



February 6, 2003 Meeting Announcement **Zone Labs – Firewalls and Computer Security**

We missed Steve Israel's security presentation in January due to a strange combination of events, all described in Alan's *President's Message* column below. We'll see Steve's presentation at our March meeting. But, to keep with the security theme, we're going to have Zone Labs (www.zonelabs.com) at our February meeting. We'll hear all about firewalls, what they do, how they work, and why they are needed to protect your computer system from intruders. We'll learn about hackers and what they can do to take over your computer, how hackers use pings and port scans to find unprotected PCs, how scripts can be used to take over your computer, what spyware, worms, and Trojan horse programs are and how they work, and why you need to protect yourself by using a firewall. We'll also see a demonstration of Zone Labs' premiere product, ZoneAlarm Pro. We'll see how it protects your system against attacks, blocks ads, Trojan horses, spyware, and worms, and the latest feature, pop-up ad control. ZoneAlarm and ZoneAlarm Pro feature Program Control, which monitors all outbound Internet traffic to prevent rogue programs from transferring your data to a hacker. You are in control, and you specify what programs can access the Internet.

The Zone Labs presentation will be a great precursor to Steve's security presentation in March. Be sure to attend and learn about firewalls and their importance as a major part of computer security.

The New Users SIG holds its meetings at 6:15 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 prior to each DVPC monthly meeting.

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

HOLD THE PRESSES! MEETING CHANGE!

For those of you who made the January meeting – thanks for coming out in the rain. Sorry that we got pre-empted by the bank – it is their room after all! Steve was going to do a presentation on computer security. Unfortunately, Steve got sick and couldn't make the meeting – maybe he knew about the room mix-up? Anyway, Steve planned to do the presentation in February, but he just learned that he has an important scout meeting – he is on the council – so Steve will give his computer security presentation in March.

In February I am pleased to announce that **Zone Labs** (www.zonelabs.com) will do a presentation on firewalls and, of course, demonstrate their fantastic program ZoneAlarm Pro. As many of you know, ZoneAlarm is FREE to individuals and non-profit organizations – one of the best personal firewall programs available – and it's free.

The Pro version includes many additional features, including pop-up control, cookie control, spyware removal, ad blocking, and more. You can read more about firewalls, security and spy-

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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

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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: _____

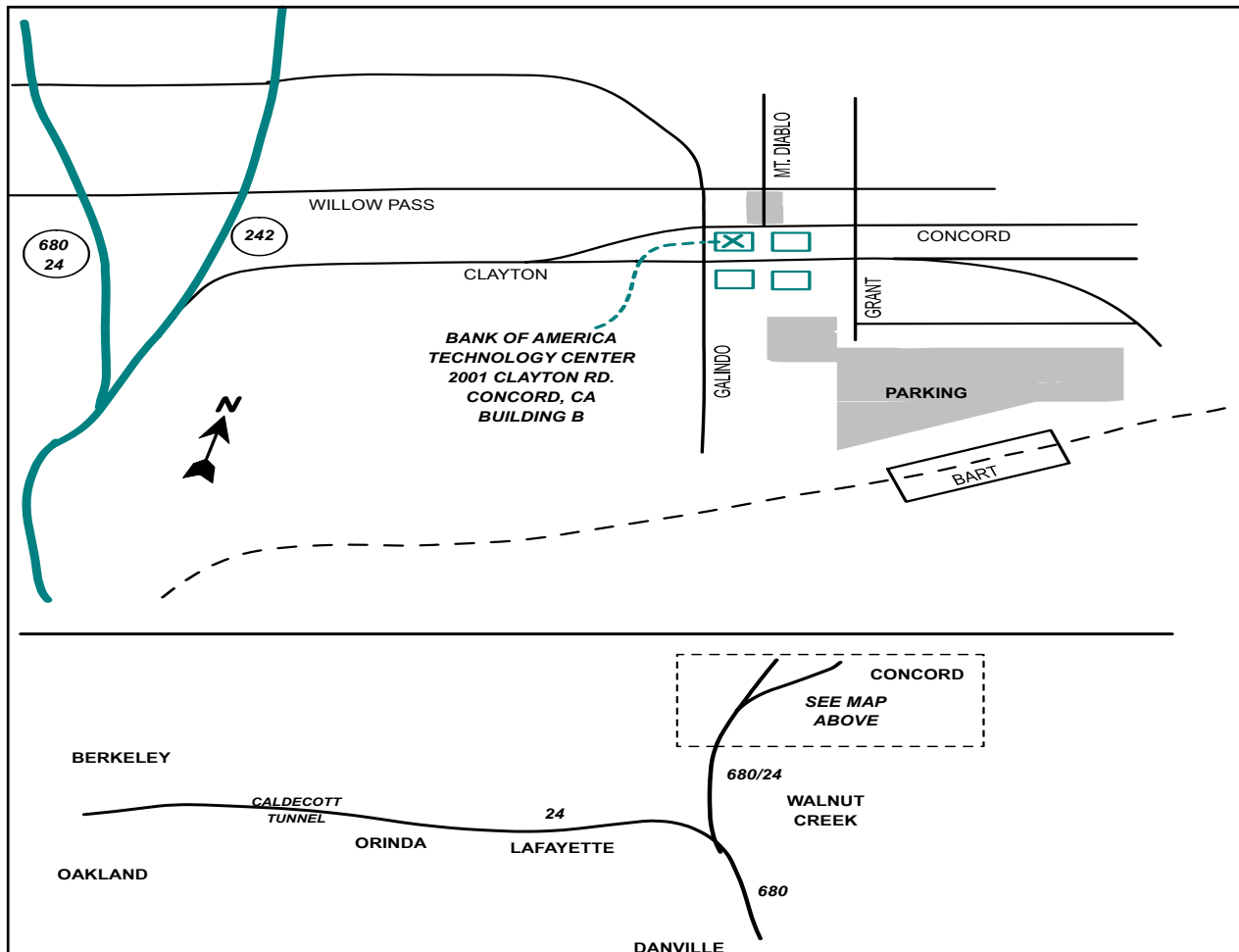
On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members for distribution to DVPC members only. Please check how you would like to be listed: No listing _____ List Name and Home _____ Work _____ phone number(s) _____ If a full-time student, check here: _____

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.

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.

Education and Entertainment SIG *Alan Mildwurm, SIG Leader – 510-770-5770*

The Education & Entertainment SIG is no longer going to hold meetings. It was fun and educational while it lasted, but Alan no longer has time to continue leading the SIG. If you're interested in starting a new Education and Entertainment SIG, or an Education SIG, or an Entertainment SIG, or PC Game SIG, let Nick Chase, DVPC's SIG Coordinator, know and he'll help you get started.

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.

It is said that “In spring a young man's thoughts turn towards love...” If, however, you wait until March 20th to celebrate St. Valentine's Day (2/14) you may find you have some troubles with your relationship. Join us the following Wednesday (2/19) and share your ways of using the Internet to celebrate this day of love and romance.

.NET SIG

Former SIG leader Ted Armstrong turned over the .NET SIG to Greg Dunn. The new location will be in Pleasanton and will no longer be affiliated with DVPC. The attendees for the two groups are now very different. The Mount Diablo Dot Net SIG (which is now called) is for VERY experienced developers. Somehow the SIG was not structured to appeal to a beginner or intermediate audience. For more information go to www.mountdiablo.net.

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

The New Users SIG holds its meetings at 6:15 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 6:15 p.m. prior to each DVPC monthly meeting.

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

MORE CHANGES... Now that the new term has started, we will be offering an expanded selection of courses. PC101 will continue to offer hands-on help with basic questions about computers and technology (from “How do I turn this thing on...” to “How can I do basic maintenance on my system without taking it into the shop?”) and will be joined by **PC201**. The new class is for those practical questions of a more advanced nature (“That new software needs a patch but the one offered by the company will not work

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SIG News...

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with my OS..."). So, if your questions and/or problems are simple or complex, stop by and attend the next class.

Both classes will be meeting the third Saturday of the month at the Financial Services Center, 1010 Oak Grove Road in Concord. A special thanks to Peter Camejo, the owner of PAM (Progressive Asset Management), for letting us use the main conference room for our classes. However, because the room isn't available on the third Saturday in February, the meeting will be held on the fourth Saturday, the 22nd.

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 Highway 24 take Monument Blvd. east and continue on Monument Blvd. to where it changes to Galindo; the Police Department building will be on your right a short distance past the signal at Cowell Road.

President's Message...

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ware at Steve Gibson's web site, www.grc.com.

Also in February, Ron and I will demonstrate a couple of slide and filmstrip scanners. In March Steve will do his security presentation, and in April PowerQuest will be back to show their latest software including PartitionMagic 8, DriveCopy 4, and a few surprises! See you at the February and future meetings!

FineReader Pro 6.0 OCR – A Software Review by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

As a result of our upgrade to Windows XP, we found that our UMAX Astranet e3420 scanner was no longer operating. At least UMAX decided to write drivers for XP. But there was a charge for the upgrade. I shouldn't complain, at least they released drivers. My not too ancient Canon BJC-5100 and Polaroid printer are not supported by XP. (I can't figure out why Canon *did* provide support for the older BJC-210 though!) Even with the new UMAX drivers, the OCR was not terrific.

At Comdex I saw FineReader Pro 6.0 by ABBYY (www.abbyy.com). ABBYY is a Russian software company with a local office in Fremont. ABBYY is dedicated to document recognition and natural language processing.

I have been using the FineReader Pro 6.0 program for a while now, and find that it is very accurate in its ability to scan and recognize text. What really shines with this program is how it retains the format and layout of the original document. It is well integrated with Windows XP and exports documents very easily to Word, Outlook, and Excel. What I find very exciting is its ability to recognize, edit, and save documents in PDF format! FineReader Pro 6.0 also has complete HTML support and a full WYSIWYG editor. You can print directly from the program as well! While I haven't tried it, FineReader Pro recognizes text in 177 languages.

The manual is very complete, although with the built-in wizards and tutorials you won't need the manual for most scanning and OCR tasks. FineReader Pro 6.0 saves recognition results in many formats, including doc, rtf, pdf, html, csv, txt, and xls. It also has the ability to open and save the following image formats: pdf, bmp, pcx, jpeg, tiff, and png.

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Do You Remember When?

Contributed by Tom Krauss, DVPC, and Jeanette Parker

Can You Believe that We Made It?

Even if your current age puts your youth earlier or later than 1972, this still, or will, apply to you! There is no escape!

1972: Long hair
2002: Longing for hair

1972: The perfect high
2002: The perfect high yield mutual fund

1972: KEG
2002: EKG

1972: Acid rock
2002: Acid reflux

1972: Moving to California because it's cool
2002: Moving to California because it's warm

1972: Growing pot
2002: Growing pot belly

1972: Trying to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor
2002: Trying NOT to look like Marlon Brando or Liz Taylor

1972: Seeds and stems
2002: Roughage

1972: Popping pills, smoking joints
2002: Popping joints

1972: Killer weed
2002: Weed killer

1972: Hoping for a BMW
2002: Hoping for a BM

1972: The Grateful Dead
2002: Dr. Kevorkian

1972: Going to a new, hip joint
2002: Receiving a new hip joint

1972: Rolling Stones
2002: Kidney Stones

1972: Being called into the principal's office
2002: Calling the principal's office

1972: Screw the system
2002: Upgrade the system

1972: Disco
2002: Costco

1972: Parents begging you to get your hair cut
2002: Children begging you to get their heads shaved

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Support DVPC — Get a friend to join!

Do You Remember When?...

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1972: Taking acid
2002: Taking antacid

1972: Passing the drivers' test
2002: Passing the vision test

1972: Whatever
2002: Depends

Just in case the above didn't make you feel too old, this will certainly change things. Each year the staff at Beloit College in Wisconsin puts together a list to try to give the faculty a sense of the mindset of this year's incoming freshmen. Here's this year's list:

The people who are starting college this fall (2002) across the nation were born in 1984.

They are too young to remember the space shuttle blowing up.

Their lifetime has always included AIDS.

Bottle caps have always been screw off and plastic.

The CD was introduced a year before they were born.

They have always had an answering machine.

They have always had cable.

They cannot fathom not having a remote control.

Jay Leno has always been on the Tonight Show.

Popcorn has always been cooked in the microwave.

They never took a swim and thought about Jaws.

They can't imagine what hard contact lenses are.

They don't know who Mork was or where he was from.

They never heard: "Where's the Beef?", "I'd walk a mile for a Camel", or "de plane Boss, de plane".

They do not care who shot J. R. and have no idea who J. R. even is.

Michael Jackson has always been white.

McDonald's never came in Styrofoam containers.

They don't have a clue how to use a typewriter.

Do you feel old yet? Pass this on to the other old fogies in your life.

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

Do You Remember When?...

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And if all of the preceding has completely depressed you, then put on your reading glasses and read on, read on.

If you lived as a child in the 40's, 50's, 60's or 70's, looking back it's hard to believe that we have lived as long as we have...

As children, we would ride in cars with no seat belts or air bags. Riding in the back of a pickup truck on a warm day was always a special treat.

Our baby cribs were covered with bright colored lead-based paint. We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors, or cabinets, and when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets. (Not to mention that we hitchhiked to town as a young kid!)

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle. Horrors.

We would spend hours building our go-kart out of scraps and then rode down the hill, only to find out we forgot the brakes. After running into the bushes a few times we learned to solve that problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. No one was able to reach us all day.

No cell phones. Unthinkable. We played dodge ball and sometimes the ball would really hurt. We got cut and broke bones and broke teeth, and there were no lawsuits from these accidents. They were *accidents*. No one was to blame but us. Remember accidents?

We had fights and punched each other and got black and blue and learned to get over it.

We ate cupcakes, bread and butter, and drank sugar soda but we were never overweight... we were always outside playing. We shared one grape soda with four friends, from one bottle and no one died from this.

We did not have a PlayStation (1 *or* 2), a Nintendo 64, an Xbox, any video games at all, 150 channels on cable, video tape or DVD movies, surround sound, cell phones, personal computers, Internet chat rooms... we had friends. We went outside and found them. We rode bikes or walked to a friend's home and knocked on the door, or rang the bell, or just walked in and talked to them. Imagine such a thing. Without asking a parent! By ourselves! Out there in the cold cruel world! Without a guardian. How did we do it?

We made up games with sticks and tennis balls and ate worms and although we were told it would happen, we did not put out very many eyes, nor did the worms live inside us forever.

Little League had tryouts and not everyone made the team. Those who didn't, had to learn to deal with disappointment... Some students weren't as smart as others so they failed a grade and were held back to repeat the same grade... Horrors. Tests were not adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own. Consequences were expected. No one to hide behind. The idea of a parent bailing us out if we broke a law was unheard of. They actually sided with the law, imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers and problem solvers and inventors, ever. The past 50 years has been an explosion of innovation and new ideas. We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility, and we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of us. Congratulations!

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!!

Bye, Bye, youremail@attbi.com by Ron Ogg, DVPC

You had a home.com email address. Then home.com went away. Bye, bye, youremail@home.com.

Users at home.com were picked up by AT&T Broadband. You were given a new email address, like youremail@attbi.com. What you had to do was send email messages to everyone – friends, co-workers, email newsletters, shopping sites, whomever you received email from, they all had to be notified. Whatta mess! Whatta lotta work!! But you did it, 'cause you had to.

Now AT&T Broadband has been “merged into” Comcast. And Comcast has decided that it is dropping the AT&T Broadband email addresses. So, no more attbi.com. Bye, bye, youremail@attbi.com.

Comcast is forcing their new customers, those formerly with AT&T Broadband, to change their email addresses from attbi.com to comcast.net. Whatta mess! Whatta lotta work!! But you're going to do it, 'cause you'll have to.

Here's what Comcast's web site (http://merger.comcast.com/Merger/FAQ/FaqDetail_4_424.html) says:

“You will be notified after February 2003 so you can notify people of your new e-mail address. Please visit comcast.com for updated information.”

Are you one of those people? It's going to be lots more fun than when you had to switch to attbi.com. That's because there's a chance that one of the 3.3 million current comcast.net users might have the same email address name. (Yes, folks, that's 3.3 million Comcast cable modem users!) So, if your email address is johnx@attbi.com and there's already a johnx@comcast.net you are going to have to pick a new email address name. Sorry, kids! 'Tis the way it goes. Is this the fun part?

If you're using AT&T Broadband for your Internet access, you're using AT&T Broadband for cable TV. And there are lots more of us who didn't have a cable modem but do (did?) have AT&T Broadband cable TV. This next part is Comcast's answer to the question “Will the programs or channels I currently receive change?” (http://merger.comcast.com/Merger/FAQ/FaqDetail_4_407.html):

“We are continuously reviewing and evaluating the channels and programming packages we offer in order to bring you the best value. As we go through this process, we anticipate making improvements and modifications to our channel line-ups. Comcast's customer policy is to provide you with at least 30 days notice prior to any service change.”

Oh, goodie, goodie, goodie! Maybe my favorite channel will disappear! Unrequited joy! Unfettered delirium!!

And all of this with an increase in cable TV fees, too! Wow! Is *this* the fun part?

You can get more information by going to merger.comcast.com. Though there's not much there, there. Yet. They promise more information... Real Soon Now. So stay tuned. Visit the Comcast web site often. Watch your email. Watch your snail-mail. *This* must be the fun part!

Hmmm, maybe it's finally time to check out Astound...

FineReader Pro 6.0 OCR – A Software Review...

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Page layout can be accomplished both automatically and manually. (I have found that automatic works just fine.) When necessary, manual mode allows you to select blocks or areas for recognition. The page is essentially broken down into frames, each of which is recognized in turn.

Additionally, there are several controls that allow manipulation of images, including de-speckle, brightness, inversion, rotation, and so on. The Formatting Toolbar easily allows control over these features.

Batch support gives you the tools to work with multi-page documents. Thus, changes can be made universally. Yet with all this power, scanning and OCR is essentially accomplished with one click of the “SCAN and READ” button. If you need that capability, the Corporate version works over a network.

At an upcoming meeting I will bring in FineReader Pro 6.0 and demonstrate its awesome power.

Minimum system requirements:

Pentium 200

Windows XP, 2000, NT4, Me, 98, 95

Internet Explorer 5

90 MB hard disk space for installation and 70 MB for program operation

100% TWAIN-compatible scanner and/or digital camera.

FineReader Pro 6.0, the version I have, lists for \$299.99. There's a trial version that can be downloaded from [c|net](http://www.cnet.com) (www.cnet.com) and [ZDNet](http://www.zdnet.com) (www.zdnet.com); go to either site and search for “finereader” to find the download page.

The Corporate Edition lists for \$499.99, and there is also a FineReader 5.0 Home Edition which lists for \$29.99; I have not tested either of these versions.

Note that you won't find any version of FileReader discounted much from their list prices.

Bye, Bye, SpamAssassin Pro by Ron Ogg, DVPC**Network Associates Acquires Deersoft, Inc.**

In the January issue of Diablo Blue I wrote a very favorable review of SpamAssassin Pro published by Deersoft. On January 6 I received an email that Network Associates (McAfee) had purchased Deersoft and had immediately withdrawn SpamAssassin Pro from the market. So, you cannot download or purchase this software. It also appears that you cannot register it if you had downloaded it prior to the McAfee acquisition, though there is a form you can fill out and submit to Deersoft that may (or may not!) let you purchase a registration code for a copy you had previously downloaded.

Some excerpts from the Network Associates press release:

Network Associates, Inc. today announced the acquisition of Deersoft, Inc, a leading provider of anti-spam solutions. The Deersoft acquisition is the first in a series of investments Network Associates is making in spam and content filtering technologies. Under the terms of the deal, Network Associates has acquired all technologies associated with Deersoft's Consumer and Enterprise anti-spam products. ...The technology will be delivered at the gateway, email server and desktop for enterprise customers and will be integrated with McAfee's existing award-winning, consumer anti-spam product McAfee SpamKiller". ...Network Associates will assume all support obligations for Deersoft customers, and the technology will be integrated into the McAfee Security anti-virus solutions to detect and remove spam messages.

To read the full press release, go to: www.mcafeeb2b.com/other/jump/deersoft.asp.

Some excerpts from the Network Associates FAQ:

Q. There are several anti-spam technologies in the market. Why did Network Associates choose Deersoft Inc.?

The proprietary SpamAssassin technology has the most sophisticated rules-based approach in the market and our lab testing reveals the product also has among the strongest detection rates with the lowest false-positives. The Deersoft Inc. product line is built on the leading open source anti-spam technology – SpamAssassin. As importantly, Deersoft Inc. founders are also the original authors of the open source technology.

Q. Network Associates already owns SpamKiller. How is Deersoft Inc. different?

The SpamKiller technology is a robust client-side solution for the consumer market. However, it is not designed for use in the enterprise. The enterprise market requires a more advanced rules-based approach and widespread platform support. SpamKiller provides robust support for Windows and while this is more than adequate for the consumer market, our enterprise customers require additional support. Deersoft Inc. provides both the additional platform support and a more advanced rules-based approach that results in increased accuracy in detection.

Q. Will the Deersoft Inc. product line replace the SpamKiller sold to consumers?

The existing SpamKiller product will remain the offering for consumers, and will be augmented in the future with technology from Deersoft. Network Associates will also bring to market a family of enterprise offerings under the SpamKiller name.

Q. What will happen to existing Deersoft Inc. products and customers?

We will take the existing product off the market immediately and will launch an enhanced version in the second quarter of 2003. Network Associates has assumed all support obligations for Deersoft customers. Existing Deersoft customers can contact a technical support representative at 1 800-722-3709.

To read the Network Associates Deersoft Acquisition Frequently Asked Questions and answers, go to:

www.mcafeeb2b.com/other/jump/deersoft-faq.asp.

FireWire versus USB by George Griffin, DVPC

I have been asked to enter the FireWire (IEEE 1394) versus USB (universal serial bus) war in a literary way. Well, which ever hot potato you back it is in part governed by the Apple versus PC skirmish and the public's susceptibility to commercial hype.

Now down to some nuts and bolts facts. FireWire was an early concept developed by Apple, but their procrastination and overbearing greed led to them try to get royalties for every FireWire adapter installed in a PC and every FireWire peripheral whether it was for an Apple or a PC. This in turn led PC manufacturers, in lieu of using the name FireWire, to go to the IEEE (Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers) and have that organization define a FireWire standard. The IEEE has the responsibility for defining stan-

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Changing Your E-mail Address?
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 Mail the form on page 2 or email your name and new information to changes@dvpc.org

FireWire versus USB...

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dards for electronics components, which insures that technologies are the same in every installation, providing for compatibility, etc. Thus the “FireWire” standard is IEEE1394, a name which has been used by PC manufacturers instead of FireWire (except for Sony, which named IEEE1394/FireWire ports on their PCs “iLink” which they quickly turned into a trademark). The “1394 Trade Association” was formed by PC and peripheral manufacturers and is active in promoting FireWire, and they recently entered into an agreement with Apple to let them use Apple’s FireWire name, logo, and symbol as a brand identity for IEEE1394.

On paper USB 2.0 is a little faster than FireWire, and can be hooked up in a longer string of peripherals connected to peripherals, and is probably much cheaper, but in the tech world IEEE1394/FireWire has a lot of advantages. One of these is that FireWire works without control, which means that devices communicate peer-to-peer, thus makes them truly plug-and-play.

Now all of the previous arguments are moot, with the advent of IEEE1394-B (sometimes called FireWire-2), which Apple Computer introduced at the annual MacWorld conference. The comment in an article I read was that this new FireWire-2 has three advantages: Speed, Speed, and Speed. All this does not come without some disadvantage, that being that it uses a different connector. Apple has included two ports on their new Macs, one for the original FireWire and one for the new FireWire-2.

Apple is not the only manufacturer to take advantage of the new FireWire advances. Matrox and LaCie are coming out with monster FireWire hard drives. Other well-known names in the electronic world are working on upcoming projects, including companies like Mitsubishi, Texas Instruments, and more.

This whole subject is a very complicated, and to do it justice would take more than several books, so this brief article is just an “info-scim” (my word). Just remember that electronics is like a streetcar – if you missed one, just stick around ‘cause another one will be along any time now.

Turn Off Windows Hibernation and Gain Disk Space by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Do you use the Windows hibernation feature? Probably not! If you don’t, read on and I’ll tell you how to shut it off and save a significant amount of hard disk space at the same time. There’s a file in the root of the C drive, hiberfil.sys, that is used to store an image of the RAM in your PC when your system is put into hibernation. On my laptop that has 192 MB of RAM and only a 6 GB hard drive, hiberfil.sys is 200,855,552 bytes, which was only 3.2% of the total disk space, but a whopping 43.6% of the free space on the C drive! On a desktop PC that has 512 MB of RAM, hiberfil.sys is 536,203,264 bytes – that’s *half a gigabyte*, folks! Definitely worth freeing up the space that hiberfil.sys is taking on both of these PCs, since neither of has ever been put into hibernation mode. (Note that hiberfil.sys has the Hidden and System attributes turned on, so you won’t see it in Windows Explorer unless you turn on the option on the View menu to see all files.)

Here’s what to do to disable hibernation and delete the hiberfil.sys file:

1. Open Control Panel. In Windows 98, ME, NT, and 2000 click on the Start button, select Settings, then select Control Panel. In Windows XP Home and Professional click on the Start button and select Control Panel.
2. Double-click on the Power Options icon.
3. In the Power Options Properties window uncheck the “Enable hibernation” checkbox.
4. Click OK.
5. Close Control Panel.

The hibernation option is now disabled. The hiberfil.sys file is automatically deleted.

Windows XP for Beginners – A Book Excerpt by Shelley O’Hara, Que Publishing

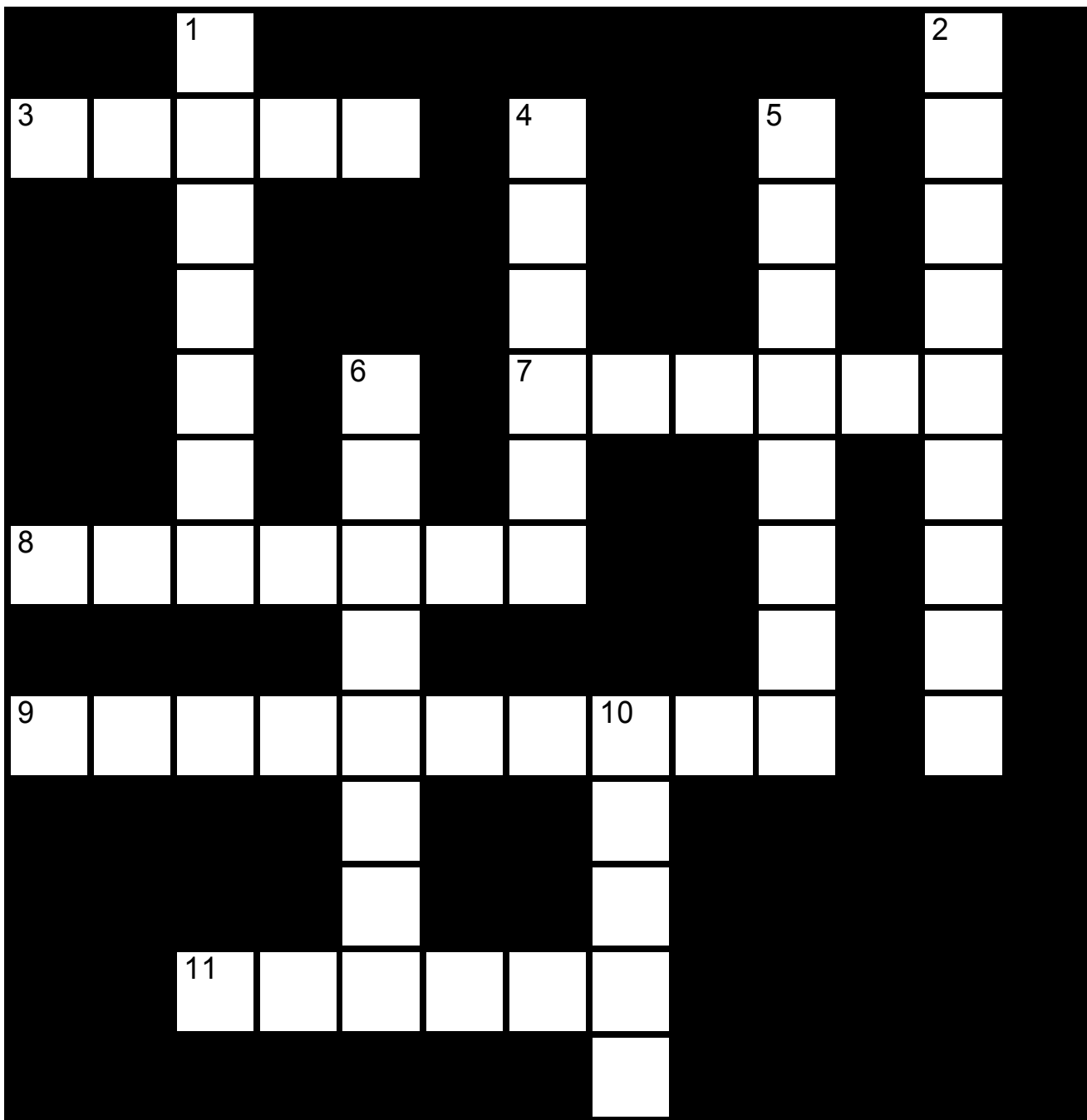
Book excerpt:
Absolute Beginner’s Guide to Microsoft Windows XP

The excerpt below is a sample chapter from *Absolute Beginner’s Guide to Microsoft Windows XP* from best-selling author Shelley O’Hara and Que Publishing. This chapter covers starting programs in Windows XP.

Chances are that if you are reading this document and as a member of PC User Group you are pretty familiar with running applications in the Windows environment, but think back to when you were first starting on a PC and how long it took you to realize that the “Alt” key in correlation with another key allowed you to accomplish what took multiple clicks with a mouse. You cer-

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Some politicians are more technically up to date than others. Some are barely able to use a computer while others have made claims that they have developed new technologies. This is, however, not a recent development. In this month's puzzle, we will give you an object and you will need to supply the President who was in office when it came into being.

If you need some help, you can break out your old history textbook or you can check out the answers at:
www.dvpc.org/solution.html.

Across

- 3. Telephone (1876)
- 7. Camera (1822)
- 8. Gatling's rapid fire gun (1862)
- 9. Sewing machine (1790)
- 11. Bunsen burner (1855)

Down

- 1. Reaping machine (1834)
- 2. Aeroplane (1903)
- 4. Electronic computer (1946)
- 5. Zip fastener (1892)
- 6. Rocket (1926)

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

Alan sent out a reminder that the Board meeting would be Tuesday January 14, and that reminded me that Tuesday night was promised to my wife and kids. It was their opportunity to shower me with birthday gifts, an event they were eagerly looking forward to, and I didn't have the heart to disappoint them. So I sent an email to the other Board members extending my regrets. As usual, I offered to write the minutes anyway, if someone would send me some notes. Or just make them up.

This touched off a small, two-day flurry of email as alternative dates were discussed. Finally Alan terminated the confusion and indecision that followed by making an executive decision (which is what we pay him the Big Bucks for) and moved the meeting to Wednesday. It seems not only does no one want to write the minutes, they don't even want to take notes. So I was able to attend, and the following is my usual accurate, unbiased account of how we spent the evening.

We began with a series of anecdotes regarding internet scams, all the way from psychics like Miss Cleo to Nigerian princesses who have millions of dollars, but need your \$20 for cab fare to get to the bank and withdraw it. I suggested that DVPC consider raising money by doing what a number of other honest people are doing these days: use our website to ask for donations because we need money, and offering in exchange the warm fuzzy feeling one gets from doing good. This idea was not so much rejected as ignored.

We drifted to other claims, scams and advertising ruses. But I promised Ron I wouldn't write about our discussion of V----- (rhymes with Niagara), so I won't. Let's just say that Charlie probably could have contributed because of his extensive medical knowledge, but unfortunately he wasn't with us.

This reminded Craig of some of his experiences in Asia while serving in the Navy. However, once he realized the implications for self-incrimination, he quieted down, ending with a weak "...or so I heard". Next came a short but animated discussion of Linux versus Windows.

Finally Ron brought us back to club business with a status of the new brochure and was authorized to spend the money to get it printed. Will presented some excellent suggestions for getting the word out, including advertising in homeowner association newsletters. We agreed to give this one a shot and see how successful it might be.

We also agreed to pay more attention to guests at the regular monthly meeting. THIS IS SOMETHING ALL MEMBERS CAN AND SHOULD DO! Suggestions here included greeting them, talking to them (novel concepts, but they might work) and handing out an informational packet or at least the brochure. Several of the SIG meetings attract non-members, and the SIG leaders will be asked to invest some time promoting DVPC to these folks.

Will had heard that the club phone was not working, so Alan tested it right there in front of us all, and by golly, it worked! The answering machine is our old 386 Pentium II with 2 MB RAM and a tiny hard drive, and it sits all by itself in Alan's garage waiting for someone to talk to. But it just keeps going, and going, and going...

A final suggestion was that PC 101 SIG be expanded in scope a bit. Craig will try to reserve a room at the Concord Main Library one Saturday morning for his meeting, and we will combine this SIG meeting with a general public service presence for anyone who has computer related questions or issues. Other Board members will make themselves available at this time. We will advertise our presence at the library and hopefully we will be inundated with the general public's questions and enthusiasm, and maybe even generate some new members.

Finally, it was suggested that we seek permission to have a table at the grand opening of the new Fry's in Concord, whenever that is. For those who are unaware, Fry's will be opening a store soon in the former Levitz Store in the back of Park and Shop on Willow Pass Road.

And so, the pizza gone, the stories told, we wandered out to the freeway and headed home to check our email and see if Miss Cleo had called while we were out.

Windows XP for Beginners – A Book Excerpt ...

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tainly know someone who has a hard enough time finding the power button, let alone identifying an application and navigating through its menus. These "absolute beginners" can find all of the info that they need in these friendly, hands-on books.

Note: Absolute Beginner's Guides by nature are graphically rich texts, including diagrams to guide the reader through each step of the process. Additionally, call-outs such as tips, notes, and warnings, appear in the margins of the text. For the purposes of this article, these images and elements have been removed. To view the tips and graphics, click on "Sample Chapters" at: <http://snurl.com/quebook>.

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Interested in Starting a New SIG?

See Nick Chase, DVPC's SIG Coordinator, at the General Meeting – he'll help you get started!

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Starting Programs

In this chapter:

Starting a Program from the Start Menu

Starting a Program from a Shortcut Icon

Switching Between Programs

Trying Fancier Methods for Starting

Working in a Program

Exiting a Program

Starting a Program from the Start Menu

Most of your time on the computer will be spent working in some type of program—a word processing program to type letters, a spreadsheet program to create budgets, a database to keep track of contacts, and so on. So one of the most important skills is learning how to start a program.

Because different people prefer different ways of working, Windows XP provides many options for starting programs. What's the best way? The way you like. Pick the one that is easiest for you.

When you install a new Windows program, that program's installation procedure sets up a program icon (and sometimes a program folder if the program includes several components. For example, a scanning program may include a program for executing the scan as well as a program for working with and saving the scanned document). These are listed within the Start menu.

The Start menu provides two methods for starting a program. If you recently used a program, you can select it from the left pane of the Start menu. If the program is not listed, you can display all programs and then select the program from the longer menu. This section covers both of these methods.

Starting a Recent Program

Follow these steps to start a recently used program:

1. Click the Start button. The left pane displays the last several programs you used
2. Click the program. That program is started, and you see the program -window.

Listing All Programs

Follow these steps to view and select from a list of all programs:

1. Click Start and then click All Programs. You see a list of all the program icons and program folders
2. If necessary, click the program folder. Any items with an arrow next to them are program folders rather than icons. When you click the program folder, you see the program icons within that folder. For instance, if you click Accessories, you see the Accessory programs included with Windows XP. Follow this step until you see the icon for the program you want to start.
3. Click the program icon to start the program. The program opens in its own window, and a taskbar button for the program appears in the taskbar.

Starting a Program from a Shortcut Icon

In addition to the Start menu, you can also start programs from shortcut icons. Some programs automatically create shortcut icons, placing them on the desktop.

To start a program from a shortcut icon, double-click the shortcut icon on the desktop. The program starts and is displayed in its own window. A taskbar button appears for the -program.

Switching Between Programs

You often work with more than one type of program at the same time. Windows XP enables you to quickly switch from one program to another. For example, you might want to review sales figures in a worksheet while at the same time creating a sales report in a word processing program. Switching between programs enables you not only to view data from several sources but also to share data among programs.

As mentioned, when you start a program, a button for that program is displayed in the taskbar. To switch to another program, simply click the button for that program. That program becomes the active program.

Trying Fancier Methods for Starting

So far this chapter has covered the most common ways to start a program. As you become more proficient, you might experiment

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with other ways of starting as explained in the following scenarios:

You can start a program from the actual program file (not the same as a shortcut icon although you do the same thing: double-click the icon to start the program). When you install a program, the installation program copies the program file(s) to your hard drive. These programs are most often stored in the Program Files folder. You can open this folder and double-click the program icon to start the -program.

You can start a program using the Run command on the Start menu. This command is often used to run installation programs or DOS programs.

You can add a program to the Startup group. Windows XP automatically starts any programs in this special system folder each time you start Windows.

You can assign a shortcut key to a program and press this key combination to start the program.

Working in a Program

When the program is started, you see the program window. A great thing about Windows XP is that all program windows share similar features. Learning to use one program helps you master key skills for almost all other programs. For example, most programs include a menu bar that works the same in all programs. This section covers some basic skills for working in programs.

Selecting Commands

The top line of the program window is called the title bar and includes the name of the document (or a generic name if the document has not been saved) and the program name.

Below the title bar, you see the menu bar. You use this to select commands. For instance, open the File menu and select the Save command to save a document. To use a menu, follow these steps:

1. Click the menu name. The menu drops down and displays a list of commands. .
2. Click the command. Depending on the command you select, one of the following happens:
 - The command is executed. For instance, if you select File, Exit the program is closed.
 - You see a submenu. Any commands followed by an arrow display a submenu. Click the command in this menu to execute the selected command.
 - You see a dialog box prompting you for additional information about how to execute the command. For example, if you select File, Print you see the Print dialog box. You can select options for printing such as the printer to use and the number of copies to print. See the upcoming section “Selecting Dialog Box Options.”

You’ll find that not only do the menus work the same in most programs, but also many programs include the same commands. For example, you can commonly find a File, Save command for saving documents. The Edit menu usually has commands for cutting text (Cut), copying text (Copy), and pasting cut or copied text (Paste). The Help menu provides access to online help; you can use the commands in this menu to look up help topics for the program.

Using the Keyboard to Select Commands

If you are a fast typist, you might prefer to keep your hands on the keyboard and use the keys to open and select a menu command. You can use the keyboard shortcuts, or you can select menu commands with the keyboard. Follow these steps to use the keyboard for opening menus:

1. Press the Alt key. Notice that the program’s menus now have an underlined letter. This is the letter you press to open the menu and select the command. For instance, press Alt and then look at File. To open this menu, press the F key.
2. Press the key letter for the menu. You see a drop-down list of commands. Notice again that each command has one key letter underlined.
3. Press the key letter for the command.

Selecting Dialog Box Options

As mentioned, when you select some commands, a dialog box appears prompting you for additional information. Like menus, dialog boxes work the same across most Windows programs. (This also includes commands in Windows itself.)

Dialog boxes vary from command to command and from program to program. But they do include like features that you select in the same way:

Tabs – If the dialog box has many options, they may be divided into tabs or pages. Click the tab you want to view from the page of options. For example, if you select View, Options in WordPad, you see the Options dialog box with several. Click the tab you want.

Check boxes – Some options can be turned on or off, and these are controlled with check. If a box is checked, the option is on. If

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the box is unchecked, the option is off. You can click within the box to toggle between on and off. With check boxes, you can select as many options in a group as you want.

Option buttons – When you can select just one option in a group of options, you see radio or option buttons rather than check boxes. The button that is darkened is the one that is selected. You can select another option by clicking its option button.

List boxes – For some options, you can select from a list. Sometimes the list is displayed, and you can click the item in the list that you want to select. You can also scroll through the list to view other options.

Drop-down list boxes – To conserve space, some list boxes are condensed and only the current option is displayed. You can display and select from other options by clicking the down arrow next to the option and then clicking the new option you want to select. For instance, you can click Color in the Font dialog box and then select from a palette of colors.

Text boxes – For some items, you can enter text. For instance, you can enter the name of a file when you save a document. To enter something in a text box, click in the box and select the current entry. Then type your new entry.

Spin boxes – For values (numbers), programs commonly use a spin box. In this type of box, you can type the value or use the arrows to increase or decrease the value.

Command buttons—Most dialog boxes include a confirm and cancel button. The confirm button is usually OK, but it may vary. For instance, when printing a document, you click the Print button to carry out the command. To cancel the options and command, click the Cancel button.

Using Right-Click Shortcut Menus

Because each person prefers a different style for performing certain tasks, Windows programs provide many ways to perform these common tasks. For instance, I like to use the keyboard because I am a fast typist and don't like to take my hands away from the keyboard to use the mouse. Beginners often use the menu commands because they are easier to figure out than toolbar buttons. Long-time computer users often use keyboard shortcuts because originally (wayyyyy back) programs were not menu-driven.

So yet another method for selecting commands is using the shortcut menu. To display this menu, right-click on the area you want to modify. For instance, right-click on some text to display a text shortcut menu in a word processing program. Right-click on a picture to display picture commands. You can even use the right-click within Windows: right-click the desktop to display desktop commands; right-click the taskbar to display taskbar commands.

The commands you see vary depending on what you right-click. To select a command from a shortcut menu, click its name. To close the shortcut menu without making a selection, press Esc or click with the left mouse button outside of the menu area.

Using the Toolbar

In addition to using the menus and keyboard shortcuts, you can also use toolbar buttons to select commands. Most Windows programs include toolbar(s), which are displayed right under the menu bar. The buttons vary depending on the program, but most of them are similar.

The following list gives you some insight on how to work with toolbars:

Toolbar buttons are shortcuts to commands. You can click the button instead of selecting the command. For instance, click the Save button to save a document (same as selecting File, Save).

If you aren't sure what a toolbar does, hover the mouse pointer over the edge of the toolbar. A ScreenTip (the button name) should appear.

Some programs have more than one toolbar. Usually the standard toolbar includes buttons for common commands (Save, Open, New, and so on). The program may also include a toolbar with formatting options (usually called the Formatting toolbar or the Format bar). This toolbar includes buttons that let you quickly make formatting changes such as making text bold, changing the font, and so on.

If you see a down arrow next to a command, you can click this arrow to display a drop-down list of choices. Then click the option you want to select. For instance, you can click the down arrow next to the Font button to display a list of available fonts. From the list, click the one you want to use.

If you don't use the toolbar and want more room for the document to be displayed, turn off the toolbar. You can also select to display more than one toolbar in some programs such as Word for Windows. Look in the View menu for a Toolbar or Toolbars command. Any toolbars that are checked are displayed. The command is a toggle: select the command to uncheck and hide the toolbar. To display the toolbar, select it again so that there is a check next to it.

Exiting a Program

When you finish working in a program, close it to free system memory. (System memory is the working area of the computer where data and programs are stored temporarily while you are working within the program and on a document.) Too many open programs can tax your system's memory and slow the computer's processes. You can use one of several methods to close a program:

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1. Click File and then click the Exit command. The program closes.
2. Click the Close button for the program window.
3. Press Alt+F4. The program is closed.

The Absolute Minimum

This chapter explains not only how to start programs but also how to work with common program features such as menu bars and toolbars. In summary, keep these points in mind:

You can start a program using the Start menu or a shortcut icon.

The menu bar enables you to select commands. Click the menu name to display the menu and then click the command you want. You may be prompted to select additional options for the command in a dialog box. Make your selections and click the command button (usually OK).

Other methods for selecting commands include keyboard shortcuts, shortcut menus, and toolbars.

When you are finished working in a program, save your work and then exit the program. You can exit using the File, Exit command or by clicking the program window's Close button.

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Tips to Help Prevent Identity Theft by Rosalie Chan, Attorney at Law

Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in the United States. Senators Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and Richard Shelby (R-AL) introduced bill S.1399 in September, 2001 to prevent identity theft and protect consumers against unwarranted use of their private information. Until – and regardless of whether – that bill passes the Senate and House of Representatives and is signed into law, there are a number of steps that you should take that will help you personally avoid identity theft. Read Roberta Chan's tips:

The next time you order checks have only your initials (instead of first name) and last name printed on them. If someone takes your check book they will not know if you sign your checks with just your initials or your first name but your bank will know how you sign your checks. Put your work phone number on your checks instead of your home phone. If you have a PO Box use that instead of your home address. If you do not have a PO Box use your work address. Never have your Social Security number printed on your checks – you can hand write it if it is necessary. But if you have it printed, anyone can get it.

Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine, do both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call and cancel. Keep the photocopy in a safe place. I also carry a photocopy of my passport when I travel either here or abroad.

We've all heard horror stories about fraud that's committed on us in stealing a name, address, Social Security number, credit cards, etc. Unfortunately I, an attorney, have firsthand knowledge because my wallet was stolen last month. Within a week, the thieves ordered an expensive monthly cell phone package, applied for a VISA credit card, had a credit line approved to buy a Gateway computer, received a PIN number from DMV to change my driving record information on-line, and more.

But here's some critical information to limit the damage in case this happens to you or someone you know. We have been told we should cancel our credit cards immediately. But the key is having the toll free numbers and your card numbers handy so you know whom to call. Keep those where you can find them easily.

File a police report immediately in the jurisdiction where it was stolen, this proves to credit providers you were diligent, and is a first step toward an investigation (if there ever is one).

But here's what is perhaps most important (I never even thought to do this): Call the three national credit reporting organizations immediately to place a fraud alert on your name and Social Security number. I had never heard of doing that until advised by a bank that called to tell me an application for credit was made over the Internet in my name. The alert means any company that checks your credit knows your information was stolen and they have to contact you by phone to authorize new credit. By the time I was advised to do this, almost two weeks after the theft, all the damage had been done. There are records of all the credit checks initiated by the thieves' purchases, none of which I knew about before placing the alert. Since then, no additional damage has been done, and the thieves threw my wallet away (someone turned it in). It seems to have stopped them in their tracks.

The numbers are Equifax: 1-800-525-6285 – Experian (formerly TRW): 1-888-397-3742 – Trans Union: 1-800-680-7289 – Social Security Administration (fraud line): 1-800-269-0271

We pass along jokes; we pass along just about everything. Do think about passing this information along. It could really help someone you care about.