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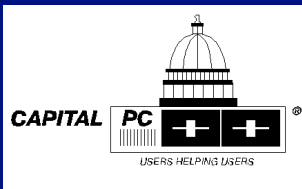
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CPCUG General Meeting TechTalks

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.



CPCUG Has A New Board of Directors

At the March, 2005, Board of Directors meeting a new slate of officers was installed to lead the Capital PC Users Group for the next year.

After serving four years as the president of CPCUG, Dennis Courtney stepped down and Frank Sokolove accepted the office. Frank, who has been serving as the chairperson of the Palm OS Special Interest Group (SIG), brings a lot of experience in leading groups to his position.

Robert Simanski, who owns and runs a computer support business, and has been a frequent contributor to the *Monitor*, accepted the position of Virginia Vice President. Henry Whitney accepted the office of the Maryland Vice President. Henry had recently joined the ranks of the Board as an Appointed Director when he took on the position of the Help-line Coordinator, and will continue in that capacity as well. Marilyn Weinstein, who stepped down from the position of Maryland Vice President, will remain as an Appointed Director for Library Services. Cliff Bailey, who has been serving as the DC Vice President, has agreed to stay on in that office again this year, while also continuing to chair the GLITCH DC SIG.

Ann Dorsey had been serving as

the Treasurer of CPCUG, but has now moved to the position of Secretary. Dennis Courtney has agreed to serve as Treasurer in Ann's stead. Dennis has also agreed to take on the position of Membership Director.

Mark Leymaster has accepted the position of Internet Services Director, a position which has not been filled for a while. Gary Vaughn, who has been serving as the Program Director, is leaving that position as of this month. Gabe Goldberg, the Outreach Director, has agreed to also take on the responsibilities of the Program Director.

Besides all these changes, the other positions remain the same, including several positions that remain unfilled. The office of First Vice President is still vacant, having been so for some time. The same is true for the Appointed Director positions for Marketing & Public Relations, Software Library, Vendor Relations, and Volunteers. Anyone who is interested in providing a great service to CPCUG by volunteering to fill these positions is invited to contact the new president, Frank Sokolove, at president@cpcug.org.

Congratulations to all the members of CPCUG's new Board of Directors.

James Katz, Editor



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

Training Center: Annandale, VA

Register for Annandale classes online at
www.cpcug.net/trainingsearch.asp
or by calling the CPCUG Office at 301-762-9372.



Find Out About Everything iPod!

Learn, or teach, about
iPods, related equipment,
and software.

Come to a joint meeting of
the Capital PC User Group
and Washington Apple Pi
(Apple Computer Users Group)



Saturday, April 23, 2005

9:00 am to 12:00 pm

In the Cultural Center Auditorium of the
Northern Virginia Community College
8333 Little River Turnpike, Annandale, VA.

For further information,
call the Washington Apple Pi office
at 301-984-0300,
or go to the Apple Pi web site
at www.wap.org



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www.cpcug.org

**Get more
out of your
membership
in the
Capital PC
User Group—
Become a
VOLUNTEER!**

Contact a member of
CPCUG's Board of
Directors — all are listed on
this page. Most offer a choice
of e-mail or phone contact
information.



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Greg Smith, 1996
Rich Schinnell, 1993–95
Eydie DeVincenzi, 1993
Stan Doore, 1992
Henry Noble, 1991
Irv Samuels, 1989–90
Tom Enrico, 1988
Jerry Schneider, 1986–87
Tom Mack, 1985
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Larry Jordan, 1983
Mike Todd, 1982

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Future SIGs

If you're interested
in starting a SIG,
please contact
CPCUG President
Frank Sokolove 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!

April 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.

Publication Submissions

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**.

Subscription Problems?

Please call 301-762-9372 or send an e-mail message to admin@cpcug.org.

Address Changes. Please send change of address notices with current phone numbers to the Capital PC User Group, Attn.: Membership Director, 19209 Mt. Airey Road, Brookeville, MD 20833, or via e-mail to admin@cpcug.org. **Monitor** is not forwarded unless you have made special arrangements with your Post Office.

Renewals. One renewal notice is sent. You may renew your membership by sending your check for \$42 (\$78 for 2 years; \$110 for 3 years) along with your mailing label to the address above. Be sure to correct your mailing label if any of the information has changed, and always include your current phone numbers and membership number.

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The Fine Print. Unless specifically stated otherwise, the opinions expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent an official position of, or endorsement by, the Capital PC User Group. CPCUG is an independent, nonprofit user group and is not affiliated in any way with any vendor or equipment manufacturer.

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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 7:00 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

Montgomery County, MD

Arrangements for a training facility in a new location in Maryland are being finalized, and will be included here as soon as that information is available.

Directions to the 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, April 11 (7:00 pm)

Topic: The Intel Digital Home Experience
Speaker: Art Silverglate, an IT professional, and active member, presenter, and Program Director, Central Maryland Users Group

The digital home, PCs, and consumer electronic devices can work together to deliver digital media, such as video and music, where you choose. Digital networks allow home users to readily access a range of video, audio, data, and other services.

Topics to be discussed include:

- The rationale for establishing a home network
- Growth in home networks
- Choices among PC platforms for home users
- Wired and wireless digital media adapters
- Universal plug and play architecture
- Device interoperability

Informal Discussions and Q&A (9:00 pm)

Moderator: Marty Shinko, Chair, CPCUG Beginners (and Beyond) SIG
Take advantage of this informal setting to network and ask your computer and Internet related questions.

Listen for an announcement about "Beginners (and Beyond) SIG" during the regular meeting.

Cost: Free and open to all

Any door prizes are usually for CPCUG members only. If you are a member of CPCUG, bring your membership number (on membership card or back of most Monitor magazines). Membership information is available at the meetings, and you can join at that time, becoming eligible for door prizes.

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.

For More Information: Check the CPCUG web site, or contact Program Director Gabe Goldberg at gabe@gabegold.com. Suggestions for future Tech Talk topics are always welcome.

President's Notes

An open letter to my predecessor

Dear Dennis:

First of all, thank you for your four years at this job. You've done a lot for CPCUG. You are going to be a tough act to follow, but I will do my best for the organization. It's an honor to serve in this office, and I intend on doing the right things in the name of keeping the organization healthy, making it stronger, and increasing services for the membership.

In your last message as President, in this Notes column last month, you outlined several important matters this organization must confront: the membership model, the need for increased membership, and the choices we face in reconciling expenses and income. Those are issues that could determine whether we live or die as an organization in the long term. I intend on working with the Board of Directors, and ultimately with the membership, in making those choices. Are we going to increase dues? Have new categories of membership? Cut services? Seek new relationships with business? Take another look at our identity/purpose? These are questions that the Board and I will be looking at in the near future.

Our relationship with Millkern Communications will be changing, but it's a very complicated situation that requires a careful working out of the specifics. Fortunately, we now have a very capable new Internet Services Director in Mark Leymaster, who is exploring options with Millkern to see what choices we might have. I am determined to

see that things will be improving or we will have a new provider.

You mentioned some things that are going well, and that's a good thing. The TV show can bring a lot of interest and information to our members and to potential members, our web site looks great and it has great potential, and we have a new Montgomery County training site. Our members will be impressed with these new facilities, no doubt. The training site will give us a lot of new opportunities. Let's hope to have more training for more people.



New CPCUG President Frank Sokolove busy looking like an expert at a computer.

You've done very well in accomplishing these successes, and in attracting new members along the way. And we are thankful that you will be continuing to work at bringing in new members by serving as Membership Director.

We also appreciate all the folks who have agreed to stay in office, and those who have stepped up to fill vacancies – it's nice to be working with these dedicated and talented people. My own experience in volunteering has

taught me that you get more back than you give. For all the work that we need to do, I hope we get a few more volunteers but we'll run this operation with the help that we have.

As you know, when this job became open and nobody else was willing to take it, I came forward and said that I would do it. I am not in this job because I know a lot about computers (I don't), but because I offered my services (and I have the background to do this job). My intentions are to keep the organization going, to make it even better, and to give the membership the services they want, need, and deserve. This will take a lot of work from all the dedicated people.

Any organization of this kind has a few people who can see what needs to be done, and are willing to do it — to bring the pins for the nametags, bring the coffee pot, turn on the lights, and do the few other things that have to be done to keep the organization going. And there are the others, who come along for the ride, to see the presentations, or otherwise get what they need to make it worthwhile for them to come. I'm glad that we have what we need to keep this organization going.

Thanks for staying involved, Dennis. That goes to the other volunteers, too: thanks. We couldn't run the operation without you.

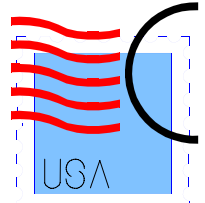
Frank Sokolove
President, CPCUG

Frank Sokolove is the new president of CPCUG. He can be contacted at president@cpcug.org.

Feedback



A New Start



Feedback

Spring has sprung! Although it is still quite chilly and overcast as I write this, the promise is for sunny skies, warmer temperatures, and beautiful blossoms within a few weeks, maybe even a few days. How delightful it is to anticipate such wonderful developments. It is almost enough to make up for the frustration I experience and aggravation I feel each time my computer freezes or crashes. Almost.

In just the past few days my computer has started to freeze up a lot more often. It's at times like this, when I start having any sort of trouble with my computer, that I try to think of who I know that I could ask to help me figure out what is going on and how to fix it. For a while I tried asking a couple of friends who do a lot of work with computers, but I ultimately realized that they really don't know that much.

That's when I recognized how important a computer user group can be. A group of fellow users means more people I can turn to, and more chances that someone knows what I need to learn, and is willing to help me out.

When it comes to my computer,

having resources I can rely on is very important to me. It is nearly a matter of survival. My computer is not just a "hobbyist's gadget," but the main means for me to communicate with family, friends, colleagues, and clients around the country; to organize and store records of my business transactions; to do research; to write; to just keep my life organized, and so much more.

I wonder if other computer users feel much the same way.

Given the developments involving the CPCUG Internet service and web site in the past couple of months, did you question whether you could rely on the services and resources that you'd come to count on?

I did get messages expressing a range of reactions. Efforts to respond to the situation are continuing, and CPCUG may

ultimately become a much better organization because of the response to the developments, yet to be worked out.

Just as the calendar offers a promise of warmer weather and brighter days, I'd like to think that

the promise of a better, stronger user group is just ahead, waiting to be realized.

With the installation of a new Board of Directors this past month, led by a new, dedicated president, the potential for

realizing the promise is there.

But it is also up to you as a member to help the Board do their job by keeping them informed, and holding them accountable. Let the Board know what you like as well as don't like about what is being done. Tell them what you'd like to see done or discontinued. Give them feedback, either directly or through this column. The course of action decided upon may turn out differently from your particular preferences, but only by informing the Board of your preferences can they be aided in making the best decision for this group of PC users as a whole.

James Katz, Editor



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

See page 29.

MEMBERS ONLY

Send your comments and responses to editor@cpcug.org.

CPCUG Internet Service and Web Site Problems: A Letter to the Membership from CPCUG's Internet Services Director

Editor's Note: CPCUG members who subscribe to the Internet Services Provider, Millkern Communications, and visitors to the CPCUG.ORG web site, have encountered difficulties or prolonged interruptions of service since late January, when changes in the server were initiated. Scott Mohnkern, of Millkern Communications, was asked to furnish a description of the changes and explain the developments that occurred, but did not provide it in time for this issue. Nevertheless, as part of his investigation into the problems and his endeavor to resolve them, CPCUG's new Internet Services Director, Mark Leymaster, is proceeding with the following effort to get feedback from the membership about what service problems they've experienced, how they have been affected by them, and what changes they may want in response.

A series of Internet service problems have struck the CPCUG membership and its website, CPCUG.ORG, in recent weeks, and we're doing something about it. I've been named as the new Internet Services Director (ISD) for CPCUG, and I'm doing a review of the situation for the Board of Directors. So I want to hear from **you!**

We at the Board were as surprised as the rest of you that the transition from our old Internet server to our new one was so bumpy. I, for one, lost a fair number of e-mails, and found www.cpcug.org unavailable from time to time. I am sorry the transition was not better executed, and that affected subscribers to @cpcug.org e-mail were neither cautioned in advance nor given apologies afterward by our Internet Service Provider (ISP). This should not happen, and I'm looking into it.

Both the e-mail system and the web site are improving, but problems

and short service interruptions may continue while the source of the difficulties with our new Linux server are sorted out. With members help I aim to inventory your concerns, evaluate the choices for fixing problems, and make recommendations accordingly to the Board.

We want to know if problems with Internet services affect your interest and use of CPCUG benefits, and if you want things changed or added. We're also looking for good ideas for new Internet services. (I've given examples in the welcome message on the LISTSERV list I've created for this dialog. See the following instructions regarding how to join the LISTSERV.)

The easiest way to comment — pro or con, or otherwise — is to subscribe to the new MEMBER-TO-ISD list, where you can follow discussions, see others' comments, and be heard. Just e-mail to LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG with a message text saying:

SUBscribe MEMBER-TO-ISD Your Name
#####

(where ##### is your CPCUG member number, placed on the line below the 'SUBscribe' text line)

The new look of CPCUG's web site at www.cpcug.org.



The LISTSERV program will reply, asking you to confirm, and then you'll be queued for my approval. If you are not a member but have a good reason to subscribe, you can contact me directly at isd@cpcug.org and tell me why.

Thank you.

Mark Leymaster

Mark Leymaster is the new Internet Services Director for CPCUG. He can be reached at isd@cpcug.org.

A COMDEX Veteran's First Visit to the CES

by DeForrest Home, San Diego, CA., IBM PC Club

After making many treks to the annual COMDEX Show in Las Vegas, and watching it go steadily downhill and finally expire last year, I was eager to see how the Consumer Electronics Show (CES) would fill the "techie" void. I will say that I was not disappointed.

Although not quite as large, the event reminded me a lot of COMDEX in its heyday. Most of the big players in the industry were there with huge, elaborate displays on the exhibit floor. There were celebrities and bikini-clad models in the booths, keynoters brought entertainment giants with them to liven up their talks, and there were lots of interesting products on display. There were not great numbers of concept products or gadgets that really pushed the envelope, however. Most of the products were in, or soon to be in, production. The trend was toward smaller variations of current products with sleeker designs and more features. There were lots of gorgeous flat panel displays and televisions, almost everything had some sort of wireless communication built in, and almost every category of electronic gadget was represented.

According to the Consumer Electronics Association, the show set several major records including number of attendees (142,585), exhibitors (2,550) and exhibit space (1.531 million net square feet).

The exhibit floor covered almost every inch of the massive Las Vegas Convention Center, including the parking lot, all of the Las

Vegas Hilton Hotel's convention space, and a large two-story motel called the Alexis Park.

In my mind, the CES was a lot harder to negotiate than COMDEX. COMDEX was pretty much about computers and related equipment. I could understand that, but almost everything in the world qualifies in some way as consumer electronics, and every last bit of it was on display at the CES. The show only lasted four days, and it was absolutely impossible to see even close to all of it, even if you ran down the aisles.

My biggest problem was that much of the time I was not always able to accurately evaluate the "gee-whiz" factor of what I saw. Is this something that stands out from its peers, or is it much like a lot of other similar items? In the end, all I could really do was to just pick out a few things that caught my eye. I don't make any claim that these are the highlights of the show. They are just some of the things that interested me.

The show floor was defined by the different halls in which the exhibits were housed. At the north end of the area were the exhibits in the two Hilton Hotel conference halls. This area was called the International Gateway. It was made up of several hundred small booths representing foreign manufacturers, mostly from China and Taiwan. I really regret that I just didn't have time to do anything more than pass by the periphery of this area.

Next was the Convention Center North Hall. This was a lot of fun. The whole, huge hall was

devoted to auto electronics, mostly sound systems. Most of the cars (and trucks, and golf carts) had a dozen or more speakers, backed by banks of amplifiers capable of delivering thousands of watts of audio power. My favorite was a 1957 Beetle Bug. It had a 15,000 watt Kicker sound system, nine custom LCD TV's, and 30 Kicker speakers. The owner listed his total investment as \$225,000.

The Central Hall was where most of the big players had their large exhibits. For instance, Panasonic had an exhibit area that ran almost the entire width of the building. Much of the emphasis here was on home entertainment, digital cameras, cell phones, MP3 players, and high definition television. Samsung was showing the world's largest plasma TV at 102 inches! It was enormous, and the high definition picture was just amazing. My favorite TV in the show was the Sharp Aquos high definition TV with the world's largest LCD display at 65 inches.

In the area of large screen, high definition television, I was amazed by how far the rear-projection sets have come. All of the big manufacturers were showing thin sets with outstanding picture quality. They use a technology known as Digital Light Processing, or DLP. The process is owned by Texas Instruments. It has been around for a while, but this is the first time that I have seen such an abundance of DLP TV sets with picture quality that comes very close to that of plasma or LCD sets, at about half the price. DLP

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Rich's Ramblings

by Rich Schinnell

Last month I talked about buying one of the new little Mac-Mini's. No, I have not gone over to the dark side so don't worry about me forgetting about my Microsoft Windows computers. (Also, this is not an April fools article like the April, 1990, article, still available in my archives on www.schinnell.org.)

I have since upgraded my Mac-Mini with a wireless card and one gigabyte of memory. So, as one who has been messing around with Virtual PC (under Windows) and running other operating systems, I went out and bought Microsoft's Virtual PC for the MAC (VPC-MAC). It installed on my Mac-Mini pretty much as they say it should. As with all my software, I checked the manufacturer's web site and upgraded the VPC-MAC to the latest version (from 7.0 to 7.01) and proceeded to install Windows XP Home edition. (You must, of course, have a legitimate copy of any software that you install under the Virtual PC.) On the Mac, my Windows XP works just about as easy as it does on my Toshiba Laptop. I installed the free version of AVG anti-virus and Golden Bow's VOPT disk optimizer (links to both sites are on my web page on cpcug.org).

I haven't yet tried to install Ubuntu Linux on the Mac, but that's for another issue of my Ramblings. All in all, I am still amazed at how easy the Mac desktop is to use after running Windows XP for a couple of years. The Mac people whom I talked to at two local Macintosh retail stores (MBS and AbsoluteMac) were very helpful and readily agreed to answer all of my dumb

questions. The Mac keyboard is quite a bit different from the PC standard keyboard and requires a bit of retraining for this old DOS person. <G>

One thing I forgot to remind you is that Backup is very important, whatever operating system you use. Also, remember to check with the vendor of your software/hardware for upgrades. Many times a problem crops up whenever Windows Update changes something and then your other software or hardware does not work correctly. Almost all software has an option under the Help button that is listed as "check for upgrades". Do it. That could save you some time in figuring out what has gone wrong. (And BACKUP!)

High Speed Internet Service

FIOS (Fiber Optic System) is now available in my neighborhood (Aspen Hill, MD). After watching Verizon install the fiber optic lines all over my street and elsewhere in Montgomery county, I finally found out that Verizon was offering High Speed Internet access via their FIOS system. You can check it out at verizon.net/fios to see if you are eligible for installation. I called on a Wednesday and they came the following Tuesday with two technicians who spent over four hours installing a box on the outside of my house. They switched over the phone lines to my house so the lines now come out of the FIOS unit, which consists of an Optical Network Terminal (ONT), power supply, and battery back-up system. There has to be a power outlet jack near the inside of your house where the phone lines enter. The battery backup and power supply is mounted inside and requires an

AC electrical outlet plug. Peeking into the unit, I noticed a cable TV type of jack marked Video; just watch them start offering TV services real soon now.

I have had Comcast Cable Internet access for about three to four years which has been working fine. As many of you know about me, I like to be on the bleeding edge of new technology.

After the installation of the FIOS unit outside, and according to the installation instructions, Verizon FIOS techs were planning to install their software on my computer. I talked them into getting me registered on the system without installing the MSN software. Many of you might like it but I prefer my old familiar stuff. They agreed that many people do not like all the extra stuff that many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) require or request that you install. They had an alternative method, and, using my old dependable Linksys router, I was able to register on the verizon.net and get a userid and password. All is now well in Rich's computer...

One nice thing about Verizon is that they are getting smarter. Now they include a router which "kinda" protects people from probes on the Internet. Everyone should have at least a router which interfaces between your cable modem or DSL line and your computer(s). Most routers perform what they call IP (Internet Protocol) translation. What that means is that it automatically converts your ISP's IP number to an internal network number which is non-internet routable. The routers DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) option gives each PC

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The Whole World in My Hand Spring - A Time for New PDAs

by Tom Gutnick

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Ah, spring-time! A time of promise and renewal, and for me, a time of new hardware. After nearly three years of not leaving home without my Sony Clié handheld computer, I bought a new PDA to not leave home without, a palmOne Tungsten T3. So I figured this would be a good time to take a break from talking about software features and instead cover the issues involved in buying a handheld computer. If you're in the market for a convergent device combining cellphone and PDA technologies, we'll tackle that subject in the next column.

Sometimes at my PDA classes a student will ask, "I need a PDA. Which one is best?" That's like saying, "I need a motor vehicle. What should I buy?" Well, do you need a car or a truck or an SUV? If a car, a sedan or a coupe or a ragtop? How much trunk space do you need? Do you like shifting gears? Answers to those questions will guide the decision-making process. So let's look at the analogous questions here, and consider some of the many choices involved. There are too many options to consider them all here, but you should be able to get enough information to make sense of the published specifications.

Brand: Even though Sony has dropped the Clié product line, and Handspring has been swallowed up by palmOne, there is still a wide range of brands to choose from. The best known, with the

widest product range, is palmOne. (After various corporate acquisitions and spin-offs, this is still essentially the same company which many years ago brought us the original Palm Pilot.) Garmin's iQue models combine Palm-powered personal information management with their GPS navigation capabilities. The Tapwave Zodiac is a decent PDA, and a serious multimedia and gaming console. Fossil will put a PDA on your wrist! The Dana by AlphaSmart is a larger device, with a full-sized keyboard, targeted for use in elementary and secondary schools. The Aceeca Meazura Rugged Digital Assistant (RDA) and models from Symbol Technologies are designed more for industrial than personal use.

(Of course, there is always the option of a Pocket PC. If you really like Microsoft Windows, you think Windows is great, and you'd love nothing better than to have Windows running in the Palm of your hand, you should skip my columns and buy a Pocket PC. But if you prefer something that is just as capable, but much easier to use, almost elegant in its simplicity, keep reading on.)

Color: For several years, we had to weigh trade-offs between color and monochrome devices — color, basically, gives better readability, but at a greater cost and reduced battery life. But it's gotten simpler, because all the current models from palmOne, Garmin, and Tapwave have color displays. (The models from the other companies are monochrome only — not really black-and white, but more like a dark greenish-black against a lighter green.)

Size and weight: Some models are sleek and lightweight, while others are relatively clunky. If you're concerned about looking chic, or just fitting the unit into a small pocket, this may be important.

Processor speed: As with larger computers, different models run at different speeds. Older models using the Dragonball processor run at speeds ranging from 20 to 66 megahertz, while the newer ARM processors are clocked at speeds ranging from 126 to 400 MHz. For casual use of calendar and address book, speed doesn't really matter, but for heavy-duty GPS navigation or serious gaming, faster is definitely better.

Memory: Current models all have at least 8 megabytes (MB), and range up to 64 or even 256 megabytes. But be careful: a model may advertise 64 MB, for example, but have only 52 MB actually available for you to use. For casual calendar and address book use, 8 MB is plenty, enough space to hold thousands and thousands of entries. But if you're running lots of applications, more memory is definitely useful.

Expansion memory: These days, nearly all models have a slot for expansion memory, and, after years of confusion due to competing formats, these days that means a Secure Digital (SD) card. They started out holding 8 MB, but I just snagged a 512 MB SD card for \$25. These allow you to keep available lots of dictionaries, Bible translations, photos, MP3 music files, maps, etc. And by swapping multiple cards in and out of the slot, you can carry a

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Letters to “Late Nite”



Hosted by Marty Shinko

Q05IV.0: Last month you mentioned as an example of the sort of information you wish someone had shared with you (in response to question **Q05III.0**) that you wish someone had warned you about buying a printer from Dell. Do you have any of that sort of information you think should be shared?

A0: An example of information that I think CPCUG members should share is this: last year I had a very typical experience of shopping for a “commodity” computer, one for my daughter to take to college. After some comparison shopping, I got her a “build to order” HP (Hewlett-Packard) computer from Best Buy, and I purchased a service contract from Best Buy for “at home” service (she’s away at college out of the DC area, too far away for me to do any troubleshooting for her). Our experience with Best Buy has been very good. For example, Best Buy service personnel came out to her dormitory on campus and replaced a broken DVD drive, no questions asked.

I found that buying from a local retail store like Best Buy was also useful when the HP printer we got as part of the computer package developed a problem early in the fall semester. Best Buy replaced the printer with a similar model, promptly and without hassle (I don’t consider taking it back to the store to be much of a hassle). This is in stark contrast with the prospects of repackaging and shipping a defective printer back to Dell, somewhere distant in the U.S.A. (originally shipped from Texas). In my opinion, a service contract for hardware is reasonable because it’s usually straightforward — the hardware is either working or it’s not.

Software is a different matter; a service contract usually doesn’t cover software.

Along those lines, I don’t think it’s worthwhile to pay someone to install software for you (other than installing the Operating System software on a newly purchased machine), and it isn’t worthwhile to pay someone to “customize” the software on your computer. More likely than not, they’ll customize it to their preferences rather than your preferences, sometimes without even asking you about your preferences.

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.

By the way, often my interests in computers are quite atypical; e.g., I’m interested in programming at the bits and bytes level, low level interfaces and data rates, etc.; stuff most people aren’t interested in, so I wouldn’t ordinarily share that sort of information. But if you are interested ... (contact me through ‘Late Nite’).

Q05IV.1: How do I know whether your recommendations are unbiased?

A0: As I mentioned previously, my motivation for being involved in the CPCUG was to get correct, unbiased information about computers. In the spirit of “Users Helping Users”, you can expect that I would disclose my biases along with my recommendations. Here, all I hope is that you get just as good service as I got from places where I’ve gotten good

service. If you find my recommendations helpful, that’s great. When members share their recommendations about where they got good service or got a good deal, we help each other. However, if anyone trying to share helpful information expects to be confronted with suspicion, all that does is cut down the flow of information, in my opinion.

Q05IV.2: In talking about Microsoft’s style last month (in response to question **Q05III.4**), aren’t the words used there rather harsh?

A0: Microsoft certainly has its detractors (and they do use harsh words), but we should never forget that Microsoft has done a lot of good. After all, PCs are as inexpensive as they are because of the mass market made possible in part by the common Disk Operating System (DOS) interface from Microsoft. In marketing a standard OS, Microsoft contributed significantly to creating the demand that standardized PC hardware. Without those *de facto* standards, where every PC clone manufacturer wanted to be sure that their computers could run DOS, PC components would not have been anywhere near as interchangeable as they are today. The market would have been much more fragmented, and all those incompatible parts would have been manufactured in smaller lots, making everything much more expensive. Thank goodness Microsoft was there to get all those diverse computer hobbyists to agree on something.

Q05IV.3: Has Microsoft done anything commendable lately?

A0: Here’s an example, from the web site www.thefreecountry.com/compilers/cpp.shtml, under

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Book Review: *Adobe Photoshop CS One-on-One*

Reviewed by Paul Shapiro

Adobe Photoshop CS One-on-One, by Deke McClelland.

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The gold standard of digital photography software is Adobe Photoshop, its latest incarnation being Photoshop CS (Creative Suite), sometimes referred to as Photoshop 8. *Adobe Photoshop One-on-One* is written for both the professional and amateur, for use of the application on either a PC or a Mac. It is a "must" for the serious digital photographer.

Sample files in the book are contained on an accompanying compact disk (CD). This CD refers to a small part of each of the twelve lessons:

- Open and Organize
- Highlights, Midtones and Shadows
- Correcting Color Balance
- Making Selections
- Crop, Straighten, and Size
- Paint, Edit, and Heal
- Creating and Applying Masks
- Adjusting Focus
- Building Layered Compositions
- Text and Shapes
- Layer Styles and Adjustments
- Printing and Output

At the beginning of each lesson there is an outline of what is covered on the accompanying CD

as well as some applicable shortcuts in Photoshop. At the end of each lesson there is a quiz. The answers to those questions that you don't know at first can be most instructive. Play each lesson's counterpart on the CD before going over the corresponding chapter. Stop periodically and follow the suggestions. It is a learning experience. Using the CD as an instruction aid takes more than the two hours suggested by the author. There are many more aspects of Photoshop CS that are covered in the book outside of the video treatments.



Figure 1: Example of photo used to master the Pen tool in Photoshop CS.

The author is the speaker throughout the accompanying CD. By the time I went through the CD I felt like I knew him personally on a first-name basis (and I have since encountered him in video at the *adobe.com* web site).

His name had been familiar from when I first came across his skills in the *Photoshop for Dummies* series. It was my first *Dummies* purchase, as I had never considered myself a dummy before. No more.

The number of things you can do with Photoshop is mind boggling. Fortunately, you only need to know a few simple things to get started. That will whet your appetite to dig more. My enthusiasm kept increasing and I found that I was often looking ahead in anticipation of what was coming next. You will get much more out of the book if you try out the unfamiliar techniques. If you have Photoshop 6 or later, or, for that matter, the much less pricy Photoshop Elements 2 (and 3), the author says that you can apply many of the techniques in the book. I have found this to be the case with Photoshop 6.

There is much to be learned here, and although the reading can be interesting, *Adobe Photoshop CS One-on-One* can be much better understood by following the guided instructions. If you have used an earlier version of Photoshop you will appreciate its new capabilities even more.

For example, the Browser is a welcome addition to Photoshop CS. It enables you to look at several thumbnails and to selectively edit and resize them. This is nothing new to digital picture handling, but here it is included as

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Video Capture for Digital Editing

By Merrill Hessel

A growing number of people in this country have acquired a video camera of their own. Whether an older analog one (VHS, 8mm, Hi-8, etc) or a newer mini-Digital Video (DV) camcorder, many of these video cameras are used simply to record personal events or family occasions, such as vacations and holiday gatherings.

Once they've figured out how to operate the camcorder properly and learned to shoot acceptable video, however, some people decide they want to turn their video work into a good home movie, webcast, or even professional program for broadcast. To do this means sorting out video segments they want to keep from those they don't, and then arranging the clips in an order that is meaningful or enjoyable to the viewer. In other words, that means having to edit the video.

The creation of a video program or movie requires editing the video at an early stage of the multi-step process. Editing the video in a digital format on a computer is a multi-step process that depends on using specialized software. But before considering the particular editing software or the specific steps in the process, you must have the appropriate hardware for getting your video clips into the computer, storing them, and keeping them easily accessible.

Hardware Requirements

For the optimal video editing configuration, seasoned video editors recommend having two hard drives, one for the computer operating system and programs, and another for storing your video clips. This second drive should

rotate at 7200 RPM or faster, and must have a large capacity, with as many gigabytes as you can afford. Why do you need a large hard drive? The computer stores 222 megabytes (MB) of digital video data per minute. This means a thirty-minute program uses 6660 megabytes of storage, or 6.66 gigabytes (GB) on your hard disk. This may not seem like much at first glance, but you may need a few hours of video to edit down into a show, and you'll want to have the extra footage on your drive to work with while you are editing.

If, like me, you do a studio show or otherwise use more than one camera for shooting scenes, you'll want to use footage from each of the cameras. In addition, you'll probably want to put cutaways, rendering files, titles, roll-ins, etc., on the drive, as well as keep some things permanently that are used repeatedly in programs, such as standard openings or sequences. From my experience, all of the video information that goes into making a half-hour show takes up about 35 GB. I typically have three to four shows on my hard drives. That's about 140 GB all together. (If I need to have free space, so that my hard drives can be used for other projects, I store the final and sometimes intermediate products back on mini-DV tape or DVD when finished.) These days you can get an 80 GB drive for around \$70 and a 120 GB drive for \$90. (I recommend always looking at www.froogle.com for the latest and best prices.)

Why Two Drives

To work on your video, you have to transfer the video clips from the

camera (or VCR) to your computer's hard drive, a process sometimes called "video capture." The digital editing application that manages this transfer or capture process must access the hard disk to bring up the program tools as well as the video information. If both the video and the editing program are on the same drive, then the computer has to transfer 30 frames per second of video images (about 3.7 MB per second), while also accessing the same hard drive for the capture software program. This requires too much information coming into the single drive very quickly, and often results in some video frames failing to be captured and stored. When video frames are not stored, or are "dropped," this produces jerky videos. (Dropped frames can also occur if your hard drive runs below 7200 RPM; you may get away with a slower hard drive but I wouldn't recommend it).

With two hard drives, access is simpler and runs faster. One of the easiest ways to configure the second drive is to buy a Firewire hard drive that you can connect externally to your laptop or desktop computer. This should be a simple matter, because you need a Firewire (sometimes called iLink, or IEEE1394) port anyway to connect your camera to the computer. If you don't have a Firewire port built in you'll need to install a Firewire Card on your computer. A desktop PCI Firewire card costs about \$25 to \$45, and a PC/MIA Firewire card for a portable computer costs around \$35 to \$50. If you have a camera with a DV (IEEE1394) connection (all digital cameras, and some analog ones, have this), then you just connect a

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Firefox: A Program Popularized By Open Source Programmers

by Linda Gonse, Orange County, CA., IBM PC Users Group

The latest version of Firefox, an open source program, formerly Mozilla, and before that, Netscape Navigator, was released to popular acclaim near the end of 2004 from www.mozilla.com. Many people,

tired of security problems and perpetual patching of Internet Explorer, have begun to make the switch to Firefox. I was one of them. It was an easy transition to import my bookmarks, favorites, and other items, and set up housekeeping in it.

But, it was a real surprise to find free “themes,” a change of appearance for Firefox. Feeling the exhilaration of discovery, I downloaded Nautipolis, Red Cats, Gray Modern, Littlefox, and others, finally settling on Littlefox. Then, I discovered “extensions.” Extensions are little programs, originally called applets, that run from within Firefox. Their specialized capabilities add to the functionality of Firefox and quickly become features you just can’t live without. There are about a dozen I use, including: Weatherfox, QuickNote, Titlebar Tweaks, SpoofStick, CopyPlainText, and Tabbrowser Extensions.

One extension that makes my online life simpler is called QuickNote. It allows me to copy and paste from browser pages into a tabbed notepad

available right in the browser. It saves me from opening Word or Notepad and working back and forth from one of them to the browser window.

Fascinated with the free extensions, I tracked down QuickNote’s creator, Jed Brown, to ask him to tell me how he got started and why he wrote the program. Also, since QuickNote had earned five stars as a popular Firefox item, I wondered if Jed thought it might end up being incorporated into Internet Explorer.

When contacted, Brown said, “I became involved with Mozilla back in the ‘90s. I was a frequent user of what was then the Mosaic browser when the World Wide Web had just begun. Netscape (NS) was born from Mosaic and I was instantly a user of Netscape Navigator.

“Once the ‘browser wars’ began, I was a devoted Netscape user who really loathed how Microsoft used their OS dominance to spread use of their browser. Unfortunately, after Netscape released its 4.0 browser, Microsoft was right on their tail and produced an even better and more standards-compliant browser.

“Despite the better browser, I

was loyal and stayed on NS as long as I could. Around the time when Netscape 5 was going to be released (1998 I believe), they decided to open-source their browser. That sparked my interest and I got my hands on the code as quickly as I could. Once the open source community realized that the NS code was a huge hack and badly organized, they decided to start from scratch and create what was to be the fastest most compliant browser ever. This was too good to be true.

“Unfortunately this was no easy endeavor and would take over three years to get even close to a

final product. In the meantime, Internet Explorer (IE) was the superior product (over NS 4.x) and was becoming the browser of choice for many, including myself.

“I wasn’t hacking on any of the code, but I did start testing the releases from the first public beta release. Since that day, I used this new engine and code base as much as I could, but always had IE there for sites that did not work in the new, young and untested engine.

“Once Mozilla had matured (version 0.8) and became usable on a daily basis, I switched over and said goodbye to IE for good.

“The folks at Netscape had a



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Why Can't I Open This File?

by Brian K. Lewis, Ph.D., Sarasota, FL., PCUG

There are times in every computer user's life when the computer seems to be deliberately trying to increase your level of frustration. One of these little moments is when you receive a file from an associate and, no matter what you do, you can't open it. The file can be a document, a picture, a spreadsheet or any number of other types. So why does this happen? And what does it have to do with these things called extensions or suffixes?

Believe it or not, every file name on your computer has a three digit suffix. I know if you have never used any operating system other than Windows you may never have seen this suffix or file extension. But they really do exist. If you open "My Computer" or Windows Explorer, select "Tools" from the menu. Then click on "Folder Options" and in that window click on "View." In this list some items are checked and some are not. If there is a check mark in the item "hide extensions for known file types," remove it. Then click on "apply to all folders." You will get a message telling you that the change will occur the next time you open a folder. Now open up any folder and look at the array of file extensions. Go from folder to folder and see how many different extensions you can find.

So now you see that the number of different extensions seems to be limitless. Or at least enough to bring on some confusion. Why is there such a proliferation of these three figure suffixes? Let's look again at the "Tools" menu and "Folder Options". This time click on the tab for "File Types." The upper window lists "Registered file types." Now scroll through the list

until you find "Adobe Acrobat Plug-in file". This has an extension of API and in the lower window you find a short explanation as to which program can open this file; in this case, Adobe Acrobat. Keep scrolling down through the list. You will probably find the BMP suffix. This is a picture file and usually opens with Microsoft Paint. However, on my computer it has been associated with Irfan-View, a graphics viewer. Keep scrolling to get an idea of all the different file types and their extensions.

If you click on enough different file types you will notice that each type is generally, but not always, associated with an application. When you click on the change button, the preferred application is listed at the top. You can change this to another application, but then double-clicking a file of that type may result in an error and it won't open. Applications such as Microsoft Word, Word Perfect, Microsoft Works, Excel, etc., can only open files that were created by them unless they have the appropriate translator for the document. This goes back to the reasons for the file suffixes. The suffix tells Windows what application is needed to open a particular file. Every application capable of creating files uses a different format for the file header and body information. This formatting allows Word, for example, to open a document that has specific margins, typeface, printer assignment, etc. The same is true for other applications.

Let's take a look at some of the definitions associated with the file structure of a Word file.

"FIB (File Information Block): The header of a Word file. Begins

at offset 0 in the file. Gives the beginning offset and lengths of the document's text stream and subsidiary data structures within the file. Also stores other file status information."

"DocFile: A Word docfile consists of a main stream, a summary information stream, a table stream, a data stream, and 0 or more object streams which contain private data for OLE 2.0 objects embedded within the Word document."

"Document: A named, multi-linked list of data structures, representing an ordered stream of text with properties that was produced by a user of Microsoft Word."

"Datastream: The stream within a Word docfile containing various data that hang off of characters in the main stream. For example, binary data describing in-line pictures and/or form fields."

From these descriptions you can see that a Word document has a very specific structure that has to be read and interpreted in a specific way. Other applications can't read a Word file unless they have a translator for it. Even then, the translation may not accurately reflect the content and format of the original file.

Another file format is that of database files. In a dBASE file, or a FoxPro file, the first byte identifies the version that created the file. Consequently, older versions can't read files created with newer versions of the program. For a number of years Microsoft created similar problems in Word documents by changing the file format every time a new version of Word was released.

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Consumer Electronics Show continued from page 8

is also being used in front-projection units. Mitsubishi showed off a brilliant DLP projector small enough to fit in one hand.

Panasonic showed a small digital video camera that was barely larger than a small still camera and takes excellent pictures. I stopped taking videos a couple of years ago because my camcorder was too large and bulky to carry around. This little camera overcomes that. It could easily fit in my shirt pocket.

When I last visited COMDEX, a year and a half ago, Palm had just introduced the very successful Treo 600 PDA and Smart Phone. This year at CES they introduced a new model, the Treo 650. It seems to have almost everything that you could possibly want in a handheld device: mobile phone with email, an organizer, instant messaging, web access, Bluetooth technology, an MP3 player, and a digital camera that also captures video, all in a compact package with a high resolution color screen and a full QWERTY keyboard.

In the arena of satellite radio, both Sirius and XM Radio were showing handheld portable radio receivers. If you are willing to let someone else plan your play lists, these could replace MP3 players.

The South Hall is the newest addition to the Las Vegas Convention Center. It is actually a giant

two-story building that can be divided into four separate halls. The CES used them all. This is where most of the computer-related electronics were located. The booths in the South Hall were generally smaller than those in the Central Hall, and more closely packed. It was just not possible to see everything, but some of the things that I liked included the following:

Sonos is an innovative product that lets you broadcast audio from your computer, or from any audio source for that matter, to any room in your house. Each unit contains a high quality stereo amplifier, a wired Ethernet interface, audio-in and audio-out jacks, and wireless network hardware. One or more of the units connects to your home computer network and broadcasts music from your computer to the other units using a proprietary wireless mesh network. You can have as many as twelve different streams of music playing at the same time. You can also broadcast music from Internet radio, if you like. The whole operation is managed from a small wireless remote control.

Orb has a software package that allows you to stream almost anything from a computer across the Internet to your cell phone or PDA. Of course, you have to have a cell phone service provider that offers this service, but if you do, it is slick. You can watch live TV, watch home movies, listen to your music collection, share photos, and get personalized web information.

My digital camera uses Secure Digital memory modules, and I often spend time looking for and attaching the flash memory reader so that I can get the pictures into my computer. SanDisk has solved all of this by putting both functions in the same module. They were showing a one gigabyte SD card with a built-in USB connector. Just bend the module in the

middle to expose the USB plug.

As handy as they are, one thing that I have always disliked about wireless mice is that the batteries last just long enough for me to forget that when the mouse starts failing the cause is probably the battery. One company had a wireless mouse with no batteries. It derives its power by induction from the mouse pad, which in turn gets its power from a USB port.

GG Telecom had one of the smallest Bluetooth cell phone headsets that I have seen. With an earpiece and a microphone, it is only slightly larger than an old fashioned hearing aid.

Among the many new digital cameras that I liked was the HP R707. It has some neat features, including automatic in-camera red-eye removal, and panorama preview mode, which shows an outline of the previous picture so that you can line up the next picture in the panorama almost perfectly. The camera uses Adaptive Lighting, which balances the exposure to bring details out of the shadows, and if your picture didn't turn out too well, the camera will even give you advice on how to improve it.

Among the other interesting things in the South Hall were the super-thin, brushed aluminum Razr phone from Motorola, and the tiny CarChip module that connects to the diagnostic plug in your car and records information on how the car was driven.

In the parking lot in front of the convention center, Microsoft had built a full-scale house, dubbed the Smart Home. It was outfitted with a myriad of electronic devices that were controlled by a Media Center PC. You could raise and lower the window shades, adjust the lighting and temperature, and monitor video cameras over the Internet from anywhere. You

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brilliant idea called XUL that would allow them to write the interface to the browser once, and allow it to run on any platform possible. This meant Mozilla looked the same on Windows, Mac, Linux/ OS 2, etc. This same technology allowed authors like myself to start creating programs that would live on top of the Mozilla platform and extend its functionality (now called “Extensions”).

“As a high school student back then, I started a project called ‘QuickNote’ that would allow easy access to a notepad-like sidebar for easy note taking.

“While my extension was popular and used amongst many Mozilla users, Mozilla was plagued with bad interface design decisions from Netscape and AOL who later bought Netscape, so it really never hit it well with anyone but ‘geek’ users. A few talented programmers at Netscape (Hyatt, Blake, Goodger, etc.) realized this and in their free time started a new project based on Mozilla, but much more simple, that was meant to be only a browser instead of a full suite like Mozilla was. This eventually turned into what Firefox is today.

“Thanks to Firefox (formerly Phoenix and Firebird), much more attention was brought to it and a much larger user base. More interest in Mozilla, XUL, and extension development arose. This has led to over 200 extensions made for Mozilla applications, and has brought together programmers from around the world, like myself, to join in and help make Firefox/Mozilla better.

“For example, QuickNote was a

project I was doing by myself in my free time. But now many different users contribute code and translation. A Russian programmer, Nickolay Ponomarev, has joined with me and contributes to QuickNote on a regular basis.

“The whole idea of multi-platform and open source software is amazing as it has brought thou-



sands of people together under one cause, despite language and cultural barriers. This, in part, is

thanks to Mozilla and its example that open source software can be just as good — and in this case — better, than priority software.”

We asked Jed what he sees for Firefox in the next couple of years. He said, “I think we will see a continuous trend in the growth of Firefox users. Once Microsoft won the browser wars, it dismantled its IE team, and left users high and dry. Firefox is filling this void, bringing a new and fresh idea to the World Wide Web and making it the place it should have been (virus/popup/spyware free) years ago. I also can see more and more companies embracing Firefox in their internal networks and products they offer to their users. Google, Amazon and many others are already starting.”

We also wondered if Mozilla/Firefox will survive and grow through the efforts of the open source community. Or will Microsoft will gobble up talented program writers such as Jed, and IE will remain dominant?

“Mozilla/Firefox will definitely survive, and be vital for the years to come,” Jed said. “Microsoft is

far behind with Longhorn and even when it ships it will take years to get users to migrate over. In the meantime, Firefox will continue to see growth in users on multiple platforms, and be extremely important to the survival of Linux as a desktop alternative. Sure, Microsoft will copy features and do its best to find exploits in Firefox. No software is perfect, but I believe the very nature of Mozilla and Firefox appeals to users and gives the Web freedom from control from one sole company. As time goes by, I think the average user will begin to understand this and realize the importance of alternative products and that they are superior in many aspects.

“The other huge benefit that Firefox has as a browser and Mozilla, in general, as a platform, is their mutiplatform nature. As a programmer, I can create any application or extension based on Mozilla and easily make it work on every platform that Mozilla/



Firefox runs on. This allows users to use any system they like, perhaps Unix/Linux at work, Mac OS on their laptop, and Windows XP at home, and yet feel no difference when it comes to

surfing the web and using the applications/extensions built on Mozilla. Microsoft has no real answer to this (although .Net tries) and it is a huge selling point to both users and corporations.”

(You can email Jed at contact_me@jedbrown.net, and look for programs he has written for Firefox at Mozilla.com.)

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April 2005

All meeting and class times are tentative. Check your e-mail and CPCUG website at www.cpcug.org before attending. Please see CPCUG Meeting Sites on the inside back cover for location codes.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> PalmOS SIG (APA): e-mail Frank Sokolove for date. </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Mar 2005 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> May 2005 S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 </div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Pocket PC SIG: e-mail Ray Wiley for date, time, and location. </div>	1 April Fool's Day	2 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 10:00 AM Seniors SIG (Bedford) </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #e0ffff;"> 1:00 PM Entrepreneurs and Consultants SIG Extra Workshop: Creating and Managing a Virtual Office: An IT Entrepreneur Shares His Secrets to Success: (BCCSC) \$ </div>	
3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 3:00 PM ACT! SIG (HSCL) </div> Daylight Savings Time Begins	4 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:30 PM Board of Directors Meeting (AUMC) </div>	5 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #e0ffff;"> 6:30 PM (UHU) Introduction to MS Access Part I \$ </div>	6 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:00 PM Delphi SIG (IADB) </div>	7 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #e0ffff;"> 6:30 PM (UHU) Integrating MS Office Applications \$ </div>	8	9
10 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 11:00 AM GLITCH DC SIG (DIK) </div>	11 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:00 PM General Meeting TechTalk (WGas) </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 9:00 PM Beginners (and Beyond) SIG (WGas) </div>	12 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #e0ffff;"> 6:30 PM (UHU) Introduction to MS Access Part II \$ </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:00 PM Clipper SIG (E-mail Naseem Saab for location) </div>	13	14 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #e0ffff;"> 6:30 PM (UHU) Introduction to Creating Web Pages with HTML \$ </div>	15	16 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 1:00 PM Entrepreneurs & Consultants SIG (CPL) </div>
17	18 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:00 PM Virginia SIG (WGas) </div>	19 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #e0ffff;"> 6:00 PM (UHU) Windows Maintenance and Computer Troubleshooting \$ </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:30 PM Digital Video SIG (BCCSC) </div>	20 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 12:30 PM Statistics SIG (1800 M) </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:00 PM Access SIG (VAMC) </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 7:30 PM Investment SIG (BLib) </div>	21 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; background-color: #e0ffff;"> 6:30 PM (UHU) Introduction to Creating Web Pages with ASP \$ </div> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 6:30 PM Robotics SIG (CU-P) </div>	22	23 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;"> 9:00 AM (NVCC, Annandale) iPod - Joint meeting of CPCUG & WAP </div>
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May 2005

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Rich's Ramblings

continued from page 9

when you connect to the Router, a number which is referred to as a "dotted Quad." Normally this is in the range of 192.168.xxx.xxx. This number range for "dotted Quad" can not be used on the world Internet; none of the existing Internet systems pay any attention to this range of numbers. (There are few other ranges of numbers that are also not Internet routable.) In other words, they are prohibited from being routed to anyone. Period. So, what the router does is take the requests from your local computer's IP address browser and mail programs, then it passes this to the Internet via the IP that your ISP assigns you when you connect to their system. Whew, a bit complicated but the bottom

line is that when the wierdo's who inhabit the Internet start scanning IP addresses for computers that are vulnerable to being infected, they can't get through the routers IP translation to your PC.

I decided to try a couple of speed tests to determine the difference between Comcast and FIOS on download speeds. After downloading the same 522 Megabyte file via both Comcast and FIOS, the results were 630 KB per sec with FIOS and 264 KB per second with Comcast. I had opted for the 5K download and 2K upload with FIOS, so I figure that FIOS is over twice as fast as Comcast. The cost for the 5/2K FIOS service is \$34.95 for me, as I have other Verizon services. Without these, it would have cost \$39.95 per month. (Comcast charges for high-speed Internet service range from around \$32 to

\$58, depending on whether it is bundled with other services.) No installation charges are supposed to show up on my bill and I can upgrade to the 15/5K service for another \$10 per month which I might choose after a couple of months.

PC-Pitstop, which is an Internet test site affiliated with *PC-World* magazine, gave a 5040 download reading for FIOS, and a 1976 reading for Comcast.

So, I guess it is goodbye Comcast before my next billing cycle.

Rich Schinnell has been a Capital PC User Group member since day one. He retired from the USN and Vitro Corporation a few years ago. Rich has a few small business consulting clients which allow him to enjoy computers and the pleasures of trying out new things. He can be reached at schinnel@cpcug.org or via voice at (301) 949-9292.

Book Review continued

from page 12

an option within Photoshop CS and accessible as a menu item. Of the many options on its toolbar, the Pen tool can be the most challenging and rewarding. Its ability to let me more easily and precisely use parts of a photograph was a delight once I got the

hang of it. The pelican shown in Figure 1 is part of one of the pictures used in trying to master the technique.

Aside from the technical aspects of the book, I found that the many full color photographs on glossy paper that fill most of the pages (with ample white space) made the book a sheer joy to peruse. McClelland also says that this book is the first in a series of highly visual full-color titles that combine step-by-step lessons with two hours of video instruction. I am already in the process of reviewing another such work by Ken Melbourne, *Digital Photography: Expert Techniques*. It, too, is published by O'Reilly Media.

My only regret is that I didn't have a copy of Photoshop CS so I could consider many more of McClelland's suggestions. I did have a 30-day evaluation copy (free from *adobe.com*). Never have 30 days gone by so fast. And I didn't even have a chance to try any of the other evaluation copies

on the same CD. The evaluation copy contained examples of other applications in the Creative Suite itself, which actually comes in a Standard Edition and a Premium Edition. They include Adobe Illustrator CS, Adobe InDesign CS, Adobe GoLive CS, and Adobe Acrobat 6.0 Professional. I hope to work with them at a later time.

A review such as this can hardly scratch the surface of the many topics covered. New as well as extended treatment of features of familiar Photoshop concepts add to the text's appeal. Like any version of Photoshop, you have to work at it.

Plowing through this book is really an adventure in learning... and fun!

Paul Shapiro is the chair of the Senior SIG, and a regular contributor to the Monitor with his Microletter column. He can be reached at his e-mail address, paul.shapiro@gmail.com, as well as by cell phone at 202-641-2740.

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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.

Letters to "Late Nite"

continued from page 11

the section entitled, "Free Microsoft .NET Framework Software Development Kit / Free Microsoft Visual C++ Compiler":

"Unbelievably, the Microsoft Visual C/C++ command line compiler, along with C#, VB.NET and JScript.NET, appears to be available from Microsoft for download for free (Note that if you use the Opera web browser to go to this URL, set Opera to pretend that it is Mozilla (just hit F12 and select Mozilla 5.0), otherwise Microsoft's web server will redirect you to a dummy page. Their browser detection script, which serves different pages to different browsers, is broken). You will also need to download the Microsoft Platform Software Development Kit (SDK) which contains the Windows headers and libraries for the compilers. The command line compiler is the same one that comes with the commercial Visual C++ Standard, which means that it does not have an optimizer (or at least, not the optimizer that ships with the Professional version that comes with MSDN)."

This Microsoft Visual C++ command line Compiler is free and available at the web site *msdn.microsoft.com/netframework/downloads/updates/default.aspx*. The Microsoft Platform SDK is at the *www.microsoft.com/msdownload/platformsdk/sdkupdate/* site. Then again, compilers and other tools for developing software under Linux are free, so maybe Microsoft is just trying to match the competition.

Q05IV.4: Do any Internet Service Provider companies (ISPs) provide home users running Linux with a way to access the Internet?

A0: Other than Juno (which provides access to the Internet through the Linspire (or Lindows) version of Linux), there's DialUp-

4Less (about \$120 / yr.) which claims they support all operating systems, including Linux. I'm still looking for any others beyond that. In searching the Internet using "Google", I haven't found anything else definite. What I've come across is lots of discussion, technical tips, advice (some of which sounds flaky), hints, procedures, etc. The usual practice seems to be that you still need Windows to create an account. After running some software under Windows that you get from the ISP to set up your account (at that ISP) just once, you can then use Linux and perhaps some add-on software to connect and use that account.

So, my conclusion is, yes, many ISPs seem to provide home users running Linux with a way to access the Internet — they just don't advertise that fact, and they don't support Linux, and they may be blissfully unaware that some of their customers are running Linux while using their services.

Q05IV.5: Does anyone at CPCUG use Linux?

A0: Yes, some members do on their home systems. And the new CPCUG.ORG server is running Debian GNU Linux.

Q05IV.6: Linux seems to be far more prevalent among servers on the Internet than among home PC installations. Why is that?

A0: Servers usually run industrial strength applications that manipulate data in disk files, manage databases, and send out web page files, where the output is just a stream of bits (and the input is only a bit stream, too). Some server computers don't even have a keyboard or monitor connected to them — they can be controlled remotely over a network connection, using telnet, for example. For those rare occasions when they might need a local interface, they might use something called a KVM switch (keyboard-video-

mouse), which connects a common set of those components to one computer or a bank of computers. Linux is based on Unix, which was developed at AT&T for business purposes. Linux, like Unix, is very good at running file and data stream applications, so it's a natural fit to server installations.

Home computers tend to be heavily gadget oriented, with a printer, sound card, CD-ROM, scanner, phone, fax, "web cam," digital camera connection, etc., and that DSL or USB connection to the Internet through a consumer ISP. PCs were developed as toys for hobbyists! All those varied gadgets require their own specialized software for control and data handling. As manufacturers see it, Linux users don't constitute enough demand for a given manufacturer of any particular device to justify supplying Linux driver software for their product.

In addition, manufacturers of these devices seldom publish sufficient information in enough detail for someone else to write the specialized software for them to run under Linux. (Device manufacturers aren't thrilled about publishing those details about their devices in open literature, where their competitors could take notice of their limitations.) That's a real barrier to the growth of the use of Linux on home computers. A server installation can get by with a rudimentary printer, but a home user usually wants their fancy color graphics printer to work, with all the features of its proprietary data interface (that are only available through software that runs under Windows).

Marty Shinko has been involved with CPCUG since the early 1990s, as a volunteer instructor and advocate for beginners. He can be reached via e-mail at mshinko.cpcug@juno.com or via phone at (301) 253-1743, or in person at the "Late Nite" sessions that follow the General Meeting Tech Talks.

huge library with you.

Batteries: The days of throw-away batteries for PDAs have just about been thrown away — rechargeable lithium ion or Li-ion-polymer batteries are the norm. This is probably better for the environment in the short term, although when the batteries ultimately fail, it's usually more cost-effective to replace the entire unit than just the batteries. (Same as with an iPod.) But if you're concerned about having enough power to last you on a backpacking trip when you won't be able to plug into a wall, you can get emergency chargers powered by disposable AA or 9-volt batteries.

Software bundles: Usually you get a CD with some supplemental software, such as web browsers, mail readers, games. In general, I don't suggest choosing your model based on that — unless you need Documents to Go for interoperability with Microsoft Office. The palmOne Tungsten models include it, for example, but the Zire models don't. (Of course, you can always buy Documents to Go separately.)

Digital camera: Is a camera important to you? Some models include one, although these tend to be in the single-megapixel range — good enough for casual snapshots, but not for serious photography.

Audio/visual capabilities: Some models can play MP3 audio files. Some have a built-in voice memo recorder. Some can even play back video files. Is that important to you?

Cradles: A docking cradle is a mass of metal and plastic which sits on your desk; when your unit is docked in the cradle, it's always sitting there, at an angle that makes it easy to look at, and it's connected to a power adapter to keep the battery charged and connected to your desktop or laptop computer for synchronization. Not every model includes a cradle, coming instead with cables to provide the necessary connectivity. Depending on how you like to work, you may not need the cradle. But if you do want one and it's not included, you may be

looking at an extra \$50 to buy one separately.

Navigation: At the very least, a Palm-powered handheld has at least two hardware buttons for selecting applications and another button or two for scrolling the display up and down. Other models have more buttons, and some have more elaborate five-way navigators.

Communications: All models include infrared, to allow beaming with other Palms. All have some kind of port, originally serial but these days usually USB, to connect to a desktop or laptop computer. Some models include Bluetooth or Wi-Fi.

A chart comparing all the different models would be much too large, and beyond the scope of this column — aside from the fact that it would probably always be out-of-date. So your best bet is to start with the vendors' web sites, listed in Figure 1. But before you buy something, be sure to try it out in a store: make sure you're comfortable with how it feels in your hand and especially how the screen feels to your eyes.

Happy spring, and happy shopping!

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 at tag@sunny-banana.com or 703.786.5541.

Reboot

**CPCUG's Active
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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

Figure 1: Palm-powered PDA manufacturer web sites

palmOne	www.palmone.com/us
Garmin	www.garmin.com/mobile/products.html#pda
Tapwave	www.tapwave.com
Fossil	www.fossil.com/shopping/product/detailmain.jsp?itemType=PRODUCT&RS=1&itemID=12768&keyword=fx2
AlphaSmart	www.alphasmart.com/products
Aceeca	www.aceeca.com/products/index.php/cPath/24
Symbol Technologies	www.symbol.com/products/mobile_computers/mobile_palm.html

Consumer Electronics Show continued from page 16

could edit your digital photographs, listen to your music collection, or watch movies from a number of different rooms in the house, all using a network of Media Center PC extenders. The house had a home theater with a full wall projection screen. There was even an oven with its own IP address, which you could program over the Internet.

The Alexis Park Hotel was the exhibit area for the High-End Audio equipment, a totally new and fascinating area for me. The CES essentially took over the whole hotel. They moved everything out of the rooms — beds, dressers, chairs, tables, lamps, everything. The exhibitors then moved into their rooms or suites and set up their audio equipment. They tuned the rooms with wall coverings, acoustic baffles, and even sound absorbing dots stuck to the walls. They balanced their equipment and set up folding chairs for the audience. Then we, the audience, walked from room to room, well over a hundred of them, to listen to the music.

I spent some time listening to what was for me a new concept. It wasn't high-end audio, but it was interesting. The speaker and sub-woofer package looked much like an inexpensive shelf system.

It actually was just that, except that it had an added feature. The people showing this unit have developed a sound expander chip that simulates large stereo sound from a single speaker enclosure. Actually, the enclosure has three small speakers in it, but the sound appears to come from all sides of the room. They can't generate sound from the back of the room, but the "half surround sound" that they do achieve is truly impressive.

Another interesting unit was an in-the-wall speaker-amplifier package from Polk. The unique thing here is that each amplifier has its own IP address, and the audio is carried to it over your home network. You can have different audio in each room if you like. This would be a great idea if you were building a new house, but putting network wires and power in existing walls seems to me to be a major retrofit. The Sonos system is probably a better idea for existing homes.

There were many more interesting things at this year's CES, but four days were just not enough time to see them all.

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areas of home networking, with Internet access and control of individual appliances, and everything digital, including imaging, audio, TV and radio transmission, receiver and display devices, and home video production.

You can explore for yourself much of what was on display at the CES by going to the link:

www.cesweb.org/default_flash.asp

Video Capture continued from page 13

Firewire cable from your camera to the computer to be ready to transfer the video information. If you have an analog camera, then you must buy a converter such as the ADS Pyro A/V Link, Analog-DV & DV-Analog Media Converter. This converter works with MAC or PC and costs about \$130 to \$170.

Software for Capturing Video

There are several video software packages available for capturing and editing video data, such as Final Cut Pro, Vegas Video, Pinnacle, etc., at prices ranging from \$80 to \$3000. Some video capture cards come with basic video editing and capture software. If you have Windows XP, then Microsoft Movie Maker is free on your computer. If you have a MAC the Imovie editing program is included free. Otherwise, I suggest buying Adobe Premiere Elements at a cost of \$85 to \$100. (Most, if not all video editing programs now allow for the non-linear editing (NLE) process. See www.videoguys.com/nle.htm for a tutorial on NLE's.) Most of the commercial software includes the capability to produce DVD's to enable you to store your finished products, and to send these videos to your friends and family.

Merrill Hessel is the chair of the CPCUG Digital Video SIG. He has had more than 20 years of experience with digital video. He currently produces two programs on computers for broadcast on public access TV, "Computers for Intelligent Adults" and "Observing Technology." The latter show is a production for CPCUG-TV. If you have questions or need help with digital video, check the SIG web site (www.dvug.org) or contact the SIG at dvug@meral.com.

Editor's Note:
According to several reports about the CES received from the Editorial Committee of the APCUG, more than can be reprinted here, the CES show featured many more exciting products and upcoming technological developments which allow consumers more control over their communications, access to information, and enjoyment of entertainment content. The developments show trends emerging in the

Why Can't I Open This File? continued from page 15

Another application that has its own file formats is Microsoft Works. This application can create text documents, database files and spreadsheets. None of these files can be opened by other programs.

Free Weekly E-mail of CPCUG's 9-Day Calendar of Activities

The best way to keep up-to-date with all of CPCUG's activities is to subscribe to the free weekly e-mailing of the 9-day Calendar of Activities ("This Week at CPCUG").

Go to: www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/CPCUGCAL-L/subscribe.html.

Or, 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 will arrive each Friday or Saturday with CPCUG meetings, classes, seminars, and special events for 9 days – from Saturday through the following Sunday. You will receive about eight e-mail messages a month.

This distribution list does not allow subscriber posting.

To unsubscribe, send e-mail (from the e-mail account from which you are subscribed) to:

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containing the line:

SIGNOFF CPCUGCAL-L

No entry in the subject line is required.

The interesting thing is that Works can save files in Word format, WordPerfect format or RTF (rich text file). It can even open most of these formats. But Word and WordPerfect are unable to read files in the native Works format.

Another problem exists with picture (graphics) files. Although your web browser should be able to read the most common formats, they have to be associated with the browser. If they are not, you will get an error when you attempt to open the file. Every graphic format has a different structure and may not always open in your photo software.

The most common formats used on the web are GIF and JPG (jpeg). However, these are two very different formats. GIF is a compressed format that is referred to as a "lossless" compression. In other words, you don't lose any detail in the process of compression/decompression. However, GIF can not use more than 256 colors. That makes it less usable for color photos than other formats. For web page logos and other small graphics, however, GIF is ideal. The file size is small, so transmission time over the Internet is quite short.

Photographs can be sent by e-mail using the JPG format which is very compressible. Jpegs can be compressed to 10% of their original size, which greatly reduces transmission time. However, the greater the compression, the greater the loss of detail. Jpegs are a "lossy" format. The detail that is lost by compression can never be recovered. If the picture is important, you should always keep an uncompressed master in a safe location.

Another "lossless" graphic format is TIF or TIFF (tagged image file format). This is the best format for color pictures and should be used to save the master copy of important photographs. The

major problem with TIF files is that they are very large, much larger than jpegs. For example, a file from a digital camera with 526 kilobytes in its native format, when converted to TIF and compressed, takes up over 6 megabytes on the hard drive. However, not every graphics program can read TIFF files. If yours can't, then you need something like IrfanView, a free file viewer.

So the answer to the original question about not being able to open a file is either you don't have the application installed on your computer or you don't have the application associated with the file you are trying to open. If you know the application that created the file and if you have it on your computer, you can solve the problem. You only need to associate the file with application. To do this, open "My Computer" and select the "Tools" menu and "File Options". Click on the "File Types" tab and then scroll to the file extension for the file you want to open. Click on "Change" and select the application you want to use to open the file.

All of this discussion assumes that the file has not been corrupted. Even minor damage to the header of file can keep it from being opened. Transmission of files between computers is always subject to possible damage. At least now maybe those undamaged files can be opened with a little less frustration.

Dr. Lewis is a former university and medical school professor. He has been working with personal computers for more than 30 years. He can be reached via e-mail at bwsail@yahoo.com.

This article is provided by The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which CPCUG is a member, and is reprinted with permission.



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, *second* Tuesday, 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), 2nd 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, April 19, 7:30 pm
Bethesda-Chevy Chase Services Center

The staff from CTL Video in Silver Spring will demonstrate and discuss tripods and cameras from consumer to prosumer to professional cameras. This will include the latest HD cameras. They will discuss and show cameras that no longer use tape but record on a hard drive, a memory card, or DVD.

At this meeting we will give away several door prizes. These include Richard Harrington's book "Photoshop for Nonlinear Editors", Damien Solarz book "Mastering Internet Video," and a Ulead non-linear editing software package "Video Studio 8".

Meeting Agenda:

- 7:30 pm DVUG Business
- 7:35 CTL Staff discuss and demonstrate

the latest cameras, tripods and accessories from consumer to professional, single chip to HD

8:45 Questions, General Discussion

9:00 Meeting Ends

For directions to the meeting site at the Bethesda Services Center, see the web site, www.dvug.org. Good parking is located one block from the metro station.

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

Silver Sponsor — Results Software

Results™ is an integrated customer relationship and business management software package (www.Results-Software.com).

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 conent-l LISTSERV list at: www.cpcug.org/list/lwgate.cgi/CONENT-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

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 by 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, April 20, 7:30 pm
Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road,
Bethesda, MD

For directions go to:
<http://www.montgomerylibrary.org/apps/libraries/BranchInfo/be.asp>

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-supp.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/
- Contact—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

- 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

admissions.cua.edu/visit/map.cfm
welcome.cua.edu/maps.cfm
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.

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

Volunteers Wanted

Writers & Reporters for the CPCUG magazine, Monitor

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.

Monitor Advertising

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

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/.

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Please allow 10 to 12 weeks for your magazines to start. For renewals, you must supply an address label from your present subscription to insure the correct start of your renewal. As an extra service you will be mailed a renewal notice about four months prior to the expiration date.

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

Upcoming Meetings

Wednesday, April 20: PROC ROBUST REG - Robust Regression Methods (www.sas.com)

The experimental ROBUSTREG procedure in SAS/STAT version 9 provides resistant (stable) results in the presence of outliers by limiting the influence of outliers. ROBUSTREG provides four robust methods: M estimation by Huber (1973), Least Trimmed Squares (LTS) estimation by Rousseeuw (1984), S estimation by Rousseeuw and Yohai (1984), and MM estimation by Yohai (1987). Charlie Hallahan will be the speaker.

Wednesday, May 11: PROC QLIM - Qualitative and Limited Dependent Variable Models (www.sas.com)

The QLIM (Qualitative and Limited dependent variable Model) procedure

analyzes univariate and multivariate limited dependent variable models where dependent variables take discrete values or dependent variables are observed only in a limited range of values. This procedure includes logit, probit, tobit, and general simultaneous equations models. The simultaneous equations model can contain discrete choice and limited endogenous variables as well as continuous endogenous variables. Charlie Hallahan 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

- 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: virginiasisig-1@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. Please contact president@cpcug.org if you are interested in helping start up of any of these SIGs:

- 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.

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.

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 membership 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 helpline@cpcug.org, providing your membership number, subject(s), phone number and/or e-mail address, with the days and times you're 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 ACROBAT				
Lisa Conners	301-527-0650	All	6:00p-10:00p	lamc8@comcast.net
ADOBE INDESIGN				
Lisa Conners	301-527-0650	All	6:00p-10:00p	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 Dernoncourt				wayned@cpcug.org
Scott Graham	301-437-2745 301-593-2744 301-593-2744	Mon-Fri Mon-Fri Sat-Sun	9:00a- 6:00p 6:00p-9:00p Reasonable	sgraham@scobar.com
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 Deroncourt				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	houserw@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
Sam Odio	888-282-2846	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
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
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
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
UBASIC LANGUAGE				
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
UNIX				
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	
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com
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

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 editor@cpcug.org.

Directions to Washington Gas April 14 General Meeting TechTalk

The April 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):

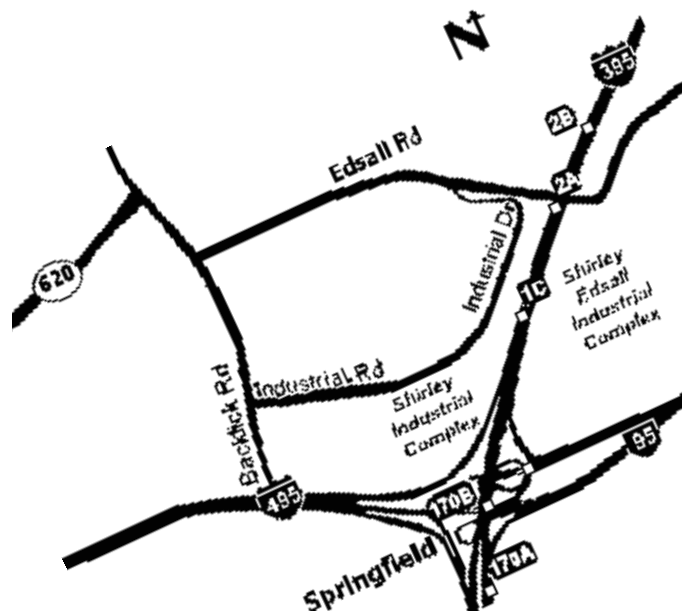
Take I-395 North.
Continue with I-395 directions.

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. 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. 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!

The LISERV (the trade name for the most popular mailing list management software in the world) makes it easy for even the the newest user to join these lists. Users can subscribe to or unsubscribe from any of the lists that are open to the public. To subscribe to a list, follow the instructions for sending an e-mail to the LISERV as outlined in the box that follows this list.

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)
- MEMBER-TO-ISD** (CPCUG Member Internet Service 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>

Business Card Advertising

Streaming provides Internet distribution of your home or company videos. They can be seen by your friends, family, colleagues, or the world. The Capital PC User Group has arranged a great bargain for members: For \$149 per year beyond the membership fee the CPCUG has arranged 350 MB of space for you to stream your videos in any or all of the major formats: Real Media, Windows Media, or Quicktime. Typical commercial rates are \$350 per year and above. If you are interested contact us at dvug@meral.com and we will help you get started.

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

Support CPCUG!

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know about your services

Advertise here at reasonable rates

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 now begin at 6:30 pm, except where noted.
Register online at www.cpcug.net/trainingsearch.asp or
call CPCUG at 301-762-9372.*

April

- 5 – Introduction to MS Access Part I
- 7 – Integrating MS Office Applications
- 12 – Intermediate MS Access Part II
- 14 – Introduction to Creating Web Pages with HTML
- 19 – Windows Maintenance and Computer Troubleshooting (6:00 pm)
- 21 – Introduction to Creating Web Pages with ASP
- 26 – Introduction to Email (6:00 pm)
- 28 – How to Make the Most of Your PDA (6:00 pm)

May

- 3 – Under the Hood
- 5 – Burning CD's With Roxio EZ CD Creator
- 10 – Introduction to Home Networking
- 12 – Basics of Computers for Very Beginners
- 17 – Introduction to MS Excel
- 19 – Job Hunting on the Internet
- 26 – Intermediate MS Excel

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

Harmony Hall Regional Center

Please note: All CPCUG classes at this training facility have been cancelled, and will no longer be held at this facility.

Arrangements for use of a training facility in Montgomery County, Maryland, are being worked out, and will be announced in this space when the arrangements are finalized and that information is available.

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

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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