

April 1, 1999 Meeting Announcement

Imation

At our April, 1999 meeting *Imation* will demonstrate *SuperDisk*, a high-capacity replacement for floppy disk drives. You have full 1.44MB compatibility, plus support for the unique *Imation SuperDisk* media for 120MB capacity. *SuperDisk* drives are available in internal and external versions for PCs and Macs, and a special portable version for notebook computers that connects to a PC or Mac notebook computer through its PCMCIA slot. Internal drives connect to PCs through an IDE connection, and can replace the existing diskette drive. External drives are available that will connect to a parallel, SCSI, or USB port. If you've been thinking about getting a Zip drive, the *Imation SuperDisk* drive deserves your consideration – see it in detail at our April meeting!

Note that we'll also be holding our annual election for the *DVPC* Board of Directors. There are still a couple of openings, so if you're interested it's not too late! See Alan Mildwurm prior to the meeting.

DVPC meetings are held in the lobby conference room in Building B at the Bank of America Technology Center office complex in Concord, located near the northeast corner of Clayton Road at Galindo (see the Map to Monthly Meetings). Please use the main entrance of the building, which is in the center of the front of the building that faces Clayton road.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m. and the main meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. From 6:30 to 7:00 we'll have the *New User's SIG* meeting; you can visit the Networking Table if you have something to sell or trade, need technical help, or just want to exchange views; and, as usual, we'll have library disks and

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President's Corner

By [Alan Mildwurm](#), *DVPC*

As you can see from our minutes and calendar, we have many interesting presentations upcoming. I am working on getting a Y2K presentation put together.

Meanwhile, we are attempting to get our new Mentor program off the ground and would appreciate your volunteering your time and skills to help other members.

Speaking of volunteers, our elections are set for this month – we have a couple of openings on the board. The pay isn't great, but there *is* plenty to do. This could be your last chance for this year! Be sure to come and see me (or any of the other current Board members) prior to the start of the meeting.

See you in April!

3D Image Cube – A Software Review by [Alan Mildwurm](#), DVPC

While walking down the endless rows at Comdex, a screen with a rotating image cube caught my eye. Slowly rotating was a virtual cube with a different digital picture on each of the 6 faces. This photo cube is not unlike the acrylic ones many people have on their desks. The product by [TriVista](#) is very simple and intuitive. Simply launch the program, tell it where to look for your pictures, drag them onto the cube and you're done! A wizard can assist with the process but it almost isn't necessary!

This program is written in Java and requires a browser capable of VRML 2.0. You can set the cube to randomly rotate at various speeds. Controls can be hidden or available on screen to change the speed and rotation. There are 3 sizes for the cubes and carousels. There is also the ability to link each face to a URL. There is also a very simple but effective image editor for your pictures. A companion program allows you to print out your cube.

This program can be downloaded from www.trivista.com. There is a demo version which allows five pictures on the cube (the sixth is an advertisement) or you can purchase the entire program (by download) for \$19.95.

Adobe Acrobat Reader by [George Griffin](#), DVPC

I received the *Diablo Blue* notice, via email, that the latest edition was on the web site. After going through the user ID (*bluesomething*) and password dialog box, up came page one of the current issue. I noticed that at the bottom of page one was a notice that *Diablo Blue* can be downloaded and printed by using the [Adobe Acrobat Reader](#) software. Or, if you do not wish to print the issue, using the Acrobat Reader still makes an easy and handy way to download and read the whole edition, all you do is scroll up or down from page to page to suit your self. The files are in Adobe PDF format. PDF means Portable Document Format. That means that you can view or print any document, regardless of the program that originally created it, by viewing or printing its PDF output file. Of course, Adobe sells the software that creates these PDF files by sending them to an "Acrobat Printer".

Now, the big news: Adobe's Acrobat Reader is a **free download**, and it can be found at www.adobe.com. However, when you get to Adobe's web site, it's a real jungle. Free the Acrobat Reader may be, but you must wade through much that you are not interested in on your way to the page where the free download actually resides.

If you are using Windows 98 or Windows 95 OSR-2 (OEM Service Release 2), you must download version 3.01, because earlier versions have major troubles and they will often not print anything but garbage. The file I downloaded was 4,018,104 bytes long, and was named ar32e301.exe. Note that his version is for 32 bit only.

You can also download plug-in versions for Microsoft Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator. These plug-ins let you launch the Acrobat Reader from within your browser, simply by clicking on a PDF file link on a web page. This makes it easier, so you don't have to download the file then open it in the stand-alone version of Acrobat Reader. Convenient!

There are versions you can download for Windows 3.1, Macintosh, Linux, and more. And you have your choice of language, too: Japanese, Swedish, and so forth.

Note that Acrobat Reader version 4.0 is almost ready to ship – when you try your download you may find that it's this newest version. I can't comment about it, since I haven't seen it yet, or know what it contains.

In either case, Happy exploration!

Photo SIG Meetings by [Chuck Graham](#), DVPC

The Photo SIG will meeting the second Tuesday of the month for the near future. April 13th and May 11th for sure. We will continue to meet at Graham Family Photo, 5100-35 Clayton Road, Vineyard center corner of Clayton and Ayers, in Concord. The first meeting had a good crowd of 21 people. Jon McNally, Chief Photographer for the [Contra Costa Times](#), was one of our speakers. In May our planned speaker is Dave Chu a Rep. from Epson Printers and he also has his own consulting firm called Best DPI's. Several members are looking for a photo quality printer, and we'll be discussing options. In April? Come to the meeting and find out!

If you're interested in digital photography, or just curious, be sure to attend the Photo SIG meetings.

Microsoft Access Tip found on the Web by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

AVOID TRUNCATED DATA

When you copy data from an Access table to an Excel worksheet, you can unintentionally truncate field entries if you're not careful. To avoid doing so, you should use the Paste Special command instead of pressing Ctrl-v. First, select all the records in the Access table by clicking the table selector (the gray square at the top left corner of the table), then press Ctrl-c. Select the top left Excel cell of the range to which you want to copy the records. At this point, don't press Ctrl-V to paste the data as you normally would. Instead, pull down the Edit menu and choose the Paste Special command. If you use the regular Paste command or Ctrl-V, Excel truncates the data that's too long for the cell's current width.

Microsoft Internet Explorer Tip found on the Web by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

PROBLEMS WITH EUDORA 4.X AND INTERNET EXPLORER 5 BETA

Eudora is a favorite program for Internet mail. Unfortunately, if you're a daring soul who jumped on Microsoft's Internet Explorer Beta 5, you may experience problems: You may lose some HTML functionality in Eudora Pro when using the Microsoft viewer with Microsoft's Internet Explorer 5.0 beta version. The reason for the difficulty lies in the fact that Eudora Pro 4.x uses parts of Internet Explorer for viewing advanced HTML. At this time, there is no fix for this problem. Your best bet is to revert to the 4.x version of Internet Explorer and keep an eye on the Eudora Web site for updates: www.eudora.com.

Authors Wanted by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

We're in need for a few good men and women to write articles for *Diablo Blue*! No prior experience or degrees or credentials needed! Any computer-related subject is fair game... write what you know about, and share your knowledge and experiences with your fellow DVPC members. Hardware and software reviews are always interesting, and articles about your experiences can be even more interesting because they can help the rest of us understand something that you have experienced and learned from. Do you have a particular point of view about computing in general? DVPC's members want to hear about it. Do you have a complaint? A kudo? An atta-boy (or atta-girl)? Tell us!

Send your articles to your needy newsletter editor, at rogg@value.net, or send it by mail to Ron Ogg, P.O. Box 2222, Orinda, CA 94563. Or hand it to me at the monthly meeting. Just, please, write soon and write often!

SIG NEWS *Compiled by [Bill Earl](#), SIG Coordinator, DVPC, 939-5874*

See the DVPC Calendar on [page 16](#) for the date and time of each SIG meeting.

Access/Visual Basic SIG [Ron Ogg](#) (283-7900 Ext. 201) and [Ted Armstrong](#) (939-4096) SIG Co-Leaders

The Access/Visual Basic SIG meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. At our meeting on Tuesday, February 23 we're going to continue to enhance the DVPC membership roster program to add a feature that will let us automatically generate the monthly meeting announcement email messages. Even though this is an Access program, we'll be working in Visual Basic (VBA). If you are interested in Access or Visual Basic, be sure to join other programmers at this month's Access/VB SIG meeting.

The Access/Visual Basic SIG will have a table at the February DVPC meeting to tell everyone about our programs, which are open to all DVPC members. Stop by and say hello.

Check out the Access/VB SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_vbaccess – or navigate there from the DVPC home page (www.dvpc.org), select SIGs from the menu bar at the left, then click on the Access/VB SIG icon. See the web page or the Clarion SIG announcement below for directions to the meeting.

Advanced Users SIG [Jeff Noyer and Sharon Clark](#), SIG Co-Leaders – 937-5282

The Advanced Users SIG usually meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 336 El Divisadero Avenue in Walnut Creek. We won't be meeting in April; see you on May 20th! Directions: From downtown Walnut Creek, take Ygnacio Valley Road toward John Muir Hospital. Continue past Walnut *Boulevard* and John Muir Hospital. At the intersection of Ygnacio Valley Road and Walnut *Avenue*, turn right onto Walnut *Avenue*. At the first traffic light, turn right onto Blackstone Drive, then make the first right onto El Divisadero Avenue. Follow the road as it curves to the left. 336 El Divisadero Avenue will be on your right, immediately after the curve. It is a one-story, gray/brown house with white trim. The Advanced Users SIG is for anyone interested in discussing advanced topics such as hardware and software issues, cutting-edge technologies, networking, Windows NT Server and Workstation, troubleshooting, etc. Please join us to participate in this very informative and educational forum. We hope to see you at the meeting!

Clarion SIG [Ron Ogg](#), SIG Leader – 283-7900 Ext. 201

The Clarion SIG meets at 7:00 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Gateway Group's offices, 3687 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 350, in Lafayette. Check out the Clarion SIG on the web for information about each month's meeting at www.dvpc.org/sig_clar – or navigate there from the DVPC home page (www.dvpc.org), select SIGs from the menu bar at the left, then click on the CWSIG icon. TopSpeed's Clarion 5 is a powerful object-oriented database development tool that competes with products like Visual Basic and Delphi and even products like PowerBuilder. If you are an advanced Clarion developer you are invited to join the SIG. This is a SIG for advanced users, so beginners will want to get some hands-on experience before joining. Be sure to come early for a good seat; the meetings are very well-attended.

Directions: take Highway 24 west to the Central Lafayette exit, and keep to your left to the stop sign at Deer Hill Road at the end of the exit ramp. Turn left onto Deer Hill Road, and continue to where it dead ends at Happy Valley Road. Turn left onto Happy Valley Road. Turn right at the traffic signal at Mt. Diablo Blvd. Take Mt. Diablo Blvd. through the next traffic signal and turn left into the driveway at 3685/3687. Immediately turn right into the parking lot in front of 3687. Take the elevator to the third floor to the door on the right just before the end of the hallway. See the Clarion SIG's Web page for a map. If you get lost, call Ron Ogg at 283-7900 Ext. 215.

Education and Entertainment SIG [Alan Mildwurm](#), SIG Leader – 510-770-5770

The Education & Entertainment SIG meets on the fourth Wednesday of each month at Montevideo School in San Ramon at 7:30 p.m. Call Alan at (510) 770-5770 (work) to confirm the date. The E&E SIG is oriented to exploring the

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SIG NEWS...

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best in education and entertainment software for the PC. Everyone is invited to attend our meetings, and bring your kids along – they'll have a great time, too! Directions: Take 680 to Bollinger Canyon Road, go west to San Ramon Valley Blvd., go south to Montevideo Rd. and turn left. Proceed east on Montevideo about 3 blocks to Broadmoor and turn left. The school is 1 block on the right. We meet in Room 22.

Internet SIG [Craig Peterson](#), SIG Leader – 671-7025

The Internet SIG meets on the third Wednesday of each month at Computer Renaissance, 959 Contra Costa Blvd. in Pleasant Hill. We cover everything about the Internet, from browsing and email to creating your own web site and the tools for doing so. For more information, please call Craig Peterson at 671-7025 or him an email message at CDPeterson@Compuserve.com.

Microsoft Project SIG [Elias Asmar](#), SIG Leader – 299-8500

The Microsoft Project SIG meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. on the third Monday of each month at InterPro ADF's office at 3569 Mt. Diablo Blvd., Suite 210. Park in the lot behind Radio Shack. The entrance to suite 210 is at the back of the building. Enter through the door marked "210" at the parking lot end of the walkway from the street and take the stairs to the second floor. Everyone who is interested in Microsoft Project and project management is invited to attend. If you plan on attending, please call Elias Asmar at 925-299-8500, Fax 925-299-8511, or send an email message to him at: elie.asmar@iadf.com.

New Users SIG [Bill Earl](#), SIG Leader – 939-5874

The New Users SIG holds its meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior to the regular DVPC monthly meeting on the first Thursday of each month at Bank of America building B. We discuss whatever is confusing or puzzling new PC users. If you are a new user of PCs who would like to meet with other new users – and some experienced users who can answer your questions as well – then join us at the New Users SIG meetings at 6:30 p.m. prior to each DVPC monthly meeting.

Photo SIG [Chuck Graham](#), SIG Leader – 680-1333

The Photo SIG meets on the second Tuesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at Graham Family Photo, 5100-35 Clayton Road, Concord, in in the Vineyard Center, next to Kmart, at the corner of Ayers and Clayton. The Photo SIG is for anyone who is interested in digital photography, and the software that's used to manipulate photo image files. The March meeting is the kickoff meeting for this new DVPC SIG. If you are interested in digital photography and image editing software, be sure to attend the Photo SIG meetings each month.

Real Estate SIG [Bill Thompson](#), SIG Leader – 693-0174

The Real Estate SIG meets on the third Monday of each month. Because we're still tying down the meeting location, you will have to check with Bill Thompson for the time, location, and directions. Our February meeting will be held on the 15th, and we'll have an exciting program for our members. We have limited seating so you **must RSVP for this one**. Please contact SIG Leader Bill Thompson at 925-998-8530 or email him at thompson@DLSNetwork.com.

Windows SIG [Ron Ogg](#) (283-7900 Ext. 201) and [Walt Parsons](#) (934-0775), SIG Co-Leaders

The Windows SIG meets at the Community Room at the Concord Police Department Building on the fourth Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. Everyone who uses, is interested in, or is curious about Windows on their PC, is invited to attend. See you all at the next Windows SIG meeting.

Here are directions: The Concord Police Department is at 1350 Galindo Street in Concord. From the 242 Freeway take Clayton Road east to Galindo and turn right; the Police Department building is 3 blocks south on your left. From Highway 24 take Monument Blvd. east and continue on Monument Blvd. to where it changes to Galindo; the Police

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SIG NEWS...

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Department building will be on your right a short distance past the signal at Cowell Road.

WordPerfect SIG [Walt Parsons](#), 934-0775, SIG Leader

It is with great regret that I announce that the Word Perfect SIG will go on hiatus at least until the new version of Word Perfect comes out this Spring. The attendance had dropped off dramatically, with several meetings where nobody signed up to attend. Another option would be for somebody else to take over the SIG. Perhaps having somebody new as the WordPerfect SIG chairperson would attract more people. *IF* nobody takes over the SIG, and if I decide to revive the SIG, there will be a notice printed in *Diablo Blue* and on the web site. If you're interested, you can contact me by e-mail at waltnewf@pacbell.net.

Switch to the Diablo Blue Web Edition

*"I am a real computer person and as such recognize the ultimate reality of the '**Paperless Society**'. In keeping with this spirit and in an effort to help DVPC reduce overhead costs, I say "Nay" to a written newsletter. Give it to me electronically, I want to get my copy of DVPC's *Diablo Blue* off the Web. (I can always print it out on blue paper and don't even have to admit that I did!)"* Turn in this form at the monthly meeting – or email to nopaper@dvpc.org

N a m e :

A d d r e s s :

C i t y :

State: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Support *Diablo Blue* Advertisers!

Membership Drive!

Bring a Friend! Bring a Co-Worker! Bring a Neighbor! Bring Several People!

Get Them to Join DVPC!

For Each Guest You Will Receive an Extra Raffle Ticket!

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes not by [Tom Krauss](#), DVPC

Meeting Date: 3/11/98 **Time:** 7:00 p.m. **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

Bank Account: \$1,000 (Approximately)

Upcoming Speakers:

April: [Imation](#) – High-Capacity Removable Media Drives

May: [Symantec](#) – Norton Utilities 4 and AntiVirus; [Enfish](#) – Tracker Disk Organization Software

June: [American Power Conversion](#) – Uninterruptable Power Supplies

July: [Corel](#) – WordPerfect 9 and WordPerfect Office 2000

August: [Lernout and Hauspie](#) – Speech Recognition Software

*I couldn't miss another Board meeting, or Alan/Ron might make a push for my job, arguably the easiest one on the Board, so here I was. And a good thing, too. I had forgotten that Board elections are coming up at the April meeting. I don't want to give the other Boardettes an excuse for running someone against me. So light the Beacon of Truth, and settle down for few minutes reading of the continuing antics of the **BOARD THAT COULDN'T STOP TALKING.***

Old Business:

Mentors: Peggy presented a list of categories for participants in the Mentor program to sign up for and passed it around during the meeting. Ron let his Dark Side, *Mr. Editor*, loose on it, and I had difficulty reading between the arrows and notations, but as usual I was able to correct a few of his more blatant errors. Ron had a copy of the mentoring categories from the Sacramento users' group that we used to double check for ideas. They actually had a couple of categories for things that Ron had never heard of! This program is just about ready for

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Email Meeting Notification Available by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

We're providing an Email Notification service for the DVPC monthly meeting, and for SIGs as well, for all current, paid-up members. If you're interested in receiving an email message announcing each monthly meeting, and for the SIGs you attend, fill out this form and mail to the address on page 16 of this copy of *Diablo Blue*. Note that there's no separate notification for the New Users SIG since it's held on the same night as the monthly meeting.

Send me Email notification of each monthly DVPC meeting:

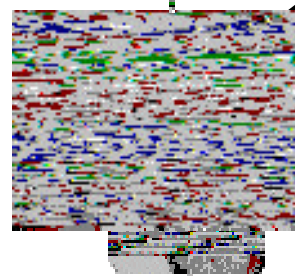
Name _____

Email Address _____

Also send me Email notification of each of the SIG meetings I've checked below:

Access/VB SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Microsoft Project SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Advanced Users SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Photo SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clarion SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Real Estate SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Education and Entertainment SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>	Windows SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>
Internet SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>

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Now you can *prove* you
have superior brains!



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- Web Hosting
- Centrex ISDN
- Custom Business Solutions

Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes...

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prime time.

Links that Pay: At the October 8, 1998, Board meeting (check the minutes – five months ago) Ron informed us that if we would put a link on our web site to Amazon.com they would pay us a percentage of any sales that occurred as a result of people using that link to get to the Amazon.com web site. There was general interest on the part of the Board, so Ron agreed to research it further. Tonight we got his report: If we put a link on our web site to Amazon.com they will pay us a percentage of any sales that occur as a result of people using that link to get to the Amazon.com web site.

Ron also reported that a significant percentage of our members can read, and many have been known to purchase books. Furthermore, qualifying sales are not limited to our members, but can be from anyone who surfs into our site and uses the link. And finally, Panda has made a similar proposal.

There was some debate, during which we told Stan that he was against this while he told us that he wasn't. Finally it was suggested that we create a "Commercial" page on the web site where these links and notices of local vendors which give DVPC members discounts could be segregated, along with appropriate non-disclosure statements.

It may seem to the casual reader that this issue has taken up far more space than it merits in these minutes, and normally you would be correct. But this was not a normal event tonight because... **we moved, seconded and voted on it!** I mean, it *was* the last meeting of this year's Board! Peggy got so excited she wanted to vote again, but Craig was able to distract her and calm her down with five minutes of listing web sites and software titles for modifying GIF files. It was reminiscent of the listing of shrimp recipes in the movie "Forrest Gump".

Oh yeah. It passed. Unanimously.

New Business:

Raffle Tickets: Peggy's understanding of our policy was confirmed: If you have one paid membership and your whole family attends a meeting, you do not *each* get a ticket. One ticket per *membership*. Also, raffle tickets are sold to non-members for \$2 per ticket versus \$1 per ticket to members.

Elections: We have three openings on the Board. Alan's plea at the last meeting for volunteers was apparently not heard by any members. The good news is that none of the current Board members will have to go through the usual time-consuming and expensive campaign process. The bad news is that we are left with two alternatives: Cut the size of the Board down from eleven, or kidnap and brainwash several members ala Patty Hearst. My suggestion to reward the next three new members to sign up with positions on the Board was not too warmly received.

Kidnapping, or at least brainwashing, was the favorite of the Board, who wisely saw that although fewer Board members means more pizza and cake at Board meetings, it also means more work. So if you see Board members staring at you and whispering, head for the exit. Or step up, volunteer, and help DVPC out! It doesn't take much time, it's not hard work, and once or twice a year you get to vote on something.

Genealogy SIG: Peggy wants one. She was referred to Nick Chase, who had volunteered to be SIG Coordinator not five minutes before, for advice and assistance as to how to get the new SIG going.

Y2K: Alan mentioned he had seen something about a Y2K User Group in San Francisco. He is going to try to

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ShareNet for

DIABLO VALLEY PCUG



Panda Antivirus



Coming Soon! You will be able to download the latest shareware version of Panda Antivirus from the *DVPC* web site. If you then decide to purchase the full version by clicking on the **Order** button on your shareware copy, you will be taken to the Panda Software web site and you'll be able to enter your order information and download the latest full version. **And DVPC** will benefit as well with a share of the revenue for our treasury!

What users get from Panda Antivirus Platinum registered version:

- **Lifetime Intelligent Updates** of Virus Signature Database files
- One year of **Intelligent Upgrades** of the new versions of Panda Antivirus Platinum
- 24h-365d personalized **Technical Support** from Panda Software
- 24 hour **SOS Virus Hotline**: solutions to new viruses within 24 hours

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes...

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get them to come to our next meeting and tell us about Y2K: what to look for, how to protect your computer and software, where to buy dried food and weapons, etc. I recklessly volunteered to write an article on the subject.

Acclaim: Stan pointed out something that many of us had noted: Peggy has brought enthusiasm, dedication and fresh ideas to the Board meetings and to her office as Membership Director. We acknowledged her contributions with a short burst of applause which, coming only a few minutes after our vote, completely wore us out. (Craig commented he could hardly raise his arms, he was so tired.) We spent the next hour almost exclusively talking about things that had no direct bearing on DVPC, and finally worked up the energy to leave at about 9:30.

Monitoring MTS Transactions with MS DTC by [Bruce Feld](#), DVPC

After installing Windows 98 along with MTS (Microsoft Transaction Server), I had the annoying problem of the dialer connecting to my ISP every time the computer started. I found this buried in the MTS readme file. After removing the specified value from the registry, the problem ceased.

The documentation for starting and stopping Microsoft DTC on Microsoft Windows 95/98 should read as follows:

By default, the Microsoft Distributed Transaction Coordinator (MS DTC) is configured to start automatically when a Windows NT or Windows 95/98 system starts. To prevent MS DTC from automatically starting after rebooting a Windows 95/98 computer, use the registry editor to find the `KEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices` registry key and then delete the value entry named `MSDTC`. If you want to enable automatic startup of MS DTC again, use the registry editor to create a value entry named `MSDTC` with the string value "`msdtcw -start`" under the `HKEY_LOCAL_MACHINE\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\RunServices` registry key.

Note that the name of the service is "`msdtcw`," not "`msdtc`", and that there is a space before the hyphen in "`msdtcw -start`".

Installing the Office 2000 Beta by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

Danger, Danger, Will Robinson! Those who attended the March DVPC meeting received a copy of the beta version of Microsoft Office 2000. If you haven't installed it yet, here are a couple of cautions:

1. Do **not** select the option that will replace your current version of Microsoft Office with Office 2000 beta. This is **beta** software, and is **not** bug-free. You should run it as a test version, and be able to return to your earlier, production version for your day-to-day use.
2. Even if you tell it not to, it appears that the Office 2000 Beta installation routine will install the Internet Explorer 5 beta, replacing your prior version. If this happens to you, be **sure** to download and install the production version of Internet Explorer 5, which is now available on Microsoft's web site at <http://www.microsoft.com/msdownload/iebuild/msnie5/EN/msn.asp>. If you have Windows 98, you can select *Windows Update* from the Start menu and pick IE 5 from the Recommended Updates section.

WinZip 7.0 Review by Jim Gaffney, SouthWest International Personal Computer Club

New Features, Same Great Product

It was in April of 1997 (has it really been that long?) that I reviewed NikoMak Computing's *WinZip* archive management utility and recommended that it become a part of your standard windows tool set. Since that date, I have found no better or simpler tool to accomplish the job. WinZip gets the job done with minimum effort and via a very intuitive user interface. In October of this year, NikoMak released WinZip 7.0. True to past performance, the new release incorporates some significant and nifty features.

In spite of the capability to use filenames of up to 255 characters in Windows 95/98, zip file creators frequently eschew the facility out of habit and use a semi-meaningless 8-character filename. As you will recall, ZIP files on computer Bulletin Board systems commonly contain a comment file that allows for a description of what the contents of the file are supposed to do. WinZip 7.0 has the capability to both display and create those comments. I have been busily engaged in adding comments to many of the ZIP files in my archive libraries so that I can recall why I downloaded something in the first place – while maintaining the author's assigned filename so I don't create duplicate files.

WinZip has always supported not only the PKWare ZIP compressed format, but also a wide variety of archive formats including LZH, ARJ, ARC, TAR, Z, GZ, UUCODE, BINHEX and MIME. Version 7.0 now adds Microsoft's propriety CAB file to the mix. No longer do I need to keep the “CABVIEW” utility on my system to unearth the contents of CAB files – WinZip does that job too. And before you ask – no, you can't comments to CAB files. It is not a problem with WinZip, but rather that the archive design specification does not provide for comments (complain to Microsoft, not NikoMak).

Are you one to hardcopy lists to tweak you memory? WinZip 7.0 provides a print facility for the information listed in the main WinZip window. And speaking of that window, its columns are now resizable and selectable – you can configure the display to turn any of the columns on and off. Clicking on the header for a column (name, modification date, size, compression ratio, path, etc.) sorts by the data in that column. Click it again and the sort order is reversed. NikoMak has even thoughtfully provided an indicator arrow to show on which column the information is sorted and in which order (up/down). The overall feeling is much like using spreadsheet – you can hide columns, drag-and-drop rearrange them and sort on them.

(Continued on page 13)

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WinZip 7.0...

(Continued from page 12)

The toolbar is, of course, also configurable. Twenty-one (21) buttons are available for the user to customize the interface. Use of the toolbar requires version 4.71 or later of the Windows Common Control library. If you are using Windows 98 or Internet Explorer 4.0 – you already have the library. If you use neither of them, the library is available from Microsoft as a separate download.

Do you frequently download archive files from the Internet and then worry that they might contain a virus? WinZip will interface with most major virus scanner packages – including McAfee and Norton Anti-Virus – to check out archive member files before you extract them.

Included, as part of the package, is WINZIP Self-Extractor personal edition. If you have need to provide an archive to an associate who is not “ZIP literate”, you can send them an executable file which will automatically extract member files when it is run. Better yet, if your file is too large to fit on a single floppy disk (or other removable media), WINZIP Self-Extractor will even “chunk up” your large file onto multiple disks.

To help you learn how to use WINZIP, the program Help menu provides a tutorial to get you started. There are also “Tips of the Day” which may optionally be displayed every time you start the program or may be accessed via the program help menu. Learning the program is not difficult; the user interface is extremely intuitive. But don't take my word for it; try the program for yourself by downloading the evaluation version from <http://www.WinZip.com>. My bet is that you'll soon be registering the shareware for a very reasonable \$29. I did several years ago when the version number was somewhere in the 5's. Since then I've been enjoying the product and getting free upgrades. Great product, great support.

This article was reprinted from the December, 1998 issue of Throughput, the Journal of the SouthWest International Personal Computer Club. Copyright 1998 by the SouthWest International Personal Computer Club

Become a Mentor by [Alan Mildwurm](#), DVPC

DVPC has a large number of knowledgeable members who are intermediate to expert users of various software packages. We're going to resurrect our Mentor program and take advantage of this storehouse of knowledge and let members share their knowledge with other members. If you use particular software packages, and would like to help other members when they have questions about any of those packages, you are a candidate for becoming a Mentor. Check the web site and the April issue of *Diablo Blue* for a Mentor Information Form, and help your fellow DVPC members

Swap Meet Coming? by [Alan Mildwurm](#), DVPC

In the past years DVPC held several popular swap meets. These swap meets let members sell computer hardware and software that they didn't need, and let members and guests buy lots of great computer stuff at bargain prices. Well, it could be back! We need to know if you want to go through your closets, cabinets, drawers, and computer slush pile and get those unused but usable items ready for a Swap Meet, and what month you would want it to happen. We'll ask for your opinions at the March meeting; if you can't make the meeting, email your comments to Alan Mildwurm at awm@mildwurm.com.

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 articles about your PC experiences.

Commercial advertising is available in Diablo Blue. Prices are \$75 for a full page, \$40 for a half page, and \$25 for a quarter page for one insertion – or get three consecutive insertions for the price of two. For more information, call editor Ronald Ogg, at 283-7900, Ext. 201 (days). Members of DVPC can submit personal classified ads that will be printed in Diablo Blue for three insertions at no charge. The rules are simple: up to 9 lines (as we typeset 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 articles or member ad copy as email attachments to the [Newsletter Editor](#), or mail to: Editor, Diablo Blue, P.O. Box 2222, Orinda, CA 94563-2222. See the deadline information in the Calendar on page 15 of each issue of Diablo Blue.

DVPC on the Internet

DVPC has a web site on the Internet – thanks to our Web Team: Cindy Barnes, 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:

<http://www.dvpc.org>

DVPC Officers and Directors

Alan Mildwurm, President/Programs 770-5770 (work) Cindy Barnes, Recruitment, Web Site
Nicholas Chase, Special Events 680-4211 (home) Charlie Crothers, Publicity 829-2237 (home)
Bill Earl, SIG Coordinator 939-5874 (home) Peggy Johnson, Membership Secretary 676-7522 (home)
Tom Krauss, Secretary 689-9960 (home) Jessica Mildwurm, Treasurer 829-5858 (home)
Ron Ogg, Newsletter Editor 283-7900 x201 (work) Craig Peterson, Librarian 671-7025 (home)
Stan Umlauf, Web Site 458-5560 (home)

The Board of Directors usually meets on the Wednesday evening following the general meeting each month. Check the DVPC Calendar on page 16 of each issue of *Diablo Blue*, or the DVPC home page on the Internet (www.dvpc.org) 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 leaving a message on the DVPC voicemail System.

DVPC Voice Mail System

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

Diablo Blue is the monthly newsletter of the Diablo Valley PC User's Group. Editor: Ronald Ogg, Mailing: Peggy Johnson
Please submit articles and columns to the Newsletter editor by email at rogg@value.net or mail them to:

Ronald Ogg, P.O. Box 2222, Orinda, CA 94563-2222

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Support DVPC – Get a friend to join!

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Enclose a check for \$30.00 for one year's dues with printed edition of *Diablo Blue* or \$25.00 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 User's Group, PO Box 667, Danville, CA 945296

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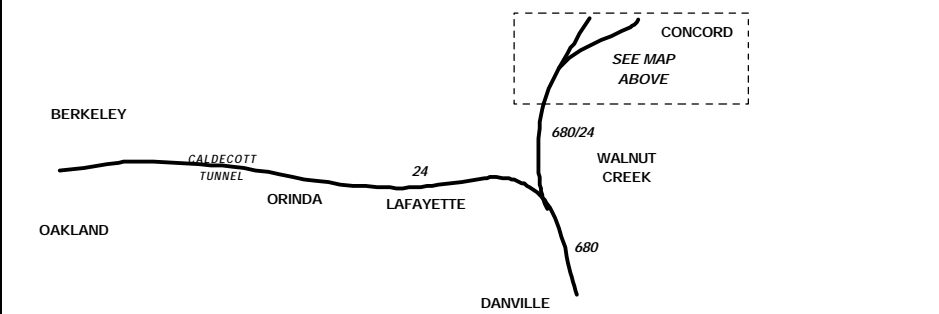
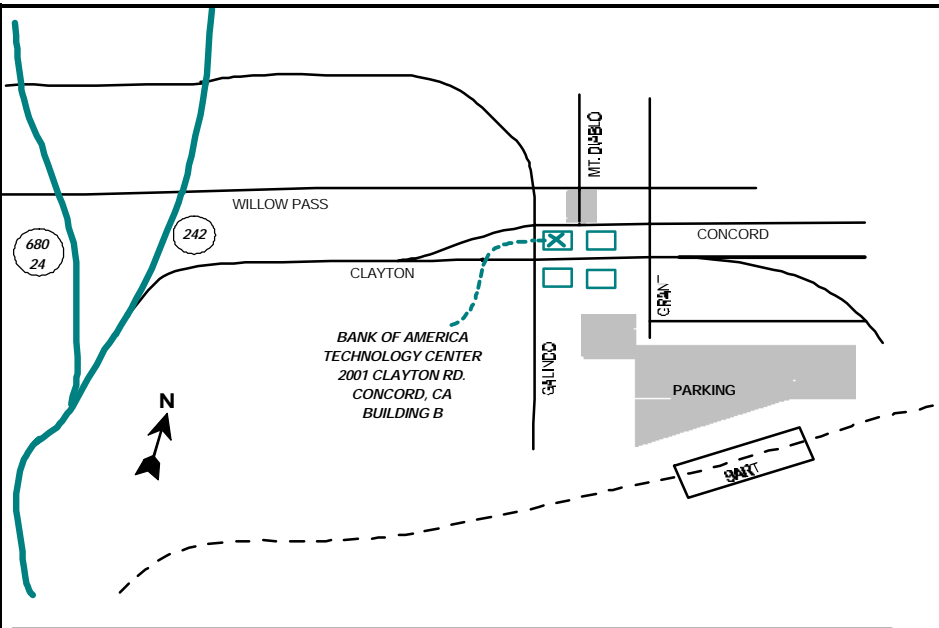
City/State/Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work Phone: _____

Email Address: _____

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

I'm also interested in these SIGs: _____



Directions to Bank of America Building B in Concord

Take the Clayton Road exit off of the 242 Freeway, and go east on Clayton Road.

After about 1½ miles you'll come to Galindo, and you'll see the Bank of America complex of four high-rise office buildings.

Building B is the first building on your left, at the northeast corner of Clayton and Galindo.

Parking: Turn right on Grant Street (the first block past Galindo), then right into the BART parking lot at the back of the BofA complex. Or turn left on Galindo then right onto Concord Avenue to find street parking.

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

DVPC April 1999 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
<p>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</p>			<p style="text-align: right;">1</p> <p>DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New User's SIG 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">2</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">5</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">6</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">7</p> <p>Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">8</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">9</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">12</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">13</p> <p>Photo SIG 7:00 p.m. <i>New SIG</i></p>	<p style="text-align: right;">14</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">15</p> <p>Advanced Users SIG <i>No Meeting in April!</i> 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">16</p> <p><i>Diablo Blue deadline</i> Email articles and ads to the Newsletter Editor: rogg@value.net</p>
<p style="text-align: right;">19</p> <p>Microsoft Project SIG 7:30 p.m. Real Estate SIG 9:00 a.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">20</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">21</p> <p>Internet SIG 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">22</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">23</p> <p>Windows SIG 7:30 p.m. <i>New night starting this month</i></p>
<p style="text-align: right;">26</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">27</p> <p>Access/Visual Basic SIG 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">28</p> <p>Education & Entertainment SIG 7:30 p.m. Clarion SIG 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">29</p>	<p style="text-align: right;">30</p>

Diablo Valley PC User's Group
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