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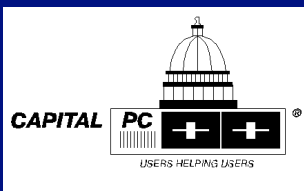
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and much more...

CPCUG General Meeting TechTalks

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



Young Scientists Recognized for Outstanding Science Fair Projects

The Capital PC User Group has encouraged young computer scientists in the greater metropolitan area since 1996 by providing volunteer judges at county Science and Engineering Fairs, and honoring the students who created the most outstanding computer science projects.

Under the leadership of Walter Houser, the CPCUG Science Fair Coordinator, five CPCUG members fulfilled the tradition once again this year by serving as judges: Julia Loughran, at the Fairfax County Science and Engineering Fair; George Herbert, at the Loudoun County Science and Engineering Fair; and Nancy Landreville, George Liao, and Charles Romaine, at the Montgomery Area Science and Engineering Fair.

At the CPCUG General Meeting on May 9, President Frank Sokolove completed the annual tradition by presenting awards, consisting of plaques, savings bonds, and one-year memberships in CPCUG, to deserving students in recognition of their superior achievements.



CPCUG Program Director Gary Vaughn (far left), and CPCUG President Frank Sokolove (far right) with five county Science Fair student awardees at the May General Meeting Tech Talk. photo by A. Dorsey

The attending awardees set up displays of their winning projects for viewing by CPCUG members before the meeting. All 14 named winners were invited to submit copies of their project abstracts, and the following nine statements were received.

Encoding Music For Melody Based Search

Daniel K.A. Jachowski,
West Potomac High School,
Alexandria, VA

Search by query is a common service offered in libraries, information databases, and the Internet, but these are currently limited to word based queries. A method, known as "Query By Humming,"

continued on page 15



Register to Take a CPCUG Training Class

Most classes cost:
\$39-\$49 member fee
\$49-\$59 non-member fee

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

Click *SEARCH CLASSES* to search by location

Two Training Centers: Annandale, VA, and Rockville, MD

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

New Pre-Conference Classes
 Beyond Basic SQL for CF - Nate Nelson
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 Designing & Developing OO Applications w/ CFCs - Hal Helms
 Maximizing Code Reuse w/ CFCs & Custom Tags - Simon Horwith
 "Forms and Beans" applying simple OO principles to standard CF forms methodology - Joe Rinehart
 Leveraging .Net Strengths from CFML - Charlie Arehart
 Advanced Cascading Stylesheets - Sandra Clark
 PUP and Fusebox walkthrough - Jeff Peters

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CFUN has become the premier CF specific event, and Michael Smith and his team deserve all sorts of praise for their hard work in pulling it all off yet again.

Ben Forta

"...this event really is the best gathering in the world for people developing or managing CF systems. It's here that we can understand what happened, hear what's happening, and learn what's going to happen. You can't beat it."

Chuck Hoffman

"Great place to network yourself and pick up new techniques and ideas. Also to meet ones peers, and see what the future holds for all those involved with ColdFusion"

Daniel Gregorio

"Introductions to the latest developing techniques. Get inspiration in new ways to develop projects. Generally, to 're-kindle' your cf 'fire' by being part of a group excited by and interested in cf development."

Kathleen Bailard

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this page. Most offer a choice
of e-mail or phone contact
information.



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Future SIGs

If you're interested in starting a SIG, please contact CPCUG President Frank Sokolove at frank_sokolove@yahoo.com

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!

June 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 can be found 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**.

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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.

**Get *more* out of
your membership
in the
Capital PC User
Group**

**Attend a Special
Interest Group
(SIG)!**

SIG of the Month:

Microsoft Office SIG

Learn more about MS Word, PowerPoint, and Excel, and their integration.

Next meeting:

Wednesday, June 22, 7:00 pm.,
at the American Speech-
Language Hearing Association,
10801 Rockville Pike,
Rockville, MD

For more information,
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Mparker@ASHA.org,
or go to URL:
[www.cpcug.org/user/comm/
sig-suppl.html#office](http://www.cpcug.org/user/comm/sig-suppl.html#office)

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, June 13 (7:00 pm)

Topic: How Personal Technology Products Are Reviewed

Speaker: Rob Pegoraro, Personal Technology Editor, Washington Post

We all read product reviews; besides shaping our purchases and dealings with technology, they often determine product and company success or failure. The *Washington Post's* Rob Pegoraro has covered personal technology for more than a few years and shared more than a few opinions with readers. An always-engaging speaker, he'll describe how he reviews products, including selecting review items, dealing with vendors, structuring and performing reviews, and enjoying reader feedback.

Speaker Biography: Rob Pegoraro writes the Fast Forward column — a weekly look at computers, the Internet, consumer electronics, cell phones and other things that beep — and the Help File Q&A column for *The Washington Post's* Sunday Business section. He also writes a weekly e-mail newsletter and hosts online chats for the *Post's* *Washingtonpost.com* Web site. Pegoraro has been with the *Post* for a little over 11 years, in which time he has sorted mail and answered phones, written for a variety of other sections (including Book World, Metro, Style, Travel, Weekend and Real Estate) and made it onto the front page exactly once. Pegoraro grew up in one of the more bucolic parts of northern New Jersey, then earned a bachelor's degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. (Correct, he has no academic credentials at all for his chosen profession.) Prior to working at the *Post*, he worked as a fact-checker and an editor during a couple of internships at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. He lives in Arlington with his wife Katie and, depending on the season, between three and four computers. For further information, go to URL: www.washingtonpost.com/ffwd.

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

I was glad to see the science fair student exhibitors at the May General Meeting (we'll have one more at the June meeting). It brought back many pleasant memories of the science fairs I had attended in the past.

If you look at an exhibit with nobody there to describe the process to you, you can read the material and get an idea of what the young scientist had in mind.

But if you are there as a judge, you see and hear the ambitious,

enthusiastic, intelligent young scientists, who are eager to talk about their projects. It is a worthwhile experience, listening to them discuss their projects as they describe the hypothesis, methodology, and approach. You see their dedication as they explain the collection and analysis of the data, the interpretation of the results, and the conclusions drawn. Maybe they had to make refinements

and apply a second approach, leading to a better project with a revised hypothesis and better data. Or they created a good piece of engineering; after all, this is a science *and* engineering fair. Some of those projects required a lot of creativity (an important factor in the scoring process). Some of those kids are brilliant.

And then you ask questions of the students to get details on the methodology, the interpretation of the data, and the rest. You must be sure to keep all that information in your head (or take careful notes); you're going to need it.

It's fun working with the adults, too, being a part of the discussion/caucus evaluation process that leads to the collective decision of one exhibit getting a first prize, another getting second prize, and another getting ... no prize. But they were there.

And in the afternoon at the science fairs, I've had

a lot of fun hanging out with the heavy hitters, the guys who have PhDs in physics, chemistry, meteorology, and the others. This team talks to the first prize winners in each category, the Best of Fair nominees, and figures out which gets the Best of Fair prize – and a ticket to the next level. It is exciting, it really is.

These are a bunch of high school kids, who have created their individual projects and worked on them for a few weeks (or for years, in some cases),

but it's a big deal. By creating their projects and pursuing an idea, a concept, by verifying (or not) a theory, they did something big. That's what I say; this is a big deal.

I saw a neighbor at a science fair, and I showed him a very clever exhibit. He read the title, and said, "It's been done before." Okay, the folks who originated the concept of a science fair in the first place, and who organize it

every year, should have told the public the purpose of a science fair.

We don't expect to see the cure for cancer; we don't expect any scientific breakthroughs, but we can hope to see good science; a theory, a good design, a clever method, a new bit of information, a good piece of engineering. It is humanity's quest for information; humanity's seeking the truth, humanity's creation and development of the telescope and microscope (as metaphors here) that has made caves obsolete – that brought us the pen, the typewriter (remember them?), the car, and the computer.

Frank Sokolove, President

Frank Sokolove is the president of CPCUG. He can be contacted at frank_sokolove@yahoo.com.



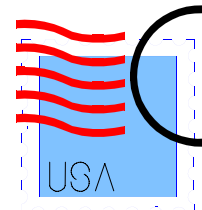
CPCUG President Frank Sokolove and Program Director Gary Vaughn (behind President Sokolove) at the podium during the May General Meeting with three of the science fair awardees. photo by A. Dorsey

Feedback



Feedback

EULA-La-Land



My aggravation at having to deal with End User License Agreements (EULAs), as I described in this space last month, continues as I further explore my new computer these days. Having to repeatedly wade through all the legal language is annoying enough. But they become major nuisances when I launch a new application, all ready to proceed with what I want to accomplish, and one suddenly pops up unexpectedly and interrupts my train of thought. I thought computer software was supposed to aid productivity, not thwart it.

Of course, EULAs would not be so troublesome if I simply ignored them, just clicked the “I Agree” or “I Accept” button and moved on. I hear a lot of people do that, but I like to get some idea of what might be in store for me as a consequence of my decision, so I read and try to understand the EULA. I’ve heard stories about EULAs that allow for some disagreeable practices, such as the installation of adware or spyware on your computer, and I prefer to know whether I’ll be facing those kinds of issues.

Eli Rosenfield, who goes by the screen name of SoloOwl, responded to my comments about EULAs last month with the following statement about additional issues:

“SoloOwl’s Guide to EULAs:

“Most end-user license agreements follow pretty much the same pattern. The main point is always the same. The developers and vendors are not liable if it doesn’t work. Even if the software fails, causing your system to crash and burn, forcing your business into bankruptcy, too bad, not our fault! (Exception: if the software disk is broken, they will replace it. Why not, it’s less than \$2.)

“So if they’re all the same, why bother reading them? Actually, there are a few ways in which EULAs vary. Here are the most important variations. Looking for these points will make reading a EULA more interesting.

“1. Privacy, security, and integrity issues. Some EULAs require you to read advertisements in order to use the software (this is often a trade off for freeware — you decide if it’s OK with you). Some EULAs require you to allow the software to phone home to enable the vendor and his partners to

collect data about you and your habits in order to show you better-targeted ads. It’s your call; some people don’t mind and some do.

“Some EULAs even require you to allow the vendor and his partners to download more software on your computer without your knowledge. I have heard of a EULA that makes it illegal to uninstall the software; you know what to do with that [expletive].

“2. How many machines may I use it on? (I’m sure the average CPCUG member has at least n computers at home.) EULAs often require businesses to buy site licenses covering the number of people who will be using the product. On the other hand, a well-written EULA will allow a home user to install it on all his machines (with just the one-user license), usually with the requirement that only one person is using it at any one time, on only one machine at any one time. The alternative is to allow installation on exactly one processor.

“This can be very important in the long run. You may be able to update the program on only one machine (an inconvenience, at least). When you buy a new machine, can you legally install the program on it, to see how well it runs and your documents open, without first uninstalling it from the old machine?

“3. Can you read the source code and modify it? The answer is usually no. Commercial software comes with dire threats to people who try to disassemble the program to find out how it works. In the Open Source community, the answer is emphatically yes; they are required to give you the actual code free of charge, if you want it.

“If you are not a programmer this seems irrelevant, but there are other issues here. What happens to all your valuable documents if the vendor goes out of business, or decides to kill the app or the hardware?”

Mr. Rosenfield’s comments prompted me to look further into the EULA phenomenon. It appears that what started out as a means to limit warranties and minimize liability for software companies has blossomed into an effort to control consumers’ behavior, limit their exercise of free speech, undermine their consumer protection rights, and possibly circumvent federal and state laws.

According to a report by Annalee Newitz, with the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF), an organization dedicated to supporting expression and rights

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

Internet Services Director's Report

We're not changing things about the Internet services offered by CPCUG yet, but, in the process of considering improvements, I've been given lots of advice. Sadly, some of it conflicts outright. As it stands, I am hoping to find a competitive model for services to our members, but it needs more work. If you have ideas on new services we should offer or problems to avoid, let me know, preferably by subscribing to MEMBER-TO-ISD, the LISTSERV(r) e-mail list I set up and described here in past months.

I've also established a new list, *ALTMAIL-L@cpcug.org*, as a special announcement list just for those members paying for e-mail accounts at CPCUG.ORG. If you are such a member, please subscribe to that list using an alternate e-mail address, so we can notify you if there are service problems. An alternate address is necessary when the service problems prevent notice to your *@cpcug.org* account. As your alternate e-mail address changes, just subscribe using the new address and unsubscribe from the old one. CPCUG staff are not going to moderate this list, since it is up to you as a customer to keep your address current. (There is a separate all-membership list, described below.) There is no discussion on this list and you cannot "post" to it. More to the point, I hope it is never needed but you who rely on our domain e-mail deserve this safety net.

I hope we can use e-mail more often to notify the CPCUG membership generally, from time to time, to tell you of timely events, to keep you informed about recent organizational developments, and to get feedback about them. So keep your address up to date: send a message to *Admin@cpcug.org* and tell them when it changes, or confirm the address you want used. Please do this now; the President is preparing some things that we want to be ready to tell everyone about!

The CPCUG Board discussed whether CPCUG should sponsor broadband for our membership, and, after extended discussion, decided not to. Nevertheless, our current ISP posted an offer for ADSL for May that might still be available when you get this copy of the Monitor: www.cpcug.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=76&Itemid=52.

Service quality with ADSL varies a lot, so do your homework. See, for example, www.broadbandreports.com, and the Upgrade section of *The Washington Post* for May 13, 2005, for more information.

On our own Internet services front, as I write this,

there have been another pair of server crashes, as noted on our web site with an apology. In time, the promised T-1 connection might help, but other problems such as preventing malfunctions and difficulty restarting things late at night or over the weekend persist. My present view is that our Internet services are "hobbyist grade," not suitable for business if 24x7 reliability is needed. If you need higher quality than we can currently offer, you will need to pay more for it. Let me know what you think on MEMBER-TO-ISD, and thanks.

Mark Leymaster

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

Free Weekly E-mail of CPCUG's 9-Day Calendar of Activities <CPCUGCAL-L>

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/cgi-bin/wa

Or, send an e-mail message to:

LISTSERV@CPCUG.ORG

containing the line:

SUBSCRIBE CPCUGCAL-L <yourfirstname>
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(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 Sun-day. You will receive about eight e-mail messages a month.

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Technology News Review

by Sue Crane, Big Bear, CA, Computer Club www.bigbearcc.org

Traditional 911 Services not available from VOIPs

The Texas attorney general filed a lawsuit against Internet telephone service Vonage, saying the company fails to clearly tell consumers about the limits of 911 emergency calling over its service. The suit stems from an incident last month in Houston where a husband and wife were shot by burglars while their daughter tried to call 911 on a Vonage line and reached a recording. Independent VOIP providers typically do not have access to the traditional 911 system which carries calls to emergency dispatchers and transmits data about the caller's location. As a work-around, Vonage tells customers they need to activate a 911 service, but that service directs calls to administrative telephone lines that in some cases are unanswered.

MRI in a Pill

A South Korean semiconductor manufacturer has announced an image sensor for pill-size cameras that doctors can use to obtain accurate information about a patient's digestive tract. The image sensor can take up to 50,000 photographs in an eight-hour tour of the patient's insides by taking two pictures a second. Mass production will begin in the second half of 2005.

Mouse Adaptor for Shaky Hands

IBM has developed an adjustable mouse adapter that compensates for the shakes of patients with hand tumors and other causes of uncontrollable shaking. According to the International Essential Tremor Foundation, in the US alone nearly 10 million people are affected by essential tremor, the most common form of hand tremors. This adapter will plug in between the mouse and computer and is compatible with existing mice.

Cell Phone Helmets for Bikers

Motorcyclists are now able to talk and ride by using a mobile-phone headset for crash helmets, demonstrated at the CeBit trade show. The headsets (full-face, open-face, and flip-up), have audio capabilities at speeds up to 62 miles per hour.

Now You CAN Return Unwrapped Software

In the settlement of a California lawsuit Microsoft, Symantec, Adobe, and others have agreed to publish EULA agreements on their web sites for their respective products, while CompUSA, Best Buy, and Staples agreed to allow consumers to return unwrapped

software for full monetary refunds, even if the shrink-wrap has been opened. Details of the settlement can be found at: www.techfirm.com/AmendedComplaint-Filed.pdf.

Great New Escape

Virtual reality, technology that gives users the feeling they are somewhere else, can be of great value in treating people suffering from a variety of physical or psychological conditions. Therapy based on the technology is being used in a small number of U.S. clinics to treat burn victims and people with phobias such as the fear of flying, spiders, and heights. Researchers say the technology holds enormous promise for treating Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, addictions, and for use as a distraction technique in painful dental and medical procedures, including chemotherapy and physical therapy.

Creative Commons Rewrites Copyright!

When Chuck D and the Fine Arts Militia released their latest single, "No Meaning No," they encouraged everyone to view, copy, mix, remix, sample, imitate, parody, and even criticize it under a new licensing scheme called Creative Commons that some say may be better suited to the electronic age than the controversial copyright license. More than 10 million other creations — ranging from the movie "Outfoxed" and songs by the Beastie Boys, to the BBC's news footage and tech support books — have been distributed using Creative Commons licenses, which allow artists to keep "some rights reserved" rather than "all rights reserved." Online users can go to www.CreativeCommons.org and search its archives.

WinFS to be Included in WinXP Update

Microsoft has said it plans to add support for WinFS to Windows XP. The operating system will support all three key Longhorn components: WinFS, Avalon, and Indigo. WinFS is built on top of the fundamentals, which would include security features and technology to make sure applications and drivers don't conflict. A first beta of Longhorn is set to ship by the end of June. Microsoft plans to have a beta test version of WinFS available when Longhorn ships, probably late next year, and add it as an update to WinXP later. Microsoft is expected to hand out a pre-beta preview release at the Microsoft WinHEC Conference.

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Letters to “Late Nite”

Hosted by Marty Shinko



Q05VI.0: Many sources recommend changing your passwords at least monthly. Is there any easy way to do that and still be able to remember your passwords?

A0: Actually, the Marshall Space Flight Center (MSFC) web page I mentioned last month (in the response to question **Q05V.3**) spells out this added requirement:

* The password is NOT one that was used as one of your last twelve passwords (typically you'd have to change your password every month). An easy way to accomplish this is to append the current month to the end of your “usual,” or base password; e.g., if one month you use a password of “GuessMe%May” then the next month you might use “GuessMe%Jun.” Alternatively, you could place the month before the base password, or put the month abbreviation in the middle. You could also use a number for the month, or even change a single letter that stands for the month.

If using the month abbreviation seems too obvious, you could use Roman Numerals instead, or even use the three-letter abbreviation for the corresponding sign of the zodiac for the month. Want to be even more obscure? Use one month ahead or one month behind the current calendar month (and do that consistently, every month).

Q05VI.1: Is there any rationale for using Roman Numerals for the month, other than being obscure?

A0: The worldwide convention for writing dates is similar to the military convention of writing “day-month-year” as in “15-APR-2005”, but “Apr” is the

English language abbreviation for the name of the 4th month of the year. Using Roman Numerals (as in “15-IV-2005”) is international; it's language-neutral.

Q05VI.2: Can't the system software that checks for valid passwords tell that I only changed a single letter when it prompted me to change my password?

A0: It shouldn't be able to tell. That's what makes the use of passwords so strong. The mechanism that checks for correct passwords should provide only one bit of data — match or no match — and it shouldn't provide supplemental data such as “all but one letter matched (so try again).” Digital passwords aren't like mechanical combination locks where you can listen closely and try to hear if the tumblers “click” when you select one number of the combination, which would tell you that that one is correct, so you can go on to try to guess the next number in

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.

the combination. Password strings are secure because the whole string is treated as a unit; the individual characters of the password are supposed to be invisible to the password matching mechanism. If the computer system you're using CAN tell that you only changed one or two letters since last month, that means that it's

probably saving last month's password in PLAIN TEXT in a file somewhere in the system, which is a massive breach of security! (If someone gets access to that file, they can get everybody's passwords!)

Q05VI.3: I've got accounts at many different places. Many sources suggest using a different password for each account. How can I come up with a whole series of distinct passwords that are still easy to remember?

A0: You can use the concept of a base password, and append two or three characters that vary with each different account. For example, if your base password were “Tee-Hee”, you could use “BoASTee-Hee” for your password at Bank of America, “AzcSTee-Hee” on Amazon.com and “EbaSTee-Hee” on eBay, etc. Again, you can append the letters to the beginning or the end, or you can put them in the middle, as in “TeeSBoASHee”.

Q05VI.4: Do you have any other suggestions for simple, easy to remember passwords?

CORRECTION

In the *Letters to “Late Nite”* column published in the May, 2005, issue of the *Monitor*, a typographical error resulted in the incorrect URL for the NASA - Marshall Space Flight Center guidelines about passwords, entitled “Problem Report and Corrective Action - Password Requirements.” The correct address is:

https://pracaprod.msfc.nasa.gov/praca/review/public/html/password_requirements.htm

The *Monitor* regrets this error and any inconvenience it may have caused.

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The Whole World in My Hand Have Palm, Will Travel

by Tom Gutnick



My wife and I are going on vacation tomorrow, and an important part of our packing is making sure that all the information we need is on my trusty Palm handheld computer. (By the time you read this, we'll already be back.) Just as the Palm is an indispensable tool for organizing my everyday life, it's also indispensable for keeping things organized on the road.

For starters, in the Date Book I've got entries with details of my flights and car rental — flight numbers, seat assignments, confirmation numbers. (If we had made any hotel reservations, those details would also be there, but this is one of those trips where we're figuring out our journey from day to day.) When I get the confirming e-mails, it's easy to just copy-and-paste the information into Palm Desktop or Outlook; the next HotSync operation downloads it all onto my Palm. These days, I only fly a few times a year, so that's sufficient. If I were still a road warrior, flying someplace nearly every week, I would use an itinerary tracking program. *PalmGear.com* (a good source for all the programs mentioned in this article) has about a dozen such programs; in the past, I've used *Flights+xt*, which is a decent freebie.

Next, I've loaded up the Memo Pad with lots of information which otherwise would have gone on scraps of paper: restaurants we want to try, locations of cafes with free wi-fi access, museums and walking tours, etc. Again, it's easy to research these things by web-surfing on the desktop system, and copying the information into the Palm Desktop.

Because I want to be prepared for contingencies such as flight cancellations, I have the airline schedule — many airlines provide their schedules in a special version for the Palm. Typically, you enter your starting point and destination, along with date and time, and the program will quickly show you the scheduled flights, often with an option to insert the details into the Date Book.

If this were a business trip, I'd be tracking my billable expenses in the Palm Expense program, and synchronizing the data into an Excel spreadsheet upon my return. And if this were an overseas trip, I'd be using a currency-converter program to help me spend my money wisely. There are dozens and

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dozens of these available, most with very similar names. For several years I've been using a freebie called *Currency*, written by Henrique M. Martins. When I have Internet access, I can pull over all the exchange rates easily; otherwise, I check the local newspaper and update the rates manually.

Another handy program (and also a freebie) is *RiseSet*, which shows the time that the sun and the moon will rise and set for any location on the planet. Yeah, I know this sounds kind of geeky, but I've found that it's helpful to be able to plan our day's activities if we know how much daylight we'll have, especially if we're on a driving vacation and it's not during the summer.

We're not visiting the Big Apple on this trip, but when we do, we always use a program called *X-Man*. Navigating the streets of Washington, DC, is easy: you know that 375 E Street must be on E between 3rd and 4th Streets. But Manhattan, although mostly laid out on a grid, doesn't have such a rational numbering scheme. Just about all the New York City maps, tour books, and phone books publish an arcane formula for calculating the closest cross-street for any address, but this program does all the work for you with just a few quick taps of the stylus.

Actually, the Palm gets a good workout before we even leave the house. My wife uses the free *HandyShopper* for her packing list, checking off items — stop the newspaper, turn down the heat, pack the toothbrush — as they're done.

My Palm is a versatile device beyond organizing the travel info. Instead of hauling an iPod, I can listen to MP3 music files. (The *RealOne* player is free, but you can buy other players that are more versatile.) And running *BigClock* turns my Palm into a travel alarm clock as well.

Next month, I'll write about the ways a Palm can help smooth your daily commute. But in the meantime, my Palm allows me to just keep on trucking down the road...

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. You can find information on classes and other events at www.sunny-banana.com.



Rich's Ramblings

by Rich Schinnell

I have been messing around with several interesting products that I have either bought or received for review. (In fact, I experiment around with lots of software for my consulting clients.) I jumped on the Microsoft bandwagon when they first announced their Anti-Spyware Beta version for free. After all, when Microsoft gives you something for free, sometimes it is worth what you pay for it. But in this case, the "gotcha" might be when the Beta1 period runs out in July of 2005. We all might get to feel a "warm fuzzy," and then they could stick it to us. But you never know, Gates and company might feel sorry for the rest of us and continue the free option. Then again, they might put it in their new release of Longhorn or Windows XP. Anyway, you really should have an anti-spyware program of some kind in order to make sure that no program or web site can install spyware on your computer, or has done so. Remember that there are no guarantees in life or computers.

Quoted from Giant Software's web page:

"On December 16, 2004, Microsoft announced its acquisition of GIANT Company Software, Inc., a provider of top-rated anti-spyware and Internet security products. Microsoft will use the acquisition to provide its customers with new tools to help protect them from the threat of spyware and other deceptive software."

Microsoft gives away a Beta1 version of their newly acquired anti-spyware program to users who are running Windows 2000 professional and above. They named it Microsoft Anti-Spyware. It has proven to be a worthy product and it is hoped they will continue to provide it free to Windows owners. Microsoft's Anti-Spyware does not support Windows versions below 2000.

The Help screen shows up like this:

Microsoft Anti Spyware Version: 1.0.501

This version expires on: 7/31/2005

As you can tell, it is supposed to expire on July 31st of this year. Many of the security gurus are recommending that Microsoft continue to provide it free. I was running the internal diagnostics from the help menu in Anti-Spyware and the following kind of jumped out at me:

Session.TimeBombDaysRemaining: 102

Session.TimeBombExpirationDate: 7/31/2005

Not very encouraging. <G>

Sunbelt Software's CounterSpy, is an alternative to Microsoft's Anti-Spyware program.

I was contacted by Jen Grenz of S&S Public Relations, who provide the public relations for Sunbelt Software, who offered me a review copy of CounterSpy. It is more robust than Microsoft's Anti-Spyware and the price is reasonable (all relative) at \$19.95, and they have multiple copy discounts. I downloaded the latest version, and entered the serial number in the box after installing it on a Windows XP computer. It looks so much like the Microsoft product, aside from the name and logos, I had to make sure and check which computer I was using. All in all, a good product and the price is cheap, but if Microsoft continues to provide essentially the same product for free, I can't see spending the extra dollars for SunBelt Software's CounterSpy over Microsoft's Anti-Spyware.

Unless Microsoft decides to start charging for updates.

Those of you running Windows 98 Second Edition, but not plain Windows 98, can use the SunBelt Software Counterspy. I recommend it for you. The web page for CounterSpy is www.sunbeltsoftware.com. Installation is a snap and it has an update feature that keeps your software up to date automatically.

Detect or Not Detect When Virus is the Question

I have been having second doubts about Symantec Norton Anti-Virus (NAV) 2005. I have had a couple of cases where it missed a virus as an attachment. Not that I or anyone that I know would ever execute an E-Mail attachment. I found out that NAV 2005 missed the virus. Then I decided that the attachment looked suspicious so I copied it to a floppy diskette. I was then able to copy it to a session of Windows 2000 running under Microsoft Virtual PC. I use AVG' anti-virus software in this session. This way the virus, if I had decided to run it, would have been restricted to just that session and no major damage would occur.

I am running Grisoft's AVG free anti-virus program in the Windows 2000 session and it detected the virus immediately. I always check for updates to any of my Anti-Virus products on a daily basis. I run NAV 2005 on my main computers and the free AVG software on the others and when I run different operating systems under Microsoft Virtual PC. (For

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Upcoming Changes in PC Hardware

By Timothy Everingham, TUGNET, www.tugnet.org

When computer hardware standards have changed frequently, it has usually involved changing one thing at a time. But there are those who say that if we are going to change one thing let's get other changes done at the same time, too. Now is a time when we are going through much more of the latter process.

Currently, what is in the forefront of change is the move from Peripheral Component Interconnect (PCI) and Accelerated Graphics Port (AGP) motherboard card slots to PCI Express (PCIe). PCI Express changes the way data is transferred (serial rather than parallel), and has more intelligent data traffic management. This change puts you in the position of having to decide whether to stay with the AGP and PCI cards when upgrading to a new processor and motherboard, or buying a new computer with the new PCIe slots, something that is more of a problem if you recently paid a lot of money for a high end AGP graphics card or have a specialized PCI card where there is no equivalent PCIe card available. However, there are motherboards currently available that have both the old and new type of slots.

On the other hand, you could go to the other extreme by buying a computer with the new NVIDIA SLI system. That is a motherboard with two PCIe graphics slots where you can run two NVIDIA graphics cards in parallel to get a 3D graphics performance boost similar to what was done to the old 3dfx Voodoo 2. Other changes involve the shift, starting last Spring, from using Sockets 940 and 754 to using Socket 939 for AMD 64 bit processors (Socket A remains for 32 Bit AMD processors), and from using Socket 478 to using Socket 775 for Intel Pentium 4 processors, which also limits your upgrade options.

Another change, coming in the second half of this year, concerns the incorporation of dual core processors, which have two CPUs on one chip, in workstations, servers, and desktops. Support for dual core processors will come more from a BIOS change than a socket change, but some motherboards will be able to support dual core processors by upgrading the flash BIOS. A transition from DDR to DDR2 system RAM is also being made, and some motherboards only support DDR2.

We now have a new power supply standard, too. ATX Power Supply 2.01 is replacing ATX Power Supply 1.3. Newer motherboards have different

power connectors. The new connector has 24 pins rather than the old standard of 20. There have been adapters for the 1.3 power connectors that fit 2.01 compliant motherboards, but now we are going to move to adapters for 2.01 power supplies to fit into 1.3 compliant motherboards. Some motherboards and power supplies had AUX connectors, but the new standard does away with that. One thing that is nice with the new standard is that having Serial Advanced Technology Attachment (SATA) drive power connectors is now mandatory rather than optional. The power supplies under the new standard are supposed to be more efficient, but be aware that some power supply manufacturers have been exaggerating the capacity of their power supplies.

This new power supply standard is just one step in another transition, the move from the ATX motherboard and case design standards to BTX design standards. There are three different BTX motherboard design formats: BTX, MicroBTX, and Pico BTX, which replace the standard ATX, Mini-ATX, and ITX motherboards, respectively. Part of the reason for the change is to redesign the airflow in the case to better get rid of all the heat generated by the latest processors. The flow of air in the BTX designs is from the front of the computer case straight through to the back, rather than from the lower front intake to the upper back exhaust. The CPU is repositioned toward the front of the computer so it gets the cool air first. That means a redesign of the power supply to a new BTX standard. Also, a thermal module replaces the standard CPU heat sink and fan. It takes a more global approach in covering the highest heat producing components sitting on the motherboard, including the CPU. Intel is pushing this because their Pentium 4s have higher clock speeds, which means they produce more heat, than the equivalent AMD Athlon 64 chips. They generate so much heat that Intel had to abandon their goal of producing a 4 GHz Pentium 4 chip. Given the differences in chip heat production, AMD is not under such pressure to move to BTX, so BTX motherboards supporting AMD processors will be a few months behind those supporting Intel processors. The first BTX motherboards just recently came out, and should become dominant in 2006.

What does all this mean? By the second half of 2005, if you have a computer that is more than one year old, it will probably be better to get an entirely

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An Alternative Approach Revisited

by Pim Borman, Southwest Indiana PC Users Group

Last Fall (see *Monitor*, vol. 22, no. 8; December, 2004; *An Alternative Approach to Computer Security: Reduce Your Risk of Being a Target*) I wrote about alternatives to Microsoft (MS) programs. I specifically recommended the free (Mozilla) Firefox as an alternative to Internet Explorer, and OpenOffice.org as a free replacement for MS Office. I also recommended the Linux-based Linspire operating system and programs library to replace MS Windows and virtually eliminate risks from MS-targeted viruses and worms. Linspire includes OpenOffice and Firefox as well as dozens of excellent multimedia, photo editing, productivity, and entertainment programs. Hundreds of more specialized programs are available by subscription to its extensive library. Linspire is the most user-friendly of the many Linux distributions available and requires absolutely no knowledge of Linux on the part of the user.

The column was reprinted in several other PC User Group newsletters and finally caught the eye of Microsoft. I received a letter from Aaron Coldiron, manager of Mindshare, the MS connection with the User Group community. The letter is too long to reprint here, but is available on our Web site at <http://swipcug.apcug.org/special/MSalts.htm>. Following are some quotes from the letter and my comments.

Coldiron wrote: *"I'm concerned that some user groups are pushing members to adopt software that they ultimately won't be happy with."* Borman: Pushing? Heaven forbid! Suggesting, maybe.

Coldiron: *"First, Windows XP Service Pack 2 is available on CD for free, and has been since August. The CD order form may be found here: www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/downloads/updates/sp2/cdorder/en_us/default.mspx."* Borman: Microsoft's issuance of XP-SP2 to correct weaknesses in Windows XP was not unlike a car company issuing a recall – for free – for a potentially dangerous brake design. Later in 2004 we received a supply of the CDs from the Mindshare program that we distributed to our members who asked for them.

Coldiron: *"Also, you may not know that Microsoft provides free technical support for Service Pack 2 should a user have any problems installing."* Borman: That is good to know.

Coldiron: *"Finally, you mention various incompatibilities with SP2. This isn't actually quite true. As you may know, Microsoft eliminated certain ways*

programs may access various resources throughout the operating system; we did this to tighten security and close loopholes that aren't officially supported programming functions. As a result, some programs which aren't designed to run under the tighter security protocols of SP2 may not function correctly (or at all) until the program is updated to a more recent version. There is a list of about 35 known incompatibilities on Microsoft's help site here."

Borman: It is a point well taken, although it doesn't help if your peripheral or program suddenly doesn't work any longer.

Mr. Coldiron appended a copy of a letter he wrote earlier in response to a review of OpenOffice. In it he writes: *"For instance, we created the Works Suite of applications for consumers who don't need to do spreadsheet functions and can use the free Outlook Express. Works 2005 can be bought for as little as \$69 on major Internet shopping sites."* Well, yes, but OpenOffice is free, and in addition to its MS Word-compatible word processor it includes an Excel-compatible spreadsheet, a PowerPoint-compatible presentation manager, and simple database and drawing features. And as far as compatibility is concerned, I notice that Word 2002 needs a conversion utility to display older versions of Word, including some available in Works.

Coldiron: *"Microsoft Office is the gold standard in interoperability. I'm sure you could think of a long list of features you love given a few minutes. Here's a few of the one's I like. As I type this I'm using Word as my e-mail editor, allowing me to use advanced word processing functions if I want. Icons appear next to names in the 'to' bar telling me if they are on or offline and allowing me to instant message them. I use OneNote which allows me to drop in meeting dates and times directly into my note files. I can also send my scribbles from OneNote as the text of an email – in my own handwriting if I want. I can copy and paste PowerPoint Slides whole into other applications like e-mail. For that matter, I can drop Excel spreadsheets into PowerPoint and even link them so that the PPT file updates automatically if I change the spreadsheet in Excel."* Borman: Impressive, but few of us need that sort of software acrobatics.

Coldiron: *"Several studies have shown that Microsoft Office has a lower total cost of ownership than its free or open source competitors. It has a higher*

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has been proposed for using melody based queries. The current wide-spread use of word based searches suggests that a query by humming search mechanism may be a useful method for searching for songs or tunes in the future. This project tried to determine whether music can be simply and effectively analyzed and stored so that it can be accurately retrieved by someone humming the tune.

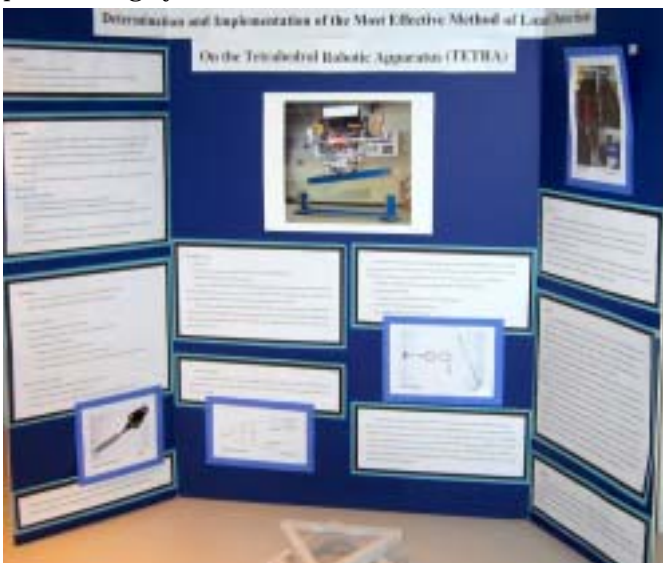
A musical encoding method was created to allow for a practical method of storing musical data for search. The encoding method uses the difference in chromatic steps between notes to represent songs. A library of music was then created to provide data to search through. In order to find a specific piece of music that a user has hummed, a Java computer program was written to search the music library for a set of notes.

Data was collected by humming parts of songs and recording them as computer files. Using a phonetic analyzer, the average pitch of each note was determined. After converting the difference in pitch between each hummed note to a number of chromatic steps, this string of relative changes in notes was used as the search criteria. The searches returned the correct song 75% of the time.

Determination and Implementation of the Most Effective Method of Load Detection On the Tetrahedral Robotic Apparatus (TETRA)

Alexander Kan May and Ilya Ganelin, Montgomery Blair High School, Silver Spring, MD

The research attempted to develop safer autonomous crane technology. A cable-based crane with six degrees of freedom was outfitted with a LADAR positioning system that in the future will allow it to



May and Ganelin's display about Load Detection on TETRA.

become fully autonomous. This will minimize the need for human involvement in construction, increasing efficiency and decreasing related injuries. The research created a specialized safeguard system, adapted to the crane's novel design and constraints, which allowed the crane to register when it is safe to release the load it carries. The crane body was composed of two cable-mounted frames; a "safe" position was defined as any position which placed no load on the lower frame. After considering several designs based on load cells, string encoders, and vibration sensors, the researchers decided on a system using linear limit switches. The switches register a change in the distance between the upper and lower platforms. When the load is supported by an external structure the switches register a negative change in distance and the Animatics Smart-Motor controlling the holding mechanism receives a positive signal indicating that it is safe to release the load.

Keywords: construction, automation, safety, crane, robot

Physical Principles; Hovercraft Test Lab

Joe A. Levy, Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School

This project was designed to defy gravity. It built a hovercraft, a device that floats on a film of air above the ground.

The project had two purposes. The first was to apply the iterative approach to engineering design. This constructs a product through successive iterations, each learning and improving from its predecessor.

The second purpose was to use the completed hovercraft to measure a physical principle, the effect of weight on ground friction. That is, given a constant initial force the project tested the distance the hovercraft traveled, as a function of the weight it was given to support.

The results were enlightening. It demonstrated that failure is not a bad thing; in fact, it is actually a good thing. One can use information from a failed system as feedback to improve the design of a subsequent system, continuing until a successful end product results. It took four separate builds, each one improving over its predecessor, before the hovercraft would lift. In each successive build, the design was improved using such engineering improvements as weight reduction, miniaturization, and air flow design.

Once the craft was completed, the project was able to prove friction increases as a function of weight. For example, it was found as weight doubled, distance traveled reduced by 9.8%. Given all other

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conditions were held constant, this verifies the physical principle that increased weight results in increased friction, in this case manifested by reduced distance traveled, upon application of an initial constant force.

Identification of Differential Surface Properties on a Triangle Mesh for Facial and Object Recognition

Justin Solomon, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology, Alexandria, VA

A new algorithm for facial and object recognition using triangle mesh data from laser scans, 3D reconstruction programs, or other similar input sources is presented. Rather than comparing vertex and edge locations, however, a preprocessing step is added in which several intrinsic differential characteristics of the models are identified, including ridges, parabolic curves, and principal directions. This data is calculated using specialized mesh processing methods which were developed as part of the recognition algorithm. Then, properties are compared using the largest clique size of association graphs constructed from the geometric mesh data. Preliminary testing using object meshes yielded an average rate of 90% recognition. While facial recognition rates were less, they were significantly increased using higher mesh resolution, indicating that recognition could be much more accurate using high quality meshes on a faster machine. The algorithms developed for this project can be used in a variety of applications related to computer vision and graphics such as biometric identification.

An Improved Zeeman Cooling Technique to Trap Antihydrogen Atoms

Avik Dayal, Broad Run High School, Ashburn, VA

In this work, an improved Zeeman trapping technique was found to trap antihydrogen atoms assuming that antihydrogen has the same properties as hydrogen. The Java simulation of the Zeeman trapping technique set one high frequency laser emitting photons directly opposite of the source of antihydrogen atoms with several lower frequency lasers firing photons at the atom directly after it interacts with the photon from the high frequency laser, thereby accounting for the Doppler shift. This tested how many low frequency lasers would trap the atoms for the greatest amount of time. If this method were used to actually trap antihydrogen atoms, the experiment would have been done in space, which is the only place that the required vacuum could be found, and would provide a safer and cheaper location where antihydrogen could be stored. The averages of the maximum values for

each amount of lasers were 526.66 time units for 2 lasers, 570 time units for 4 lasers, 699.2 time units for 8 lasers, and 727.56 time units for 16 lasers. It was determined that there was a relationship between the natural logarithm of the amount of lasers and the maximum lifespan of each test squared, giving the equation $Li^2 = A \cdot \ln(a) + B$. Eight lasers were the



most efficient number of lasers used even though 16 lasers trapped the atoms for a longer period of time. This improved technique would be able to improve the current Zeeman cooling technique by approximately 22.8%, according to the experiment's calculations.

Optimizing Structural Integrity of Rigid Block Structures against a Constant Force with a Genetic Algorithm

Akimitsu Hogge, Takoma Park Middle School

An important question for architects in disaster prone cities is how high a building can be built while still ensuring that it is safe. For my science project this year, I set out to make a computer program that would find out which type of building structures would hold up best against natural disasters. My

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inspiration to research this field came when I was in Japan over the summer. I noticed that although Tokyo was very built-up, the towers were not very tall, except in the densest regions. I pondered over the balance between space-efficiency versus safety. Later that year, I studied genetic algorithms, and decided to connect the two fields: construction and optimization.

My goal was to construct a program using a genetic algorithm to find building structures which could hold up best against a constant force while also meeting height requirements. The advantage of a genetic algorithm in this problem is that it is heuristic, meaning that the algorithm makes a random guess, and then improves upon it, as opposed to a standard analytical algorithm, where an optimum is found using mathematics. Genetic algorithms start by creating a random population of organisms, with random genes. Then, the organisms are put through tests to determine their fitness. The low-performing organisms are culled, while the best organisms “mate” to create a new population. This new population is similar to the best of the last population, except with small mutations introduced for variety. This process is repeated, hopefully increasing the quality of the organisms.

My experiment had two parts: a genetic algorithm and a simulation using physics principles. In this experiment, 100 random 2-dimensional buildings were created on the computer and put through a simulation to see how well they could stand up to a force. Scores were calculated using a variable ratio called the “height to safety emphasis ratio,” which determined relative values to height versus structural stability. The ratios were developed to reflect environmental variables of a building site. The best organisms in each trial were put through a crossing algorithm and a mutation algorithm to create a new population of 100 organisms. The process was run for 20 generations.

I developed the physics simulation in C++, using the SDL graphics library for output. All of the physics formulae were applied inside of the C++ program. I had developed the physics simulations inside of a C++ environment because C++ is fast and displays graphics well. However, Visual Basic was much better as a graphical user interface and for data manipulation. Therefore, I used Visual Basic for the genetic algorithm and C++ for the physics. The hardest part was to synchronize the two programs to share data. Because the physics coding is adaptable, constants can be easily changed. Material properties, such as the mass and frictional coefficients of the blocks, can be adjusted. In this experiment, force

applied to the structure was constant, like a steady wind or tsunami. However, oscillating forces, such as seismic activity, or variable forces, such as wind gusts, could be simulated.

Although the data from this experiment is not suitable for real construction, the concepts and programs that were developed are a good basis for further investigation. A program like this with an input for how important space is to safety, the “height to safety emphasis ratio” could be very useful for builders, who need to find that right balance for a geographic area. This method could be used to save many lives, as well as resources.

Foraging by Ants: A Computer Simulation

Jason Dunn, Lake Braddock SS, Burke, VA

The purpose of this project is to explore the effects of the number of ants in a colony and the distance from the food source on the amount of food returned to the hill. To do this, I created a computer simulation of the foraging techniques used by common ants. In the end I found that the number of ants greatly affects the amount of food returned to the hill as well as the distance. The most favorable colony situation would be a colony with a large number of ants close to a source of food.

I created the simulation using Dark Basic v.1.12. I



Jason Dunn standing by his display on Foraging by Ants.

used Dark Basic because it provides simple way to create a 3-D environment. I programmed in “pheromones” that act very similarly to how they do in real life. Pheromones are chemicals that ants use to guide each other to food sources. This allowed for trails to be created on the terrain that many ants would follow.

I found that more ants would make the number of food “units” delivered rise exponentially, so there were more units of food delivered per capita. Also, I

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found that a close distance to the nest from the food meant that food units delivered would increase immensely. I was able to conclude that a nest with many ants is more favorable than one with fewer. A nest that is closer to the food will also be much more efficient than one that is far.

The Effect of Thermoelectric Cooling on Processor Performance

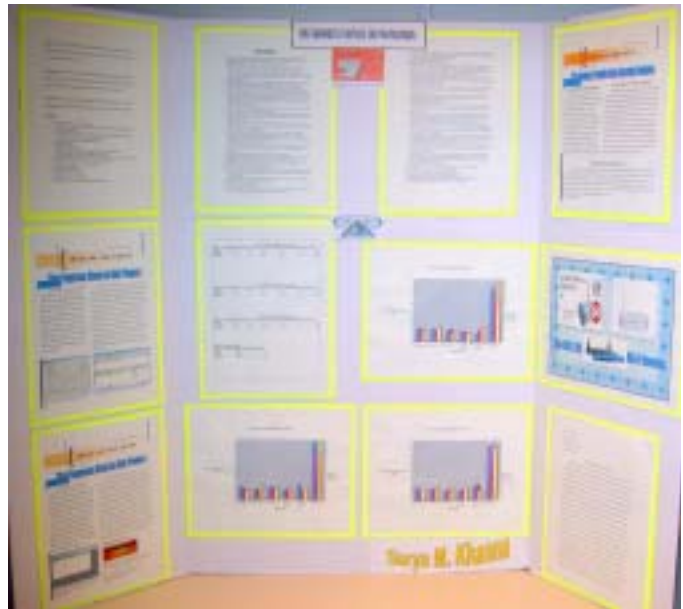
Doupamo Eradiri, Broad Run HS, Ashburn, VA

Thermoelectric cooling uses conservation of energy to create a heat pump. While one side of thermoelectric modules reach extremely high temperatures, the other side becomes very cold. A 66-watt TEC module coupled with a convection CPU heat sink has a cold-side temperature that reaches temperatures cold enough to form frost from air moisture. This experiment used a thermoelectric module with a CPU water block to cool an Athlon XP 2400+ processor. The processor's idle temperature and temperature under load were measured (using the "Asus Probe" utility) before the addition of the TEC module to the cooling system. After adding the TEC module to the cooling system, the processor's multiplier was adjusted (while the front side bus speed was kept constant) such that the processor's temperature under load was equal to its temperature under load using only the water-cooling system. A program was written to generate 99999 random six figure integers and store them in a text file called "numList." A program, dubbed "sixFigBench," was written to gauge the difference in performance induced by the TEC module. The "sixFigBench" program recorded the time taken to sort 99999 integers from the "numList" text file, using a bubble sort algorithm. The "sixFigBench" program was run on the default water-cooling configuration as well as the TEC/water-cooling one.

The Effect of The Brand of A Wi-Fi Router On Its Overall Performance

Surya M. Khanna, Langley High School, McLean, VA

The purpose of this experiment is to better understand the scientific Methodology, and application of the steps to test the hypothesis and arrive at a plausible conclusion for my project. In the experiment, a router was put through various tests at various distances (5,10,15,20, 25, & 30 feet) to determine the signal quality, strength, as well as data transfer speed. The first test performed on the router was the "ping test" which measured the time it took for a packet of data to be sent to the router and back. The second test garnered a simple qualitative description of the signal quality through the use of the basic



Surya Khanna's display on comparison testing of Wi-Fi Routers.

Microsoft Networks program that comes with the OS. The third test used the program WINc to garner the actual percent strength of the signal emanating from the router. The fourth test utilized the program Net Stumbler to find out the exact decibel strength of the signal. The fifth test used Net Stumbler and WINc to ensure the background interference noise was at a constant -100 decibels. The sixth and final test tested the Data transfer speeds by attempting to download a 175 KB file from a web site and measuring the download time. (The web site's name is www.Beelinebandwidthtest.org.) These six tests would be completed at the various distances and recorded in their respective data tables.

The next step was converting the raw data into rank points. This involved comparing the brands to one another at a certain distance with certain obstacles and assigning a point rank (1-3, the lower the better). Once the rank points are calculated, the average of the point ranks for a particular router's test at the various distances is taken and recorded on the final table. Finally, the averages of all the point ranks, per router respectively, are added up and the total average rank points for every router are formed. To reduce experimental error and to provide a universal equalizer, only the rank points are used in the end comparison. In the end, one could conclude that the hypothesis was incorrect since one brand (D-link) was superior to the others both quantitatively and qualitatively, however minute the difference was.



June 2005

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July 2005

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[Letters to "Late Nite"](#) continued from page 9

A0: Another common group of entities that meet the guidelines for strong passwords is math formulae: e.g., $A = \pi r^2$ (area of a circle) or $P = 2l + 2w$ (perimeter of a rectangle). You can also use an irrational number, " $\sqrt{2} = 1.41421$ " or " $\sqrt{5} = 2.23607$ ", especially if you always have a calculator handy. How many people do you think use " $\pi - 3 = .14159$ " as their password?

Q05VI.5: What if I feel that I just have to write down the passwords I use?

A0: I suggest being devious when you write down a password – like omitting the first and last letters. (You can remember a single character, can't you – especially if you make it a practice of always putting "." or "*" at the beginning and end of all your passwords?) Alternatively, you can add extra characters at the beginning and the end of what you write down, or include a hyphen in the middle that only you know isn't supposed to be there.

There are other ways of doing this sort of thing. All you have to write down is something that will jog your memory so you can recall your password. For example, if you use the name of your dog as a base password, post a note that says "my dog" instead of the name of your dog, and use "pet=(My dog)" as your full password. Post several such notes around, many with false clues, and make sure you can remember which of them is the genuine hint.

Q05VI.6: Where can I find documentation about how to use LISTSERV lists?

A0: The site for LISTSERV Documentation is: www.lsoft.com/resources/manuals.asp; it has links to the various manuals available.

The LISTSERV General User's Guide is available as a PDF file at the URL www.lsoft.com/manuals/1.8e/user/user.pdf, and in several other formats at www.lsoft.com/manuals/1.8e/userindex.html.

Q05VI.7: The discussion at "Late Nite" often seems over my head, so I find myself listening in for a short time then drifting away. Could the discussions at "Late Nite" be kept at a more basic level, at least at the beginning of the session?

A0: Yes, the way to do this is to ask questions in the terms you understand, and to ask for further explanations when the responses seem beyond your knowledge.

One thing that can't be done at "Late Nite" is anticipate what it is that people don't understand. I'm very interested in addressing basic issues, the problems that face beginners, but I can't address questions that aren't asked.

In the informal setting of "Late Nite" sessions, it's acceptable to interrupt and ask for the definition of a

term being used, even if the question that started the discussion was asked by someone else! I've got a collection of analogies to describe many computer concepts, but new issues are always turning up, and I'd like to know what sorts of things trip people up, so I can develop or discover new explanations and analogies and keep current.

Q05VI.8: I have some computer problems and I'd like to participate in the "Late Nite" sessions after the CPCUG "Tech Talk" General Meetings, but sticking around much later than 9 PM on a Monday night is too late for me. Is there some way I could put my question in a queue so that it gets answered early?

A0: The way I'd like to start off the "Late Nite" sessions is by asking for any index cards or papers and forms where people have written down their questions, and give priority to addressing those – especially ones with a name and phone number or e-mail address on them. By turning in an index card with your name (or a business card with your question attached), that would give me a chance to get back to you later, even if your question doesn't come up before you have to leave.

What I'd like to do is develop a short form to fill out for questions, and even have a cork message board set out before the meeting starts, so people can post their questions. Then I (and others there) might be able to look them over and think about them during the meeting. Also, though I often forget, I'd like to ask for a show of hands for "who has any questions for Late Nite?" and for "who will be staying around to participate in Late Nite?" when I make my announcement near the end of the General Meeting that there will be a "Late Nite" session.

Incidentally, I have the opposite issue with time of the meetings – coming from Damascus in the northern corner of Montgomery county, through rush hour traffic on the Beltway, I can't get to the General Meetings in Virginia by 7 PM, so I invariably arrive late. Thankfully the trip home after 10 PM is usually a breeze. I'd like to partner with someone who gets to the General Meetings on time, or early, who would be willing to set out index cards and forms for questions, or set up a cork message board before the beginning of the meetings, to try out a system like this.

Marty Shinko has been involved with the CPCUG since the early 1990s, as a volunteer instructor and advocate for beginners. He's used computers for over three decades, from PC's to supercomputers. His interests include sub-atomic physics, astronomy, epistemology, mathematics, engineering simulation and computer modeling, satellites, brain psychology, sailboating, amateur radio and robotics. 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 CPCUG General Meeting Tech Talks.

[Rich's Ramblings](#) continued from page 11

a pictorial of what it all looked like, check with www.schinnell.net/files/badvirus.htm where I had recorded my problems.)

Another glitch in NAV 2005 is that every now and then it decides that it needs to be re-validated or authenticated with the Symantec servers. This seems to go well but I don't know what is happening.

At this time, I do not intend on recommending Symantec's Norton Anti-Virus 2005.

Check with my CPCUG.ORG web page at www.cpcug.org/user/schinnel for the web site URL where you can download the free AVG (and other programs that I recommend.) It is quite a bit cheaper than Symantec's Anti-Virus product and seems to behave well with almost everything that I run. I have been recommending AVG to many of my small business clients. Grisoft has versions that run under Windows 95 and up, and even a Linux version. They offer a two-computer version as well as a five-computer version, which are all two-year licenses.

Universal Use of USB

I have a laptop and am continually inserting those little Universal Serial Bus (USB) thumb drives to transfer data to other computers and the cost of the one gigabyte (GB) models are now down below \$100. I thought that it would be nice to have a small hard disk say 60 GB or so instead of just one GB. I heard about a USB device that allows you to plug in a small 2.5" hard disk (this style of hard disk is normally used in laptops and smaller mini computers). I went searching and found that there is a small USB cable with an adapter on the end to fit the 2.5" hard disk. Power is supplied from the USB port. It works great. I can have 60 gigabytes of data in my pocket and Windows 2000 and XP automatically recognize the USB hard disk.

To digress: I upgraded my Toshiba laptop's 60 GB 4200 RPM hard disk with a 5400 RPM disk which gave me a spare 60 GB hard disk. The neat thing about this USB cable is that it supports standard IDE size drives as they provide a small power supply so that the larger hard disks can be connected via USB cables. USB power drain is important and standard USB does not have the power for the larger IDE drives.

I think that this USB device would be a real boon for PC repair people. I bought mine for \$38, including shipping, at www.usbgeek.com as a USB 2.0 IDE cable with power supply item number uca000201. They do sell a cheaper version that does not include the power supply for larger 3.5" IDE hard disks.

It even works fine when I plug the USB cable into

my Macintosh Mini computer. I can transfer whole document directories over to the Mac effortlessly. It just plain works in whatever machine I plug it into. It is much faster over USB 2.0 but works on USB 1.1.

All in all, well worth the investment.

Rich Schinnell is a longtime member of CPCUG and has written his Ramblings for over 20 years. He has an Apple Mac-Mini which has been growing on him. He still has his home network of PCs. He has Verizon's Fiber Optic Network Internet access installed and seems very pleased at the speed improvement over Comcast Internet Access. Of course he has come a long way since the 300BPS modem days where it took forever to send a file in ASCII. He can be reached at schinnel@cpcug.org and on his home page at www.schinnell.org, or, as a last resort, via telephone at (301) 949-9292.

CPCUG Member Benefit: Computer Magazines at Great Prices

	1 YR	2 YR	3 YR
Computer Games	\$10.95	\$20.95	\$29.95
Computer Gaming World	\$14.95	\$28.95	\$41.95
Computer Shopper	\$16.97	\$32.95	\$47.95
Dr. Dobbs Journal	\$15.95	\$30.95	----
Mac Addict	\$10.97	----	----
Mac Home Journal	\$15.97	\$29.97	----
Mac World	\$12.95	----	----
Maximum PC	\$ 9.95	\$18.95	\$27.95
Microsoft System Journal	\$21.95	\$39.95	----
PC Gamer	\$12.95	----	----
PC Magazine (22/44/66 issues)	\$25.97	\$48.95	\$68.95
PC World	\$16.95	----	----
Wired	\$ 6.00	\$12.00	\$17.00

Prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check or money order payable to Herb Goodman and mailed to:

Herb Goodman
8295 Sunlake Drive
Boca Raton, FL 33496
561-488-4465
hgoodman@prodigy.net

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

[Alternative Revisited](#) [continued from page 13](#)

up front cost, but the additional productivity and lower support cost more than offset the higher up front cost.” Borman: Maybe for a corporate office, but not for individuals.

Coldiron, finally: “I really hope that consumers choose the suite that best fits their needs, whether it is MS Office 2003, Works 2005, or one of our competitors’ products. I just wanted to point out that it isn’t just a case of the price out of the box. There are a lot more factors to consider.” Borman: I agree.

The Bottom Line

Few will argue that Microsoft Windows with its built-in Internet features is the Cadillac of operating systems. Not everyone needs or can afford a Cadillac and a less expensive brand may be preferable, maybe even a foreign make. The customer has the choice, based on his pocketbook and his needs. When shopping for a computer from a major manufacturer, other than Apple, it is impossible to avoid having to pay for the installation of the Microsoft Windows operating system and usually at least one of its software suites. Last Fall I wrote that Dell would start selling computers, in Europe only, without an operating system, leaving it to the buyer to add his own. It never happened. According to rumor, Microsoft threatened Dell that it would no longer make Windows available at an especially low, OEM price. That may, or may not, be true.



Figure 1: Author Borman at home with the computer he uses the most.

Currently, only a few minor, obscure computer manufacturers, often outside the US, sell systems with one of the Linux distributions pre-installed, or nothing at all. You can order one on the Wal-Mart web site and find others through links on the Linspire or Xandros Web sites. Of course, you can also go to a local computer builder, or build your own.

It may take a long time to break the Microsoft monopoly in the US, where the Microsoft Windows and Office programs are deeply entrenched and

anti-trust laws seem to be a quaint footnote to history. But overseas, and especially in rapidly developing countries such as China, there is greater open-mindedness toward new ideas, and Linux is making rapid inroads. It also helps that the open source nature of Linux allows foreign governments to make sure the software doesn’t contain backdoors for access by spy organizations.

I own three Wi-Fi connected computers. The newest, a 3.1 Gigahertz (GHz) Dell Inspiron

laptop, uses Windows XP PRO. I update the operating system, MS Office, spyware, virus, and firewall programs with great regularity. I use it mostly for photo editing and financial programs, as well as to maintain the SWIPCUG Web site, because I am familiar with the programs. My older desktop, a 600 Megahertz (MHz) Dell Dimension, runs Windows ME but is mostly used to evaluate various Linux distributions on a dual boot basis.

The computer I use most is an old 600 MHz Celeron Inspiron laptop running Linspire 4.5 – Linux laptop edition. It sits on a small roll-around desk stand next to the La-Z-Boy in my den. (Seeing is believing – see the photo taken by my wife Pat, in Figure 1.) It connects wirelessly with the router on the other end of the house. At any time I can check e-mail, get the latest news from all over the world, look up crossword puzzle clues with Google, maintain my checkbook file, and play FreeCell or BreakOut. All of that without fear of being attacked by worms and viruses.

This article represents only the opinions of the author and not necessarily those of the Southwestern Indiana PC Users Group, Inc. It 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.

**Subscribers to
CPCUG.ORG:**

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

Entrepreneurs and Consultants SIG Event Supports Local Library

by Barbara Conn

On Saturday afternoon, May 21, Daniel H. Pink, author of the book *A Whole New Mind: Moving From the Information Age to the Conceptual Age* (and previous work, *Free Agent Nation*), spoke at the monthly meeting of the CPCUG Entrepreneurs and Consultants Special Interest Group (SIG). The event was co-sponsored by, and held at, the Cleveland Park Library in Washington, DC, in partnership with the bookstore, Trover Shop.

Dan Pink was smart, funny, thought provoking, energized, and energizing. As attendee Tommy Foster wrote, “[Dan Pink] provided so many insights that made me feel informed and able to move on with some important business plans. Also, his views are helping me to shape or re-shape these business plans with a view to making them much more appealing and energetic.”

The program ended with sales and autographing

of *A Whole New Mind*. The 80 attendees bought the available 25 books--and would have bought more. Dan signed all books, copies previously purchased and carried to the event as well as those bought at the library. Trover Shop provided books and donated 20 percent of the price for each book sold at the library. In addition, Dan generously donated royalties earned for library sales. The total benefit to the Friends of the Cleveland Park Library was more than \$220. Not bad for an enjoyable afternoon of mind stretching and networking.

Note: To those who skipped this meeting for the movie, “Star Wars: Return of the Sith” at the Uptown Theatre in the next block, you missed something special.

Barbara Conn is the Director of Corporate Communications for CPCUG, and chair of the Entrepreneurs and Consultants SIG. She can be contacted at bconn@cpcug.org.

[PC Hardware Changes](#) [continued from page 12](#)

new computer rather than upgrade some components. This puts into motion another round of the old computer becoming the backup computer and the old backup computer becoming a boat anchor, flowerpot, or, for the more adventurous, a holiday lighting display control system for the whole house and yard. However, with all these changes in computer hardware, it is possible that many people will get a new computer sooner than they might otherwise, resulting in some of the used computers that are retired being new enough for schools and nonprofit organizations to want them. As such, it is not just those selling computers and computer components who will benefit from the chaos caused by this round of computer hardware transitions.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, computers, video, audio, and entertainment/media, and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada, plus Australia, England, and Japan. A member of TUGNET, he can be contacted at teveringham@acm.org, and further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>.

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[Tech News Review](#) [continued from page 8](#)

New Photoshop CS Details

Adobe is still finding its bearings after it unintentionally released details of its next Photoshop upgrade. The company quickly pulled down the announcement, but Google never forgets. Check out Publish.com's rundown of the new features at <http://ct.eletters.whatsnewnow.com/rd/cts?d=181-431-1-278-41858-19872-0-0-0-1>.

Sue Crane is the vice-president of the Big Bear Computer Club, in Big Bear, CA., and editor of their newsletter. She can be reached at sue.crane@charter.net.

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O'Reilly Book Discounts

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

in the digital world, there is the potential of harm from EULAs that make consumers possibly subject to lawsuits, invasions of privacy, breaches of computer security, and unwanted service subscription renewal fees. (See "A User's Guide to EULAs" at www.eff.org/wp/eula.php.)

While it appears that EULAs are here to stay, there is hope that they can be tamed and contained. One small victory is reported on page 8 of this issue of the **Monitor**, in the **Technology News Review**, and other efforts are possible, as described on the EFF web site.

Meanwhile, I feel vindicated in my insistence on reading through those EULAs, and looking out for what I can learn about the software as well as the possible consequences. I've found interesting variations in the EULA statements as I read them. For example, a portion of the EULA for Apple's iTunes (which came bundled with the rest of the software

pre-installed on my new laptop) proved to be particularly intriguing. Here it is, verbatim:

"2. Permitted License Uses and Restrictions. This License allows you to install and use the Apple software...THE APPLE SOFTWARE IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE IN THE OPERATION OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES, AIRCRAFT NAVIGATION OR COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS, AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SYSTEMS, LIFE SUPPORT MACHINES OR OTHER EQUIPMENT IN WHICH THE FAILURE OF THE APPLE SOFTWARE COULD LEAD TO DEATH, PERSONAL INJURY, OR SEVERE PHYSICAL OR ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE."

A more thorough limiting of liability I could not imagine. But how fortunate for me to have read the EULA before attempting to control or navigate aircraft to the rhythm of my favorite top 40 tune, or run my life support machine to the beat of a rap song!

James Katz
Editor

Reboot

CPCUG's Active Computer Recycling Program

10 Volunteers
Working 1 or 2 or more
afternoons a month

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

101 Fleet Street
Rockville, MD

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

Contacts:

Gerry Rosenkrantz
reboot20850@verizon.net

Dave Barry
davbar20852@yahoo.com



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

MEMBERS ONLY



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
- **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, June 21, 6:30 pm
Montgomery Community Television
7548 Standish Place Studio B
Rockville, MD

This month's meeting will be quite unusual and exciting. Before the meeting actually begins there will be a tour of the MCT studios, control rooms, and editing booths, starting at 6:30 pm. At 7:30 pm the Digital Video User Group Speakers will begin a live broadcast on cable Channel 21 on Montgomery Community Television from Studio B. There are a limited number of seats in Studio B. Please let the meeting organizers know in advance by e-mail to dvug@meral.com the names of those who are coming. The organizers will try to accommodate all of those who let them know by June 16th. Since this will be a live show, all of the audience must be in Studio B and in their

seats no later than 7:25 pm.

The meeting will have two main speakers: Richard Turner, Executive Director of Montgomery Community Television, and Anthony Riddle, Executive Director of The Alliance for Community Media (ACM).

The speakers will discuss Public Access Media and how you can benefit from engaging in this area. There are over a million people, just like you, throughout the country who are using electronic media to build a sense of community in their neighborhoods. They've learned how to run TV cameras, set lights, edit video programs, and produce top-notch television programming for their community! And all for little or no cost. You, too, can produce public access television programs!

Richard Turner will talk about the training and other opportunities at a community access station such as MCT. Tony Riddle will talk about the Access stations throughout the U.S. He will discuss the broader aspects of Access programming and how the ACM is committed to assuring everyone's access to electronic media throughout the nation. The Alliance advances this goal through public education, a progressive legislative and regulatory agenda, coalition building and grassroots organizing.

There are local access channels in all parts of MD, VA, and DC, as well as across the nation. Whether or not you produce a program you can work with these organizations and learn about the latest technology for producing excellent videos. A list of other Public Access stations in the area will be available.

There will be opportunities for you to ask the speakers questions during the live broadcast. The broadcast, and the meeting, will end at 9:00 pm.

See the web site, www.dvug.org, for a map and directions, by metro, car, or bus, to the MCT studios. There is excellent parking around the building.

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-1* 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

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-1* LISTSERV list at: www.cpcug.org/cgi-bin/wa.

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.

Upcoming Meetings

Saturday, June 18, 2005, 1:00-3:15 pm

Panel Discussion: **Tech Entrepreneur Networking Options**

Moderator: Andrew Forbes, earlystage.com

Saturday, July 16, 2005, 1:00-3:15 pm

Book Overview: **22 Immutable Laws of Marketing, by Al Ries**

Speaker: Dwight Barbour, *.NET Community Builder*

Saturday, August 20, 2005, 1:00-3:15 pm

Web Statistics

Speaker: Bob Bailey, *Message Builders*

Sat., September 17, 2005, 1:00-3:15 pm

Accounting Using QuickBooks

Speaker: Jina Etienne, CPA, Etienne & Associates, LLC

Saturday, October 15, 2005, 1:00-3:15 pm

What's Happening in Robotics

Speaker: John Mahoney, Math Teacher, Benjamin Banneker Academic High School, Washington, DC

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

Strategies for Building Your Business

Speaker: Michael Smith, President, TeraTech, Inc.

2nd Sat., Dec. 10, 2005, 1:00-3:15 pm

Panel Discussion: Topic and panelists to be announced

Future Meetings

If you have an idea for a topic or speaker, please send an e-mail message about it to bconn@cpug.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 via mailing list at glitchdc-announce@yahoo.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, June 15, 7:30 pm
Bethesda Library, 7400 Arlington Road, Bethesda, MD

For directions go to:
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@yahoo.com.

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-lhosted@cpug.org
- E-mail discussion list: pocketpcd-lhosted@cpug.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@cpug.org

Directions:

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-lhosted@cpug.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

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.

hallahan@ers.usda.gov or 202-694-5051 to have their names put on the admittance list

- URL—www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/
- E-mail meeting announcements, monthly: To subscribe, send e-mail to Charles Hallahan, hallahan@ers.usda.gov
- Contact—Charles Hallahan, e/w: 703-532-2930, hallahan@ers.usda.gov

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

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

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

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

Rockville, MD
**MCT (Montgomery
Community Television)**
Training Classroom
7550 Standish Place
Rockville, MD 20855

**To register for classes, call
301-762-9372**

Directions to the sites:
www.cpcug.net/directions.asp
[www.cpcug.org/user/comm/
location.html#mct](http://www.cpcug.org/user/comm/location.html#mct)

www.cpcug.org/user/sigstat/.

Upcoming Meeting

No meeting in June, July, or August. Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 14.

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: virginiasig-l@cpug.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 the CPCUG President at frank_sokolove@yahoo.com if you are interested in helping start up of any of these SIGs:

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

New SIGS

If you are interested in starting a new SIG (or re-activating an inactive SIG), please contact frank_sokolove@yahoo.com.

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 Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M - F	9:00a-4:00p	www.cpcug.org/cgi-bin/wa 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	703-880-8225	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 Sam Odio	703-425-7038 703-880-8225	All All	Reasonable All	 sam@odioworks.com
BUYING DECISIONS				
Sam Odio Robert Simanski	703-880-8225 703-404-8665	All All	All 6:00p - 10p	sam@odioworks.com rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
C LANGUAGE				
Wayne Dernoncourt 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	wayned@cpcug.org sgraham@scobar.com
Walter Nissen (Near Cleveland, OH)	440-243-4980	All	Reasonable	wnissen@tfn.net
C++ LANGUAGE				
Keith Bennett	301-840-1161	All	8:00a -9:00p	kbennett@cpcug.org

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
C++ LANGUAGE (cont'd)				
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	703-880-8225	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	703-880-8225	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/cgi-bin/wa
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	703-880-8225	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
INTERNET - CPCUG.ORG (cpcug.org subscribers only)				
Scott Mohnkern	301-738-0097	M-F	9:00a-4:00p	scott@mohnkern.com

Member	Phone	Days	Time	E-Mail
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
Robert Simanski	703-404-8665	All	6:00p - 10p	rsimanski@yourpubpro.com
MOZILLA				
Cliff Bailey	703-237-4174	Mon-Fri	10:00a-8:00p	cbailey@myexcel.com
MySQL				
Sam Odio	703-880-8225	All	All	sam@odioworks.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	703-880-8225	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	703-880-8225	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	
PHP				
Sam Odio	703-880-8225	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
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	703-880-8225	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	703-880-8225	All	All	sam@odioworks.com
WINDOWS XP				
Sam Odio	703-880-8225	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/cgi-bin/wa
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 Derroncourt				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 June 9 General Meeting TechTalk

The June 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):

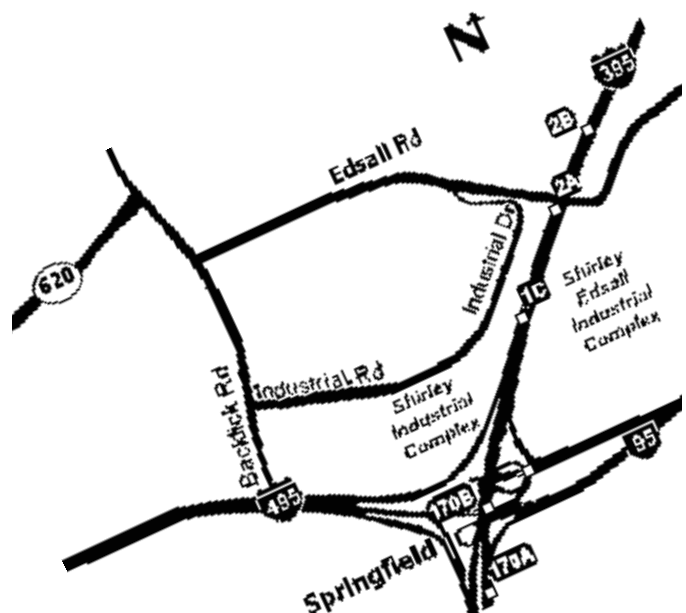
Take I-395 North.
Continue with I-395 directions.

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 E-Mail Lists



The Capital PC User Group maintains e-mail lists for distributing and sharing information. An e-mail list is a list of people's names and e-mail addresses used to simultaneously send messages or announcements to a group of

people who have a common topic of interest. Some lists are for information distribution only (no individual posting allowed); others are open for posting (discussion lists). Most list-owners maintain archives of messages. You can join and leave the list at any time, even sign off temporarily during vacation.

E-mail lists are a logical extension of bulletin board systems, like the late CPCUG Membership Information eXchange (MIX). They provide 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!

LISTSERV®, the registered trade name for the most popular and sophisticated e-mail list management software on the market, makes it easy for even 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 LISERSERV as outlined in the box that follows this list.

For information about LISERSERV, you can retrieve manuals from:

www.lsoft.com/resources/manuals.asp

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, LISERSERV®, has been made available through a generous donation from L-Soft International, Inc.

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!

Advertise Your Business Here

Let CPCUG members
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

MCT = Montgomery Community Television, 7548 Standish Place, Rockville, MD

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

*Please note new fee structure for courses:
\$39 CPCUG & AUMC members, \$49 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.*

June

- 2 - Introduction to the Microsoft XP Operating System
- 7 - Adobe Acrobat: Creating PDFs
- 14 - Basics of Computers for Very Beginners
- 16 - Job Hunting on the Internet
- 21 - Introduction to Home Networking
- 23 - Introduction to MS Word
- 28 - Under the Hood
- 30 - Introduction to MS Powerpoint

MCT Rockville, MD
Montgomery Community Television (MCTS)
Training Classroom
7550 Standish Place, Rockville, MD 20855

*Please note new fee structure for courses:
\$49 CPCUG members, \$59 non-members. All classes
begin at 6:30 pm, except where noted. Register online at
www.cpcug.net/trainingsearch.asp or call CPCUG at
301-762-9372.*

June

- 3 - Basics of Computers for Very Beginners
- 7 - Introduction to E-Mail
- 9 - Introduction to SQL
- 10 - Digital Imaging
- 14 - Introduction to the Microsoft XP Operating System
- 17 - Introduction to MS Powerpoint
- 21 - Senior-Friendly Intro to Computers & MS Windows
- 24 - Job Hunting on the Internet
- 28 - Working with MP3s

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

Late Nite

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

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

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