding out just about anything. While the interface is very simple, this search engine indexes

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Google Pocket Guide – A Book Review...

(Continued from page 9)

billions of web pages and handles millions of searches everyday. The 130 page Google Pocket Guide gives you the tools to make your searches faster and more effective. It details Google's features and gives you the techniques to construct more effective searches to get the information you need.

For example, did you know that Google limits your query to 10 keywords or special syntaxes? Did you know that Google does not support stemming? [Stemming is adding a wild card character (in Google it is the asterisk *) to the end of a word to find all variants of the word, i.e. moon* would find moonlight, moonshot, etc.] Instead, Google has full word wildcards i.e. "three * mice" would find: three blind mice, three red mice, three legged mice, etc.

There are several other Special Syntax operators: *intitle*: restricts your search to titles of web pages; *cache*: finds a copy of the page that Google indexed even if that page is no longer available at its original URL; *daterange*: limits your search to a specific date or a range of dates (*startdate-enddate*).

There is so much more to Google than meets the eye! Most of you know Google can translate pages from one language into another, but did you know you can search using slang? For that matter, you can translate Google's menus into different languages like Klingon, or Elmer Fudd, or even French – check out Language Tools on the main page.

Don't forget to download the Google Toolbar at toolbar.google.com. Check out Froogle at froogle.google.com, and Google News at news.google.com, and Google Groups (otherwise know as Usenet groups) at groups.google.com.

Bottom line: if someone suggested to me that I needed a Pocket Guide for Google I would have disagreed – that is, until I read this book. As I read the book I can't believe how often I thought to myself "I didn't know you could do that!"

Check it out! You can read some excerpts at www.oreilly.com/catalog/googlepg/chapter/index.html.

The MSRP is \$9.95, and it's available at all of the usual book outlets. Or even better, USE YOUR DVPC DISCOUNT and get 20% off! See the O'Reilly ad on page 16 for more information about this great discount program for DVPC members.

AT&T Privacy Bird by AT&T

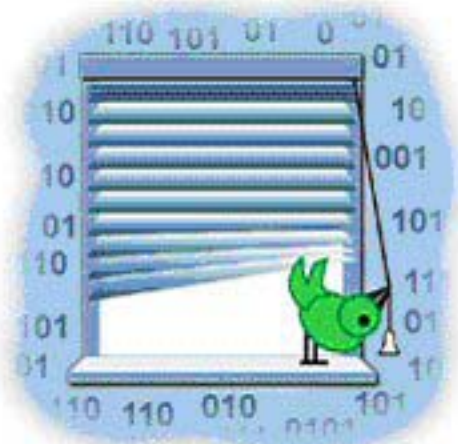
AT&T invites DVPC members to download the new AT&T Privacy Bird software for free. This software will help Internet users stay informed about how information they provide to Web sites could be used. The AT&T Privacy Bird automatically searches for privacy policies at every website you visit. You can tell the software about your privacy concerns, and it will tell you whether each site's policies match your personal privacy preferences. The software displays a green bird icon at Web sites that match, and a red bird icon at sites that do not.

The AT&T Privacy Bird lets you see what's really going on at Web sites. The bird icon alerts you about Web site privacy policies with a visual symbol and optional sounds.

The AT&T Privacy Bird reads privacy policies written in the standard format specified by the World Wide Web Consortium's Platform for Privacy Preferences (P3P; www.w3.org/P3P/). In addition to developing P3P software, AT&T is supporting this new industry standard by being one of the first companies to P3P enable our Web sites.

The AT&T Privacy Bird installs quickly and easily into Microsoft Internet Explorer Web browsers (version 5.01/5.5/6.0 on Microsoft Windows platforms). The AT&T Privacy Bird is the most complete P3P tool currently available. It is the first software to automatically read full P3P privacy policies and display them in an easy to understand language. It offers a wide variety of customization options, allowing you to tailor warning messages to meet your personal privacy concerns. For example, the AT&T Privacy Bird allows you to ask for warnings at Web sites that may:

- Sell your name and address to other companies without your permission
- Use your health or medical information for marketing
- Put you on mailing lists that you can't get off of
- And more...



(Continued on page 11)

Give a DVPC Membership Gift Certificate!

AT&T Privacy Bird...

(Continued from page 10)

As you spend more time on the Internet, more information about you and your Web activities is being shared with Web sites and may be used without your knowledge. It is difficult to determine which companies are getting access to your information or what they will do with it. The AT&T Privacy Bird puts you in control, giving you quick access to information about Web site privacy policies and timely warnings about Web sites that may use your personal data for purposes that are not acceptable to you.

To learn more about this software, please take a tour (www.privacybird.com/tour/1_2_beta/tour.html) or download a beta version of the software now (www.privacybird.com/cgi-bin/pubdownload).

PowerPoint Live Conference by Rick Altman

We want to make sure that the DVPC user group members know of the debut of the PowerPoint Live user conference and the special offer we are extending to DVPC members.

PowerPoint Live will be held October 12-15 in Tucson, AZ, and it promises to be a tremendous event for those who seek to improve their skills and understanding of Microsoft PowerPoint in particular and the presentation business in general.

PPTLive will bring together up to 250 users of all backgrounds, interests, and skill levels, as well as two dozen third-party solution providers, and over a dozen of the most knowledgeable and skilled PowerPoint designers and trainers in the world.

Unlike a large trade show, where attendees spend their days walking up and down aisles, the focus for PPTLive is on the end user – how to develop a deeper understanding of the program and become more productive and efficient.

The conference offers almost 40 seminars and workshops – covering basics, advanced tips and tricks, and design topics. Also featured is the Help Center, where patrons can go for hands-on technical support from morning until night.

Early-bird pricing is in effect throughout the month of July, and during that time, the registration fee of \$750 covers all of the seminars, access to the Help Center, the Expo, eligibility to win one of \$20,000 worth of prizes, breakfast all three days, lunch on two of the days, and one dinner.

Furthermore, all user group members in good standing can take an additional \$50 off their registration. Please visit www.altman.com/pptlive/usergroups.htm for information on how to secure this discount.

Should you be able to join us, you will learn more than you ever imagined and have more fun doing it than you ever thought possible. For complete information, call us here at conference headquarters, 925-398-6210, or visit the conference website at www.pptlive.com.

We hope to see you in Tucson...!

I am the host of the event and its chief organizer, and you can reach me directly at this email address or the phone number:

Rick Altman

The PowerPoint Live User Conference

October 12-15, 2003

Tucson, AZ

www.pptlive.com

New PowerQuest Software by Gene Barlow, User Group Relations

This past month, PowerQuest announced two almost identical products. Their Drive Image v7 product (\$69.95 list) is intended for end-users and can be found in most retail stores that sell utility software. Their V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 product (\$79.95 list) is intended for enterprise customers and can be ordered directly from PowerQuest. Normally, PowerQuest sells their enterprise products in multiple licenses that would only appeal to the enterprise customer. However, to accommodate those end-users that are interested in the additional features of V2i Protector, they are letting end-users purchase this new product in single quantities.

We have obtained copies of both products to offer to user group members at our great user group discount prices. You can purchase Drive Image v7 from us for just \$35 or you can get the new V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 from us for just \$40. To get your copy of either of these two excellent backup utilities, you can use our secure web order form at www.ugr.com/order. Complete the form including the special order code of UGANNVP2 and submit the form. We normally ship all orders we receive the following morning via the US Postal Service. They should arrive in 2-3 days after they are shipped.

How are these two products similar? As I said earlier, Drive Image v7 and V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 are almost the same

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Support DVPC — Get a friend to join!

New PowerQuest Software...

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product. I will explain their differences shortly, but first let's consider the many new functions these products have in common over earlier versions of Drive Image. First, these two products only run on Win2000 and WinXP operating systems. They do not run on older Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating systems, but can easily backup these older systems if you run multiple operating systems on your computer and have Win2000 or WinXP installed. As I have said in my presentations for the past couple of years, time is running out on these older operating systems and everyone should be considering a move to Win2000 or WinXP.

Second, both of these products run 100% of the time using a Windows operating system. They never boot to DOS like older versions of Drive Image or competitive products do. This is a significant step forward for backup utility software. DOS is a very limited operating system and does not support the new external USB or Firewire hard drives that are fully supported under Windows. The DOS device drivers for CD or DVD burners are not as powerful or complete as the Windows device drivers for these burners. Hence, creating backups to CDs or DVDs under Windows is much more likely to succeed than under DOS. Also, gaining access to a networked hard drive across a LAN is much more difficult under DOS than under Windows.

Besides the much larger range of good Windows device support, having to shut down all of your applications and boot into DOS to do your backups is slow and disruptive for the end user. From an ease of use standpoint, using a well-designed Windows interface is much easier to do than having to work with an old DOS interface. Let's face it; DOS is a 20-year-old solution whose days are numbered. These are just a few of the many new features in these outstanding new products. They are the best backup utilities on the market today and one of them should be on your Win2000 or WinXP system.

How are these two products different? As I said earlier, these two products are almost identical. They share 95% of the same code if not more. There are only a couple of differences between the two products. Let's first consider how the Drive Image v7 product is different from the V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 product. All of the function contained in the Drive Image product is included in the V2i Protector product. The only difference is the packaging of Drive Image v7. Included with Drive Image v7 is another CD containing the earlier Drive Image 2002 product that was introduced last year. This earlier product will run on Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating systems, so if you are currently using one of these older operating systems with a plan to move to Win2000 or WinXP in the future, then you can start to backup your system using Drive Image 2002 until you make the change in operating systems. Just be aware that the older Drive Image 2002 does not contain the new functions found in Drive Image v7 and that the Drive Image 2002 CD is not included with the V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 product.

What does V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 have that is not included in Drive Image v7? V2i Protector has the ability to do incremental image backups that Drive Image cannot do. This feature alone is so exciting that it is a must have function in my backup plans. Here's how this feature works. On a monthly basis, I do a complete image backup of my entire system using V2i Protector. I store these large image files on a backup partition on one of my hard drives or my external hard drive or a network drive. Since these image files contain everything on my computer systems, they are quite large and do take a few minutes to create. Then, a week after taking this image backup of my entire system, I run V2i Protector and make an incremental backup image of my system. This time, instead of backing up all of my hard drive, I only back up those sectors on my hard drives that have changed since the last backup. Because it is only creating an image of the changed sectors, these image files are relatively small and are completed very quickly. Then at the end of each week in the month, I again make an incremental backup image of my system. If anything goes wrong with my system, I can restore it to the last incremental backup point, which may be just a couple of days ago. I could also restore my system to any backup point before that if I needed to. V2i Protector does this smoothly and efficiently. This is a powerful new feature in backup utilities that you will certainly want.

So, which software product should you choose for your computer? If you currently use a Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating system and already have Drive Image 2002, then you can use that excellent backup utility until you move to Win2000 or WinXP. If you currently use a Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating system and are using an older version of Drive Image or a competitive backup utility, then you can order Drive Image v7 from us at the user group discount price and use the Drive Image 2002 product until you move to Win2000/XP and then you can use Drive Image v7 on your new system. Finally, if you currently use a Win2000/XP operating system then you should order V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 from us at the user group discount price and take advantage of the exciting new incremental image backup feature. One of these three options should fit you perfectly.

What else can you do to better understand your backup options? There are many backup options available to you today to backup your computer system. What are the differences between these options and which one is best for you? To help you decide, we have put together a set of training CDs that will give you all of the practical information about backing up your system as well as detailed instructions on how to do these backup steps. This training package includes our own "Backing Up your Hard Drive" educational CD that should be your starting point. It covers the various options available to you and gives you practical advice as to which one you should pick. We also provide a copy of the Drive Image v7 Training CD, produced by PowerQuest. We point you to

(Continued on page 13)

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

New PowerQuest Software...

(Continued from page 12)

the sections in that CD that will guide you through the detailed functions in Drive Image v7. Since V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 and Drive Image v7 are almost identical, this training CD will also help you with the V2i Protector product. This two CD training set is available to you for just \$15 at the user group discount and is the best way to get a good backup plan implemented on your computer.

I hope this helps you to better understand the differences between these two excellent backup utilities. Order your copy today at our great user group discount prices.

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PO Box 275 Email: barlow@ugr.com

Orem, UT 84059-0275 Web: www.ugr.com

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O'Reilly Newsletter by Marsee Henon, O'Reilly User Group Program

Book News

Don't forget, DVPC members get 20% off any O'Reilly book you purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering. Go to www.oreilly.com.

*****Programming .NET Security**

Order Number: 4427

With the spread of web-enabled desktop clients and web-server-based applications, developers can no longer afford to treat security as an afterthought. In fact, .NET forces you to address the topic since Microsoft has placed security-related features at the core of the .NET Framework. Even so, carelessness and lack of experience can enable a program to be used in an unintended way. This book shows programmers how to use .NET's various tools to write secure applications.

www.oreilly.com/catalog/prognetsec

Chapter 4, "The Lifetime of a Secure Application," is available online:

www.oreilly.com/catalog/prognetsec/chapter/index.html

*****Learning UML**

Order Number: 3447

"Learning UML" introduces and leads you toward mastery of the Unified Modeling Language. You'll learn how UML is used to model the structure of a system, how to employ use-case diagrams to model the functionality of a system, and how component and deployment diagrams are used to model the way in which a system is deployed in a physical environment. Each chapter ends with exercises you can use to test your growing knowledge of UML and its concepts.

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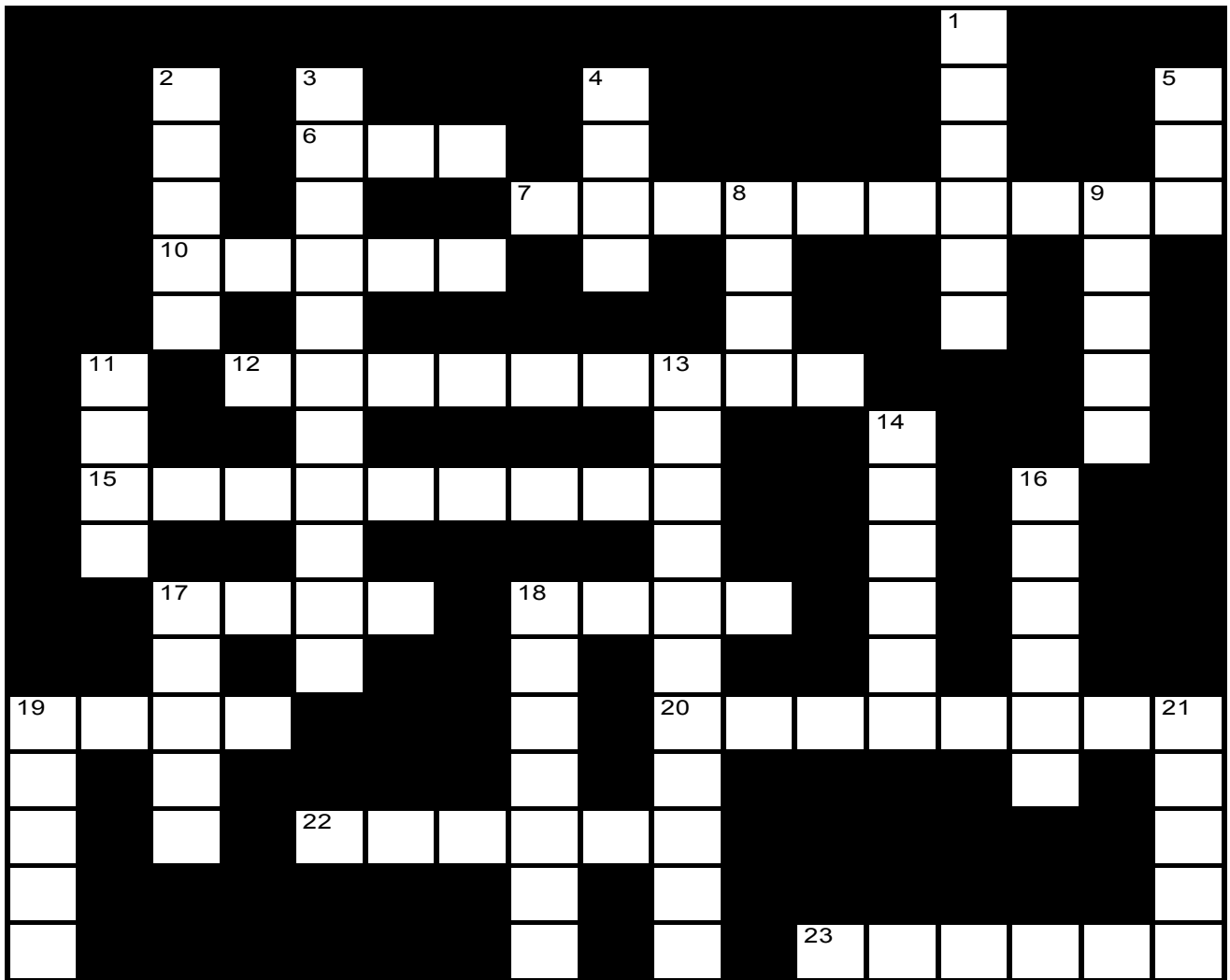
Chapter 8, "Activity Diagrams," is available online:

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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!!

Computer Crossword by Craig Peterson, DVPC
"Where do you want to go now?"



The title of this month's puzzle is more than just a clever ad for technology, it is also the question that is asked almost as often as both "Didn't I tell you to go before we left?" and "Don't make me stop this car and come back there..." With many of us traveling on summer trips, check out these places people go to on vacation. If you need help, check out www.dvpc.org/solution.html.

Across

- 6. A hotel or a tavern
- 7. State capital of California
- 10. Pacific and Atlantic are two of these
- 12. Part of southern California known for film making
- 15. Where you go in summer to camp and in winter to ski
- 17. Land set aside for recreation and nature
- 18. Land set aside for the production of food
- 19. Water going vehicle
- 20. Area devoted to housing and displaying aquatic plants and animals
- 22. Country south of the United States
- 23. A voyage for pleasure

Down

- 1. Where you might find such things as dinosaurs, stone tools, and HP2100 mainframe computers

- 2. Large freshwater lake between California and Nevada
- 3. Destination of those looking for a case of wine (2 words)
- 4. Destination of those who spend "2 days each month and 2 weeks each summer"
- 5. "Lions, and tigers, and bears, oh my..."
- 8. Place to go if you want to get married or divorced quickly
- 9. Transportation via rail
- 11. Destination of kids for 2 weeks
- 13. Place to see stars (not the kind you see in #12 across)
- 14. Country to the north of the United States
- 16. The 50th state
- 17. If you go to #16 down, you will need to take this or a ship
- 18. Activity that can be done in a river, lake, or sea
- 19. Sand filled area near the water
- 21. What a DVD or video was before it got released

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

I assume the Board meeting went off as planned. I never even thought about it until the following week. I have a good excuse though. Our oldest son surprised us at the end of June with the announcement that he was engaged. As a second surprise, he informed us that we had the honor of throwing an engagement party for his fiancé and him at our house on July 12. This allowed us nearly three full weeks to clean the house top to bottom, rearrange and spiff up the garden, plan a menu and procure the food and bar supplies, and generally resolve all the assorted logistical issues inherent in throwing a party for 40 to 70 people (exact count unpredictable) most of whom we did not know. Our revenge was to invite the neighbors and a few of our friends.

So, the day of the Board meeting I was cleaning the floors, making the first of three Costco runs, tracking down the best deal on rental chairs, and a few other things. I never even thought about the meeting.

The party was a success, the fiancé and fiancée (is there such a word? [Editor: Yes]) were content, y wife and I were happy but exhausted, and yes, Virginia, there probably was a Board meeting.

So, what do we talk about now?

Well, I have an idea how we can all make tons of money. It was inspired by a recent news report that a judge tossed out the lawsuit of a group of fat people who were suing some fast food businesses because the food these people bought from them and ate made the fat people fat. Duh! In what can only be regarded these days as a judicial oddity, the judge showed signs of common sense and ruled against their suit.

My idea hinges on the fact that this exercise of common sense in the court room is today an anomaly. We have grown inured to the ridiculous in our courts. Who hasn't heard of at least one case that seemed absolutely unbelievable? A personal favorite occurred a few years ago in Concord when a burglar who fell off the roof of the business he was intent on robbing successfully won a settlement for damages from his victim, presumably for not providing a reliable ladder for the use of criminals with the intent of breaking and entering. But that's the great thing – many of these cases result in the plaintiffs being rewarded, no matter how culpable they were.

So here's what we do. We put together a list of our "favorite" hardware and software vendors and sue the pants off them for grievous mental stress, lost productivity and time, harassment, maliciousness, and anything else Alan can come up with. I mean, they can't have made things so difficult, obscure, poorly documented and incompatible by accident! It had to be intentional!

An example: I bought a Linksys four port router a year ago. This would allow my wife and me cable internet access even though our PCs are in two different rooms about 25 feet apart without me having to crawl under the house and pull cable. For a few months it worked. With her wireless PCI card she averaged around 40-60% signal strength, but it worked. Then it didn't. I tried everything the instruction manual and online help suggested (which wasn't much for this problem). Finally a friend brought his laptop with its wireless card over and we tested things out. We found excellent signal strength and quality for distances up to three feet, at which it tapered off until at five feet, nothing. Not good.

Linksys swapped it out with no problem, even making certain that I got the exact same model, instead of a newer one. Things were great. For three months. Then the wireless quit again. Today I spent nearly two hours on the phone with their customer support (an 800 number, thank God!). Most of the time we were both silent while my machine rebooted. We loaded software, deleted software, re-reloaded software and rebooted a lot with little success. Finally we turned to my machine, which is cabled to the router, changed the channel, and like magic, the wireless worked

There is no documentation that discusses this problem, none that tells you how to reset the router to the default software (an earlier experience for which I now have notes), no obvious reason for what this highly trained technician from the third world had me do. Why not?

I say, let's go after them! Let's get some compensation for the time and money we've spent. Something to ease the pain and mental anguish they have put us through!

Or maybe we should just get a Mac and be done with it...

Turn Off Outlook 2002 Attachment Blocking by Ron Ogg, DVPC

If you're tired of Outlook 2002 preventing you from opening certain types of message attachments, here's the fix. Start RegEdit, navigate to HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Microsoft/Office/10.0/Outlook/Security. Create a new key by selecting Edit, New, String Value. Name it Level1Remove. Right-click on Level1Remove and select Modify from the pop-up menu. Now enter the list of extensions you want to be able to open when selecting an email attachment, such as exe or bat or zip, separated by semicolons, like exe;bat;zip and so on. Click on OK and close Regedit. Outlook 2002 will stop blocking files with the extensions you have added to this new registry key.

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

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O'Reilly Newsletter...

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www.oreilly.com/catalog/learnuml/chapter/index.html

News From O'Reilly & Beyond

General News

*****Free Shipping on O'Reilly Orders**

Free ground shipping is available for online orders of at least \$29.95 that go to a single U.S. address. This offer applies to U.S. delivery addresses in the 50 states and Puerto Rico. This free ground shipping offer may be used in conjunction with other promotional offers including the 20% User Group discount code DSUG. The qualifying amount is the total purchase amount before any discount is applied.

If your order qualifies for free ground shipping and you are shipping to Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, a P.O. Box, or an APO address, you'll need to contact our customer service group to complete the order. Email order@oreilly.com or call 800-998-9938 or 707-827-7019.

For more information, go to:

www.oreilly.com/news/freeshipping_0703.html

*****Meeting Tim O'Reilly "In the Flesh"**

Wil Wheaton, author of "Dancing Barefoot" by Monolith Press, blogs his meeting with Tim O'Reilly and selling out of his first book at O'Reilly's Open Source Convention in Portland, OR in his July 11 entry.

www.wilwheaton.net

Open Source

*****The State of Open Source**

Daniel Steinberg's report from OSCON details what luminaries from the open source communities of Perl, Python, PHP, MySQL, Apache, and Linux had to say about the current state of their technologies and where they are headed.

www.onlamp.com/pub/a/onlamp/2003/07/09/oscon_report.html

For more reports, photos, and weblogs from the show, don't miss our OSCON 2003 coverage page: www.oreillynet.com/oscon2003/

*****An Interview with the Author of "Practical mod_perl"**

In this ONLamp.com interview with chromatic, Stas Bekman talks about his work, mod_perl 2, and what it's like to be sponsored to work on free software full-time.

www.onlamp.com/pub/a/onlamp/2003/07/03/stas_interview.html

Stas is the author of O'Reilly's recently released "Practical mod_perl." Order Number: 2270

www.oreilly.com/catalog/pmodperl/index.html

Java

*****Creating Email Templates with XML**

Nearly every web app needs to send email at some point, but storing message bodies and headers can be tricky. Rafe Colburn demonstrates using XML, the Commons Digester, JavaMail, and MessageFormat to simplify generating and sending email.

www.onjava.com/pub/a/onjava/2003/07/09/email_templates.html

.NET

*****Using Network Streams**

Wei-Meng Lee's earlier article on .NET streams talked about the various implementations of the Stream class, such as the BufferedStream, FileStream, MemoryStream, and CryptoStream classes. One class which wasn't discussed is the NetworkStream class. In this article, he discusses the use of the NetworkStream class for network communication and how easy it is to use it for socket programming.

www.ondotnet.com/pub/a/dotnet/2003/07/07/netstreams.html

XML

*****The Document is the Database**

When we convert to a database-backed web application in order to solve problems of shared editing and presentation-oriented file formats, we trade away the convenience of the file-oriented approach. Can we have our cake and eat it too?

www.xml.com/pub/a/2003/07/09/udell.html

Aladdin Offers 40% User Group Discount by Shannon Rose, User Group Coordinator, Aladdin Systems Inc.

User Groups now get 40% off!

Summer is here and Aladdin would like to help you kick-off with extra savings that last all year long. In the past, user group have been able to get discounted pricing by using a special code to access Aladdin's online User Group Store. Now, the savings are greater and easier than ever to access.

From now on, registered user groups will get Aladdin products at 40% off retail. And, you now you don't have to enter a code to enter the store. Just shop at the main Aladdin online store www.aladdinsys.com/store and enter the discount code "UserGroup" (exactly as shown) in the "discount code" field. A 40% discount will be given when you hit "apply". It's that simple!

Please distribute this new code and shopping information to all members right away and let the increased savings begin. Here are some of the top-selling PC products you will find at terrific savings at the online store:

Internet Cleanup 3.0

Block Pop-Ups and Remove Spyware. Internet Cleanup (formerly owned by Ontrack) protects your Internet privacy by erasing your Internet data trail and permanently removing tracking devices left on your computer by websites you have visited.

Easily remove...

- a.. Spyware, web bugs, cookies, and Active X controls
- b.. Internet cache and history files
- c.. IE hidden references
- d.. IE Forms and Passwords
- e.. Clears "Recent documents" lists

Get Internet Cleanup for \$17.99. That is 40% off retail price of \$29.99

Shipping, handling, and tax is added when applicable.

StuffIt Deluxe® 8.0 for Windows

The easiest way to zip your files. StuffIt is the easiest, most comprehensive compression software available. Compress files to a fraction of original size so they email quickly and take up less space. Don't send avalanches of attachments and miles of files. Package a bunch of photos or other documents into one archive that doesn't take long to send or receive. It's as easy as drag and drop, or right-click!

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- b.. Open any .zip, .sit, or other compressed file, such as an email attachment
- c.. Make a sit file, or make a zip archive that can be opened by WinZip, StuffIt, or any other compression program
- a.. Easy-to-use wizards help you every step of the way
- b.. Integration with Microsoft Office lets you compress and send without launching StuffIt
- c.. ArchiveSearch™ finds any zipped file fast

Get StuffIt Deluxe 8.0 for \$23.99. That is 40% off retail price (\$39.99)

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The easiest and most complete uninstaller. Easy Uninstall (formerly owned by Ontrack) helps you safely remove unwanted programs and files with easy-to-follow menus or a simple right click. If you change your mind, use Complete Undo to reverse your changes. It couldn't be easier to free up disk space and unclutter your computer with Easy Uninstall.

- a.. Remove clutter to protect privacy and boost performance
- b.. Step-by-step uninstalling instructions
- c.. Color-coded files for built-in safety
- d.. Reverse changes with Complete Undo

Get Easy Uninstall for \$17.99. That is 40% off retail price of \$29.99

Shipping, handling, and tax is added when applicable.

For more information on these and all Aladdin Systems, Inc. products, please go to www.aladdinsys.com.

Aladdin Offers 40% User Group Discount...

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NEW User Group Discount Access System

Just go to the main Aladdin store at <http://www.aladdinsys.com/store> and in the "discount code" field enter "UserGroup" (exactly as shown) and a 40% discount will be applied when you hit "apply". If additional promotions are happening at the time you are shopping, you will also get those discounts! Tax, shipping, and handling will be added when applicable.

If you prefer to order by fax or phone, or want to order a product that is not shown on the main store, print out the user group order pdf form posted at www.aladdinsys.com/support/usergroups.

The discount code is also listed on that form. User group leaders- please check this webpage often to make sure you have the most current copy, post this form on your website and distribute whenever possible!

Smart Computing User Group Newsletter by Marcy Gunn, Smart Computing User Group Program

Greetings and welcome to the July Smart Computing User Group Newsletter. We have some great information to share with you this month from the July issue of Smart Computing. Digital Imaging pros, beginners, and those in-between will all find something valuable in this issue. Read about what to buy for your digital imaging needs, how to take your own digital images to edit, print, post, or send to friends and family, and much more. We've included an article below from this issue that focuses on how to transfer data from your LPs and cassettes to CDs, a popular subject among Smart Computing readers. To learn more about the July issue of Smart Computing, visit www.smartcomputing.com/editorial/mTOC.asp?type=2&vol=14&iss=7.

It will help you take your own digital images and edit, print, post, or email them to friends and family. Also in this month's newsletter, we're featuring an article from the July issue of Smart Computing Learning Series: "Consumer Electronics TIPS" to give you the inside scoop on extended warranties. Visit www.smartcomputing.com/editorial/sTOC.asp?type=3&vol=9&iss=7 to see tips from this information-packed issue for MP3s, PCs, PDAs, PVRs, Smart Appliances, Software, Video and more.

DID YOU KNOW?

* Subscribers to Smart Computing can now post "User Reviews" to the Smart Computing Web site! It's a chance to write your own user review; we like to think of it as reality computing. Check out this article for step-by-step instructions on how to write and post a user review on SmartComputing.com: www.smartcomputing.com/articles/2003/s1409/35s09/35s09.pdf.

Share your knowledge and give your user group some great publicity on SmartComputing.com!

* Smart Computing values your feedback! We want you to let us know how Smart Computing and/or SmartComputing.com has helped you! Email user-groups@smartcomputing.com and tell us about your experience or problem, and how you solved it using the tools available from Smart Computing. We would also like to know how the Smart Computing & CPU User Group Program is benefiting your group. Tell us what you like; tell us what you don't like. Please, share your thoughts & ideas with us!

* Smart Computing will be attending the Southwest Regional User Group Conference August 8-10 in San Diego, California. You won't want to miss this extraordinary event. Visit www.swugconf.org/registration.htm to register today! Rod Scher, publication editor, and myself will be conducting a workshop or two you won't want to miss. See you there!

SMART COMPUTING TIPS (As a user group member, you are welcome to reprint the following tips in your newsletter. If you choose to do so, please include the following disclaimer: "Reprinted with permission from Smart Computing. See how Smart Computing can benefit both you and your user group at

www.SmartComputing.com/groups.")

Email: Most popular client and Web-based email programs, including MSN and Microsoft Outlook, have an option for saving email messages to a location other than within the program itself. This comes in handy if you'd like to save email messages and open them later without the aid of an email program. Open the message and select Save As from the File menu. The default might be a proprietary format (in MSN, for example, it adds the extension .EMAIL), but if you scroll through the options in the Save As Type box, you can select .TXT (which you can open later as a simple text file), .HTML (which you can open in a Web browser), or another common format.

The Price Is Right: If you're not a bargain hunter, chances are it's because you like the bargains more than you like the hunting part. Still, everyone likes to grab a good deal, especially when the grabbing is easy. Enter PriceGrabber.com (www.pricegrabber.com). Search for products in a number of categories from Books, Movies, and Music to Computers, Software, and Consumer Electronics; you'll even find Jewelry and Office Products. Even if you have a preferred shop you'd like to buy from, it's worth your while to look up your prospective purchase here, check for super saver prices, and read the customer reviews. It beats driving from store to store looking at price tags.

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Scanners: Be resolute with your output. If you are scanning a photograph to use at the same size as the original, there is no need to scan it higher than 300dpi (dots per inch, a measurement of resolution), and 200dpi will work well for many printers. Anything larger will result in an excessive file size. The same is not true for line art (artwork that has defined edges and is not continuous tone [one color blends into the next]). Scan line art at a minimum of 600dpi. A good trick to use with black-and-white line art is to scan it in grayscale (as with a photograph) at high contrast. In grayscale mode, a scanner creates transitions between the levels of gray (this trick is called antialiasing). Grayscale images are larger than bit-map (black and white only) ones, but you won't have as much of a problem with jaggies (jagged edges where pixels end).

SMART COMPUTING ARTICLES

From Smart Computing – "Perfect Pictures", July 2003 (Vol.14 Issue 7): "Old Time Rock 'N' Roll Made New" - www.smartcomputing.com/support/links.asp?id=764 - Follow us through this plain English tutorial and we will show you how to move that old time rock 'n' roll to CD for easier storage and portability. That's right, With the right tools, transferring your old LPs and cassettes to CD-ROM is a simple task.

From Smart Computing Learning Series – "Consumer Electronics TIPS", July 2003 (Vol. 9 Issue 7): "Get Your Money's Worth" - www.smartcomputing.com/support/links.asp?id=765 - We'll show you the ins and outs of extended warranties so you can get the most from your consumer electronics.

If you have any questions or suggestions regarding the Smart Computing User Group Newsletter, please contact the User Group Program at user-groups@smartcomputing.com.

Ramblings by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Turn Off Windows XP Balloon Tips

Don't you hate those pop-up tips that show up every time you point to something on the Windows XP Task Bar? They are called Balloon Tips, and most users would like to excise them permanently to the same bit bucket that we sent Microsoft Office's Clippy. Well, here's how!

Start Regedit and navigate to HKEY_CURRENT_USER/Software/Microsoft/Windows/CurrentVersion/Explorer/Advanced. Create a new key by selecting Edit, New, DWord Value. Name it EnableBalloonTips. Right-click on EnableBalloonTips and select Modify from the pop-up menu. Enter the value 0. Click on OK and close Regedit. Restart Windows XP. Balloon Tips will no longer be displayed on the Task Bar.

Can't Delete Messages from Outlook

OK, you use Outlook 2000 for your email. And you're like me and tend to keep lots and lots and LOTS of messages. Maybe even a few more – a LOT more – than is rational. You just can't delete those old messages because you're afraid you'll need to refer to one of them some day in the future. Then, one day, out of the blue you decide to delete a message. Maybe it's spam, maybe it's from your brother-in-law. But when you click the X delete icon you receive the following error message:

"The messaging interface has returned an unknown error. If the problem persists, restart Outlook"

"What," you exclaim to yourself, "is THAT?" You close Outlook and restart it. Nada. You restart Windows. Same-as, same-as. You run the Detect and Repair tool that's on the Outlook Help menu. Nope. You close Outlook and run scanpst.exe. "No errors found." You uninstall then reinstall Outlook 2000. And you really thought THAT would work? Nothing you do solves the problem. And suddenly you realize you aren't receiving any new messages, either! Bummer!

What's happened is that you've exceeded one of Outlook 2000's size limits. Here's what they are:

- The limit on the number of folders per Outlook 2000 personal folder (PST) file is approximately 16,000.
- The number of messages per folder in a PST file is approximately 64,000.

OK, how do you solve this problem? Actually, it's very easy.

In Microsoft Outlook 2000 there's a feature "Allow upgrade to large tables" to increase the size limits on PST files.

To make this feature available in Outlook 2000, assuming you're running in Internet Mail Only (IMO) mode, follow these steps:

- In the Folders list, right-click Personal Folders, and click "Properties for Personal Folders" on the shortcut menu.
- On the General tab, click Advanced.
- Click to select the "Allow upgrade to large tables" check box.
- Click OK and OK.

Close and restart Outlook 2000. Now you can delete messages, and receive new messages, without any error messages.