



## November 3, 2005 DVPC Meeting Announcement

### Barry Brown on Photoshop Elements

We're going to have Barry Brown's outstanding presentation on Photoshop Elements at our November 3 DVPC monthly meeting. Anyone who describes manipulating photos as *interfering* has got to know what he is talking about! Barry has also compiled and written his own tutorial for Elements which he will make available as a pdf file. So security is off for the moment and instead we will have a very timely discussion of Photoshop Elements tricks and tips. Barry is from the UK, has been a California resident for thirty years, and lives in Walnut Creek. He says that he loves the weather, dislikes the traffic, likes to play (rather seriously) with computers and digital cameras, and enjoys "interfering" with photographs to produce unexpected or humorous results. Barry will make his Photoshop Elements tutorial available to DVPC members as a pdf file, and he will provide a host of tips and tricks for getting the most out of your digital camera and the photos you take. Alan will also be available to answer your questions about the Build Your Own PC program. The November DVPC meeting will be a great meeting! And, as usual, we're going to have an interesting selection of raffle prizes as well! So, come one, come all!

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](http://www.dvpc.org/about.html). Our meetings are once again being held in room H109 in the Humanities building, on the north side of the campus adjacent to parking lot 7.

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. 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, Alan will probably dig into the goodie bag and have some neat 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

Where did October go? For that matter: June thru Sept and parts of March. We were scheduled to have Symantec present this month (November) but they had last minute speaker problems so they are rescheduling to an uncertain date in the future. While scrambling for a speaker this month, I spoke with a couple of members who attended Peggy's excellent Photoshop Elements SIG and everyone raved over Barry Brown's presentation on Adobe's best-selling photo album and editing program. I called Barry and he has agreed to reprise his presentation for our November meeting. Anyone who describes manipulating photos as *interfering* has got to know what he is talking about! Barry has also compiled and written his own tutorial for Photoshop Elements which he will make available as a pdf file. So Symantec's presentation on PC security is off for the moment and instead we will have a very timely discussion of Photoshop Elements tricks and tips.

In December Gene Barlow will wow us with some new neat stuff and, of course, don't forget our special Intel Build Your Own meeting! (See article for more details!). I will be at CES in January during the meeting and we can try again for a life

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## DVPC November 2005 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">New Users SIG 6:30 pm</div>	4	5
6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">See SIG News starting on page 8 of Diablo Blue for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</div>	7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Windows SIG 7:30 pm</div>	8 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Election Day</div>	9	10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">DVPC Board Meeting 7:00 pm</div>	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Veteran's Day</div>	12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">PC101, Computer Renaissance, 4 pm to 6 pm</div>
13	14	15	16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Internet SIG 6:00 pm</div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Photoshop Elements SIG 7:00 pm</div>	17 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Advanced Users SIG 7:30 pm</div>	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Diablo Blue Deadline. Email articles and ads to the Editor: rogg@value.net</div>	19
20	21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Genealogy eSIG (See SIG News on page 8 of Diablo Blue)</div>	22	23	24 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">Thanksgiving Day</div>	25	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](mailto: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		PC 101 Classes
Genealogy eSIG		Photoshop Elements SIG — New SIG!
Internet SIG		Windows SIG
New Users SIG		<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](mailto: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](mailto:awm@mildwurm.com)  
 Nicholas Chase, SIG Coordinator, 680-4211 (home), [nchase@astound.net](mailto:nchase@astound.net)  
 Charlie Crothers, At Large, 829-2237 (home), [ccrothers@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ccrothers@sbcglobal.net)  
 Dick Curry, At Large, 376-5541 (home), [racorinda@pacbell.net](mailto:racorinda@pacbell.net)  
 Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary, 676-7522 (home), [pegszone@aol.com](mailto:pegszone@aol.com)  
 Tom Krauss, Secretary, 689-9960 (home), [tkrauss@astound.net](mailto:tkrauss@astound.net)  
 James Lundgren, Publicity, 355-0646 (home), [philador@comcast.net](mailto:philador@comcast.net)  
 Melody Lundgren, Publicity, 355-0646 (home), [philador@comcast.net](mailto:philador@comcast.net)  
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 Ron Ogg, Newsletter Editor and Webmaster, 952-4987 (office), [rogg@xemaps.com](mailto:rogg@xemaps.com)  
 Craig Peterson, Librarian, 671-7025 (home), [compmail@pacbell.net](mailto:compmail@pacbell.net)  
 Stan Umlauf, Web Site, 458-5560 (home), [stanu@honeybee.com](mailto:stanu@honeybee.com)

**DVPC on the Internet**

DVPC has 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](http://www.dvpc.org).

The Board of Directors usually meets the week following the general meeting. Check the DVPC Calendar on page 16 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*, or the DVPC calendar page, for the meeting date, time, and location. You can reach any of the officers and directors by talking to them at the DVPC monthly meeting, or by email to [bod@value.net](mailto: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](mailto:rogg@value.net)

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

DVPC is a member of APCUG, the Association of PC Users Groups, [www.apcug.org](http://www.apcug.org)

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**A view of our meeting room, H109**

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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

Renewal \_\_\_\_\_ New Member \_\_\_\_\_ Referred by current member? Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Company/School: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
I'm also interested in these SIGs: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

*Driving Directions (see the map on page 6):*

**680 Northbound:**

Exit at Willow Pass Road. At the end of the exit ramp turn left onto Willow Pass Road. Continue on Willow Pass Road to the second signal and turn right on Contra Costa Blvd.

**680 Southbound:**

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

**Direction into the Campus:**

From Contra Costa Blvd. turn west on Golf Club Road. At the left turn just past the traffic signal at Old Quarry Road turn left into the campus. Immediately turn right and continue to parking lot 7. Turn left down one of the rows and park close to the buildings. Purchase a parking permit and put it on your dashboard. DO NOT park in metered or faculty spaces!

*Finding Your Way (see the maps below and on page 5):*

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

**Parking Fees:**

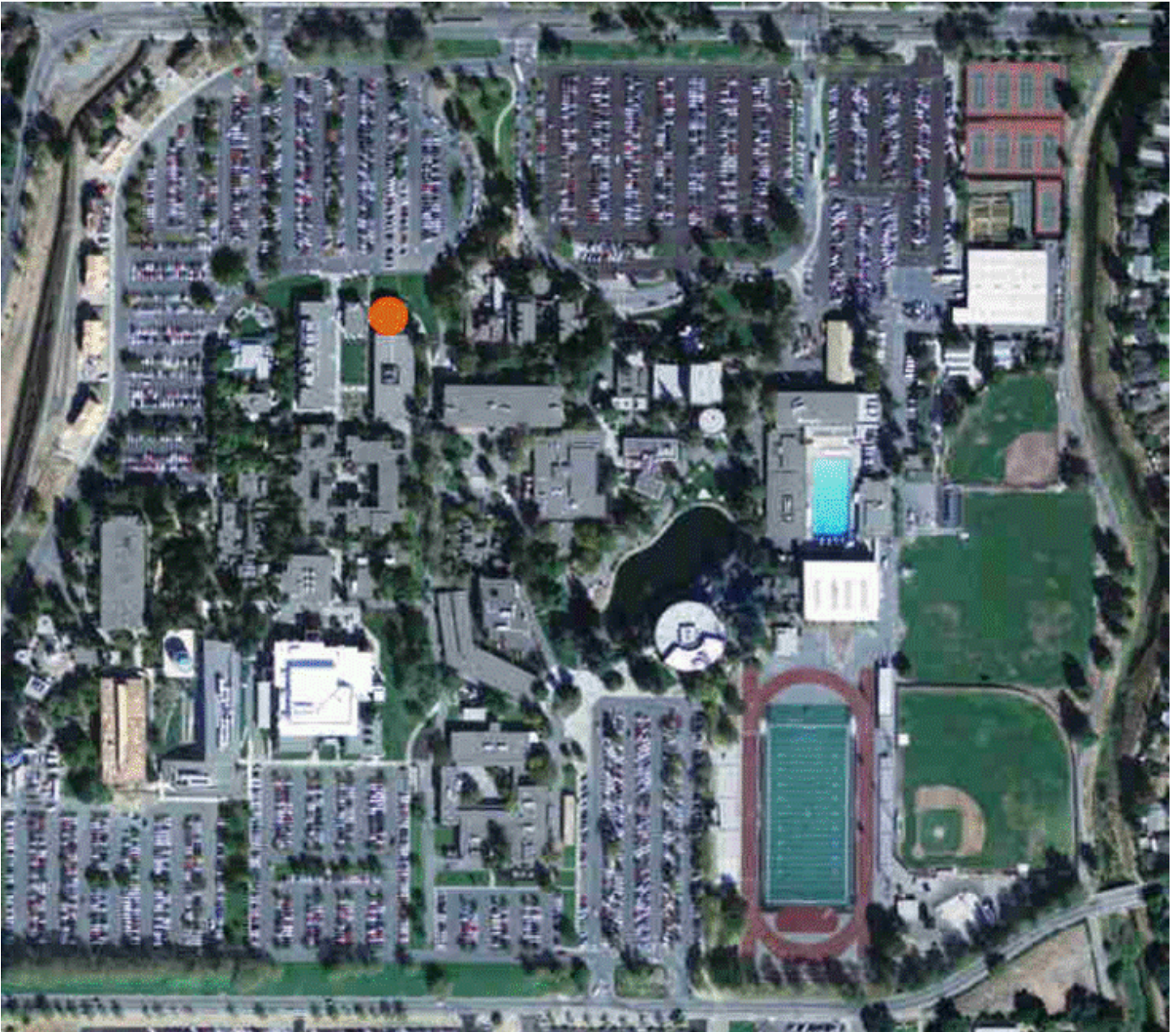
On the Pleasant Hill campus parking permits are \$2.00 per day for short-term parking. You need to purchase a parking permit and place it face up on your dashboard so it is clearly visible through the windshield. You can purchase permits at the parking permit machines marked with a red star on the map at the right. Parking permit machines only take quarters. Be sure to bring sufficient change! Permits are required Monday through Friday including 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 monthly meetings are held in room H-109 in the building marked with the red circle)*



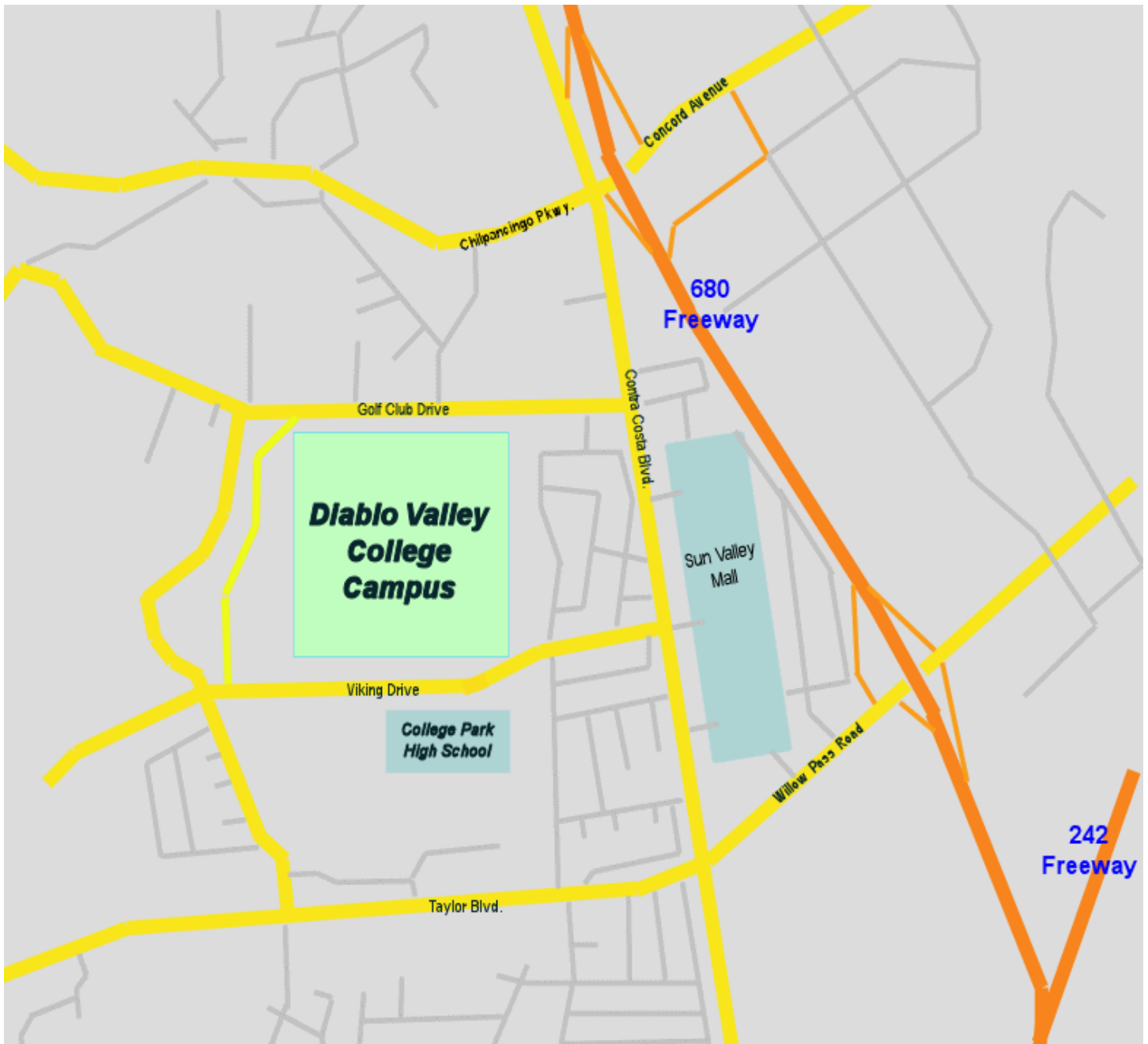
**DVPC Winner of APCUG 2004 Awards for Web Site and Diablo Blue** by Ron Ogg, DVPC

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](http://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**

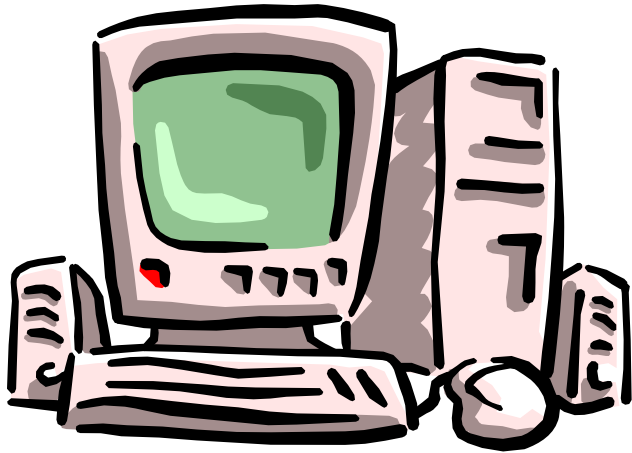


## Special Raffle Promotion

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

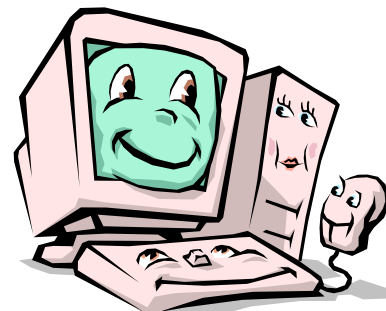
This **FREE** class will help any student who needs basic information on computers. Diablo Valley PC User's Group and Computer Renaissance have joined together to offer all who would like to be introduced to computers, learn more about the basics, or just have a place to ask questions. Come to Computer 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](mailto:compmail@pacbell.net) or 925-671-7025).

**November 12, 2005**

### PC 101 CLASS: *WHAT IS A COMPUTER?*

This month we will back to our normal meet day on the third Saturday, November 12th, and we will continue the class with "LESSON #1: WHAT IS A COMPUTER?"

Yes, the class starts at the beginning once more. If you are new to the class or want a refresher join us November 12th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. as we look at the world of computers and computing.



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

**Advanced Users SIG** Jeff and Sharon Noyer, SIG Co-Leaders – 778-4348

The Advanced Users SIG meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 4208 Amargosa Drive in Antioch. The Advanced Users SIG is for anyone interested in discussing advanced topics such as hardware and software issues, cutting-edge technologies, networking, servers, troubleshooting, etc. Please join us to participate in this very informative and educational forum. We hope to see you at the meeting! 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 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, 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](mailto: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 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*. Hope to see all of you there.

For more information, please call Craig Peterson at 925-671-7025 or e-mail him at [compmail@pacbell.net](mailto:compmail@pacbell.net).

**New Users SIG** Craig Peterson, SIG Leader – 671-7025

The New Users SIG holds its meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular DVPC monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month. Since we no longer meet at Bank of America, check your email or the DVPC web site for the new meeting location. The New Users SIG discuss whatever is confusing or puzzling new PC users. If you are a new user of PCs who would like to meet with other new users – and some experienced users who can answer your questions as well – then join us at the New Users SIG meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior to each DVPC monthly meeting.

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

The PC101 class is usually held from 4 pm to 6 pm on the second Saturday of each month at Computer Renaissance, 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 anyone 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 next Photoshop Elements SIG is scheduled for Wednesday, November 16, 2005, at 7 p.m. at home of Peggy Johnson, 4278 Satinwood Drive, Concord, CA. The topic will be the tools in the Tool Bar, using Barry Brown's Beginners Guide as a reference. Anyone wishing to attend can contact Peggy at [pegszone@aol.com](mailto:pegszone@aol.com). Most of us have digital cameras, and this is an opportune time to discover all the wonderful photo correction, manipulation and enhancement tools found in this software, including the new version 4. We can learn from each other and enhance our skills and enjoy our photos more.

**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. Note we will not have a meeting in January, 2006 in observance of New Years Day.

**Start a New SIG** Nick Chase, DVPC SIG Coordinator, 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 Message...**

(Continued from page 1)

presentation. In April we will have the *Digital PhotoGuy* and in the May we'll have a representative of *Smart Computing Magazine*. Don't forget to let us know what speakers and presentations interest you. We welcome your input for meeting topics. See you on November 3rd.

## **Qurb Acquired by Computer Associates** from Computer Associates



WELCOME QURB CUSTOMERS!

Many members of *DVPC* have purchased Qurb, the industry-leading Anti-Spam software. You may have already heard the exciting news that Qurb, Inc. has been acquired by Computer Associates International, Inc. (CA). CA is the same company that 95% of the Fortune 500® companies depend on for their business-critical needs.

Adding Qurb's award-winning technology to CA's internationally recognized brand of Internet security software provides even greater advantages to you. Now you have access to the same great benefits that only an industry-leader can provide:

- 24x7 online support
- Continuous surveillance by the, CA Security Advisory Team, a global research team that works 24x7 to detect and remove the latest Internet threats

Access to a comprehensive lineup of software products that identify, remove and protect you from the latest Internet threats

CA would like to welcome you by introducing you to another member of its full line of award-winning eTrust® Internet security software.



**eTrust™ PestPatrol® Anti-Spyware** gives you the ability to sweep your PC of malicious software designed to invisibly track the sites you surf, the products you buy, and the messages you send.

After easy installation, your PC will stay free and clear of spyware, adware, and other non-virus threats, thanks to automatic updates designed to keep you one step ahead of sneaky software.

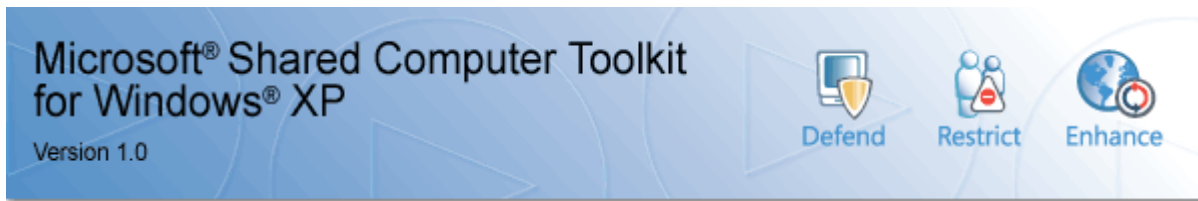
**80% of all computers are infected with SpyWare**  
**Is Yours?**

## **JOTD – A Google Result** by Walt Parsons, DVPC

This proves that Google is the smartest search engine *EVER*... Check this out...

1. Go to [www.google.com](http://www.google.com)
2. Type in the word "failure"
3. Press the I'm Feeling Lucky button (instead of the Google search button)
4. Laugh
5. Forward to friends before the Google folks fix this!

## **Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit for Windows XP** by Lynne Hansen, DVPC



The Microsoft Solutions for Security and Compliance (MSSC) team is proud to announce the Release to Web of the Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit for Windows XP v1.0 ([www.microsoft.com/sharedaccess](http://www.microsoft.com/sharedaccess)).

### **Overview**

Shared computers are commonly found in schools, libraries, Internet and gaming cafes, community centers, and other locations. Often, non-technical personnel are asked to manage shared computers in addition to their primary responsibilities – which can be difficult, time-consuming, and expensive due to user tampering and harmful software.

User privacy is also an issue. Shared computers often use shared accounts that make Internet history, saved documents, and cached Web pages available to subsequent users.

The Microsoft Shared Computer Toolkit for Windows XP provides a simple and effective way to defend shared computers from untrusted users and malicious software, safeguard system resources, and enhance and simplify the user experience. The Toolkit runs on genuine copies of Windows XP Professional, Windows XP Home Edition, and Windows XP Tablet PC Edition.

### **Tools Summary**

The Toolkit includes several command-line tools and the following graphical tools:

- ✎ **Getting Started.** Provides access to computer settings and utilities and helps first-time operators learn the Toolkit basics quickly.
- ✎ **Windows Disk Protection.** Protects the Windows partition (typically drive C) that contains the Windows operating system and other programs from being modified without administrator approval. Disk changes made are cleared with each restart unless the administrator chooses to save them.
- ✎ **User Restrictions.** Restricts user access to programs, settings, and Start menu items. The tool also allows you to lock shared local user profiles to prevent permanent changes. (This tool is specifically for use in workgroup environments that do not use Active Directory and Group Policy. A Group Policy template is also included for use in Active Directory environments.)
- ✎ **Profile Manager.** Creates and deletes user profiles. You can use this tool to create user profiles on alternative drives that will retain data and settings even though Windows Disk Protection is on. You can delete profiles locked by the User Restrictions tool.
- ✎ **Accessibility.** Makes Windows accessibility options and utilities such as StickyKeys, FilterKeys, and Magnifier available to users who have been restricted from accessing Control Panel and other system settings. This download includes a comprehensive Handbook, which can be browsed online on TechNet (<http://go.microsoft.com/fwlink/?LinkId=51297>).

## **Expect the Unexpected When Traveling Abroad** by Lynn Kauer, Saginaw Valley Computer Association

My wife and I recently went on a river cruise from Vienna, Austria starting with the Danube River. As we continued our trip on the Danube through Germany, we connected with the Main River that allowed us to travel over the mountains and connect with the Rhine River. The trip ended in Amsterdam in the Netherlands (Holland). This trip was for a period of three weeks and was on a boat that only held 150 persons, including the crew. We are more accustomed to the 'big' ships with upwards of 2,400 passengers plus crew containing all the amenities like an onboard shop to download the photos from the digital memory cards onto CD's. I knew that this service would not be available on the riverboat and became a bit concerned with respect to what I would do if I 'filled' all of my digital storage.

My camera is a Sony DSC-F717 and uses "Memory Sticks" for digital storage. (Other cameras may use Secure Digital, Compact Flash Cards or XD cards depending on the manufacturer.)

Although the camera is capable of taking photos at five mega pixels (2,560 x 1,020 JPEG image size), I adjust the settings downward to (2,048 x 1,536 JPEG image size). I also adjust the setting to 'fine' mode instead of 'standard' mode. This allows me to save ap-

*(Continued on page 11)*

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

*It was a wild and stormy night...*

Well, not really, but if it had been, that would explain why only four Board members showed up at Alan's home for the meeting. Since we couldn't blame the weather, we decided it must be Alan's fault for not sending out a reminder.

What ever the reason, with only five of us present we had a good excuse for not spending more than five minutes on actual club business. So we didn't.

Ron gave us a rundown on the problems he was having with Microsoft Publisher. These problems are the reason (Ron claimed) that the Newsletter was published late this month (the October issue). For some obscure, technical reason, after updating his installation of Publisher Ron found he was unable to open recent editions of the Newsletter. A patch provided by Microsoft then locked him out of the last several years of editions. Fortunately, Ron found himself working with the Microsoft Publisher Guru. Despite several attempts, as of the Board meeting the problem was still outstanding and Ron had a conference call scheduled for later in the week with his guru. As we learned yesterday in an email from Ron, Microsoft has redeemed themselves and all is once again well with the Newsletter.

In the course of our usual rambling conversation we touched on software releases and how they are numbered. Having worked as a development manager for a company that licensed and distributed software, I have had some experience with this. In numbering releases we had to resolve two conflicting issues. We needed to have a means of differentiating versions of software so that when a client called with a problem we would no exactly what version of our software they were running and could accurately troubleshoot their problem. But to distribute even a one line code change to fix a problem would require a new release number. Generating a lot of release numbers might give the impression of software instability or that we did not know what we were doing (even though there was some truth to this). We spent many hours in meetings designing library and version structures and mapping out release-numbering strategies.

Some of us still remember when DOS version numbers such as 3.1, 5.0 and 6.22 meant something. These days the distinction is often hidden from us or ignored by those of us who buy software from major vendors such as Microsoft. With automatic online updates and optional patches, it is impossible for us to tell exactly what software we are running, and frankly we don't care. For example, I am writing these minutes using Windows XP version 5.1.2600 with a "Hardware Abstraction Layer" version 5.1.2600.2180 (xpsp\_sp2\_rtm.040803-2158). I am using Microsoft Word version 10.2627.2625, and I sure don't care if I am using this version or version 10.2627.2626.

## **Expect the Unexpected When Traveling Abroad...**

*(Continued from page 10)*

proximately 80 photos on a 128MB stick instead of only 50 if I were to shoot at the five-mega pixel setting.

I own ten 128MB plus three 256MB memory sticks. Doing the simple math, they are capable of storing 1,280 photos. While it may seem like a lot, it really is not. I used almost all of their storage capacity on our last two-week trip to the Mediterranean while visiting Italy, Greece, Turkey and Croatia.

On that trip, we sailed miles off the coast and there was no opportunity to take photos until we landed ashore. On the river cruise we would be traveling through the scenic vistas of three countries plus having stops along the way. I was concerned with having enough storage because we would be traveling for three weeks.

After the first day I quickly learned that there are a lot more things that one should worry about than digital storage. Some of the things contained in this article will surprise you and hopefully give you some insight as to what you should think about when traveling abroad whether on ship, train, bus or car.

### **RESOLUTION**

As stated above, I lower the resolution to approximately three mega pixels on my camera. One of the passengers had a camera like mine. As we chatted, he told me that he had recently purchased the camera for the trip and was finding it easy to use. He previously owned a 35-mm film camera. We somehow got on to the subject of storage and I asked him how many 'sticks' he had. His reply, "Just the one that came with the camera. I can get all of the photos on the stick that I expect to take while traveling. I can get almost 800 photos on the stick."

This is when I learned that the salesperson had changed the resolution on his camera to the lowest possible setting. In other words—Internet resolution. When I asked him if he intended to make prints he replied, "Oh yes. But none larger than 8 x 10." He was the type

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

## ***Expect the Unexpected When Traveling Abroad...***

*(Continued from page 11)*

who knew everything about everything so I found a way to let him snap away and disappeared into the crowd.

I also bumped into another poor fellow who really had a problem. He bought his camera real cheap in a pawn shop a week before the trip. The camera stored everything on a permanent chip inside the camera. The salesperson had told him that all he had to do was to go into any photo store and they would be able to transfer his photos to a CD with no problem. At this point, only three days into a sixteen-day cruise, his camera was full. Worse, he could not find a store that could provide the service for him.

Onboard the 'big' ships the service is readily available for a fee. On the riverboat, they had no provisions for this service. The crew attempted to help him by downloading the photos onto their computer but they too bumped into a brick wall. He never received the instructions or the CD that contained the necessary software with which to unload the photos to a computer. His photo shooting days ended early.

### ***POWER***

As stated earlier, I was concerned with having enough storage space for photos. (Incidentally, I shot almost 1000 photos.) The first option I thought about was to get an adaptor that would allow me to download the photos onto a laptop computer. However, this idea was short lived because carry-on luggage space is limited. International flights limit the passenger to one piece of carry-on luggage and the size is restricted. Secondly, carrying laptops through airport security is a royal pain. Therefore, I decided that I would become a 'selective' photographer and not try to capture every photo opportunity I saw.

When traveling in Europe one must keep in mind that 110-volt power is not available. All of the electrical power in Europe is 240-volt and not all of the plugs are the same from country to country. My first purchase was to buy a transformer to adjust the voltage for a 110-volt external battery charger. It's about the size of a small flashlight, costs less than \$25 and allows me to use it in any country.

This is where I bumped into the first problem. I didn't read all of the instructions that came with the transformer. The first occasion I had to use it was while in the hotel in Vienna. That is where I learned that the voltage was 240-volt and 50-cycle. The instructions clearly stated to not allow it to be plugged into the outlet for more than an hour or it would become overheat and possibly damaged. Therefore, I plugged the transformer into the outlet and let the battery recharge for shorter periods.

When we boarded the ship the only outlet available was in the bathroom. There were two outlets available. One noted for use with an electric razor only—110-volt. The other outlet was for 240-volt appliances. I used the 240-volt outlet with the transformer for one hour time periods to recharge the camera batteries without a problem.

Alas, two of our shipmates were not so lucky. One plugged his charger into the 110-volt outlet and failed to pay attention to the time. Two hours later, when he entered the cabin, he found his charger smoking. The problem is the 50-cycle current. It burned it up. The other shipmate was less fortunate. He plugged the cord into his camera to recharge the battery. It also caused damage to the built-in charger and he now had a dysfunctional camera. I make it a practice to never use the camera to recharge the battery unless it is absolutely necessary.

### ***INTERNET CAFÉ'S & KEYBOARDS***

While in our hotel in Vienna I found a computer that one could rent for Internet access. The rental rate for Internet access was three euros for fifteen minutes. This means \$4.95 per quarter hour or about twenty bucks an hour. Because of the committees Crystal and I are involved in, we wanted to know what the latest information was. This is when we learned that attachments do not get transmitted overseas. This was very frustrating because we attempted twice later in different cities with the same result.

The interesting thing I learned on the first attempt was when I tried to send an e-mail to the sender that had the attachment. When I typed the message a lot of the letters were mixed up. For example, the S key would be displayed as a "&", the "P" key would display as an "X" and the "R" key would come up as a ">". The keyboard layout doesn't match that of ours!

When I got it cleaned up and attempted to send it I received an error message that I had been logged off meaning that I had spent five bucks for nothing. This wasn't unique to the hotel's computer. It was common at other sites as well. The result was that we were out of contact with anyone online for a month because things just don't interface as we expect them to.

I had bumped into the keyboard layout problem a couple of years earlier in England but it wasn't as complex as being in Germany. Imagine what it would be like in China or some other remote country. The connection speeds were a step back in time. While some sites boasted cable and broadband access, the speed was similar to 56KB modems. I should have realized what the speed differences were as almost every home had an antenna on the roof!

### ***HOW DO YOU SPELL RELIEF?***

What does one do when they get sick in a foreign country? You call your doctor, right? Nope! Our shipmate had quadruple bypass surgery a couple of years earlier. About half way through the trip, he got a sore throat and a severe cold. He failed to bring medication

*(Continued on page 15)*

***Remember: The Build-Your-Own Computer Workshop will be held on Saturday, December 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Concord Police Department Community Room***

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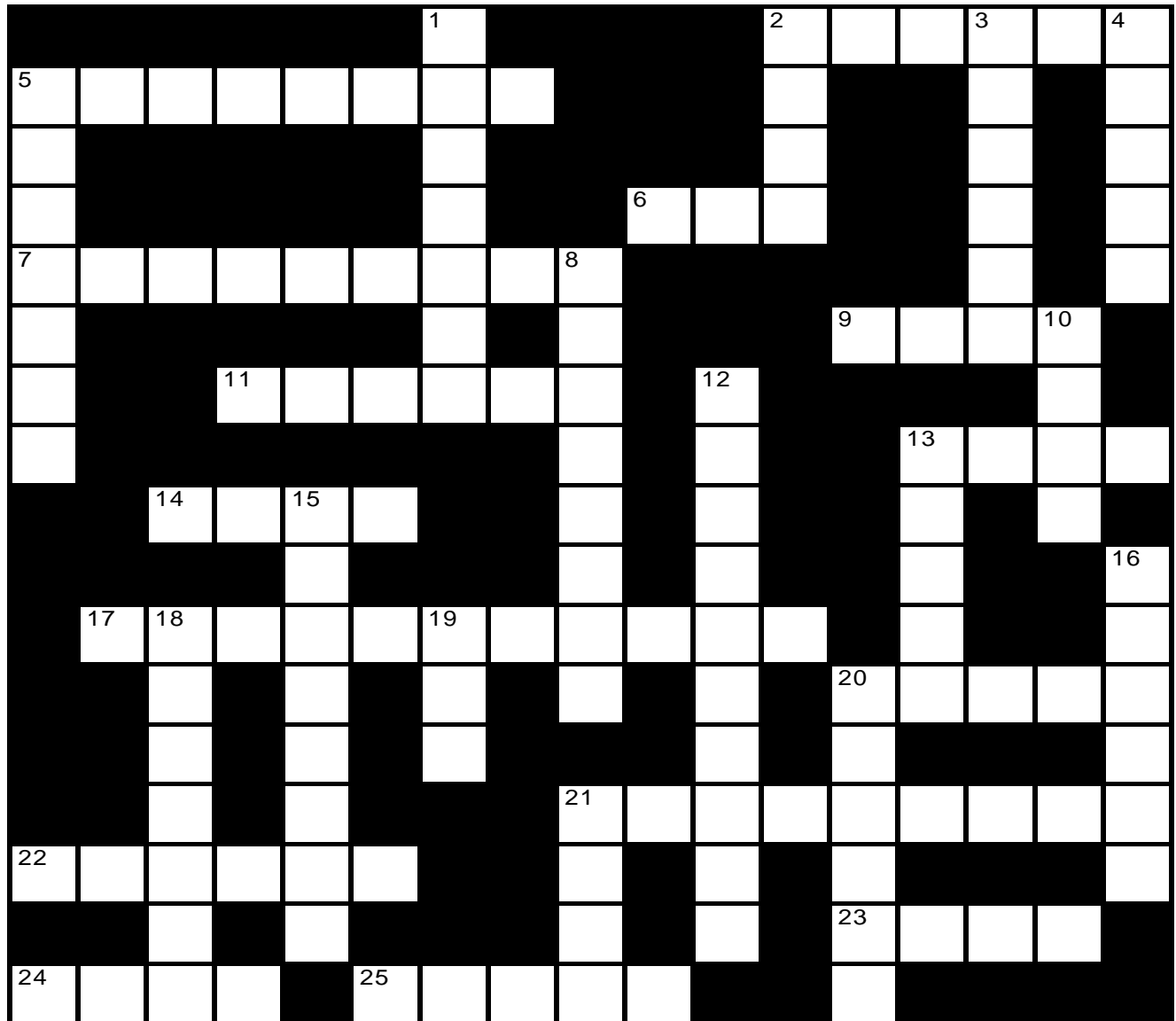
M-F 10:00am—07:00pm

SAT 10:00am—06:00pm

SUN 12:00pm—05:00pm

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is independently owned and operated. Products may not be available in all areas.

**Computer Puzzle** by Craig Peterson, DVPC  
**"Thanksgiving Feast"**



For many Americans, the Thanksgiving meal that they will be consuming is quite different then what was on the Pilgrim's table. According to the web site <http://members.aol.com/calebj/thanksgiving.html> the list of foods is quite different compared to what we have become used to. This month's puzzle has many of the foods that were available in 1621.

If you need help, or want to see the answers, go to [www.dvpc.org/solution.html](http://www.dvpc.org/solution.html).

**Across**

- 2. A plant, to beat, to suppress, or to play ball
- 5. Meal made from #24 across
- 6. A fish or a way to pay for items when received
- 7. Nuts or stale old jokes
- 9. A fish or a male singer
- 11. The source of mother-of-pearl
- 13. Mollusk
- 14. A bird or a movement to avoid
- 17. Type of berry
- 20. Seed pods or what a pitcher sometimes does to someone at bat
- 21. A bird or a 70's TV singing family

- 22. Churned cream

- 23. These go well with bacon

- 24. Type of cereal plant

- 25. The other holiday roast

**Down**

- 1. Nuts or dark-brown wood

- 2. Marine food fish

- 3. Oak seeds

- 4. Food from bees

- 5. All exotic meats taste like this

- 8. Preserved meat (2 words)

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**Expect the Unexpected When Traveling Abroad...***(Continued from page 12)*

along to take care of this condition. This became a big problem for him.

Since the time differential was six hours, and he got sick on a weekend, he was unable to contact his doctor in the states. He sent a fax to his doctor's office to learn that the office staff turns off the machines when they leave work. Thus, for us it was noon and his doctor's office was already closed because it was 6:00pm.

While ashore he tried to make a phone call but his doctor's answering machine told him to call another number in the event of an emergency. The other number had a message to the effect, "the doctor is not in right now. Please leave a phone number where he can contact you." Since we were 'at sea so to speak' there was no way for the doctor to call back.

After two days, the ship managed to contact his doctor who faxed a prescription to the ship via a satellite link while tied up in port. However, when he took it to the pharmacy, the pharmacist refuse to fill it because it was written in English and not from a doctor recognized as being in Germany. So, what's the point? When traveling abroad try to anticipate the unexpected for medications that may require a prescription.

In my case, I became ill during the second week having caught the 'cold' of the fellow trying to contact his doctor. My only alternative was to talk to a pharmacist for some 'over the counter' medication. It didn't work very well.

When I arrived home and found myself unable to sleep in a bed. The first night was spent dozing on the recliner. The next morning I met with my doctor and took the medication I had purchased with me.

He pulled out the instructions from the package and exclaimed, "Everything is written in German. Why don't they write in a generic language in English so that we could understand what they are telling us?" I replied, "Doc, we were in Germany. How many 'over the counter' medications in our country are written in German." He looked at me with a sly grin and realized the folly of what he had asked.

From now on, when we travel abroad we will take some of the 'over the counter' medications that we use from time to time with us. We found aspirin a bit difficult to find as it was 'blended' with other unpronounceable things. The rule to follow is the same as going to a cheap party — BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle). In this case, BYOM (Bring Your Own Medicine).

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

**Build-Your-Own-Computer Program for DVPC Members** by Ron Ogg, DVPC

In last month's Diablo Blue we presented the latest information about the Intel-sponsored Build-Your-Own-Computer program open to DVPC members. Because the October issue of Diablo Blue was delayed due to a Microsoft Publisher technical glitch, that information is reprinted in this month's issue starting on page 16.

We are having our Build-It-Yourself workshop on December 17 in the Community Room at the Concord Police Department building. This will be your opportunity to put together your computer with experienced DVPC members to guide and assist you. Bring flat blade and Phillips screwdrivers, nut drivers, and needle nose pliers.

Here are a few additional pieces of information that we've received about the program.

1. Is there an extended warranty available, say 2 or 3 years?

No. All components carry the manufacturers warranty, which may be longer than the 1 year system warranty.

2. What's the difference between the Media Series motherboard and the Executive Series motherboard?

The Media Series motherboard supports 7.1 sound and has a 10/100 Ethernet connection. The Executive Series motherboard supports 5.1 sound and has a 10/100/1000 Ethernet connection.

3. Are there USB and Firewire ports on the front of the case?

Yes.

*(Continued on page 16)**(Continued from page 14)*

10. Large aquatic bird

12. Good on pancakes (2 words)

13. Bird or machine

15. Another fruit

16. Mollusk or mushroom

18. Marine crustacean

19. Slinky fish

20. Grain used to make beer

21. These are found inside pods

## **Build-Your-Own-Computer Program for DVPC Members...**

(Continued from page 15)

4. Is there a sound card option available?  
No. You can purchase your own sound card if you find that the built-in sound doesn't meet your needs.
5. I already have a keyboard that I like. Can I order the Build-It-Yourself computer without a keyboard, or without a mouse?  
That hasn't been finalized yet. When you order your computer, tell the PC Club representative you don't need the keyboard and/or mouse; this question should be resolved by then.
6. When should I order my computer from PC Club?  
They recommend that the computers be ordered 2 weeks before the Build-Your-Computer Workshop. Our workshop is being held on December 17, so you should place your order by the end of November.
7. How can I contact PC Club if I have a question or problem after placing my order or receiving my computer?  
The phone number for the Torrance, California headquarters of PC Club is 800-340-1948. The office is open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday. This is also the number you call to place your order. Our contact at PC Club is Andy Chew. He can be reached by email at [achew@pclub.com](mailto:achew@pclub.com).
8. Good luck, have fun, and enjoy your new computer!

## **Build-Your-Own Computer FAQ** by Kathy Whittle



### BUILD-YOUR-OWN COMPUTER SEMINAR

#### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

The revision of the Intel Build Your Own PC seminar is now complete! I'm attaching a new FAQ that gives updated information about this seminar. In addition, you may visit [www.pclub.com/byo](http://www.pclub.com/byo), click on your group's name, and see the different options that are now available to user group members wishing to purchase parts and build their own computer. There are three "systems" listed, with options within each one. Members can basically custom build the computer they would like by clicking on the arrows next to each component. There are only a few components that will need to stay the same.

Please look over the FAQ, visit the website above and let me know if you have members interested and when you would like to hold the workshop.

Best regards,  
Kathy Whittle

#### Q1. What is the Intel® Build-Your-Own Computer Seminar-In-a-Backpack?

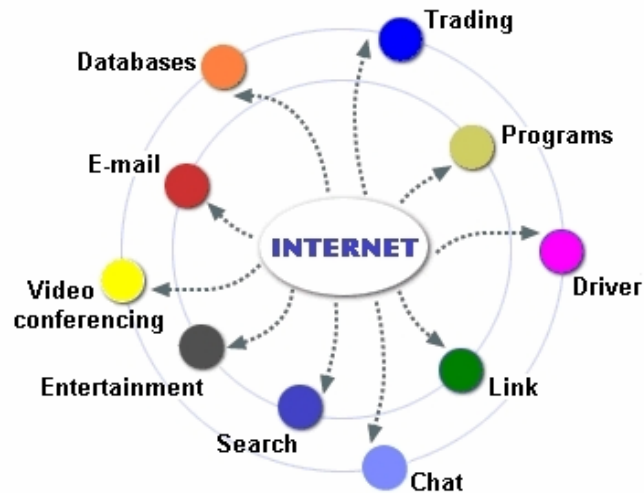
It's a two-part presentation specially developed by Intel for computer user groups. Everything you need to hold a seminar and a workshop (except the presenter and the parts) is included so you can educate your members and help those who would like to build their own state-of-the-art personal computer. The seminar-in-a-backpack consists of two PowerPoint slide shows (one for each of the two parts) with accompanying scripts, as well as "Thank-You" cards and gifts. There are also numerous reference files on the CD which can be printed and given to attendees as handouts, burned to a user group-sponsored CD, or used as the basis for newsletter articles.

Part I (the BYO Seminar) has been designed to be presented by a user group officer or member in a 45 to 60 minute time period at a general meeting or Special Interest Group (SIG) meeting. The content addresses "Why Build Your Own Computer?", "Where to Buy Parts?" and the considerations involved in choosing the various components and technologies. During the BYO Seminar, audience members will be introduced to the opportunity to customize, purchase and build a state-of-the-art, high-performance, high-value PC from specially-priced components. *The Part I BYO Seminar was presented at our May 5, 2005 DVPC monthly meeting.*

Part II (the BYO Workshop) will provide participants the opportunity to build their own computer, using the parts they've ordered, or watch a computer being built, under the direction of a workshop leader — preferably but not necessarily the

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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](mailto:changes@dvpc.org)

**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 on Wednesday, November 16 at 6:00 p.m. This month we will be looking for help on how to prepare our homes, cars, and selves for winter.

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

**Build-Your-Own Computer FAQ...**

(Continued from page 16)

same person who presented the BYO Seminar. There is also a script and a PowerPoint slide show that simplifies the task for both workshop leader and participants alike by taking them through the process of building a computer step by step with tested, on-screen, projected instructions and pictures of the process of building a PC. *The Part II BYO Workshop will be held on December 17, 2005. See "How to Order Your Build-Your-Own Computer" on page 21.*

Q2. How long is the BYO Seminar (Part I)?

It is designed to take 45 minutes, although the presenter can take more or less time to present the material.

Q3. How long is the BYO Workshop (Part II)?

The workshop should take between two and three hours (110 to 190 minutes), depending on the experience level of the class and instructor. If you install an operating system as part of the workshop, add an additional hour or so.

Q4. How can our group register for the Intel® Build-Your-Own Computer Seminar-in-aBackpack?

If you have not yet ordered this seminar, then you can register online at [www.intel.com/go/pcug](http://www.intel.com/go/pcug). Please be sure you are authorized to commit your group to hold the seminar – all orders will be verified before shipping. All materials for the seminar will be mailed to the authorized user group officer or a designated person, who will be responsible for the appropriate distribution of the materials and arranging for someone qualified to present both the seminar and the workshop. *DVPC is registered for the Intel® Build-Your-Own Computer Seminar-in-a-Backpack.*

Q5. How much will it cost user group members to purchase the parts necessary to build their own computer at the BYO Workshop?

(Continued on page 18)

## **Build-Your-Own Computer FAQ...**

(Continued from page 17)

Anywhere from \$506 to \$2,899, plus tax, depending on which components you select and how much function and performance you need. Even the most inexpensive system, however, is a fantastic value, providing state-of-the art components at a specially negotiated, discounted price available exclusively for user group members who participate in the BYO Workshop. Shipping and handling is free.

### **Q6. What are the system specifications?**

Participants in the workshop can select from three basic systems, and can further customize their systems from there. Please note that each system includes the very latest high-performance technologies, including an Intel® processor with a Dual Core or Hyper-Threading Technology, DDR2 RAM, Serial ATA (SATA) hard drives, RAID, PCI Express, Intel® High-Definition (HD) audio, Hi-Speed USB 2.0, and IEEE-1394 (Firewire™) interfaces. Don't make the mistake of trying to compare these systems based only on GHz and GB to systems using older, inferior, obsolete technologies. Most of the sub-\$500 systems you'll see advertised are bare-bones systems using obsolete technologies.

#### *General System Specifications*

1. Your choice of one of the new dual-core Intel® Pentium® D Processors for a smooth, high performance computing experience, an Intel® Celeron® D for incredible value, or an Intel® Pentium® 4 Processor with Hyper-Threading Technology for those seeking a balance of performance and value.
2. An Intel® Media Series (945GNTLR) or Executive Series (945GNTLKR) motherboard w/Socket LGA775, featuring the Intel 945G Express chipset with:
  - Advance Intel GMA950 graphics (DirectX 9, 3D accelerator)
  - Intel High-Definition (HD) Audio
  - PCI Express
  - Intel 10/100 Ethernet
  - Hi-Speed USB 2.0
  - IEEE 1394
  - Intel SATA and RAID support.
3. Your choice of 512MB, 1GB, 2GB, or 4GB of fast DDR2 Memory (533 or 667).
4. Your choice of Serial ATA (SATA) hard drive(s):
  - 80GB, 160GB, or 320GB Western Digital 7200RPM Hard Drive, 8MB Cache
  - 73.4GB 10,000 RPM Seagate Hard DriveNote: When you order two identical drives, you can optionally configure them in a striped RAID array for a single-volume, high-performance disk drive
5. Your choice of 1 or 2 CD/DVD drives from the following:
  - 52x32x52 CD-RW Drive
  - 52x32x52 DVD/CD-RW Combo Drive
  - 16x DVD-ROM drive
  - 16x Double-Layer DVD+/-RW drive
  - 16x Double-Layer HP LightScribe DVD+/-RW drive, for laser-labeling without a printer (using approved media)
6. CoolerMaster Centurion Case (Black with Silver or Blue Trim) with front panel USB 2.0 and IE 1394 (Firewire™) connectors and headphone/microphone audio jacks
7. Your choice of a 380W or 450W Power Supply w/24-pin motherboard connector
8. Your choice of keyboard and mouse combinations, including:
  - Logitech Deluxe Optical Desktop
  - Logitech Cordless Optical Desktop
  - Microsoft Wireless Optical Desktop
  - Logitech diNovo Media Desktop
9. Your choice of operating system:
  - Windows XP Home
  - Windows XP Professional
  - Linspire (Linux) Operating systems
10. Available optional extras include:
  - Floppy drive
  - nVidia GeForce 7800GTX KO 256MB PCI Express HD video card

(Continued on page 19)

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

**Build-Your-Own Computer FAQ...***(Continued from page 18)*

- Internal 9-in-1 media card reader
- Microsoft Office or Microsoft Works

**Q7. What does all that mean to users in plain English?**

What do you gain from this alphabet soup of new technologies that is worth the extra cost over a cheaper system made from older technologies? Plenty, with a much faster system than is generally available at comparable prices being at the top of the list. It's ahead of the technology curve too, which means the system will have a longer useful life than most comparably-priced retail systems you'll find out there. The BYO systems provide you with the power, performance, and compatibility to:

- Dramatically reduce the amount of time you spend waiting for your computer or looking at the Windows hourglass
- Transfer pictures from your digital camera or camcorder to your computer quickly and easily, through the Hi-speed USB ports or IEEE-1394 (Firewire™) ports that are standard on every system.
- Minimize the time spent copying or moving files
- Handle even the most demanding e-mail and online applications with ease
- Plug a headset with a microphone into the front for use with optional voice recognition software Optical keyboard and mouse for maximum convenience
- Install new application programs from CD in a fraction of the time it took you previously Run all kinds of personal productivity applications with outstanding performance Run high-intensity graphical and video applications, including the latest games (even grandchildren will be impressed)
- Enjoy outstanding audio with stereo speakers, a 5.1 speaker system, or a 7.1 speaker setup. You can even plug things into the wrong port and it will auto-sense your mistake and adjust the inputs for you.
- Edit your home movies and capture video from your camcorder to your computer
- If you order a system with a DVD+/-RW drive, you can burn DVDs with your own video or photos, including the ability to create high-capacity, dual-layer (8.5GB) DVDs with 4 hours of DVD-quality video or 16 hours of VHS-quality video
- Do more than one thing at a time without causing your computer stall or jerk through smooth multi-tasking (dual core or hyper-threading) support – for example, download files while working on a document, or run a virus scan while checking your e-mail.
- Connect up to 6 Hi-speed USB devices without needing a USB hub
- Connect 1 or 2 Hi-speed USB devices, such as a digital music player, camera, camcorder, or game adapter into the front of the computer for extra convenience
- If you order two CD/DVD drives, you can copy unprotected CDs/DVDs without swapping media
- Achieve superior performance when running multi-threaded applications optimized for dual core or HT Technology, including popular consumer and professional applications from Adobe® and other leading software companies
- Connect directly to cable or DSL modems or to a local area or home network. Enjoy all of the many benefits of Microsoft Windows XP and Microsoft Office, and much more, depending on the application software you run.

**Q8. Wow! That's an amazing system. How can I or other user group members order a system?**

Call 800-340-1948 (M-F, 8am-6pm) or go online at [www.pcclub.com/byo](http://www.pcclub.com/byo). Be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name
- The name of your User Group
- The date of your workshop (*DVPC has held workshop Part I at our May, 2005 meeting*)
- Your billing address
- Your shipping address
- Your phone #
- Your e-mail address
- Your credit card #

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## **Build-Your-Own Computer FAQ...**

(Continued from page 19)

- Your credit card expiration date
- Your credit card verification # (the CCV is usually the last 3 digits on the signature stripe on the back of the card)
- The configuration you want to order (go to [www.pcclub.com/byo](http://www.pcclub.com/byo) for configuration details).

### **Q9. Who is providing the system parts?**

PC Club has been selected to fulfill all orders for systems to be built under this program. If you have a local PC Club store, you may work with them directly.

### **Q10. What about warranty and warranty service?**

The system and parts are warranted by PC Club for a period of one year from the date of your workshop.

### **Q11. Can I or other user group members order a system in advance of the seminar or even after the workshop is completed?**

Yes. Within a week or two after your group is confirmed to give the seminar, you or your group members will be able to order system parts. Unless otherwise specified, all orders will be shipped all at once to the workshop or other address you provide to PC Club, to arrive on the date you designate. However, exceptions for each order may be made by designating shipment to an alternate address when the order is placed. Contact PC Club for details.

### **Q12. How can I contact PC Club with questions or problems?**

Call them at 800-340-1948, which is the special ordering number for the Intel Build-Your-Own Seminar kits, or e-mail them at [byo@pcclub.com](mailto:byo@pcclub.com).

### **Q13. I've contacted PC Club, but they can't help me, or I have a general question about the seminar materials. Who should I call?**

Webworking Services represents Intel in administering their user group program, including the BYO Seminar. You can contact them via e-mail at [intelbyo@webworkingservices.com](mailto:intelbyo@webworkingservices.com), or by calling toll-free 877-887-8687.

### **Q14. Is Windows included?**

Yes, Windows XP Home or Windows XP Professional may be purchased with the system parts.

### **Q15. Can I or other user group members order more than one system?**

Yes, however, BYO Workshop participants will only be able to build one system at the workshop. They can either take the unassembled parts for the second system home following the workshop, or have someone else accompany them to the workshop in order to build the second system without slowing the pace for the rest of the workshop participants.

### **Q16. Are the specifications subject to change?**

Only in your favor. Like all technology-based products, today's state-of-the-art system won't stay at the high-end of the technology curve for more than a few months; therefore, we reserve the right to make improvements to the specifications list at any time in order to ensure that each group is building a system that is fresh and highly competitive. We are working hard to ensure that your members who research the available alternatives are happy with their choice to participate in the BYO Workshop. In most cases the specifications list above will be exactly what your members will receive.

### **Q17. Can group members customize the system they purchase?**

Yes. Workshop participants will start the purchase process by selecting one of three systems (good, better, and best). They can then upgrade, downgrade, add, or remove components until they have the system and features that they want and need and can afford. In order to keep the workshop instructions and pictures consistent with the actual systems built, certain components (namely the motherboard, system case, and power supply) are required to be similar for all systems built at the workshop. Other components (processor, memory, drives, operating system, display adapter, and optional accessories) can be customized without affecting the participant's ability to build their system in harmony with the rest of the group during the workshop.

### **Q18. Is there a handout that explains the system and how to order that we can give to attendees at the Seminar?**

Yes. PC Club will provide a handout with information about the systems, ordering procedures, and more. They should be in contact with you soon after you order the seminar to provide you with this information. If you don't hear from them in a timely manner, please feel free to contact them at [usergroups@pcclub.com](mailto:usergroups@pcclub.com) or call 800-340-1948 (M-F, 8am-6pm).

### **Q19. Can our user group run multiple BYO Workshops (Part II) without holding another BYO Seminar (Part I)?**

Yes. Just let Kathy at Webworking Services ([kathy@webworkingservices.com](mailto:kathy@webworkingservices.com)) know at least a month in advance that you'd like to hold additional BYO Workshops. We'll make sure you are informed of any updates or changes and get the appropriate materials.

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## **Build-Your-Own Computer FAQ...**

(Continued from page 20)

**Q20. Is a monitor required for the workshop? Is it included?**

Workshop participants should be invited to bring their own monitor to the workshop, or make arrangements to have a monitor available to them, for the last few steps in the build process. Alternatively, the group can make sure a few monitors are available for participants to share, taking turns to accomplish the final steps.

**Q21. Who is responsible for providing assistance during the workshop?**

Your group may wish to have experienced members on hand to assist participants who may have questions or concerns during the build process.

**Q22. The system specifications mention RAID as an option for those who purchase two identical Serial ATA drives. What is RAID, and are instructions included on how to take advantage of RAID?**

RAID stands for "Redundant Array of Inexpensive Disks." RAID is an elegant chipset technology that brings to personal computers the benefits of high-priced, high-end technology previously found only in servers or high-performance desktops. Workshop participants will be provided simple, clear instructions on how to create, in only a few minutes, their own striped SATA RAID volume — one high-performance C: drive comprised of two separate disk drives. When one of the two drives is latent, the other is often working, so a striped RAID volume delivers enhanced disk utilization for improved performance over the typical system with only a single hard disk.

The instructions on how to load the RAID drivers are included in the Workshop and may be presented if you have anyone who would like to learn how to configure a RAID array. Once each system is completed and working, participants may then take their pre-paid computer home with them where they can easily install Windows using the instructions provided with Windows.

**Q23. We want to be sure the expectations of our user group members are set appropriately, and that our group is protected from any possible liability. Is there something we should have participants sign before the workshop?**

Yes. In order to avoid any possible misunderstanding, confusion, liability, or ill will, please have each participant in Part II: The Workshop sign the following Disclaimer and Acknowledgement. There is a Word file on the CD for the Workshop you can print out; alternatively, you can copy, paste, and print the text on the next page.

## **How to Order Your Build-Your-Own Computer** by Ron Ogg, DVPC

Interested in a powerful high-end new computer? An inexpensive new computer? The **Build-Your-Own** computer program sponsored by Intel and PC Club has either (or, even both if you need more than one computer!) of these options for you. In fact, they have a three base systems you can choose from, then you can customize the base system with the specific options that you want to include. See the articles starting on page 23 for the details about the different models. Once you've made your model selection and are ready to order, you need to do the following:

Call 800-340-1948 (M-F, 8am-6pm) or go online at [www.pcclub.com/byo](http://www.pcclub.com/byo) and selecting *Diablo Valley PCUG* from the drop-down list near the bottom of the page. Be prepared to provide the following information:

- Your name
- The name of your User Group
- The date of your workshop (*DVPC held workshop Part I at our May 5 meeting, and Part II will be on December 17*)
- Your billing address
- Your shipping address
- Your phone #
- Your e-mail address
- Your credit card #
- Your credit card expiration date

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# Tired of Spam?

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

## **Build-Your-Own Computer Disclaimer and Signature Form**

### DISCLAIMER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Intel Build-Your-Own PC (BYOPC) Seminar and Workshop is jointly sponsored by Intel Corporation and your local user group, club, or association in order to provide supplemental education and experience for those members of your local user group, club or association who might be interested in learning more about the latest Intel-developed and Intel-supported technologies, and perhaps even building a state-of-the-art PC that incorporates those technologies. Although you may benefit from the Seminar by gaining information that would help you build or upgrade your own PC, please note that Part II (the BYOPC Workshop) is designed to help you build a PC from carefully selected designated components you must purchase from a vendor selected by Intel through an open, competitive bid process. Everyone who chooses to participate must purchase similar parts in order to facilitate the BYOPC Workshop, where each participant, regardless of prior experience, will build their own PC according to the pictures and instructions provided by Intel. The BYOPC Workshop is not, however, designed to help you build a PC from your own parts and it is not intended to help you upgrade your existing PC. Although many of the BYO PC component prices are significantly discounted and available only to participants of the Intel BYOPC Workshops, neither Intel Corporation nor your local user group, club, or association can guarantee that it is the lowest price you can find for a system with the designated components. You may be able to find the identical parts or an equivalent system elsewhere at a lower price, but without, of course, the guidance and training offered as part of the Workshop.

The parts you purchased are warranted from PC Club [see separate warranty agreement from PC Club]. NEITHER INTEL NOR YOUR LOCAL USER GROUP, CLUB, OR ASSOCIATION MAKES ANY WARRANTIES UNDER THIS AGREEMENT, AND EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL WARRANTIES, WHETHER EXPRESS, STATUTORY, OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING WITHOUT LIMITATION ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, TITLE AND NONINFRINGEMENT. NEITHER Intel nor your local user group or club SHALL BE LIABLE to the undersigned FOR any DAMAGES whatsoever including any injury or damage to any persons or property as a result of the use or misuse of this information and/or advice, EVEN IF ADVISED OF THE POSSIBILITY OF SUCH DAMAGES.

I have read the above disclaimer and acknowledge that I understand and agree with the terms of participation in the Intel Build-Your-Own PC Workshop.

---

Signed

Date

## **How to Order Your Build-Your-Own Computer...**

(Continued from page 21)

- Your credit card verification # (the CCV is usually the last 3 digits on the signature stripe on the back of the card)
- The configuration you want to order (see the model information starting on page 23, then go to [www.pcclub.com/byo](http://www.pcclub.com/byo) to confirm configuration details).
- Print, sign, and date the Disclaimer and Acknowledgement (see above). You may be asked to mail this form to PC Club.

Despite what it says on the PC Club system configuration web pages, the computer components you order will be shipped to your address, not to DVPC, and there will be no additional charge for shipping. See the "Build-Your-Own Computer FAQ" on page 16.

After your computer components arrive you are free to follow the included documentation and assemble the system yourself. If you would like guidance, you can come to our Computer Day Workshop on Saturday, December 17 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. It will be held at the Concord Police Department Community Room. 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.

Please make sure you understand what you are ordering. This is a set of components, not a pre-built computer. The disadvantage is that you have to install these components yourself. The *advantage* is that you have to install these components yourself. You will have a computer with which you will totally familiar. If you want to expand the computer, or replace a component, you will have the knowledge to do so yourself.

You'll need some simple tools. Medium and small size slot head and Phillips head screwdrivers are required. Needle nose pliers and a set of socket drivers will be very useful, and you might find that a power screwdriver will save a lot of work. If you're unsure about putting together your own computer, you should definitely plan on bringing your system, monitor, and tools to the Computer Day Workshop on December 17. DVPC members who have experience building computers will be on hand to provide assistance to those who are assembling their systems.

## What Are the Different Build-Your-Own Computer Models? by Ron Ogg, DVPC

The computers offered by the Intel and PC Club *Build-Your-Own* computer program come in three base systems you can choose from, then you can customize the base system with the specific options that you want to include. So, what are the three base models? You can see the models by going to [www.pcclub.com/byo/](http://www.pcclub.com/byo/) and selecting *Diablo Valley PCUG* from the drop-down list near the bottom of the page. The three base models are Silver, Gold, and Platinum. So, what's the difference between these base models?

The Silver base system is for configuring economy-level systems. Here's the list of components included in the basic Silver system:

Item	Component	Default Silver Base System	Price	Help
CPU	Intel® Celeron® D 330J 2.66GHz, 256K L2 Cache		\$ 0	?
CPU Fan	Included with the Retail Box Processor		\$ 0	
Motherboard	Intel 945GNTLR Media Series Motherboard PCI-E		\$ 0	
Memory	512MB KINGSTON Valueram Memory DDR2 533		\$ 0	?
Floppy Drive	NONE		\$ 0	
Case	COOLER MASTER Centurion 5 Case- Black w/Silver Trim- 380W PS		\$ 0	
Hard Drive	WESTERN DIGITAL 80GB Hard Drive - 7200RPM 8MB Cache, SATA		\$ 0	?
Video Card	On-Board Video Card		\$ 0	?
Sound Card	On-Board 5.1 Sound		\$ 0	
Network	On-Board Ethernet Network Adapter		\$ 0	
Keyboard & Mouse	LOGITECH Deluxe Desktop Optical Black		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Writer	LITEON 16X DVD ROM Retail, Black		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Drives	NONE		\$ 0	
Miscellaneous	NONE		\$ 0	
OS	Microsoft Windows XP Home DSP		\$ 0	
Software	NONE		\$ 0	
			<b>Total Price</b>	
<input type="button" value="Printable View"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>			\$ 578	

The \$578 price is certainly competitive for this level system. Some premium components are included, like the Western Digital 80 GB SATA hard drive, 512 MB RAM, and the same case and power supply. OK. Let's see how we can enhance this puppy! On the next page we're showing the same Silver base system upgraded to a mid-range Silver configuration that includes options to improve system performance (except for the additional Microsoft Office software), with a goal of staying below \$1,000.

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## What Are the Different Build-Your-Own Computer Models?...

(Continued from page 23)

Item	Component	Mid-Range Silver Configuration	Price	Help
CPU	Intel® Celeron® D 345J 3.06GHz, 256K L2 Cache		\$ 40	?
CPU Fan	Included with the Retail Box Processor		\$ 0	
Motherboard	Intel 945GNTLR Media Series Motherboard PCI-E		\$ 0	
Memory	1GB (2x 512MB) KINGSTON Valueram Memory DDR2 533		\$ 65	?
Floppy Drive	1.44MB Black Floppy Drive		\$ 11	
Case	COOLER MASTER Centurion 5 Case- Black w/Silver Trim- 450W PS		\$ 30	
Hard Drive	WESTERN DIGITAL 160GB Hard Drive - 7200RPM 8MB Cache SATA2		\$ 50	?
Video Card	NVIDIA GeForce 6600 128MB Video Card, PCI-E		\$ 109	?
Sound Card	On-Board 5.1 Sound		\$ 0	
Network	On-Board Ethernet Network Adapter		\$ 0	
Keyboard & Mouse	LOGITECH Deluxe Desktop Optical Black		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Writer	LITEON 16X DVD ROM Retail, Black		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Drives	LITEON 16X16 Double Layer DVD+/-RW Drive		\$ 55	
Miscellaneous	NONE		\$ 0	
OS	Microsoft Windows XP Pro DSP		\$ 50	
Software	NONE		\$ 0	
			<b>Total Price</b>	
<input type="button" value="Printable View"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>			\$ 988	

We've increased the processor speed from 2.66 MHz to 3.06 MHz, increased RAM from 512 MB to 1 GB, added a diskette drive, upgraded the case from the 380W power supply to the 450W power supply, upgraded from an 80 GB SATA hard drive to a 160 GB drive, installed an NVIDIA 6600 video card, added a dual-layer DVD/CD burner in addition to the DVD/CD ROM drive, and selected Windows XP Pro instead of the Home edition. All of this increased the price to \$988. However, before you decide to go with this

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**Please note: Until further notice we are once again meeting in room H109 in the Humanities Building. This change (from MA101 in the Mathematics building) was required to accommodate summer session classes, and will continue until we have to move again. Please check the maps on pages 4 through 6 of each issue of Diablo Blue!**

## What Are the Different Build-Your-Own Computer Models?...

(Continued from page 24)

mid-range Silver configuration, take a look at the Gold base system on page 28. You might like it better! Now, what's the absolute high-end Silver configuration look like – and cost? Let's take a look:

Item	Component	High-End Silver Configuration	Price	Help
CPU	Intel® Pentium® 4 660 3.6GHz, 2MB L2 Cache		\$ 530	?
CPU Fan	Included with the Retail Box Processor		\$ 0	
Motherboard	Intel 945GNTLKR Executive Series Motherboard (ETA Mid Oct)		\$ 14	
Memory	4GB (4x 1GB) Memory DDR2 667		\$ 600	?
Floppy Drive	1.44MB Black Floppy Drive		\$ 11	
Case	COOLER MASTER Centurion 5 Case- Black w/Silver Trim- 450W PS		\$ 30	
Hard Drive	2x WESTERN DIGITAL 320GB Hard Drive - 7200RPM 8MB Cache		\$ 339	?
Video Card	NVIDIA GeForce 7800GTX KO 256MB Video Card, PCI-E HD-VIVO		\$ 599	?
Sound Card	On-Board 5.1 Sound		\$ 0	
Network	On-Board Ethernet Network Adapter		\$ 0	
Keyboard & Mouse	LOGITECH diNovo Media Desktop		\$ 173	
CD/DVD Writer	HP 16x DVD+/- Double Layer LightScribe Drive		\$ 64	
CD/DVD Drives	HP 16x DVD+/- Double Layer LightScribe Drive		\$ 90	
Miscellaneous	Card Reader 9 IN 1 Internal		\$ 17	
OS	Microsoft Windows XP Pro DSP		\$ 50	
Software	NONE		\$ 0	
			<b>Total Price</b>	
<input type="button" value="Printable View"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>			\$ 3095	

Woof! \$3,095 is BIG buck\$, that's for sure! And let's face it, most of us aren't ready to shell out this amount of cash for a PC. (Yeah, yeah, I know YOU are, but I said *most* of us, right?) But we said we'd show the highest level Silver configuration. So, what did we do to the mid-range Silver configuration to arrive at this budget-stretcher? Here's what: a Pentium 4 model 660 3.6 GHz processor, an enhanced motherboard, 4 GB of RAM, 2 of the 320 GB SATA hard drives, an NVIDIA 7800GTX KO video card, the fanciest Logitech keyboard and mouse, two HP LightScribe dual-layer DVD/CD burners, and a 9-in-1 internal media card reader. The items that cost the most are the processor, memory, hard drives, and video card. This is a whopping \$1,977 more than the mid-range Silver configuration, or \$2,241 more than the base Silver system! **Double WOOF!**

But how does this compare to the Gold and Platinum systems? What's the difference if we try to configure a Gold or Platinum sys-

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## What Are the Different Build-Your-Own Computer Models?...

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tem this way? Let's configure the Platinum base system so it matches what we did to get to the high-end Silver configuration:

Item	Component	High-End Platinum Configuration	Price	Help
CPU	Intel® Pentium® 4 660 3.6GHz - 2MB L2 Cache		\$ 50	?
CPU Fan	Included with the Retail Box Processor		\$ 0	
Motherboard	Intel 945GNTLKR Executive Series Motherboard (ETA Mid Oct)		\$ 0	
Memory	4GB (4 x 1GB) DDR 2 Memory - 667		\$ 250	?
Floppy Drive	1.44MB Black Floppy Drive		\$ 11	
Case	COOLER MASTER Centurion 5 Case- Black w/Silver Trim- 450W PS		\$ 0	
Hard Drive	2x 320GB WESTERN DIGITAL Hard Drive- 7200RPM, 8MB Cache SATA		\$ 0	?
Video Card	NVIDIA GeForce 7800GTX OC KO 256M Video Card - PCI-E		\$ 599	?
Sound Card	On-Board 5.1 Sound		\$ 0	
Network	On-Board Network		\$ 0	
Accessories	None		\$ 0	
Keyboard & Mouse	LOGITECH diNovo Media Desktop Keyboard and Mouse		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Writer	HP 16x DVD+/- Double Layer LightScribe Drive		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Drives	HP 16x DVD+/- Double Layer LightScribe Drive		\$ 64	
Miscellaneous	9-in-1 Internal Card Reader		\$ 17	
OS	Microsoft Windows XP Pro, DSP		\$ 0	
			<b>Total Price</b>	
<input type="button" value="Printable View"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>			\$ 2938	

Whoa! What's going on here? This configuration is at \$2,938 which is \$157 *cheaper* than the base system configured the same way! Well, let's take a look at the default Platinum base configuration on the next page. The base Platinum configuration includes a Pentium D 840 3.2 GHz dual core processor which we've upgraded to a Pentium 4 660 3.6 GHz processor for \$50, it includes 2 GB of RAM which we've upgraded to 4 GB for \$250, it doesn't include a diskette drive which we've included for \$11, it includes only the on-board video which we've upgraded to an NVIDIA 7800GTX KO video card for \$599, it includes as its second optical drive a DVD/CD ROM drive which we've upgraded to a second HP LightScribe dual-layer DVD/CD burner for \$64, and it didn't include a 9-in-1 internal media card reader which we've included for \$17. These additions cost \$991 over the price of the base Platinum system, but the additions over the base Silver system cost \$2,241.

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**What Are the Different Build-Your-Own Computer Models?...**

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Item	Component	Default Platinum Base System	Price	Help
CPU	Intel® Pentium® D 840 3.2GHz - 2 x 1MB L2 Cache		\$ 0	?
CPU Fan	Included with the Retail Box Processor		\$ 0	
Motherboard	Intel 945GNTLKR Executive Series Motherboard (ETA Mid Oct)		\$ 0	
Memory	2GB (2 x 1GB) DDR2 Memory - 667		\$ 0	?
Floppy Drive	NONE		\$ 0	
Case	COOLER MASTER Centurion 5 Case- Black w/Silver Trim- 450W PS		\$ 0	
Hard Drive	2x 320GB WESTERN DIGITAL Hard Drive- 7200RPM, 8MB Cache SATA		\$ 0	?
Video Card	None		\$ -0.01	?
Sound Card	On-Board 5.1 Sound		\$ 0	
Network	On-Board Network		\$ 0	
Accessories	None		\$ 0	
Keyboard & Mouse	LOGITECH diNovo Media Desktop Keyboard and Mouse		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Writer	HP 16x DVD+/- Double Layer LightScribe Drive		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Drives	LITEON 16X DVD ROM Retail, Black		\$ 0	
Miscellaneous	None		\$ 0	
OS	Microsoft Windows XP Pro, DSP		\$ 0	
			<b>Total Price</b>	
<input type="button" value="Printable View"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>			\$ 1946.99	

Let's think about this for a minute. The base systems are pre-configured by PC Club as a related set of boxes that can be taken off the shelf and shipped. If you're going to replace stuff to something that's off-the-shelf, it will take more effort and cost more money to do so if you start from something that will require more changes. The Silver base configuration needed to have the motherboard replaced, the processor replaced, the RAM replaced, the hard drive replaced by two hard drives, the power supply replaced, and the second optical drive to be replaced. This will take more effort than starting with the Platinum base system which required only the processor and second optical drive to be replaced. All of the other stuff were add-ons that can be added to the package whether it's the Silver base system or the Platinum base system. (By the way, don't ask me why using the on-board video is listed as "None" and valued at a one cent discount! I don't have a clue!)

So, here's the scoop on selecting the right base system:

*Pick the base system that's closest to your desired configuration, and that requires fewer replacements.*

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## What Are the Different Build-Your-Own Computer Models?...

(Continued from page 27)

OK, you've seen the Silver base system (that's the economy model) on page 23, and the Platinum base system (that's the premium model) on page 27, here's the Gold base system (the intermediate model):

Item	Component	Default Gold Base System	Price	Help
CPU	Intel® Pentium® D 820 2.8GHz, 2 x 1MB L2 Cache		\$ 0	?
CPU Fan	Included with the Retail Box Processor		\$ 0	
Motherboard	Intel 945GNTLR Media Series Motherboard PCI-E		\$ 0	
Memory	1GB (2 x 512MB) KINGSTON Valueram Memory DDR2 533		\$ 0	?
Floppy Drive	NONE		\$ 0	
Case	COOLER MASTER Centurion 5 Case- Black w/Silver Trim- 380W PS		\$ 0	
Hard Drive	160GB WESTERN DIGITAL Hard Drive- 7200RPM 8MB Cache SATA2		\$ 0	?
Video Card	On-Board Video Card		\$ 0	?
Sound Card	On-Board 5.1 Sound		\$ 0	
Network	On-Board Network		\$ 0	
Accessories	NONE		\$ 0	
Keyboard & Mouse	LOGITECH Cordless Desktop Optical		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Writer	LITEON 16X16 Double Layer DVD+/-RW Drive		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Drives	NONE		\$ 0	
Miscellaneous	NONE		\$ 0	
OS	Microsoft Windows XP Home, DSP		\$ 0	
			<b>Total Price</b>	
<input type="button" value="Printable View"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>			\$ 915	

Compared to the Silver base system, the Gold base system has a much faster dual-core processor, twice as much RAM, twice as large a hard drive, and a dual-layer DVD/CD burner.

I guess the next question is: what's the best configuration. No way, Jose! Not gonna get ME in THAT argument! One person's flowers are someone else's weeds, etc. etc. There's no BEST configuration, there's only what's going to work for each of us, base on what configuration we want and how much we can or are willing to spend. "So, Ron," you say, "what configuration are YOU going to buy?"

That I'm willing to answer. Here it is, starting from the Platinum base system which is closest to what I'm looking for. You'll see that I've added some things and haven't replaced anything except the keyboard and mouse and I did that because I have a per-

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**What Are the Different Build-Your-Own Computer Models?...***(Continued from page 28)*

factly good keyboard and mouse that I connect to my PCs and server through a KVM switch, and see no reason to replace. If I could, I'd select "None" for the keyboard and mouse. Maybe I can do that when I place my order by phone. Oh, and the other thing I'll do when I phone in my order is find out about increasing the one-year on-site service warranty to 3 or 4 years.

Item	Component	Ron's Platinum Configuration	Price	Help
CPU	Intel® Pentium® D 840 3.2GHz - 2 x 1MB L2 Cache		\$ 0	?
CPU Fan	Included with the Retail Box Processor		\$ 0	
Motherboard	Intel 945GNTLKR Executive Series Motherboard (ETA Mid Oct)		\$ 0	
Memory	2GB (2 x 1GB) DDR2 Memory - 667		\$ 0	?
Floppy Drive	1.44MB Black Floppy Drive		\$ 11	
Case	COOLER MASTER Centurion 5 Case- Black w/Silver Trim- 450W PS		\$ 0	
Hard Drive	2x 320GB WESTERN DIGITAL Hard Drive- 7200RPM, 8MB Cache SATA		\$ 0	?
Video Card	NVIDIA GeForce 6800 GT 256MB Video Card - PCI-E		\$ 289	?
Sound Card	On-Board 5.1 Sound		\$ 0	
Network	On-Board Network		\$ 0	
Accessories	None		\$ 0	
Keyboard & Mouse	LOGITECH Deluxe Desktop Optical Black		\$ -173	
CD/DVD Writer	HP 16x DVD+/- Double Layer LightScribe Drive		\$ 0	
CD/DVD Drives	LITEON 16X DVD ROM Retail, Black		\$ 0	
Miscellaneous	9-in-1 Internal Card Reader		\$ 17	
OS	Microsoft Windows XP Pro, DSP		\$ 0	
			<b>Total Price</b>	
<input type="button" value="Printable View"/> <input type="button" value="Reset"/> <input type="button" value="Add to Cart"/>			\$ 2091	

I've added a diskette drive, the NVIDIA 6800 GT 256 MB video card, and the 9-in-1 media reader. My price, \$2,091, is only \$144 more than the Platinum base system, partially because I'm getting a credit for downgrading the keyboard and mouse.

I selected a base model that includes a Pentium D processors are dual-core. That means that they will provide superior performance while running multiple applications, such as editing video while downloading music. Dual-Core provides two execution cores in one physical processor allowing the platform to do more in less time while enjoying smooth interaction with your PC. Dual-core processors will be compatible with the 64-bit version of Microsoft Windows Vista when it is released in 2006. The Gold base system includes the Pentium D 820 2.8 GHz processor, and the Platinum base system includes the Pentium D 840 3.2 GHz processor.

If you select the Silver or Gold base system, I recommend you select Windows XP Pro for \$50. It's a better OS at a bargain price.

**Linksys Travel Router Hardware Review** by Alan Mildwurm, DVPC



Ever need to set up a quick wireless network? I do. I teach a number of classes and our classroom does not have a wireless router. Actually, the Linksys Travel Router model WTR54GS was designed for the traveler who needs to set up a temporary wireless network. As it is designed for travel, it is very small with a built in antenna and retractable AC plug. It comes with a travel case and cable.

There's a built-in access point, which lets you connect Wireless-G and Wireless-B devices to the network. This unit supports Linksys' proprietary SpeedBooster standard. (You will need other SpeedBooster devices to utilize this benefit.) There's also an Ethernet port to connect your wired PC. The Router function ties it together and lets your PCs share a wired or wireless Internet connection. Small travel routers are now being made by several companies and one reason I went with the Linksys is that it also has a port for a wired machine.

Essentially all that needs to be done is plug the device into the wall and plug an Ethernet cable from your existing wired network into the Internet port on the travel router. Run the setup from the included CD-ROM and provide the necessary parameters for the network (your ISP or hotel will have this info). As with all routers, you can access the web based utility through the router's default address: <http://192.168.16.1> and change the router's settings.

In addition to all the usual router parameters, there are also settings for both Firewall (SPI) and Security (WEP, WPA). It also supports DHCP, VPN and UPnP.

Then use the Router's push button setup feature to connect and configure

**The Setup Tab - Basic Setup**

The first screen that appears displays the Setup tab. This allows you to change the Router's general settings.

**Internet Setup**

The Internet Setup section configures the Router to your Internet connection. Most of this information can be obtained from your ISP.

**Incoming Internet Type**

There are two options for Internet connection. You can use a wired connection or a wireless connection. The wireless connection can be used as a single Incoming wireless connection that others can share. Select the type of connection you want to use, Wired or Wireless, then continue to the section for that option.



Chapter 5: Configuring the Wireless-G Travel Router with SpeedBooster  
How to Access the Web-based Utility



Figure 5-2: Router Login Screen

*ip (internet protocol): a protocol used to send data over a network.*

*ip address: the address used to identify a computer or device on a network.*



Figure 5-3: Basic Setup

your wireless devices -- push the button on the Router and on your other SecureEasySetup-enabled wireless devices to automatically create an encryption-secured wireless connection (a Linksys feature!). You can also create a shared-access bubble attached to a wireless Internet connection to use multiple devices on a single hotspot account at your location.

I have been experimenting with this device at home and have set up an "internet bubble" at the school but have not yet had the opportunity to try it with several wireless devices. It works very well and in fact lives up to the advertising of being easy to configure.

*(Continued on page 31)*

**Linksys Travel Router Hardware Review...***(Continued from page 30)*

The MSRP is \$129.00. Here are the complete specifications.

**Specifications**

Model Number	WTR54GS
Standards	IEEE 802.3, IEEE 802.3u, IEEE 802.11b, IEEE 802.11g
Ports/Buttons	Internet: One 10/100 RJ-45 Port LAN: One 10/100 RJ-45 Port One Power slide One Reset Button, One SES Button
Cabling Type	UTP CAT 5
LEDs	Power, Wireless, Internet, Ethernet
Transmit Power	802.11g: 12.5 dBm Typical @Normal Temp Range (+/-1.5dBm); 802.11b: 16.5dBm@Normal Temp Range (+/-1.5dBm)
Receiver Sensitivity	11Mbps @ 90 dBm; 54Mbps @ -65dBm typical
UPnP able/cert	able
Security features	Stateful Packet Inspection (SPI) Firewall, Internet Policy
WEP key bits	Wi-Fi Protected Access™ (WPA), WEP, Wireless MAC Filtering

**Environmental**

Dimensions W x H x D	2.87" x 4.21" x 1.22" (73 mm x 107 mm x 31 mm)
Weight	5.22 oz. (0.148 kg)
Power	Built-in 100~240v AC
Certifications	FCC, IC-03, Wi-Fi (802.11b, 802.11g), WPA
Operating Temp.	32°F to 104°F (0°C to 40°C)
Storage Temp.	-4°F to 158°F (-20°C to 70°C)
Operating Humidity	20~85% Non-condensing
Storage Humidity	10~90% Non-condensing
Warranty	3-Years

## **A Laptop Display Replacement Story** by Mike Borman, SW Indiana PC Users Group

I have owned three different Toshiba laptop computers and was always impressed with how rugged they were. A couple of them have been used to collect CCD images from my telescope on cold and dewy nights without a problem. We have also used Toshiba laptops where I work to program and monitor Programmable Logic Controllers (PLCs) in industrial plants all across the tristate area without a problem. One even had water pouring down on it accidentally at one plant, and after letting it dry out a bit, was as good as new. So this past February when I decided I needed a new laptop, I once again chose a Toshiba, a Satellite A75. This one had a very nice 15.4" Trubrite TFT display.

Last month however, I discovered that my newest Toshiba laptop would not pass the drop test. I had been using it in the living room while watching TV, and had it resting on one of the arms of my recliner (which is wide enough to support the bottom of the laptop). Unfortunately, when I got up to get something out of the kitchen, the laptop slid off the arm of the recliner and fell a little over two feet to the carpeted floor. When I picked it up I noticed that the display had a crack in the upper right hand corner. I won't repeat the words I uttered!

I decided to take the computer back to Circuit City where I bought it, to see what my options were for fixing it. They told me that accidental breakage was not covered by the City Advantage plan they had sold me in February, and it was not covered by the Toshiba warranty either. Circuit City proposed sending it off to their Service Center in Louisville to see how much it would cost to replace the display. Unfortunately, they came back with an estimate of over \$1000 to fix it. A call to Toshiba informed me that replacing the screen would cost \$700 plus labor and shipping. Considering that I paid \$1400 for it new, either choice seemed a bit outrageous. I also found that it was not covered by my homeowner's insurance or personal articles policy.

I next decided to see if I could possibly replace the display myself. After searching on the Internet, I found a website called IDParts.com that had parts for most of the major brands of laptops. I gave them a call and asked them how much a replacement LCD display would cost for my Toshiba laptop. They said \$335. Since that was a lot better than paying Circuit City \$1000 or buying a new laptop, I went ahead and ordered one. It arrived in less than a week. Unfortunately when I opened the package I found a display more badly broken than the one I wanted to replace! More unmentionable words were uttered.

I called IDParts, and they agreed to take back the broken display and send me a new one. The second display arrived intact a couple days later.

My next task was to remove the existing LCD display. The IDParts website shows an example of a "typical" display replacement. It shows removing the little rubber pads that run around the perimeter of the display to reveal screws that hold the display together. When I removed the rubber pads from my display however, there were only screws under the two at the bottom of the display. With some careful probing with a screwdriver I found that the top of the display just snapped together. After getting off the bezel I found that the display LCD was attached to a metal frame with several tiny Philips head screws. Before removing the screws, I had to detach (very carefully) a ribbon cable and a power cable. Then, doing all the steps above in reverse, I installed the new LCD display. My main worry was with reattaching the ribbon cable. It was difficult to line up the two halves of the connector and feel whether it was properly connected. The ribbon cable was just barely long enough to reach the connector on the new LCD. Fortunately I did it right and the new display works fine again!

Mike Borman is an engineer with Three I Engineering, Inc. in Evansville. He is an advisor and past president of the Evansville Astronomical Society and has won national awards for astrophotography and model rocket building. His Web site is at <http://members.sigecom.net/mborman/>

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## **Network Your Home or Office Internet** by Ira Wilsker, APCUG

On my weekly radio show (KLVI 560AM 1-3pm Saturdays) I am frequently asked questions about connecting an internet source to a home network, such that several computers can simultaneously share the internet connection. This type of home networking is typically only practical if there is a broadband source, and generally impractical if the source is dialup, and a voice phone line is to be shared for internet access.

Basically, there are three good options available, and each has its relative advantages and disadvantages, and varies in terms of cost effectiveness based on individual circumstances. The three basic methods or technologies available for home or small office networking are wired, wireless, and "homeplug".

*(Continued on page 33)*

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

## **Network Your Home or Office Internet...**

*(Continued from page 32)*

Wired networking is a viable choice if it is practical to run a network cable between computers. The cable, which can be relatively inexpensive if purchased in bulk from electronics or home/hardware stores, but somewhat pricey if purchased in pre-cut sections at retail stores. Cable can be run through an attic, suspended from cup hooks along a ceiling, run along baseboards, or other methods that comply with appropriate safety and electrical codes. Other than running the cable, the installation of the network is fairly simple, and requires readily available and generally inexpensive hardware, manufactured by countless companies. A device called a router is connected to the broadband input, and the computers are connected via network cable to the router. Most wired routers come with a floppy or CD with simple configuration utilities that allow the network to be setup and functioning within minutes of connection. Wired routers can be purchased from discount stores, electronics stores, office supply stores, and a variety of other sources. Since almost all contemporary computers, both desktop and notebook, come with an integral network connector, generally no other hardware is required other than the router and cable. In terms of security, wired is generally the most secure method of networking. Many of the inexpensive wired routers include some type of hardware firewall to protect the network from intrusion, but it is still generally a good idea to have a software firewall on each computer.

One of the most popular methods of home or small office networking is wireless, often referred to with its industry standard designation, 802.11, with a letter suffix, such as an "a", "b", or "g". The suffix indicates which version of the standard hardware complies with in terms of frequency, and bandwidth. Generally, the least expensive and most widely used type is the 802.11b, which shares the same 2.4 GHz digital frequencies of many cordless phones and other household electronics, which may possibly cause some interference with the wireless connection. Under ideal conditions, 802.11b can transfer data at a rate of up to 11 megabytes per second (Mbps). The newer 802.11a and 802.11g standards offer higher transmission speeds, and will likely encounter less interference from household appliances, but some interference is always a risk.

To connect computers to a wireless network requires a wireless router, and a device called an "access point" for each computer. The main advantage to a wireless network is the ease of installation, and the flexibility of not being connected to a wire while surfing the net. The wireless router is connected to the broadband input, and an antenna on the router broadcasts the signal to the access points.

Range is a function of building construction and interference, but at typical household and small office distances and construction, a single router is typically adequate. Users should be sure to follow the instructions included with the router in terms of placement in order to maximize the signal. Many wireless routers include some form of hardware firewall, but again a software firewall on each computer is generally recommended. "Access Points" are generally small devices that attach to a computer either through a USB port, or to the network input on the computer. As they are radio transceivers, placement will affect performance. It is imperative to note that unless the integral encryption and other security options offered by the router and access points are implemented, there can be some serious security issues with wireless connections, in that it is easy for unauthorized persons to access the network.

Wireless routers and access points are readily available wherever electronics are sold, including discount stores, warehouse clubs, office supply stores, and other retailers. As the technology has been improving, prices have been plunging. Some provisos are in order at this point; first, be sure that whatever wireless hardware is purchased, be sure that it is compatible, in that the suffix "a", "b", or "g" match, although much of the hardware available today will work with any standard, often listed as "a/b/g".

A second proviso is the "weakest link" factor, in that a wireless (or any other network) connection is only as fast as the slowest segment. If a broadband connection is running at 2Mbps, a faster wireless connection may be wasted unless files or hardware (such as printers or video) are being shared among the network. It should also be noted that many of the new home theater devices now coming on the market utilize the same wireless interconnectivity and hardware as computers, and may require the newer and faster standards of connectivity.

There is a third technology available for home and small office networking that is still in its infancy, but holds a promising future, and most of the major networking hardware manufacturers such as Belkin, Linksys, GigaFast, IOGear, Netgear, and others are producing compatible hardware. This technology is called "Homeplug" ([www.homeplug.org](http://www.homeplug.org)) that can safely utilize the existing household electrical wiring as an already wired network. Homeplug compatible hardware is priced about the same as wireless, but is not yet as readily available as traditional wired or wireless hardware, but it may be worth the effort to shop for it. The standard, which meets UL and other safety requirements, is possibly the easiest to configure, has a 14Mbps bandwidth, and is more secure than wireless. To connect broadband to Homeplug, the broadband input is plugged into a Homeplug input device (similar to a router), and that device is then simply plugged into a standard wall electrical outlet. Any computer in the home, as well as many of the newer entertainment devices, are then connected to any other electrical outlet in the house via an adapter that connects to the computer with a traditional USB or network plug. In terms of security, the broadband signal does not typically pass through the household junction box, making it extremely difficult for neighbors and others to access the connection or network. As with all other forms of networking, a software firewall is still necessary on each computer.

If a user is bearing the cost of broadband, and has more than one computer in the home or office, then one of these networking technologies may be a useful method to connect those computers to the internet.

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