



June 2, 2005 DVPC Meeting Announcement

Picks for the Digital Home with Dave and Kathy Whittle

At the June DVPC meeting we're going to have a look into the latest hardware and software technologies available for the digital home. Are you looking for a new laptop but don't know what to look for? Interested in building your own PC? Would you like to have software that takes your digital photos and video footage and almost magically transforms it into a movie on DVD or CD that is a surprising delight to watch? Do you want to easily but dramatically show all of the digital photos in any given folder while the song of your choice plays in the background? Ever wish you could rise above ordinary flat snapshots of those special places you visit and have an immersive, 3-dimensional picture of the place so you can revisit the scene looking in any direction? Most importantly, do you ever feel as if there is more to know about Internet security than you're being told? Are you tired of being your own Internet security expert? Would you be interested in a service that brings, for a very reasonable monthly fee, comprehensive Internet security to your PC and peace of mind to you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then you won't want to miss Dave Whittle's presentation at our June monthly meeting!

Dave's wife, Kathy Whittle, will talk briefly about the Intel Build-Your-Own-Computer project, and will be able to answer your questions and tell you about how to place your order so you can participate in this exciting opportunity to get a state of the art computer and have the fun of building it yourself.

The June DVPC meeting is going to be excellent, with an outstanding speaker, lots of raffle prizes and other give-away goodies! So be sure to come one, come all! to the DVPC June meeting. DVPC meetings are held at Diablo Valley College in Pleasant Hill; see the maps and directions on pages 4 through 6 in this issue of Diablo Blue and on the DVPC web site at www.dvpc.org/about.html. Our meetings are held in room MA101 in the Mathematics building. Room MA101 is on the south side of the campus, adjacent to parking lots 1 and 2.

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. And there'll be a grab bag of free software this month! Also, as usual, we'll have those great DVPC mugs (version 2) for sale, SIG news, and some of our usual great door prizes and extra raffle tickets for sale. And, Ron will dig into his goodie bag and bring a bunch of free stuff. First come, first served, so be sure to get to the meeting early to get the goodies!

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President's Message

by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

This month we welcome back Dave Whittle who will regale us with his "Picks for the Digital Home!"

Are you enjoying the digital revolution that is transforming your home? In the ideal digital home, PCs and consumer electronic devices are not only protected against Internet security threats, but work together to deliver digital media such as pictures and video and music to the parts of your home where you want it. Enabled by innovation's rapid pace, you can re-invent your lifestyle, waste less time, and have more fun. The possibilities for managing your own digital and enjoying content digital entertainment are more engaging than ever before. On Intel-based systems, you can now take pictures and videos with digital cameras and camcorders, add our choice of background music, and moments later share them with family and friends via e-mail or CD or even by DVD, displayed on our television sets in "home theaters."

David B. Whittle is the author of *Cyberspace: The Human Dimension*, and was named by Working Woman Magazine as "one of America's most original technological thinkers." Dave's been

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DVPC June 2005 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
				DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm New Users SIG 6:30 pm		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
See SIG News starting on page 7 of Diablo Blue for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations	Windows SIG 7:30 pm			DVPC Board Meeting 7:00 pm		PC101, Computer Renaissance, 4 pm to 6 pm
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
			Internet SIG 6:00 pm	Advanced Users SIG 7:30 pm	Diablo Blue Deadline. Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
Father's Day	Genealogy eSIG (See SIG News on page 5 of Diablo Blue)					
26	27	28	29	30		

Created by [Calendarscope™](#)

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, check your favorite SIGS, and mail it to DVPC, PO Box 3244, San Ramon, CA 94583; or bring it to the sign-in desk at the monthly meeting; or, if you prefer, you can send an email message to nopaper@dvpc.org with your name and email address and list 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	<input type="checkbox"/>	PC 101 Classes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Genealogy eSIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photoshop Elements SIG – New SIG!	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
New Users SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	<i>Start a new SIG – See Nick Chase, DVPC SIG Coordinator</i>	

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, email newsletter editor Ronald Ogg at rogg@value.net. 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/Program Chair, 510-770-5770 (work), awm@mildwurm.com
 Nicholas Chase, SIG Coordinator, 680-4211 (home), nchase@astound.net
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 Dick Curry, At Large, 376-5541 (home), racorinda@pacbell.net
 Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary, 676-7522 (home), pegszone@aol.com,
 Tom Krauss, Secretary, 689-9960 (home), tkrauss@astound.net
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 Stam Umlauf, Web Site, 458-5560 (home), stanu@honeybee.com

DVPC on the Internet

DVPC has an award winning Web site – 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.

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, or by email to bod@value.net.

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

Editor: Ronald Ogg, Membership: Peggy Johnson

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

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

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

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A view of our meeting room, MA101

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 Mathematics Building MA, shown on the map below near Viking Drive. We meet in room MA101.

Driving Directions (see the map on page 5):

680 Northbound:

Exit at the Concord Ave./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:

Continue south on Contra Costa Blvd. to the signal at Viking Drive (opposite the main entrance into Sun Valley Mall) and turn right. At the first entrance into the campus turn right. Drive into parking lot 1 or immediately turn left and continue to parking lot 3. Note that parking lot 2 is reserved for faculty and staff only. Purchase a parking permit (see *Parking Fees* below) and put it on your dashboard. See the aerial view of the DVC campus on the next page.

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 map below. Follow the map to Mathematics building MA, enter the building, and go to room MA101 at the north end of the building. This is where the DVPC monthly meetings are held.

Parking Fees:

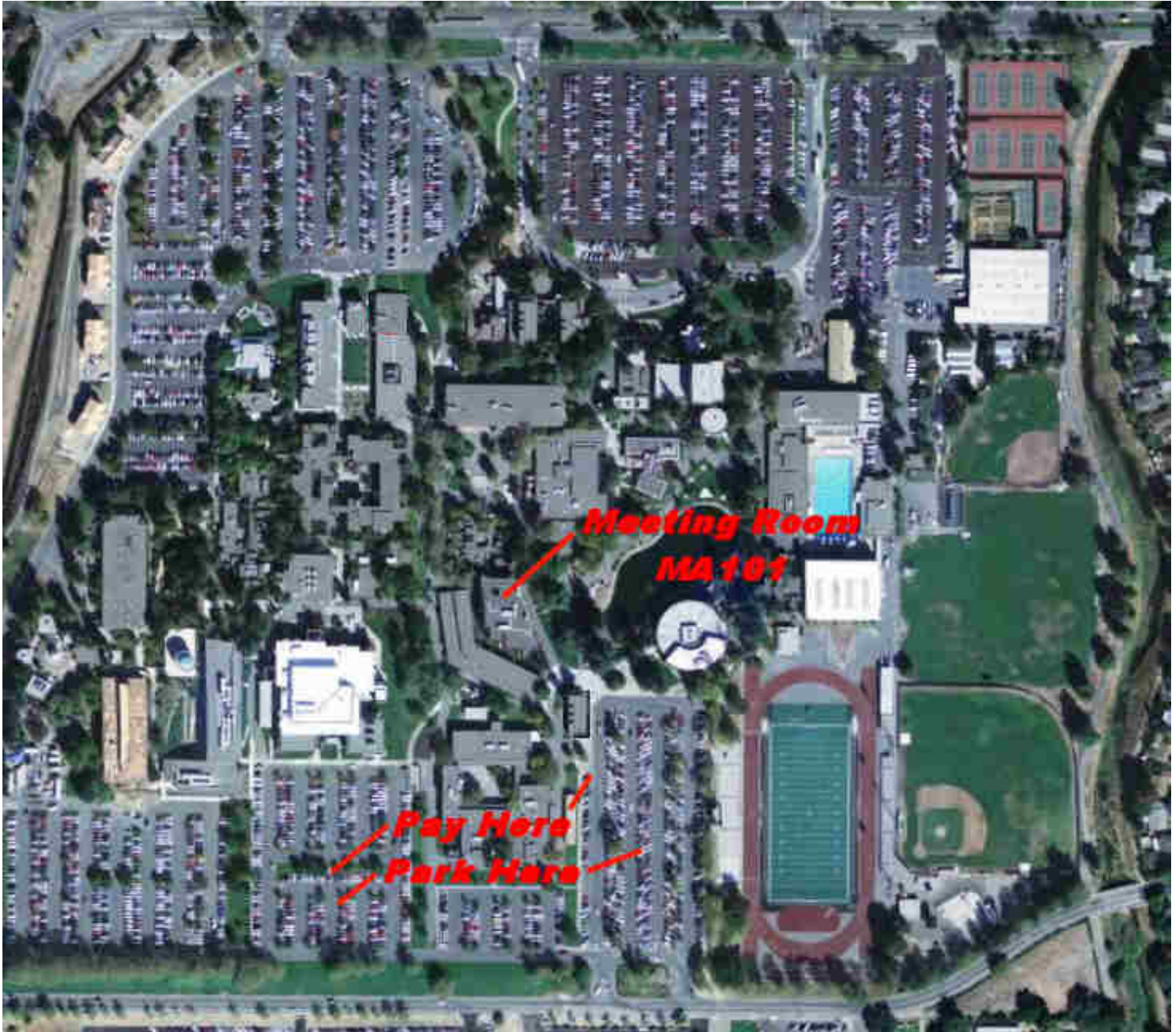
On the Pleasant Hill campus parking permits are \$2.00 per day for short-term parking. You need to purchase a parking permit and place it face up on your dashboard so it is clearly visible through the windshield. You can purchase permits at the parking permit machines marked with a red star on the map at the right. Parking permit machines only take quarters. Be sure to bring sufficient change! 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.

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.



Aerial View of the Diablo Valley College Campus



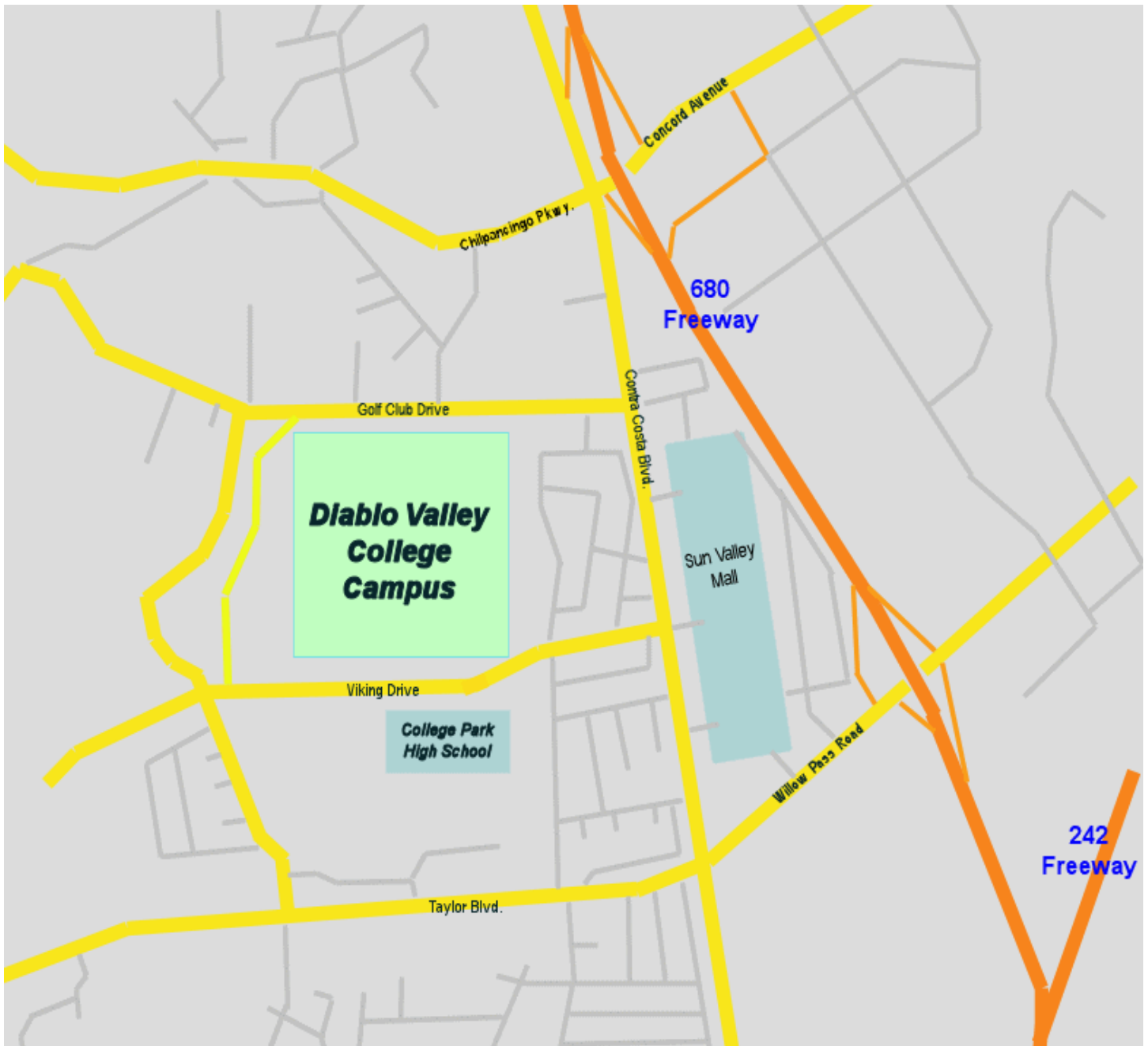
DVPC Wins APCUG 2004 Awards for Web Site and Diablo Blue by Ron Ogg, DVPC

DVPC is a member of APCUG, the Association of PC User Groups. Each year the APCUG holds two contests, one for the best PC user group web sites, and one for the best PC user group newsletters, at their annual meeting at CES, the Computer Electronics Show. In January, 2005 DVPC won two 2004 Recognition of Excellence awards for medium-size user groups from APCUG. We won first place for our web site, www.dvpc.org, and also won honorable mention for our Diablo Blue newsletter. It's always nice to get recognition!

You can see the award logos we received at the right.



Map for Driving to the Diablo Valley College Campus

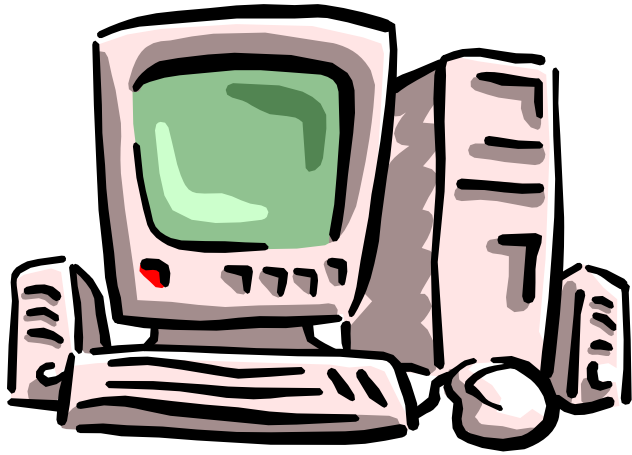


Special Raffle Promotion

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!!

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



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.

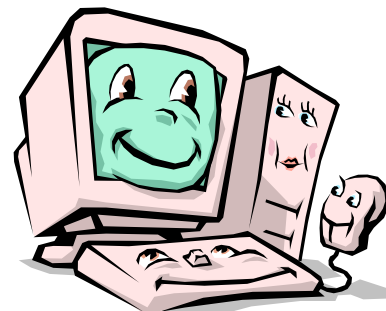
BEGIN YOUR EDUCATION WITH PC 101

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 4 to 6 PM the second Saturday of every month. For more information, contact Craig Peterson (compmail@pacbell.net or 925-671-7025).

June 11, 2005

PC 101 CLASS: *WHAT IS A COMPUTER?*

Because of illness, the last few classes have not been able to meet. This month we will start up the class once more with "LESSON #1: WHAT IS A COMPUTER?" This will be a great chance for anyone who is new to computers to get in at the beginning and for those of us who have missed one or two of the series to get a fresh start. Join us AT Computer Renaissance in Pleasant Hill on Saturday June 11 from 4 to 6 p.m.



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.

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 a research facility, please email the group with the details so all can take advantage of this information. If you wish to be included in the Genealogy eSIG, please email Peggy Johnson, pegszone@aol.com.

Internet SIG Craig Peterson, SIG Leader – 671-7025

The Internet SIG meets at Computer Renaissance in their store at 1936 Linda Drive in Pleasant Hill. We meet the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. See the meeting details in each issue of *Diablo Blue* (you can find the *Internet SIG Meeting* article each month by checking the Table of Contents on page 1). 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.

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 class is 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. **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 7 in this issue of *Diablo Blue*.

Photoshop Elements SIG Peggy Johnson (676-7522) and Mel Lundgren (355-0646), SIG Co-Leaders

The newest DVPC SIG is the Photoshop Elements SIG. It's just getting organized, so if you're interested see Peggy or Mel at the next DVPC meeting, or email Peggy at pegszone@aol.com. Everyone interested in digital photography and Photoshop Elements is welcome and encouraged to join the new Photoshop Elements SIG!

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 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 Cowell Road.

Start a New SIG Nick Chase, SIG Coordinator, DVPC, 680-4211

What SIG are you looking for? A Digital Photo SIG, a Palm/PDA SIG, a Microsoft Office SIG, a Home Networking SIG, or some other topic? If there's a SIG (Special Interest Group) that you would like to start, or join, contact SIG Coordinator Nick Chase by email (see the email addresses on page 3), or see him at the next DVPC monthly meeting. Nick will help you with all of the details about how to set up your new SIG and let the DVPC membership know about it. So, decide on what SIG you would like to start, and contact Nick.

President's Letter...

(Continued from page 1)

a leader in the PC revolution since 1979, and an opinion-leader in the PC industry since his days as OS/2 Evangelist at IBM in the early '90s. Most recently, he's been writing for *Smart Computing*. Now he's bringing to you his favorite discoveries from recent trade shows in order to show new products that open up new horizons of possibility or solve problems you might be facing.

Dave will introduce some of his favorite technologies, products, and services that solve real problems for real people and can help make life a little bit or a lot better for each of us. "Whittle's Picks" are hidden gems from companies large and small, old and new, with outstanding, innovative offerings — including Intel[®], muvee[™] Technologies, 3D Album, iSeeMedia, and Invisus Direct. See exciting new possibilities from these companies and learn how the digital revolution can enhance your life. You will come away from this meeting entertained and informed. Dave will provide time for questions and will bring valuable door prizes, informative handouts, and actual product for sale at significantly discounted prices arranged exclusively for user groups. If you'd like to take advantage of these special prices at the meeting and take product home with you, remember to bring cash, check, or a credit card. See you then!

The products we will see at the June DVPC meeting are:

MUVEE AUTOPRODUCER[™]

(muvée, www.muvée.com)

muvée[™] autoProducer 4 is digital video software that enables even beginners to create home movies that are professional in appearance in record time and with outstanding simplicity. It's various unique and patented technologies (Artistic Intelligence[™]) include Smart Cuts[™] to automatically trim and summarize your video, smartAnalyze[™] to look for key moments and remove low quality video, smartSync[™] to synchronize the effects and transitions with your music, and smartStyle[™] to almost instantly create finished videos in a wide choice of styles. Take your home movies and/or digital photos and easily and quickly transform them into an enjoyable movie on CD or DVD that you can enjoy again and again! Now, with version 4, you can burn direct to DVD or VideoCD, choose specific sections of video to include or exclude with the simple Magic Moments[™] feature, and enjoy many other improvements!

"You'll be dazzled, I promise." — *Steve Bass, PC World*

3D-ALBUM PICTURE PRO

(Micro Research Institute, www.3d-album.com)

If you're looking for the most visually appealing slide-show software available to show off your digital pictures, this is the one. At Comdex, even jaded industry professionals crowded around MRI's booth clamoring to buy 3D Album, with its eye-popping visuals. 3D Album is attracting all kinds of media attention for its ability to easily create fascinating 3D slide shows of digital pictures. Even ordinary pictures can be transformed into an enthralling display that family and friends will be eager to see!

"This is a sensational new way to share and exhibit your cherished photos. This is the best, most exciting and most innovative slideshow program we've reviewed. It's a 'must have' for anyone who seriously likes to show and share their photography and family moments..." — *Black Cat Media Associates*

PHOTOVISTA PANORAMA 3.0 and PHOTOVISTA VIRTUAL TOUR 3.0

(iSeeMedia, Inc., www.iseemedia.com)

PhotoVista Panorama 3.0 takes a series of photos taken with the same camera from the same location and automatically stitches them together to provide users with a 360-degree, interactive, immersive view of the scene. It's the closest thing to being there that a camera can provide. PhotoVista 3D Objects takes a series of photos of the same object from multiple angles and transforms them to create an interactive 3-dimensional image of the object.

The PhotoVista Virtual Tour 3.0 suite of products includes PhotoVista Panorama, Virtual Tour Maker, Vista Organizer, and Vista Works. Virtual Tour Maker lets you easily create an online virtual tour of user-definable hotspots and links between panoramas, still pictures, and 3D objects. Vista Organizer is the fastest and easiest-to-use, full-featured media editor available for Windows — designed to help users manage, edit and share their photos, videos, audio files, and 360° panoramas. Vista Works is a full-featured yet simple HTML editor that lets you easily preview and edit your virtual tour into an HTML page. It comes with several preset HTML templates to work from and lets you customize text, images, links and layout of your HTML page and virtual tour. Together, these products that comprise PhotoVista Virtual Tour 3.0 let you create locations and scene and enable site visitors to explore your online world — no plug-ins needed!

"Nothing illustrates the unique locations and beauty of our villages better than the immersive 360 degree scenes which we can create [using iSeeMedia products]." — *Andrew Jordan, President, Club Med USA*

INVISUS PC SECURITY SOLUTION

(Invisus Direct, myinvisusdirect.com/usergroups)

The Internet-based attacks on your personal privacy and security continue to worsen year after year. The future of Internet security is gloomy — and it takes an extremely dedicated and savvy computer user to find the right mix of security programs and

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President's Letter...

(Continued from page 9)

stay current with the newest threats. **Internet security is not a one-time event.** You can't simply install a cheap program on your PC and then forget about your safety and security. Internet security is an ongoing, time-intensive process that requires a fairly high level of expertise.

The Invisus PC Security Solution is a service by subscription that offers maximum protection for your PC against hackers, viruses, spyware, security holes, identify theft, invasion of privacy, and other Internet intruders. You get all necessary corporate-grade (but easy to use) security programs and ongoing automatic updates employing the latest and best protection technologies – never buy security software or upgrades again! Best of all, with unlimited U.S.-based expert technical support included in the subscription, it's like having your own team of security experts ready to help with any security question or problem on your PC. For less than fifty cents a day, you can secure your privacy, maximize your security, and purchase peace of mind.

"I've never seen a more comprehensive and powerful security solution for PCs. The INVISUS PC Security Solution beats the competition in every way." – *Mark Ratto, President, Careware Computer Repair*

Bill Gates' Advise to Young People by Lynne Hansen, DVPC

To anyone with kids of any age, here's some advice. Bill Gates recently gave a speech at a High School about 11 things they did not and will not learn in school. He talks about how feel-good, politically correct teachings created a generation of kids with no concept of reality and how this concept set them up for failure in the real world. Love him or hate him, he sure hit the nail on the head with this!

Rule 1: Life is not fair - get used to it!

Rule 2: The world won't care about your self-esteem. The world will expect you to accomplish something BEFORE you feel good about yourself.

Rule 3: You will NOT make \$60,000 a year right out of high school. You won't be a vice-president with a car phone until you earn both.

Rule 4: If you think your teacher is tough, wait till you get a boss.

Rule 5: Flipping burgers is not beneath your dignity. Your Grandparents had a different word for burger flipping - they called it opportunity.

Rule 6: If you mess up, it's not your parents' fault, so don't whine about your mistakes, learn from them.

Rule 7: Before you were born, your parents weren't as boring as they are now. They got that way from paying your bills, cleaning your clothes and listening to you talk about how cool you thought you were. So before you save the rain forest from the parasites of your parent's generation, try delousing the closet in your own room.

Rule 8: Your school may have done away with winners and losers, but life HAS NOT. In some schools they have abolished failing grades and they'll give you as MANY TIMES as you want to get the right answer. This doesn't bear the slightest resemblance to ANYTHING in real life.

Rule 9: Life is not divided into semesters. You don't get summers off and very few employers are interested in helping you FIND YOURSELF. Do that on your own time.

Rule 10: Television is NOT real life. In real life people actually have to leave the coffee shop and go to jobs.

Rule 11: Be nice to nerds. Chances are you'll end up working for one.

Intel "Build-Your-Own" Computer Seminar by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Kathy Whittle will be at the June DVPC meeting to answer questions about the "Build-Your-Own" Computer Seminar Part Two and how to order your own Build-It-Yourself computer. This will be a great time to get the information you need to put in your own order. Kathy will probably be able to tell us about the latest changes to the system configuration of the Build-It-Yourself computer. We've heard that there have been some enhancements that will make this package an even better deal.

We'll also discuss when to hold the Part II "Build-IT!" part of the seminar, where we will actually assemble one member's system.

Give a *DVPC* Membership Gift Certificate!

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

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes by Tom Krauss, DVPC

Those of you who read these minutes (and there must be someone out there who does) will recall that at the April Board meeting there was some discussion about trying to determine what the members want to see at our general meetings. Surveys were suggested, and I offered to review the results of the 1998 and 2001 surveys. In my minutes for that Board meeting I even offered a brief summary of the two surveys. For tonight's meeting I printed out the results of those two surveys and passed them out. As previously noted, in both surveys the top three topics for the meeting were installing and trouble-shooting software, installing and trouble-shooting hardware, and upgrading a PC.

These are things that over the past year or so we have actually done. (Who can forget the video close-up of Charlie's pet ant wandering around the motherboard?) So who says the Board is not responsive to the needs of our members? It may take us six or seven years, but we get there eventually. Now, if the members had demanded a new video projector, I suspect we could have cut the wait period down to something considerably shorter.

We devoted some time to discussion stolen cell phones and other miscellaneous scams and fraud. We spent even more time researching Blue Tooth and watching Alan's PDA recognize his wireless printer but fail to be able to access it. Ron finally stumbled on a list of about twenty different Blue Tooth "services". One can think of these roughly as twenty different languages. If you have two Blue Tooth capable devices, they must have at least one of these languages in common or you will need to purchase an old fashioned cable to communicate. Alan's problem was that although his PDA "knew" several different services, it did not know the ones that the printer knew.

This conversation was a reminder to me why I stay away from the cutting edge of technology. The existence of all these services and the manner in which they restrict Blue Tooth wireless communication is, as far as I can tell, a closely guarded secret from the public. Ron spent almost fifteen minutes searching for a list of Blue Tooth services. That translates to fifteen days for me to search, and that's only once I know enough to search for the list. I enjoy problem solving and logic puzzles, but my patience is pretty short for when it comes to problems and puzzles that inhibit my ability to actually use my computer.

Finally, Ron found a British Honda Accord ad on the web that consists of a Rube Goldberg creation where all the moving pieces are actual parts from a Honda Accord. (I found it at www.albinoblacksheep.com/flash/honda.php; other sites that had it seem to be too busy or "not available" as I write this.) It was a truly impressive construction. Ron said it took over 600 attempts to film it as a single, non-stop scene. He also claimed that it was all actual moving parts and that no computer animation or enhancement was used. This I found hard to believe in one part where four tires roll one at a time up a ramp, the first rolling till it bumps into the second, starting it rolling up and into the third, and so on. I'm afraid my belief in gravity and kinetic energy is too strong to allow me to accept that portion as un-enhanced. What do you think?

Internet Communication by Sharon Housley, Notepage Inc..

Email, Instant Messaging, Blogs, RSS, Forums and Listservs: What's Next? How do we keep Internet communication simple? Let's start by taking a look at the different methods used to communicate on the web. It is important to understand the nuances and benefits of the different forms.

Email

This is the most popular communication method. Users typically use desktop software to receive, read and respond to messages. Some users use web-based mail and manage messages in a web browser like Internet Explorer. The downfall to email communication is that anyone can send email messages to anyone else if they have (or guess) the correct email address. This system's Achilles heel is its simplicity and universal popularity.

Email accounts are often burdened by spam or unsolicited email. Despite software developers having created complex spam filters and legislators having introduced new anti-spam legislation, the problem persists and spam continues to burden email as a messaging medium.

Instant Messaging

Instant messaging allows users to "chat" in real time. Users can send text messages to anyone online and receive instant replies if the user is also online. The "instant" fad gave way to parental fears as children made "friends" online. With no way to confirm if "friends" are who they represent themselves to be, and multiple security holes, instant messaging has taken a back seat in internet communication.

Blogs

Online journals and daily diaries have taken hold. Some blogs are interactive, allowing users to respond and comment on posts. Locating topic-specific blogs that provide relevant and interesting content on a daily basis can be a challenge. The nature of a blog

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Support DVPC – Get a friend to join!

Internet Communication...

(Continued from page 11)

is to contain fresh public content. As our lives become more complicated blogs are often abandoned, as they require constant updating. For more information about blogs, go to www.blog-connection.com.

RSS

RSS is the latest messaging medium and shows genuine promise as a means to communicate. RSS files are produced as XML files and are designed to provide content summaries of news or information. The biggest benefit to RSS is that it does not have the spam issues inherent to email; users opt-in to the RSS feeds that interest them. For more information about RSS, go to the RSS Specifications site at www.rss-specifications.com.

Forums / Newsgroups

A forum is an online discussion group. Forums can be newsgroups, or they can be web-based discussion groups. Forums have proven themselves as valuable business resources - often creating communities of customers helping customers. Without moderation and oversight they can potentially create an unfriendly environment.

Listservs

Liststervs are mailing list programs for communicating with other people who have subscribed to the same list. Using e-mail, you can participate in listservs pertaining to your topics of interest. When you submit a message to the server, your message is relayed to all on the listserv. You receive messages from other participants via e-mail. Yahoo hosts listservs through their Yahoo Groups - go to www.yahogroups.com.

What's Next?

Internet communication is intrinsically tied to the hardware options available. Wireless technology has accelerated the development of messaging software, opening the market to a dizzying array of devices for web access. Where we were once tied to a keyboard and mouse, we will soon be navigating the web with our voices from a moving automobile, or browsing via screens in our eyewear, with tiny cameras reading our eye movements to move the cursor and make selections. Our interactive conversations will include more and more participants at once. Evaluating the many options and choosing what works best for you is the first step to effectively communicating on the web.

About the Author:

Sharon Housley manages marketing for NotePage, Inc. (www.notepage.net) a company specializing in alphanumeric paging, SMS and wireless messaging software solutions. Other sites by Sharon can be found at www.feedforall.com, www.softwaremarketingresource.com, and www.small-business-software.net.

Digital Photography: The Killer App of this Generation *by Rick Altman, R. Altman & Associates*

It's rare in our culture that we are able to identify a phenomenon as it is taking place, instead of just in retrospect. Mobile phones were mostly a curiosity until they, almost overnight, became commonplace. Same with the iPod. Same with most fashion statements. Same with most everything.

Digital photography is different. Its rise has not been meteoric, but rather sure and steady. And month by month, season by season, holiday by holiday, more and more households have bought into it. Today, most of us view a digital camera as novel but necessary, and only a matter of time before we buy our first one or our next one. It is happening as we watch. And this could not be a better time to watch, with models becoming better and cheaper on a monthly basis, and print services almost as accessible as service stations for your autos.

Unless you have been living under a rock since 1996, you are familiar with the persistent virtues of going digital with your photos:

It's Way Cheaper:

Even though the initial buy-in is a bit higher, your cost for consumables drops through the floor. You will never buy film again, storing photos on media that you can buy online from \$25. Equal to the point, you will never pay for a print of a bad photo.

You Take Better Photos:

When it costs you nothing to push the shutter, you do it more often. You know the story about a thousand monkeys pounding on a thousand typewriters and the work of Shakespeare being the result? Dumb luck also prevails over digital photography, as any of us hacks and amateurs can take a decent photo of a scene when we give ourselves a dozen chances.

You Become A Better Photographer:

As a decent commercial-grade photographer, I have been taking photos for over two decades. But I never really developed a feel for composition or a solid understanding of the science of photography until five years ago. No matter how many notes I took, I just could not connect what I did five days ago with what I was looking at when the film came back from the lab.

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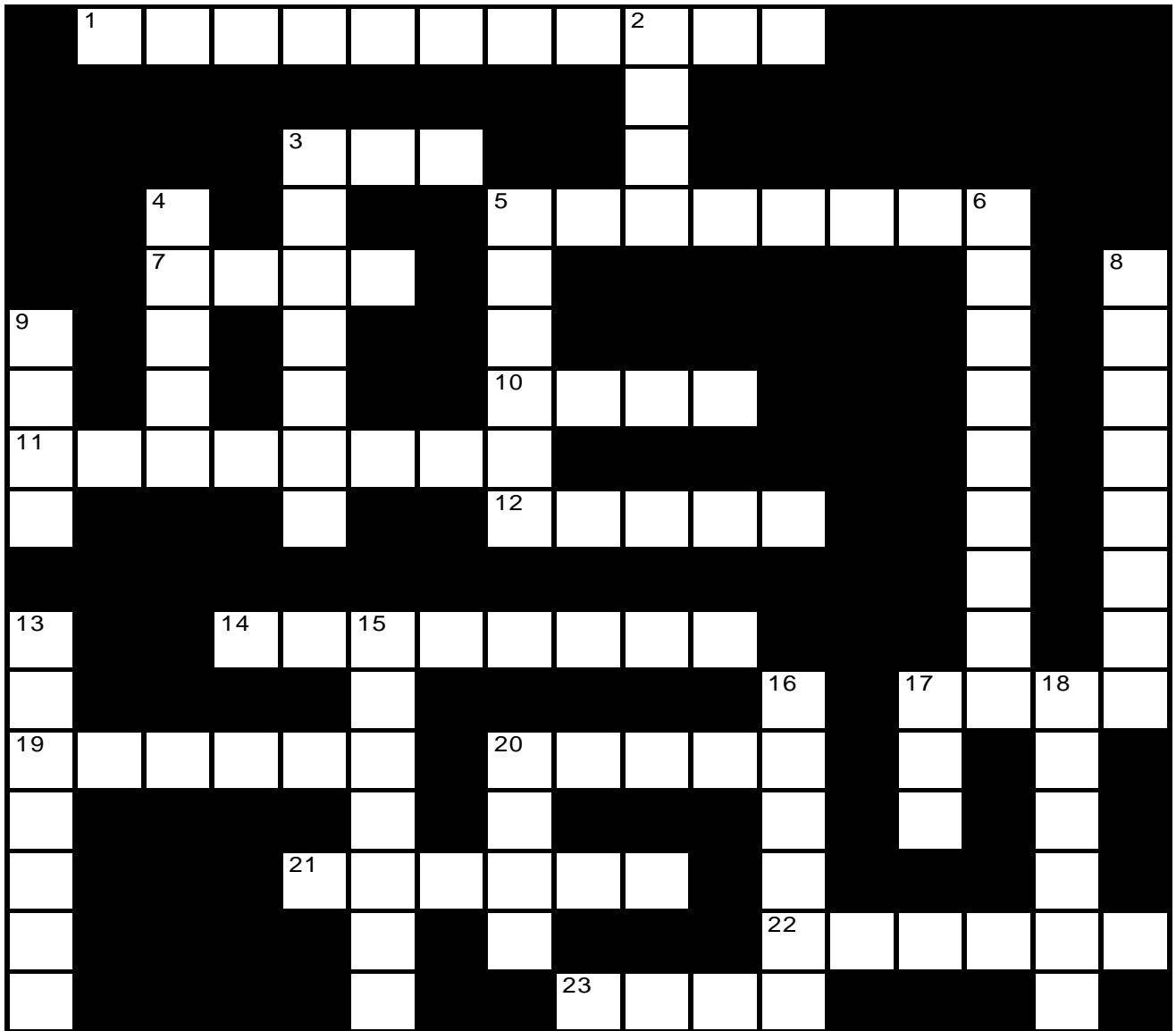
Hours:

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
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When Memorial Day weekend is over then it means that summer has begun (though if you look at the calendar we should wait until June 21st). Take a break from relaxing (yes, mowing, edging, feeding and watering the lawn is considered relaxing these days) and try to solve this month's puzzle about all things summer. If you need help, go to www.dvpc.org/solution.html.

Across

- 1. Item used by many to hide rocks they plan on sleeping on that night (2 words)
- 3. What your car gets when parked outside
- 5. This technology allows you to send and receive e-mail while at that "Get away from it all" trip with mom and dad
- 7. Home for those who are camping or homeless
- 10. When this ends, you are back home
- 11. This refreshing drink can be found being sold by kids at \$1.00 a cup
- 12. Water that flows to the sea
- 14. Two weeks away from work and school
- 17. What the snow pack did in the Spring
- 19. This is fed by #17 Across

20. Some parks feature this

- 21. Event where you take food outdoors and feed the ants while swatting flies
- 22. A place most kids do not miss this time of year
- 23. This is used to burn marshmallows and sing songs around

Down

- 2. Liquid used to refresh operators of Bar-B-Q grills, lawnmowers, and TV sets
- 3. Sport where a person with a gun tries to find and kill something
- 4. The least refreshing form water can take this time of year
- 5. South America is going through this season
- 6. Object in orbit
- 8. What happens to everyone's power when PG&E loses a transformer due to a fire

(Clues continued on page 26)

Digital Photography: The Killer App of this Generation...

(Continued from page 12)

But the immediacy of digital is the best photography teacher you could ever hope for. You see in five seconds, not five days, what happens if you move your subject off-center, how it looks to shift the light source to another angle, how depth of field changes when you change the lens aperture, how shutter speed affects the entire energy flow of a scene that involves motion.

Your Subjects Become Better Models:

An unexpected benefit of the digital age is a result of the attention span of the people you photograph. It used to be easy to sit for a photo—smile broadly through one or two shots and they would be done. Now, it is commonplace for a photo to be more like a photo session, with multiple photos taken from several angles. Most people can't paste a smile for that long and some will even begin to ignore the photographer. And that is when the really good photos are taken. After the requisite pasted-on-smile shots, when they tire of having their photo taken, expect the best results.

Photos Anywhere

Perhaps the most important development in digital photography is the explosion of outlets that will print your images. We stopped counting at 250 the number of online services available (our favorite is the Kodak Picture Center), and today you can take your little compact flash card or jump drive to Rite-Aid, Longs, Walgreens, Walmart, Costco... and dozens others.

This is significant because the real price savings occur not from your printing photos yourself, but from your sending them out. It is wonderful to be able to make your own prints, no doubt, and you can pick up a good photo printer for next to nothing (or literally nothing if you watch for the incentives offered by Dell, Best Buy, and the other big retailers). But you'll get eaten alive by the cost of the ink and paper if you use your own printer exclusively. You cannot beat the estimated 35 cents you'll pay for a single 4x6 print (and as low as 15 cents for quantity or promotional offers).

Skeptics look at the ritual of sending digital images out and awaiting the arrival of prints as being nothing different than the tedium they were hoping to escape with film processing. But there is one huge difference: With digital, you only order prints of the good images, not all of them. You already know if you've taken a winner, and chances are good that you have already emailed it to friends and loved ones, uploaded it to a website, and organized it in your online photo album.

The Cameras are Incredible

The biggest risk with digital photography is that you will go overboard and buy more camera than you need and more cameras than you need.

What a fantastic problem to have!

Today's buy-in for a good all-purpose digital camera is barely \$250. The top-of-the-line model that cost \$800 two years ago can be found for about \$350 today, and digital versions of professional-style single lens reflex models (SLRs, "real" cameras with detachable lenses) are showing up with regularity under \$1,000. We are watching closely the emergence of the "super-zoom" category—cameras that boast 10x and 12x optical zoom ranges. This is the equivalent of a 35 to 400mm zoom lens, all in a standard camera chassis.

These cameras feature the good kind of zoom (optical zoom, not worthless "digital zoom" that is a marketer's dream and consumer's nightmare) along with special image stabilization technology to help against camera shake. As those prices dip into the mid-\$400s, we expect them to be gobbled up by vacationers who want to be able to shoot close-ups and landscapes without having to add or swap lenses.

Fix Your Boo-Boos

And then there is the holy grail of digital photography for those adept with image-editing software: the ability to fix, modify, and enhance a photo. We wish that everyone started practicing with an image editor, if for no other reason than to eliminate for good the obnoxious anti-red-eye flash options that turn cameras into migraine-creation machines.

Beyond that, of course, is a treasure trove of opportunity to alter reality for the better, and few have it better than users of Corel software. For one low buy-in, you get graphic-drawing and image-editing applications with CorelDraw, or an incredibly-priced image editor in Paint Shop Pro.

Similarly, creative PowerPoint users will love being able to effortlessly incorporate their own photos into presentations, be it for business or for pleasure—refine a sales pitch that was formerly a collection of boring bullet slides or creating a family keepsake of images, set to music.

The One Blight on the Horizon

We look upon the emergence of mobile phones with built-in cameras with fear, loathing, and blatant snobbery. First off, the cameras are pathetic little toys, capable of producing images no better than first-generation cameras from 1996. Those who form their first impression of digital photography from what they see on their phones are doomed to harbor misconceptions for years.

Worse is the specter of what might happen to the mobile phone industry if camera phones become more common. There are numerous institutions and destinations at which photography is prohibited (court houses, military bases, many airports, museums) and other places where it is morally reprehensible, such as restrooms and locker rooms. If authorities cannot tell the difference between a mobile phone and a camera, they may have no choice but to prohibit them all. Madison Avenue might want to think

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Digital Photography: The Killer App of this Generation...

(Continued from page 15)

twice about creating commercials that show someone taking a photo and immediately sending it out via email, all with the same device. They might be killing their golden goose.

All in all, this is a grand time to be a photographer and a digital designer, with technology ready to explode onto the scene, competition among manufacturers driving prices down, and entries forming at so many different price points.

Watch for 2005 to be a banner year for the revolution that we are watching unfold right now.

Why you might not want to vest yourself just yet

Here is how it happened in our household; you probably have a variation on the theme. My wife, Becky, who shall remain nameless, asked me to take photos of a family event with my then-new Nikon Coolpix 4500. I did what a digital photographer does:

1. Took over a hundred photos of a 10-minute activity.
2. Uploaded them to one of our computers, ditched the rejects, and lightened the dark ones.

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Barlow's Hard Drive Newsletter by Gene Barlow, User Group Relations

Protecting Your Internet Passwords

The internet plays an important role in our lives today. Almost everything we do has an internet possibility to it. We can access our bank accounts over the internet. We can pay our bills and loans using the internet. Every business that we have an account with lets us access our account and update our records over the internet. We can purchase airline tickets, reserve hotels, and rent cars over the internet. Each of these offers us personalized accounts to make these tasks easier to do. We can even buy groceries, tickets for movies, and order our prescriptions over the internet. How much easier it is today to do all of these things with our internet access. Of course, having access to these internet accounts requires that we set up a private ID and password for each of them. A typical user may have 20 or 30 of these account IDs and passwords to keep track of. So, while the internet has made our life easier in many ways, keeping track of these security codes has gotten harder to do.

Some users will try to bypass these methods set up to protect their privacy and personal information. To avoid keeping track of many codes, some individuals will use the same ID and password on all of their accounts. This is certainly not very secure. Once these common codes are discovered, they open up the hacker to all of your personal accounts. Others will write their codes down on yellow sticky notes and paste them to their computer display. This is also not very secure. Anyone that walks by your computer will see these codes and be able to get into your private accounts without any problem. The real solution is to set up difficult and different passwords for each of your accounts and keep these in a very secure place. That is exactly what WhiteCanyon's MyPasswordVault helps you do.

MyPasswordVault is a database program that stores its information on your computer in an encrypted format so that nobody can find this file and see all of your codes. You still need to remember a password to gain access to MyPasswordVault, but all of the rest of your codes are guarded safely inside the vault. So, when you need to access an account on the internet, you simply open up MyPasswordVault, find the ID and Password for that account, and copy and paste it into your account access fields. You will be able to safely and quickly access the many accounts that you have set up on the internet. This is a great software utility that will let you safely and quickly enjoy all of the advantage of using the internet for your financial transactions.

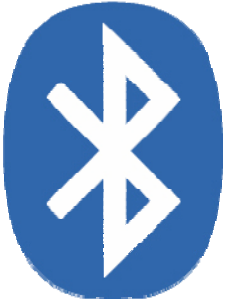
MyPasswordVault is offered by WhiteCanyon software at the list price of \$25. You can purchase this valuable product at the user group discount price of just \$17. Look for it in our User Group Store at www.usergroupstore.com and click on any of the yellow "Buy Now" buttons to get to our secure web order form. Complete the form including the special user group code of UGNL0405 and submit it. You may share this discount offer with your immediate family and close friends. These prices are not available to others not involved with a user group.

Managing the Information Flood

It is said that we are living in the Information Age. This has been made possible by the widespread availability of computers connected to the Internet. This gives us access to millions of web sites containing a wealth of information. What we are finding is that we actually have an "information overload" to contend with. Finding information on the Internet or even on our large gigabyte hard drives is becoming a real problem. The key to effectively finding information is organizing our access to this information. The better organized we are on our computers, the quicker we can find and use the information available to us.

Being organized in our use of the Internet and our computers can be a real challenge without the right tools. We are faced with struggling to manage the folders in our Favorites list to keep track of where things are on the Internet. These folders are cumbersome to use and a pain to reorganize. So, instead of better organizing our Internet access points, we end up with a wildly growing Favorites list that is impossible to find anything in. Finding files on our hard drive is equally challenging. Using My Computer or Windows Explorer is not a good way to find the information on our hard drives. These tools are simply not up to the challenges we

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Service, Please! by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC

Of course we all know our history. Bluetooth is named for Harold Bluetooth Gormson (Danish *Harald Blåtand*, Norwegian *Harald Blåtann*, German *Harald Blauzahn*) (c. 935 – November 1, 986), also known as Harold II, succeeded his father Gorm the Old as king of Denmark in 958 (or 959) and was king of Norway until approximately 970. The Bluetooth interface for wireless Personal Area Networks developed by Ericsson is named after Harold. The Bluetooth logo consists of the Nordic runes for his initials, H and B. Bluetooth provides a way to connect and exchange information between devices like personal digital assistants (PDAs), mobile phones, laptops, PCs, printers and digital cameras via a secure, low-cost, globally available short range radio frequency.

Bluetooth differs from Wi-Fi in that the latter provides higher throughput and covers greater distances but

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Printing Web Pages in Internet Explorer by Ron Ogg, DVPC








OK, there you are, viewing a fantastic web site. Or, maybe it's a web site with a page that has an important update to the installation instructions for some new whiz-bang high-tech goodie you've just acquired. Or maybe it's a site that a family member has set up to display the pictures of their latest trip / newest baby / kid's graduation / new home. "So," you say to yourself, "time to print out a copy of this page!" You click on the Print icon, your printer hums or burbles or chortles or whines or whatever noise it makes when it's printing, and the pages are now in the output tray. You pick them up, and... dag nab it! The text / pictures / other content of the pages is cut off at the right side. Trimmed. Abridged. Cropped. Truncated. So, you go to Page Setup and change the layout to Landscape mode and reprint, and usually / probably / possibly all is well, even though it's irritating that you wasted 1 or 27 or however many sheets of paper and the ink or toner on the original copy. And it's not as neat with the paper in landscape mode. "Why," you ask yourself / your significant other / on one in particular / or even a computer-wise teenager, "oh, why, can't Internet Explorer make thing fit when it prints a web page?"

Well, we'll leave that question for the folks at Microsoft. Instead we'll have a bit of a discourse about an inexpensive software tool that, in fact, solves the problem for Internet Explorer.

Now, don't be taken aback when I tell you the name of the product. It is just a name, a handle, a moniker, a hood ornament if you will. It's what's under that hood ornament that's important. The publisher is Jafasoft. The product is PrintPunk. The web site is www.printpunk.com.

PrintPunk, despite the name, is a wonderful product for Internet Explorer version 6 (only; it doesn't support earlier versions). PrintPunk adds a toolbar to IE that lets you automatically scale a web page that's too wide to fit. Here's the toolbar:



-  The Print button when pressed takes you to the standard Internet Explorer print preview window with a difference: the web page has been automatically shrunk to fit the printed page. Works with any paper size you select in page setup dialog in Internet Explorer. PrintPunk will also enlarge the page if you select a large page size such as A3, or if you chose landscape mode.
-  The Fit button when pressed fits the web page horizontally to the visible window. This is useful when the page is slightly bigger than your window and you don't want to scroll horizontally all the time.
-  The Auto Fit button toggles a mode where every page always automatically fits to your window size as you browse.
-   The Zoom buttons zoom the visible page on screen which can make it easier to read small fonts, or to see large images, and you can print a zoomed version of the web page at any time.
-  The Images button will hide most pictures on the web page, useful for saving ink when printing a page where the images aren't that important.
-  The About button displays the PrintPunk About windows. The version of PrintPunk is displayed, there's a button that takes you to the PrintPunk web site to purchase a license for \$19.95 with discounts for multiple copies, and there's a button for entering the registration code that is sent to you once you purchase PrintPunk.

You can download a 30-day trial copy of PrintPunk from their web site, www.printpunk.com. After only one day's use I sent for two licenses, one for my primary desktop PC and one for my notebook PC. My computing life is, once again, good!

PrintPunk is a great solution for printing web pages. It works exactly the way you would expect it to work. Highly recommended! Now, if Jafasoft would only come out with a Outlook version of PrintPunk, my computing life would be even better!

Do You Know This Child? by Art Bonwell, DVPC

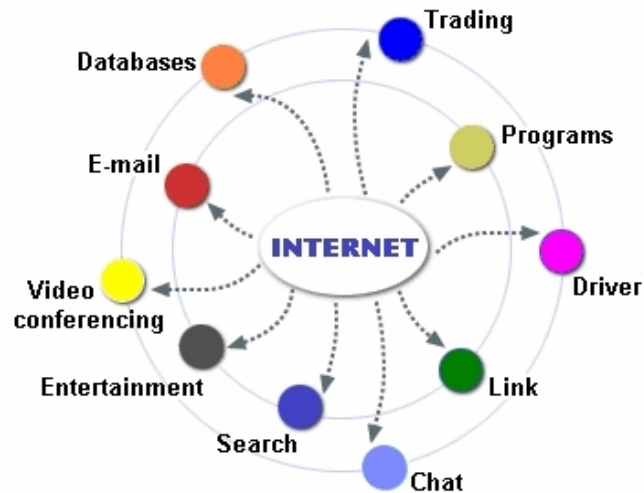


Have a quick look
Please pass this on.

You never know who we may know that has some information concerning this child.
Nobody knows who this boy belongs to! Please send this to all – we mean all! – the people in your entire network. Looking for his family. The boy about 2 years old, and his family was vacationing in Khoa Lak in Thailand. This boy is missing his parents.

Nobody knows what country he comes from. If anybody knows him please contact us by e-mail :
info@phuket-inter-hospital.co.th

Internet SIG Meeting by Craig Peterson, DVPC



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

Maybe you think you've been missing the on-ramp to the Information Superhighway... or perhaps you are just curious about what the Internet is all about. If either of the above apply, then you should join the Internet SIG. The Internet SIG meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. at Computer Renaissance, 1936 Linda Dr. in Pleasant Hill. Please join us as we explore the "wild, wild world of the web".

Please join us at Computer Renaissance, 1936 Linda Drive, Pleasant Hill Wednesday, June 15 at 6 p.m. In observance of Father's Day we will look at famous fathers on the Internet.

For more information about the Internet SIG, email Craig Peterson at compmail@pacbell.net or call him at 671-7025.

Service, Please!...

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requires more expensive hardware and higher power consumption. They use the same frequency range, but employ different multiplexing schemes. While Bluetooth is a cable replacement for a variety of applications, Wi-Fi is a cable replacement only for local area network access. As the Wikipedia sums it up: Bluetooth is wireless USB, whereas Wi-Fi is wireless Ethernet.

Lately I have acquired several Bluetooth enabled devices and I have found getting them to work together can be daunting. A Bluetooth device does not necessarily work with every other Bluetooth device. The devices have to share similar *services* or *profiles*. For that reason my Bluetooth enabled PDA can't print to my Bluetooth Epson printer.

There are several profiles within the Bluetooth protocol.

- ◆ Generic Access Profile (GAP)
- ◆ Service Discovery Application Profile (SDAP)
- ◆ Cordless Telephony Profile (CTP)
- ◆ Intercom Profile (IP)

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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

Service, Please!...

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- ◆ Serial Port Profile (SPP)
- ◆ Headset Profile (HSP)
- ◆ Dial-up Networking Profile (DUNP)
- ◆ Fax Profile
- ◆ LAN Access Profile (LAP)
- ◆ Generic Object Exchange Profile (GOEP)
- ◆ Object Push Profile (OPP)
- ◆ File Transfer Profile (FTP)
- ◆ Synchronization Profile (SP)

This profile allows synchronization of Personal Information Manager (PIM) items. This profile originated as part of the infrared specifications but has been adopted by the Bluetooth SIG to form part of the main Bluetooth specification, it is also commonly referred to as IrMC Synchronization.

- ◆ Hands-Free Profile (HFP)
- ◆ Human Interface Device Profile (HID)
- ◆ Hard Copy Replacement Profile (HCRP)
- ◆ Basic Imaging Profile (BIP)
- ◆ Personal Area Networking Profile (PAN)
- ◆ Basic Printing Profile (BPP)
- ◆ Advanced Audio Distribution Profile (A2DP)
- ◆ Audio Video Remote Control Profile (AVRCP)
- ◆ SIM Access Profile (SAP)

My PDA has SPP (serial port profile) but the printer supports HCRP (hardcopy cable replacement profile). Both are Bluetooth and they can "see" each other but they can't talk to each other. Even headsets have 2 different profiles: Handsfree and Headset. Luckily my new Bluetooth cell phone supports the same DUN protocol as my PDA so I can dial out to the net on my PDA using my cell as a modem. Here are some specification details from the Bluetooth Web site

(electronics.howstuffworks.com/framed.htm?parent=bluetooth.htm&url=http://www.bluetooth.com/developer/specification/core.asp):

- ◆ The devices in a piconet share a common communication data channel. The channel has a total capacity of 1 megabit per second (Mbps). Headers and handshaking information consume about 20 percent of this capacity.
- ◆ In the United States and Europe, the frequency range is 2,400 to 2,483.5 MHz, with 79 1-MHz radio frequency (RF) channels. In practice, the range is 2,402 MHz to 2,480 MHz. In Japan, the frequency range is 2,472 to 2,497 MHz with 23 1-MHz RF channels.
- ◆ A data channel hops randomly 1,600 times per second between the 79 (or 23) RF channels.
- ◆ Each channel is divided into time slots 625 microseconds long.
- ◆ A piconet has a master and up to seven slaves. The master transmits in even time slots, slaves in odd time slots.

There are different versions of Bluetooth supporting different protocols and different ranges – 10 or 30 meters.

The lesson to be learned is not to assume that because each device has the Bluetooth logo that they can work with one another. You must check the profiles for compatibility. Unfortunately finding the services (profiles) your device supports is often not well documented.



Tired of Spam?

Go to www.dvpc.org to download QURB!

Another Annoyance: Windows Licensing by Ed Bott, Author of Windows XP Inside Out

I recently received an e-mail with a gnarly question. "I'm buying an OEM copy of Windows for a new PC I'm building. I'm thinking of buying it along with my DVD drive. What's the licensing model for an OEM version of Windows? Specifically, if I buy it, will MS try to assert that the license is bound to my DVD drive? Or to the PC which I am building? I'm also worried that I won't be able to freely transfer the license to some other PC that I might build in the future."

I spent lots of time researching the issue and you're going to be surprised at the complex answer.

OEM copies must be sold either as part of a new computer *or* with a "non-peripheral computer hardware component," for the license to be valid. Qualifying products include memory, internal drives, mice, keyboards, and power supplies/cords. This type of OEM license includes a CD, a Certificate of Authenticity, and a product key. And it requires activation.

As an end-user, your license would be locked to a particular system *only* if the OEM copy of Windows had been pre-installed on that system. By purchasing the OEM copy individually with a qualifying piece of hardware, you retain the right to install it on any computer. You will have to activate Windows within 30 days after you first install it.

If you later use the same product key to install Windows on another computer, or if you upgrade the first computer so extensively that it is essentially a new computer, you will have to go through the activation process again.

Unfortunately, you may be unable to complete activation over the Internet in this scenario, because it would appear that you're trying to install a second, unlicensed copy using the same key. To complete activation on the new PC, you may have to make a phone call.

You'll find some useful links in "Everything you always wanted to know about Windows Product Activation," an article available on my blog located at snipurl.com/bottblog.

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Barlow's Hard Drive Newsletter...

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face today in organizing our access to information. There must be a better way to help us get organized!

I recently became aware of an exciting new product that has taken tabbed browsing to a whole new level and can make the task of organizing your access to the internet and to the files on your hard drive so much simpler. The tool is Optimal Desktop Pro 4.0 by Optimal Access, Inc (www.optimalaccess.com). The talented developers of this powerful product have put in place a single tool that you can use to easily bookmark your favorite destinations on the Internet. It is also a wonderful tool to help you organize access to the many files on your hard drive. In addition, it has some powerful function to manage your use of RSS feeds, a rapidly growing area of the Internet. I will briefly give you an overview of this product and how to use it in each of these three ways to access information.

Overview of Optimal Desktop Pro

Optimal Desktop Pro lets you access files, folders, web pages and RSS feeds in one place and uses a familiar format that all of us can quickly understand and use — filing cabinets. You can organize your information into one or more Cabinets with Optimal Desktop Pro. So, you could set up Cabinets based on subjects like news, sports, travel or anything that meet your needs. These can include any combination of your favorite Internet access points, files on your computer's hard drive, and syndicated feeds you subscribe to or define. Each Cabinet is organized with a set of up to 32 Drawers that you define. Drawers appear as tabs along the right edge of your screen. You may want to have a Drawer that holds access to your digital photographs and your digital publishing tools and another Drawer for all of your written documents. Again, you have complete flexibility to set these up in any way that is meaningful to you. Within each Drawer you can define Sections that will contain your individual items. For example, in your photograph Drawer, you may want a Section for subject types such as pictures of grandkids, vacations, wild flowers, etc. Each Section stores a link to your information, no matter where it is stored on your hard drive or on the Internet.

Setting up and changing your Cabinets, Drawers, and Sections is very easy to do in Optimal Desktop Pro. In most cases, you just drag and drop something to create a new Drawer or Section. You can quickly identify the Drawer and the Section by name, icon, or color to make it easy to find and remember. So, setting up and tailoring your desktop makes using this product simple and fun to do. If you don't get things organized quite right the first time you set them up, don't worry, it is very easy to quickly change and modify your organization structure.

Managing your Internet Links

The Internet is a wonderful source of information about all sorts of subjects. Unfortunately, the information on the Internet grew in a random, haphazard pattern with little to relate one piece of information to another. So, finding and accessing information on the Internet is a bit difficult to do. Some companies like Yahoo (www.yahoo.com) have built indexes to the information on the

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Internet. By going down through their various levels of indexes, you may find the information that you want. Other companies like Google (www.google.com) have built search tools that let you enter a few key words about your topic and the tool will show you what's on the Internet with those key words. Using both the indexes and search tools take some skill and many steps to locate the information you want. Once you find it, you should save the link to that information so that you can use it again without having to dig for it again in the indexes and search tools.

With Internet Explorer, you can only save these links in your Favorites list. The Favorites list only offers you one level of organization, folders. So, you end up with dozens of folders and many links within each folder. Finding links in a large Favorites list is not easy to do. Tabbed browsers are becoming very popular because they allow us to browse multiple pages quickly and bookmark our favorite sites with multiple levels of tabs. Optimal Desktop Pro gives you three levels of organization to manage your Internet links. You have Cabinets, Drawers, and Sections in which to organize and store your important links. So, instead of hunting endlessly in many folders on your Favorites list, you quickly select the right Cabinet, Drawer, and Section that contain your link. Three quick clicks and you have found your Internet page. Optimal Desktop Pro also offers a Search tool for searching your Cabinet, Drawer and Sections, so you can easily use the Search tool to locate the links you are looking for.

Since Optimal Desktop Pro is so easy to use, it will be easy to get your current Internet links organized. I would start with your current Favorites set of folders and build on it from there. You may want to set up a Cabinet just for your Internet links. Then define 4-6 Drawers that would define the general types of links that you use most. For example, you may want to have a Drawer set up for your Travel links, another for your Account links, and still another for your Shopping links. Within each Drawer, you can set up Sections that will contain the various links that you need. For example, in your Travel drawer, you may have an Airline Section, a Hotel Section, and a Car Rental Section. You can also set up Sections for National Parks, Ski Resorts, or any other category that makes sense to you. If you get too many Sections in a Drawer, set up another Drawer to contain some of the Sections. Optimal Desktop Pro comes with some sample Cabinets that you might want to start out with and merge in the links from your current Favorites list.

Managing your Hard Drive

The computers we use today are very powerful tools. They have hard drives that can contain many gigabytes of information and programs. It is not unusual to have a computer with close to a million files on the hard drives. The information on a computer's hard drives is organized into hard drives, partitions, and many layers of folders in each partition. The tools that come with Windows to find and gain access to any of the files on your computer is either Windows Explorer or My Computer. Both work about the same way and let you point to the hard drive, the partition within the hard drive, and the various folders in each partition. So, finding a file on your computer is a matter of stepping down through the Tree on Windows Explorer or My Computer till you find the file you want. It may sound easy, but in practical use, it is not all that easy to find stuff on your computer. Similar files get placed in many locations on your computer and finding all of these locations is what makes finding information on your hard drive difficult. There is a search tool in Windows that you can use to find a file by its name, but this is slow and not convenient to use.

The biggest problem with this organization approach of hard drives is that in order to change the organization, you must physically move the files. Moving data files is fairly easy to do, but when you move them, references to those files are lost. So, when you move a file to better organize it, references to that file's location are broken and your computer may not find it easily. This is even more difficult to do if you try to move your application programs to different locations on your hard drive. Special software utilities must be used to do this and they often don't work very well. You may end up having to reinstall your application programs just to better organize them on your hard drive.

With Optimal Desktop Pro, you can completely organize your hard drive access without having to physically move files around. So, if you have your digital photos located in four or five different locations on your hard drive, you can use Optimal Desktop Pro to place the access to all of these in one Drawer and get to all of them very quickly. This will make them seem as if they are all bunched together in one location on your hard drive even though they are physically scattered on the drive. Not only that, with this exciting tool, you can access the same file from multiple Drawers or Sections. Again, using the digital photos example, you may want to have access to a photo by the month it was taken, another access by the subject matter, and a third access by the names of the individuals in the photos. All of this is possible with the power of Optimal Desktop Pro.

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Bring the Family to DVPC Meetings by Peggy Johnson, DVPC

If you attend DVPC meetings, DVPC would like to extend an open invitation for you to bring your spouse and other family members to DVPC meetings. This way your entire family can share in the educational and social aspects of our meetings and Special Interest Groups.

A good time to start will be this month's DVPC meeting. Check page 1 in each issue of Diablo Blue and the DVPC web site, www.dvpc.org, for details about each of our monthly meetings and for the topics to be covered at upcoming SIG meetings. The members of your family are very likely to be computer users; bring them to our meetings so they can participate!

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Managing your RSS Feeds

The Internet is also evolving. The latest development is syndicated feeds. RSS (Really Simple Syndication) is a web format for delivering news-like content to your computer. They are designated as XML links on most of the popular web pages today. It has become very popular with the rapid expansion of weblogs (or blogs) that are showing up in large numbers on the Internet. Blogs are web pages comprised of usually short, frequently updated items and web links. Blogging is fast becoming the way that news and commentary are being delivered over the Internet. Perhaps you are already a dedicated follower of certain blogs. To read these RSS feeds, you need to use a news aggregator (also called a news reader). Optimal Desktop Pro is such a news reader and can handle the input from these RSS feeds. Using Optimal Desktop Pro, you can organize your blogs and other news feeds into convenient Cabinets, Drawers, and Sections.

Optimal Desktop Pro also lets you define your own syndicated feeds. A query wizard lets you define filters based on user defined key word filters, headline filters, stock ticker symbols, category filters, industry source filters and location filters, so you can define your own news and have it delivered to your desktop. You can also see many popular web portals like Yahoo, New York Times, NPR and others offer syndication feeds to various segments of their content. You can use another wizard in Optimal Desktop to connect to a library of feeds and subscribe to any you wish!

Obtaining Optimal Desktop Pro

Optimal Desktop Pro is a powerful tool that you will enjoy using on your computer. It will not only help you better organize your access to information sources, but will make retrieving this information fast and easy to do. Optimal Desktop Pro lists for \$60, but you can purchase the same product at the user group discount price of just \$39. Look for it in our User Group Store at www.usergroupstore.com. Click on any of the yellow "Buy Now" buttons to get to our secure web order form. Complete the form including the special user group code of UGNL0505 and submit it. We will receive it shortly and normally ship your order the following morning. We ship via the Post Office and delivery is usually in 2 to 3 days. You may share this discount offer with your immediate family and close friends. These prices are not available to others not involved with a user group.

I hope this month's newsletter has made you aware of how you can better organize your access to information using the Optimal Desktop Pro utility from Optimal Access. Let me know if you have questions about anything in this newsletter by sending a note to gene@ugr.com. Thank you for your attention.

Gene Barlow is the president of User Group Relations, a consulting firm specializing in promoting computer products to the user group community. He has over 40 years of experience with computer systems. He worked for IBM for 34 years in various technical and marketing positions. He managed IBM's user group support organization when IBM introduced the IBM PC till he retired 14 years later. In this role, he helped hundreds of user groups get started and is sometimes called the Father of User Groups for his involvement. He was the first sponsor of the Association of PC User Groups and was a guiding influence on this organization for many years and funded many special projects for them. When he left IBM, he set up his own consulting firm and has represented many software clients to the user group community the past 9 years. He currently represents Optimal Access, Acronis, WhiteCanyon, and Spearit software companies and their exciting products. He is an outstanding speaker, writer, and helper of end users and loves working with user groups. He may be contacted at gene@ugr.com.

Microsoft AntiSpyware Fix by Steve Dodson, Microsoft

If you are using Microsoft AntiSpyware, and discover that System Explorers are no longer displayed (Tools – Advanced tools – System Explorers), how do you get them back? Here's the fix, from the Microsoft AntiSpyware newsgroup:

(communities.microsoft.com/newsgroups/default.asp?ICP=spyware&sLCID=us):

We believe we have a workaround which is better than installing the VB6 SP. Can we have users who experience this problem try the following:

- 1) Open up a command prompt (Start – Run – cmd)
- 2) Type in the following:

```
regsvr32 msvbvm60.dll
```

- 3) Close and re-open Windows AntiSpyware

Steve Dodson [MSFT]

Microsoft Corp.

MCSE, CISSP PSS Security

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Digital Photography: The Killer App of this Generation...

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3. Sent Becky the link.

Meanwhile, Becky did what a film photographer does:

1. She waited for the phone call from the drug store announcing that her photos were ready.
2. The photos sat for months until one day they inadvertently got taken out with the digital trash. That day coincided with the alignment of three planets in our solar system and the day that Becky asked, "Hey, I never saw those photos you took of..." It was later that night that Becky made her proclamation that lasted almost three years: "I do not want a digital camera!"

This little tale of domestic woe underscores one of the arguments against digital photography: It does involve extra work. Never mind all of the rebuttals, they are meaningless against the simple fact that for the person who has been dropping film off at the store for the last 30 years and having it processed and printed, no questions asked, digital photography adds a step in the process that is devoid of all warm and fuzzies.

The person in need of said warm and fuzzies should not yet invest in digital photography. Soon, we suspect—dropping the compact flash card off at Rite-Aid is almost as routine as it is with the canister of film. Almost, but not quite.

And when the day comes that every corner store can accept your media as it does your film, will that be the time for the less technically-savvy to go digital? Well, no. Turning over your media for processing and printing negates one of the most fundamental benefits to digital photography: your ability to review, reject, and refine. Without the three REs, is the extra cost of a digital camera worth it? Perhaps not.

If you are not ready to turn your personal computer into a personal darkroom, you should deem digital photography not ready for prime time in your household. At a minimum, you need to consider routine the following tasks:

- ◆ Transferring photos from a media card to your computer
- ◆ Finding the photos on your computer
- ◆ Viewing the photos and deleting bad ones
- ◆ Uploading desired photos to a print service

There is a conspicuous absence from this list: we did not mention printing the photos from your own printer.

We'll probably take some flack for this because we have seen some of the incredible photos that people have printed from their \$99 printers. We know that to some, much of the magic in going digital is all about creating that print yourself.

Being able to make a quick print is fabulous... until you start thinking of doing it all the time. Then you will find out what "cost of consumables" means if you didn't already know. Ink and paper costs are too high to think of your personal printer as your main printing outlet. You really need to create a relationship with one of the online services, and if you are not ready to do that, you are not ready for digital photography.

The exception to this is if you intend only to email photos or place them on websites--two perfectly credible ways of handling digital photos. Of course, the technical buy-in for those two activities is higher than for photo printing, requiring that you learn about downsizing photos, creating attachments, and uploading to web servers. If you are not willing to learn how to shrink your photos for email purposes, then we all beg and plead with you not to go digital yet!

The next impediment to digital is financial: digital cameras cost more than film cameras. This is hardly front-page news and by itself is a rapidly diminishing factor, as we watch digital cameras drop in price. But you couple this with a second line in the sand, and the dynamic becomes particularly telling:

- ◆ If your budget is around \$300
- ◆ If you want to get good photos of your daughter scoring a goal on Saturday

This set of requirements becomes a digital photo break point. Most decent point-and-shoot cameras in the \$300s are not responsive enough to shoot action sports. The lenses are plenty fast enough; the issue isn't shutter speed. Its shutter lag—that dreaded tendency of many cameras to fire the shutter as much as a half-second after you ask it to. This reduces action photography to a matter of dumb luck.

The price of a digital camera without shutter lag is about \$600 and that camera will not shoot sports as well as a good film-based SLR that you could indeed get for your \$300. For the photo purists, the veteran enthusiast, and the sports photographer — all of whom value the control of the camera over the price of the film — the cost of going digital might not yet add up

Digital photography requires a higher commitment of dollars, time, and technical know-how than traditional photography, and any

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

Digital Photography: The Killer App of this Generation...

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one of those things could be a tipping point for you. Far be it for me to play the Luddite here, he who owns three at a time and is never not in the market for the next one. Indeed, much of this article was a lesson in advocating the devil, but I do understand the commitment level required, and I know first-hand (from my anonymous wife, Becky) the perils of pushing someone to digital too quickly. One bad experience could sour them for years beyond the time that they might truly be ready.

If you think you're not ready to go digital, the one thing you can absolutely take to the bank is this: When you are, it will be waiting for you...

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Article reproduction coordinated by Steve Bass, a Contributing Editor with PC World and 23 year veteran of PIBMUG. He's also the author of the second edition of PC Annoyances: How to Fix the Most Annoying Things about Your Personal Computer, O'Reilly Press. Check out a sample chapter at snurl.com/sample_annoyed2. It's available on Amazon at snurl.com/annoyed2.

Book Excerpt: Five Home Networking Annoyances by Kathy Ivens

Kathy Ivens is the author of Home Networking Annoyances (O'Reilly Press)

When you reach that magical moment when your home network stops working, or everyone on the network complains that your *My Documents* folder is missing, you've probably reached your annoyance threshold. Don't fret — I have the fixes you need. Read on...

In just five minutes you'll be able to fix five of your most annoying home networking annoyances.

Uh Oh, Where's my Network?

The Annoyance: I added a new computer to my network, but it didn't appear in My Network Places or in Network Neighborhood on any of the other computers. I know the cabling and the network settings are correct. I had to reboot all the computers on the network in order to see the new computer, which is really annoying.

The Fix: You don't have to reboot all the computers to see a newly added computer on your network. Just wait twelve minutes. Honest. Could I make that up? Go have a cup of coffee, empty the dishwasher, or change all the burned out light bulbs in the house. Then open the network folder again, or press F5 to refresh the display if you didn't close the folder. You should now see the new computer. Why does this happen? The icons in the network windows are controlled by a Windows service called the Computer Browser Service. This service browses the network, peering down the pipes (including the virtual pipes of wireless connections), checking to see who's on board. The service runs every twelve minutes.

Mapping Mayhem

The Annoyance: On two of the computers on our network, I created mapped drives for folders on the third computer. Those folders contain files that everyone uses. However, when anyone but me logs on to those two computers, the mapped drives aren't there. What happened?

The Fix: Mapped drives, along with many other configuration settings, are user settings, not computer settings. This is why the reconnection option is worded Reconnect at Logon, instead of Reconnect at Startup. Each user has to create his or her own mapped drives.

The Disappearing My Documents Folder

The Annoyance: I usually work on a particular Windows XP computer, but sometimes one of my kids is at that computer, and I have to do my work from another computer. I can't figure out how to get to my documents on the Windows XP computer. I know the My Documents folder isn't marked "private" because other users of that computer can access it. Why can't I get to that folder from another computer?

The Fix: The fact that you didn't configure your My Documents folder as private only means its contents are accessible to other users of the computer on which the folder resides. To access the folder over the network, you must specifically enable the option to share the folder on the network. Tell your kid to log off, then log yourself on, right-click the folder icon, and choose Sharing and Security. Then select the option labeled Share this folder on the network, and provide a name for the shared folder.

Overly Networked Networks

The Annoyance: We built a home network to share our Internet connection, period, end of it. The wizards we used asked about shared folders, private folders, and all sorts of complicated stuff I don't even understand. We don't want to share files or printers or anything else; we just want to share our DSL connection through our router. It seems to me I have this overly networked group of computers, and I don't know how to undo that. Why isn't there a wizard named Undo the Settings Except for Using the Router?

The Fix: It's hard to believe that Microsoft missed an opportunity to do something with a wizard, but there isn't a wizard that will do what you want. However, you can accomplish your goal quite easily. Go into Control Panel and right-click the icon for your Local Area Connection (labeled Network in earlier versions of Windows). Choose Properties from the shortcut menu, and in the Prop-

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Book Excerpt: Five Home Networking Annoyances...

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erties dialog box uninstall or deselect (depending on the version of Windows) File and Printer Sharing. Bingo!

Wireless in the Distance

The Annoyance: Our wireless network works fine until one of the computers moves more than forty or fifty feet away from the router. What's the distance maximum for wireless?

The Fix: The "rated" maximum distance for wireless network adapters is usually about 1,500 feet outdoors and 300 feet indoors. The word "rated" means "under perfect circumstances," and that's something to think about carefully. For outdoor distance maximums, "perfect circumstances" means your entire network is outdoors, including the router, any access points, and all the computers on the network. I'll bet big bucks this doesn't match your setup. The indoor distance maximum is very susceptible to suspicion, because it depends on structural elements in the house. I've never seen a building that passes a "perfect circumstances" test. Almost anything in the walls except for air can block or degrade the wireless signal. Since no walls will stay up with air as their only component, you lose some of the signal as soon as you ask the signal to pass through a wall. The nails in the studs, metal in plaster lath, air conditioning ducts, cast iron pipes, and even lead paint can further interfere with the signal.

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Google Maps Follow-up by Walt Parsons, DVPC

In the last issue of Diablo Blue Ron wrote about the new Google feature, the Maps and Satellite pictures.

I was looking around my neighborhood using Google Maps (maps.google.com). Take a look at what I found when I searched for Buena Vista School in Walnut Creek. I switched to the Satellite mode. Look to the northwest of the school and you'll see that an airliner was passing by when the picture was taken.

Here's the picture. Look about 1/3 up from the bottom edge and about 1/3 of the way in from the left edge.

Go to Google Maps and take a look yourself! Is the plane still there? Let me know if it's gone!



Computer Crossword...

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9. Type of phone that can be used while out in the garden
13. Activity that can be done in a river, lake, or sea
15. How to spend the night while in a park

16. A voyage for pleasure
17. A picture of the roads, landmarks, and other information needed to travel
18. Lightweight, mobile computer
20. With ice, this makes Napa a great place to visit