



November 6, 2003 Meeting Announcement Microsoft Office 2003

Microsoft will demonstrate the new Office 2003 at our November 6 DVPC meeting. This firsthand look will provide a sneak peek at the new Microsoft Office System and you how to maximize your productivity at home and at the office, reduce spam, customize your email, and much more. In-depth information will be provided on maximizing productivity at home and at the office, better customer and employee communications, increasing quality without increasing costs, and much more. You'll see real-life examples and live demonstrations of the new productivity, communication, collaboration, and security features of the Microsoft Office System. The presentation and demonstration will be given by Microsoft Office experts. The Microsoft Office System provides the building blocks for creating solutions that will help:

- Improve individual productivity and enable more business users to contribute in increasingly demanding environments.
- Provide business users better access to information so they can gain deeper insights and take more effective action.
- Improve an organization's ability to anticipate, manage, and respond to changes in the marketplace.
- Enable teams and organizations to work together with speed and agility.

Office 2003 Editions, the successor to Microsoft Office XP, are the cornerstone of the Microsoft Office System. By helping connect to the right people, information, and business processes through innovations like integration with Microsoft intranet collaboration technologies, information rights management (IRM), and support for industry-standard Extensible Markup Language (XML), Office 2003 Editions make it easier for people to take more effective action and get better results. Want to see what's going on behind the doors of Microsoft Product Development? Then visit Microsoft Insider (www.microsoft.com/insider/default.asp). In the current edition, you'll get an inside look at the latest multimedia technology and get tips on smart ways to use it. Microsoft Office has evolved from a suite of personal productivity products to a more comprehensive and integrated system. Building on the familiar tools that many people already know, the Microsoft Office System includes programs, servers, services, and solutions designed to work together to help address a broad array of business problems.

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President's Message

by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

This month we are privileged to have a special presentation by Microsoft of the latest version of Office, due to be released on Oct 23. This new version of Office is officially named "The Microsoft Office System. — but it's more generally known as Office 2003. We'll see all of the major Office applications: Word, Excel, Outlook, PowerPoint, and Access, as well as FrontPage and Publisher. We'll see how Office documents can be saved as XML files, and what that can mean for integrating Office documents with web sites and web applications. And, what this means for both corporate and individual users.

Bring a guest, you won't be disappointed!

In December, we will be treated to a very special video night! Lots of new things to see!

In January, I will do my annual Comdex report. While Comdex is now a smaller show than in the past, there's still a ton of new products that will be on display. Should be fun telling about it!

We are getting close to buying a new projector and I hope that it will debut VERY soon!

Look for the December issue of Diablo Blue which will focus on digital photography. I think you will find it fascinating!

DVPC November 2003 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1
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 <i>On vacation until January 17th</i>
18	19	20 Internet SIG 7:00 p.m.	21 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m. Clarion SIG 7:00 p.m.	22 <i>Diablo Blue deadline: Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net</i>	23
25	26	27	28	29	30 <i>See SIG News starting on page 5 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</i>

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 scanable. Send your ad copy as email attachments to the Newsletter Editor, rogg@value.net. See the deadline information in the Calendar on page 16 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*.

DVPC on the Internet

DVPC has a Web site on the Internet – thanks to our Web Team: Ron Ogg and Stan Umlauft. You can surf your way to our own domain and home page by starting your favorite Web browser and typing the following URL; be sure to save it in your browser's hotlist so you don't have to type it each time: www.dvpc.org.

DVPC Officers and Directors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Board of Directors usually meets the week following the general meeting. Check the DVPC Calendar on page 16 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*, or the DVPC calendar page, for the meeting date, time, and location. You can reach any of the officers and directors by talking to them at the DVPC monthly meeting, by email to bod@value.net, or by leaving a message on the DVPC voice mail system.

DVPC Voice Mail System

DVPC has a computer-based voice mail system. The phone number for the DVPC VMS is 925-556-1449. Hear up-to-date information about monthly and SIG meetings, information about DVPC for potential new members, and a message center for Board of Directors members and SIG Leaders.

Diablo Blue is the monthly Web-based newsletter of the Diablo Valley PC Users' Group.

Editor: Ronald Ogg, Membership: Peggy Johnson

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

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

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

Get Involved! Learn! Join a SIG today!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Print this page, fill out this form, and enclose it with your check for \$30.00 for one year's dues with access to the Internet edition of *Diablo Blue* (\$20.00 for students who must enclose a copy of current Student ID), made payable to DVPC, and mail to: DVPC, PO Box 3244, San Ramon, CA 94583

Renewal _____ New Member _____ Referred by current member? Name _____

Name: _____

Company/School: _____ Email address: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

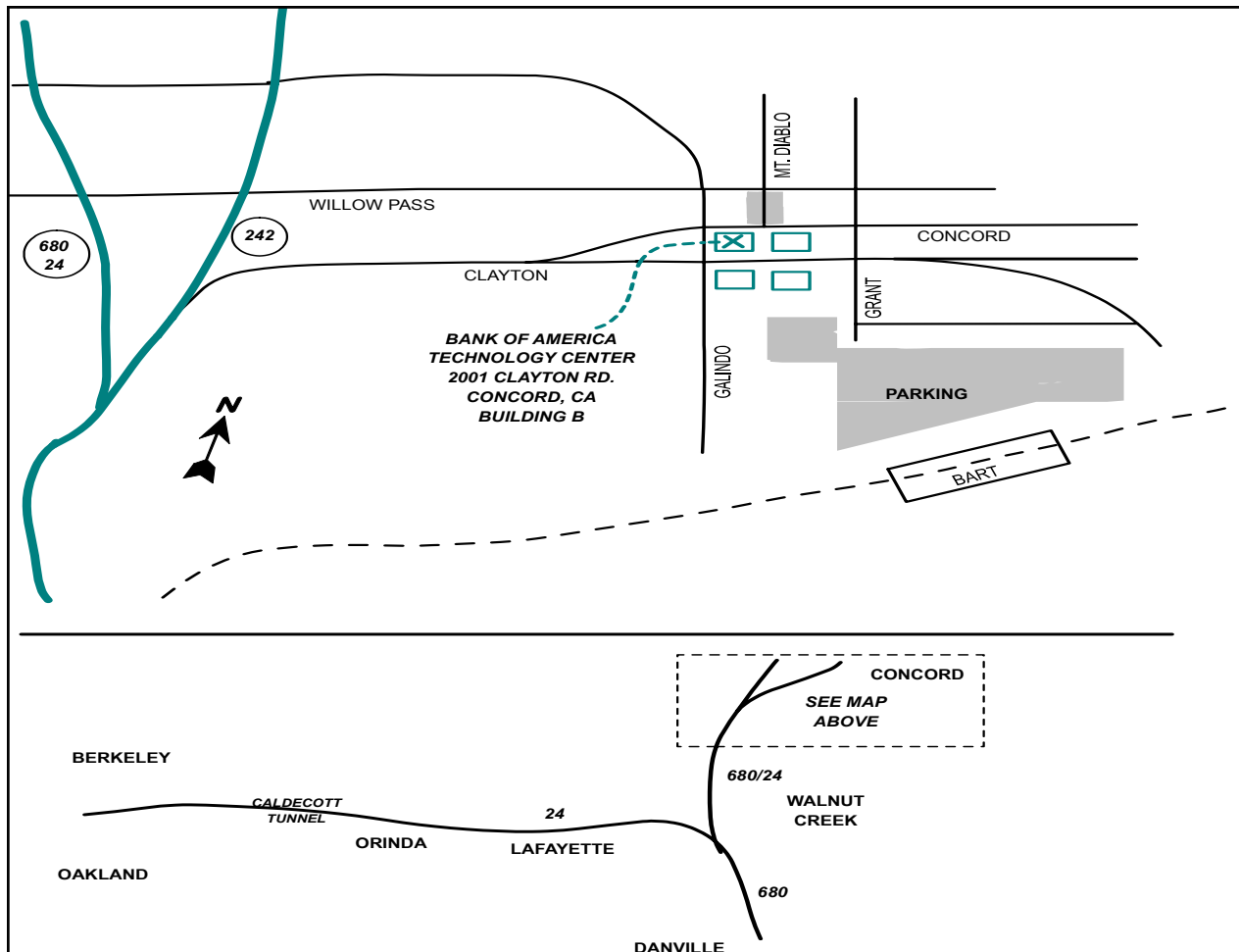
On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members for distribution to DVPC members only. Please check how you would like to be listed: No listing _____ List Name and Home _____ Work _____ phone number(s) _____

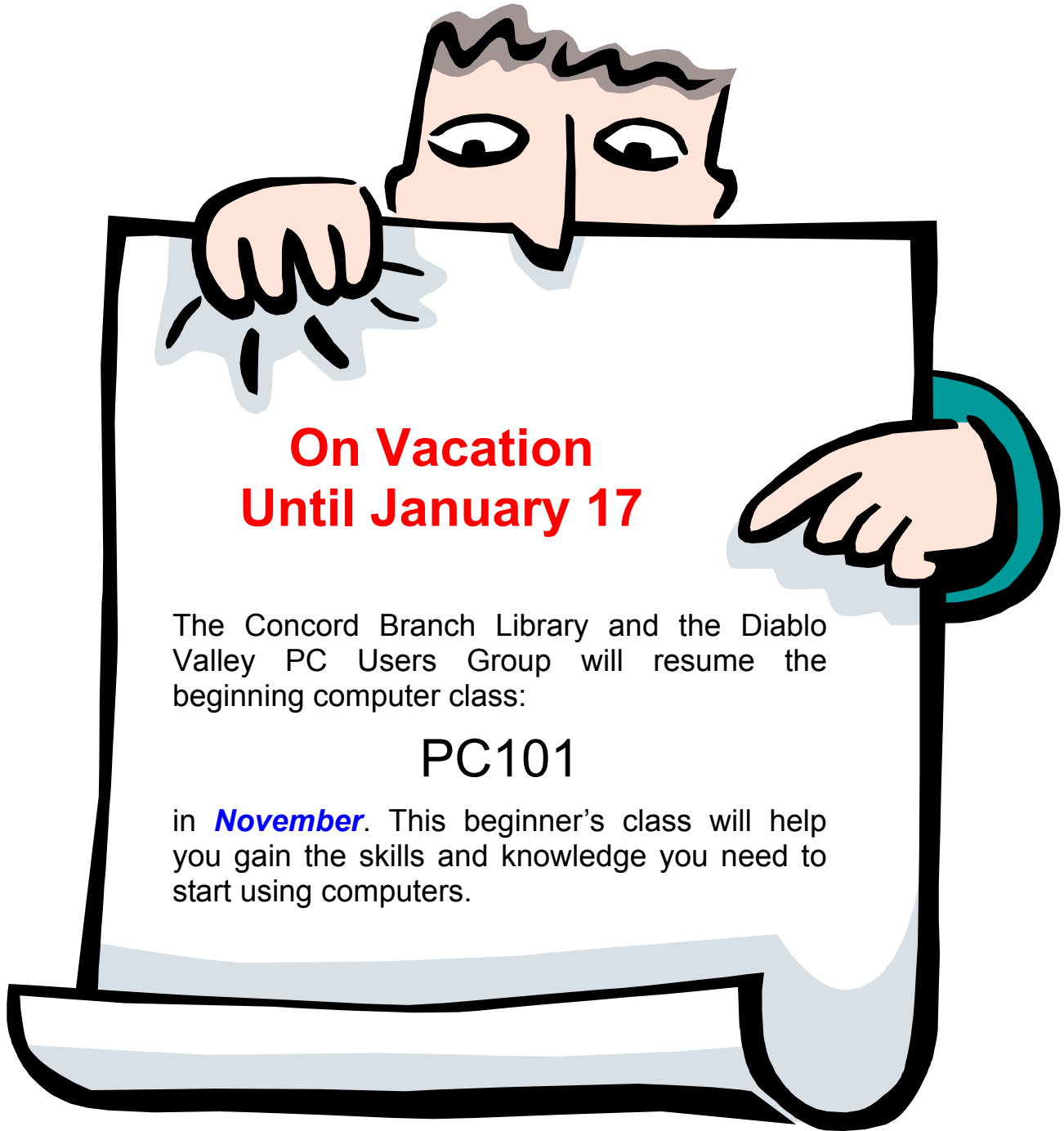
I'm also interested in these SIGs: _____

Directions to Bank of America Building B in Concord

Take the Clayton Road exit off of the 242 Freeway and go east on Clayton Road. After about 1½ miles you'll come to Galindo, and you'll see the Bank of America complex of four high-rise buildings. Parking: Turn left on Galindo then right onto Concord Avenue to find street parking. Or turn right on Grant Street (the first block past Galindo), then right into the BART parking lot at the back of the BofA complex. Building B is the building at the northeast corner of Clayton and Galindo. Enter the door on the south side of the building.

Be sure to observe parking regulations! Concord parking officers are very efficient!





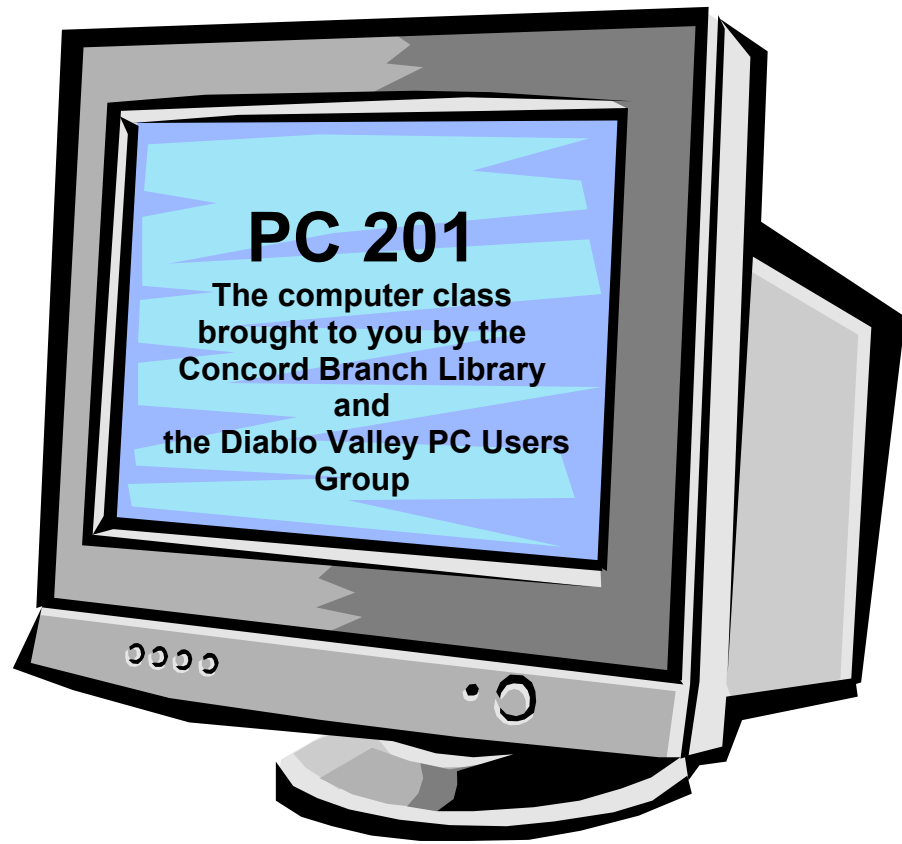
The next class will be **January 17th** from 10 am until 2 pm. In January we will cover **Unit #6 – The Future**

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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On Vacation Until January 17

PC 201 is on vacation January. We will resume our classes in November. Watch for updates in the October issue of *Diablo Blue*.

Join us **Saturday, January 17, 2004** for an exciting program. As usual, your questions will be answered by our speaker.

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.

SIG News *Compiled by Nick Chase, SIG Coordinator, DVPC, 680-4211*

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, or 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 the Genealogy eSIG, please email Peggy Johnson, pegszone@aol.com.

Internet SIG *Craig Peterson, SIG Leader – 671-7025*

After the long break, I'm sure that all members will be looking forward to the next meeting of the Internet SIG. Once again we will be joining together at Computer Renaissance (959 Contra Costa Blvd. Pleasant Hill, CA) so that we can share tips and solutions to problems we have encountered as we explored the “Wild Wild Web.” This month we will be looking at the holidays (yes, they are just around the corner) and how planning and surviving them can be made much easier with on line help. Everything from cooking the turkey to buying the gifts to debt relief can be yours on line if you know where to look. Hope to see you all there November 19th at 7:00 p.m. tools for doing so. For more information, please call Craig Peterson at (925) 671-7025 or e-mail him at compmail@pacbell.net.

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 and PC201 will be on vacation until January. Have a great Fall. See you on January 17, 2004!

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.

November 6, 2003 Meeting Announcement...

(Continued from page 1)

This is definitely a meeting you won't want to miss!

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. 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.

Lexar Media Multi-Card Reader – A Hardware Review *by Ron Ogg, DVPC*

The Lexar Media Multi-Card Reader solves a problem that you may have: how do you read all of those different memory cards that your digital cameras, video camcorders, MP3 players, and personal digital assistants use?

The Multi-Card Reader supports all 9 of these popular media types:

- CompactFlash Type I
- CompactFlash Type II
- IBM MicroDrive
- SmartMedia
- Memory Stick
- Memory Stick Pro
- MultiMediaCard
- SD Card
- xD Card

To read a memory card, remove it from your digital device, insert it into the Multi-Card Reader, and you can either drag and drop files from the memory card to your computer's hard drive, or open a file in an image editing or photo album program.

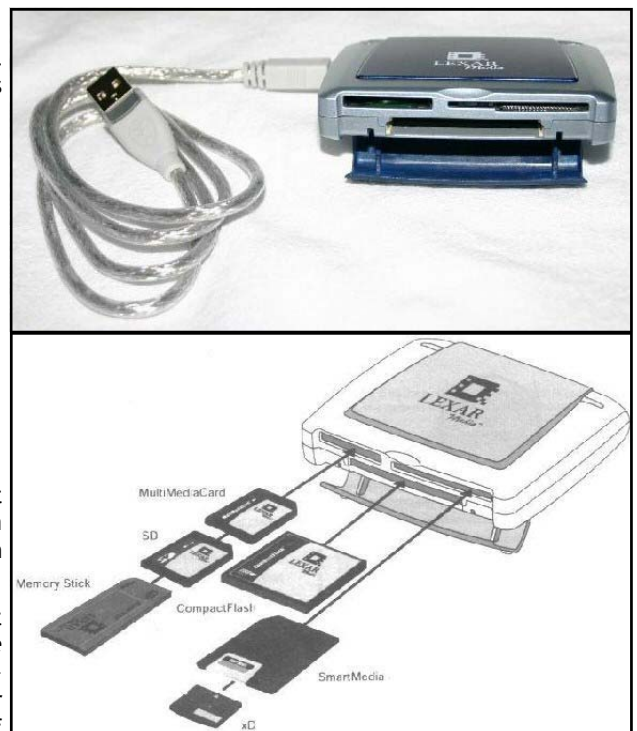
But why use an external memory card reader when you can connect your camera directly to your computer? The primary reason is because your camera batteries are used when you transfer files from your camera. Using the Multi-Card Reader lets you reserve your batteries for taking pictures with your camera, or for listening to music, instead of transferring images or music to your computer. The Multi-Card Reader lets you transfer your photos without even turning on your camera or MP3 player.

The Multi-Card Reader connects to your computer through a USB port and needs no external AC power. It supports USB 2.0, but can be used with a USB 1.1 adapter. The design of the Multi-Card Reader makes it and its USB cable easy to carry in your camera bag.

What sets the Multi-Card Reader apart when you compare it with other readers is that it supports all of the popular media, from the classic SmartMedia cards to the newest card types, Olympus xD Cards and Sony Memory Stick Pro. The IBM MicroDrive Compact Flash hard drive is also supported, as well as high-capacity versions of Compact Flash cards (available up to 4 GB).

The best feature of the Multi-Card Reader is the price: it lists for only \$29.95 including a USB cable. If you have a PC that uses Windows 98se or 2000, or a Mac that uses OS 8.6 through 9.2, that doesn't include USB drivers, a driver CD is supplied.

The Lexar Media Multi-Card Reader is available at CompUSA for \$29.95, and is also available through major Internet retailers.



Support DVPC – Get a friend to join!

Diablo Valley PC Users Group

and

Microsoft

Present



Microsoft Office 2003

Demonstrated by Microsoft Personnel

Thursday, November 6, 2003 at 7:00 p.m.

There will be a prize drawing open to all attendees!

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes, September 2003 by Tom Krauss, DVPC

For various reasons the September Board meeting was delayed until October 2, the night of the October Club meeting. Pressing matters, disclosed below, necessitated meeting even though it was only six days before the October Board meeting. So at 5:15 p.m. those Board members who passed the two tests (1 - they read their email, and 2 - they had nothing better to do) ran into each other at Starbucks. There we ordered our individual stimulants and thus fortified moved on to the Bank of America, where we intended to hold our meeting prior to the regular Club meeting.

However, the Bank had doubled booked our meeting room for the entire evening, and we did not have the priority. The poor BofA people charged with maintaining order in the various buildings were very apologetic and helpful, and quickly found a room for us in another building. A note was left to direct our members to the substitute room and we wandered over across the windswept tundra.

We decided to forego attempting to have our traditional pizza delivered, since we weren't really sure where we were, and agreed on takeout from the nearby Quiznos. But Alan was really serious and insisted we do our business, so to speak, before running out to get food. So we did our business.

The first item on the agenda was our Club insurance. We have a policy which insures our computer equipment and also covers the Board should a member or guest suffer some real or perceived injury during Club business. For example, if a member or a guest should happen to doze off during a presentation, fall out of their chair and hit their head on the projector, sending it crashing to

(Continued on page 10)

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DVPC Board Meeting Minutes, September 2003...

(Continued from page 9)

the floor, the projector is covered against damage and the Board against frivolous lawsuits for personal injury. Not that any member or guest would ever do such a thing—this is merely a hypothetical example.

Anyway, the bill for renewing the insurance jumped almost 20% this year. When Alan read the fine print he discovered that at the same time the liability portion of the coverage was dropped! Hartford Insurance confirmed that this was not an error or a typo—they really were significantly reducing our coverage and charging us more for what little remained.

This outrageous treatment so stirred up the Board that we broke with tradition and actually moved, seconded, voted and approved a resolution to cancel this policy, find some cheap insurance to cover the equipment, and search for alternative liability insurance. More to follow...

The second important issue was regarding publicity for the November meeting. Microsoft will be here to demonstrate Office 2003 and we would dearly love to fill the room with club members and guests. We agreed to develop a flier and paper northern California with it, inviting everyone to attend. I promised a draft to the Board the following day for their comments and suggestions, and Ron agreed to put the final touches on it and bring it to the next Board meeting October 8. Several ideas for places to post fliers and/or leave a supply of them were enthusiastically discussed.

After nearly an hour of doing real Board work, we were exhausted and faint from hunger. Alan finally took mercy on us and let us go for food.

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes, October 2003 by Tom Krauss, DVPC

Well, isn't this exciting! We have a double-header (in honor of Baseball's World Series) with two, count them, folks, two unique and totally different DVPC Board Meeting Minutes this month. Read on, read on... and discover that two is better than one!

Two Board meetings and one club meeting all within six days! And I made it to each of them!!!

Ron presented the nearly-final version of the flier for the November meeting, to be emailed to members and posted around town. At that meeting Microsoft will demonstrate Office 2004, and hopefully provide some goodies for the raffle. A couple of typos were noted in the flier which Ron promised to fix posthaste (Random thought: if the "post" in "posthaste" is a reference to the mail service, is "posthaste" an oxymoron?) so that distribution may begin immediately.

The October Windows SIG was a huge success. Walt Parsons was to demonstrate digital cameras and then Adobe Photoshop, but there was so much discussion about cameras that the software demonstration had to be postponed to next month. This prompted our SIG Coordinator to suggest that perhaps we should reactivate the Photo SIG. This in turn prompted the rest of us to devise myriad strategies for ascertaining the interest level of the members. Look for more on this topic coming your way soon.

Also at the October Windows SIG the Club's video projector refused to communicate with the computer. Certain Board members (you know who you are!) took this as an omen that it is definitely time to upgrade projectors. I think that if one of the members were to donate the funds for a projector, the Board would certainly entertain naming the projector in their honor. What member wouldn't enjoy the honor of having Alan announce at the start of each Club meeting "...and now we will turn on the Charlie Crothers (just to pick a name at random) Video Projector"? That could be your name!!!

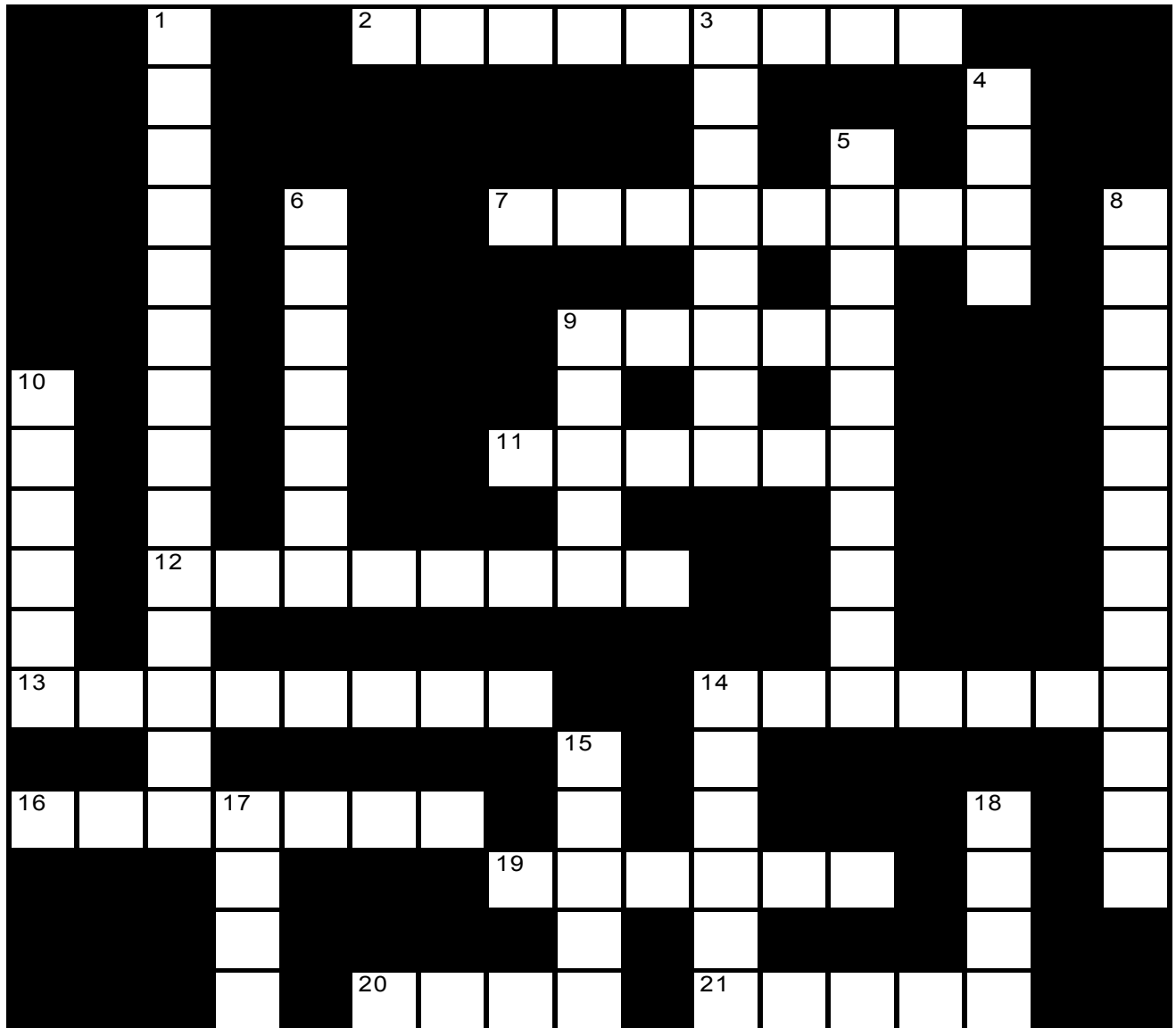
Continuing on the digital camera theme, Ron announced he is intending to put out either an extended or a supplemental edition of the newsletter dedicated to that subject. Articles from the members would be appreciated in order to reduce the amount of plagiarism required for this effort.

We discussed the Random Access feature of the club meetings and all agreed that it is one of the highlights of the meetings. There was some talk of recapping the questions and answers each month in the Newsletter, and that may happen. We also discussed including in each newsletter a recap of the previous general meeting. Somehow my peers suffered from the delusion that the Secretary would be the logical person to perform this function. While I admit I am one of the few Board members able to express a thought in under 5000 words, I'm not sure if I am up to the challenge of remembering to attend two meetings each month. We'll have to wait and see how this all works out.

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
"Back to School"
by Craig Peterson, DVPC



Many of us are looking forward to long hours playing football, slamming a puck past the goalie, or spending hours cross country skiing in the coming months. Others (though I can't imagine why) leave the house and their computer games and actually try these sports in the real world.

No matter what group you belong to, take a "time out" and try to solve this month's puzzle, If you need help (or you claim a handicap due to your recent broken leg) check out www.dvpc.org/solution.html.

Across

2. In basketball, an unguarded shot taken from behind the free-throw line after a foul. (2 words)
7. American game that grew out of the English game of rugby.
9. What is used in hockey to hit the puck and other players.
11. A short #20 Across.
12. Clothing used to keep your ears warm.
13. A wipeout fall in which skis, poles, hat, etc., end up strewn along the mountainside. (2 words)
14. The first run of the day. (2 words)
16. The machine that resurfaces the ice by cutting the surface, removing the snow, and laying down a fresh sheet of water.
19. Type of skate competition.
20. Covering for the upper body.
21. Metal blade attached to the feet to glide over ice.

Down

1. Drink enjoyed in the lodge after a day on the slopes. (3 words)
3. The scoring of three or more goals by a player in one game.
4. Stick with pointed end used when going #8 Down.
5. Game using five players on each team.
6. Light weight upper body covering.
8. Traveling from point A to point B while on skis.
9. Clothing to keep you neck warm.
10. Fighting on ice with sticks and a puck.
14. Mounds of snow, both natural and skier-made, dotting un-groomed runs.
15. In #5 Down each successful shot is worth 1, 2, or three of these.
17. In #5 Down, what you use to score #15 down.

Sony DPP-EX5 Digital Photo Printer – A Hardware Review by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

After taking zillions (that's more than a gigabyte but less than a googol) of digital pictures there will be a desire to print some of them. As we all know, ink jet printers have gotten incredibly cheap (not the ink though!) and many do a terrific job of printing digital pictures. You can actually buy a new ink jet printer that will do a great job of printing pictures for less than the price of buying the ink refills it requires! But there is another process for printing these pictures.

Sony's new DPP-EX5 Digital Photo Printer (www.sony.com) uses dye sublimation technology to create incredibly smooth and continuous tone photographs. There is NO streaking or banding that you get with many ink jet printers! The process works by fusing layers of color dye onto high quality photo media and coating the picture with a laminate. As a result, the finished glossy or matte photos are fade, water, and even fingerprint resistant. The results easily compare with what you would get from a professional photo finisher!



The photos take about 90 seconds each to print. The print sizes are 4x6, 3½x5, or sticker (9 stickers on a 4x6 sheet). The printer can accommodate borderless color, monochrome, sepia, paint photos on demand.

This printer can be directly connected to a TV set with the included RCA cable or cabled to the computer via a USB port. To use the printer as a stand alone device, the built in Memory Stick reader will be used for holding the photos. A built in photo editor allows some manipulation of color adjustment, cropping, custom prints, personalized messages, calendars, etc. when not connected directly to the computer. The controls on the top of the printer allow full use of the printer's capabilities when not in use with a computer.

The printer has an MSRP of \$199, but I have seen it as low as \$179. The photo packs – which come with the paper media AND the dye – run about \$18.00 for 25 sheets. Since the dye is on a roll, it lasts for exactly the number of sheets in the box. The cost is therefore very comparable with ink jet costs and not too much more expensive than “drug store” developing costs. In my opinion, the photos from the dye-sub are truly incredible. I am very happy with my HP Photo Printer

but it can't hold a candle to the Sony – as long as I don't mind keeping the photo smaller than 4x6! Of course the Sony photo printer, unlike the HP, can ONLY print photos, so it is not going to be able to be your only printer!

FOR AN EXCELLENT ARTICLE ON DYE-SUBLIMATION PRINTING go to <http://science.howstuffworks.com/question583.htm>.

We're on a digital photography roll! Ron Ogg and I have written digital photography product review articles this month (Ron's article is on page 8), and the next article (below) is a review of a shareware program for sharing your digital photos (appropriate, eh?). Next month we will have articles about digital cameras written by several DVPC members. Each will be writing an article about the digital cameras they use, why they bought each camera, when they use them, and the advantages and disadvantages of each. At the October Windows SIG meeting the topic was digital cameras, and it drew a record crowd. Next month's Windows SIG will include a demonstration of Adobe Photo Album software for organizing your digital pictures, and will have more about digital photography. All of this is to let you prepare if you are planning on buying a digital camera for the for the upcoming holidays. So be sure to look for our articles about digital cameras in the December issue of *Diablo Blue*, and attend the November Windows SIG meeting on November 3rd; see page 7 for directions to the meeting.

Sharing Your Digital Images – A Software Review by Ron Hirsch, Boca Raton Computer Society

If you are involved with digital images and want to make slide shows to showcase those images, and/or give copies to friends and family via CDs or several other means, I strongly recommend a program that you absolutely must consider using. The program is called “Digital Photo Slide Show”. It's available at www.digitalphotoslideshow.com.

Like all shareware, you can download the program and try it out before you register it. It has an amazingly low registration fee of \$19.95, and this includes free lifetime upgrades. The author, Jim Voelker, has done a fantastic job of creating an easy to use, but very powerful, piece of software. It can meet the needs of advanced users, but can also be used easily by beginners.

In this review, I'll cover many of the highlights of this program. For complete information on this program, visit the Web site above, and browse around. Then download the program and try it out yourself. If you have a broadband Internet connection, the download will take less than a minute. Dial-up users will of course experience a longer download time, but it is worth the effort.

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

Sharing Your Digital Images – A Software Review...

(Continued from page 12)

Periodically I've reviewed shareware programs in *Boca Bits*, the newsletter of the Boca Raton Computer Society. I only review programs that I feel are 5-star ratings. This program is actually better than my top rating of 5 stars.

What Does the Program Do?

This program does a variety of things, and does them all well. One key feature which should appeal to user group members is the capability to generate a self-running slide show, with lots of customized features. This show can be viewed on your computer. And, via a few simple steps, you can produce a CD with the slide show on it, and give it to friends and family to view on their computer. There are several options/ways for giving your slide show to others. You can:

- Generate a custom screen saver with changing photo images of your choice.
- Generate a customized and continually changing wallpaper for your desktop.
- Generate a Web slide show.

See "Other Features" below for other capabilities.

How Does It Work?

The user assembles a group of photo images, and places them in a designated folder. It's best to have already edited/cropped/retouched these images so they are what you'd like to display.

Once you have this folder of images assembled, the bulk of your work is done. With the straightforward procedures that the program offers, it will take you only a few simple clicks to do the job that you want.

I've been using the program to generate slide shows from a large collection of scanned images of friends and family starting back over 60 years ago. I go through the necessary steps, and then copy the final material onto a CD. That CD is set to be an auto running slide show.

So, when friends and family put that CD into their computer's CD player, a list of all the slide shows on the CD comes on screen, and they can choose the one they want to view. When that show is over, the listing comes up on screen again, and another show can be selected.

The beauty of this setup is that each slide show is just another subfolder in the root directory of the CD. So, when one wants to add more slide shows, all that is needed is to add more subfolders to the master folder on your hard drive, and burn another CD with all the new material you've added.

Other Features

The program is loaded with all kinds of nice features that users can choose from. If you go the www.digitalphotoslideshow.com web site, you can get complete information on everything about Digital Photo Slide Show. Here's a partial listing of features:

There are 135 transitions to choose from. These transitions are used when the slide changes to the next slide. There are wipes, dissolves, and you name it. The user can choose a different transition for any slide, or let the program just cycle through the full library, or a lesser library by selecting those desired. And, the display time for each slide can be set, either individually, or via a single entry that will apply to all slides.

A caption text box can be added to any slide, and there are lots of nice formatting features available. Fonts, colors, size, and position of the text box are all user-selectable. The text does not become part of the image itself or change the image in any way, but it is associated with the proper image automatically by the program.

When the images are displayed on the computer monitor, they automatically adjust their displayed size to the maximum that the monitor screen can display. This is a plus. The user doesn't have to worry about playing with the image sizes – it's all automatic.

At the top of the slide show display, there is a toolbar where viewers (should they desire) can pause the show, advance forward/backward manually, and a good selection of other options also.

Background music can be played, by simply adding the music file into the folder containing the image files for that show. Add as many selections as you want, and they will be played in alphabetical order.

Slides are also played in alphabetical order. In my slide shows, I have the slides named by using the year and month, such as 6306, as the first characters of the filename. So, I don't really have to do any renaming – I want them in chronological order. But users can set the order for the images by simply adding a 3 or 4 numeric string to the beginning of the filename. If the file was named "picnic.jpg", and you wanted this to be the first slide, change the name to "0001picnic.jpg". Remember, you must use leading zeroes, or a group of slides that are numbered from 1 to 12, without leading zeroes, will play in this order 1, 10, 11, 12, 2, etc. But with a leading zero, they'll play as 01, 02, 03, etc. This is the way Windows does sorting.

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Give a DVPC Membership Gift Certificate!

Sharing Your Digital Images – A Software Review...

(Continued from page 13)

Miscellany

Through the years I've produced many "slide shows", all of which were personal in nature, and used thousands of images I've scanned from negatives, slides, and prints (actually, going back to before I was born, and that's a long time ago).

I've used Microsoft PowerPoint, Corel Presentations, and an "album" program called Diji Album. They all did a nice job, and they all had capabilities for distributing the "shows" to others. The one problem that they all had was that they had to have each page composed individually, as each page had to have the image sized, positioned, etc. The beauty of Digital Photo Slide Show is that I don't have to do this anymore. All I have to do is put my images into a folder, and the program will position and size them automatically for me. And, since I'm now in the process of generating a whole new batch of shows, my workflow will be far more efficient.

I will of course have to manually add any captions that I want to use, but I've now decided that the only caption on most pages will be the date. That simplifies the caption box size and position – it'll be the same on each page.

Future Features

I've been having some dialog with Jim Voelker, and I listed below a few of the things that I'd like to have him consider in the future.

- An included utility to help the users rename images (using a 4-digit numeric string) to set the desired order.
- The ability to use not only background music, but voice clips, and have independent control of both. Various of my present shows in other programs allow the use of voice clips to be inserted when a given slide appears, and temporarily suspend the background music, and then have the music restart when the clip is finished, or when the next slide appears.
- Right now, the "menu" that appears when there are multiple shows involved is a file listing, via a Windows file manager-type display. I suggested that a listing that wasn't so generic would be more attractive.

Conclusion

The "future features" noted are absolutely not needed to make this program a very worthwhile addition to anyone's computer. The combination of present features, price, and user friendliness make this program a must-have in my book. So, visit Jim's site and get more information, if needed, and definitely consider registering this program. It's a winner!

I'd appreciate any feedback you might have along the way. I can be reached at: ronhirsch@adelphia.net.

Reprinted from the August 2003 issue of Boca Bits, the monthly magazine of The Boca Raton Computer Society, Inc. (BRCS). Ron Hirsch is a regular contributing editor to Boca Bits. There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member.

Adobe Acrobat Reader Problem by Tom Krauss, DVPC

Last night and again tonight I tried to download the Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Reader. Each time I got to a screen which said "you are now downloading...", but I wasn't. There was no traffic coming in at all. Finally, I got smart and shut down Zone Alarm and started over, and it worked!. Just a tip for you to keep in mind. There was no warning or error message whatsoever. I'm going to email Adobe, too.

Network Connection Problem by Lynn Oakleaf, DVPC

For over a month, when trying to connect over a home network I got a message that the other computer name "is not accessible. You might not have permission... Check with your administrator". I search the web, Google and the Microsoft Knowledge base, etc. Then I went to a Windows SIG meeting and in random access, it was suggested that I remove the Network components in Control panel and reinstall them. So I went into the add/remove programs in Control Panel, clicked on the Windows component button. I noticed that the "management and monitoring tools" button was not checked, nor was the "Other Network File and Print Services" button. I checked them both to add the components and suddenly the problem was resolved. While I didn't exactly do what was suggested at the Windows SIG, I was pointed in a direction that solved my problem.

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

Another Day at the Office... 2003 by Bruce Pechman, Vice President, Atlanta PC Users Group

With the imminent release of Office 2003, and the newly branded Microsoft Office System, I started to ponder the Office family pedigree from a historical perspective. It seems there are so many configurations, releases, editions, and individual applications that make up the Microsoft Office System family, I wanted some answers to some very pressing questions. Instead of reviewing Office 2003, I uncovered and compiled some interesting anecdotes and facts about the Office family pedigree in general. You will probably see oodles of reviews about Office 2003 ad nauseam in the months to come, so sit back and enjoy the "sideshow." I would like to thank Lisa Robbins with Waggener Edstrom and Aaron Ricalde from Information Week for providing me with historical information that made this article possible.

Let's start off with a trip down memory lane for some Microsoft Office firsts.

- According to a Microsoft white paper "Key Events In Microsoft History," the very first incarnation of Microsoft Word took place on 9/29/83. On this date, Microsoft introduced its full-featured word processing program, Microsoft Word for MS-DOS 1.00.
- OK, that might be too far back, but the first release of Microsoft Excel for Windows occurred on 10/6/87. Excel was a smash hit and just nine years later on 5/17/96, Microsoft reported that more than 30 million people worldwide use Microsoft Excel – making it the most popular spreadsheet program of all time.
- Wondering about the roots of PowerPoint? PowerPoint was actually developed by a company called Forethought, Inc. and was acquired by Microsoft on 7/30/87. Speaking of PowerPoint, according to the Nerdy Books newsletter, "there are over 250 million PowerPoint users and approximately 30 million presentations are given every day."
- For you database fans, Microsoft announced the availability of Access Database for Windows on 11/16/92 at Fall Comdex.

Now let's test your memory skills. How many versions of Office for the Windows platform have been released? Would you believe seven! Sure – many of you knew about Office 97, 2000, Office XP and certainly the new Office 2003. But the other three lesser known are Office 3.x, 4.x, and of course, Office 95.

For you trivia fans, Outlook first appeared in Office 97.

Another first for Office 97 is what became known as the Office "Developer Edition." This edition was aimed at developers to learn how to build solutions with the new features of Microsoft Office 97. There are over one million developers who use Microsoft Office to build business solutions. In fact, according to David Bennie, group Manager at Microsoft, there are about 245 million people worldwide that use Office products. It's no mystery that Microsoft makes up 90% of the Office Suite market.

Office 2000 introduced the option of a "Premium Edition" that bundled some previously stand-alone applications such as Publisher, FrontPage, and PhotoDraw.

By the way, not included in Microsoft Office, but still considered in the "Office Family," are Microsoft Project (first announced on 9/18/95), Microsoft Visio, and Microsoft MapPoint.

If you are wondering about Microsoft PhotoDraw, Waggener Edstrom confirmed that no new versions are planned and the PhotoDraw team has been deployed to work on future Microsoft .Net technologies.

New programs, depending upon the edition of Office 2003 you choose, are InfoPath and OneNote.

You know the irony of all this nostalgia is these dates don't seem all that long ago. Yet, according to CNET, Office and other desktop applications accounted for 37 percent of Microsoft's \$6.46 billion revenue in one quarter. According to Microsoft in 2000 [prior to the release of Office XP], approximately 55 percent of the world's 120 million licensed Office customers still had the 97 version. Approximately 5 percent had Office 95, and the remaining 40 percent had Office 2000.

The future of the Office franchise is still very much a subject of speculation, but industry analysts say there is a good chance the next version may go by the moniker "Office.Net" and possibly adhere to the .Net platform's subscription-based services model.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member.

Microsoft Updates Works and Works Suite by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Do you use Microsoft Works? It's a starter office suite that has been bundled with many new PCs. Well, there are new versions of both the basic Microsoft Works and of the Works Suite. Works 7.0 lists for \$54.95, and there's a \$15 discount for current users. You can read about the features of Works 7.0 at <http://shop.microsoft.com/Referral/ProductInfo.asp?siteID=11236&typeID=2>.

Works Suite 2004 adds these programs to Works 7.0: Word 2002, Picture It! Photo Premium 9.0, Encarta 2004, Money 2004, and Streets and Trips 2004. Works Suite 2004 lists for \$99.99, and there's a \$15 discount for current users. You can read about the features of Works Suite 2004 at www.microsoft.com/products/works/products/suite.asp#.