

March 4, 1999 Meeting Announcement Microsoft Office 2000

At our March, 1999 meeting Microsoft will demonstrate the latest incarnation of the world's most popular office suite, *Office 2000*. It's still in beta, but is expected to ship this spring. You'll see the latest features, including the ability to save any document in HTML format so it can be viewed on the web exactly as it would be viewed in the application where it was created. We'll also see how individual Office 2000 applications have been more tightly integrated, with interfaces and command sets that are common across the entire suite. We'll see all of the members of the suite, including Word, Excel, PowerPoint, Access, PhotoDraw, and more, and we'll find out about the different ways it's packaged. Be sure to arrive early to get a good seat for what will be a very popular 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; the Real Estate SIG will be manning a table to tell you all about this unique SIG and their very interesting meetings; 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 those great DVPC mugs (version 2) for sale. The main meeting will include SIG news, random access, our program, and some of our usual great door prizes. See you at this

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President's Corner

By [Alan Mildwurm](#), DVPC

What a difference a month makes! Last month our calendar of upcoming events was in a great deal of flux. I am happy to report that things seem to have settled down, and as a result I feel our presentation calendar is under control. As things stand now, we have the following presentations booked:

March: [Microsoft](#) with a presentation of Office 2000. This should be a very interesting presentation. I have several Beta copies of this product, and we will raffle them at the meeting. This is a meeting you will definitely want to attend!!

April: [Imation](#). This spin-off of 3M's data storage and imaging businesses is the maker of the new 120 MB removable-media disk drive that is compatible with standard 3.5 floppy disks as well as Imation's high capacity disks. In April we also have our elections. There will be

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Ken's Korner 1 – Prehistoric DTP by [Ken Fermoyle](#)

Or, Publishing in the Stone Age

While preparing to start a desktop publishing (DTP) SIG recently within my home user group (Technical & User Group Network, or TUG-NET, San Fernando Valley, Calif.), I ran across material that brought some chuckles, and memories. It took me back to the Stone Age of producing print material with very early microcomputers, before the term "desktop publishing" was coined. And even earlier. That prompted this little article, which I share in the hope that you also might find it amusing, and that it might trigger memories of some of the more outrageous work-arounds you used back in the days when computers were less sophisticated. I feel also that it makes a good introduction for me and this new column, helping you "know" the faceless writer to some small degree...

Back in the '70s and early '80s, I produced newsletters and such using three typewriters: an old Olympic portable with Elite type, an IBM electric with proportional type (pre-Selectric, but I forget the model) and another machine with big Orator type. The latter normally was used for speeches, but I used it for headlines. Doing a typical newsletter involved switching a page from one typewriter to another frequently – and lots of WhiteOut!

Then came microcomputers. Wow, what progress. Or was it? Changing fonts and type sizes wasn't a whole lot easier than with my old 3-typewriter setup. During user group meetings then, we had many discussions about utilities that made it possible to do such fancy things as bolding and italics. Wonder of wonders.

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President's Corner...

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some spots open on the Board so contact me if you are interested in running. If no one volunteers, we'll just **pick** some volunteers like we did last year :-] (sadistic grin)!

May: [Symantec](#) and [Enfish](#). *Symantec* will show a host of their new programs including the latest versions of Norton Utilities and AntiVirus, but we will also see some of their new products including their Y2K software. *Enfish* has *Tracker*, a program for organizing and tracking all of the information stored on your hard drive. I have seen a few demos of this software and it looks good. See the review of *Enfish Tracker* in the January, 1999 issue of *Diablo Blue*.

June: American Power Conversion, makers of UPS systems, will tell us everything about the reason we should all have a UPS on our systems. I saw a presentation by APC at Comdex and it was very interesting. I think this will be an enlightening meeting!

July: [Corel](#) – can it be?? Really?? Hopefully, this time, it won't be snowing in Canada, or Utah, or wherever! What can I say – let's just hope that the third time is charmed! (Or is this the fourth time?) As you can see, we have taken the Swap Meet off the June calendar, and we're trying to find the right place for it. What we are concerned about is whether or not the members are interested in actually *having* a swap meet. Our straw poll results are ambivalent. Let us know if you would be interested, and we'll slot it in.

Also at the March meeting *DVPC* will debut its new computer. In light of the new Pentium III and K6-II chips, it's nothing to write home about (but I am, anyway). The system is running the K-5 given to us by [IDT/WinChip](#). We have a decent 3D video card, CD-ROM, sound card, etc. It will make its first appearance at the Robert Austin Computer Show doing a Powerpoint presentation about *DVPC*. We plan to have it at the meetings to demonstrate library software, and essentially be a backup system during the meetings. I hope as time goes on we find many uses for this machine.

We are also restarting our Mentor program. There will be a sign-up form on the web site and in next month's issue of *Diablo Blue* so you can volunteer your time and expertise. There is a true gold mine of information in our club. We see that every month at Random Access. It would be nice to be able to tap into this knowledge base more often. Please con-

Access/VB SIG Table at March Meeting by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

The Access/VB SIG will host a table at the March meeting on the 4th from 6:30 to 7:00 to tell members and guests all about the SIG. This is DVPC's SIG for Access, VB (Visual Basic), and VBA (Visual Basic for Applications) developers, beginners, intermediate, and advanced. Stop by the Access/VB SIG table and learn more about the very interesting meetings put on by the SIG, and how you can attend. Visit their web pages at www.dvpc.org/sig_vbaccess.html.

We're going to have a different SIG man a table at each of DVPC's monthly meetings. The Access/VB SIG is now in March; look for next month's *Diablo Blue* to find out which SIG will be at the April meeting.

Ken's Korner 1...

(Continued from page 2)

Doing two columns on a page was the Holy Grail we pursued, and you may not believe how I finally accomplished it. But I'll tell you anyway.

A full-page-width head ran at top, under the masthead. (I had cheated on that; had a friendly typesetter do it for me and make numerous repro copies, which I pasted on by hand.) Below the head I started entering the lead story, also full width, or two columns. I did about the first five or six lines like that, but then came the tricky part.

I had set the tabs so that I could type a line that went halfway across the page, the width of the left column. Then I would hit the tab key and go to where the second (right-hand) column started.

So, when I got to where I wanted to start the two columns, I did the first line of the head for story #2 in bold caps, hit the tab key, and wrote the next line for lead story. I continued that process all the way down the page: first a line for story #2, tab, and another line for the lead story.

I even had column 2, the lead story, justified! Column 1 was ragged right, but not terribly so. Took a lot of backing and filling to accomplish that.

The kicker is that I didn't write the stories in advance and then copy them into place; I made 'em up as I went along. It was one of my finest hours, folks! Of course, everybody else thought I was nuts. "Why didn't you just type the stuff up in single columns and paste 'em in place?" they asked.

Why, indeed? Like the man said about the mountain: it was there, a challenge not to be ignored.

Then came things like the 0.7 Beta version of Ventura Publisher, accompanied by a couple of dozen poorly-copied pages which eventually would grow to a full-fledged User Manual. That was another challenge for a novice software tester. Now we have \$75 DTP programs that are astoundingly powerful. And \$500 software that can do what used to require teams of professionals and machines costing many, many thousands of dollars.

But I'm glad I was around during the Stone Age. It wasn't always easy, but it was fun.

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Ken Fermoye has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy and Popular Science to MacWeek, Microtimes & PC Laptop. He was cohost/producer of radio talk show on computers and a partner in a DTP service bureau during the '80s. Fermoye Publications currently offers editorial, consulting & graphics design services. He can be reached at kfermoyle@earthlink.com.

Get Involved! Learn!
Join a SIG today!

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 meets on the third Thursday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at 336 El Divisadero Avenue in Walnut Creek. 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 :

S t a t e : _____ Z i p : _____ P h o n e : _____

Ken's Korner 2 – Mouse or Trackball Acting Up? by [Ken Fermoyle](#)

Some months back I wrote two articles (*Keep It Clean, Parts 1 & 2*) about the importance of keeping your computer clean to keep it operating properly. They obviously struck a nerve because they have been among the most widely reprinted and requested *Ken's Korner* columns to date.

I just had an experience that underscored the cleanliness message, one that involved a vital part of any computer system: the mouse or other pointing device.

Since those earlier articles didn't cover the care and cleaning of mice, I thought it would be good to share my experience with you.

(Actually, I use a Logitech *TrackMan* trackball, not a mouse, but the problem and cleaning procedure outlined below are similar for either type of pointing device.)

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

Meeting Date: 2/11/98 **Time:** 7:00 p.m. **Location:** Alan Mildwurm's house

Bank Account: \$1,000 (Approximately)

Upcoming Speakers:

March: [Microsoft](#) – Office 2000

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

Well, it happened again. FUNEN (Foundation for Understanding and Enhancement), for which I do volunteer teaching, volunteered me to speak at the first meeting of the Cambridge Elementary School's Student/Parent Computer Night. The meeting was, of course, the same evening as the DVPC Board meeting.

Two days before the Board meeting brought a deluge of email between Board members across the net. It seemed that other members had sudden or forgotten meetings the same night, and alternatives flew back and forth. We quickly found how important we were, as each of us explained which nights they could not make it only to get a response of "No problem!" from our peers.

For a while it looked like I might be off the hook, but when the dust settled, the meeting was scheduled for another night that I couldn't attend. Ron volunteered to take notes and send them to me so I could apply my thesaurus, work my magic, and transform his notes into purple prose. It was a few days later that I discovered that Ron had an emergency and didn't make it to the meeting, either.

Rather than simply make something up (it just goes against my grain to stray from the Truth in these minutes, and I
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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:

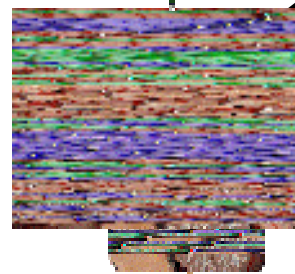
Name _____

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"/>	WordPerfect SIG	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Get a Friend to Join DVPC!

DVPC Board Meeting Minutes...

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never even so much as exaggerate), Ron prevailed upon Alan to pass on some notes, which Ron in turn passed on to me. I would like to thank Alan for doing this, and most of all for not charging me his usual hourly rate (that second sentence: was that written by a lawyer, or what?).

*Alan's minutes follow unabridged (well, I couldn't resist correcting two typos). I figure that if Ron can control his powerful urge to edit, I could, too [ahem... I couldn't stand the lack of mellifluous prose, so I did, in fact, engage my powerful urge to edit, and Alan's commentary is **much** better as a result! ...Ron]. Besides, it appears I have competition...*

Ron,

You asked for some notes from the board meeting, so... First of all, I feel since I am new to writing minutes that a disclaimer is appropriate, therefore: Any semblance of reality contained in these minutes is purely accidental and non intentional. I probably fell asleep and dreamt this stuff. This is not to suggest any precognition or for that matter any consciousness on my part.

The meeting was sparsely attended due to the fact that it was on an unusual night and there was a rumor circulated that turtle soup would be served. We don't know why the night was unusual but since every day is different and night follows day, it stands to reason that it was an unusual night.

Dinner was good.

We discussed the fact that a 2 day Robert Austin show was coming and that it probably wouldn't be as much fun as the new Austin Powers movie. In an unusual action, we voted to complete the OFFICIAL DVPC computer which would probably work better with a hard drive and operating system. The computer, along with DVPC volunteers will attend the Robert Austin show with a Powerpoint presentation extolling the greatness of our group and the assembled and disassembled members. We also discussed the new Mentor program. Signup sheets will be made, and we hope to cajole (encourage) members to participate.

Ken's Korner 2...

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Over a period of several weeks I noticed the trackball was getting balkier, making it harder and harder to drag the cursor into position. Finally it got so bad I had to struggle to move the cursor at all. "Oh-oh," I said to myself, "I hope it's not time to buy a new trackball." The Logitech device was several years old and had been used a lot, so I thought it might well need replacement.

Then I remembered the mantra that Dennis Orloff of the ComputerBath line of maintenance products (www.computerbath.com) chants at every opportunity: "It's not broken, it's dirty!"

Since he's right about 70% of the time, I decided to check first to see whether the trackball was just dirty. When I took it apart I was amazed at how much dirt had accumulated inside the poor critter. It wasn't just dust or loose dirt, either. There was a buildup of grime and a sort of lint, especially around the small ball contacts or rollers inside the ball cage. It was obvious that the crud was keeping the trackball marble from making proper contact with the rollers. The result, difficulty in moving the cursor, would be the same for an equally dirty mouse.

I cleaned everything thoroughly, and presto... it was like I had a brand-new trackball! Here was more proof of the need for keeping things clean as part of computer maintenance.

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Ken's Korner 2...

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The procedure was simple, took just about 10 or 15 minutes, and saved me some bucks. So it's worth your while to see if cleaning will fix a balky pointing device before you toss it out and buy a new one. What you really should do, in fact, is clean your mouse or trackball periodically, and not wait for it to get as dirty and hard to use as mine was.

Here's how you do it.

First, if you have a manual for your mouse or trackball, dig it out. (Note: You should always keep manuals and documents for ALL hardware and software.) Read it. It may show a diagram or cutaway, and possibly instructions, that will make the cleaning job easier for you.

The only tool you may need is a small screwdriver, probably a Phillips-head type; you will also need a clean, lint-free cloth, Q-Tips or similar cotton swabs and a mild soap solution. Small tweezers, isopropyl (rubbing) alcohol and a toothpick may be useful, too. I find it convenient for jobs like this to keep screws and other small parts in an old ash-tray, which also can serve as a tool rest.

Next, clean the mouse or trackball exterior and cord with a cloth moistened in a mild soap solution; wipe dry. Then turn the device upside down and remove the mouse ball retainer plate or trackball bottom cover. Usually the retainer plate can simply be rotated and lifted out. Some older mice and most trackballs have screws holding the plate or bottom cover in place. Remove the ball carefully.

Clean the ball with the moistened cloth, wipe with the dry cloth, and set it aside. (Make sure it is completely dry before reassembling.) I blew loose dirt out of the ball cage with a canned compressed air duster, held some distance away to lessen the impact. Be careful here so that you don't damage any components. In my case, I had to use a toothpick and tweezers to dislodge some of the matted lint around the contacts in the ball cage. A cotton swab lightly moistened with alcohol may also be helpful for cleaning rollers or contacts and the inside of the ball cage.

When cleaning mice, take a close look at the rollers inside. (Most have three, some just two.) You will probably see dark lines of dirt that have built up over time. Work a cotton swab moistened just slightly with rubbing alcohol along each roller, rubbing side to side until the line of dirt is gone.

Once everything is squeaky clean, place the ball back in the ball cage and replace the retainer plate or bottom cover. That's it; you're done, and your mouse or trackball should be as good as new.

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Ken Fermoye has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy, PC World and Popular Science to MacWeek and Microtimes. He was cohost/producer of a radio show on computers and a partner in a DTP service bureau during the '80s. Ken's Korner articles are available free to User Group newsletters and Websites. For permission to reprint this article or to receive the column monthly, contact: kfermoye@earthlink.net.

Membership Drive!

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Paradise – A Hardware Review

by [George Griffin](#), DVPC

At last month's DVPC meeting one of our visiting speakers introduced the very interesting, new modem product line from [Paradise Innovations](#). The star of this line is the *WaveCom 56K*, which has more bells and whistles than Spike Jones' Band.

It's a regular V.90, 56K, external modem. Plus you can receive FAXes and even Voice Mail, even when your computer is turned off. It has a flash memory which will hold 20 messages, or even more depending on the size. What makes this all work is a software program *Phone Tools*, which implements data transfers [FAX and email], speakerphone, answer-phone, and terminal emulation.

You never heard of Paradise Innovations? Well, their main thrust has been OEM products (Original Equipment Manufacturer, which in their case means selling to computer makers). So if you have been using one of the better known computers (Dell, etc.), you may have been using some of their products.

The *Phone Tools* software in turn is obtained by Paradise from another large OEM provider, BVRP, which is a French organization that has connections all over Europe. I'm not sure exactly what BVRP stands for, but is listed as *Bienvenue Che BVRP Software*.

The *WaveCom 56K* modem hooks up like any other serial modem. The *Phone Tools* software is not quite a no-brainer, because you have to open up and dig into the provided CD, then double click on the setup.exe file... no autorun on this CD. After its installed you have to open *Phone Tools* and set it up the way you want it to run.

There is a lot more information on the CD, more than you will know what to do with. Fact is there's 228 pages of documentation, all in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. But don't fret, because they also include the Acrobat Reader 3.01 in both 16 or 32 bit versions.

This modem and software is suited for SOHO (Small Office Home Office) use. So never leave home without your modem on the ready.

Visual Basic Tips

by [Bruce Feld](#), DVPC

In Visual Basic, sometimes it seems that you can't get your Project Window, Properties Window, or Form Layout Window to dock properly along the side of the main window.

Here's the solution: Double click the title bar of each window, and they should snap to the side of the main window and dock properly. This will make your VB windows easier to navigate.

If you find that a window isn't visible on your VB desktop (it somehow got moved off so far to one side or the bottom that it disappeared), press Ctrl-F6 until that window comes into view. Then double click on the title bar and it will dock itself.

Dial Up Networking Tip

by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

If you find that connecting to your ISP seems glacially slow, here's how to speed things up.

Double click *My Computer*, double click *Dial-Up Networking*, right click the icon for your ISP and choose *Properties* from the drop-down list. Click the *Server Types* tab and in *Allowed Network Protocols* uncheck everything **except** TCP/IP. In *Advanced Options* uncheck *Log On to Network* and check *Enable software compression*. Click the *OK* button to save your changes. Close *Dial-Up Networking*.

This should speed up connecting to the Internet. With protocols other than TCP/IP selected you're wasting time loading the other protocols and searching for connections for each of them, and with *Log On to Network* checked you're **really** wasting time trying to find a non-existent local area network until Dial Up Networking finally gives up when it can't be found.

Internet Explorer Tip by [Ron Ogg](#), DVPC

The *Fullscreen* button on Internet Explorer 4's toolbar, or pressing F11, lets you maximize your browser viewing area. The title bar, the menu bar, the address bar, and the status bar at the bottom of the screen all disappear. All you see is the toolbar at the top of the screen and the rest of the real estate is your browser viewing area. You can even get rid of the toolbar: just right click on an empty part of the toolbar and select *Auto Hide* from the pop-up menu. To get the toolbar back just move your mouse pointer off the top of the screen and it will reappear. Note that this toolbar Auto Hide only works in full screen mode; the toolbar will not Auto Hide in normal viewing mode.

Now, how do you get everything back as it was so you can actually use the menus and the address bar? Just click on the *Fullscreen* button on the toolbar or press F11 and it will reverse full screen mode.

What if you don't have the toolbar visible? Pressing F11 to go into full screen mode will make the toolbar appear. If you want to make the toolbar visible at all times, right click in a blank area of the menu bar and select *Standard buttons* from the pop-up menu.

Ken's Korner 3 – Confusing Graphics Formats? by [Ken Fermoye](#)

Here Are Some Basic Answers

Judging by questions I'm asked regularly, many computer users don't really understand the differences between vector (or object-oriented) images produced by graphics draw programs and bit-mapped (raster) images produced by paint programs. The differences are significant, and knowledge of what they are will help you choose the best tool for a given graphics task. First, a few basic definitions, which apply to PC or Mac applications, are in order.

Draw programs use mathematical expressions to create objects (lines, curves, circles, squares, etc.) that make up the drawing. Paint programs create an image dot by dot, by turning the pixels that represent each dot on or off. When you draw a line in a program such as Corel Draw or Claris Draw, for example, you create a mathematical formula that describes that line and its location. When you draw a line in any paint program, you create a series of dots that make up the line.

Each method has advantages and disadvantages. Draw images are resolution-independent; because of the way they are described, objects are printed at the resolution of the output device, be it a 300-dpi (dots per inch) laser printer or a 1270-dpi imagesetter. Moreover, they can be made smaller or larger without affecting their quality and sharpness.

Paint images are created at a given resolution that can't be changed. So an image created at 72- or 300-dpi will print only at that resolution even if the output device is capable of 1270-dpi or more. Nor can they be made much larger or smaller than originally painted. Blow them up much and paint images become coarse, with obvious "jaggies." Reduce them significantly and the dots merge, making images muddy and indistinct.

Paint image file sizes tend to be much larger than draw image files, though introduction of compressed image formats such as JPEG and GIF in recent years has reduced this imbalance to some degree. To illustrate the size differences, I saved an identical piece of art in several formats; here are their respective sizes: CGM, 20KB; JPEG, 45KB; TIFF, 46KB;

[\(Continued on page 13\)](#)

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Ken's Korner 3...

(Continued from page 12)

BMP 8,974KB! CGM (Computer Graphic Metafile) is a draw or vector format; the others are bit-mapped formats.

Metafile formats such as CGM, WMF, EPS and PostScript basically use draw techniques to create images, but bit-mapped fills can be used to add richness. Programs like Corel Draw and Xara or Adobe Illustrator allow image layering to produce illustration-quality images.

All this made it a no-brainer for desktop publishers to select draw art whenever possible, especially back in the 1980s when much of the paint clip art available was in PCX, native format of Zsoft's PC Paintbrush. It usually was quite low in resolution: 150 and even 72 dpi (the latter to match screen resolution). Many of us preferred the CGM format or, if using a PostScript device, EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) graphics-native or proprietary format of Adobe Illustrator, first of the high-end illustration graphics program.

When scanners began gaining popularity, the TIFF (Tagged Image File Format) bit-mapped format developed by Aldus, Microsoft and others specifically for capturing scanned images, was used widely. Digital cameras will further popularize bit-mapped formats, and we can only hope that a standard will emerge from the many proprietary formats now used.

Biggest boost to bit-mapped graphics, however, has been the World Wide Web, which requires bit-mapped images, usually .JPG (short for JPEG, Joint Photographic Experts Group) or .GIF (Graphics Interchange Format). Both formats greatly compress the size of bit-mapped files; .JPG files may be 20 times smaller than the original image, but images may lose something in the translation.

Graphics professionals may argue that this information is too simplistic, but space is limited and I believe it does cover the basics. Perhaps your group has several members with wide graphics experience and they could provide more detailed insight into different facets of computer graphics in future meetings.

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Ken Fermoye (kfermoyle@earthlink.net) has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy and Popular Science to MacWeek, Microtimes & PC Laptop. He was cohost/producer of a radio talk show on computers and a partner in a DTP service bureau during the '80s. Fermoye Publications currently offers editorial, consulting & graphics design services.

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

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Nicholas Chase, Special Events 680-4211 (home) Charlie Crothers, Publicity 829-2237 (home)
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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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DVPC is a member of [UGNN](#), the User Group Network News Service



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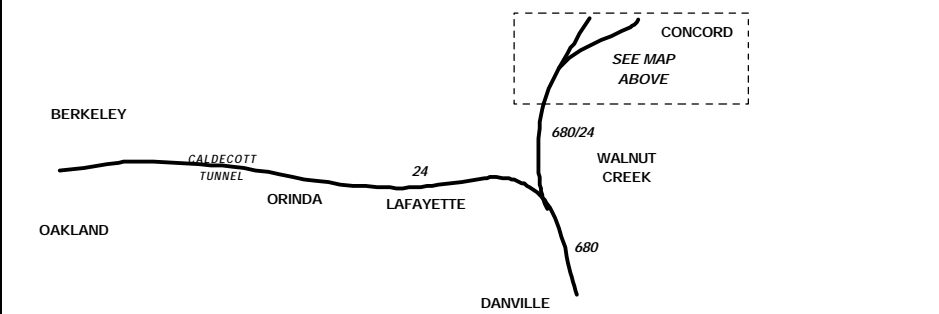
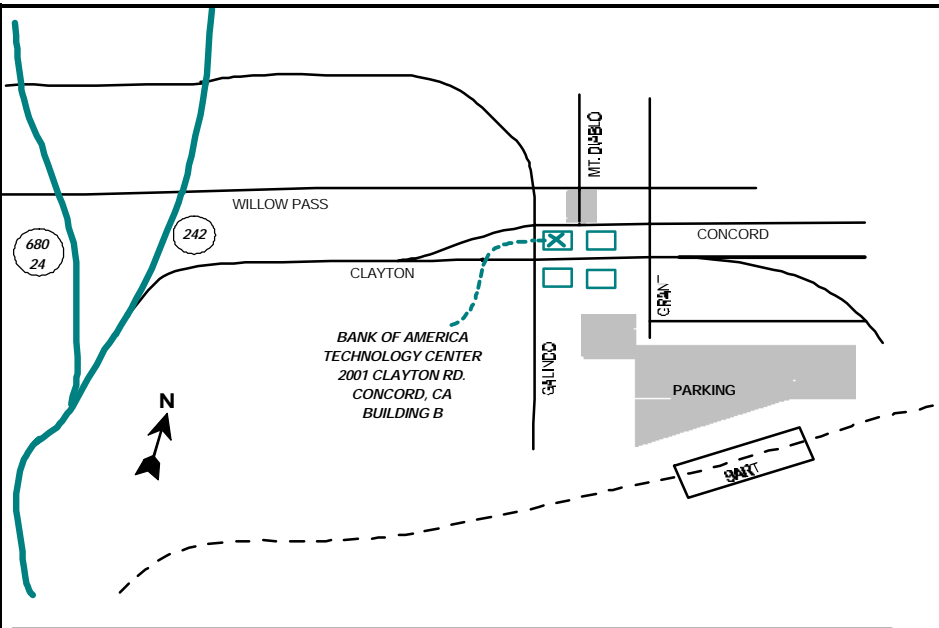
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On occasion DVPC publishes a list of members **for distribution to DVPC members only**. Please check how you would like to be listed: **No listing** _____ **List Name and Home** _____ **Work** _____ **phone number(s)** _____

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 March 1999 Calendar

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI
1	2	3	4 DVPC Monthly Meeting 7:00 p.m. New User's SIG 6:30 p.m.	5
8	9 Photo SIG 7:00 p.m. <i>New SIG</i>	10 Board Meeting 7:00 p.m. Alan Mildwurm's house	11	12
15 Microsoft Project SIG 7:30 p.m. Real Estate SIG 9:00 a.m.	16	17 Internet SIG 7:30 p.m. New SIG	18 Advanced Users SIG 7:30 p.m.	19 <i>Diablo Blue deadline</i> Email articles and ads to the Newsletter Editor: rogg@value.net
22	23 Access/Visual Basic SIG 7:30 p.m.	24 Education & Entertainment SIG 7:30 p.m. Clarion SIG 7:30 p.m.	25	26 Windows SIG 7:30 p.m. <i>New night starting this month</i>
29	30	31	<i>See SIG News starting on page 4 for more information about SIG meeting dates, times, topics, and locations</i>	

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