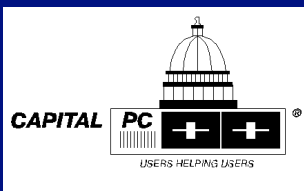


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 and much more...

**CPCUG
 General Meeting
 TechTalks**

CPCUG General Meeting TechTalks are held monthly, usually on the second Monday of the month. They are free to both members and non-members, but only members are eligible for door-prize drawings. Details about upcoming General Meeting TechTalks are on page 4.



Help Robotics SIG Project, FIRST, to Start New Year

by James Katz

The Robotics Special Interest Group (Robotics SIG) of the Capital PC User Group has taken on a special project this winter. It is working with a team of students from Benjamin Banneker High School to help them build a robot for the NASA VCU Regional FIRST Robotics Competition. The competition will be held in Richmond, Virginia, from March 3 - 5, 2005, but the Robotics SIG needs your help here, now, to support their effort to help the students.

The FIRST Robotics Competition is a major program of FIRST ("For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology"), a foundation created by Dean Kamen, president of the DEKA Research and Development Corporation, to motivate students to learn about science, math, technology, and engineering. Kamen, probably best known as the developer of the Segway Human Transporter, is an inventor and entrepreneur who holds more than 150 U.S.

and foreign patents for innovative devices, many of them in the field of medical technology. He founded FIRST over eleven years ago in his determination to encourage an appreciation of science and technology, and their value to society, in young people, their schools, and communities.

Originally begun as a national competition in the United States, the FIRST Robotics Competition (FRC) now involves hundreds of teams of students from Great Britain, Mexico, Ecuador, Brazil, and Canada, as well as nearly every state in America.

Each competition is like a sporting event, where the contestants work as a focused team to solve an engineering design problem with support from the guidance of teachers, engineers, and other advisors. The event is designed to be fun for all involved, while building the self-confidence and enhancing the life skills of the student participants as they learn about science and technology, and discover how exciting these

"...to create a world where science and technology are celebrated... where young people dream of becoming science and technology heroes..."

- Dean Kamen, *FIRST Founder*



Register to Take a CPCUG Training Class

Most classes cost:
\$29-\$35 member fee
\$39-\$45 non-member fee

Classes Listed at
www.cpcug.net/trainingsearch.asp

Click *SEARCH CLASSES* to search by location

Two Training Centers: Annandale, VA, and Fort Washington, MD

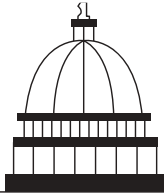
Register for Annandale classes online at
www.cpcug.net/trainingsearch.asp
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- 9 Class must be purchased by **2/28/2005**.
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Contact a member of
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Directors — all are listed on
this page. Most offer a choice
of e-mail or phone contact
information.



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Future SIGs

If you're interested
in starting a SIG,
please contact
CPCUG President
Dennis Courtney at
president@cpug.org.

The Internet SIG is
inactive. If you're
interested in helping
reactivate this
important SIG,
please contact Gabe
Goldberg at gabe@gabegold.com.

*CPCUG is looking for a few good men – and women.
Can you donate a few hours each week to help
improve our group? Call 301-762-9372!*

January 2005

Monitor is your publication. If you would like to discuss an idea for an article or column, please contact the editor at editor@cpcug.org.

Our style guide is at:
www.cpcug.org/user/monitor/Monstyle.html.

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Guidelines. Be sure to put each graphic (200-dpi TIF format preferred) and table in a separate file—*do not include text, graphics, and tables together in one file*. If you prefer to include everything in one file, please send each table and graphic separately *in addition*. Include your name, e-mail address, and day and evening telephone numbers at the top of your article so we can contact you if we have questions.

Submittal. Send articles as file attachments (.doc (Word) or .rtf) to editor@cpcug.org, with copy to admin@cpcug.org. In the body of your message, include the names of files attached and the software formats of each. Or you may send articles in ASCII text format directly in the body of an e-mail message.

Conditions. Articles must be received at least 30 days before publication. All articles are subject to editing. Articles accepted for publication in the print version of the **Monitor** will also appear in the Internet Web pages of the **Monitor**.

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CPCUG News & Events

General Meeting TechTalk Locations and Times

CPCUG General Meeting Tech Talks are held in Northern Virginia at Washington Gas in Springfield, or in Washington, DC, at the Martin Luther King Library. Directions to the current month's location are on page 34. General Meeting TechTalks held at Washington Gas begin at 7 pm. Those held at the Martin Luther King Library begin at 6:30 pm.

Two Training Locations!

Annandale, VA
UHU (Users Helping Users)
Classroom: 12 PCs on a LAN
Annandale United Methodist
Church Room 305
6935 Columbia Pike
Annandale, VA 22003
To register for classes, call
301-762-9372

Fort Washington, MD
(HH) Harmony Hall
Classroom: 10 PCs on a LAN
Computer Room (2nd floor)
Harmony Hall Regional Center
10701 Livingston Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744
To register for classes, go to
www.pgparcs.com or call
301-203-6040.

*Note: Before registering for
Harmony Hall classes for the first
time, you must visit a Prince
George's community center to
register as a SMARTlink client
(bring driver's license).*

Directions to both sites:
www.cpcug.net/directions.asp

Upcoming General Meeting TechTalks

Meeting location may vary; please check below

For up-to-the-minute details on General Meeting TechTalks, check
CPCUG's Web site: www.cpcug.org/user/comm/gen-meet.html .

Monday, January 10 (7:00 pm)

Topic: Wireless Technology
Speaker: Gene Gaines

Wireless is hot, and going to get much hotter. This presentation will be moderated by Gene Gaines, an active CPCUG member and consultant to the wireless industry. Speakers will include CPCUG President and IDB systems administrator, Dennis Courtney, who will provide practical tips for setting up wireless computer systems in the home. This interactive session will address such wireless topics as protocols, what they mean, advantages and drawbacks of each, as well as a practical short-course on wireless propagation, signal strength, noise, antennas, amplifiers, and what it means in practical terms in the home, business, community coverage. There will be opportunities for discussion with attendees both during and after the presentations.

Location: Washington Gas
6801 Industrial Road, Springfield, VA
Directions: Industrial Road is in the Shirley Industrial Park. It
meets Backlick Road between the Beltway and Edsall
Road.

See page 34 for detailed directions.

Monday, February 14 (7:00 pm)

Topic: The Digital Home
Speaker: Art Silverglate, Program Director, Central Maryland
Users Group

In this "Intel-in-a-Box" presentation, Art Silverglate will discuss how the digital home, PCs, and consumer electronic devices can work together to deliver digital media such as video and music to the parts of your home where you want it. In addition to information on the latest technology trends on this subject, the program will feature some exciting giveaways for CPCUG members.

Location: Washington Gas (usually in the large auditorium)
6801 Industrial Road, Springfield, VA

For More Information: Check the CPCUG web site, or contact
Program Director Gary Vaughan at buffalo1_us@yahoo.com.
Suggestions for future Tech Talk topics are always welcome.

President's Notes

January is a month that I've always enjoyed. Growing up in Michigan, I have a peculiar appreciation for the crisp, biting cold. January is a time when you settle down for the winter after the hustle and bustle of Christmas – sitting down by a warm fire, drinking a cold Labatt's, catching Hockey Night in Canada out of one eye between short snoozes. Yes, I definitely enjoy January, cold and all. And this January will be no exception.

But it won't be lazy days by the fire. Nope. We have got a very busy schedule, both personally and with CPCUG. Lots of big projects that we will be involved in that could use your help. In ways large and small, we could sure use some help in putting this together.

First, we've got a tall order for Project Reboot. The Project Reboot program has been swamped with a request for more than 60 computers from an elementary school in Southeast Washington, DC. If we can get enough volunteers together we can help a lot of kids get better computers in their classrooms. We can get computers and software, but we need people to put the computers together, people who can help deliver computers, and people who can install the computers at the school. We're asking Reboot to do this at their busiest time of the year. Not only are the Reboot volunteers wanting to spend time with own their families over the holidays, but we also get a large number of donations of computers from people wanting the year end tax deduction. Add to that, Project Reboot has been asked to move from their headquarters in Rockville. Mont-

gomery County, which owns the house, is preparing to renovate the neighborhood and needs the property back. We sure can't complain as they have been very generous to us and have been great hosts. Project Reboot did its part, too, not only keeping more than 1000 computers out of the Montgomery County landfill, but actually putting them back into the hands of people who



"Santa" Dennis Courtney working holiday magic with tech toys.

need them (at no charge!). If we don't find a new place for Project Reboot soon it could seriously affect the future of this great example of the community helping the community.

On another note, we are in the middle of revamping our Training Program, and we're hoping to partner with a host in Montgomery County for some sort of joint training. With about 65% of

our membership in Montgomery County, we have needed to show more of a presence there. While Annandale has been, and I hope will continue to be, a great partner with a great training site, we won't be complete without a Montgomery County presence. Look for an announcement on this soon!

I would also like you to think about donating some real time to CPCUG. I mean a real commitment. We need new people to step forward into leadership roles within CPCUG. Your current corps of officers and Directors have been working their tails off to keep this organization great. If you think I'm kidding, take a look at the centerfold calendar. Count how many meetings and classes there are being hosted under the CPCUG umbrella. That takes time, talent, and a real commitment from a lot of people. It also takes organization, planning, money, and a bit of luck. But we've done it month after month for more than 20 years.

I want to end by asking YOU to take a turn volunteering with CPCUG. From officers to computer assemblers to meeting organizers, we need YOUR help. Make your New Year's Resolution be that you're going to get more committed to your community. And make CPCUG a part of that commitment to community. You won't be sorry you did.

If you would like to know how you can give a commitment to your community through CPCUG, please email me at: president@pcug.org.

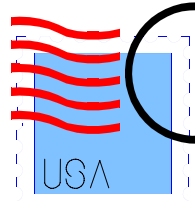
Dennis Courtney is the president of CPCUG.

Feedback



Feedback

A Window on the New Year!



Happy New Year! Here it is, 2005, the start of a brand new year, and another chance to start fresh with renewed efforts to exercise good computing practices.



Have you made your resolutions regarding use of firewalls, anti-virus software, spyware detectors, password protection, safe Internet surfing, and such? Okay, I'm working on all of those, too.

When it comes to computer security, for those who use Windows XP, a major consideration is whether to install the Service Pack 2 update. Last month's issue of the **Monitor** addressed this question, with two articles describing pros and cons, and a few readers wrote in with their reactions.

Chris Moriarity, who operates two computers on a home network, stated that, unlike one article's author:

"the computer that I own with XP came from Dell, with an OEM OS, and I did not encounter any difficulties about product keys related to piracy (perhaps I was lucky). I also have not experienced any post-install conflicts, but compared to some

folks my Windows setup might be considered plain vanilla (no exotic games, IM, firewire devices, USB devices, etc.).

"I noticed that Norton Systemworks 2003 sent me several large (in terms of download size) updates after Service Pack 2 was installed, but I did not see any breaks in antivirus scans."

Chris, however, did note, like the article, problems with Microsoft, and went on to say:

"It's not easy to find [the Microsoft web page for downloading XP Service Pack 2] on the Microsoft website, and as can be seen [Figure 1], Microsoft thinks this is

not the right option for updating only one computer. This is nonsense, in my opinion. For someone with a dialup connection at home, but high-speed access elsewhere (friend, work place, etc.), I'd call it the only viable option. I suffered through an overnight dialup update for XP Service Pack 1 and said 'never again.' Even though I did all the updating I could (e.g., DirectX) before Service Pack 2, I found that Service Pack 2 did a large amount of updating, which might've taken 12-24 hours or more via a dialup connection — not feasible....

"I was annoyed that I had to

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www.microsoft.com/downloads/details.aspx...9DBE-3B8E-4F30-8245-9E368D3CDB5A
Download details: Windows XP Service Pack 2 for IT Professionals and Developers

Windows XP Service Pack 2 Network Installation Package for IT Professionals and Developers

This installation package is intended for IT professionals and developers downloading and installing on multiple computers on a network. If you're updating just one computer, please visit Windows Update

Quick Info	
File Name:	WindowsXP-KB835935-SP2-ENU.exe
Download Size:	272391 KB
Date Published:	8/10/2004
Version:	SP2

Overview

Microsoft Windows XP Service Pack 2 (SP2) provides new proactive security technologies for Windows XP to better defend against viruses, worms, and hackers. In addition to a more robust security infrastructure, SP2 improves the security configuration options of Windows XP and provides better security information to help users faced with security decisions.

[Read technical details about SP2](#), including what's new in SP2, how to deploy SP2, and how to manage an environment with SP2.

DO NOT CLICK DOWNLOAD IF YOU ARE UPDATING JUST ONE COMPUTER: A smaller, more appropriate download is now available on [Windows Update](#). The best way to ensure you get Windows XP Service Pack 2 is by turning on the Automatic Updates feature in Windows XP today. You can use [our step-by-step instructions](#) or, if you prefer, [let us do it for](#)

Windows XP Service Pack 2 for IT Professionals and Developers English [Download](#)

Related Resources

- [Windows XP SP2 Developer Information](#)
- [Order the CD](#)
- [Windows XP SP2 Technical Information](#)
- [Windows XP SP2 General Information](#)

Figure 1: Microsoft web page for multiple computer installation of Windows XP SP2 update

Computer Technology Review: News Wrap-Up of Recent Developments

by William Grizzell, Phoenix, AZ, PC Users Group

Future Computer Monitors from HP Research

HP Labs in Bristol, England, has been working on developing a high resolution, paperlike display technology using plastic instead of glass for applications such as electronic books, magazines, and posters, as well as a whole new range of products that might be made possible, such as electronic whiteboards. HP researchers showed off a prototype using the new display technology at the National Gallery in London, saying it was the first step in breaking out of the 1,000-by-1,000-pixel display barrier through which computer users see much of the electronic world.

While the LCD prototype was small — just 1.18 in. by 1.57 in. — it could display 125 colors and featured a “bistable” passive matrix, meaning that the researchers could build displays with as many pixels as they desired. The fingernail-thin prototype displayed clear images from the National Gallery famous collection, and researchers were confident that they could scale the technology to much larger displays. More developed plans for using the display technology are expected in about three years after more work has been done, the researchers said.

“We think this is a substantial milestone for large, low-cost, quality displays,” said Huw Robson, manager of the digital media department and HP Labs. Once the displays are scaled to 16.9 in. by 22.8 in., researchers expect them to be about five times cheaper than today’s glass LCD displays. “We’ve done cost modeling to suggest that this kind of

savings is reasonable,” said Adrian Geisow, manager of displays research at HP Labs.

The source of the researchers’ enthusiasm is not just the size and potential cost of the displays, but that they have created a whole new process for making them that employs a print-like process on plastic. The manufacturing process is much more simple and affordable than making a glass LCD using photolithography, which requires a process much like film developing on a substrate to achieve a pattern for displaying images. What’s more, the technology allows for 200 or more pixels per inch, giving images a resolution normally confined to paper. That’s why the technology is suited for art and text, according to the researchers.

While commercial plans for the technology are several years away, the research fits squarely with HP’s strength in the printing market.

Google Desktop Search

Do you have trouble finding a file on your computer hidden in that endless haystack of a hard drive?

Google Desktop Search is a small, free download, yet it’s fast, reliable, and slickly integrated with the company’s Internet search engine. You download a 400 Kilobyte (KB) file, install it and wait for it to index your hard drive. Indexing happens only when the PC is idle for more than 30 seconds, so there is no noticeable impact on performance.

Searches are extremely fast — often a fraction of a second. And it doesn’t just search file names,

but also searches content in files, including Microsoft Office, simple text files, Outlook e-mail, and AOL instant messages.

Sound good? Well, there is a small hitch. It only indexes the primary “C” drive; it does not index the entire drive. If you have drives ‘D’, ‘E’, ‘F’, ‘I’, and ‘J’, like I do, it won’t see them — it’s back to the Microsoft search utility and trying to remember where we saved all those files and under what name. Download the program at: www.desktop.google.com.

New Laptop Hard Drives

Western Digital and Seagate have introduced higher-performance, power-thrifty 2.5-inch hard drives for laptops. The Western Digital hard drive line, known as Scorpio, has capacities of 40 Gigabyte (GB), 60 GB, and 80 GB. The drive has a rated average seek time of 12 milliseconds and comes with a 2 Megabyte (MB) buffer (an upgrade to 8 MB is optional). Like competing high-performance models from Hitachi and Seagate, the Scorpio drives spin their platters at 5,400 RPM. High-speed spinning presents special problems in laptops with heat buildup, power use, and sound volume. Western Digital has teamed its SoftSeek algorithms, which quiet the clicking typical during hard drive seek, with its WhisperDrive technology that incorporates fluid dynamic bearings and a specially dampened top cover.

The hard drive manufacturers also claim that heat won’t be a problem. In comparison tests, their drives have run cooler than

continued on page 13

Synchronize Those Files!

by Joe Shipley, Phoenix, Arizona, PC Users Group

With so many laptops available these days, one of the more common things I come across is the need for people to synchronize files between their laptop and their desktop, or among several computers on a network.

Let's say you use a spreadsheet to keep track of information. This spreadsheet is used on a daily basis to show you what you did in the past. Every day you add to the spreadsheet to keep it current. Some days you add information while using your desktop, and

other days while using your laptop. You want to make sure the same information is available to you whether you're working on the desktop or the laptop.

If you had copies of the same file on both your desktop and your laptop, each time you added information to the file on your laptop, it would not automatically be added to the version on the desktop. So you'd have to do double work and spend lots of time copying the latest version from one computer to the other.

File Synchronization provides a way for you to update the same file from either machine and make sure that both files are exactly the same. The way to do this is by using "Offline Files." You could also use the "Briefcase" feature on your laptop, but I suggest Offline Files. And I'd make the desktop the "master," even though the files on both systems will be identical.

To set up your desktop computer to use Offline Files, open "My Computer" or "Explorer", go to "Tools", "Folder Options", "Offline Files", and make sure that the "Enable Offline Files" check box is selected. Select "Synchronize all offline files" before logging off to get a full synchronization. Leave it unselected for a quick synchronization. While you're there, also check the box to place a shortcut to "Offline Files" on your Desktop.

Once this is done, go to your laptop and use "Explorer" or "My Network Places" to find the files on the desktop computer you want synchronized. When you have highlighted the shared folder or file(s) you want to work with, click on the "File" menu item and then click on "Make Available Offline." If you don't see "Make

Available Offline," you didn't correctly set up your system to enable Offline Files. [Note: To make Offline Files work on a system running XP, you may need to disable "Fast Switching."] If an entire folder is made available offline, any files in that shared folder now or in the future will automatically be made available offline the next time the computers are synchronized.

At this point you have selected files to be worked on offline. When you want to work on a file that will be synchronized with another computer, you can access the file by opening the folder "Shortcut to Offline Files," select the file you wish to open, and make any changes you desire. When you save the file and get ready to close your system, your files will be synchronized if you're connected to the other computer. If not, the next time you do connect to the other computer, synchronization will take place.

While this may appear to be very complicated, it's actually easier than I may have described it. For more information, go to www.microsoft.com and enter "Working Offline" in the search box, then select the first result to see a more comprehensive discussion of this topic. By using this feature you can keep important files on one machine while still working with them on another, and know that both are identical.

Joe Shipley, Co-Owner of SMART IDEAS!, is a computer consultant, in Mesa, AZ. You can reach Joe at [joeship\[nospam\]@cox.net](mailto:joeship[nospam]@cox.net).

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Got a question?
Have a computer
problem?
Need some cyber
help?

*A great resource is CPCUG
"Late Nite" - a question-and-
answer meeting held at 9:00PM
after most Monday evening
General Meeting TechTalks*

"Late Nite" consists of smaller and more informal gatherings of computer users, from novice to expert, after each General Meeting TechTalk. In addition to a place for beginners and intermediate computer users to continue to learn how to get more out of their computers, it provides an opportunity to learn more about CPCUG, its benefits, its special interest groups (SIGs), and its training opportunities.

Join us for fun, lively discussions and computer talk. Experts are welcome to share their insights as well, of course.

Hard Drive Maintenance Made Simple and Easy

By Robert E. Simanski

Maintaining the hard drive on your computer is an important task that every computer user should know how to do properly. There are three basic steps involved — disc cleanup, error checking, and defragmentation of fragmented files. The instructions below apply specifically to Windows XP. However, the steps for earlier versions of Windows are similar.

Before you do any of this, it is always best to back up your files first. If you can do a full system backup, by all means do it. If not, at least back up your working files, e-mail messages, and address book.

All of these steps are done from within the “My Computer” window. If you have a “My Computer” icon on your desktop, double-click on it to open the window. If you do not have an icon, which is likely to be the case with Windows XP, click “Start > My Computer” to open the window.

Next, find the icon for your local disk (Drive C:), right-click on it, and select “Properties.” If you have more than one local disk, perform these procedures on each one.

Disk Cleanup

On the General page of the “Properties” dialog box, select the “Disc Cleanup” button. The utility will scan your disk and open another dialog box. In the “Disc Cleanup” page, it will present you with a checklist of items to delete. Make sure that “Office Setup Files” and “Catalog Files” for the Content Indexer are NOT checked. Accept the default settings (checked or unchecked)

for everything else.

Ignore the “Advanced Options” page. Just click “OK,” then click “Yes” to confirm that you want to make these deletions. When the cleanup is finished, you will be returned to the General page of the drive’s “Properties” dialog box.

Error Checking

Select the “Tools” page of the dialog box, then select “Check Now.” This will open the “Check Disk” dialog box in Windows XP or the “Scan Disk” dialog box in Windows 95 and 98. I am not sure what it is called in either Windows ME or 2000.

In Windows XP, select the two check boxes. These will tell CHKDSK (that’s what it’s actually called) to automatically fix file system errors and attempt to recover bad sectors. When you click “OK,” you will see a message telling you that these steps cannot be run from within Windows but will be run the next time you restart your computer, before Windows loads. Click “OK,” save your work, close all open programs, and restart your system. You will see CHKDSK run, and then Windows will restart.

In Windows 95 and 98, and probably also in Windows ME, the utility is called SCANDISK. If you have SCANDISK, select the option to run it in “Thorough” mode. It will run from within Windows and you will not need to restart your computer. At the end, it will show you a report.

It is normal for CHKDSK or SCANDISK to find some lost file fragments. These are usually temporary files that were never

closed properly, perhaps because you had a system lock-up. This should not be a cause for concern, and you can safely delete these fragments. Cross-linked files are a little more serious but are rare, and also not a major cause for concern. If those are the only problems that these utilities find, I consider this to be a clean bill of health for the drive itself. You can safely run the defragmentation utility afterward.

If these utilities find either new bad sectors or corrupted files, however, either the hard drive itself or the drive’s controller on the motherboard may be going bad. In this case, you should NOT defragment the drive. Instead, as soon as Windows restarts, you should immediately back up your files as best you can if you have not already done so, have a professional check out the drive and controller, and be prepared to replace them.

Defragmentation

If CHKDSK or SCANDISK gives your drive a clean bill of health, you can safely run the defragmentation utility. To defragment the drive, return to the “Tools” page of the drive’s “Properties” dialog box, select “Defragment Now,” and follow the prompts. If you get a message that the drive does not need to be defragmented, you should choose to proceed anyhow if it has been several months since you last ran the utility.

Interference from Utilities

Certain utilities that run in the background all of the time, such as screen savers or CD-ROM

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The Whole World in My Hand Better Reading with e-Books

by Tom Gutnick

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I've always been an avid reader. I still remember the feeling of magic as each new word was revealed to me as a first grader. The prospect of improving the reading experience always entices me. Read the technology columns and you'll read about the promise of electronic books. Despite many years' worth of major strides in developing electronic forms of paper-and-ink and better software, the ultimate e-book device remains an elusive grail. In the meantime, while we wait for the technology and the marketplace to mature, my Palm handheld gives me e-books in the palm of my hand.

A logical first question about e-books is "Why bother?" Let me give you several reasons:

- *E-books save trees.* No paper needed, it's just those binary 0s and 1s. When you're done with a book, it can be recycled into the bit bucket.

- *They're portable.* My handheld is roughly 5" x 2½", and only a half-inch thick — truly pocket-sized, so I never need to leave home without it. Whether I'm riding the Metro or waiting in the dentist's chair, I've got something to read.

- *You can't lose them.* Well, I suppose I could lose my handheld, but I haven't yet. And if I did, I could immediately replace it, safe in the knowledge that all the data on it, including e-books, could be quickly and easily restored.

- *You can read in the dark.* My wife appreciates that I don't need to disturb her with the light on when I stay up late reading.

- *You can carry a dozen with you.* Actually, I've got a lot more than a dozen loaded on mine. The extra bits don't weigh me down or take up more space in my pocket. I really like the fact

that on most of my consulting gigs, all the reference books I need are in my pocket instead of in a heavy briefcase (or back on the shelf in my office because they were too bulky to haul with me).

A good next question is what it takes to turn a Palm handheld into an e-book reader. The simple answer is two things:

1. Software: a document reader program. There are many possibilities, some of which are free. Unfortunately, there are several different formats, so we'll defer this discussion to next month.

2. Content: the actual e-books or documents.

As with the Palm software, discussed in last month's column, there are multiple sources of e-books. MemoWare (www.memoware.com) is an excellent starting point, with thousands of free books in a variety of formats. They have over a dozen literature categories, ranging from adventure and romance, through biography and sci-fi, to western. The business section has about twenty categories, including education, entertainment, computer, food and nutrition, religion, and travel. Fictionwise (www.fictionwise.com) sells short stories and novels (and even some non-fiction). I've seen prices as low as 49¢, and as a registered user, I occasionally receive offers for free downloads. Next month, I'll point you to some other good sources.

Another feature I like is the ability to create my own e-books. If I've already got something on my computer (or can copy it from a web site), it's easy to put it into a form that I can transfer to my

continued on next page

Subscribers to
cpcug.org:

If you are having technical problems accessing the Internet, call the Millkern System Status Line (301-738-9753) for a recording of the current system status.

If you are having problems with your computer hardware or software, why not give the **CPCUG Helpline** a call? See page 29.

MEMBERS ONLY



Whole World In My Hand
continued from page 10
Palm. Next month's discussion of
software will cover this too.

When extolling the virtues of
reading e-books on a Palm, I'm
occasionally asked about the
difficulty of the actual reading

humongous. I find the default
medium font size to be very
comfortable. (See Figure 1 for a
sample.)

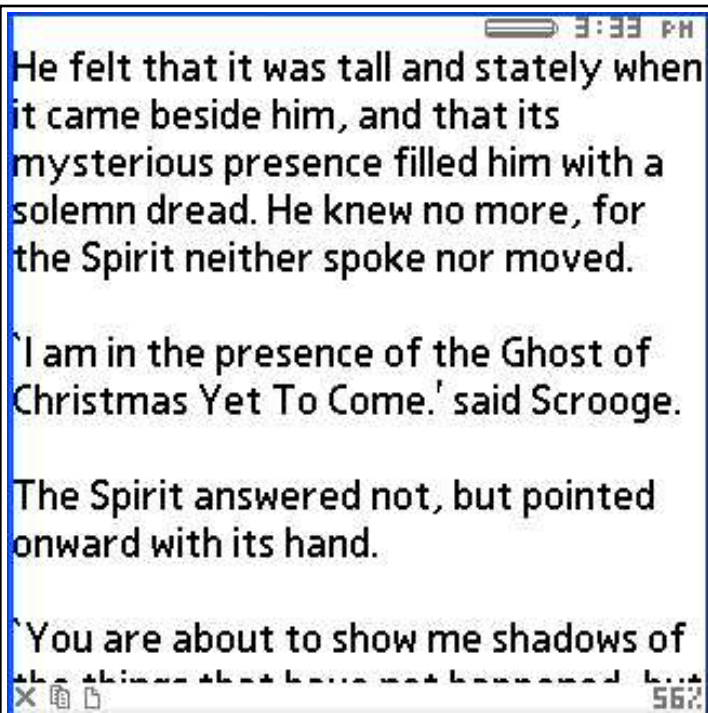


Figure 1: Screen capture of e-book text on a Palm handheld.

process. Admittedly, some Palm models have better screens than others — and the quality of the display was the most important criterion when I bought mine. Beyond that, the reader software will allow you to select your font size, typically ranging from itty-bitty to

I'll admit I still like paper. Every evening, I sit in my easy chair and read the "dead-tree edition" of the daily newspaper rather than the Internet version. And I love curling up in bed with a good book. But there are times when the convenience of carrying and reading an e-book simply can't be beat.

Tom Gutnick is president of Sunny Banana Information Technology Consulting, and a Palm Powered Software Champion. He teaches classes on the use of Palm handhelds, and provides both individual and organizational consultation for their effective implementation and use. He can be reached by e-mail at tag@sunny-banana.com or by phone at 703-786-5541.

Volunteer Judges Needed for 2005 Youth Science Fair

by Walter Houser

Is there hope for the next generation? Find out for yourself at your local county science fair! The best and brightest young people want to tell you of their exciting discoveries in the computer technology CPCUGer's know and love. Help show our appreciation of their efforts by becoming a CPCUG volunteer judge in a county near you!

Since 1996 the Capital PC User Group has honored deserving young computer scientists for their outstanding science fair projects. This program is an excellent way to bring new and energetic members into CPCUG. Moreover, the awards provide CPCUG with positive visibility

among the scientifically literate families of the Washington DC area.

These events take place in March and April, typically on weekends. Specifics on dates, times, and locations are posted at www.cpcug.org/user/scifair/ as the information becomes available. Last year, participating fairs included the Loudoun County Science and Engineering Fair, judged by George Herbert; the Montgomery Area Science and Engineering Fair, judged by George Liao, Nancy Landreville, Peggy Lucero, and Charles (Rusty) Romaine; and the Anne Arundel Science and Engineering Fair, judged by John Holland. Except

for the half day of judging, all our work is done via e-mail and the web. There are no meetings to attend, minimal preparation is required, and the only real qualification is your enthusiasm for kids wanting to learn and achieve.

CPCUG needs the help of members willing to volunteer as judges. If you want CPCUG to recognize young scientists in your area, please contact Walt Houser via e-mail at houserw@cpcug.org. The best reward is seeing the excitement on these young faces as they explain their work and get our recognition. If not you, then who?

Walter Houser is the Science Fair Coordinator for CPCUG.

Help! My Browser Has Been Hijacked!

by Sherry Zorzi, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, Louisiana

First it was viruses, worms, and spam. Then came Trojans, spyware, and pop-ups. The newest scourge plaguing Internet surfers is browser hijackers, and one very nasty one is making the rounds, causing all manner of grief.

Browser hijackers are malicious programs that change browser settings, usually altering designated default start and search pages. The newest versions are going beyond messing with your browser settings. One of the worst, called "Cool Web Search," is particularly hard to remove.

Symptoms

How can you tell whether you have a browser hijacker? If your start page is suddenly different,

that's a clue. Often the hijacker won't let you change your start page back to your preferred page. You might also notice a new "helper" toolbar added to your browser.

Another clue can be a changed search page. If you used to get MSN as your search page when you click the "Search" button but now some other page is coming up, it's likely you've been hijacked.

Some of the hijackers will load a page that looks like Google but isn't really Google – a particularly dastardly trick. Many will give unexpected search results. You may search for some innocent topic and get lots of results that lead to porn sites. If you search on "spyware" or the name of a hijacker program, the browser may either freeze up, or give you only benign results making it look like the hijacker program is a good thing.

Many folks who've been hijacked find that porn sites have been added to their favorites list. Some report pornographic files being downloaded. Some are being redirected to porn sites when mistyping a URL (web address).

Other symptoms include pop-up ads even though you're running a pop-up blocker program. These pop-ups can appear more rapidly than you can close them and can freeze your system quickly. You may notice drastically reduced resources or messages that your system is low on resources or virtual memory. Or you may receive dramatically increased spam. Frequent lock-ups are a common complaint, as is painfully slow performance.

Some of the hijackers can even disable your firewall, your anti-

virus software or your spyware killers. Or they can prevent anti-virus software and spyware detectors from being updated.

In the past, we were safe from most Internet threats as long as we kept our anti-virus software updated and ran a firewall. Running "Ad-Aware" or "Spybot Search & Destroy" about once a week cleaned up any spyware that had crept in, but we never had much trouble. If we were smart enough not to download junk and not to open attachments, we were pretty safe. But times have changed and we must change our thinking, too.

This recent rash of nasty stuff came in through a security hole in Microsoft Windows. Those who did not update Windows in a timely manner were sitting ducks for the "Cool Web Search" hijacker. From now on you must keep Windows up to date, especially with the so-called "critical updates."

Cure

The newest browser hijackers are particularly difficult to remove. You can try the following, but be sure to follow the steps in order. If you don't know what you're doing, you should take the infected machine in to one of your local computer shops and let them fix it for you. It's possible to mess your computer up really badly while trying to remove a hijacker!

1. If you're running Windows ME, Windows 2000, or Windows XP, you must first turn off the "system restore" feature. Otherwise, any problem you fix will just return when you reboot the computer. Search your Windows Help screens for instructions on

continued on next page

Reboot

*CPCUG's Active
Computer Recycling Program*

*10 Volunteers
Working 1 or 2 or more
afternoons a month*

Have hardware to donate?
Have a few hours a month and
want to help?

*101 Fleet Street
Rockville, MD*

*Hours for donation drop-off:
Mondays 2:00 – 6:00 PM
Wednesdays 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM*

Contacts:

*Gerry Rosenkrantz
reboot20850@verizon.net*

*Dave Barry
davbar20852@yahoo.com*

Browser Hijackers

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how to disable "System Restore" for your version of Windows. [Warning: You will lose all restore points you've previously made!]

2. Download the "Cwshredder" tool from www.downloads.com or any of the other sites that make it available. If you're infected with a hijacker, go to a non-infected machine to download your tools. Be sure you get the absolute latest version of "Cwshredder" since it is updated every few days. New variants of these hijackers appear at an amazing rate and you must have the latest "Cwshredder" to detect and clean them all.

3. Reboot your machine and run "Cwshredder" again.

4. Run "Ad-aware." Be sure you update it first. If you don't already have "Ad-aware," get it at www.lavasoftusa.com.

5. Reboot your machine and run "Ad-aware" again.

6. Run "Spybot Search & Destroy." Be sure to update it first. If you don't have "Spybot Search & Destroy," get it at www.safer-networking.org.

7. Reboot your machine and run Spybot again.

8. If everything seems to be clean now, be sure to turn Windows "System Restore" back on!

Don't let a browser hijacker ruin your tech-life! Keep Windows updated. Install and run a firewall. Install and run anti-virus software, and keep it updated. Install, update, and run spyware cleaners. And watch out for those hijackers!

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Tech News Review

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the competing 4,200 RPM and 5,400 RPM models.

AMD Releases Athlon 64 FX-55 CPU

Advanced Micro Devices Inc. has released a new CPU that will take over the top of AMD's performance lineup. The Athlon 64 FX-55 runs at 2.6 Gigahertz (GHz) and matches up against Intel's Pentium 4 Extreme Edition processor. For this chip, AMD added 512 KB cache memory to the Athlon 64 4000+ for a total of 1 MB of Level 2 cache. The Athlon 64 4000+ runs at 2.4 GHz and is slightly cheaper. AMD increased the thermal envelope of the processor to enable those speed increases. The Athlon 64 4000+ has a maximum thermal rating of 104 watts, an increase of 15 watts from 89 watts for the 3800+ processor. During maximum operating conditions, it will be hot.

Broadband Modem from NetGear

NetGear, Inc., is designing a broadband modem to use with a long-range wireless data service called Flash-OFDM that is currently being tested by Nextel Communications, T-Mobile, and Vodafone. The hardware from NetGear would interconnect Flash-OFDM with personal computers and networks using Ethernet or Wi-Fi technology.

Flash-OFDM, which stands for Orthogonal Frequency Division Multiplexing, and was developed by startup Flarion Technologies Inc., has other attributes beyond speed. It was designed to work well in moving cars and trains while requiring less spectrum than some wireless technologies. The Nextel Flash-OFDM service, priced between \$35 and \$75 per month, is offered with minimum download speeds ranging from

750 kilobits per second (kbps) to 1.5 megabits per second (mbps) with occasional bursts up to 3 mbps. Uploads range from 200 kbps to 375 kbps with bursts of 750 kbps. This is faster than EV-DO, which Sprint Corp. is deploying. Verizon, in a joint venture with Vodafone, is promising EV-DO downloads of 300-to-500 kbps.

New BTX Design for PCs

Many new computers will be based on the BTX chassis design, championed by Intel Corp. to replace the current ATX models. BTX, which stands for "Balanced Technology Extended," puts the hottest components, such as the processor, chip sets, and graphics controllers, in the center of the chassis where they are cooled by a front-to-back airflow.

Air is pushed through the chassis by a larger fan in the front that moves more slowly and is quieter than current fans. In addition, the enhanced airflow means that some of the component-dedicated smaller fans used in ATX designs aren't needed, further reducing noise and power consumption.

William Grizzell is President of Memory Etc. Inc., a wholesale computer components store and custom computer builder. His web site address is www.memoryetc.com.

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O'Reilly Book Discounts

CPCUG members get a 20% discount when ordering direct from O'Reilly. Log in to Member Specials at www.cpcug.net to get the discount code.



Rich's Ramblings

by Rich Schinnell

Back in the Golden Olden days of computers, we used to backup our files onto 160 Kilobyte (KB) 5¼" floppy disks. As the media progressed from 360 KB 5¼" floppies to huge 720 KB 3½" disks, then to the big guys of 1.44 Megabyte 3½" disks, files and programs became larger.

Now it is even more important to backup your files. My criteria for requiring backup is that if I would shed a tear or feel keyboard rage if a file was lost forever, then I always make sure I have lots of copies around on other media. So I will repeat for the umpteenth time:

BACKUP! BACKUP! BACKUP!

With 120-200 Gigabyte (GB) hard disks almost being the norm, you can really accumulate a lot of files/garbage on your hard disk. You might want to think about how you're going to recover if your hard disk all of a sudden sounds like an automobile's screeching brakes. That means a fatal crash of your hard disk.

Many of the wiser/smarter heads backup their critical files to CD-ROM or DVD-ROM on a regular basis. Even with a 4.7 GB DVD-ROM drive, this might not be enough storage. I have a procedure that works for me:

On each of my computers I have created a directory called "C:\My Documents". This directory is where I have several sub-directories where I store all data and word processing files. Using Microsoft Windows XP, the default directory where data is stored is normally located in C:\Documents and Settings\userid\MyDocuments. The userid is the name of the user you are signed onto the computer with. In some cases it

would be administrator, or in the case of some major computer manufacturers who pre-install your complete system, it could be called USER or OWNER.

One nice thing about computers is that you can change where files that you create are stored. In WordPerfect and Microsoft Office products, you can change the default location of these data files. Normally it is located under "Tools|Settings|Preferences|File Locations" on your top menu bar in the program.

My method makes it easier to backup because all I do is backup the "C:\My documents" folder and its sub-directories. While you're at it, you can create a sub-directory there for all those files that you download from the Internet that are upgrades to your installed software. This will really help if you end up having to re-install your software in case of a hard disk crash. Also I keep the latest versions of ZoneAlarm and Ad-Aware in this directory. I also have an attachment directory there where Eudora E-Mail puts all the attachments received and have backed this up. Periodically I export the "favorites" from my browser to this directory so that I have a better backup in case of a failure of my hard disk.

Although there are lots of alternatives, there is a school of thought that with hard disks being so huge and cheap many people buy an additional large hard disk and only use it for backups or images. Some use a disk imaging program similar to Symantec's Norton 'Ghost', or Acronis 'True Image'. Both of these imaging programs allow for incremental as well as full imaging.

What I like about these pro-

grams is the feature where they create a complete snapshot of your hard disk at a point in time and write the image to a second drive. Both will also write to CD-ROM and DVD-ROM disks. They create images in real time and without having to exit Windows XP. An added advantage is that if you decide to buy a larger hard disk, the program will copy your existing hard disk to the new larger disk. Then you can replace the old "C:" with the new larger "C:" drive.

Symantec bought out the PowerQuest drive image product line and, for those who are not using Windows XP, the 'Ghost 9' retail box comes with a copy of Drive Image 2003 which operates in a DOS-type mode. Installing 'Ghost 9' went quite smoothly, as I already had the .NET updates to my Windows XP. If you don't have the .NET update, the Ghost cd-rom will install it. I use 'Ghost 9' and it does work. I also bought Acronis 'True Image 8.0' and like it. Each has strengths and weaknesses which will vary from user to user.

My preferred method: I have an external 160 Gigabyte Western Digital hard disk that connects to my laptop via either USB or Firewire. I can create a 'Ghost' image of my laptop's "C:" drive on the external hard disk. These programs can compress the data so that it takes up less space on your backup device.

Several times I have had to restore individual files and directories from an image. Having this option gives me a "warm fuzzy" when installing some of the new software that could, and sometimes does, mess up my system.

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Product Review: *SpinRite 6*

By Chris Moriarity

SpinRite 6 \$89 Download
Gibson Research Corporation
(www.grc.com)

SpinRite is a program that accesses Intel or AMD PC hard disks, floppy disks, and Iomega Zip and Jaz disks, at a low level, to detect problems and fix them. SpinRite 6, released in June 2004, is the first version of SpinRite that has the capability to access and repair disks with NTFS (Microsoft Windows NTx, 2000, XP) and/or Linux file systems (the previous version worked on FAT and FAT32 partitions). SpinRite 6 achieves operating system independence by the incorporation of the open source FreeDOS operating system.

SpinRite was first developed in the late 1980's. New versions have kept pace with advances in hard disk size and technology (details are available at www.grc.com). My first-hand acquaintance with SpinRite is recent, but I've heard reports over the years of "miraculous" recoveries of data by SpinRite from disk drives that had experienced various types of catastrophic failures. After purchasing SpinRite this year, I saw it successfully repair an installation diskette for an old word processing program I still like to use. I had started to notice that the first diskette in the word processing program's installation set sometimes would give read access errors during installation, and often this ultimately led to failure of the installation. SpinRite detected the problem, recovered the data from the area where the problem was occurring, moved the data elsewhere, and the installation diskette now works fine.

SpinRite 6 requires complete control of a machine to do its low-

level access, and rebooting is necessary after SpinRite runs. Execution can be terminated by the user at any time, and SpinRite can "remember" how far it progressed, if interrupted.

The program has five levels of operation, with two presented by default as suitable options to choose from in most situations: option "2" for a faster operation that focuses on recovery of lost data, and "4" for a longer-running operation that does a thorough test by writing and rewriting to all disk sectors (in addition to locating and recovering lost data). SpinRite can be run on either an entire drive at once, or individual partitions if multiple partitions are present (e.g., drives with multiple logical partitions, drives with dual boot operating systems, etc.).

DOS or Boot

SpinRite 6 can be run directly from an MS-DOS system, or a Microsoft Windows 9x system that has been restarted in MS-DOS mode. The most common way of running the application, however, is by the use of boot media, such as a floppy disk or a CD-ROM, that contains the SpinRite software. Generally, one can start a machine with SpinRite boot media without having to make any adjustments. However, it is necessary to change the BIOS settings if a machine is set up to make a hard disk the first device in the boot sequence. In this case, the boot sequence must be changed in order for the media containing SpinRite 6 to precede the hard disk in the boot sequence. The way to access the BIOS settings to make boot sequence changes varies from machine to machine, but, typically, you must press one or more keys

quickly to access the BIOS "setup" when the machine first powers up, prior to the loading of an operating system.

SpinRite 6 offers several choices of boot media. One option is to have SpinRite 6 format and create a bootable floppy disk. Other options involve the creation of image files for either floppy disks or CD-ROMs. A floppy disk image file can be transferred to a Linux system to create a bootable floppy disk using a Linux diskette imaging program. SpinRite 6 itself cannot "burn" a bootable CD-ROM, but the ISO image file created by SpinRite 6 can be used by "burn" software to create a bootable CD-ROM (for machines that have the capability to boot from CD-ROM). SpinRite 6 also provides other options for creating boot media for machines that can boot from USB drives, ZIP drives, and so forth. An advantage to using writable media such as a floppy disk is that SpinRite can save a log with the results of its analysis.

Run Time

The amount of time that SpinRite requires to run depends on a number of factors, such as hard disk size, hard disk speed, etc. The level "4" run time on a 1.7 Gigahertz (GHz) Intel Pentium 4 machine, 2½ years old with two hard drives, was 22 hours for a 120 Gigabyte (GB) hard disk (7200 RPM) and 8 hours for a 20 GB hard disk (5400 RPM). The run time for an older machine with a Powerleap 1.4 GHz Celeron upgrade (from a 400 Megahertz Pentium II), was 5½ hours for a 7200 RPM 40 GB hard disk (multiple partitions, dual boot setup) and 2½ hours for a 5400

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Letters to “Late Nite”

Hosted by Marty Shinko



Q05I.0: Using Windows XP software, when I view the contents of a folder, it displays a small preview of the files, instead of just icons. How do I change that?

A0: On the Menu bar for that folder, select “View.” There should be a dot beside the option “Thumbnails.” Select some other option, and that should move the dot to that other option (e.g., “Tiles” or “Icons” or “Details” or “List”), and eliminate the preview images.

Q05I.1: I’m using Windows XP software, and my computer seems to crash and reboot whenever I open a particular folder. That folder contains some large digital video files, and shows images from some of the files (file previews) rather than just icons.

A0: It’s possible that what’s crashing the system is the attempt to display a preview of one of the digital video files. The straightforward approach would be to turn off the file preview option. Since you can’t open that folder without crashing the system, another approach is to turn off the file preview option for all folders: open a different folder that doesn’t crash the system, change its “View” option (as per question Q05I.0) to be something other than “Thumbnails” or “Filmstrip”, then apply that View to all other folders.

To do that, select “Tools” on the Menu bar, then select “Folder Options...”, then select the “View” tab, then select “Apply to All Folders.”

There are other ways to prevent the preview of a particular file. One way is to break the connection between the file extension involved and the program being run to display files with that

extension. This is rather drastic, since it affects all files of that type, not just the troublesome one. To do this (under Windows XP software), after selecting “My Computer,” select a file in a folder (any file will do) — remember to use a single mouse click to select the file, as a double-click will open the file rather than just select it. Next, select “Tools” on the Menu bar, then select “Folder Options...” and select the “File Types” tab. This will display a long list of registered file types. Find the file type of the offending file, and select it on the list. This should produce an explanation in the “details” portion of the “Folder Options” window, including naming a program that the file extension “Opens with,” along

When contacting me about a question appearing in my column, please refer to the question number.

Every question is numbered in the form Q’YR’MO.seq#, with a 2-digit year, and Roman numeral month. The answers will have a code for the responder, e.g., A0 = Marty Shinko.

with a corresponding button for “Change.” Select the “Change” button — this displays a list of all the programs available to open files, with the current program highlighted, the one currently selected for this file extension. Write down the name of that program, then change the selection to something else, e.g., “Notepad” (for the time being), then select “OK.”

You won’t be able to use “double-click” to open any files with that file extension until you change the setting back, but what you could do in the meantime is move the file that was causing problems into another folder. You can still open files with that file extension, by first running (‘opening’) the

program you need to use, then using its “File | Open” menu to select the file you want to display. (I try to use the terminology that you ‘run’ programs and ‘display’ data, or that you run a program to open a data file.)

Another way to fix the problem is to rename the file causing trouble so its name ends in “.txt” or something else harmless. To do that you’d need to use the Command Prompt capability of Windows XP, to be able to specify the file without activating the preview feature of the folder it’s in. The Command Prompt command (or “DOS” command) to rename a file is “ren oldname newname”, and the oldname parameter can include pathname elements.

Q05I.2: I’ve been checking the price of Windows XP software at stores, and it seems quite expensive to me. Couldn’t I just borrow the CDs from somebody and install it on my computer, then give them the CDs back? Does CPCUG do that?

A0: The price of Windows XP software is set by Microsoft, the developer of the software. The only way to obtain the software legally is through license from Microsoft, so if you want that software, you’re stuck getting it from Microsoft and accepting the price they set. Microsoft is a monopoly — and it isn’t a crime to be a monopoly. What all the fuss was about was whether Microsoft engaged in predatory practices as a monopoly — it’s the predatory practices that are illegal. So, legally, you can’t just borrow the CDs from somebody and install the software on your computer without paying Microsoft.

continued on page 21

Book Review: *Burn, Baby, Burn!: Recording Audio CDs from any Source, LPs to MP3s*

Reviewed by Tom Gutnick

This is the book I needed five years ago! A long time ago, my father-in-law had released a phonograph record (remember those sonic platters made of vinyl?), and one Christmas I wanted to surprise him with a few CD copies. After many hours of figuring out what to do, and many more hours of actually doing it, I eventually succeeded in transforming “Ray Reph / The Singing Conductor” for the digital era, and he was thrilled. This book would have given me a much quicker education. And even though, until just a few weeks ago, I thought I was quite proficient in the art of burning from vinyl, now I’ve learned the other steps I should have taken for a cleaner-sounding result.

So let’s take it from the beginning. The authors dive right in with a chapter entitled “Diving Right In” (and that’s the kind of humor you can expect throughout) – a quick intro to the general process of burning a music CD on a computer. Chapter 2 discusses hardware (CD-RW drives, sound cards) and software (CD-burning packages).

Chapter 3 is “Copying Audio CDs.” I always knew that digital audio means that every copy is exactly identical to the original, not subject to degradation as in the case of making copies of copies of analog material. That’s indeed the theory, but it turns out that the obvious way of copying a CD (sticking the original in one drive, a blank CD-R in the other drive, and using a “copy CD” utility to copy from one to the other) is often not the best way, since it is

not guaranteed to create an identical copy. The authors point out the potential mishaps as well as solutions.

Chapter 4, “Recording MP3s to CD”, describes how to convert all your music downloads into a disk you can play on your CD player. (I don’t know about you, but some of us haven’t yet succumbed to iPod mania.) Chapter 5 is “Capturing and Recording Digital Streams.” Say that you’re listening to a webcast seminar or an Internet radio station; this is how you can save what you’re hearing.

Now things start to get more interesting. The first few chapters were devoted to moving music as digital data from one medium to another – not really that big a deal. But Chapter 6, “Restoring and Recording Cassette Tapes,” and Chapter 7, “Recording and Restoring Vinyl,” deal with the messy world of analog music. For example, unless you really want your CD to sound exactly like the original, you’ve got to eliminate hiss, clicks and pops, crackle, rumble, and hum. (I’m not sure whether that’s a good name for a law firm or for a breakfast cereal.) And then there’s the matter of how to do track splitting, unless you want the entire side of a tape to show up as a single track on your CD.

Chapter 8, “Polishing Your Compilation CD,” covers things like volume normalization and cross-fading between tracks. Chapter 9, “Creating Enhanced CDs,” deals with disks which play music on a CD player, but reveal extra material, such as videos,

when loaded on a computer. The book wraps up with the chapter on “Tips, Tricks, and Troubleshooting.”

Today’s high-powered personal computers and software make it easy and straightforward to deal with recorded music – it’s just a question of knowing exactly what to do, so this book fills an important niche. Throughout, the explanations are clear, with plenty of screen shots for examples. To their credit, the authors give equal time to several major software packages in their examples, instead of sticking with one favorite. (They also discuss software for both Windows and Macintosh platforms. Running Linux? That’s okay, you’ll get a good enough understanding of the concepts to be able to use your available tools.) Unlike me, you might enjoy the authors’ humor and drug references, but if not, they don’t really get in the way of the material.

Now that I know how I should have done things, I can’t wait to get back to my computer so I can burn, baby, burn!

About the Book:

Burn, Baby, Burn!: Recording Audio CDs from any Source, LPs to MP3s

By Josh McDaniel, Bob Starrett.
Published by Peachpit Press,
2004.

ISBN: 0-321-24131-2.
256 pages

Tom Gutnick is a CPCUG Monitor contributing editor (“The Whole World In My Hand”).

January 2005

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February 2005

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Rich's Ramblings

continued from page 14

'Ghost' and 'True Image' will allow you to extract files and directories from the complete image that you created earlier, as well as restore the whole hard disk.

'Ghost 9' comes with a CD-ROM that is bootable and will allow you to access almost any device, including your network server. If you have huge amounts of data and write the image to CD-ROM disks at 700 Megabytes each, you can have quite a few. Just don't lose or damage one. Writing to DVD disks makes for less disk swapping when you have

to do a complete restore. But as I said before, my preferred method is my external USB hard disk.

Acronis True Image, version 8.0

www.acronis.com/

\$46.99 on their site, but check the web for special deals from other vendors.

Norton Ghost, version 9.0

www.symantec.com

\$69.95 MSRP, but always check out the web for prices at the different retailers and sales.

I purchased both products, and each has advantages and disadvantages.

Disclaimer: I also was a beta tester for Symantec's 'Ghost 9' product. I ended up purchasing 'Ghost 9.0' for a couple of computers that I set up and gave to friends. Your mileage may vary.

For other products mentioned in

my articles, I suggest you visit the CPCUG web site where I have a web page listed, under "members," that has the Web URL's for most of them.

Windows XP Service Pack 2 Upgrade Recommendations

I highly suggest that you update the motherboard BIOS on your computer before you upgrade XP to Service Pack 2. It could possibly save you lots of aggravation. Also, you might want to upgrade any video drivers. Then go for it, as I highly recommend the additional security features included in service pack 2 for Windows XP Home and Professional.

Linux Trials

I must swear you to secrecy, or my Windows friends will probably give up on me, but. I read about the UBUNTU Linux release and decided to try it.

Background: I have tried to install a flavor of Linux for the past 10 years or so and have had miserable luck. Something always fails; either the video card, network card, or sound is not recognized. I have a raft of Red Hat binders where I have tried, really *tried*, to get it to work. I have friends on the dark side that continually tell me "try it, you will like it," so I try and end up being frustrated.

[www.ubuntu.com is the web site if you're thinking about trying it. Or ask me; I have 5 or 6 CD-ROMs that they sent me to give away.]

I will be reviewing Ubuntu Linux in the next couple of months. Watch this space. <G>.

Rich Schinnell is a long time member of CPCUG, having been one of the founders who got it all started back in 1982. He ran a BBS for over 10 years and now has retired (kind of). He does a bit of small business consulting for select clients on interesting problems. He can be reached at schinnel@cpcug.org and by phone at 301-949-9292.

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Maximum PC	\$ 9.95	\$18.95	\$27.95
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In the last few years many computer magazine subscribers have used my services for the over 300 titles I carry, also at excellent prices. With almost everyone having email they have just emailed for a price and I send them the price also via email. - Herb

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Writers & Reporters for the Monitor, CPCUG's magazine

The *Monitor* is always looking for good articles! If you are interested in writing an article, reporting on an event, taking photos at an event, or reviewing a book or software program, please let us know.

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Do you know a corporation or entrepreneurial business that might benefit from an ad in the *Monitor*? Help make it happen by showing the *Monitor* to its decision makers. Increased advertising revenue means a larger magazine and more money for CPCUG's member benefit programs. And you can earn a commission on ads you place!

Contact: editor@cpcug.org

“Late Nite” continued

from page 16

Some people do that (install software without purchasing a license), and that’s called software piracy, or theft. The CPCUG does NOT engage in software piracy or promote software piracy.

Purchasing software isn’t like purchasing a bicycle, or even like purchasing a book or a newspaper, or even an audio CD or movie (videotape or DVD). When you purchase a copy of software, you are merely purchasing a license to use that software; you don’t actually OWN the software. That’s what the fine print in software license agreements is all about.

Q05I.3: How is the concept of a software license different from copyright of books, music or video products?

A0: Copyright laws are enacted to protect the works of authors and artists, to prevent plagiarism. It’s illegal to make photocopies of entire books or newspapers and try to sell them, bypassing the original publishers. There is a “right of first purchase” though, that covers print media and books — after you read a book, you can sell it yourself, as a used book — that’s perfectly legal. You can do the same with phonograph records and videotapes, but it’s illegal for you to make copies of those works and sell them.

There also have evolved concepts of “fair use” — you can photocopy articles or limited excerpts from magazines and newspapers from a library (or other source) in order to do research, for education purposes, for citations, for personal use; e.g., you don’t have to purchase an entire book so you can legally have a copy of, say, the “10 tips” it has on pg. 121. With music soundtracks, you can copy a record album onto cassette tape for your own use (to prevent the original from deteriorating when you

play it the first 100,000 times, for example). You can legally videotape television programs and watch them later, or over and over, but you can’t sell them. You hear this announced all the time, during broadcasts of sporting events on TV.

The concept of software license goes beyond these practices. That is why software is sold in “shrink-wrap packages,” so the licensor can claim that by breaking the shrinkwrap, you agreed to the terms of the license. Often the license is for use on one computer at a time, but many people own laptop computers (and they’re not about to buy two copies of everything — they’d do without or use freeware instead), so licenses are worded to allow one copy on a desktop computer and a second copy on a portable computer.

It gets more complicated yet: some companies purchase “site licenses” rather than keeping track of the number of individual copies they have. Some companies and government agencies have deals where employees can legally take a copy of the software they use at work and use it at home. Some companies have server computers that keep track of the number of licenses or “seats” they own for particular software (especially extremely expensive CAD or computer-aided design software tools), so no more than that many employees can be using the software at once; when one employee finishes, a different employee could “check out” the software from the software repository and start using it.

There are also student versions of software and discount educational licenses for software, “whatever the traffic will bear” to try to get the highest prices and greatest volume of use.

On top of all that, it isn’t clear where the “shrinkwrap” method constitutes a valid legal contract anyway, although two states,

Maryland and Virginia, have passed legislation that it does (UCITA). At least one state (Kansas) has outlawed UCITA, because it has no protection for consumers.

By the way, if you’re buying or selling a used computer at a yard sale, or flea market, it’s okay to sell it with the operating system software still installed. I think that’s called the “garage sale rule,” since a computer without an operating system is useless to most people, and people usually buy a new copy of an operating system when they buy a new computer. I believe you can sell a used computer without deleting the software on it, if you also include all copies of that software (CDs, disks) so you can’t continue to use that software on another computer you own.

Q05I.4: Couldn’t I buy a cheaper copy of Windows XP software from an individual, perhaps through eBay?

A0: I wouldn’t recommend that. It’s risky, because product activation is required for Windows XP software to work. Windows XP software has to be activated within 30 days of installation or it goes into a “safe” mode, and you can’t use your computer for much of anything. Activation requires contacting Microsoft, by phone or over the Internet, and you might find that the copy of Windows XP you got through eBay or another route has already been used on another computer, so you’d need to purchase a license from Microsoft to use that copy of the software you installed.

Q05I.5: What alternatives to Windows XP software are there?

A0: Linux software is a complete, independent operating system software package, and it’s free over the Internet, or available for the cost of distribution and packaging (e.g., for as little as

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Feedback / Letters

continued from page 6

probe to discover that the Service Pack 2 upgrade would allow me to set up a log file of incoming packets dropped by the Windows Firewall. This should have been an easy and obvious choice presented to users — it could provide important evidence in the event that a particular IP address is making a determined attempt to break into a user's computer, for example. I can see from perusing the log file that there have been times when I was being 'probed.' I also wasn't happy to discover that Service Pack 2 had shut down access to the FTP protocol without telling me; however, it is possible to revise the setup to allow continued use of FTP without taking down the entire firewall. I was glad that I could set the firewall to be 'on' for external connections but 'off' for the connection to another computer in the house (it wasn't necessary to manually toggle, and it shouldn't have been)."

*Robert Simanski wrote to make an important point about a potentially misleading feature of the report on Windows XP SP2 in last month's **Monitor** issue:*

"The article 'Obstacles to Installation' refers to SP2 RC2. I suspect that many Monitor readers

would not know what RC2 stands for: 'Release Candidate.'

"The electronic version of the Computer Desktop Encyclopedia (www.computerlanguage.com) is an invaluable resource when you run into a term that needs to be defined or explained. I have used it for years. . . . Here is how it defines 'release candidate':

'A pre-release version of software. Sometimes software vendors make one or two release candidates (RC1, RC2, etc.) available to select customers in advance of the official release. A release candidate is like a 'sneak preview' of the final release with the added advantage that serious bugs may yet surface and be fixed before the general public uses it. Thus, there are alpha versions (internal), beta versions (external), release candidates (sometimes) and the final release of software. After that, there are countless updates that add features and fix bugs. See alpha version and beta version.'

"In other words, the author was working with — and writing about — a release candidate version, and not the final shipping product. Thus some of his comments might not apply to the final version. It is important that readers understand this.

"Alpha versions are developed early in the testing process and are intended for internal use only. Beta versions are released to a select number of outside testers who are expected to use the software under real-world conditions and file reports every week.

"I worked with the beta releases of Windows 2000 in writing a book about it.

"Often there are significant changes between beta releases. The user interface and feature set may change significantly from one beta release to the next one. Windows 2000 went through three beta releases. I had to substantially rewrite many chapters each

time a new beta was released.

"Release candidates are almost — but not quite — ready for prime time. Windows 2000 went through two release candidates, as did Service Pack 2 for Windows XP.

"In a release candidate, the user interface and feature set are locked in. However, features that don't work properly in a release candidate are usually dropped from the final shipping product. The developers may continue to work on them and, if they can get the features to work properly, may include them in a later release.

"The final product is often called a 'gold' release or referred to as the Release to Manufacturing (RTM) version. RTM often means the first shipping version of the product, as opposed to later releases that include service packs and other fixes."

Thanks to Robert Simanski for bringing these distinctions to our attention. If anyone knows what changes were made in the Service Pack 2 update for the RTM version after the RC2 release, please write to editor@cpcug.org, and I'll pass on that information to everyone.

And thanks to Jerry White and all the others who wrote to welcome me as Editor, and sent their compliments on my inaugural issue. A few errors slipped through, but, with your feedback, I hope to continue to make improvements.

James Katz, Editor

Keep Up to Date With CPCUG Activities

Subscribe to the free weekly e-mailing of the 9-day Calendar of Activities ("This Week at CPCUG").

Send an e-mail message to:
LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG
containing the line SUBSCRIBE
CPCUGCAL-L <yourfirstname>
<yourlastname>

(Do not include the angle brackets.)

No entry in the subject line is required. You will receive a request to confirm your subscription by return e-mail. After confirmation, the calendar arrives Friday or Saturday and contains CPCUG meetings, classes, seminars, and special events for 9 days — from Saturday through the following Sunday.

CORRECTION

In the December, 2004, issue of the **Monitor**, the cover story, "Protection Against Virus Attacks," by Gabe Goldberg, was published without the following notice for the article:

This article appeared originally on AARP's Computers and Technology Web site, www.aarp.org/computers. (c) AARP 2004. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission.

The **Monitor** regrets this error and any confusion caused by this omission.

Robotics, FIRST

continued from front cover

fields can be. (For more information about FIRST, and the FRC, go to www.usfirst.org)

High School Team

The team being helped by the Robotics SIG is made up of students from Benjamin Banneker High School, and led for the fourth year by John Mahoney, a mathematics teacher at the school. Banneker is an outstanding magnet school in Washington, D.C., that draws students from all around the District. It was ranked number 49 by *Newsweek* magazine in June, 2003, on a list of the top 100 American Public High Schools. (For more information about the high school, go to www.benjaminbanneker.org)

Banneker High School has successfully participated in robotics competitions for the past three years, two of them in the FRC. Last year the Banneker team was unable to participate in the FIRST Competition because they had limited resources, including a shortage of mentors. Mahoney hopes to overcome the problem of

limited resources this time, and to build their FRC program for the future so that eventually students from other DC public schools can also participate.

Volunteers Needed

This year's competition starts with a kick-off event on Saturday, January 8. The effort to design, build, and test the team's robot entry then begins in earnest and continues for six weeks, mostly on weekends, until February 22, when the robot must be completed for shipment to Richmond for the competition. Volunteers are welcome at any time through this period. Much of the work will be done in a lab at Anthrotronix in Silver Spring, Maryland. (For more information about the company, go to www.anthrotronix.com)

A number of different tasks are involved in preparing for the competition, each dependent on volunteers with a range of talents and abilities to mentor and support the team. In addition to engineers, technical specialists, and programmers, the team needs web designers, project managers,

and financial specialists, as well as fundraisers, solicitors of supplies, coordinators of transportation and communications, and even t-shirt designers.

The Digital Video SIG has already put out a call for videographers to help make a video record of the project, which will be used to document the team's efforts this year and to recruit more participants in the future. Ultimately, the Robotics SIG plans to build a core working group of mentors to help more DC high schools get involved in FIRST and compete in years to come. But, for now, the focus is on working with the Banneker team and helping them successfully compete.

If you can help in any way with this effort, have an interest in the endeavor, want more information, or just want to be put on the Robotics SIG mailing list for this project, please contact Ann Dorsey (adorsey@cavtel.net) or Janet Lathan (techgap@yahoo.com, 240-393-1464). (For more information about the Robotics SIG, go to www.cpcug.org/user/comm/sig-supp.html#robo or cpcug.millkern.com/user/nealg/rbts/.)



Volunteers Needed to Help High School Team in FIRST Robotics Competition

Who: ➤ Programmers ➤ Technical specialists ➤ Web designers ➤ Engineers
➤ Supply solicitors ➤ Financial specialists ➤ Transportation coordinators
➤ Project managers ➤ Graphics designers ➤ Mailing List coordinators
➤ Enthusiastic supporters ➤ Mentors, mentors, mentors, mentors

When: Mostly weekends, from Saturday, January 8, to February 22, 2005

Where: Anthrotronix Corp (Silver Spring, MD), and Benjamin Banneker HS (Washington, DC)

Contact: Janet Lathan (techgap@yahoo.com, 240-393-1464) or Ann Dorsey (adorsey@cavtel.net)

Because time is of the essence, please indicate your interest as soon as possible.

Hard Drive Maintenance continued from page 9

burning utilities that let you drag and drop files to a CD-RW, may interfere with either SCANDISK or DEFRAG. If you get an error message that either one has stopped because it has been interrupted a certain number of times, you must disable these utilities temporarily.

To disable a screen saver, right-click on an empty area of the Windows desktop and select "Properties." Go to the Screen Saver page, note which one you are using, then select "None" in the selection box. To disable CD-ROM utilities such as DirectCD (Roxio) or InCD (Nero), right-click on their icon in the taskbar at the lower right of your screen and close the program.

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Robert E. Simanski, an Accredited Business Communicator, is the owner of Business Pro Services, Sterling, Virginia. His company provides on-site computer support for home, home-office, and small-office users. He can be reached at 703-404-8665 between 12 noon and 8 PM on most days or by e-mail at rsimanski@yourpubpro.com.

SpinRite 6 continued from page 15

RPM 6 GB hard disk (3 logical DOS partitions). I was pleased that SpinRite did not find problems on any of the disks, and hope they all still have a lot of usable life remaining.

SpinRite is purchased and downloaded directly from the Gibson Research Corporation web site (www.grc.com). The program is very small by today's standards, about 170 Kilobytes, so it downloads very quickly even with a dialup connection. Documentation for SpinRite 6 is still being developed, but the web site has the documentation for SpinRite 5. Thus far, I've found that the menus appearing throughout SpinRite 6's startup contain ample explanation. A personal SpinRite license extends to all hardware personally and privately owned by the purchaser.

I recommend visiting the Gibson web site to learn more about SpinRite (documents at various technical levels are available), and to access the information and software that is freely available on the web site for testing and enhancing the security of any Microsoft Windows-based

computer that is connected to the Internet. I was happy to purchase SpinRite to help provide a little financial support for all of the security related work that Steve Gibson has done.

Chris Moriarty is a member of CPCUG. He does not consider himself an IT professional, but he has set up two home computers that are networked with dual boot Windows / Linux operating systems. He can be reached at chrismor@cpcug.org.

"Late Nite" continued from page 21

around \$10, in some cases).

Also, there are a few other alternative operating systems available, like Sun OS, FreeBSD, and BeOs. They aren't like clones of Microsoft Windows, though, so there are learning curves, and compatibility issues, associated with them.

Marty Shinko has been involved with the CPCUG since the early 1990s, as a volunteer instructor and advocate for beginners. He's used computers for over three decades, from PCs to supercomputers. He can be reached via e-mail at mshinko.cpcug@juno.com or via phone at 301-253-1743. Or come to the CPCUG General Meetings and meet him in person at the "Late Nite" sessions which follow the Tech Talks.

O'Reilly Books Available for Review

Thanks to the generosity of O'Reilly & Associates, one of the leading publishers of computer and networking books, CPCUG is well stocked with titles.

We'll have books at meetings and make them available there or by other means to people who will make a commitment to review them for the *Monitor*.

We always need product and book reviewers — people who'll exercise a product or read a book carefully, then share thoughts with fellow members. Reviewing a product or book is a contribution that helps your fellow members, and it's what user groups are all about.

If you're interested — it's easy, fun, and you can get writing guidelines and editing help if you wish — contact Ken Rothermel at reviews@cpcug.org.



Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

The Capital PC User Group has Special Interest Groups (SIGs) that meet throughout the Washington, DC, metro area. By attending SIG meetings, you can learn a computer-related subject of your choosing, continue to learn after mastering the basics, share your knowledge with others, and gather with peers in social/networking environments.

Access (Microsoft)

- Monthly, third Wednesday, 7:00PM
- Veterans Affairs Medical Center (adjacent to the Washington Hospital Center), 50 Irving Street, NW, Washington, DC (use Emergency Room Entrance), 4th floor, IRM Room, 4C106a
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/access/
- E-mail announcement list: [accesssig-l](mailto:accesssig-l@cpcug.org) hosted at cpcug.org
- E-mail discussion list: [accesssigd-l](mailto:accesssigd-l@cpcug.org) hosted at cpcug.org
- Contact—David Kiasi, d: 301-350-4752, David.Kiasi@appalt.com

Sign up for our meeting announcement and vibrant discussion lists where you can get insight and suggestions for solving your Access problems.

Act!

- 1st Sunday of every month 3:00-5:00PM
- **Note Location:** Harbour Square Cooperative Library, 500 N St, SW, Washington, DC
- Contact—Rick Shaddock Rick@CICorp.com, 703-486-2222

ACT! SIG meetings are a place for users to discuss and share their use of ACT! and to ask and answer questions of other ACT! users at all levels of expertise.

Our meetings are designed to give ACT! users the opportunity to learn more about using specific features of ACT! and the many products that seamlessly integrate with ACT!, and to meet other ACT! users in the Washington, DC, area. We will be performing demos of new versions of ACT!, offering solutions to technical support issues, and suggesting tips to increase user productivity.

Our SIG creates a forum to learn from other ACT! users and industry specialists, encourages the exchange of ideas about ACT!, and creates an opportunity to keep abreast of the latest business solution developments.

Beginners (and Beyond)

- Usually monthly, at “Late Nite” following General Meetings/TechTalks, usually second Monday, 9:00PM
- Same location or meeting room as the General Meeting
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/beginner/
- E-mail announcement list: [beginsig-l](mailto:beginsig-l@cpcug.org) hosted at cpcug.org
- E-mail discussion list: [beginsigd-l](mailto:beginsigd-l@cpcug.org) hosted at cpcug.org
- Contact—Marty Shinko, d/e/w: 301-253-1743 or mshinko.cpcug@juno.com

Marty Shinko is coordinating the Beginners (and Beyond) SIG for computer beginners and intermediates. He'd also be interested in hearing from those who work with beginners.

Not exactly a beginner, but also not an expert? This SIG may be just what you've been looking for, a place for those no longer beginners to continue to learn how to get more out of their computers. And as computers evolve, the issues facing beginning computer users change.

Join us for fun, lively discussion, and computer talk. Experts are welcome to share their insights as well, of course.

How You Can Help

Serve as a:

- Primary contact person
- Alternate contact person
- Representative to attend CPCUG Board of Directors meetings
- Contact person at General Meetings
- Reporter to write SIG update reports for *Monitor*
- Moderator for e-mail discussion lists

To help in any of these or other capacities, contact Marty by calling 301-253-1743, sending him a message via e-mail at mshinko.cpcug@juno.com, or meeting him during Late Nite following most General Meetings.

Clipper

- Monthly, last Thursday, 7:00PM
- Meets at different local restaurants—subscribe to the Clipper e-mail

announcement list to learn current month's location

- E-mail meeting announcements, monthly: To subscribe, send an e-mail request to SIG Chair Naseem Saab at Naseem_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com
- www.DPS-Consulting.com/Clipper
- Contact—Naseem Saab, 703-713-6900, Naseem_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com

The Washington Area Clipper Users Group (WACUG) became the Clipper SIG of the Capital PC User Group. The mission of the Clipper SIG is (1) to form a presence for Clipper programmers/consultants in the Washington, DC, area, (2) to help newcomers to the Clipper world appreciate and learn about the power of the language. If you need a Clipper programmer/consultant, we maintain a list of Clipper SIG members specializing in Clipper and Clipper-to-Windows conversions. Send an e-mail with the job description and requirements to Naseem Saab at Naseem_Saab@DPS-Consulting.com for distribution to the mailing list.

Delphi

- Monthly, first Wednesday, 7:00PM (except no meeting in January and July)
- Inter-American Development Bank, 1350 New York Ave, Washington, DC
- Luncheon meeting—usually third Thursday, 11:30AM (Pentagon City Mall near movie theatres)
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/delphi/
- E-mail announcement list: [delphisig-l](mailto:delphisig-l@cpcug.org) hosted at cpcug.org
- E-mail discussion list: [delphisigd-l](mailto:delphisigd-l@cpcug.org) hosted at cpcug.org
- Contact—Thomas Miller 703-503-5600, tmiller@bss-software.com

Meeting Notes

If you know of other Delphi developers, please let them know about our meetings. We have presentations, technical discussions, contests, door prizes, leads, and fun.

Digital Video

- Monthly (except July, August, and December), third Tuesday, 7:30PM
- usually Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center (BCCSC), top floor Multipurpose Room. *Check the Web site for verification.*
- URL—www.dvug.org
- Contact—Merrill M. Hessel, 301-840-1258, dvug@meral.com

Typical Agenda

7:30PM	SIG Business
7:40	Demo
8:00	Presentation
8:25	Video clips
9:00	Adjourn

Digital Camcorders are more popular than ever, but what do you do once you have taken the video? Put it into your computer and massage it, add titles, add music, and then improve your technique!

The Digital Video SIG of the Capital PC User Group (also known as the Digital Video User Group, DVUG) has an exciting program and opportunities for those interested in video. The group focuses on all aspects of the revolution in the production of digital videos, such as:

- Digital nonlinear editing system set-up and use
- Digital cameras
- Digital color correction
- Digital video authoring of DVDs
- Special effects and use of such software packages as Adobe After Effects
- Digital sound editing, sweetening, filtering of hum and extraneous noises, and other effects
- Digital lighting
- 3D effects

Upcoming Meeting

Tuesday, January 18, 7:30 pm
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center

Independent producer and professional editor Gary Krimstein is scheduled to be the featured speaker. He will describe his approach to designing and conducting video productions, marketing techniques, and show some clips from his productions. He will also provide on editing, and respond to questions from the audience.

Gary Krimstein is the co-owner of Beckstein Productions, a video production company specializing in documentaries and corporate videos. He is an award-winning independent producer/editor with more than 15 years of experience in television. During his career, he has received many honors, including eight Emmy awards and five Telly awards

As the Senior Editor at Ventana

Productions in Washington, D.C., he edited the award-winning documentary, "American Lives: Jewish Stories." He also edited "Red Light Survivors," a documentary on prostitution, which aired on MSNBC.

Gary worked more than 4 years producing and editing sports features for the nationally syndicated George Michael Sports Machine and the NBC owned station in Washington, D.C.

Before moving to Washington, Gary spent 6 years at the CBS affiliate in Hartford, Connecticut, where he worked on special projects, news specials, and documentaries. "Coming Home to Say Goodbye," a documentary he edited on Hospice Care, won the bronze medal at the New York International Video and Film Competition.

7:30 pm DVUG Business

7:35 Gary Krimstein, "Designing, Con-

ducting, Marketing Video Productions"

8:35 Questions, General Discussion

9:00 Meeting Ends

Please Note: If Montgomery County Schools close because of weather or other conditions, the meeting will be cancelled.

Check the Web site, www.dvug.org, for information on the next meetings and directions. For any questions, or to be added to the e-mail list, send a message to Merrill Hessel at dvug@meral.com.

Entrepreneurs and Consultants

- Monthly free meetings, usually third Saturday, 1:00PM
- Occasional workshop "extras" (varying fees)
- usually *Cleveland Park Library*, 3310 Connecticut Ave, NW, Washington, DC
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/entrepreneur/
- E-mail discussion list: *conent-l* hosted at cpcug.org
- Contacts—Barbara Conn, d: 202-508-1494, e/w: 202-452-7428, bconn@cpcug.org; Marie Pinho, 703-569-6080, mpinho@cox.net

Typical Agenda

1:00	Welcome
1:05	Accounting Tips/Tax Updates, Jina Etienne, CPA
1:15	Main Presentation
2:40	Q&A
2:55	Closing announcements
3:00	Door Prize Drawing (when available)
3:00	Informal queries, conversation, networking

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Results™ is an integrated customer relationship and business management

software package (www.Results-Software.com).

Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 15, 1:00-3:15 pm
Cleveland Park Library, 1st Floor Large Meeting Room

Topic: Creating a Search Engine Friendly Web Site

Speaker: Nancy Kramer, Search Engine Optimization Consultant

Purpose: Learn how Web site design impacts rankings at Google, Yahoo, and other major search engines.

Description: Design issues block many business Web sites from getting the desired results at the most popular search engine Web sites. Small business owners and Web site developers need to be aware that design issues can cause a Web site to be difficult for search engine spiders to index. Learn what these design issues involve, avoid them, create Web sites that are search engine friendly, and you'll save the time and money of redesign and relaunch.

Google, Yahoo, and other major search engines are the new "Yellow Pages." This presentation will teach you how to ensure that your Web site will be found at the major search engine sites for your targeted key words and phrases (the words and phrases you expect your potential customers to use). In addition, getting listed at search engines is free--if you know how to do it. Make sure your business is listed. Learn how at this presentation.

The speaker, Nancy Kramer, designs and maintains Web sites--several in the top 10 positions for their targeted key words at Google and other search engine sites. Last month her Web content properties served more than 1.1 million page views, resulting in more than 3.1 million ad impressions for ad networks including Google Ad Sense, Burst Media, Tribal Fusion, and FastClick. Serving Internet ads since 1999, Nancy's Web sites continue to produce significant regular income. In addition, *Rod and Custom* named her site, americandreamcars.com, "One of the 10 Best Places To Buy or Sell a Collector Car on the Web."

With more than 25 years of experience in information technology, Ms. Kramer has extensive experience in system integration, management of software development efforts, full system life cycle, and the Software Engineering Institute's (SEI) capability maturity model (CMM). In addition, she is knowledgeable in database design, structured query language (SQL), and object-oriented design. As a search engine optimization consultant, Nancy Kramer helps small businesses get found

in Google and other major search engines for the targeted key words.

Sat., February 19, 2005, 1:00-3:15 pm

Topic: Taxes: What Every Entrepreneur and Consultant Needs To Know

Speaker: Jina Etienne, CPA

Is your business paying more in taxes than required by law? Whether your business grosses millions of dollars each year or you are just getting started as an independent consultant, you probably hire an outside accountant to handle tax return submission. The ultimate responsibility for paying appropriate taxes, however, is yours. Do you have the basic accounting knowledge needed to supervise the work of your accountant? Do you stay current on tax law changes? Because tax return deadlines for corporations and individuals are approaching, the focus of this presentation will be on income tax compliance and preparation rather than on tax planning and consulting issues. This presentation will alert you to mistakes and oversights that can cost you money, and to tax law changes you need to know about. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session, so gather your questions and join us.

Jina Etienne, CPA, has more than 15 years of public accounting experience. She began her career with Deloitte & Touche, where her focus was tax planning and compliance for corporations, partnerships, and S corporations ranging from government contractors and vending companies to hospitality and retail firms. When she left Deloitte & Touche, her focus shifted to the needs of small- and medium-sized businesses. With her own practice, Jina Etienne provides a wide range of accounting services for businesses and individuals, including tax planning and preparation, and business consulting. Her client base is diverse, including retail and service-based businesses as well as consultants and contractors. For individuals, her services generally include tax return preparation and tax planning, including tax research and representation before the IRS.

Meeting Notes

The Entrepreneurs and Consultants SIG is for computer consultants and entrepreneurs using computers. Our monthly meeting presentation topics are varied, and we welcome everyone. Attendees include business owners, independent computer consultants, managers of entrepreneurial entities within larger companies, new graduates, career changers, and those transitioning from a one-person consultancy to a business with full-time employees.

For the most up-to-date information

about the activities of our SIG, including any meeting date, time, location, and topic changes, please subscribe to our content-L LISTSERV list at:
www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/CONTENT-L/subscribe.html.

At many meetings there are handouts. To ensure we have handouts for all attendees, please register for each meeting via our Web form: www.cpcug.org/user/entrepreneur/meet-reg.html.

Future Meetings

If you have an idea for a topic or speaker, please send an e-mail message about it to bconn@cpcug.org.

GLITCH DC SIG

GLITCH DC SIG (Gay and Lesbian Information Technologists of Washington DC, Inc.). Diverse group of men and women of all ages, all fields, from main frame programmers to novice users.

- Meets second Sunday of each month for brunch and technical presentation, 11:00AM
- Dupont Italian Kitchen, upstairs dining room, 17th and R Streets, NW
- Special events announced via mailing list at glitchdc-announce@yahoogroups.com
- Contact: Wallace Dickson, 202-265-0591, wdickson@wdn.com, or Cliff Bailey, 703-237-7486, cbailey@myexcel.com
- URL—www.glitchdc.org
- Jobs are listed via mailing list at glitchdc-jobs@yahoogroups.com

Investment

- Monthly (except August), third Wednesday, 7:30PM
- Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/invest/
- E-mail meeting notices, monthly: To receive, send your e-mail request to skatz@highstream.net with your name and e-mail address.
- Contacts—Andy Thompson, Thompson01@erols.com or e/w at 301-270-6790. For information on Investor's FastTrack mutual fund and stock data base and software sessions, contact Ferd Hassler 301-718-6253 or Carl Berninger at cberninger@mindspring.com.

General meeting program schedule:

7:30 pm FastTrack session

8:15 pm Q & A session; Investment SIG business

8:30 pm Main presenter

9:30 pm 'Market Watch' (if no outside speaker)

Our meetings have two components. Each meeting begins with a 45-minute

discussion related to FastTrack software, which is widely used for analyzing and tracking mutual funds and individual stocks. At 8:15 pm the Investment SIG formally begins and our typical agenda consists of an initial 10-15 minutes of questions, answers, SIG business, and CPCUG concerns. Then we have a main presentation(s) lasting 60-90 minutes addressing issues related to fundamental or technical analysis of stocks, mutual funds, bonds, or trading methods such as options and market timing. The topic of technical analysis indicators is frequently visited.

After the main presentation, if the speaker is from outside the group, there is a 'Market Watch' discussion by our members. The meetings are free and open to the public.

We also have a library for our members. If you have any suggestions for future Investment SIG meeting topics, or if you have something ('non-commercial') you would like to present at a meeting, please e-mail Andy Thompson.

Upcoming Meeting

Wednesday, January 19, 7:30 pm
Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD

Microsoft Office

- Usually monthly, fourth Wednesday (except November and December), 7:00PM
- American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) at 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/comm/sig-supply.html#office
- Contact—Marie Parker, d: 301-897-5700 X4220, mparker@ASHA.org

If you are interested in joining a group where you can exchange ideas, get answers to your questions and concerns, and increase your knowledge of Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, and the integration of these three applications, then this SIG is for you.

PalmOS

- Monthly, day varies, 6:30PM
- Usually at American Psychological Association, 750 First Street, NE, 6th floor, Executive Office Suite, Washington, DC
- URL—www.interpug.com/dcpug/
- Contacts—Shawn Googins, d: 301-496-5774, theoophile@yahoo.com; Craig Simpson, d/e/w: 301-942-3921, macshimidh@earthlink.net, icq#58070639; Frank Sokolove, frank.sokolove@verizon.net.

Pocket PC

- For date, time, and location, send e-mail to Ray Wiley (see below)
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/pocketpc
- E-mail announcement list: *pocketpc-1* hosted at cpcug.org
- E-mail discussion list: *pocketpcd-1* hosted at cpcug.org
- Contact—Ray Wiley, d: 703-682-5325 or rainman@gokatgo.net

The Washington Area Pocket PC Users Group, a Special Interest Group of the Capital PC User Group, meets to discuss topics relating to the Pocket PC platform. If you're interested in learning how a Pocket PC can help you at work and play, please join us at our next meeting. Current Palm users are highly encouraged to attend!

Robotics (Provisional SIG)

- Usually the 3rd Thursday of each month
- Time: 6:30-10 PM: 6:30-7:30 SIG admin, 7:30-8:30 presentation, 8:30-10 workshop
- Location: Pangborn Hall, Room 303, Catholic University of America 620 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington DC 20064
- Contact—Janet Lathan, 240-393-1464, janetlathan@comcast.net; Ann Dorsey, 240-888-8295, a.dorsey@deskpilot.com

<http://admissions.cua.edu/visit/map.cfm>

<http://welcome.cua.edu/maps.cfm>

http://tour.cua.edu/default4.cfm?Building_Id=39

The purpose of the CPCUG Robotics SIG is to sponsor activities on robotics for CPCUG and its communities.

Activities will include informational meetings, workshops, demonstrations, and competitions.

Upcoming Events

**Thursday, January 20, 6:30-10:00 PM
SIG MEETING**

Seniors

- Monthly, first Saturday, 10:00AM-NOON
- Bedford Court - 3701 International Drive Silver Spring, MD [Directions: Take Georgia Avenue north from Beltway to third traffic light past intersection with Connecticut Ave, and turn right on International Dr to the tall building two blocks east. We meet in the Activities Room on the ground floor.]
- E-mail discussion list: *seniorsigd-1* hosted at cpcug.org

- Contact—Paul Shapiro, paul.shapiro@gmail.com. When not online, he can be reached at 240-643-8729.

The Seniors Special Interest Group meetings are open to all. They help attendees get more from their personal computers. We'd like member participation in arranging SIG programs, and need you to help get the word out about the Seniors SIG. The Seniors SIG is for everyone, from beginner to expert. CPCUG members and visitors are welcome and encouraged to attend our meetings whenever possible.

Statistics

- Monthly (except June through August), usually second Wednesday, 12:30PM
- 1800 M Street, NW, South Tower, Third Floor, Room S3031, Washington, DC—first-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan at hallahan@ers.usda.gov or 202-694-5051 to have their names put on the admittance list
- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/
- E-mail meeting announcements, monthly: To subscribe, send e-mail to Charles Hallahan, hallahan@ers.usda.gov
- Contact—Charles Hallahan, e/w: 703-532-2930, hallahan@ers.usda.gov

SIGSTAT is the Special Interest Group in Statistics for the CPCUG, the Capital PC User Group, and WINFORMS, the Washington Institute for Operations Research Service and Management Science.

All meetings are in Room S3031, 1800 M St, NW from 12:30 to 1:30. Enter the South Tower & take the elevator to the 3rd floor to check in at the guard's desk.

First-time attendees should contact Charlie Hallahan, 202-694-5051, hallahan@ers.usda.gov, and leave their name. Directions to the building & many links of statistical interest can be found at the SIGSTAT Web site, www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/.

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, January 12: Resampling Methods (www.resampling.com/)

Peter Bruce, developer of Resampling Stats software, will give an introduction to resampling methods and their history. He will discuss William Gossett's original simulations that led to the development of the t-distribution and work by Fisher and Pittman (all in the early part of the last century), as well as the development of the bootstrap. The talk will include illustrations of the main resampling methods: the bootstrap and permutation procedures. This will be an overview,

suitable to those who are not experienced resamplers, not an in depth technical talk.

Wednesday, February 9: Graphics with R (www.r-project.org/)

The ease of making graphs in R is one of its strongest attractions. Some examples of making graphs were discussed in Part I. In this second part, the topics of making graphs which are annotated with equations, of putting multiple graphs on a single page, and of using polygons, will be discussed. Mike Fleming will be the speaker.

Our Web Pages

The SIGSTAT pages, at www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/, contain an extensive set of links to Web pages of interest to statisticians. Each month we'll look at some sites relevant to that month's demo.

Virginia SIG

- Monthly, third Monday, 7:00PM
- Washington Gas, 6801 Industrial Road, Springfield, VA
- Jurisdiction for inclement weather cancellation: Fairfax County
- URL — www.cpcug.org/user/vasig/
- E-mail announcement list: *virginiasig-1* hosted at cpcug.org
- Contacts—Luis Garcia, d: 202-606-9848, e/w: 703-425-6902, lgarcia51@yahoo.com

7:00PM Open Forum and General Information

7:45 Presentation

8:45 Q&A

Meeting Notes

The main presentation can be on any general computer utilization issue: hardware, software, Internet, training, and so forth.

Inactive SIGs

The following SIGs are not active at this time. If you are interested in helping start up of any of these SIGs, please contact president@cpcug.org:

- Internet
- OS/2
- Project Management
- Visual Basic
- Windows
- WordPerfect

New SIGS

If you are interested in starting a new SIG (or re-activating an inactive SIG), please contact president@cpcug.org.

HELPLINE

The CPCUG Helpline listing is for CPCUG members only.

Volunteers provide assistance on listed subjects during the times and days outlined.

Membership has its privileges. Please be prepared to give the Helpline Volunteer your member-

ship number. Please do not ask for assistance outside the stated times. If you reach voice mail, leave a message — many people screen calls or otherwise prioritize their time. Some volunteers have provided e-mail addresses so that you can contact them if you have trouble getting in touch by phone.

If you would like to volunteer your services in any area, please contact Henry Whitney, the Helpline Coordinator, at whitmvm@comcast.net, providing your membership number, subject(s), phone number and/or e-mail address, with days/times available.

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
ACCESS				
ACCESS SIG Discussion List			www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/ACCESSSIGD-L/subscribe.html	
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M - F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com
ADOBE PAGEMAKER				
Lisa Connors	301-527-0650	Tue - Thur.	7:00p-9:00p	lamc8@comcast.net
ADOBE PHOTOSHOP				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
ALPHA FOUR				
Guy Durant	202-529-6744 202-529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a 9:00p-11:59p	
APL LANGUAGE				
Frank Ditto	304-725-3283	All	12:01p-11:59p	fditto@shentel.net
APPLE MacIntosh (Hardware, Networks, OS, Software)				
Phil Marchetti	301-404-2210	Mon-Sat	10:00a-7:00p	Phil@MarchettiAssociates.com
ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
ASTRONOMY				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
BASIC LANGUAGE				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
BROTHER'S KEEPER				
Alta Oben	703-938-5831 703-938-5831	Mon-Fri Sat-Sun	6:00p-10:00p 9:00a-10:00p	alta@cpcug.org
BUILD YOUR OWN				
Chip Dodge	703-425-7038	All	Reasonable	
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
BUYING DECISIONS				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
C LANGUAGE				
Wayne Derroncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
Scott Graham	301-437-2745	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 6:00p	sgraham@scobar.com
	301-593-2744	Mon-Fri	6:00p-9:00p	
	301-593-2744	Sat-Sun	Reasonable	
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
C++ LANGUAGE				
Keith Bennett	301-840-1161	All	8:00a -9:00p	kbennett@cpcug.org
Scott Graham	301-437-2745	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 6:00p	sgraham@scobar.com
	301-593-2744	Mon-Fri	6:00p-9:00p	
	301-593-2744	Sat-Sun	Reasonable	
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
COMMUNICATIONS - DATA/ MODEMS				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
COMPUTING - GENERAL				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Marty Shinko	301-253-1743	All	Reasonable	mshinko.cpcug@juno.com
DBASE				
Guy Durant	202-529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a	
	202-529-6744	All	9:00p-11:59p	
DELPHI/PASCAL				
Richard Maley	301-840-1554	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 5:00p	75127.17@compuserve.com
Dennis Courtney	202-623-2884	Mon-Fri	9:00a- 5:00p	dennisc@iadb.org
DOS				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980r	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
DOS Communications Packages				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
EUDORA (3 and 4)				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
EUDORA 5				
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
EXCEL				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M - F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com
Arquilla Ridgell	301-946-3041	Mon-Wed-Fri	7:00p-9:00p	clockone@aol.com
		Sat-Sun	6:00p -9:00p	clockone@aol.com
FOXPRO				
Guy Durant	202-529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a	
	202-529-6744	All	9:00p-11:59p	
GGEOWORKS				
Herb Fredricksen	301-840-2056	All	2:00p-11:00p	
HARDWARE - GENERAL				
Wayne Dennoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
HD TV/Home Theatre				
Rodolfo La Maestra	703-690-6336	Mon-Sat	Reasonable	rodolfo.lamaestra@verizon.net
HTML (Hypertext Markup Language)				
HTML SIG Discussion List				www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/HTMLSIGD-L/subscribe.htm
Harold Goldstein	301-854-0388	All	Reasonable	mdbiker@goldray.com
Walt Houser	301-299-0593	All	7:00p-10:00p	houser@cpcug.org
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
INTERNET - NOT CPCUG.ORG				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
INTERNET - BASICS				
Paul Shapiro	240-643-8729	All	9:00a-9:00p	paul.shapiro@gmail.com

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
INTERNET - CPCUG.ORG (cpcug.org subscribers only)				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com
INTERNET E-MAIL				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
INTERNET EXPLORER				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
ISO-9000				
Edward H. Jentsch	301-279-0134	All	Reasonable	ejentsch@cpcug.org
JAVA (SUN)				
Keith Bennett	301- 840-1161	All	8:00a -9:00p	kbennett@cpcug.org
LAN (See also Networking)				
Wayne Dernoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
LINUX				
Cliff Bailey	703-237-4174	Mon-Fri	10:00a-8:00p	cbailey@myexcel.com
LOTUS APPROACH				
David Littlefield	202-723-9527	Mon-Fri	8:00a-10:00p	
MATHCAD				
Roland deWit	301-299-4697	Mo,Tu,We,Fr	7:00p-9:00p	
MATHEMATICA				
Roland deWit	301-299-4697	Mo,Tu,We,Fr	7:00p-9:00p	
MEMORY MANAGEMENT				
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
MICROSOFT OFFICE				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com
MOZILLA				
Cliff Bailey	703-237-4174	Mon-Fri	10:00a-8:00p	cbailey@myexcel.com
NETSCAPE (3 and 4)				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
NETSCAPE COMPOSER, Ver 4.01				
David Littlefield	202-723-9527	Mon-Fri	6:00p-10:00p	
NETWORKING/LAN				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
NOVICE (Beginner)				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
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Marty Shinko	301-253-1743	All	Reasonable	mshinko.cpcug@juno.com
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
NUMBER THEORY				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
OLX and other Off-line Readers				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
OPENOFFICE				
Cliff Bailey	703-237-4174	Mon-Fri	10:00a-8:00p	cbailey@myexcel.com
ORACLE				
Michael Shunfenthal	703-866-9729	Mon-Fri	7:30p-9:30p	
OS/2				
Keith Bennett	301-840-1161	All	8:00a -9:00p	kbennett@cpcug.org
C. Patrick Zilliacus	301-384-0972	Sat-Sun	12:01p-9:00p	

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
OUTLOOK				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com
PARADOX AND PAL FOR DOS				
Ron Hicks	703-528-1009	All	Reasonable	ronhicks@cpcug.org
PERSONAL EDITOR II				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
C. Patrick Zilliacus	301-384-0972	Sat-Sun	12:01p-9:00p	
PKZIP				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
PRINTERS - GENERAL				
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
PVCS VERSION MANAGER 5.2				
Edward H. Jentsch	301-279-0134	All	Reasonable	ejentsch@cpcug.org
QBASIC (IN MS-DOS)				
Paul Shapiro	240-643-8729	All	9:00a-9:00p	paul.shapiro@gmail.com
QUICK BASIC 4.5				
Paul Shapiro	240-643-8729	All	9:00a-9:00p	paul.shapiro@gmail.com
QUICKBOOKS				
Dennis Courtney	301-570-9334	Mon-Fri	6:30p-9:00p	dennisc@cpcug.net
	202-623-2884	Mon-Fri	9:30a-5:30p	
QUICKEN				
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
SATELLITES, EARTH				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
SMALLTALK				
Cliff Bailey	703-237-4174	Mon-Fri	10:00a-8:00p	cbailey@myexcel.com
SQL				
Dennis Courtney	301-570-9334	Mon-Fri	7:00p-10:00p	
	202-623-2884	Mon-Fri	9:30a-5:30p	
STUFFIT				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
Timeslips (DOS and Windows)				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
TROUBLESHOOTING - GENERAL				
Wayne Dernoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
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UBASIC LANGUAGE				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
UNIX				
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	301-593-2744	Mon-Fri	6:00p-9:00p	
	301-593-2744	Sat-Sun	Reasonable	
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UTILITIES				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
VIDEO CONFERENCING				
Paul Shapiro	240-643-8729	All	9:00a-9:00p	paul.shapiro@gmail.com

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
VMWARE				
Cliff Bailey	703-237-4174	Mon-Fri	10:00a-8:00p	cbailey@myexcel.com
WEB SEARCH ENGINES				
Harold Goldstein	301-854-0388	All	Reasonable	mdbiker@goldray.com
WINDOWS 3.1				
Guy Durant	202-529-6744	All	8:00a-11:00a	
	202-529-6744	All	9:00p-11:59p	
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
WINDOWS 95				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
WINDOWS 98				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
WINDOWS ME				
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
WINDOWS NT - SYSTEM POLICY EDITOR				
Ron Hicks	703-528-1009	All	Reasonable	ronhicks@cpcug.org
WINDOWS 2000 PROFESSIONAL				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
WINDOWS XP				
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
Henry Winokur	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
WINFAX PRO				
Howard Weeks	301-924-0400	Mon-Fri	2:00p - 6:00p	
WORD				
Edward H. Jentsch (ver 6.0/7.0)	301-279-0134	All	Reasonable	ejentsch@cpcug.org
Arquilla Ridgell	301-946-3041	Mo,We,Fr	7:00p-9:00p	Clockone@aol.com
	301-946-3041	Sat-Sun	6:00p-9:00p	Clockone@aol.com
Robert Simanski (*97-2003)	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
Henry Winokur (ver 6.0/7.0, *97-2003)	301-320-2104	All	Reasonable	henwin@atlantech.net
WORDPERFECT				
WordPerfect SIG Discussion List				www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/WPSIGD-L/subscribe.html
Arquilla Ridgell	301-946-3041	Mo, We, Fr	7:00p-9:00p	clockone@aol.com
	301-946-3041	Sat-Sun	6:00p -9:00p	clockone@aol.com
WORDPERFECT (5.1 & 6.0 DOS)				
Wayne Dernoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
WORDPERFECT (DOS & WINDOWS)				
Howard Weeks	301-924-0400	Mon-Fri	2:00p- 6:00p	
WORDPERFECT (DOS-ALL)				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
WORDPERFECT (WINDOWS 7-9)				
David Chessler	301-229-3984	All	7:00p-10:00p	
WORLD WIDE WEB				
Harold Goldstein	301-854-0388	All	Reasonable	mdbiker@goldray.com
Walt Houser	301-299-0593	All	7:00p - 10:00p	houser@cpcug.org
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com



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Millkern is proud to provide Internet service
to Capital PC User Group Members

Millkern Communications, Inc.
Tel: 301-738-0097

Directions to Washington Gas January 10 General Meeting TechTalk

The January CPCUG General Meeting TechTalk will be held at:

Washington Gas
(usually in the large auditorium)
6801 Industrial Road
Springfield, VA 22150

Directions:

Industrial Road is in the Shirley Industrial Park. It meets Backlick Road between the Beltway and Edsall Road.

By auto from I-495 Beltway Inner Loop (North):

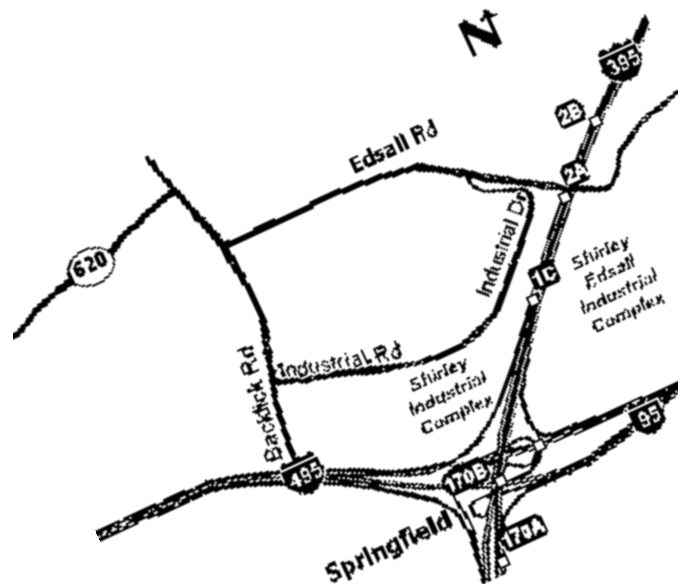
Take I-395 North.
Continue with I-395 directions.

By auto from I-395:

Take Exit 2, Edsall Road (Route 648) West.
Turn left at end of road onto Backlick Rd (Rt 617).
After approx. .4 mile, turn left on Industrial Road at the traffic light.
Enter the Washington Gas parking lot on the right after passing the sign with white lettering on black background, at the "Payment Depository" sign.

By auto from I-495 Beltway Outer Loop (South):

Take Exit 5, Braddock Road (Route 620) East.
After approx. 1.8 miles, turn right on Backlick Road (Route 617).
After approx. .7 mile, turn left on Industrial Road traffic light.
Enter the Washington Gas parking lot on the right after passing the sign with white lettering on black background, at the "Payment Depository" sign.



*Please see page 4 for details on
upcoming General Meeting TechTalks.*

CPCUG Mailing Lists



The Capital PC User Group maintains many mailing lists for distributing and sharing information. A mailing list is a list of people's names and e-mail addresses used to send certain

messages or announcements to a group of people simultaneously who have a common interest in the message contents. You can join and leave the list as your needs dictate. Electronic mailing lists are a logical extension of bulletin board systems like the late CPCUG Membership Information eXchange (MIX). They provide very much the same functionality as the MIX did without requiring dialing into a separate message server. If you have access to the Internet and e-mail you can get started exploring mailing lists right away!

To make using LISERV (the trade name for the most popular mailing list management software in the world) easy for even the newest user we have installed a Web-based gateway to these lists. From this gateway, users can get information about the various lists that are available. They can subscribe to, unsubscribe from, and set personal preferences (subscription options), for any of the lists that are open to the public. To reach this gateway go to our Web site at www.cpcug.org and select the "Mailing List" option from the main menu. Some of the lists are for information distribution only (no individual posting allowed), and others are open for posting (discussion lists). Most of the list owners maintain archives of messages, and those archives that are available can be read via the gateway at CPCUG's web site.

You can retrieve a manual and other information about the workings of LISERV from:

www.lsoft.com/info/default.asp?item=manuals

Below is a compilation of some of the most popular of CPCUG's current e-mail lists.

- ACCESSSIG-L** (CPCUG Access SIG Announcement List)
- ACCESSSIGD-L** (CPCUG Access SIG Discussion List)
- BEGINSIG-L** (CPCUG Beginners SIG Announcement List)
- BEGINSIGD-L** (CPCUG Beginners SIG Discussion List)
- CONENT-L** (CPCUG Entrepreneurs and Consultants SIG Discussion List)
- CPCUGCAL-L** (CPCUG Event Calendar Distribution List)
- CPCUGGEN-L** (CPCUG General Discussion List)

- DCPUG-L** (CPCUG PalmOS SIG Discussion List)
- DELPHISIG-L** (CPCUG Delphi SIG Announcement List)
- HTMLSIG-L** (CPCUG HTML SIG Announcement List)
- HTMLSIGD-L** (CPCUG HTML SIG Discussion List)
- JAVASIG-L** (CPCUG Java SIG Announcement List)
- JAVASIGD-L** (CPCUG JAVA SIG Discussion List)
- MIX-L** (CPCUG Member Info. eXchange Discussion List)*
- MMSIG-L** (CPCUG Multimedia SIG Announcement List)
- MMSIGD-L** (CPCUG Multimedia SIG Discussion List)
- MONITOR-L** (CPCUG *Monitor* Announcement List)
- NETSIG-L** (CPCUG Internet SIG News List)**
- OFCSIG-L** (CPCUG MS-Office SIG Announcement List)
- PMSIG-L** (CPCUG Project Mgm't SIG Announcement List)
- POCKETPC-L** (CPCUG Pocket PC SIG Announcement List)
- POCKETPCD-L** (CPCUG Pocket PC SIG Discussion List)
- SCIFAIRD-L** (CPCUG Science Fair Discussion List)
- SENIORSIG-L** (CPCUG Seniors SIG Announcement List)
- SENIORSIGD-L** (CPCUG Seniors SIG Discussion List)
- TRAIN-L** (CPCUG Training Program Announcement List)
- TRAIND-L** (CPCUG Training Program Discussion List)
- VBSIG-L** (CPCUG Visual Basic SIG Announcement List)
- VBSIGD-L** (CPCUG Visual Basic SIG Discussion List)
- VIRGINIASIG-L** (CPCUG VA SIG Announcement List)
- WPSIG-L** (CPCUG WordPerfect SIG Announcement List)
- WPSIGD-L** (CPCUG WordPerfect SIG Discussion List)

* MIX-L – CPCUG members only. Send e-mail to David Chessler <chessler@cpcug.org> to subscribe.

** NETSIG-L cannot be subscribed to or signed off from cpcug.org as it is hosted on AOL. To subscribe to NETSIG-L mailings, send e-mail to: LISTSERV@LISTSERV.AOL.COM containing the line:

SUBSCRIBE NETSIG-L <firstname> <lastname>

To subscribe to any list, send an e-mail message to LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG. Include in the message the line: SUBSCRIBE <listname> <yourfirstname> <yourlastname>. Do not include the angle brackets. No entry in the subject line is necessary.



The software for maintaining the mailing lists, LISERV®, has been made available through a generous donation from L-Soft International, Inc. The Web-based gateway, LWGate, is a perl script written by © 1995 David W. Baker, dwb@netspace.org. This program is free software under the terms of the GNU General Public License as published by the Free Software Foundation.

10 Reasons To Join CPCUG

Capital PC User Group (CPCUG) membership entitles each member of your family living in your household to all CPCUG membership benefits—

1. Helpline—a great way to get help from experts for your hardware, software, and Internet questions and problems at no additional cost. The Helpline Directory is updated and published in the *Monitor*, the magazine of the Capital PC User Group.

2. Mail delivery of a print copy of our award-winning magazine, the *Monitor*, with its practical tips for computer users; technical articles; regular columns; CPCUG-member-authored reviews of software, hardware, and computer-related books; CPCUG event calendar; and special interest group (SIG) and Training Program information.

3. Computer education and training classes, seminars, workshops, discussions, and labs at low member rates—some are even free to members while others are for members only.

4. Assistance from CPCUG Build Team mentors in specifying and building your own computer. CPCUG's popular "Build" Workshop gives participants the knowledge and confidence to select appropriate components to build and later upgrade their own computers without additional paid assistance. This workshop is only \$75 and is only available to CPCUG members.

5. Discounts on software, hardware, and training are periodically made available to members of our user group. [If you take advantage of several discounts available only to CPCUG members, your membership pays for itself.]

6. Internet service options available only to CPCUG members at competitive rates through our Internet domain cpcug.org.

7. Access to new member-only e-mail distribution lists being created to supplement our more than 30 public discussion and announcement lists. List subscribers can ask and get answers to computer hardware and software questions, and stay informed about CPCUG activities and Training.

8. New software and/or computer reference books—available without charge to members who review them for our magazine, the *Monitor*. You'll also get a byline in the *Monitor* and become a member of our product review coordinator's team.

9. Member-only door prizes—available at some General Meetings, some special interest group (SIG) meetings, and at occasional seminars. [This benefit has more than paid for the annual membership fee of many active CPCUG members. Software prizes have included Lotus Domino Go Webserver, MS Office Professional, and Adobe Photoshop. Hardware prizes have included Hewlett Packard Pocket PCs and Palm handhelds.]

10. Opportunities to develop and/or enhance leadership and management skills, while building your professional network, by volunteering with CPCUG.

The biggest benefit of all may be that by becoming active in the Capital PC User Group you become part of a very helpful community of computer users and IT professionals who are truly "Users Helping Users."

Before you know it you will also become a "User Helping Users."

The Capital PC User Group, Inc. (CPCUG), a nonprofit 501(c)(3) educational organization established in 1982, provides a forum for sharing information, experience, and resources among computer users, from novice to advanced. Although the group serves primarily the Washington, DC, metropolitan area, members are found around the world.

Membership Form

Mail to: Capital PC User Group, Inc.
19209 Mt. Airey Road
Brookeville, MD 20833

Call to (if paying by credit card): (301) 762-9372

Fax to (if paying by credit card): (301) 762-9375

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/ZIP _____

Telephone (Evening/Weekend) _____

Telephone (Day) _____

E-Mail Address _____

Member Number _____

New Membership 1 year—\$42 Outside the
 Renewal 2 years—\$78 United States,
 Change of Address 3 years—\$110 \$60 per year

Payment method: Check VISA MasterCard

Card Number _____

Expiration Date _____

Signature (required for credit cards): _____

List my name in the next Membership Directory? Yes No
Name and address information from this Membership Directory may be very occasionally made available to computer-related businesses, most often on a one-time basis to vendors desiring to announce their General Meeting presentations. If you do not wish to be included in the directory, mark the "No" box above.

Please check this box if you would *not* wish to receive a monthly e-mail message with current CPCUG training and meeting topics. We are considering using this means of keeping the membership informed of scheduled events and changes more rapidly than is possible via the *Monitor* magazine.

Your membership starts with the first *Monitor* magazine mailed to you. It may take 4–6 weeks before you are included on the mailing list or receive your membership card. Please be patient.

Five dollars of the membership fee is for a subscription to the *Monitor*.
902w

Capital PC User Group, Inc. *A Resource for Technology Users and IT Professionals*

Phone: (301) 762-9372

Fax: (301) 762-9375

E-Mail: admin@cpcug.org

Snail Mail: 19209 Mt. Airey Road
Brookeville, MD 20833

URL: <http://www.cpcug.org/>

President: Dennis Courtney
president@cpcug.org

Events Calendar:

<http://www.cpcug.org/user/comm/cal-6mon.html>

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To advertise in this space, please
contact the
Monitor editor at
editor@cpcug.org

New Millkern Services for CPCUG.ORG members

DSL

Millkern is now able to provide DSL at speeds up to 3.0 MBPS through Covad throughout the United States. We've negotiated for competitive rates for CPCUG.ORG members. For additional information see www.millkern.com/dslnow.

Web Accelerator

For users who rely upon dial-up, we are now offering Slipstream software as an add-on service to cpcug.org members. Speed up your connection as much as five times faster than dial-up for the low fee of an additional \$4 a month.

For information on how this software works see www.millkern.com/docs/webaccel. To sign up, fill out the application at www.cpcug.org/apps/cpcugaddapp.html.

CPCUG Meeting Site Abbreviations & Addresses

1800 M = 1800 M St., NW, South Tower, 3rd Floor, Room S3031, Wash., DC

APA = American Psychological Assn, 750 1st St., NE, 6th Floor, Executive Office Suite, Wash., DC

ASHA = American Speech-Language-Hearing Assn, 10801 Rockville Pike, Rockville, MD

AUMC = Annandale United Methodist Church (see UHU Annandale, VA)

BCCSC = Bethesda Chevy Chase Services Center, 4805 Edgemoor Lane, Bethesda, MD: 3 locations on the 2nd Floor: Rooms A & B; Room C; and Multipurpose Room

Bedford = Bedford Court, Activity Center, Senior Living Community, 3701 International Dr, Silver Spring, MD

BLib = Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD

CESC = Carver Educational Services Center, Auditorium, 850 Hungerford Dr., Rockville, MD

CPL = Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Ave. NW, Large Mtg Rm, Washington, DC

CU-P = Catholic University of America, Pangborn Hall, Room 303, 620 Michigan Avenue, NE, Washington, DC

DIK = Dupont Italian Kitchen, upstairs dining room, 17th and R Streets NW Washington, DC.

HH = Harmony Hall Regional Center, 10701 Livingston Rd., Ft. Wash., MD

HSCL = Harbour Square Cooperative Library, 500 N St, SW, Washington, DC

IADB = Room B-300, Inter-American Development Bank, 1350 New York Ave., NW, Wash, DC

IVL = Interstate Van Lines (Community Room), 5801 Rolling Road, Springfield, VA

KL = Martin Luther King Jr. Library, 901 G St., NW, basement auditorium, Room A-5, Washington, DC

MS = Microsoft Corporation, 5335 Wisconsin Ave, NW, 5th floor, Washington, DC

PC = Pentagon City Mall Eatery

Reboot (computer recycling) = 101 Fleet St, Rockville, MD

Teaism = Teaism Restaurant, 400 8th St, NW, Wash., DC

UHU = Annandale United Methodist Church, Room 305, 6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA

VAMC = Veterans Affairs Medical Center, 50 Irving St., NW, 4th Floor, IRM Room, 4C106a, Wash., DC

WCC = Washington, DC Convention Center, 801 Mt. Vernon Place, NW, Washington, DC

WELib = West End Library, 2nd Floor, Large Meeting Room, 1101 24th Str, NW, Washington, DC

WGas = Washington Gas, 6801 Industrial Rd., Springfield, VA

Keep Updated!

Capital PC User Group meeting plans may change after the **Monitor** has gone to press. To get the latest information about meetings and special events (including topics, when available, and date, time, and location changes), bookmark and check www.cpcug.org/user/comm/.

CPCUG Training

UHU Annandale
Annandale United Methodist Church (AUMC),
Room 305
6935 Columbia Pike, Annandale, VA 22003

\$29 CPCUG & AUMC members, \$39 non-members.
All classes 6:00-9:00 pm, except where noted. *Register online at www.cpcug.net/trainingsearch.asp or call CPCUG at 301-762-9372.*

January

- 11 – Introduction to MS Excel
- 13 – Introduction to MS Access Part I
- 18 – Intermediate MS Excel
- 20 – Introduction to MS Access Part II
- 25 – Windows Maintenance and Computer Troubleshooting
- 27 – Digital Imaging

February

- 1 – Personal Disaster - Recover and Backup Techniques
- 3 – Shopping, Traveling, and Auctioning on the Internet
- 8 – Under the Hood
- 10 – How to make the most of your PDA
- 15 – Introduction to Creating Web Pages with HTML
- 17 – Burning CD's With Roxio EZ CD Creator 6
- 24 – Introduction to Creating Web Pages with ASP

Please check the CPCUG Web site, www.cpcug.net/trainingsearch.asp, for the March schedule.

Harmony Hall Regional Center
Computer Room, 2nd Floor
10701 Livingston Road
Fort Washington, MD 20744

\$35 Residents & CPCUG members. \$45 non-residents.
All classes are 6:00-9:00 pm. *Register online at www.pgparcs.com or call Harmony Hall 301-203-6040.*
Please note: Before registering for Harmony Hall classes for the first time, you must visit a Prince George's community center to register as a SMARTlink client (bring driver's license). SMARTlink class numbers, where known, are listed.

January

No Classes Scheduled

February

Classes and Schedule To Be Determined

Late Nite

The Beginners (and Beyond) SIG, also known as "Late Nite," immediately follows the General Meeting TechTalks when held at Washington Gas.

Bring your questions! "Late Nite" begins at approximately 9:00 pm.

Capital PC User Group, Inc.
19209 Mt. Airey Road,
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Membership Benefits

1. Helpline for PC and Internet questions
2. Award-winning *Monitor* magazine
3. Economical classes at member rates
4. Mentors for computer specification/building
5. Discounts on software, hardware and training
6. Internet service options through CPCUG.ORG
7. Access to members-only e-mail lists
8. Free software and books for review writers
9. Valuable door prizes at some events
10. Opportunities to enhance leadership skills