



**December 2, 2004 DVPC Meeting Announcement**  
**Happy Holidays!**  
**Intel Mobile Computing Presentation**  
**The New DVPC Web Site Described and Explained**  
**Hardware Goodies for the Holidays**

Happy Holidays! For December we'll have a special Intel presentation about Mobile Computing, given by DVPC's own Charlie Crothers. This will be followed by a show-and-tell demonstration of the new DVPC web site by DVPC webmaster Ron Ogg, what's there, how to find what you're looking for, and how it was put together. Then Alan Mildwurm will show us some hardware goodies just in time for the holidays.

Our meetings are being held at Diablo Valley College; see the map and directions on pages 4 and 5 and on the DVPC web site at [www.dvpc.org/about.html](http://www.dvpc.org/about.html).

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.

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

This has been a stressful month, but things could not have turned out better. Our first meeting at our new location at Diablo Valley College (in the Humanities building, room H109) was terrific. The room could not be a better fit for us. I think the theater seating, good acoustics and internet connection will provide real improvements to our meetings. All that remains is for DVPC members to learn where the perfect parking spaces and the parking permit machines are located!

While you're at it, take a walk around the campus, and check out the DVC campus bookstore! They have a very interesting selection of books, including some text books that you might find of interest.

In December we will have an Intel "Meeting in a Box" about "Today's Mobile Lifestyle." We will also show the new improvements to the DVPC web site (take a look: [www.dvpc.org](http://www.dvpc.org)), and some other hardware goodies. I don't have the January meeting set up yet – in fact, I will be at my first CES conference in January now that Comdex is only a memory. In February I hope to have Comcast present their latest broadband offerings designed to outshine satellite and DSL competition.

See you on December 2nd!

## DVPC December 2004 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">New Users SIG 6:30 pm</div>	3	4
5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">See SIG News starting on page 5 of Diablo Blue for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</div>	6 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">Windows SIG 7:30 pm</div>	7	8	9 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">DVPC Board Meeting 7:00 pm</div>	10	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">PC101 and PC201, Computer Renaissance, 4 pm to 6 pm</div>
12	13	14	15 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Internet SIG 6:00 pm</div>	16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Advanced Users SIG 7:30 pm</div>	17 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">Diablo Blue Deadline. Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net</div>	18
19	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Genealogy eSIG (See SIG News on page 5 of Diablo Blue)</div>	21	22	23	24 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">Christmas Eve</div>	25 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">Christmas Day</div>
26	27	28	29	30	31 <div style="border: 1px solid red; padding: 2px;">New Year's Eve</div>	

### **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](mailto: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
Genealogy eSIG		PC 101/PC 201 Classes
Internet SIG		Windows 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 (*see email address below*).

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 (*see email address below*). See the deadline information in the Calendar on page 16 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*.

### ***DVPC Officers and Directors***

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

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

Will Crites, Publicity 938-1291 (home), [bugkiller@aol.com](mailto:bugkiller@aol.com)

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

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

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

Tom Krauss, Secretary 689-9960 (home), [tkrauss@astound.net](mailto:tkrauss@astound.net)

Jessica Mildwurm, Treasurer 829-5858 (home), [jess@mildwurm.com](mailto:jess@mildwurm.com)

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

Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home), [compmail@pacbell.net](mailto:compmail@pacbell.net)

Stan Umlauf, Web Site 458-5560 (home), [stanu@honeybee.com](mailto:stanu@honeybee.com)

### ***DVPC on the Internet***

DVPC has a Web site on the Internet — thanks to our Web Team: Ron Ogg and Stan Umlauf. 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](http://www.dvpc.org).

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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm also interested in these SIGs: \_\_\_\_\_

**Directions to our Diablo Valley College meeting location**

Our monthly meetings are held at Diablo Valley College In Pleasant Hill, California. The Main Campus is located at 321 Golf Club Road. Our meetings are held in Humanities Building H, shown on the map below. We meet in room H109.

**Driving Directions (see the map on page 5):**

**680 Northbound:**

Exit at the Concord Blvd./Burnett Ave. Exit. Turn left on Diamond Blvd. Turn left on Concord Ave. Turn left on Contra Costa Blvd.

**680 Southbound:**

Exit at the Concord Ave. Exit. Turn left on Contra Costa Blvd.

**Direction into the Campus:**

From Contra Costa Blvd. turn right on Golf Club Road. At the signal turn left into the campus. Immediately turn right and continue to parking lot 7. Turn left down one of the rows and park close to the buildings. Purchase a parking permit and put it on your dashboard

**Finding Your Way:**

Notice that there's a lot of construction going on at DVC. To prevent confusion, for parking and to get to our meeting room follow the instructions that are in boxes with red borders on the map below, and take the path from Parking Lot 7 to room H109 that's marked in blue. Press the large handicapped button to open the unmarked outside door to room H109.

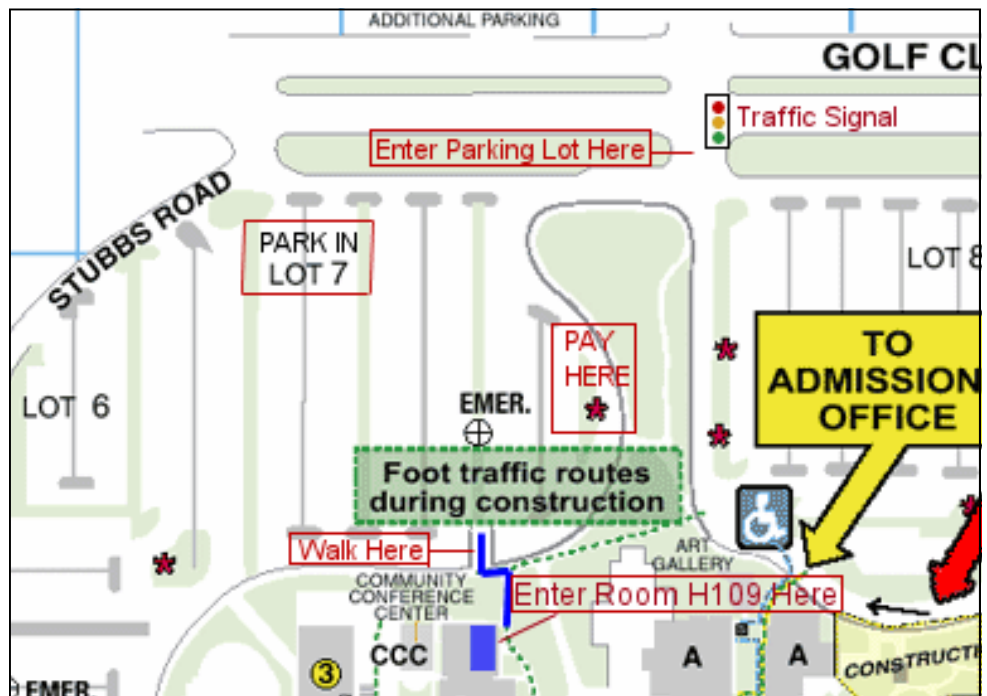
**Parking fees:**

On the Pleasant Hill campus parking permits are \$2.00 per day for short-term parking. You can purchase permits at the parking permit machines marked with a red star on the maps above and below. Be sure to bring sufficient change! Parking permit machines only take quarters. DVC permits are required Monday through Friday at all times that classes are in session. That includes the times that DVPC meetings are held! Do not park in metered or faculty spaces.

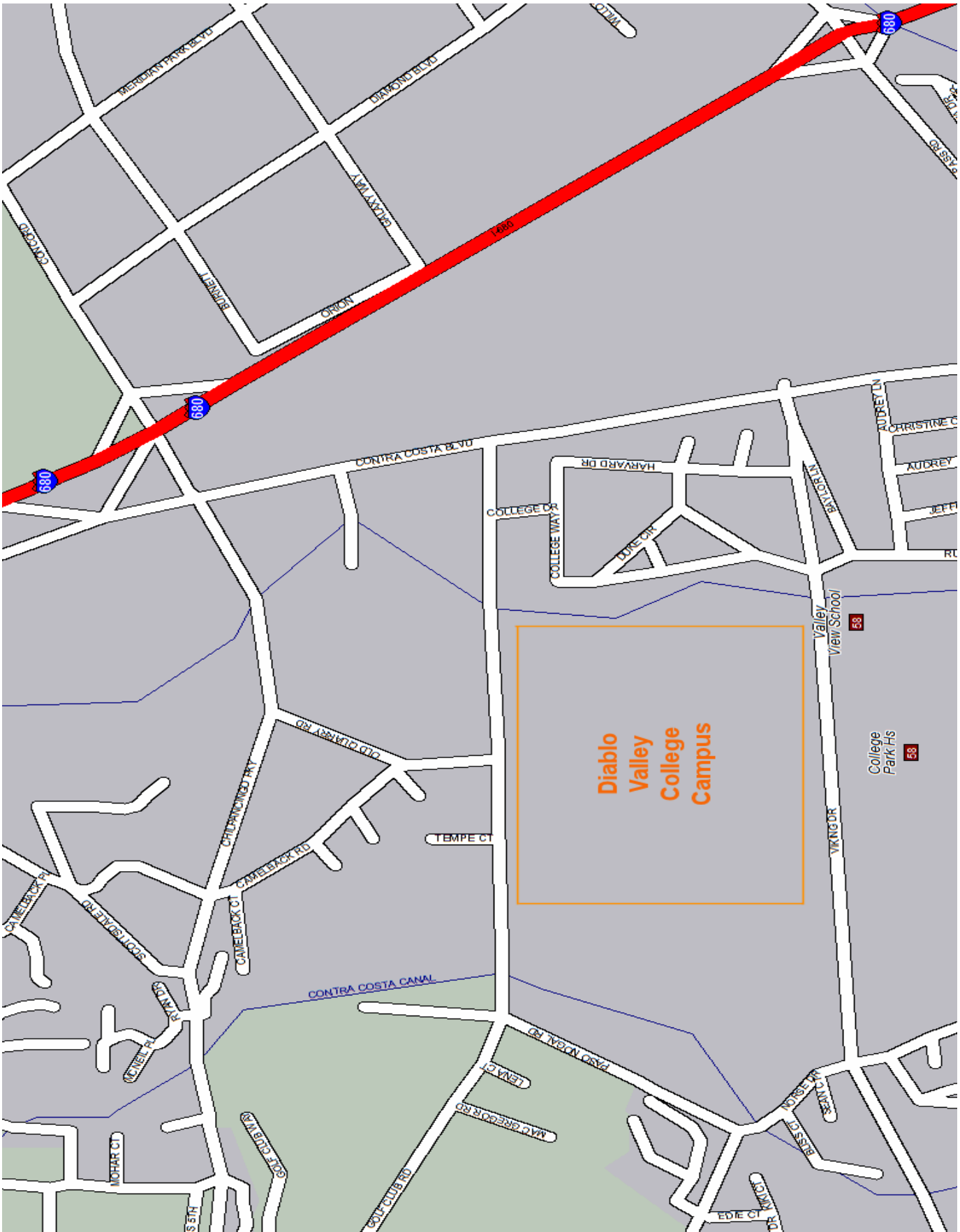
You need to purchase a parking permit and place it face up on your dashboard so it is clearly visible through the windshield. If you attend classes at DVC and have a campus parking permit, you can use it when you attend DVPC meetings. You might want to carpool to save parking fees.

Be sure to purchase a parking permit! Fines range from \$35 for parking in a regular space without a permit, to over \$275 for parking in a space reserved for the handicapped.

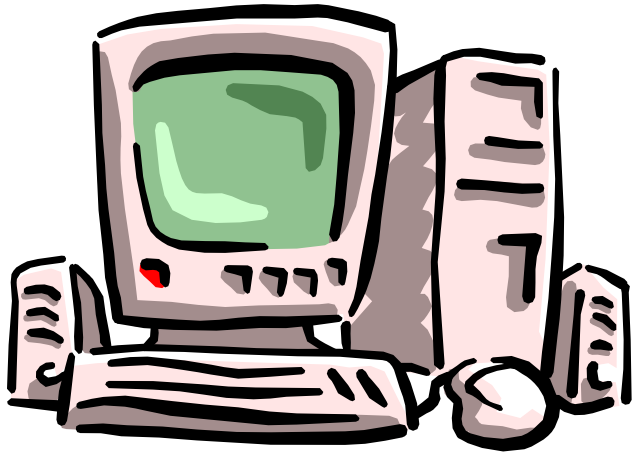
A full size campus map is on the DVPC web site at [www.dvpc.org/about.html](http://www.dvpc.org/about.html).



**Driving to the DVPC Monthly Meeting at Diablo Valley College**



**Map to the Diablo Valley College Campus**



## DO YOU KNOW HOW TO USE YOUR COMPUTER? ARE YOU GETTING THE MOST OUT OF IT?

### NO ONE STARTS OUT KNOWING HOW TO USE COMPUTERS.

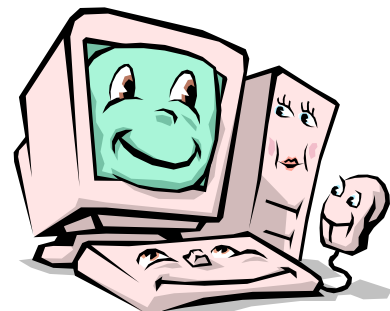
Like every other tool, users need to learn how to use it. Many of us learn what we can on our own or try to find a teacher who can show us how to use it the right way. Some of us have the time and money to take a class, but are not even sure what classes to take.

### BEGIN YOUR EDUCATION WITH PC 101

This **FREE** class will help any student who needs basic information on computers. Diablo Valley PC User's Group and Computer Renaissance have joined together to offer all who would like to be introduced to computers, learn more about the basics, or just have a place to ask questions. Come to Computer Renaissance at 1936 Linda Dr. in Pleasant Hill from 1 to 3 PM the 2nd Saturday of every month. For more information, contact Craig Peterson (compmail@pacbell.net or 925-671-7025)

### JOIN THE PC 101 CLASS AND THE INTERNET SIG FOR OUR END OF THE YEAR PARTY ON DECEMBER 11

This month we will be joined by the Internet SIG for our "End of the Year Party." Please join us at Computer Renaissance, 1936 Linda Drive, in Pleasant Hill on Saturday, December 11th from 4 to 6 p.m. Bring a snack, desert or drink to share as we say goodbye to 2004 and hello to 2005.



**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! For more information phone Jeff and Sharon at 925-778-4348.

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

The Clarion SIG has decided to suspend meetings because of low attendance at their new meeting location. Send an email to Bill Morris at [bill@soft-trak.com](mailto:bill@soft-trak.com) if you have any ideas about restarting this SIG.

**Genealogy eSIG** Peggy Johnson, SIG Leader – 676-7522

The DVPC Genealogy eSIG 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](mailto:pegszone@aol.com).

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

The Internet SIG usually meets at Computer Renaissance, 1936 Linda Drive, in Pleasant Hill on the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. This month, however, we will be joining PC101 for our "End of the Year Party." Please join us at Computer Renaissance, 1936 Linda Drive, Pleasant Hill Saturday, December 11th from 4 to 6 p. m. Bring a snack, desert or drink to share as we say goodbye to 2004 and hello to 2005. Hope to see all of you there.

For more information, please call Craig Peterson at 925-671-7025 or e-mail him at [compmail@pacbell.net](mailto: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. Since we no longer meet at Bank of America, check your email or the DVPC web site for the new meeting location. The New Users SIG 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 Classes** Craig Peterson, SIG Leader – 671-7025

The PC101/PC201 classes are usually held from 1 pm to 3 pm on the second Saturday of each month at Computer Renaissance, which is located at 1936 Linda Drive off Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. Look for information on these classes on the DVPC web site.

**PC101** is a beginning class on computers. This class helps introduce computers to and empower the person not comfortable with the technology. For class meeting dates, times, and topics, see page 5 in this issue of *Diablo Blue*.

**PC201** is on an extended leave of absence. Check back regularly in *Diablo Blue* for information about when PC201 will restart.

**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.

Give a DVPC Membership Gift Certificate!

See Peggy at the membership table at the DVPC monthly meeting.

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**The Night Before Christmas – in Legalese** Found surfing the Internet by Ron Ogg, DVPC – Author Unknown

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Whereas, on or about the night prior to Christmas, there did occur at a certain improved piece of real property (hereinafter “the House”) a general lack of stirring by all creatures therein, including, but not limited to, a mouse.

A variety of foot apparel, e.g., stocking, socks, etc., had been affixed by, and around, the chimney in said House in the hope and/or belief that St. Nick a/k/a/ St. Nicholas a/k/a/ Santa Claus (hereinafter “Claus”) would arrive at sometime thereafter.

The minor residents; i.e., the children, of the aforementioned House, were located in their individual beds and were engaged in nocturnal hallucinations; i.e., dreams, wherein visions of confectionery treats, including, but, not limited to, candies, nuts and/or sugar plums, did dance, cavort, and otherwise appear in said dreams.

Whereupon the party of the first part (sometimes hereinafter referred to as “I”), being the joint-owner in fee simple of the House with the party of the second part (hereinafter “Mama”), and said Mama had retired for a sustained period of sleep.

At such time, the parties were clad in various forms of headgear; e.g., kerchief and cap. Suddenly, and without prior notice or warning, there did occur upon the unimproved real property adjacent and appurtenant to said House; i.e., the lawn, a certain disruption of unknown nature, cause, and/or circumstance.

The party of the first part did immediately rush to a window in the House to investigate the cause of such disturbance. At that time, the party of the first part did observe, with some degree of wonder and/or disbelief, a miniature sleigh (hereinafter “the Vehicle”) being pulled and/or drawn very rapidly through the air by approximately eight (8) reindeer.

The driver of the Vehicle appeared to be, and in fact, was, the previously referenced Claus. Said Claus was providing specific direction, instruction, and guidance to the approximately eight (8) reindeer and specifically identified the animal co-conspirators by name: Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner and Blitzen (hereinafter “the Deer”).

Upon information and belief, it is further asserted that an additional co-conspirator named “Rudolph” may have been involved.

The party of the first part witnessed Claus, the Vehicle, and the Deer intentionally and willfully trespass upon the roofs of several residences located adjacent to, and in the vicinity of, the House, and noted that the Vehicle was heavily laden with packages, toys, and other items of unknown origin or nature. Suddenly, without prior invitation or permission, either express or implied, the Vehicle arrived at the House, and Claus entered said House via the chimney. Said Claus was clad in a red fur suit, which was partially covered with residue from the chimney, and he carried a large sack containing a portion of the aforementioned packages, toys, and other unknown items. He was smoking what appeared to be tobacco in a small pipe in blatant violation of local ordinances and health regulations.

Claus did not speak, but immediately began to fill the stocking of the minor children, which hung adjacent to the chimney, with toys and other small gifts. (Said items did not, however, constitute “gifts” to said minor pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Income Tax Act). Upon completion of such task, Claus touched the side of his nose and flew, rose, and/or ascended up the chimney of the House to the roof where the Vehicle and Deer waited and/or served as “lookouts.”

Claus immediately departed for an unknown destination.

However, prior to the departure of the Vehicle, Deer, and Claus from said House, the party of the first part did hear Claus state and/or exclaim: “Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night!”

Or words to that effect.

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**Yet Another Phishing Expedition** by Ron Ogg, DVPC

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Phishing for bank account login IDs and passwords is a growing part of the spam that, despite the CAN-Spam act, seems to be increasing almost exponentially. Phishing is dangerous for the unwary or uninformed user. This latest scam, purported to be from Household Bank, is more sophisticated than most. It comes, like all phishing attacks, as an email message (shown on page ). You can tell this is not from the actual Household Bank (a legitimate bank, with a legitimate web site). There are differences between the way the name is written in the email message (HouseHold) and on the legitimate web site (Household), the logos are different, there are unusual words in the email message (“Dear respected member of HouseHold Bank”, “The payment is pending for the moment”, “Please don’t reply to this mail”), and the link in the email message (a Continue button) doesn’t take you to the Household Bank web site but to a site identified by an IP address instead of “www.householdbank.com”.

*(Continued on page 11)*

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**Computer Crossword Clues, continued...**

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*(Continued from page 13)*

17. Chankukah toy
19. Gift to kids of all ages

**Synbox Review** by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

Synbox



Copying Device to Device



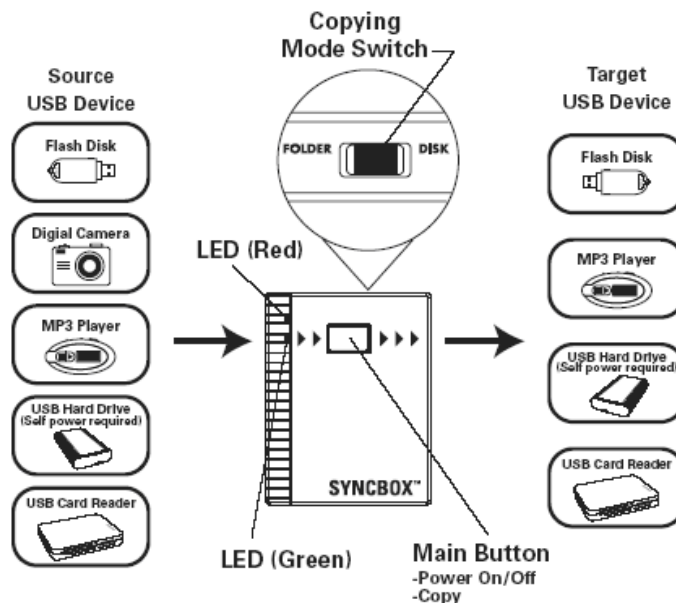
Synbox 2, Coming Soon!



I love useful little gadgets. This little \$49.00 jewel (shown at the left above) is a portable USB Data Copier made by Macally ([www.macally.com/all\\_products.html](http://www.macally.com/all_products.html)). Essentially this device is used to copy data from one USB memory device to another WITHOUT a computer. It is compatible with both USB 1.1 and 2.0. There is an input USB slot next to the green light on the left side of the unit and an output USB slot on the right side of the unit. The unit contains no memory but does require 3 AAA batteries to operate. It is as simple as plugging in a USB flash drive, an external hard disk drive, a camera (with certain limits), or an mp3 player on the left, and a USB flash drive, an external hard disk drive, etc. on the right, then pushing the button. When the light stops flashing, you are done. The source and destination devices must support the USB Mass Storage specification. You have the option of copying the entire source device or just a folder using a slider switch on the top of the unit. To copy a folder as opposed to the whole disk, you need to create a folder on the source device called *synbox* and copy the designated files into that folder. The Synbox will automatically create a folder called *synbox1* on the destination device. It will increment the number with each successive use so there is no need to worry about overwriting existing files. In my classes I carry a small USB flash drive with utility programs on it and my students always want a copy of those programs. Now I don't need to tie up a computer to make copies for them. On the horizon is the Synbox 2 which has a screen and the ability to copy individual files; the list price will still be \$49.00. Macally makes a number of other cool little devices — check their website!

*Synbox Hardware Basics*

**Hardware Basics**



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## **DVPC Board Meeting Minutes** by Tom Krauss, DVPC

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It was a sparsely attended Board meeting: only five of us present. Fortunately, there wasn't much business to transact.

Charlie was the lead-off tonight, showing us his new Gateway laptop. It was a trim, light weight (relatively speaking), good-looking piece of equipment. Good-looking. I guess that's how you separate the amateurs from the true computer nerds. One of my criteria when buying any electronics item, including a PC, is "does it look good?" I have even been known, on a very few occasions, to sacrifice functionality for looks. I mean, the odds are pretty good that most of the people you show your latest whiz-bang electronic gadget to don't understand it, don't want one for themselves, and really don't care all that much that you have one. You aren't going to impress your spouse, your kids, or your next-door neighbor with the average seek time of your new 500 GB hard drive. Even your parents will only pretend to be impressed, because that's what parents are supposed to do. No, if you want to impress them, it must **look cool**.

So Charlie impressed us tonight with his new laptop. At least, for a few minutes. Until Alan said, "That price was with the discount coupon, right?" and Charlie paused with a blank look on his face. Mercilessly, Alan exclaimed "You **did** use the 10% off coupon, didn't you?" It was obvious that Charlie hadn't. I could see his mind slipping into high gear as it tried to calculate whether the time and hassle of returning the laptop and repurchasing it with a discount coupon were outweighed by the time and hassle of reloading all the software and data he had already put on this machine. I was surprised to see that "forget about the money" was winning. That's not like Charlie.

Now that Charlie was on the ropes, Alan moved in for the coup de grâce. "At least you put it on your Best Buy credit card, didn't you?" A glance at Charlie showed the answer to be "No". "I have too many credit cards already," Charlie mumbled, but his heart wasn't in it. "You get twelve months interest-free using their card" Alan continued.

Charlie sat staring at his new laptop, quietly absorbing all this information, drooling slightly and mumbling to himself.

At this point Craig came to the rescue by changing the subject. He told us of his VFW post's outing to an assisted living facility today. They shared a meal and some stories with the predominantly female residents. Several of Craig's fellow veterans got lucky, picking up some new phone numbers, but Craig will probably have to wait about forty years before he is old enough to compete.

Turning to business, something we try to do at least once during each Board meeting, we discussed the new location for our general meeting at Diablo Valley College. We all agreed the room was an improvement, although a bit smaller than the room at the Bank of America Technology Center. Some ideas were kicked around regarding signs and directions, and we may even do something about that. But we need to tread softly: we don't want to irritate the new landlords. A word of advice to those of you who were not there: if you can get there 15-20 minutes early, it may still be light, and light is very helpful in finding the right building and the machines which dispense the parking permits, at least the first time.

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## **Treo 600 PDA/Cellphone Review** by Nick Chase, DVPC

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The Treo 600 is a marvelous tool for me.

I have been using it with Sprint service for 5 months now and it was a good decision to purchase this for my Broadcast Systems Design Engineering work.

The basic pricing was \$550.00 but I received a promotional discount of \$150.00.

The plan I chose includes 500 anytime minutes.

The Sprint telephone service fee is \$40.00 monthly, with an additional \$15.00 for 'Vision Plan' wireless web access.

The learning curve for the Palm OS v5.1 was fairly easy. I managed to install the Hot Sync software for Outlook contacts database synchronization without issue.

Features of the Treo include a stylus for data entry, and a very nice screen for viewing pictures, web pages, and documents using third-party software like Adobe Acrobat. Additional software is available to view Word.doc and Excel.xls files, and an html reader is included.

Sprint telephone coverage is excellent, I have not dropped a single call, whether driving on the West Coast, inside my office in San Jose where my T-Mobile Service (Nokia) phone will not send nor receive calls unless I go outside!



The most valuable application of the Treo 600, next to wireless web access, was the Calendar. Appointment creation was simple, and multiple alarms can be set to notify you of action items pending or in the future. Extensive notes can be applied to your calendar appointments to insure tracking, and note taking during calls permits adding contact information using copy and paste after the call.


*(Continued on page 29)*

**Support DVPC — Get a friend to join!**

## Yet Another Phishing Expedition...

(Continued from page 8)

From:  Household Bank [settlement\_dept@household.com]  
To:   
Cc:  
Subject: Open now : Important notification.

**HOUSEHOLD**  **AUTHORIZATIONS / CLEARING AND SETTLEMENT DEPARTMENT**

Dear respected member of HouseHold Bank,

Our department recorded a payment request from Expedia - Online Travel Agency ( EXPEDIA.COM ) to enable the charge of \$ 619,49 on your account.

This amount is supposed to cover the cost of a 5 days reservation ( 21-26 November / 2004 ) at a Five Stars Hotel located in New Delhi / INDIA, under the name of GARY EDWARDS.

**THE PAYMENT IS PENDING FOR THE MOMENT.**

- If you made this reservation or if you just authorize this payment, please ignore or remove this email message. The transaction will be shown on your monthly statement as "Rama Bangalore-Hotel".
- If you didn't make this payment / reservation and would like to decline the \$ 619,49 billing to your card, please follow the link below to deny the payment:

[> Continue](#)


(Click "Continue" button to stop this payment.)

We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and appreciate your assistance in helping us maintain the integrity of the entire Household system.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Please do not reply to this mail. Mail sent to this address cannot be answered

*This is the email message I received, which claimed to be from Household Bank. It wasn't.*

Household.com 

HOME ABOUT US CONTACT US SITE MAP PRIVACY CAREERS INVESTORS PRESS ROOM Related Web sites

**▶ Same products and services... now backed by global strength.**

We are proud to be part of HSBC - North America and a member of the HSBC Group, one of the largest banking and financial services organizations in the world. How will this change affect your account? It won't. Because we're still the same company, committed to our customers and now part of an organization that spans the globe.

*Here's part of the home page on the legitimate Household Bank web site. Note the logo is different, and the name is never written with the second H capitalized as it is in the "Dear respected..." line in the email message.*

(Continued on page 16)

# We fix the problems your manufacturer won't.

## *Computer Problems? We Can Help.*

Unlike computer manufacturers, our A+ Certified in-store technicians will happily remove viruses, spyware and adware from your system. Plus, we can retrieve data you've lost due to these frustrating intruders. Just bring your computer in, and we'll do our best to have you up and running within 48 hours.



### **FREE**

128M upgrade!

With any system purchase  
of \$299 or more

Limit one per household.

Expires: 12/30/04

### **1/2 OFF**

1st hour of service

Limit one per household.

Expires: 12/30/04

### **10% Off**

Any Product (in Store) or  
Service

Please show your DVPCUG  
Membership Card  
at the time of purchase

**Computer**  
RENAISSANCE

1936 Linda Drive.  
Pleasant Hill, CA 94523  
(925) 827-1200

Hours:

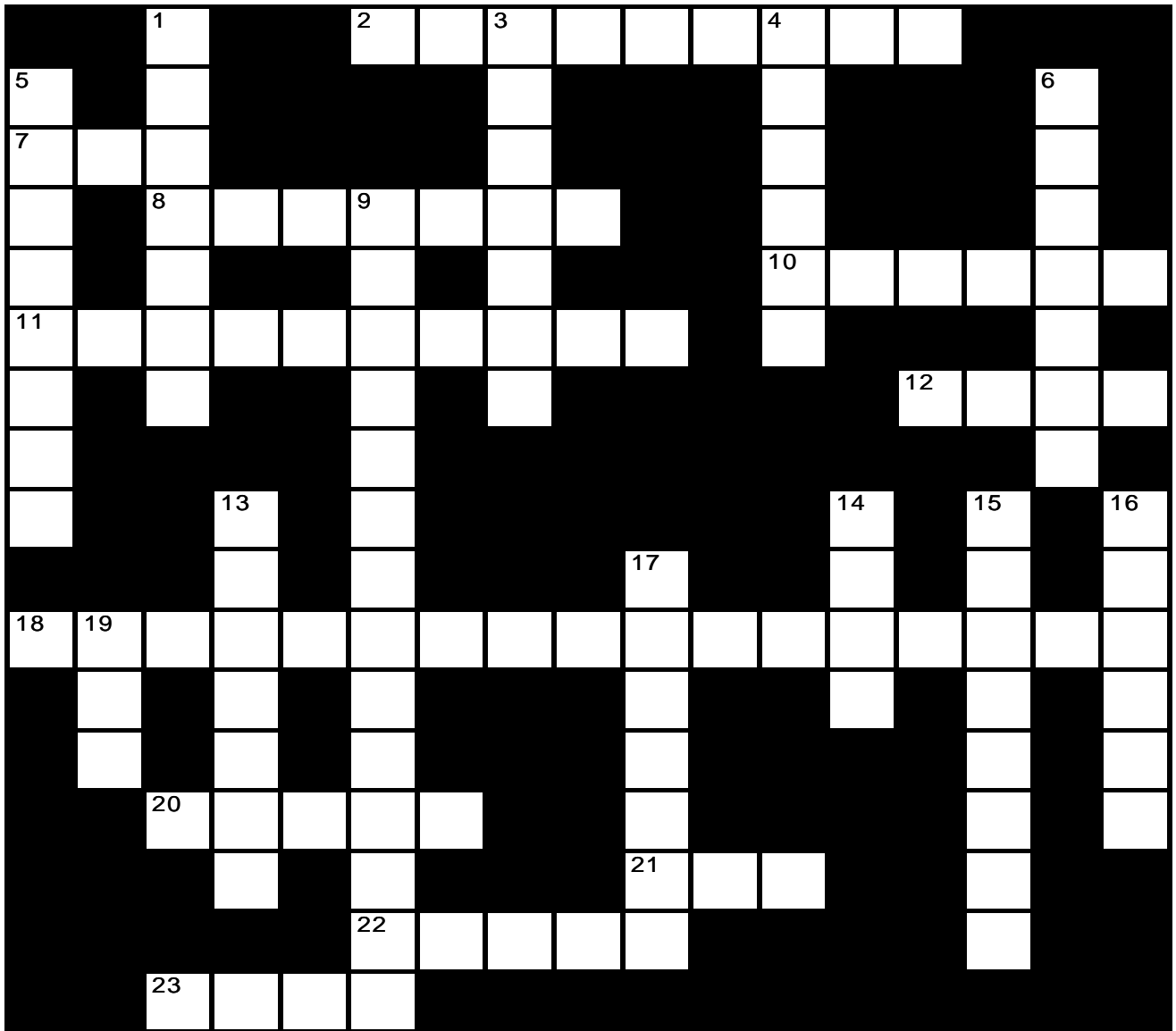
M-F 10:00am—07:00pm

SAT 10:00am—06:00pm

SUN 12:00pm—05:00pm

Visa, MC and Discover Cards accepted. All prices subject to change without notice. Franchise listed  
is independently owned and operated. Products may not be available in all areas.

**Computer Crossword** by Craig Peterson, DVPC  
**"Party Time"**



Break out your Appointment book and get ready to fill up every free minute not shopping for gifts with parties. While many companies no longer have big dinners, most people find reasons to come together before the end of the year. This month's puzzle deals with why we gather and the results. So put down the eggnog and try to solve this month's puzzle. If you need help, go to [www.dvpc.org/solution.html](http://www.dvpc.org/solution.html).

**Across**

- 2. December 25th
- 7. December 24th
- 8. Frosty
- 10. Holiday drink
- 11. Tree
- 12. Bad boys and girls get this in their stocking
- 18. Movie watched this time of year (4 words)
- 20. A right jolly old elf
- 21. North Pole labor force
- 22. Christmas song
- 23. Presents are found under this

**Down**

- 1. What is given this time of year
- 3. Month long Muslem observance
- 4. Where animals feed
- 5. What we do at parties
- 6. Chankukah light
- 9. The end of winter
- 13. African American observance
- 14. Feast or log
- 15. Eight of these pull Santa's sleigh
- 16. Santa's ride

(Clues continued on page 8)

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## **Step-By-Step Guide to Making CD & DVD Labels with Creator** by Becky Waring, Roxio, Inc.

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What do you do the first time you listen to a new Audio CD? Odds are you turn up the music, then sit down to peruse the pictures, read the liner notes, and review the credits on the jewel case. Maybe you read the lyrics as new songs play. It's a ritual that goes back to the days of vinyl record albums, and transcends musical genres. But sadly, it often doesn't extend to CD-Rs, especially personal compilations, where no existing artwork or notes are readily available.

However, you've got a secret weapon in the war against the black magic marker: Easy Media Creator 7! Next time you make a party compilation disc, digital photo album, or even a Video CD of your kid's birthday party, try making a printed jewel case cover. It's simple with the included Label Creator software included with Roxio Easy Media Creator 7 (to purchase, go to [www.roxio.com](http://www.roxio.com)).

There are two basic ways to use Label Creator. For quickest results, use the Instant Label Creator mode, which is invoked whenever you launch Label Creator from within another Roxio application. It's also available from the Tools menu within Label Creator. Instant Label Creator provides a series of dialogs that quickly step you through the process. You can have finished labels in as little as three clicks. We won't go into the details here, since they are largely self-evident. Instead, we'll show you how to get creative by customizing your labels and inserts.

To launch Label Creator in full mode, choose it from the Creator 7 Home window, or directly from the Windows Start menu in the Roxio programs folder. At startup you will be presented with a generic template for the disc label. Clicking the Show/Hide Layout tab at the top of the window brings up the other 7 options available: front and back jewel case inserts, booklets, slim case inserts, mini disc labels, and DVD case inserts and booklets. To get started, check the boxes for all the layouts that apply to your project, such as label, booklet and back insert for an audio CD. The linked layouts will then appear at the top of the window, and you can move back and forth between them.

All are sized to fit perfectly into standard plastic jewel boxes, so all you need to do is add artwork and information. And Label Creator helps you there, as well. The easiest way to glamour in Label Creator is to choose from one of the many different pre-designed templates, or themes. Themes are professional graphics backgrounds combined with strategically placed text fields. Simply choosing a theme - by clicking on the Apply Theme button at the top left of the screen - and filling in relevant information creates a handsome jewel case package. A theme can be applied to all the parts of your project for a consistent look, or just a particular layout. (Don't worry, you can also create custom designs, which we'll get to later.)

Once you've selected a design theme, it's time to enter information about your project into the text fields. For data CDs, that information will likely be title, contents, and date created. For Audio CDs it might also include the artist name and song list. If you've already entered any of that information already while burning your CD-R in Easy Media Creator, Label Creator can read it off the disc and position it for you in the label using the Smart Objects feature. Hitting the "Auto-Fill from Disc" button at top left polls your disc drive and returns with title, contents, artist, and other information and places it in the appropriate fields. Audio CD info will be automatically looked up on the Web for you. For any remaining fields not filled in, you can just double-click them and enter data manually. By using themes and the information available on a disc, making a handsome jewel case cover and label can be faster than putting on earrings.

### *Custom Jewelry*

Of course, you don't have to use the themes as they are. You can start with a theme, add or delete graphic elements, and change, reposition, or add text fields. The "Add Objects" tools let you add photos or graphics, rectangles, circles, lines and text, making themes completely flexible. Label Creator doesn't mind if you overlap multiple fields, and lets you send objects to the back, bring them to the front, and align them in various ways by using the positioning tools at middle left. To make a title stand out, try using one of Label Creator's shape tools to create a solid color background box behind a text box.

You can also apply special effects like curved text, shadows and rotation to text. To experiment, select the field or fields you want to edit, then choose Properties from the Edit menu. You'll get a dialog box with a preview field. Selecting multiple text fields at once and editing Properties or using the text toolbar at the top of the layout window is also an easy way to apply the same style across multiple text boxes.

To add your own custom image as a background, click the "Edit Background" button at top left. This lets you select a picture or graphic file, or a solid color, then apply it to some or all of your layout templates. Label Creator automatically resizes image and photo files to fit the template, which can save a lot of work. Or, instead of making a photo the background, use the Add Image Object tool at middle left to import it on top of the background. You can then scale the image to any size and thus effectively replace the background.

If you're making a photo album or Video CD, you should have plenty of photos/video stills to choose from for cover art. For audio CDs, try the Web: it's full of pictures of celebrities, singers, and bands, including CD cover art. Right-clicking on just about any image on the Web lets you save it to your hard drive, typically as a JPEG file which can go straight into Label Creator. And, you're not likely to need to crop CD cover images. What's more, you can find lyrics to a large majority of popular songs on the Web, often at an artist's own Web site, which you can cut and paste into your jewel book. Just be aware that these images and lyrics might be copyrighted, and should not be downloaded for anything other than personal use within the copyright laws.

If your cover art is not available on the Web, you can also scan the original album cover directly into Label Creator, with any standard scanner and the Scan Image tool at top left. Or try scanning old family photos for a picture CD.

Once you've got your labels and cover art designed, it's time to print! Any color inkjet printer and photo paper will do, but for best

*(Continued on page 15)*

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## **Step-By-Step Guide to Making CD & DVD Labels with Creator...**

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*(Continued from page 14)*

results and to save cutting time, try the special labels made for the task (available at any office supply outlet). Label Creator already has most popular brands listed in the Page Setup dialog (available directly from the File menu, or from within the Print dialog) to ensure exact page placement. Test things first on some plain paper, then use the Printer Adjustments dialog (also available from the File menu, or from the Print dialog) to fine-tune the alignment. Once you've gotten the placement perfect for the test print, you can create future labels and covers over and over with the same template and positioning.

For disc labels, Label Creator also supports newer printers (such as the Epson Stylus Photo 900 and 960) that can print directly onto CDs. For these printers, you can choose printable silver, white or other media. Just look for the word "printable" in the media name.

When sticking labels on your CDs, be sure to position them perfectly over the middle hole, and then squeeze any air bubbles out by pressing from the center outward. Blank silver CDs without any logo printing work best, printed lettering may show through your labels, or create unsightly ridges. Note that it's best not to label CDs that will be used in car CD changers, since the high temperatures in cars can melt the labels and cause them to peel off in your changer. You should also be careful when using discs with labels in slot-loading CD or DVD drives. If the label is not affixed properly, it could come off while the disc is inserted and get caught in the mechanism.

So next time you make a CD, there's no excuse for using magic markers anymore! Your CD rack, your friends, and your customers deserve better. Making yourself look like an artist doesn't require any crown jewels, just well-designed ones.

*This article is reprinted in this issue of Diablo Blue with the express permission of Roxio, Inc.*

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## **Tabbed Browsers are Not Secure** *by Ron Ogg, DVPC*

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New vulnerabilities in virtually every browser that includes tabbed windows, not including Internet Explorer which does not offer this feature, give hackers a way to steal confidential data entered into Web sites, security firm Secunia Research warned on October 20th. The flaws, which affect the Mozilla/Firefox family of browsers, Opera, Apple's Safari, AOL's Netscape, and the Linux-based Konqueror and others, open up a spoofing avenue that attackers can exploit. Secunia reported that *"It is possible for a inactive tab to spawn dialog boxes e.g. the JavaScript "Prompt" box or the "Download dialog" box, even if the user is browsing/viewing a completely different web site in another tab. The problem is that the browsers does not indicate, which tab launched the dialog boxes, which therefore could lead the user into disclosing information to a malicious web site or to download and run a program, which the user thought came from another trusted web site e.g. their bank."*

Browsers that offer tabbed windows, a feature that lets users switch between open web pages, have vulnerabilities that can allow hackers to launch web pages and dialog boxes from a separate tabbed window but make it seem as if it's actually appearing in the window that the user is currently viewing, and to steal information typed into forms on a site open on a separate tab.

Secunia advised that "Successful exploitation would normally require that a user is tricked into opening a link from a malicious Web site to a trusted Web site in a new tab".

Secunia has a page at [http://secunia.com/multiple\\_browsers\\_dialog\\_box\\_spoofing\\_test](http://secunia.com/multiple_browsers_dialog_box_spoofing_test) where users can test the vulnerabilities. Secunia suggests that users either disable JavaScript in their browsers, or close all other tabbed windows before going to financial institution or retail Web sites.

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## **Tech News** *by Sue Crane, Big Bear Computer Club, California*

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***Finally, Software with the updates included!*** Microsoft last month started the process of swapping out all of the boxed copies of Windows XP with the updated version, with a triangle in the upper corner touting SP2 and its security enhancements. Over the next month, Microsoft hopes to swap out the bulk of all boxed copies worldwide. OfficeMax is offering a free 128MB flash drive and anti-spyware to customers buying an XP upgrade.

***The Visible Light Communications Consortium***, a group of 15 IT manufacturers is proposing using light emitting diodes--which will increasingly become common for ordinary light fixtures and outdoor equipment like traffic lights--to transmit data traffic by up to 10 meters at high speeds. With the technology, a person trapped in a building could hold up a cell phone to a ceiling light, and rescuers would be able to pinpoint his or her exact location. Similarly, cars could exchange information through headlights and taillights, and car computer systems could tell drivers if there were major stalls ahead.

***The Federal Communications Commission*** is beginning a new consumer-education campaign to support the nationwide switch from analog to digital TV. Announcing a new Web site to answer questions about digital TV, The Consumer Electronics Association

*(Continued on page 17)*

## Yet Another Phishing Expedition...

(Continued from page 11)

Clicking on the Continue button in the email message took me to a login page that was supposedly on the Household Bank web site but was not. Instead it was on another site (which I've reported to Household Bank). Here's the fake web page

# Household Bank<sup>®</sup> CREDIT CARD

HOME | FAQs | CONTACT US | ABOUT US | PRIVACY/SECURITY | SITE MAP | AFFILIATE PROGRAM

Other Household Sites

## CARDMEMBER LOGIN


- ▶ [Forgot your Login ID?](#)
- ▶ [Forgot your Password?](#)
- ▶ [Privacy Statement](#)

### Please Login

Login to identify you with the HouseHold Account Holder

<b>Login ID</b>	<input type="text"/>
<a href="#">What's This</a>	<a href="#">Forgot your Login ID?</a>
<b>Password</b>	<input type="text"/>
<a href="#">What's This</a>	<a href="#">Forgot your Password?</a>

**Safe and Secure**  
During a Secure Socket Layer (SSL) session, data passed back and forth between your computer and our online card server is secured by using public key cryptography. Your computer exchanges key information with our computers to create a private conversation that only your computer and our systems can understand.




**What is my Login ID?**  
This is the ID you created when you registered for Online Account Access. If you cannot remember your Login ID, [click here](#) to re-register your account now.

**What is my Password?**  
This is the unique 5 to 10 character code you created when you registered for Online Account Access. If you cannot remember your Password, [click here](#) to create a new one.

[Home](#) | [FAQs](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [About Us](#) | [Privacy/Security](#) | [Site Map](#) | [Affiliate Program](#)

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▶ **Buy Stocks for \$4 and Get \$50**  
Invest online in the stocks you want and get a \$50 bonus from **ShareBuilder**. Find out how.

▶ **Pet Health Insurance**  
Now there is health insurance for every member of the family. Get a free quote, for your pets health and your peace of mind.

▶ **Connections Entertainment Service**  
Sign up for Connections<sup>®</sup> and find out how you can claim a \$25 **Amazon.com promotional certificate!** With Connections, you save at leading retail stores, restaurants, amusement parks, and movies.

This shows what the perps are phishing for: a user's login ID and password. They don't care about anything else. With this information they can gain access to the user's account and credit card number and change the password and PIN number. Remember: banks NEVER send email with a link to log in to your account! Beware of phishing attempts, they are attacks on YOU!

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## Tech News...

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*(Continued from page 15)*

estimates that about 10% of U.S. households currently have digital sets. For those who don't have cable or satellite TV a converter box will be available to receive and decode digital signals at a cost about \$200 each. [www.dtv.gov](http://www.dtv.gov).

*You probably know that high quality, low cost digital* scanning, copying and printing technologies have been used to counterfeit currency, but did you know that the government is fighting back? When you put a document under the glass of your new photocopier or scanner and push the button, it makes a high resolution copy - unless the document is one of the new style twenty or fifty dollar bills. If you do that, you just might see a message pop up informing you that you should visit the Treasury website to become more educated on counterfeit laws

*Schools and libraries nationwide* have suddenly stopped receiving any new grants from a federal program that is wrestling with new rules on how it spends \$2.25 billion each year to provide high-speed Internet and telephone service. The moratorium at the E-Rate program [www.fcc.gov/learnnet](http://www.fcc.gov/learnnet) began two months ago, with no notice, and may last for months, causing significant hardships at schools and libraries.

*The FTC is launching an aggressive new strategy to prosecute "spyware" perpetrators*, and last week filed a civil lawsuit against former spam-king Sanford Wallace and his companies, Seismic Entertainment Productions and SmartBot. Wallace, who was once dubbed "Spamford" for his earlier misdeeds, operates the PassItOn.com Web site, which requires visitors to click through multiple pop-up windows in order to exit.

*Install a chip inside your body*, and when something goes wrong, it automatically pings your doctor. Or even simpler, your complete medical makeup and history can be burned into a chip and implanted in your body. The tiny chips, which are embedded under the skin with a syringe, are programmed with a code similar to the UPC codes on retail goods, which releases patient-specific information on such issues as allergies and prior treatments when scanned

*Philips' Motiva technology allows patients* to use their home televisions to communicate with their care providers over a broadband connection. The pilot program has enrolled 60 patients. The test is designed to gauge how well patients and health care providers use the interactive system when communicating and sharing medical information.

*A directory of cell phone numbers* will be published soon, opening the door for solicitors to call cell phones using up your minutes. The FTC has set up a National Do Not Call Registry for cell phones. You must call FROM the number you wish to register. The number is 1-888-382-1222, OR you can go to <https://www.donotcall.gov/Register/Reg.aspx> to register your cell phones on line.

*Microsoft will count new multicore processors as single units* when they debut next year. This announcement puts an end to confusion about Microsoft's policy regarding multicore processors, in which two or more processors are etched onto a single chip. Many of Microsoft's competitors are currently charging more for software that runs on servers equipped with dual or multicore chips. Intel's dual-core Xeon is due in 2006. Also watch for a competing chip from AMD.

*The FBI says your unsecured 802.11 network* could be used in the commission of a cybercrime. If you don't want the FBI to come knocking at your door, take steps to secure your wireless network against intruders.

*Helen Greiner, co-founder of iRobot*, said her company had sold 1 million of its Roomba robotic vacuum cleaners — a milestone that drew applause at the RoboNexus International Conference & Exposition. The use of robots to perform household tasks such as lawn-mowing, vacuuming, guard duty and other chores is slated to increase sevenfold by 2007, according to the U.N.'s latest World Robotics Survey.

*A federal appeals court struck a blow against Printer manufacturers* who want to use Digital Copyright to protect their share of the lucrative printer cartridges market. Judge Gilbert Merritt stated in his summary, "We should make clear that in the future companies like Lexmark cannot use the DMCA in conjunction with copyright law to create monopolies of manufactured goods."

*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. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.*

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## 10 Commandments for Happy Windows Users by Robert Spotswood, Hal-PC

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### *How to reduce your computer headaches*

I work as a computer tech and I see lots of different computer problems. But I see certain problems again and again. While it means more business for me, lots of those problems could be easily avoided saving my customers money and aggravation. Here are 10 commandments, which, if followed, will greatly reduce your computer headaches.

#### *1. Use a Virus Scanner*

Get one and keep it up to date. The brand doesn't make a big difference. Keeping it up to date does! A virus scanner that has not been updated recently (recently being about 1 or 2 days), is only slightly better than no virus scanner at all.

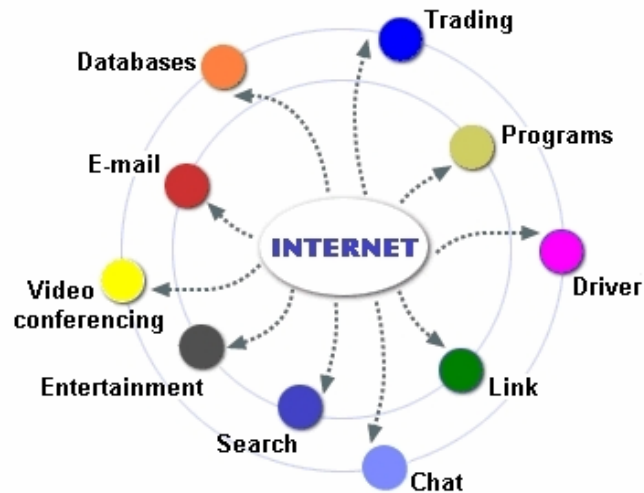
Keep the virus scanner active and do regular scans of your system. Trying to install a virus scanner after you already have a virus

*(Continued on page 18)*

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**Internet SIG Meeting** by Craig Peterson, DVPC

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**Internet SIG:**  
**"Your Pit Stop on the Information Superhighway"**

The Internet SIG usually meets at Computer Renaissance, 1936 Linda Drive, Pleasant Hill the third Wednesday of every month at 6:00 p.m. This month, however, we will be joining PC101 for our "End of the Year Party." Please join us at Computer Renaissance, 1936 Linda Drive, Pleasant Hill Saturday, December 11th from 4 to 6 p. m. Bring a snack, desert or drink to share as we say goodbye to 2004 and hello to 2005. Hope to see all of you there.

Also, for those of you who were not able to make last month's meeting:

[www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/](http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/) for anti spyware software

[www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/](http://www.lavasoftusa.com/software/adaware/) for a view from the heavens

[www.picasa.com/picasa/](http://www.picasa.com/picasa/) for a program to help organize your photos

A special thanks to Malcolm Mailey for suggesting this month's sites.

For more information about the Internet SIG, email Craig Peterson at [compmail@pacbell.net](mailto:compmail@pacbell.net) or call him at 671-7025.

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**10 Commandments for Happy Windows Users...**

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*(Continued from page 17)*

infection usually isn't going to do any good. If the viruses are active, most will attack any virus scanner and prevent it from working or installing properly. The way to stop this is to have an up-to-date virus scanner active when the virus first tries to infect you.

**II. Protect Yourself from Spyware**

Viruses aren't your only threat. Spyware is another, and virus scanners do almost nothing about it, although that is just starting to change. Spyware, aside from invading your privacy, can crash your computer, make it run slow, hijack your browser (especially Internet Explorer), annoy you with pop-up ads, and download porn. These things have cost people jobs and ruined relationships (see [www.wired.com/news/infostructure/0,1377,63391,00.html](http://www.wired.com/news/infostructure/0,1377,63391,00.html)).

Spyware can come in with other "free" programs, or can be installed silently if you use Internet Explorer (termed drive-by-downloading). If a window pops up asking to install software, say no, unless you were expecting it.

While not all "free" programs are bad, avoid "free" programs without checking them out first. As a general rule, open source programs are unlikely to have spyware.

Don't use Internet Explorer (use Mozilla or Opera instead), and check for "little pests" regularly. Spybot and Ad-aware are two free and good programs for dealing with spyware. Spyware "experts" tend to prefer Spybot over Ad-aware, but both are good programs.

*(Continued on page 19)*

Changing Your E-mail Address?  
*Tell us so you will continue receiving Diablo Blue!*  
E-mail your name and new information to [changes@dvpc.org](mailto:changes@dvpc.org)

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## **10 Commandments for Happy Windows Users...**

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(Continued from page 18)

Prevention is the best medicine however.

### ***III. Don't Open Strange Emails***

Never, ever open or respond to an email that in any way seems suspicious. Don't even preview it, especially in Outlook or Outlook Express. It doesn't matter who it appears to come from. That can be faked unless you use digital signatures correctly, and most modern worms do fake the sender.

Don't rely on your virus scanner to protect you either. Email viruses can spread around the world in minutes. Your virus scanner will be at least a day behind the most current threat.

No legitimate company will want you to open an attachment or enter your user info in a form from an out-of-the-blue email. Companies also do not send patches (see commandment VIII) via email. Should you actually find a company that does these things, find somebody else to do business with. Your information is not safe with them.

If at all possible, do not use a Microsoft email client. Use a Mozilla or Opera based program (among others) instead. Microsoft's poor security record AND actively being targeted make for a lousy combination.

### ***IV. Never Respond to Spam***

Never respond to or buy something from an email that you even THINK is spam or unsolicited, even if it's something you are interested in. Spammers spam because it is profitable. It is profitable because enough people buy or respond. Buying anything from or responding to spam is just throwing gasoline on a fire. In addition, often, the spam involves something either fraudulent or illegal. If it's something you are still interested in, do a web search, and buy from there.

Always be careful of where you put your email address. Putting your email address in some form (paper or electronic) is one way the spammers get your address, especially contest promotions, i.e. fill out a form for a chance to win a prize and the form asks for an email address among other things. Posting your address on a website or Usenet are two other ways spammers get your address.

### ***V. Perform Regular Backups***

Sooner or later, it's going to happen. Something important gets deleted. It doesn't matter if it was a virus, equipment failure, or just not paying enough attention when hitting the delete key. This includes not just erasing files, but overwriting data. The recycle bin or undelete programs can't help you then. Doing proper backups are your best, and cheapest defense against these disasters.

Take care of your backup media. Don't leave CD's lying in the sun or tapes near magnets. Finally, don't forget to test the restore process once in a while! A backup you can't restore is worthless, and the practice you get in restoring will help you avoid mistakes and panic when the time comes to do it for real.

### ***VI. Help the Tech***

Having computer problems is normal. Sooner or later it happens to everyone. When it is time to seek help, don't lie. Chances are the tech will see through the lie very quickly, and even if he doesn't, it only makes it harder for him to help you. Be as specific as you can. Write down the exact error message. Tell him anything you think might be important. He can't read minds and he wasn't there when you did \_\_\_ (fill in the blank).

Don't "clean up" your computer before you bring in (or take the computer to) the tech. This can, in rare cases, disguise the cause of the problem.

If getting phone support, be in front of your computer, have it turned on and booted up, and have the application(s) already open (if appropriate). Many phone support techs are rated (and promoted or fired) based on how many calls per hour they answer, not on whether they actually help you. Take too long and you may find your problem is "We do not support that. Goodbye." Be patient and describe everything you see. Phone support is one of the hardest types of support to do.

Finally, swearing like a sailor or threatening the tech will not get your system fixed any faster or cheaper. In fact, the reverse may happen.

### ***VII. Get Some Computer Training***

You don't have to be a mechanic to drive a car, but you still have to have training. No one is born knowing how to drive, and no one is born knowing how to use computers. Know the basic terminology, specs, and workings of your computer. This knowledge can reduce your need for professional help (aka the tech) and make working the tech more productive when you do need it.

Think of the training as an investment in yourself. Once you learn how to use your computer your [computer] life will become more productive and enjoyable. DVPC offers a variety of free or low cost training. Take advantage of it.

(Continued on page 20)

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

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## 10 Commandments for Happy Windows Users...

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(Continued from page 19)

### VIII. Apply Patches Regularly

Programming is easy, but creating perfectly secure programs is very hard to impossible. Mistakes happen. When they do, fixes (often called patches) are issued. While some of these patches may cause problems, it is usually better to install the patch than not.

Free and open source software usually just issues new versions rather than patches, so don't forget to upgrade. There are mailing lists you can sign up for to tell you when new patches and new versions are issued.

Using Windows update regularly is a good way to stay current with your patches. Be warned, however, that Microsoft does not always issue patches in a timely manner, and neither do some other software companies. You can't patch without a patch.

Sometimes, a patch will not fix the problem it was intended to fix or may even open up other security holes. Do not make the mistake of thinking that just because you are current on all your patches that you are safe. You're not!

### IX. Pay Attention to Your Computer's Security

The wrong types of people are interested in your computer, even if you are just a home user on dial-up. Even if you don't have any valuable data (unlikely; credit card info, banking info, perhaps work info are just a few examples), your machine could be used as a source of spam, used to host illegal materials, or even as a launch pad for attacks on other systems.

A dial-up user, or someone with a connected modem, could be disconnected from his ISP (Internet Service Provider) and silently reconnected to another overseas. The next phone bill will be quite shocking.

While there is no product that can make your computer secure, a firewall and virus scanner are a good start. Running more than one firewall and one virus scanner at the same time is usually a bad idea. It does little to increase your security, while greatly increasing problems you will have.

### X. Give Your Computer Regular Maintenance

Computers, like all things, work better if they receive occasion maintenance. A scandisk and defrag every month will help keep your computer running smoothly. Dusting inside your computer every so often is also a good idea. Seek professional help if you are unsure how to do this. Smaller computer shops will often teach you how to do this yourself for free or a small fee or you could make a friend at DVPC. Finally, your computer case is not a refrigerator door. Don't stick magnets on it.

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## Is Your Credit Card Number Safe? by S. Jack Lewtschuk, Monterey Bay Users Group

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How many times have you typed your credit card number or password into your computer? Any idea what happens to it?

When you type in a password, it is stored in random access memory (RAM), where it is held temporarily until other data overwrites it or the computer is turned off. But every so often, the computer copies the contents of its RAM onto hard disk, where it is easy prey for a hacker, who can read it directly or design a worm to e-mail it back. The longer sensitive data is in RAM, the more likely it is to be copied onto the disk, where it stays until it is overwritten - which might not happen for years.

On the other hand, do you know what happens to your credit card number after you hand your card to a clerk in a store or server in a restaurant? He/she has your number *and* your signature. Are you paranoid yet?

### SECURING YOUR CREDIT CARD BEFORE YOU LOSE IT

Keep a record of your credit cards and other contents of your wallet. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine or scanner; copy 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 to report the theft and cancel the cards. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

If you do lose your wallet, don't forget to call these numbers to report it:

(Continued on page 21)



# Tired of Spam?

Go to [www.dvpc.org](http://www.dvpc.org) to download QURB!

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## **Is Your Credit Card Number Safe?...**

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*(Continued from page 20)*

Equifax 800.525.6285  
Experian (formerly TRW) 888.397.3742  
Trans Union 800.680.7289  
Social Administration Fraud Line 800.269.0271  
Your local police department to file a theft report

### **MYTHS VIII – TO SIGN OR NOT TO SIGN THE BACK OF YOUR CREDIT CARD**

By the way, have you heard the idea that it is best *not* to sign the back of your credit cards? That instead of signing, you can print the words: "SEE ID" or "ASK FOR PHOTO ID?"

Here is what major credit card fraud departments had to say:

**MasterCard** - To not sign your card is an urban legend that sounds sensible, but is not a good idea.

**American Express** - We have warned merchants not to accept your credit cards if they aren't signed.

**VISA** - They agree with the other credit card companies and said that merchants are instructed not to finish the transaction until you sign the back of your card.

So, the idea of not signing the back of your credit card is an example of a very popular urban legend that is false. **Sign your credit cards immediately when you receive them.**

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## **Understanding USB** by Vinny La Bash, Sarasota Personal Computer Users Group

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Hail USB! Until a few years ago if you wanted to add an external device to your computer, such as a scanner or a Zip drive, it needed your one and only parallel port. The trouble with this was that your printer had already staked out that territory. One way of getting around the problem was installing an A/B switch. However, if you needed more than one device, you had to install an A/B/C/D switch. Sometimes moving among these devices meant having to turn one off before you could use another, and often you had to reboot before your machine would recognize another device on the switch.

Early Palm Pilots and digital cameras sought your serial port. Computers had, and most still have two serial ports, but they were slow and almost always involved installation of controlling software.

There were also devices that came with their own controller cards. This meant you had to open the case and install the card in an expansion slot, provided you had one available. Things could get crazy quickly, and you had to handle IRQ conflicts, more cables, and additional power cords.

Rescue arrived with the introduction of the USB port (Universal Serial Bus) that lets you attach almost anything to your computer quickly and easily. Windows XP is designed to support USB so device conflicts are gone. The standard allows up to 127 devices on a single USB port. In practice, no one uses that many devices. USB connectors let you attach everything from TV tuners to modems. It's an amazingly flexible technology. If you had a toaster with a USB connection you could hook it up, but it's doubtful you could watch bread turn brown on the screen.

Installing a USB device is incredibly simple. Windows XP senses it through a process called auto-detection, and asks for the driver disk if it's needed. If you have previously installed the device, XP activates it, and it's ready for use. Part of the beauty of USB is that you can connect and disconnect devices at any time without having to reboot your machine or change any options. If a cable is built-in to a USB device it will connect to your computer with its own "A" connector. Otherwise it will connect with a "B" connector.

*(Continued on page 22)*

## **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!!**

## **Understanding USB...**

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*(Continued from page 21)*

"A" and "B" connectors are of different sizes and shapes so there is never a question of getting them mixed up.

Today, most desktop computers are built with least four USB ports. That is inadequate, but there are relatively inexpensive USB hubs available that act as expansion devices. The number of ports available on an expansion hub can vary from as few as two to as many as seven, depending on your needs and how much you care to spend. Plug the hub into your computer, and then plug your devices into the hub. You can chain hubs together, and build dozens of available USB ports on a single computer.

The USB standard lets USB connected devices draw their power from their USB connection to the PC. This works well for mice, digital cameras, web cams, and other devices that use small amounts of power. Printers, scanners, and other high power accessories require their own power supply, and they can be plugged into hubs that do not have their own power supply. If you run out of USB sockets and you have a lot of low power devices, get a powered hub so you don't overwhelm the PC bus.

Inside your computer the USB bus lets the computer act as a host to all USB devices attached to it. If you have the up-to-date USB 2.0 standard, data can be transferred at up to 480 megabits per second. If you were moving text, that works out to about 30,000 pages of documents per second. That's a maximum rate, not typical of actual use. Nevertheless, it's impressive.

USB has other advantages. You can plug in or remove USB devices without having to reboot your machine, and the computer can put USB devices into an inactive state when conserving power. XP queries all USB devices when your machine powers on, assigns each one an address, and determines what kind of data it needs to send or receive. XP keeps track of the total bandwidth of all the attached USB devices. If the combined devices reach 90% of the 480 megabit maximum, XP denies access to any additional devices. The remaining 10% is reserved for transmitting control characters, stop and start transmission codes, error checking, and other overhead.

USB 2.0 encourages the development of innovative products that would be impossible to develop with the older standards. It's the solution for all PC users who want an instant, no-hassle way to connect new hardware like digital joysticks, scanners, digital speakers, digital cameras or a PC telephone to their computer. Plug and Pray has truly become Plug and Play.

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## **Help! My Computer is Down and it Can't Get Up** by Ira Wilsker, APCUG

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I am embarrassed to say this, but I had a major problem with my computer recently. It would only boot to a blue screen that said that it had a problem, and Windows XP stopped to prevent any damage, and gave an error code. It said to uninstall any recent programs or hardware, and recommended starting in safe mode. This can happen to anyone at any time, and has happened to me before. Most of the time, a simple power-off then reboot will resolve the problem, as these blue screens are often itinerant, and may not recur, and a simple reboot may rectify the problem. I turned the power off, waited a few seconds, powered on, and attempted to reboot, and that discouraging blue screen reappeared, instead of my desktop. I rebooted again, and selected safe mode, allowing the computer to fully boot in that manner. As designed, since many drivers and programs do not load when booted into safe mode, it loaded normally. Usually, when I had this problem in the past, exiting from safe mode, and rebooting generally rebooted the computer properly, and I could do my work. Not this time, the computer was being stubborn; now I could better sympathize with some of the callers on my show who express frustrations, and even state that their computer hates them.

I went into safe mode again, and uninstalled the Microsoft Critical Update I had downloaded and installed the previous evening. Confident that this was the problem, as there are often such complaints posted online after every critical update, I was sure that this would resolve itself, and my computer would then reboot normally. Feeling twangs of anger, my computer rebooted into the now familiar blue screen of boot failure.

While approaching despair, I knew that all was not lost because the previous evening I had performed an incremental backup (only new or changed files since the previous backup are saved) to my external hard drive, so I was certain that all of my critical data could easily be restored if that option became necessary. Still the frustration of being unable to boot the computer was mounting. Fortunately, in addition to a very current backup which could be restored as a last resort, there are other less stressful and viable options to overcome whatever was creating my problem.

Windows XP and ME have a not very well known feature "System Restore" as an integral function. Ideally, the system restore function should take a snapshot of critical system files and settings at each successful boot, and prior to any major changes. I have been certain to make sure that my system restore is always functioning, and also manually create another restore point prior to making any changes in software, registry, or other critical items. It is important to note that those people who leave their computers on 24 hours, may not have new restore points periodically created automatically by the system, making it quite possible

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**Buy extra raffle tickets and increase your chance of winning – as you support DVPC!**

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## **Help! My Computer is Down and it Can't Get Up...**

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that a restore may not use the most up to date information. System restore can be located in XP at Start - Programs - Accessories - System Tools - System Restore.

When opened, two choices will be presented: create a restore point, or restore the computer to an earlier date. By default, unless intentionally changed, XP will save restore information until 12% of the hard drive is used for that purpose. Once the limit is reached, older restore points are deleted using "FIFO" (first in, first out). Other than a few minutes of time, it almost never hurts to create a restore point, unless the hard drive

is approaching capacity. Many users are not aware if there has been a recent restore point created, and it is easy to find out by opening the system restore function, and clicking on "Restore the Computer to an Earlier Time". A calendar will appear, and dates that contain restore points will be in bold. Clicking on a date will show the restore points created on that date. To restore the computer to that time, click on the date and time desired, and the automated process will run, rebooting the computer upon completion, and making the computer as it was at that date.

Once created, restore points cannot easily be modified, which may create problems if an unknown virus or Trojan is infecting the computer. When this happens, the virus or Trojan is saved along with the requisite necessary data. If such a restore point is selected, then the malware is restored along with the desired data, re-infecting the computer. This is a surprisingly common way of re-infecting a computer after antivirus software deletes active threats.

A system restore function is not included with Windows 95, 98, NT, or 2000, but there is an excellent alternative, that also works well with ME and XP. WinRescue, available at [www.superwin.com](http://www.superwin.com), creates a separate registry backup each time the computer is booted. With WinRescue, the system registry can be easily restored if problems occur.

Now I have to get back to work, and restore my computer.

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## **What Time is it? Set Your PC Clock** by Ira Wilsker, APCUG

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I get a lot of emails that have an incorrect time stamp on them, placed there by their computers that have an incorrect time and date. I was asked on my radio show, "So what's the big deal about having a wrong time and date on my computer?"

There are several reasons for having a correct time and date on your computer. One reason is that if your computer has an incorrect date and time, and you send email with that incorrect time, it may not be noticed by the recipient and remain unread, or it may be filtered out by some spam filters. I sort my incoming email by date so I will always see the newest messages first. If the sender has a clock that is set "slow", then that email will not be near the top of my list, and if the clock is too slow, then I may not see the message at all because it may show up as an old, out of date message. Since many spammers purposely set the date and time either far in advance, or far in the past, so that their spam email always appears first or last on an email list, many of the spam filters delete emails that are extremely off in their dates and times.

Another reason to have a correct date and time is to better enable searches on your own computer. Almost all versions of Windows have had as a search function "date and time" to find files created, accessed, or modified in a specific time frame. If downloaded or shared files are received with a correct time, and the computer clock is significantly off, there may be discrepancies making some file searches difficult.

Many professionals bill their clients based on time, and those that use their computers to bill the time need an accurate time on their computers in order to bill accurately. There may also be legal ramifications in having a correct or incorrect time on the computer. I recently did a forensic analysis on a computer involved in a legal case, and there was a question explicitly about when certain things were done with the computer. The defendant in the case was a professional engineer, and billed clients for his computer time, using a utility expressly for that purpose. He used a program that frequently checked his computer clock against the official government time ([www.time.gov](http://www.time.gov)), and logged any differences, which were slight. Since his computer clock was accurate, always within a second during the period in question, there was evidence so strong in his favor that the case was dropped. If his computer clock had been significantly off, there may have been a strong case against him, as a key piece of defense evidence would have been missing.

There are several reasons for computer clocks not having the correct time. Some computer users never set their computer clock, similar to the flashing "12:00" on many VCRs. I have worked on computers that had the wrong time zone set, simply because the user never reset the time zone and clock after it was purchased, and still had the default time zone set by the manufacturer. Many computers lose time on their computer clocks due to a well documented interference with the clock from some "soft modems", "controllerless" modems, or "WinModems" that sap processing power from the CPU chip while online. A symptom of this is sometimes a "jerky" cursor that does not move across the screen smoothly while online. Another reason for losing time on a computer clock is a weak battery in the computer. Most users are unaware that there is a small battery in their computers, often a watch or

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## **What Time is it? Set Your PC Clock...**

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calculator battery, which powers the CMOS chip while the computer is turned off. While some newer computers use a small rechargeable battery, which has a longer but still limited life, the typical computer battery may only last for a few years until it must be replaced. One necessary proviso is that the user should use one of several utilities to back up the CMOS data before replacing the battery, or the system defaults will be used. After replacing the battery it is almost always necessary to reset the clock.

There are several utilities that will automatically reset the clock with little or no user intervention. These range from integral Windows XP utilities, to freeware, and commercial software. XP has a free built-in time check utility that can transparently reset the computer clock. It can be found by clicking on control panel — date and time — internet time. Additional information is available by clicking on start — help — and entering the search term “time synchronization”. I recommend using the [nist.time.gov](http://nist.time.gov) link which will set the time to “official” time. The XP time utility may not function properly or give an incorrect time if the utility is blocked by a firewall, or if it is set to a local network time, which may also be inaccurate. The clock can also be set manually by double clicking on the clock and entering the time; just be sure that the time zone and daylight savings time are set correctly from the “time zone” tab.

I also use an excellent free utility to check my computer clock, AboutTime 4.8. It is available, along with detailed instructions and trouble shooting, for download at [www.arachnoid.com/abouttime](http://www.arachnoid.com/abouttime). Personally, I have it set to the U.S. Naval Observatory time at [tick.usno.navy.mil](http://tick.usno.navy.mil). I have found the Navy time server to be the most reliable connection.

Now you have no excuse for an incorrect computer clock.

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## **Hoaxes, Chain Letters, Sob Stories** by Gabe Goldberg, APCUG

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### *Check Them Out, Don't Forward*

Spam and malware — nasty virus, worm, spyware, and such software — turn many people’s email inboxes into bloated wastelands. Anti-virus and anti-spyware tools help prune the weeds. But another hazard lurks as innocent-seeming email: hoaxes, chain letters, and sob stories, all urgently demanding that you “Forward this to everyone you know, right now!”

Many of them come from well-meaning friends, relatives, and colleagues. Others come from legitimate mailing lists you've subscribed to, and some surely come as spam. They often have a common structure: they tell a plausible story, cite seemingly authentic sources, contain specific details, offer a compelling reward or threaten something scary, and issue a call to action.

Before following the instructions, remember that something isn't true just because it's on the Internet, whether as an email or a Web page article. It was said early-on that the Internet makes everyone a publisher. While that can be true, it doesn't mean that everything published is true or well-intended.

I've seen earnest warnings posted to work-topic mailing lists, such as a story about a new method of carjacking becoming common at gas stations. A five-second Google search on carjacking hoax “gas station” revealed dozens of links such as [hoaxbusters.ciac.org/HBScareChains.shtml](http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/HBScareChains.shtml) which shows the warning to be a hoax. A similar bogus post cautioned not to blink headlights at cars driving with their headlights off at night, lest one become a target for gang violence. Searching on headlights “gang initiation” revealed sites including [www.snopes.com/horrors/madmen/lightout.asp](http://www.snopes.com/horrors/madmen/lightout.asp). Another type of hoax masquerades as virus alerts, suggesting that it has found a specific file on your PC, warning that its presence indicates infection with the virus, and suggesting that you delete the file. No surprise, a simple search on the given filename combined with the word “hoax” reveals the warning's hoaxish nature. A funny parody of such warnings equates following the instructions with banging oneself in the head with a hammer, then sending hammers to everyone you know, telling them to bang themselves in the head. The full text is at [mailman.theapt.org/pipermail/sfobug/2004-March/001080.html](http://mailman.theapt.org/pipermail/sfobug/2004-March/001080.html).

Many hoaxes have been around for years; some will soon celebrate tenth or higher birthdays. Just like cicadas — due in many areas this year on their every-17-year visit — hoaxes ebb and flow, decline and are rediscovered and rebroadcast. Hardy perennials include myths of Bill Gates paying people to forward email so he can track it, and of a Neiman-Marcus cookie recipe rip-off. Another hoax deals with Congress planning an email tax, urging recipients to complain to their legislators and forward the alert. Sometimes details undermine the claims (the supposed Congressional bill number is invalid), sometimes they're well-crafted. But the important lesson isn't remembering specific debunked hoaxes, its being suspicious about potentially fictitious news and being able to search for reliable information on such matters.

Remember that Web sites are not equally definitive and reliable. There's a big difference between a niche/hobby/advocacy site — perhaps newly launched — and a long-running site committed to factual analysis, concerned about its reputation, and providing updates, clarifications, and corrections when needed. Credible and well-regarded debunking sites include [www.urbanlegends.com](http://www.urbanlegends.com)

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## Hoaxes, Chain Letters, Sob Stories...

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and [www.snopes.com](http://www.snopes.com). A wonderful reference for all-things-virus-related is [www.vmyths.com](http://www.vmyths.com); its False Authority Syndrome write-up explains how misinformation spreads and why it's important to consider the qualifications of people and organizations making assertions.

Another type of "forward me now" email is sob stories. The granddaddy of Internet tear-jerkers is Craig Shergold. A real boy (eight years old in 1989) had a real brain tumor. People close to Craig used a paper chain letter to solicit get well cards to cheer him up and earn listing in the Guinness Book of Records. They succeeded: the million cards received in less than a year took the record. After 30 million, a philanthropist heard of Craig and paid for surgery. Craig has recovered; he and his family have pleaded for an end to cards. But with Internet-powered networking and new people constantly discovering this "worthy cause" and forwarding appeals to everyone they know, the torrent is unending. The whole story is at [urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly/aa102997.htm](http://urbanlegends.about.com/library/weekly/aa102997.htm).

Then there are chain letters – what can I say? Unless you've signed up for the "chain letter of the day" club, you're probably not happy to see them. Especially armed with dire threats or implausible promises, chain letters are an imposition on the recipient. Perhaps once a novelty, especially if they carried interesting paper letterheads and postmarks, with creative handwritten endorsements, emailed chain letters are simply a modern-day irritant. Just don't do it!

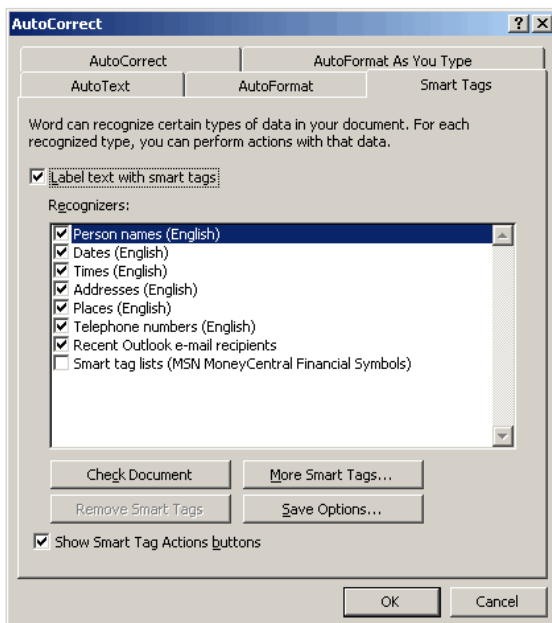
Before forwarding anything to anyone, especially to a mailing list or "everyone you know", consider whether your potential addressees really want to receive it. If it's a hoax, chain letter, or sob story, they probably don't. A better course of action is to quietly discard sob stories and chain letters, and to research hoaxes and send debunking information back to the sender.

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## Smart Tags: Help or Nuisance? by Linda Gonse, Orange County IBM PC Users' Groups

To some, Smart Tags may be a valuable tool. To others, they are a pain in the index finger. If you've never seen Smart Tags before, you may not know what they are, or how they work. Smart Tags seemingly pop up when you least expect them in a Word 2003 (or Word 2002/XP) document. Briefly, Smart Tags are prompted by seven types of information, called "recognizers": People's names, dates, times, addresses, places, phone numbers, and recent email recipients in Outlook. Word uses the recognizers to bring you additional choices related to them.



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## Smart Tags: Help or Nuisance?...

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Smart Tags and the options for using them are located on your tool bar, under Tools. Click on AutoCorrect, and the Smart Tags tab to access them. You can check or uncheck certain "recognizers," such as people's names, to customize the tags for your style of use and needs.

Depending on which recognizer you type, two things happen. First, a small, yellow text box — similar to a tool tip when your cursor hovers over toolbar buttons — appears over a partially-typed recognizer and offers to auto-complete it. You can accept the offer by pressing Enter, or if you continue to type, the text box will disappear.

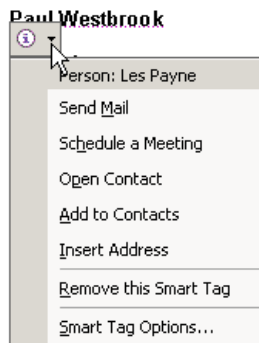
February (Press ENTER to Insert)  
Febr

Secondly, after you have typed a recognizer, a small box with a down arrow will appear above the entry. Clicking on the down arrow triggers a submenu to open, offering you specific options for the information. The tags were designed to help you do your work faster by bringing relevant choices to you, instead of you taking time to locate them.

This is where the conflict arises between the helped and the helper. Similar to Clippit and the other Office Assistants, Smart Tags can be distracting and interrupt your work flow. And, they can obscure other text you may want to see. Take it from me: a couple of helpful Smart Tags in one paragraph can incite you to "page rage" pretty fast!

But, suppose you need all the help you can get and let's say you've just typed a person's name in your document. If the box was checked on the Smart Tags tab, the name would be recognized by Word and a Smart Tag would appear next to it. You can take your pick from a list of whether to Send Mail, Schedule a Meeting, Open or Add to Outlook Contacts, and Insert Address.

**Julie Jones**



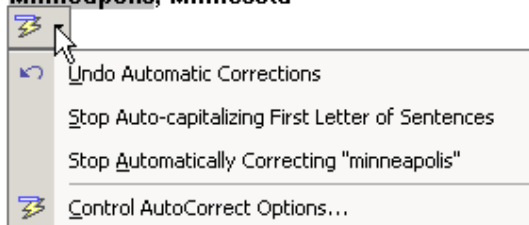
Smart Tag help is probably like a glass of frosty tea on a hot day to people who have trouble spelling. Just spell the first four letters of a month, for instance, and a Smart Tag will be there like a flash spelling the entire word for you.

How many times have you been startled in the middle of typing a word by seeing the previous word suddenly capitalized? Suppose you didn't want it Autocorrected? Smart Tags will give you a chance to quickly change it back to lower case with a tag that has a picture of a lightning bolt on it. On the other hand, you may decide to go to Tools, AutoCorrect, and take that check mark off of Capitalize the First Letter of a Sentence, and be done with this situation henceforth and forever.

**New York, New York**

**Los Angeles, California**

**Minneapolis, Minnesota**

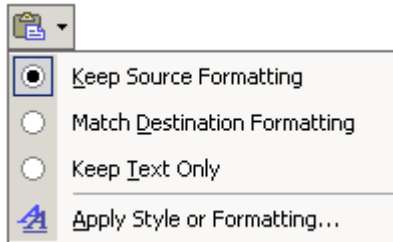


(Continued on page 27)

## Smart Tags: Help or Nuisance?...

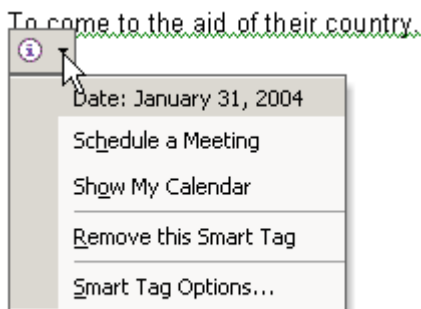
(Continued from page 26)

Smart Tags also include a box with a picture of a clipboard that appears under text that you have pasted. This gives you choices on your pasted selection. This may not be a bad idea. Even nicer is that the Paste Options box doesn't cover your pasted text, unlike other Smart Tags.



If you want to have the Smart Tags, but not the yellow text labels, go to the Smart Tags tab and deselect "Label text with Smart Tags." You'll still have the popup Smart Tags with context menus.

But, you can limit these to appear without some of the recognizers by unchecking the boxes next to them. Or, you can turn them off completely by deselecting the box at the bottom of the tab, "Show Smart Tag Actions Buttons."



Interestingly, the Smart Tags themselves have a button at the bottom of their context menus called "Smart Tag Options." Click on this menu item and a Smart Tag tab allows you to make similar tweaks, including turning Smart Tags off.

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## Start with a Scan – Book Review by Bob Eldred, Tucson Computer Society

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*Start With a Scan, 2nd Edition, by Janet Ashford and John Odam, Peachpit Press*

*A Guide to Transforming Scanned Photos and Objects into High-Quality Art*

Do you own a scanner? Is it a flatbed or a sheet-feed device? Is it standalone or part of an all-in-one configuration? Most important, how often do you scan? If you are like many people, you may own a scanner but rarely use it. Or maybe you think of your scanner as good for only one thing, such as scanning photos. If so, you may be interested in a wonderful book that is jam-packed with ideas for putting your scanner to work. Even if you use your scanner frequently, it's a fair bet that this book will yield a ton of ways to use it that you have never before imagined.

Start with a Scan, Second Edition describes itself as "a guide to transforming scanned photos and objects into highquality art". It is a sister publication to the book Start with a Digital Camera, Second Edition, which I reviewed for the T.C.S. Journal in August 2003. Like that book, the value of Start with a Scan lies not simply in describing how to use a scanner or what you need to know to do a scan, but rather what to do with a scan once you have it and how to turn it into an effective illustration, if not outright art.

This book is a treat for the eyes and the mind. I defy anyone to flip through the book without stopping several times to look at an eye-catching image followed by a caption describing "how to do it". Before long, the temptation to try an idea yourself is overpowering.

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## **Start with a Scan – Book Review...**

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*(Continued from page 27)*

The book contains 132 pages of informative text with many high-quality full-color photos, graphics, and black-and white images. There are 13 chapters. Each chapter is divided into 2-4 parts and each part into sections. Most sections are a page or two in length. Everything about the book is designed to deliver intriguing facts and ideas with a minimum of study, alongside photos and graphics, which effectively illustrate each concept. It has a 2-page table of contents and a 3-page index, adequate for finding most topics on the fly.

The book begins with a brief discussion about the various types of scanners, how they work, and technical issues to consider before you even begin scanning. A succinct ten pages are devoted to providing the essential knowledge a scanner user needs to understand the arcane topics of optical resolution, interpolation, optimal resolutions for various uses, bit depths, scanning modes, and file formats. One caveat: Don't expect to become expert on these topics; each one is allotted but a paragraph or two.

Another ten pages are spent on the fundamentals of editing scanned images. This chapter includes all the topics that a user of Adobe PhotoShop or Elements (or a similar program) needs to become familiar with. Discussed are ways to improve image quality using levels, gamma curves, and color balance adjustments. How to repair damaged images, silhouette objects, remove backgrounds, sharpen images, and eliminate moiré patterns are also covered.

Start with a Scan makes much use of royalty-free clip art in the creation of commercial and artistic illustrations. Starting with simple black-and-white clip art, the authors demonstrate how to extract and overlay portions, add color and apply filters to create attractive and effective commercial artwork. A discussion follows about how to convert bitmaps to PostScript art utilizing PostScript drawing programs (such as Adobe Illustrator or Macromedia FreeHand), autotracing programs (such as Adobe Streamline), and page layout programs (such as QuarkXPress, Adobe PageMaker or InDesign).

Why you would want to convert images from bitmap to PostScript format? As the authors explain, this technique "produces smaller, more compact files and makes it possible to print at any size with the same smooth resolution." Clearly, you will need software in addition to your scanner to derive the most benefit from this book. Owning Photoshop Elements or something similar will suffice for many applications.

A lengthy chapter is devoted to illustrating examples of the almost infinite selection of special effects, filters, textures available in Elements and other editing programs, and how to apply them in creating backgrounds and montages. Especially intriguing is a technique for creating an "electronic marbling" effect by scanning colorful, household items (like buttons), and then applying wave and blur effects.

Another interesting chapter describes techniques for transforming photos into graphics. These typically involve increasing the contrast on an image until it approaches a black and- white state, whereupon you can substitute color or use it as an overlay to the original image. The resulting graphics are especially effective on book covers, brochures, and commercial applications, as well as eclectic art. Following that, one brief chapter describes how to create type treatments.

The book then turns to the fun topics of how to scan real objects and using scans in arts and crafts. These chapters will appeal to kids and adults alike, as the authors encourage experimentation and suggest ideas for projects few people will have imagined. Adding drop shadows and other 3D effects to images of scanned objects make them appear real, as if they are sitting on a surface.

The authors conclude with a discussion of the issues involved in scanning for the web. Topics include image preparation, resolution and size, file formats, compression, color restrictions, and adapting printed pages to the web.

Start with a Scan is a fine introduction to the world of digital scanning and imaging. It provides a broad overview of all the relevant topics in a colorful, fun format. The authors' inventiveness is infectious. You will be inspired to experiment and create. And you'll never look at your scanner the same way again.

Start with a Scan

By Janet Ashford and John Odam

Peachpit Press ([www.peachpit.com](http://www.peachpit.com))

\$34.99

User Group members receive a discount at Peachpit Press

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## **Treo 600 PDA/Cellphone Review...**

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*(Continued from page 10)*

On a recent three-week trip to Quantico, Virginia the calendar function proved vital in tracking not only tasks but vendors, quotes and other time-sensitive tasks. Hot Sync of the Treo's data at night, with my laptop at the hotel, permitted project status notification to my Supervisor(s).

Adobe has the Acrobat Reader for the Palm OS, and it's really exceptional. The scaling of the fonts for the Treo 600 screen is excellent, and if graphics are part of the acrobat file, these are scaled appropriately.

I purchased a San Disk 1 gigabyte storage card at Fry's Electronics on discount, (\$200.00) for the Treo 600, so I will not worry about filling up the available memory anytime soon. I just move large files out to the SAN Disk card for archiving.

There is a small movie application, and a few demo files of a Porsche Boxster and some rotating photos on the Palm website.

I do not envision using my Treo to watch movies, but the screen resolution is adequate.

The Treo has a digital camera built in, with the expected limited fixed-resolution. File sizes are fixed at 38 Kilobytes, but provide emergency snapshot quality, when printed from a decent color printer.

I have Docs to Go, an application which can read Word.doc and Excel .xls files with surprising visibility. I have Pocket Quicken for tracking my expenses while on the road,

and a few games downloaded from the Palm website.

I am very pleased with my purchase and useage of the Treo 600. Recently announced is a new Phone PDA with additional features my phone doesn't have. Oh well, I guess I can justify the expense one day. For now, I'll keep my Treo.

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## **Save Time With a Hidden Shortcut** *by Lynn Oakleaf, DVPC*

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Do you have shortcuts to folders on your desktop to which you frequently copy files? If so, you probably double-click the shortcut to open the folder each time you want to copy files to that folder via the drag-and-drop method. While that is an appropriate approach, you don't really have to go to all that trouble.

Unbeknownst to most Windows XP users, you don't have to open the folder via the shortcut before you can copy files to that folder. Instead, you can simply drag-and-drop files right on the shortcut icon and it's the same as dragging and dropping the file into an open folder.

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## **Will Santa Claus Bring Orcs and Aliens to Your Door?** *by Timothy Everingham, TUGNET*

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There is a big buzz about the new video game consoles now in development, but they will not be here this holiday season. We have to continue to look at titles for the Playstation 2, Xbox, and GameCube, along with the ever-evolving platform, the PC.

Two big titles coming out in the summer and fall of this year for the PC have been ID's Doom 3 (Activision) and Valve's Half Life 2 (Vivendi Universal Games), both first person shooters. Both require a 3GHz processor or higher, a top of the line 3D video card that has come out in the last year, and 512-1024 MB of RAM to play effectively with all the options turned on. Even then some people are reporting their computers are too slow. The game play on Doom 3 is not as good as expected, and in parts so are the graphics. Based on the information at this writing Half Life 2 is your better bet on a graphically high-end video game for your PC. If you want a tried and true graphically high end first person shooter get with Far Cry or possibly the less hardware intensive Electronic Arts' Battlefield Vietnam, both which came out earlier this year.

Of course the biggest game this holiday season will probably be Bungie's Halo 2 for the Xbox (Microsoft Game Studios). The original Halo is why so many people bought the Xbox in the first place, and the new version looks even greater. It is a first person shooter and is best played in multiplayer mode with the players in your home with 1-4 Xboxes connected together or via Xbox Live (I have played the original Halo with two teams of 7 or 8 playing against each other and it is was fantastic fun). People were lined up outside the stores on November 9 when it went on sale. It should be out later for the PC just as the original was, but most Halo fans will not wait.

Another favorite is expected to be Lucas Arts' Star Wars Battlefront for the PC, Xbox, and PS2. There you can fight the battles in the Star Wars movies as an individual soldier with all the neat vehicles. You can chose between soldier types within each side of the conflicts. Multiplayer is available for LAN & Internet. There will be no additional fees for Internet play for online play on PC or Playstation 2 if you have a network adapter for them. For Xbox you will need to subscribe to Xbox Live (up to 16 players on Playstation 2, 24 players on Xbox, and 32 players on PC).

There is a split screen mode for offline multiplayer play. As has been the past with Star Wars games developed by Pandemic Studios in Los Angeles, the game is reported to be fantastic and a blast to play. If you want something of more sword fighting in your role playing game try Ubisoft's Prince of Persia 2: Warrior Within for Playstation 2, Xbox, GameCube, and PC.

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## **Will Santa Claus Bring Orcs and Aliens to Your Door...**

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*(Continued from page 29)*

Another sword fighting RPG is Onimusha 3: Demon Siege from Capcom for the Playstation 2. Also on the Game Cube is Nintendo's Metroid Prime 2: Echoes.

One of the most interesting games is Lionhead Studios' Fable for the Xbox (Microsoft Game Studios). This game has been in development for a long time because it has wanted to be a break through in the area of role playing games, and I think they have succeeded. You start out as a 17 year old boy and journey through life until you are 45. Every action has a consequence for the future. It will determine how other characters in the game treat you and even how your physical appearance changes over time. You can wind up as the hero that people cheer every time you arrive in a town and your wife thanks God every day that she married you, or a villain that everyone wants to avoid except for possibly other villains.

If you are into real time strategy you should definitely look for The Lord of the Rings: The Battle For Middle Earth (Electronic Arts). It is a step above anything that has gone before in the RTS games from the viewpoints of graphics, animation, and game play.

If you have seen the History Channel's Decisive Battles, you have already seen the game engine and animation in Rome: Total War. The technology from it was used in the series to show how actual battles were fought in the ancient world. It also looks to be a good RTS game.

If you want to experience the difficulties of what the U.S. and its allies face in Iraq, try THQ's Full Spectrum Warrior, a real time squad based game developed from a US Army training aid that revolves around a fictional Middle Eastern country in the present day. Also developed by Pandemic Studios in Los Angeles, it is for the PC and Xbox with online play available.

If you want to be the bad guy in the James Bond universe check out Electronic Arts' Goldeneye: Rogue Agent for Playstation 2, Xbox and GameCube.

Of course if you want to play the good secret operative there is the stealthy Sam Fisher of Ubisoft's Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell series. The third installment "Chaos Theory" has been delayed until March, but Pandora Tomorrow that came out last spring is still good for the PC, Playstaion2, Xbox, and Game Cube.

Sony Online Entertainment's Everquest II is a world 500 years after the current Everquest; but with enriched graphics, better game play, and better adventures. Unlike a lot of these games, Everquest II does not just throw you into the virtual world to fend for yourself the best you can. You start off on a large sailing ship with only you and a bunch of computer generated 3D characters where you find out how the world works before you get to the first town and interaction with other players. It's designed for the experienced massively multiplayer online role playing game player, but to the novice as well. Unlike Everquest, there will be no Mac version and will be for Windows only.

For those of you Star Wars Galaxies fans who have been disappointed that you can't journey into space and duke it out in an X-Wing Fighter, Lucas Arts/Sony Online Entertainment's Star Wars Galaxies: Jump To Light Speed expansion pack will be out in time for the Holidays

One of the games that is the best selling game ever is Electronic Arts' The Sims. The Sims 2 is very different. Your characters are fully 3D, detailed, and you get up close with them. They have motivations that cause them to act in certain and sometimes unexpected ways. You can control up to four characters and are creating a story of a family over multiple generations. It sounds serious, but you can have some fun by creating episodes right out of a soap opera.

If you want to laugh while you're playing a game go for Destroy All Humans! from THQ and Pandemic Studios. It is a parody of all those 1950s alien invasion movies where you play the alien. It is for Playstation 2 and Xbox.

Sony's Grand Turismo 4 car racing sim for the PS 2 is finally coming out before the end of the year and it looks like it is worth the wait. With great graphics, 100 courses and 500 cars to drive plus it supports online play with up to 6 players.

Microsoft Game Studio's Forza Motorsport is for you racing fans on an Xbox. A good racing sim for the hardcore and novice is NASCAR 2005 Chase for the Cup (Electronic Arts) for Playstation 2, GameCube, and Xbox.

Of course there is always Electronic Arts' Madden NFL 2005 for PC, Playstation2, Xbox, and GameCube (Electronic Arts is usually a good bet for sports games).

For the younger set I would look at Microsoft Games Studios' Zoo Tycoon 2 and some of the offerings from THQ. Nintendo also has been known for having good games for kids, but they are for GameCube only.

Yes, this holiday season there will be celebrations all over. However, that will include the individual celebrations of those who on their gaming platforms protect the human race from orcs and aliens.

*Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also Chair of the Los Angeles Chapter of ACM SIGGRAPH. He is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, computers, video, audio, and entertainment/media and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada plus Australia, England, & Japan. He is a member of TUGNET. Further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>*

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**Windows XP Power Hound – Book Review** by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

*Windows XP Power Hound* by Preston Gralla and published by Pogue Press and O'Reilly is really a fascinating read for anyone who uses Windows XP (Home or Professional). Many of us remember the promise of computers decades ago when the paperless office was conceptualized. There isn't a person who uses a computer who doesn't know that computers have leveled more forests than any disaster movie could imagine. Look in any bookstore and there are hundreds of titles on computers and computing. Regrettably many of those books are a waste of the resource in that they are poorly written or just a rehash of what is already in the manual. Not so *Windows XP Power Hound*.

The premise of the book is to reveal some of Windows' powerful features which are hidden below the surface. The book is a terrific resource for both people very familiar with Windows and newbies afraid to explore and experiment.

In my mind, what sets this book out from the rest is that in addition to uncovering many of Windows' own secrets, Gralla melds in tips using third party solutions. For example, while teaching how to convert and personalize the toolbar in Internet Explorer (chapter 7-24), he mentions the free program *Irfanview* ([www.irfanview.com](http://www.irfanview.com)) as a means to convert graphic files to the required .bmp format. In security, there is a reference to the Gibson Research Site port checker *Shields Up* ([www.grc.com](http://www.grc.com)) and a link to Microsoft's free *Baseline Security Analyzer*.

This is one of those books that you can just crack open anywhere and begin reading hints and tricks. For those who are "random challenged," there is a terrific index and table of contents which neatly categorizes the 400+ ways to improve your Windows experience.

The book is divided into 15 chapters covering everything from startup to the registry. There are also chapters on System Speedups, Crash Recovery, and Security as well as chapters on Networking, the Internet and Built-In Utilities. The discussion on e-mail and spam in chapter 8 is worth the price of the book. My favorite chapter deals with Office hints. I learned how to transfer my Power-Point custom settings to various computers- useful and easy!

With all O'Reilly books you can register the book on their website which will alert you to any updates. Check out the O'Reilly website to read a sample chapter ([www.oreilly.com/catalog/winxppu/index.html](http://www.oreilly.com/catalog/winxppu/index.html)). For \$24.95 this book is worth adding to your bookshelf. Take advantage of O'Reilly's discount for DVPC members by clicking on the O'Reilly link on the DVPC web site Links page at [www.dvpc.org/links.html?sponsors](http://www.dvpc.org/links.html?sponsors).

**Microsoft Partner Pack for Windows** by Ron Ogg, DVPC

The Partner Pack is the ultimate application package for your Windows PC. Install this package and you will be able to play new games and have more fun, explore the internet in new ways, keep in touch and share information with friends and family, better protect your PC and do more with tools and desktop utilities. You can either download this software package for free or get a CD just for Shipping and Handling. Go to [www.microsoft.com/windows/partnerpack](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/partnerpack). Here's what's included in the Partner Pack:

Super Slyder™ – an addicting maze game

Serpentine™ – a game where you try to stop a serpent by erecting walls to direct it where you want it to go

PhotoSite™ – free photo-sharing service

Microsoft Time Zone – a utility to keep track of the time in other part of the world

Computer Associates eTrust™ – an anti-virus program that includes 12 months of virus protection updates

Google Deskbar™ – search using Google right from your desktop, even when your browser isn't running

Desktop Media Gallery™ – receive exclusive access to a free collection of over 25 PixelMill Templates and 100 Corbis images

Onfolio Express – manage and organize your internet research in Microsoft Internet Explorer

Post-it® Software Notes – the classic yellow note designed for your PC

PayPal Payment Wizard – make it easy for people to send you money by adding PayPal payment buttons to your email

Microsoft USB Flash Drive Manager – backup and restore presentation, pictures, songs and applications from and to USB Flash Drive devices

Check out these free packages for Windows 98se, ME, 2000, and XP (XP is recommended) from Microsoft partner companies.

## **Is There a Legal Remedy for Software Bugs?** *by John Brewer, Computer Club of Oklahoma City*

How does one practice "safe computing" when one considers software bugs, adware and spyware, viruses, worms and other bits and bytes of malicious code? There is a concept in law called "product liability." Product liability means that a manufacturer can incur liability for marketing a product with defects. Does this concept apply to software? Probably not... due to the EULA. EULA is an acronym for "end user license agreement," sometimes called the "shrink-wrap license." The term shrink wrap is used because the license is usually contained within the shrink-wrapped box containing the software and is contained in a read-me type file within the software itself. When one installs software, there is generally a license that appears in a small window that one must "accept" before the software can be installed. The small window contains a small portion of the license agreement. In order to read the entire agreement, one must either scroll through the text or print it out. Very few people actually read the license agreement.

EULA license agreements generally contain very broad waivers as a condition to use the software and such agreements have been consistently upheld by the courts. In recent years, the trend has been to broaden protection to software companies. A new controversy is over the issue of embedded software. For example, if you purchase a new automobile, and it has software that controls certain of the automobile components, do different legal rules apply to the embedded software?

Everyone is familiar with the Microsoft patches that seek to plug holes in their operating systems and applications. Nefarious people stay awake nights searching for vulnerabilities to exploit. These attacks, in the form of malicious code, often cause damages of staggering proportions. Is Microsoft at fault or is this simply a price for "doing business"? Would software companies do a better job if they had less legal protection for vulnerabilities in their software? That is an interesting question. Perhaps broad EULAs are nothing more than protection for negligent work in many instances.

The opposite side of the issue is that software programs are difficult to finish in a manner that is completely error free and plugged from malicious exploitation. Programmers have more issues to contend with than security.

Richard Fromo, an author and security consultant, is very outspoken in his criticism of the protection that software companies possess. He said recently, "Unfortunately, the only way to effect change in the software makers' philosophy of doing business is to hit them where it hurts, namely, in the pocketbook. All it takes is a few (large) customers to say 'enough is enough' and move to an alternative operating environment, and it'll be all the incentive Microsoft needs to revamp its products quickly and effectively."

Recently there was a large and complicated law called the Uniform Computer Information Transaction Act (UCITA) that was considered by many State legislatures. UCITA is very pro-industry insofar as it gives a green light to shrink-wrap licenses and allows software manufacturers to virtually sell their products on an "as-is" basis and to disclaim liability for defects. Fortunately, UCITA has encountered a skeptical reception at the State level and only Virginia has enacted the law.

The following is extracted from the licensing agreement for a well known software application:

**DISCLAIMER OF WARRANTY.** The software (including without limitation, the related documentation) is provided on an "as is" basis, without warranty of any kind, including without limitation the warranties that it is free of defects, merchantable, fit for a particular purpose or non-infringing. The entire risk as to the quality and performance of the software is borne by licensee. Should the software prove defective in any respect, licensee and not [ name omitted ] or its suppliers or resellers assumes the entire cost of any service and repair. This disclaimer of warranty constitutes an essential part of this agreement. No use of the software is authorized hereunder except under this disclaimer. Some jurisdictions do not allow the exclusion of implied warranties or limitations on how long an implied warranty may last, so the above limitations may not apply to you.

**LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.** To the maximum extent permitted by applicable law, in no event will [ name omitted ] or its suppliers or resellers be liable for any indirect, special, incidental or consequential damages arising out of the use of or inability to use the software, including, without limitation, damages for loss of goodwill, work stoppage, computer failure or malfunction, or any and all other commercial damages or losses, even if advised of the possibility thereof, and regardless of the legal or equitable theory (contract, tort or otherwise) upon which the claim is based. In any case, [ name omitted ] the entire liability under any provision of this agreement shall not exceed in the aggregate the sum of the fees licensee paid for this license (if any), with the exception or death or personal injury caused by the negligence of [ name omitted ] to the extent applicable law prohibits the limitation of damages in such cases. Some jurisdictions do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so this exclusion and limitation may not be applicable.

It might be prudent to read the licensing agreement the next time one installs software. It is doubtful if one can do anything about these one-sided terms but it is an issue worthy of notice.

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*John Brewer practices law in Oklahoma City, is a member of the Governor's and Legislative Task Force for E-Commerce, and enjoys issues relating to eBusiness and cyberspace.*

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