



A Monthly Publication of The Users' Group Network

August 2002 Volume 9 No. 8

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MEETING SCHEDULE

August 6
 Computer Crime and the FBI

August 13
 In Depth: MP3

August 20
 Retrospect Backup

August 27
 Computing 101/Internet

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SIG Information and Schedules

Check Out These Meetings!

August 6 Computer Crime and the FBI

We will be most fortunate to have Mr. Frank Harrill, from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, come to speak to us Tuesday, August 6. He is very apologetic for having to postpone his previously scheduled visit, but the government comes first, as we know, and they sent him to Central Asia on very short notice.



You will find what he has to say fascinating.

He will be speaking on the following points:

- Computer Crime and the FBI
- New Crime in the New World & Real Cases to Illustrate the Threat
- Measures to Take & What to Do When Prevention Doesn't Work

He will also cover in some detail Eastern European groups that are targeting U.S. business and just might now have something to say about Asia as well.

In addition, he will be willing to answer questions so this will prove to be a most interesting evening.

Mr. Harrill travels a great deal – as you now know – so we are most fortunate to have been included in his schedule. Be sure to attend and you'll be telling your friends about what you heard.

August 13 In Depth: MP 3



After many requests for a meeting dealing with MP 3s "in depth," we are most fortunate to have a speaker who will do just that.

Watch your e-mail for more details of this meeting.

August 20 Retrospect Backup

Dantz Development Corporation, a premier provider of backup and restore software, has announced the release of *Dantz Retrospect 6.0 for Microsoft Windows*.

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TUGNET is a non-profit computer users group. TUGNET's mailing address for membership information, submissions to the TUGNET Newsletter, or other club-related material, is TUGNET, 3926 Community, La Crescenta, CA 91214. We welcome your submissions, including technical questions or letters to the editor, on PC disk (in a popular word processing format), by modem (Call 818-884-9441 to schedule a transfer) or e-mail, lazydazy@winnert.com. **Hardcopy alone will no longer be accepted!! All submissions must be presented on disk or modem as described above!!** The number one rule when writing for us is: **Do not attempt to format your article**, except for bolding and italicizing. Instead, focus on writing a clear, organized, grammatically correct article. We'll take care of the rest. We reserve the right to edit as necessary for space considerations. Other non-profit user groups may reprint articles (except for those copyrighted) without prior permission, provided proper author, title and publication credits are given. Newsletter produced using Microsoft Publisher. Membership database is in Microsoft Access.

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DOOR PRIZE POLICY

Only members in good standing are eligible to receive a door prize ticket and to win a door prize. Members must, however, also attend the full presentation in order to qualify for a door prize ticket for that night's meeting. This is the arrangement that the vendors who donate the door prizes expect and that is the policy we will follow for all meetings. For this reason, and to reduce the distraction of the seated audience and the presenter, registration and the distribution of door prize tickets and name badges will cease at the start of the presentation. Those members not yet registered, but who are present at the start of the presentation will be registered during the break and will be given a door prize ticket at that time. Members arriving more than ten minutes after the presentation has begun have not met the attendance requirement and will not be given a door prize ticket on that night. To distribute door prizes among the widest number of members on a given night, members may only win a single door prize during a regular door prize drawing and only two door prizes during an "Enhance Your Chance" drawing.

Monthly Meeting Format All Meetings Start at 7:00 p.m. For More Information Call: 818-249-1629 or 884-9441

1st Tues: Presentation 3rd Tues: Presentation
2nd Tues: In-House Presentation 4th Tues: Internet & Computing 101

2nd & 4th Monday: Investments SIG 1st Thurs: The Information Marketplace
3rd Monday: Web Design SIG SIG
4th Wed: Hi Tech/Low Down SIG 3rd Thurs: Hardware Lab SIG
4th Thurs: Imaging SIG

\$3.00 non-member fee for the Tues meetings.
Members only at SIG (Special Interest Group) meetings



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The Association of
Personal Computer User Groups

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(Continued from page 1)
 Check Out These Meetings!

Retrospect eliminates the need to implement intricate backup strategies involving multiple backup tapes, sequences of full, incremental, or differential backups, and constant revisions to backup scripts which traditional backup products require to achieve reliable data protection. *Retrospect* takes care of the details so the job is much easier.

Backups are much faster because *Retrospect* delivers 100% accurate restores without performing constant full backups. When *Retrospect* restores data it does so without returning unwanted deleted, renamed, or moved files to the restored hard drive. Traditional backup software avoids this problem only by requiring repeated full backups that waste time and media space.



When did you last backup your hard drive (s)?

Come and see this fast and easy way to avoid a huge headache some day.

August 27 Computing 101 / Internet

This is always an interesting evening for everyone since we try to cover basic topics more deeply and answer questions of those who aren't quite up to speed on software as well as hardware.



TUGNET Extends a Warm Welcome



Renewals:

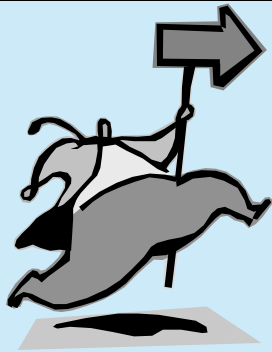
- Ethan & Judy Albert
- Mickey Arrey
- Susan Bravo – 3 years
- Bill Chaffee
- B.J. & Edwin Dockus
- Paul Flynn
- Barbara Henricks
- Judy Himmel
- J.L. Jackson
- Rex Jackson
- Lee Krimm
- Don LaFavor
- Conrad Lalicker
- Sylvia Loveland
- Mike Lynn
- Richard Potter (Newsletter)
- Dan Reitz
- Karen & Ed Sinderman
- Vincent Uhlenkott
- Kay Winnert

New:

- Jim Burdick (NL)
- Mitchel Chesney – 3 years
- George Chiang
- Darlene & Tom Irwin
- Maureen Kelly
- Paul Mintzer
- Jim Shryne
- Hal Singer



What great fun, great food and great friends at TUGNET's semi-annual Pot Luck, Auction and Swap Meet. Sorry if you couldn't make it because you missed out on some good times.



Special Interest Groups

Specializing in the unique interests of our members.
Novices and experts are welcome.

Check with SIG leaders or website to confirm SIG meeting locations.

Investments SIG

Second Monday @7:00 p.m.

August 12 —Open Forum Discussion — On the What, Where, and How of Financial Investments. Topics range from how to search the Internet for information on stocks, bonds, mutual funds to investment strategies, economic indicators, mergers & spin-offs, trading, charting, asset allocation, and whatever subjects are of interest to you.

Meets at Baker's Square, 17921 Chatsworth at Zelzah. Seating is limited, so please RSVP your plans to attend
Marcie Green 818/ 594-1272
mercimarcie@hotmail.com

Web Design SIG

Third Monday @ 7:00 p.m.

August 19 — Basic Web Design Practices. Discussion and Instructions.

Meets at 19013 Ingomar Street, Reseda (between Wilbur & Tampa; between Strathern & Saticoy).
A. J. Camou AJCamou@aol.com or
Ed Ray eddray@pacbell.net

Hi Tech/Lo Down SIG

Fourth Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

August 28—the Focus Topic: Buying a Personal Computer.

Meets at Baker's Square, 17921 Chatsworth at Zelzah. Easy to understand, low-down explanations of the mysteries of the high technology.
Charlie Rider (818) 360-3254 crx@juno.com

Information Marketplace

First Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

August 1—the Focus Topic: What software do I really need?

Meets at Baker's Square, 17921 Chatsworth at Zelzah. Exploration and discussion of Information Technology happenings as reported in current publications, i.e. newspapers, magazines and books.

Charlie Rider (818) 360-3254 crx@juno.com

Hardware Lab

Third Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

August 15—Open forum for hardware topics and questions.

Meets at Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd. See map on back of newsletter.

Having a little hardware trouble? Bring in your computer so that the technicians can look at it and see if they can correct the problem. As always bring your hardware gizmos and product information for the open discussion of new technologies.

Bruce Doshier (818)-892-2964 cbruced@bigfoot.com

Imaging SIG

Fourth Thursday @ 7:00 p.m.

August 22—Open discussion on Imaging topics and questions.

Meets at Town Hall, 16916 San Fernando Mission Blvd. See map on back of newsletter.

Marian's Memos



CONGRATULATIONS

It is very gratifying when we see one of our newsletter articles, written by one of our own members, reprinted in another newsletter. "What to do if You Loose Your Purse or Wallet," by Vincent Uhlenkott, was reprinted in *The Digital Viking*, newsletter of the Twin Cities PC User Group of Minneapolis & St. Paul.

Good work, Vincent!

RECOMMENDED

One of our members, Monica Paslay, has asked me to inform you of an anti-virus program she finds very efficient. She says it has caught at least one virus that the Norton product missed.



AVG Professional – Maximum protection for a single computer

According to their web site, *AVG Professional Edition* is a full commercial product offering maximum virus protection, product customization and most importantly free virus database updates and free technical support for life of the product. The core of the new testing engine is a Virtual Device Driver which loads into memory on Windows startup. This way, all parts of the AVG system can access it fully, providing reliable detection.

AVG Professional includes:

- AVG Resident Protection
- AVG Email Scanner
- AVG On-Demand Scanner
- Scheduled Tests
- Free Virus Database Updates
- Free Email Technical Support
- Automatic Update feature

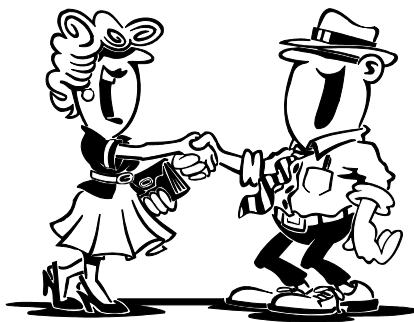
Easy-To-Use Interface
Automatic Healing of infected files
AVG Virus Vault for safe handling of infected files

There is a free 30-day trial download with the on-line price of this version being \$39.95. They have a money back guarantee of satisfaction good for the first 30 days from date of purchase. Go to: www.grisoft.com

Thank you Monica.

BURBANK COMPUTER SHOW STAFFING

We are going to try to put together a "permanent" working staff for the Burbank Computer Fair. We find the booth is handled well with two volunteers for each 2 ½ hour shift. The board has agreed to pay the parking for car pooling if these regular volunteers schedule themselves appropriately. Remember, just two for each shift, each day. We will also want a few alternates for those times when the regulars can't make it.



WINNERS:

June 18, 2002

Sorenson Squeeze: Judy Albert
TeVeO's Video Studio: Harvey Osherenko, Marvin Hirsch, Lewis Siewert, Loy Wissmath, Don Wyndham, Mitchel Chesney, Daisy Kuhn, Ed Pescuke, Bob Embry, Bob Greenberg, Kay Winnert, Doris Gibson, Howard Friedowitz, Elden Rice, Marv Harris, Maury Whitaker, Roger Povernly, Don DeGregori and Belva Sullivent (This gives many members a chance to see their names in print!)

June 25, 2002

WebShop XL: John Alexander
Internet Design Shop XL: George Boyd
Trade Station Pro Drink Bottle: Susie Phelps
Lotus Pen: Eric Sjolander

July 2, 2002

Zone Alarm Pro 3: Steve Itzkowitz, Mel Ader and Bill Parker

July 16, 2002

Ontrack T-shirts: Loy Wissmath, Gerry D'Agostino, Ed Smith, Howard Friedowitz, Jay Veneaux, Susie Phelps, Bill Parker, Rex Jackson, Don Foster, Judy Himmel, "Bim" Richards and Anthony Rice
Internet Cleanup: Paul Flynn
PowerDesk Pro 5: Sherry Houston
System Suite 4: Maury Whitaker
Fix-It Utilities: Lewis Siewert



Article



From TUGNET's Webmaster

How many of you know about **Spyware** and what it does?

The following is how it works. You download my program (usually a free download), install it, then you tinker around surfing the Internet or doing what you do on your computer in total ignorance. But along with this legitimate useful program I have given you, I have also enclosed one or more modules (critters) that sit in the background, monitoring your usage patterns, search terms, and web clicks. Every now and then it reports back to home base and gives us all this information it has collected. Maybe my **Spyware** will just suck up your resources and bog down your machine. Maybe I will secretly feed your personal habits to my Big Brother's database. Hey, all this was mentioned in the fine print in the "Terms and Conditions" that you approved before you installed my program. You mean you didn't read the Terms & Conditions in its entirety or were you just not paying attention?

I am sure I am not the only one that feels that **Spyware** is an extreme intrusion on the basic tenets of privacy. You can combat this type of intrusion with (free) **Ad-Aware!** **Ad-Aware** seeks out and destroys **Spyware**, its components and gives you back your privacy. You can get the latest version from **www.lavasoft.nu**.

The program is very easy to setup plus on the left side of the screen you can choose how deep to scan the registry and which hard drives to search. Then just let **Ad-Aware** do its thing! It will produce a list of all **Spyware** critters on your system that is devoted to monitoring your electronic existence. From the list you place a check mark next to the ones you want to delete – click – and gone! I have always deleted

everything **Ad-Aware** has found. But just like magic, some of these items will reappear the next time you get on the Internet.

You will be shocked the first time you run **Ad-Aware!** The first time that I ran it I had 23 different critters tracking me and reporting home regularly. I had no idea I was feeding and supporting such an array of spying critters. I have found that Doubleclick and Valueclick always reinstall themselves the next time I get on the Internet. I also found that once I cleaned all my drives the only drive I have to scan regularly is "C" drive.

Some "Mothership Programs" know when you have deep sixed their spies and the host app that actually provides you a useful service refuses to run. If this happens you, and it's a service you want to continue, tell **Ad-Aware** to ignore these particular components.

Ad-Aware offers a **free version** but for a mere \$15 you get the real-time **Ad-Watch** module plus a lifetime of free program updates. Also it's a nice way to show your appreciation without breaking the bank. The full paid version also eliminates the spies as the host is trying to put them on your hard drive.

FYI: There is a list of spyware-free alternative software choices at:

www.lsfileserv.com/more.html.

This is for all TUGNET members who have websites and would like an active link from TUGNET's website. Please send me your URL address and a brief description of the website: **kat-mail@excite.com**. The only requirement is you must have a paid in full TUGNET membership and no offensive or adults-only content.



Remember you can always check for the current general meeting schedule and topics on the first page of our website, **www.tugnet.org**. There is also a link to view the entire month at a glance, which shows all scheduled meetings for the month, including SIGs.



Do you have a computer question or need technical help with your computer or a software program? From the front page of our website **www.tugnet.org** click on "Bulletin Board." Post your question and check back soon for your answer. All you seasoned members, please check the Bulletin Board as often as you can and answer members' questions. Remember TUGNET is all about members helping members!

- - - *Kat Koch, Webmaster*

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http://www.tugnet.org

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August 3 & 4
Saturday & Sunday

COSTA MESA

Orange County Fairgrounds
Exit the 55 Freeway at Fair Dr. Go West to Fairview Rd. & turn right. Turn right on Arlington Drive to Gate 5.

August 10
Saturday

SANTA BARBARA

Earl Warren Showgrounds
Take Highway 101 to Las Positas Exit. Follow the signs to the showgrounds.

August 17 & 18
Saturday & Sunday

POMONA

Fairplex Expo Complex (LA Fairgrounds)
Exit Highway 10 at Fairplex Drive. Go north to McKinley Avenue, turn right. Turn left on White Avenue to Gate 14.

August 31 & Sept. 1
Saturday & Sunday

BURBANK

Hilton Burbank Airport & Convention Ctr.
Exit the 5 Freeway at Hollywood Way. Go South one mile to 2500 Hollywood Way.

September 7 & 8
Saturday & Sunday

POMONA

Fairplex Expo Complex (LA Fairgrounds)
Exit Highway 10 at Fairplex Drive. Go north to McKinley Avenue, turn right. Turn left on White Avenue to Gate 14.

September 14
Saturday

SANTA BARBARA

Earl Warren Showgrounds
Take Highway 101 to Las Positas Exit. Follow the signs to the showgrounds.

October 5 & 6
Saturday & Sunday

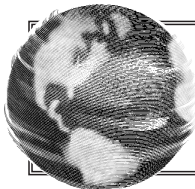
POMONA

Fairplex Expo Complex (LA Fairgrounds)
Exit Highway 10 at Fairplex Drive. Go north to McKinley Avenue, turn right. Turn left on White Avenue to Gate 14.

October 19 & 20
Saturday & Sunday

COSTA MESA

Orange County Fairgrounds
Exit the 55 Freeway at Fair Dr. Go West to Fairview Rd. & turn right. Turn right on Arlington Drive to Gate 5.



WIN FREE TICKETS!

Browse Computer Fair on the Web. Go to <http://www.lacomputerfair.com> or send e-mail to cfmail@npexpos.com
Congratulations to Diane Williams, Bren Cohee, Deepak Jain, & Jeffrey Sheller,
recent winners of free passes to Computer Fair who joined our mailing list at our web site!

All Shows
Open to the Public
10:00 A.M. TO 5:00 P.M.

300 EXHIBITS at the **POMONA SHOWS**

Admission
Pomona: \$7⁰⁰ all others: \$5⁰⁰
children 10 & under: Free

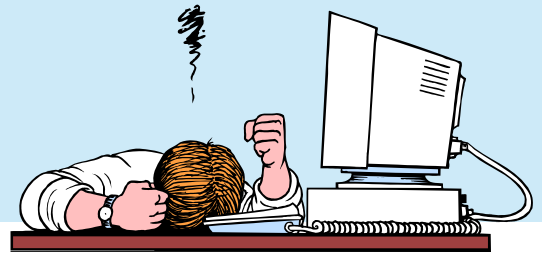


800-800-5600

www.lacomputerfair.com or e-mail cfinfo@npexpos.com

Article

FUD Over WPA!



By Ken Blake, TCS Member

If the title of this article confuses you, let me explain. “FUD” is an acronym for “fear, uncertainty, and doubt,” it refers to the spreading of misinformation by those means. “WPA” is *not* an acronym, but just an ordinary abbreviation; it stands for “Windows Product Activation.”

Windows Product Activation is Microsoft’s new security measure, designed to decrease the pirating of Windows. There is more misinformation, more FUD, promulgated about WPA than almost anything else I’ve seen in a long time.., Some people are even refusing to buy Windows XP because of fears about WPA invading their privacy, or its making Windows more difficult to use.

Their fears are unwarranted, and exist almost exclusively because of their not understanding what WPA is, and because of the widespread FUD over it; you see FUD in magazine articles, you read it in newsgroups, you hear it in person from your friends. But for the vast majority of people WPA will hardly be noticed and will represent no problem at all to them.

First of all, something about what WPA is *not*: it’s not registration. Activation and registration are two different things. Activation is completely anonymous, and you can do it without registering.

Microsoft was concerned about people installing a single copy of Windows on more than one computer. Some people think that the requirement *not* to put one copy on multiple computers is new with XP, but that’s not at all true; doing this has always been against the licensing agreement in all previous versions of Windows. What’s new in Windows XP is only that it’s now harder to do it and get away with it.

Enter WPA, the means that Microsoft instituted to enforce the one-operating-system-for-each-computer rule. What WPA does is inventory the hardware in your computer, calculate a hash number based on it, and send that number over the Internet to Microsoft, along with your unique Windows Product ID. It also records that calculated hash number on your hard drive and checks it against your hardware at each boot to ensure that nothing has changed. As long as your hardware stays the same everything is fine (more about that later).

Note that it does *not* send any personal information about you; it doesn’t know or care what your name or E-mail address is.

By the way, you get to control when to perform this activation — the calculation of the number and sending to Microsoft. If you want to experiment with different hardware components before you activate, that’s fine, as long as you do it within thirty days after installation of Windows XP. If you don’t activate within thirty days, Windows will stop working except in safe mode.

Unfair! Some people cry. They have several computers, one for each family member, or perhaps a desktop and a laptop. They think they *should* be able to install the same copy on all their computers. After, they used to be able to do that.

But this was *always* against the licensing agreement. *Nothing* is new here except Microsoft’s enforcing of the rules. Those who complain that WPA is unfair didn’t complain about the rule when they could easily get away with it; they complain only when they can’t get away with ignoring the rule. That’s simply hypocrisy, as far as I’m concerned. People like this sound to me like a burglar complaining about a homeowner installing a burglar alarm system.

In my view, Microsoft (or any other vendor of software, or anything else) offers a product for sale under its rules. If you like the product and you like the rules, buy it; if you’re unhappy with either, then don’t buy it. It’s a clear choice you have. There’s nothing unfair about it. Microsoft has the right to protect its property and enforce its rules, just as the homeowner has to protect his property.

Some people think that if they have two identical computers, each with exactly the same components, they can fool WPA and install the same copy on both computers. Nope! Even two identical products have different things like serial numbers that WPA will use to calculate the hash number, the result will be different.

The big question, and the one over which there’s perhaps the most FUD, is this: what happens if the hardware in your computer changes — if a component fails, for example, and gets replaced or if you add or upgrade hardware?

In most cases, nothing happens. Windows continues to work just as it did before. Microsoft recognizes, of course, that these things happen, and didn’t want WPA to make it harder for people to use their computer. A minor change or two is perfectly acceptable. But if there are too many changes, if those changes are big enough, or if you reformat and re-install Windows (which wipes out the stored hash number) you will have to reactivate Windows XP. You boot to Safe Mode, and will get instructions to call Microsoft, who will issue you a 42 digit number which you have to manually enter to accomplish the reactivation.

Is that reactivation a nuisance? Perhaps. But it’s nowhere near as bad as it’s made out to be. Most people will never have to do it (see below). If you do need to do it it normally takes only a few minutes,

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Article: FUD Over WPA!

worst case; you might be on hold for a short time to speak with someone at Microsoft. Is it an invasion of privacy? Not at all; you don't even have to tell Microsoft your name when you call.

That last point is worth stating one more time: you don't have to tell Microsoft who you are, neither when you activate nor if you ever have to reactivate. WPA is *not* registration. You *can* also register and tell MICROSOFT who you are, but that's entirely optional. Whatever the merits of WPA or whatever the problems you may have with it, there is *no* invasion of privacy involved at all.

Now, the part that many people don't know: after being activated for 120 days, you can upgrade anything you want. The slate is wiped clean and you effectively start from scratch.

If you replace your computer entirely, you can remove Windows XP from the old one, and reinstall it on a new one. However re-registration (and explanation of what you did) has to be by a voice call.

Here are some more examples of FUD over WPA: WPA doesn't phone Microsoft every day to check on you; Microsoft doesn't use WPA to turn off your machine or damage your data if you're not properly activated. WPA doesn't require more payments after two years; your license to use XP lasts forever.

All of the above apply to the full and upgrade versions of XP, as well as regular OEM versions. There are, however two exceptions—two kinds of XP versions that require no activation at all: these are the corporate version, where many licenses are sold to a single company, and some OEM versions sold by large mail-order OEM vendors. These latter OEM versions are some times BIOS-locked to a particular computer and WPA is not used on them.

An excellent link to the full story about WPA is <http://www.aumha.org/a/wpa.htm>

Retyped from *The Journal of the Tucson Computer Society*, January 2002

Tip: Windows XP Start Menu

This is in response to the plea for help I circulated regarding the method to move, create folders and otherwise organize the files and folders used in the Win XP. The problem surfaced after clicking on START, ALL PROGRAMS and then a list appears which is immovable.

This is not designed for multiple users. My friend's son who is an executive at Microsoft supplied the answer.

Warren Kingsley, TUGNET member

"Let me explain a bit how the menu is built. This may clarify things. If not, please reword the question and resend.

"When you 'click' the Start->All Programs, you are opening what we call the 'Programs Menu.' (be sure to ALWAYS refer to a right click as 'RIGHT CLICK.' If you say open, expand, or click, you will confuse everyone beyond imagination)

"Now the Programs Menu is a compilation of all items in YOUR program folder + the All Users program folder. This is so that administrators can make applications show up on the program menu for ALL users of a computer. (in your case, you may be the only user)

"Either way, you can only MOVE items that actually reside in YOUR program folder. Items that live in the All Users folder HAVE TO BE IMMOVABLE or you will cause the menu to change for other users.

"Now if you are the only user of your system OR if you are the admin, you will find times when you want to change the look. No Problem.

"Right mouse click the Start button, then click (that means left click) 'open all users.'

"Now click programs. ALL items in this window are SHARED for all users and IMMOVABLE by a normal end-user. If your login ID is the system admin, then you can do the following procedure to change this.

1. Click control-a. This will highlight all items in the folder.
2. Click control-x. This is called CUT and will indicate to Windows that you intend to MOVE (not copy).
3. Close this window.
4. Right-click Start button, then click (left click) OPEN. Now click Programs. This will open YOUR private programs menu.
5. Click control-v. This will tell Windows to do the MOVE to the current window.

"You now have MOVED all items from the "ALL USERS" folder to your user folder. Now you can open your start menu as normally and drag/drop, move, re-organize stuff at will.

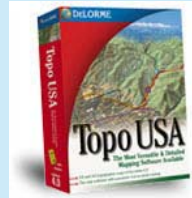
"However, if you login under a different user id, you will see virtually nothing because its all been moved.

"If you want to move a subset of these folders instead of all of them, use click and control — click to select the items you want INSTEAD of control-a in step 1.

"(Hopefully this procedure won't seem too hard)"

Review

TOPO USA 3.0



By Edward Lax, TUGNET

This is a seven CD set (one installation disk plus six map data disks) or one DVD of topographical maps for all 50 states. The program is meant for hiking, biking, fishing, camping, and other outdoor recreational activities. This new version, the third that I have reviewed, promises the latest data from the United States Geographical Survey (USGS) and even more trails than in previous versions.

In this latest version the maps can be installed on the hard drive. For the DVD version, a single contiguous map of the 48 lower states is provided. In the CD version, the country is broken into six regions, and to change regions the user has to exit the program, call up the Topo Data Manager, change the region, and then restart Topo USA. Slightly clumsy, but it gets the job done. This is a vast improvement over having to hunt up the data disks to use the previous versions of the program. I have found it easier to use books and paper maps than computer encyclopedias and maps that require reading the data from CDs.

In version 2.0 the route finding and elevation calculations were very good and continue so in this version. Click on a road, trail, point-to-point route, river, county line, etc., and the program gives you an inset map of the elevation versus distance along the item clicked. Further, as you move a crosshair along the elevation profile, a green cross moves along the item marked on the topographic map. The elevations climbed and descended are separately provided, and the distance along the slope as well as the distance on the flat map is given.

I find the shadowing for the 3D maps is sort of odd. The sun is in the northwest, so that areas that should be in sun are in shade, and those that should be in shade are in sun. It's rather disconcerting, but I can't fault them for this because I've seen this sort of thing in other 3D maps.

After this quick look at the computer pizzazz, I started examining the topographic maps. It was here that the previous two versions were lacking. I figured that the third time would be the charm. It wasn't. If they would just complete an entire region at a time, that might be acceptable. Instead, they've added a trail or road here and there, so the data is never reasonably complete.

I've limited my scrutiny of the data to the San Gabriel Mountains, just north of Los Angeles, where I've done most of my hiking and I've used what I found to judge the overall correctness and usefulness of the program.

I checked the trails in a few areas against my own collection of USGS maps, some hiking guides (in particular John Robinson's *Trails of the Angeles* (1998 edition), the *Sierra Club 100 Peaks Climbing Guide*, and various AAA maps.

**I must conclude that
Topo USA version 3.0
is not using the latest
data, as promised.**

We will look in various areas going from east to west. At the eastern end the very fine Cucamonga trail, starting near the Joe Elliot Tree Memorial, passing around the summits of Etiwanda and Cucamonga and ending at Ice House Saddle is shown, as is all of the 8-mile access road to the starting point, except for a half mile gap leading to the local roads off the I-15 freeway. According to Topo USA, we'd have to walk 8 miles before getting to the trailhead. A bad start.

Heading west, to the Mt. San Antonio (Mt. Baldy) region, most of the trails are

shown. However, the beautiful Chapman Trail, a bypass of the Ice House Canyon trail, is missing, and the trail over the ridge of Timber, Telegraph and Thunder Mountains (the 3 Ts), with its magnificent views, is described as a 4WD road. Walking on a road is, at best, unpleasant. This is an error that occurs throughout the program. When a short stretch of a trail is a road, the whole trail is described as a road. The ski lift up the Baldy Notch, regularly used by hikers, is missing (as are all the other ski lifts that I looked for).

As we head west in the Forest along the Angeles Crest Highway (Route 2), the trails shown are fewer and fewer. The ridge trail on the south side of the highway from Islip Saddle (the junction of Route 2 and Route 39) to Mt. Baden-Powell is shown, but the trails from the highway to Mt. Islip and to Throop Peak, and the trail across Mt. Hawkins to Middle, Sadie, and South Hawkins to Crystal Lake are missing. The closed portion of Route 39 between Islip Saddle and Crystal Lake is also missing. The Mt. Williamson trail (north of Route 2) is shown as intersected by the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT). It isn't.

Farther west we come to the heavily traveled Waterman Mountain loop. From Buckhorn Station on Route 2 we go south up the eastern arm of the loop on a shaded trail (shown on the map as a 4WD road.) We cross a small stream (not shown) and eventually climb up to the ridge and turn right. Here we come to a major trail junction (also not shown). Luckily, there's a trail sign, and we continue west on the trail just under the broad summit ridge till we think we're under the summit and leave the trail and head south to the ridge, where we hunt for the summit register (the map doesn't show the location of this or any other summit). After signing in and having lunch, we go back to the trail and continue west (here the trail does become a dirt road) to the head of the ski

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)
Review: TOPO USA 3.0

lifts (not shown) and finally end back on the highway. This last section is shown as intersected by the Pacific Crest Trail (it isn't – the PCT is about a mile to the north).

On the opposite side of the highway, the road down from Cloudburst Summit to the trail in Cooper's Canyon is missing. The trail is shown, but the river alongside it isn't there. The road from Buckhorn Guard Station on the highway to Buckhorn Flat campground (which is where the Burkhardt trail starts) is also missing, so that we don't know how to access this series of trails.

The trail (and its tunnel) to the saddle between San Gabriel Peak (NW of Mt. Wilson) and Mt. Disappointment is missing, as is the road to Mt. Disappointment from the north. There is no indication that the top of Disappointment was cut off (for some sort of military base).

To the south, in the Mt. Wilson area, most of the trails are missing. This extensive network of trails was popular as far back as the 1890's. No trails are shown around Chantry Flat in Santa Anita Canyon on the east side of Mt. Wilson. This is the starting point of one of the most heavily used trail systems in winter. (It's too hot in summer.) The

east and west forks of the Santa Anita River are missing.

None of the trails around the White City (above Altadena) are shown. Some trails around Switzer's (a ruin of a trail hotel) are shown, but the route between the Upper and Lower Switzer areas is shown as a truck road. The road was washed out long ago, and is traversed by jumping rocks in the river, the Arroyo Seco. (Note: the latest USGS maps still show the road.) In fact, the entire river is missing. The trail along the river goes nowhere; its junctions to other access points are all missing.

Leaving the mountains and heading southwest to the San Fernando Valley, the Chatsworth Reservoir is shown full of water. It was emptied after the 1971 earthquake and is now a nature preserve. And the mile-long railroad tunnel from Chatsworth Park to the Simi Valley is indicated by a dot. The Van Norman Reservoirs, also damaged in 1971, are also indicated as full.

The contours are reasonable approximations. The approximations are especially obvious in stream-cut V-shaped valleys, which are shown as U-shaped, and the elevations of the mountain peaks, which according to the contours, are 20 to 40 feet too low. In version 1.0 the elevation of the peaks was given on the map, so that the summits were in bowls. In ver-

sions 2.0 and 3.0 this error was covered up by not giving the summit elevations.

I believe that much of the data for the San Gabriels in this version of Topo USA is very similar to that in version 2.0. I will admit that some of the trails are missing from my own USGS topo maps, none later than 1972. But they are all there in my old and tattered Forest Service map. I have taken a look at some 1995 and 1996 USGS maps at my local sporting goods store and it appears that all the trails and other details of the topography are included in the new maps. I must conclude that Topo USA version 3.0 is not using the latest data, as promised.

Minimum requirements: Windows 95a, CD ROM drive, 150 MHz CPU, 32 MB RAM, 300 MB hard disk space.

Recommended: 233 MHz CPU, 3D graphics accelerator video card for 3D map view, printer.

Price: \$100
DeLorme
2 DeLorme Drive
P.O. Box 298
Yarmouth, Maine 04096

Technical Support: (207) 846-8900
E-mail: www.delorme.com
<http://www.delorme.com/topousa/default.asp>



Article

Mind That Patch

By Timothy Everingham
teveringham@acm.org

You hear that there is a minor upgrade, a service pack, or a patch for software on your computer. It is recommended by the manufacturer for you to install it. Should you? Just because a software company says you should is not a valid enough reason to do it. A worldwide fast food franchise sent out a minor upgrade to the software running on the servers in their Southern Califor-

nia stores. They just sent out the software to the managers with detailed instructions on how and when to install it. This minor upgrade froze all systems connected to the server, including the cash registers, in all their Southern California stores right after installation and all on the same day. I was in one of their stores the day this happened. They had confused employees trying to replace cash registers with prices programmed in and which automatically send orders to video screens with calculators, paper, and sometimes employees shouting to each other. This caused some long lines,



resulting in some customers deciding to eat someplace else. The company had to send a technician to every store to get the stores back up and running. There have been free upgrades to Microsoft Office and NT Servers which were such disasters that they had to be pulled quickly from being distributed to be reworked, then reissued telling everyone who had upgraded to upgrade again. Those who waited until the fixed up-

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Article: Mind That Patch

grades came out rather than using the original ones avoided some severe problems.

There is an old phrase “If it isn’t broken, don’t fix it.” If your software is running correctly be slower to upgrade. If it does not have any new features you want, you need to be even slower. Ask around and find what other people’s experience is with the upgrade.

There are also some websites that report on this; such as Woody’s Watch (www.woodyswatch.com), which reports on Microsoft’s Windows, Office, Access, and Project and Palm PDAs, and Mac Fix It (www.macfixit.com) for things Mac. Also check out CNET (www.cnet.com) and ZDNet (www.zdnet.com) too. If the patch or upgrade has been out for a while and you only hear good things about it, you are safer in going ahead and doing the upgrade. Be sure that system requirements for the patch, service pack or upgrade are met. Be aware that sometimes you may have to upgrade other software before you upgrade the software you wish to upgrade. An example of this is if you wish to upgrade the driver for your video card on a Windows system you may have to first upgrade Microsoft’s DirectX. Check the upgrade’s release notes for known problems or conflicts with other software and hardware. To be on totally on safe side you need to have backed up your computer recently and have the installation disks and codes of all your software on

that machine. Some software allows you to take a system snapshot, such as included with Windows XP; which can be sufficient in many instances, but not always.

A recent viewer of TechTV’s The Screen Savers sent in “The only time computer security becomes a problem is when you think you have it.” As such, security patches are a different category. You may think your computer software is secure, but most people do not do the testing required to really find out. A firewall is good, but relying only on that is questionable. A layered defense is better. That includes installing security patches on all of your software. So taking less time to wait to install is probably warranted. However, bad things can happen. I have Microsoft critical update alert (free service from Microsoft) on a computer running Windows. An alert popped up saying that there was a new security patch for my Windows Media Player. I installed the patch. However, I was running a three year old version of Qualcomm’s Eudora Pro e-mail program on the computer, and now the program would crash when I started it. I wound up fixing the problem by upgrading the e-mail program.

Another issue is only get patches, service packs, and upgrades from trusted sources. Get them from the manufacturer or places that are well known and trusted. There have been e-mail scams that advise people to install a patch either attached to an e-mail or a link from that e-mail to a website that is not

the manufacture’s or a known and trusted site. Those patches contained viruses or Trojan horse programs. Even if someone you know sends you a patch, be cautious. It may not be them sending you the patch (they spoofed your friend’s e-mail address) or someone may have fooled your friend already. You do not want to be in the position of trying to improve your software; but instead all of the people in your e-mail address book are sent a virus or put on more spam lists, your computer being enlisted in the army of someone doing denial of service attacks on websites, or your hard drive being erased.

So be cautious before installing that patch, service pack or upgrade. Just don’t only rely on the manufacture’s advice to do it. Also watch where you get it. “Mind That Patch” means using your mind before installing that patch.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. In addition he is the Vice President of the Windows Media Users’ Group of Los Angeles. He is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, video, audio, and entertainment/media and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada. He is a member of TUGNET. Further information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>



Here’s a TIP from TUGNET member, Howard Friedowitz

Windows Media Player Has A Unique ID Number That Lets WEB sites Track You!

Just learned about this one from Tech TV. Check out the following URL;

<http://www.techtv.com/screensavers/windowstips/story/0,24330,3385641,00.html>

The short version is to just go into the Tools>Options of the Player. There you will see an item which has a “check Box,” and says “Allow Internet sites to uniquely identify your Player.” Take the check mark OUT of this box.

The default is for this box to be checked. When it is checked then any sites that ask your machine for the information (your unique identifier), will be given the information.

Article



Getting What You Pay For!

The original problem child in the industry was a Packard Bell computer. They sold for 60, 70 percent of what everybody else's entry-level computer was, and they were absolute total junk. They were completely proprietary, impossible to work on — you couldn't get parts for them. Blessedly, they have gone out of business. But Packard Bell forced the good computer manufacturers to come out with a low-end cheap line to compete. The next generation of cheap computers from Hewlett Packard, Dell, Compaq, and so on weren't too bad, but they weren't all that great either.

Then came the E-Machine. Packard Bells were bad, the E-Machine was even worse. The modem on the E-Machine is so bad that there are several ISPs who have a notice on their Web page they will not support modems on an E-Machine. They are known not to work most of the time. Now they are better than they used to be, but they are still a disaster. But they were cheap. So HP, Dell, Compaq, Gateway, and so on, came out with an even cheaper computer. They have now reduced their low end down to the point where it's really absolute junk. They are not at fault; I do not blame them a bit. Their choices were either to become a small bit player in the manufacturing of computers or to find a way to deliver cheap computers. Because the public didn't know, they weren't informed, and they didn't particularly care. As long as they could get a computer that looked like it was toward the high end of specifications (the processor speed, the RAM, and so on) the public didn't really care what it was getting. So the bottom end of everybody's line is junk. The HP Pavilions are just disasters. The HP Vectra line,

which costs just about twice as much for the same specifications, are very nice computers. The Dell bottom line is also junk, maybe a little better than the Compaq and the Hewlett Packard junk.

Q: What do you mean by junk?

A: Power supplies that don't give you real solid 5 volts, or whatever they're supposed to give, of power; cases where the metal isn't turned, and they cut your fingers when you start working on them; a lot of bad soldering.

In order to build motherboards with wave solders, etc. it costs half a billion dollars or so. If a manufacturer has a factory that's gotten old and doesn't have all the latest equipment, and they decide it's time to replace it, they will pack that factory up, lock, stock and barrel, ship it to China or Thailand or some Third World place, and have them start making low end equipment. The good places are Singapore, Ireland and Mexico. Thailand is borderline now. Most of the real junk is coming out of China. The manufacturing equipment and engineering quality control they have are bottom of the line. The BIOS chip sets on the motherboard are old, have known flaws, and are being closed out by VIA and some of the other chipset manufacturers. Sometimes you can look at the dates on the chipsets, if you snoop around for the date in the CMOS, and you can see that even on a new computer it's not anything like a current date.

People don't understand about computers and computer speed. Right now there are all kinds of ads out for cheap Pentium IV systems. You can buy one for \$800. How do they do that? First of all, you have no cache. Why is that important? When a computer processes information, there is pre-process where the information comes in, it is sequenced, the computer figures out

what the processor is going to need first, what it is going to need second; the stuff that is iterative, that is, it is used over and over again, is put into a cache so that it can be there without having to go out to memory, which is much slower. There are about three wait states, three complete clock cycles, to go out to memory and bring it back in. So the cache will significantly speed up any processing.

AMD was beating Intel to the punch on all of the processor speeds; it had faster processors all through the Pentium III years. Intel got upset about this, and said, one of the things that's slowing us down is this cache thing, so we won't manufacture a cache on the board any more. No L1 cache, L1 means level 1, on the chip. Only the more expensive Xeon chip had L1 cache. If you want cache, you can get L2 cache, which is one step away, one more wait state on the clock cycle to get to it, but it's closer and it will speed it up a little bit. If you pay for it, you can get L2 cache. Now why should you care? Because a 900 Mhz Celeron chip with L1 cache will run circles around a 1.7 Ghz Pentium IV with no cache, in any real world application test. Intel has been very successful in the marketing wars and has recouped a lot of ground selling them to ignorant computer users. A 1.4Ghz AMD is still about 30 percent faster than a 1.7 Ghz Pentium IV with no cache. If you buy based on Mhz you're probably making some mistakes.

What else don't they tell you? When Intel came out with their Pentium IVs, the bottleneck for processor speed was the speed of the motherboard and the memory speed. And so Intel came out with a new specification for memory called Rambus. AMD facing the same bottleneck, came out with DDR, double

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Article



Windows Media Player Vulnerability Security Issue — Q320920

By Dennis Faas,
infopackets editor
<http://www.infopackets.com>

Woops! It looks like Microsoft has goofed again.

If you haven't been watching the news lately (maybe you don't get CNN?) — Microsoft has released a security bulletin (<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS02-032.asp>) regarding a critical flaw in Windows Media Player that can allow an attacker to gain unrestricted access to your system.

Who is affected?

Anyone who is using Windows Media Player version 6.4, 7.1 or Windows Media Player for Windows XP (version 8) should download a software patch to their system immediately.

What is a software patch?

A patch is piece of software that fixes a program (which is also software). In this case, the software patch for Media Player "fixes" the vulnerability found in Media Player 6.4, 7.1 or 8 (XP).

How do you check to see what version of Media Player is installed on your system?

That is kind of tough to answer.

If you have any version of Windows 95 or NT, you most likely don't have Media Player 6.4 installed unless you upgraded it sometime after the original Windows installation.

If you have Windows 98, 98SE, ME, 2000, or XP, you definitely have Media Player 6.4 installed on your system **EVEN IF** you have another version of Media Player Yes — that's right. You can have more than one version of Media Player installed on your system.

How to test for Media Player 6.4

Click START -> RUN. Then type in "mplayer2.exe" (no quotes) and press ENTER. If you have Windows Media Player 6.4, it will appear. If you don't have it, the system will tell you it can't find the file. After the Media Player window appears, Click HELP -> ABOUT to display the version number. It should say Media Player 6.4.xxx.

What about other installed versions?

By default, Windows will use the "latest version" of Media Player that is installed on your system, even if version 6.4 is present. You can check your "default" installation of Media Player by clicking START -> PROGRAMS -> ACCESSORIES -> ENTERTAINMENT -> WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER. After that, click HELP -> ABOUT. Look at the version number.

So, what patches should you install?

If you're confused about all of this stuff, just download all 3 patches from Microsoft for Media Player 6.4, 7.1, and 8 (XP) and install them on your system. Run the media player 6.4 patch first, then the 7.1 patch, then the XP patch. Each software patch will only repair its matching counterpart, so don't worry -- you can't accidentally patch the wrong file.

Doesn't the Microsoft Windows Update web site patch all versions of Media Player installed on a system?

Good question. The answer is that I don't know. If this was true, then why are there 3 separate patches available from Microsoft?

I suppose the only way to find that answer is to click START -> WINDOWS UPDATE and see if there is more than one patch listed for Media Player **IF** you have more than one version of Media Player installed on your system. Since I only have version 6.4 installed on my system, I wasn't able to test this theory. If this proved to be true, then you wouldn't need to download and install any of the patches separately.

Hey — if you want to play it safe, just download all 3 patches and run them.

What makes Media Player vulnerable, anyway?

An attacker is able to manipulate a media file. When Media Player executes the malformed media file, the system is compromised. his type of an attack can be compared to a Trojan Horse Virus. http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/T/Trojan_horse.html

How are these types of files executed?

A manipulated media file can be downloaded from a web site or can be sent as part of a HTML e-mail. Basically, you wouldn't know if it hit you. That's why you need to get the patch!

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Article: Windows Media Player Vulnerability...

How could an attacker seek to exploit this vulnerability through a web site?

From the Microsoft web site: "An attacker could seek to exploit this vulnerability by posting their media file on a web site under their control, and then enticing the user to visit that site. As soon as the page hosting the media file had loaded in the browser and the media file opened from within the IE cache, the attempt to exploit the vulnerability would be carried out."

How could an attacker seek to exploit this through HTML e-mail?

From the Microsoft web site: "An attacker could seek to exploit this vulnerability by sending the media file as an attachment through HTML e-mail. When the media file was opened from within the IE cache, the vulnerability would be exploited."

Download location for patch: Microsoft Windows Media Player 6.4 patch, Microsoft Windows Media Player 7.1 patch and Microsoft Windows Media Player for Windows XP (version 8) patch .
<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/treeview/default.asp?url=/technet/security/bulletin/MS02-032.asp>

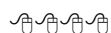
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<http://www.infopackets.com/windowstutorials.htm>



TIP

Eyestrain and Your Computer Screen

Tips for getting relief

Your eyes hurt. Your head aches. And there you sit, peering at your computer monitor. If you're one of a growing number of people who use computers every day, you may be experiencing eyestrain as a result.

Symptoms include

- Sore, tired, burning, itching or dry eyes
- Blurred or double vision
- Distance vision blurred after prolonged staring at a monitor
- Headache, sore neck
- Difficulty shifting focus between monitor and source documents
- Difficulty focusing on the screen image
- Color fringes or afterimages when you look away from the monitor
- Increased sensitivity to light

Eyestrain associated with computer use isn't thought to have serious or long-term consequences, but it's disruptive and unpleasant. Although you probably can't change every factor that may cause eyestrain, there are some things you can do.

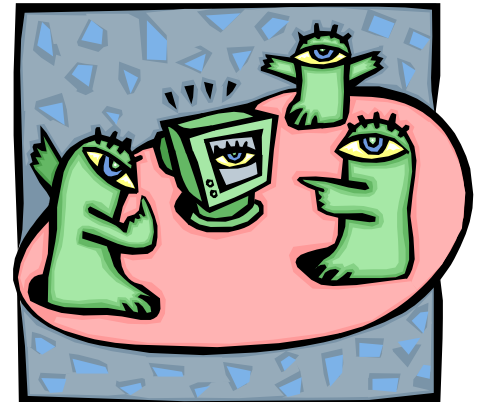
Change your work habits

Eye-healthy work habits can do wonders. Follow these simple tips

Take eye breaks. Look away from the screen and into the distance or at an object several feet away for 10 seconds every 10 minutes.

Change of pace. Try to move around at least once every 2 hours, giving both your eyes and your body a needed rest. Arrange non-computer work as breaks from the screen. Consider standing while doing such work.

Wink 'em, blink 'em. Dry eyes can result from prolonged computer use, especially for contact lens wearers. Some



people blink only once a minute when doing computer work, when once every 5 seconds is considered normal. Less blinking means less lubrication from tears, resulting in dry, itchy or burning eyes. Make a conscious effort to blink more often. If that doesn't help, consider using an eye drops form of artificial tears available over-the-counter.

... and nod off. If possible, lean back and close your eyes for a few moments once in awhile. However, you may not want to do this at your desk and risk being accused of sleeping on the job.

Everything in its place

Make sure your desk space is set up appropriately.

Monitor. Position your monitor 18 to 30 inches from your eyes. Many people find that putting the screen at arm's length is about right. If you have to get too close to read small type, consider using larger font sizes for characters on your screen.

The top of your screen should be at eye level or below so that you look down slightly at your work. Place the monitor too high and you'll have to tilt your head back to look up at it, a recipe for a sore neck — and for dry eyes, because you may not close your eyes completely

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 Tip: *Eyestrain and your Computer Screen*

when you blink. If you have your monitor on top of your central processing unit (CPU), consider placing the CPU to the side or on the floor.

Dust on the screen cuts down on contrast and may contribute to glare and reflection problems. Keep it clean.

Keyboard. Place your keyboard directly in front of your monitor. If you place it at an angle or to the side, your eyes will have to focus at different distances from the screen, a tiring activity.

Source documents. Place reading and reference material on a copy stand beside your monitor and at the same level, angle and distance away. This way your eyes aren't constantly readjusting.

Ambient (surrounding) light and glare. To check glare, sit at your computer with the monitor off. You'll be able to see the reflected light and images you don't normally see — including yourself. Note any intense glare. The

worst problems will likely be from sources above or behind you, including fluorescent lighting and sunlight.

If possible, place your monitor so that the brightest light sources are off to the side, parallel with your line of sight to the monitor. Consider turning off some or all overhead lights. If you can't do that, tilting the monitor downward a little may reduce glare. Closing blinds or shades also may help. A hood or glare-reducing screen is an option, but be sure you aren't sacrificing the intensity of whites on your screen. Adjustable task lighting that doesn't shine into your eyes as you look at the screen can reduce eyestrain.



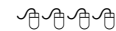
Appropriate eyewear

If you wear glasses or contacts, make sure the correction is right for computer work. Most lenses are fitted for reading print and may not be optimal for computer work. For example, many bifocal wearers are constantly craning their necks to look through the bottom half of their lenses, bringing on backache or a sore neck. Glasses or contact lenses designed to focus correctly for computer work may be a worthwhile investment.

See an eye care professional if you have

Prolonged eye discomfort
 A noticeable change in vision
 Double vision

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(Continued from page 13)
 Article: *Getting What You Pay For!*

data rate. Rambus is tricky to build and expensive. A lot of junk is produced that has to be thrown away. It had some theoretical advantages, but DDR RAM clobbered it in the market place. The next generation of Pentium IV is going to be DDR RAM. Rambus was on the market less than a year. If your Rambus memory goes bad two years from now, or you want to upgrade, you may not be able even to find it. Every dealer out there is unloading his stock of Pentium IVs that use Rambus memory as fast as he can.

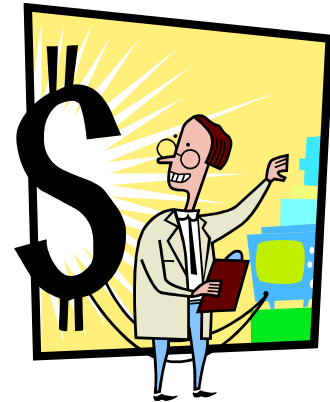
The problem with anything that does not succeed in the market and goes off the market in a relatively short period of time is, nobody stocks it and it is very hard to find. If it is available it is very expensive because it is a special order. There can be a high failure rate on it because it has been out there a long time and they keep cycling it hoping it won't come back again.

I'm not real happy with a lot of the cheapening of the product that's going

on out there. Let's do a test: How many of you have computers running that are 5 years old or more, maybe not your primary one but you're still using it? A goodly percentage of — virtually all of the low end computers that are being manufactured today will not be running five years from now. Power supplies will give out, the motherboards will give out. And most of these are all on one motherboard; if something gives out, the whole motherboard's junk.

The other aspect of the speed thing is the speed of the motherboard, 66 Mhz, 100 Mhz, 133 Mhz, 200 Mhz and 266 Mhz. If you are going to buy a cheap system, ask them what the speed is. It is an overall determinant of overall system speed, how fast data can get from other components like memory, video, and so on.

Also, what is the speed of the hard drive? The cheap ones are all coming out with 5,400 RPM drives, but there are 7,200 RPM drives that are significantly faster, and some of the systems being manufactured are only 66 Mhz interfaces. The industry standard is 100, that's a 50 percent increase in speed.



When you boot your computer, 70 percent of the wait time you have is the time your system takes to read the hard drive. Only 30 percent, approximately, is the processor actually processing data. By far and away the biggest wait the typical computer user has is not the processor; it's the hard drive, probably by a factor of 2 to 1. If they can't tell you what the speed is for a cheap system, don't buy it.

Retyped from *The Outer Edge* — Newsletter of the Channel Islands PC Users Group — April 2002



Article

90 Minute CDs



**By Howard Friedowitz,
TUGNET**

There are three types of CDs out there, right now: 74 minute, 80 minute and, 90 minute, or longer ones.

I don't recommend using the 90 minute ones for general use. They are a specialty item, and they are outside the published specification for CD-Rs.

CDs use a single, spiral track in which to write their data. This track is pressed at the factory when the CDs are manufactured. An 80 min CD requires a tighter spiral than a 74 min one. A 90 min CD requires a tighter spiral than an 80 min CD.

The specification was originally written for 74 min CDs. 80 min CDs are at the outer edge of the specification and 90 min CDs are outside the specification.

90 min CDs will work with some drives and, some programs, but not with ALL drives.

It is for this reason, that Roxio/Adaptec will not even try to do 90 min CDs. Nero, on the other hand, has the capability of handling them, in software, if your drive(s) can handle them in hardware.

I know that my 24x TDK burner can handle the 90 min CDs, BUT I have no reason to believe that any of my other CD Readers/Writers can handle them.

The 90 min CDs were originally invented to copy protect music CDs, which were especially made oversized to prevent copying on normal CDR/CDRW machines.

I have not had any reason to copy any of these "oversized" music CDs, so I don't see any sense in running the risk of only being able to use these disks in only one of my 6 CD/CDRW drives. They may work in my other drives, but I just don't feel like taking the time to test them.

If someone routinely, or even occasionally, has need of this extended, non-spec capability, then the 90 min CDs would probably be worth using.

I wrote this whole thing, to make you aware that these 90 min disks are a specialty item, and NOT recommended for normal use.

BTW, for people looking for these 90 min CDs, they are not that commonly available though "brick and mortar" type vendors (Read: Hard-to-Find). People usually have to get them Mail-Order.

For those who still want/need the product after the above qualification, there is one vendor, who comes to our local Computer Shows, who I know carries them, FinoDisc. They also have a WEB site <http://finodisc.com/>



Roger Poverny gave a great presentation at the June Internet/Computing 101 meeting. He showed those in attendance some of the great sites he included in his DOT. Comments columns. If you weren't at the meeting go to www.tugnet.org and click on Newsletter Articles, scroll down to December 2001 where he recapped all the 2001 sites.

Are You Experiencing Technical Difficulties?



HELPCONTACT is a **FREE** service to members of TUGNET only. The following volunteers have offered to field questions with software and hardware listed below. Please be considerate of the volunteer you are contacting. **If you'd like to have your name added to the list, call or e-mail the editor.** Need help on a subject and there's no name listed for it? Try calling one of the SIG leaders or post a message on the Bulletin Board on our Web page.

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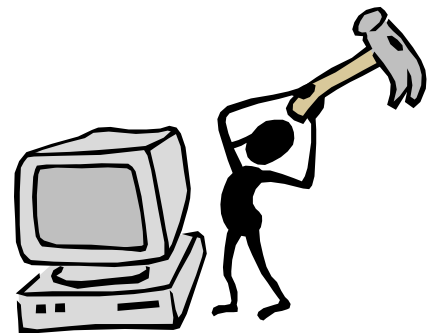
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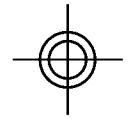
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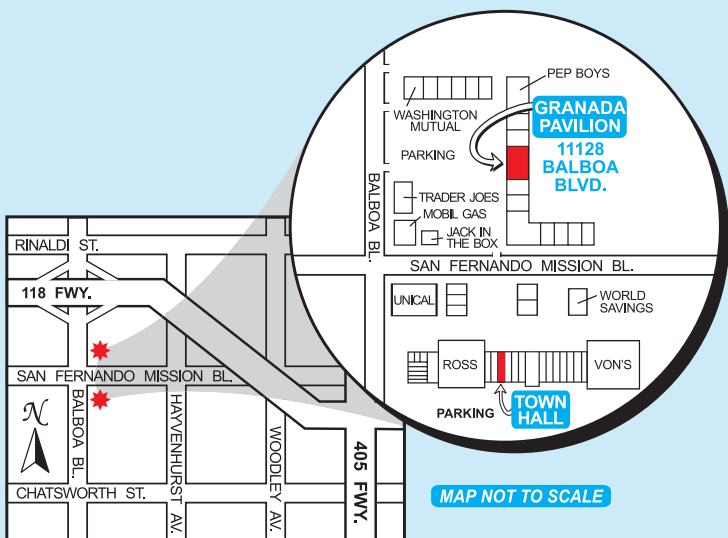
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August 2002

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 SIG: Information Marketplace	2	3 CSUN Computer Show
4 CSUN Computer Show	5	6 Computer Crime and the FBI	7	8	9	10
11	12 SIG: Investments	13 In Depth— MP3s	14 Board Meeting	15 SIG: Hardware Lab	16	17
18	19 SIG: Web Design	20 <i>Retrospect Backup</i>	21	22 SIG: Imaging	23	24
25	26	27 Internet/ Computing 101	28 SIG: Hi Tech/Low Down	29	30	31 & 9/1 * Computer Fair Burbank

Tuesday meetings at Granada Pavilion, 11128 Balboa Blvd., Granada Hills. See SIG page for meeting locations.
 For the Town Hall meetings, be sure to enter from rear door off alley.
 *TUGNET has a booth at this computer fair.



MAP NOT TO SCALE

Grand Prize Winner
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