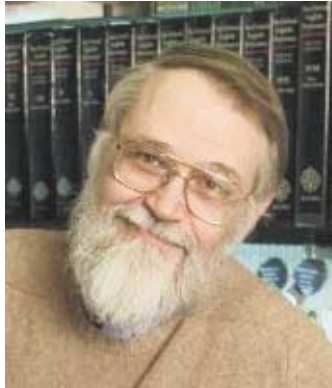


Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

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TCF Keynote Speaker Brian Kernighan, PhD, was a member of the Computing Science Research center at Bell Labs until 2000, and is now a professor in the Computer Science Department at Princeton.

He is the author of 8 books (including the well known "white book" on C with Dennis Ritchie), and holds 4 patents. Brian's research areas include programming languages, tools and interfaces that make computers easier to use. He is also interested in technology education for non-technical audiences.

TCF Homecoming for 2005

Trenton Computer Festival returns to the Ewing Township campus of the College of NJ for its 30th anniversary — April 16 and 17. More information at <http://www.tcf-nj.org/>.

Do you know someone who uses his computer expertise to benefit others on a volunteer basis? Nominations for Hobbyist of the Year for 2005 are accepted at <http://www.tcf-nj.org/tcfhoty.shtml>



<http://www.acgnj.org>

Founded 1975

TCF at Thirty

Scott Vincent

Spring is coming!! Well, a day before Ground Hog's Day, 20 degrees outside and 6 inches snow on the ground, one can dream can't he? And if Spring is coming, TCF can't be too far behind. Fact is, TCF is sooner than you think because for the 2005 edition, we're moving back home. This has been talked about for a couple years now and we apologize for dreaming a bit too loudly perhaps a year or two too soon. You remember the old adage "never trust anyone over 30", well OK, 28 then. But the 30th Anniversary of TCF coincides with the sesquicentennial (can you say "ses-kwi-cen-ten-ial" boys and girls?) or the 150th anniversary of The College of New Jersey. Known as Trenton State College back in 1975 when 1,000 people attended the first TCF, the event had grown and was forced to move to larger venues after 14 years. But from the beginning it was recognized throughout the microcomputer world as the end user computer show to go to.

With the return to a college campus comes the return of the show being held in April in order to fit into the school year without complications. So mark your calendars for April 16th & 17th, the same weekend (right after income tax day) that it always used to be held on when it was in Trenton (Rt. 31 in Ewing Township, NJ) before. And let's all file our income tax returns early this year so we have plenty of money to spend on computer goodies like in the good old days. We guarantee you'll get **lots** more bang for your buck than you did the last time you were there.

Starting in 1990, Mercer County Community College hosted TCF and did so through the 1998 show. After a much debated incorporation of TCF (10/94 thru TCF eve 4/97), the efforts paid off in 1998 when Ken Gordon Productions started managing the then 23-year-old show, and it moved to the Raritan Expo Center in Edison. After a one-year extension of the original five-year agreement with KPG because there was too much new construction in progress on the TCNJ campus, the request to move back to "the original home of TCF" was made. And as part of the year's celebration, our request was accepted.

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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be included as separate files. Fax or mail hard copy and/or disk to editor; OR e-mail to Editor. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone *and* name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4½ x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

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Address Changes should be directed to Martin Rosenblum (m.rosenblum@ieee.org) and/or to his attention at ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership, including subscription: 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student or Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Family of member, without subscription, \$10 per year. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

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Ask The Expert — Bluetooth

Joe Schmitt, Tampa Bay Computer Society (www.tampa-bay.org)

What is this “Bluetooth” I keep hearing about and do I need it? Whenever something like a mouse or keyboard is connected to your computer, there are protocols and standards in place so the computer can talk to the keyboard and it operates properly. The same scenario applies to anything that connects to a computer or other electronics around your home. Your TV needs to know how the cable signal is formatted so you get the sound and video. Bluetooth is a wireless protocol that allows electronics to communicate. Bluetooth goes beyond your computer to integrate electronics across a wide spectrum. It operates on two levels. First, all Bluetooth devices operate on the same radio frequency and speak the same language. Second, they all share the same procedures in exchanging data and verifying the data is received. That is sort of like being able to speak the language and know the customs so no one misunderstands.

Bluetooth a standard developed and employed by close to 1,000 different companies. This protocol would allow you to take a cell phone, get into a car with a Bluetooth radio and transfer the call to the stereo so your hands are left free. Later you could take that same phone and possibly transfer contact

information from the phone to a computer. This is just one example. Bluetooth can be found in phones, keyboards, PDA's, and even stereo headphones. It could potentially show up anywhere you have a wire to connect two devices now.

Is this something you need? Just like anything else, the answer depends on whether or not it meets your needs. Do you need a Bluetooth keyboard or mouse? Not if the wires don't bother you. Could you use it to link your PDA or Pocket PC to the computer? Yes and that might be the most likely scenario that Bluetooth would aid you in. If you are the type of person that likes portable gadgets as much as your computer, Bluetooth may be something to take a serious look into. For more information on the standard itself and some of the products that use it, check out the following sites: and www.bluetooth.org.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ☐

TCF at 30, continued from page 1

One would think that planning a show at the same site where it had been held 14 times before would be a simple task — just do it all the same way again. Well, 15 years is a long time, and besides changing its name, the college has changed in many other ways as well. So has the world of computing, which has forced changes in the way the campus is being looked at when it comes to deciding what will be set up where. Things like vans of product being replaced by tractor-trailers of product and loading docks and approaches made for vans — that sort of thing.

Do you remember TCF-89, the last show in Trenton? I do, sort of. I had been going to TCF since 1983 but I only went on Saturday and spent most of the time browsing the Flea Market. No classes, no Keynote speeches, very few new hardware/software vendors and no banquets. But that all changed for me in 1990 when I joined ACGNJ and got a first hand look at the bigger picture. My first weekend-long TCF was at Mercer County Community College the first year the festival was held there. I got a ring-side view of the planning — from a seat on the Steering Committee as one of ACGNJ's reps.

The last show held at Trenton State was a big one. How big? How about Bill Gates as Keynote Speaker? Yes, the real honest-to-goodness CEO of Microsoft (before Windows 3.0, and Windows starting to work properly the following year) Bill Gates. But I didn't hear him talk.

What else was big in 1989? Let's take a look back.

- Intel introduces the 80486 microprocessor at Spring Comdex, integrates 80386, 80387 math coprocessor, and adds a primary cache. It uses 1.2 million transistors. Initial price is US\$900.
- Intel introduces the 33-MHz version of the 80386 microprocessor and 80387 numeric co-processor. o3
- Motorola announces the 68040 microprocessor.

- Motorola announces the 50-MHz version of the 68030 microprocessor.
- Apricot Computers announces the first 486-based PC, in London, England. The VX FT system uses the 25-MHz Intel 80486 chip, IBM's MCA bus, and is priced starting at US\$18,000.
- IBM introduces the PS/2 Model 65, with a 16-MHz 80386SX, 2 MB RAM, and 60 MB SCSI hard drive.

That only covers a month before and a month after TCF-89. (You can read more about the subject at <http://www.fortunecity.com/marina/reach/435/comphis6.html>). That was when microcomputers truly came into the mainstream, perhaps only surpassed by the breakthroughs (?) made with the release of Windows 95. Imagine what you can buy today for \$18,000 — possibly the entire Flea Market. Like I said, much more bang for your buck.

OK, back to TCF-2005. The Keynote Speaker this year will be Brian Kernighan, currently a professor at Princeton University. Brian received his PhD in electrical engineering at Princeton, and has authored eight books, including one co-authored with Dennis Ritchie, father of the C Programming Language, while they were both at the Computing Science Research center at Bell Labs.

There will also be a full slate of talks & forums **in real classrooms** on just about any aspect of computing you can think of. Of course, there is the world's only computer Flea Market (museum) and plenty of new hardware and software vendors. Roll all that up in a nice neat bundle and then set it up on the grounds where the legendary show first started out and TCF-2005 looks like it should be well worth the long awaited trip back to Ewing. See you there — all weekend long!! ☐

From The DealsGuy

Bob (The Cheap skate) Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I was going to take an old computer to our beach condo because even though it was old and slow, it would be plenty good enough for just checking my email and miscellaneous tasks. Then, around Thanksgiving, prices started dropping on new computers and I saw a Dell ad with a 2.2 gig Celeron processor, 256 megs RAM, CD-ROM burner, 17" monitor etc., for \$399 with \$50 rebate, making it just \$349. That sounded great, so I went to the Dell kiosk at a local mall so I could ask questions, and ordered one. It also included free two-day shipping. It wasn't the latest and greatest, but was much more modern than my old one, and cheap.

A week later I saw a Dell ad with the same configuration, but including a printer, for \$349 and no rebate. I still hadn't received the computer I ordered so I called Dell to cancel it and get the new deal. They said it was already shipped and I should have received it. After some conversation about what happened to two-day shipping, they gave me a \$35 store credit for the inconvenience of not having received it yet. Then I hit them up for the printer because of the new ad. After a little argument, and a five-minute wait for a consultation, they finally conceded and promised to send the printer free of charge.

Five days later I finally received the package and was pleased with it. I promptly sent for my rebate and three weeks later was amazed to receive \$60 instead of \$50. However, I still had not received the free printer. I called again, gave the tracking number, and found the order had been cancelled, but was offered the option to talk to a human. I laid a guilt complex on Dell and after a pause, they again promised to send a free printer. Two days later it arrived and when I opened the box, it was an all-in-1 machine, better than I had expected. Prices in ads have been higher since and I feel I got a great deal.

The two announcements below look like interesting products, but I have not tried either one.

*Tax Time

I forgot to remind you previously about the free version of Tax Act for doing your Federal income tax as well as state tax. Visit [<http://www.taxactsoftware.com>]. You can download a program **free** to calculate your Federal Income tax. This is the third year I have played with it and while there are a few things I would like to see improved, you can't beat the price. There is also a pay version, which I use, for \$12.95 that is well worth the price since it gives you one free E-tax filing. The pay version will import last year's data, which saves a lot of time. You can also do your tax right on the Tax Act Web site if you prefer. All in all, Tax Act is a good deal.

You can also do your tax right on the IRS's own official Web site. I have not tried it, but Ira Wilsker wrote an excellent article on it (see February ACGNJ News). I've seen other free options for doing your own income tax calculation, but I don't have that info handy.

Don't forget that AARP has hard working volunteers who will do your tax **free** if it's not too complicated, such as if you have rental homes or apartments. Check with your local AARP chapter for the times and places. If you are unsure

about whether they will do yours, take it to them and ask. The worst they can do is say "sorry."

*Media Catalog Studio Announcement

This was sent to me in November of 2004. They offer a 15% user group discount. Check their Web site for more information.

"Catalog and classify your media collection easy! November 10, 2004 ManiacTools Releases Media Catalog Studio 1.7

"Media Catalog Studio is a handy software application that classifies and tracks media files on hard-drives, floppies, external drives, CDs, DVDs and other storage media. Importantly, the information about the media files does not need to be entered manually. The program automatically detects MP3, WMA, APE, OGG, WAV, AVI, WMV, MPEG, Video and Audio CD files and inputs this information inside a database. Moreover, the software comes with CDDDB support, an online database that exports information about songs (Title, Artist, Album, Year) directly from Internet.

"All data entries can be sorted by artist, album, year, bitrate, frequency, genre, category, rating, or any field/category. The search in the database can be conducted using multiple parameters, like file properties (name, size, etc), tag information or lyrics. Media file lists can be customized to display information in any way or order. As an added perk, the program features an internal tag reader and editor for audio and video files, duplicates finder, and supports an option for storing pictures. In addition, the application creates Winamp and Windows Media Player play-lists with a few mouse-clicks. The other great features are MS Excel export options and Media Tracker; a feature that shows the user where a necessary media file is located.

"Media Catalog Studio has received over a dozen awards for its usability, including the prestigious Five Cows rating at [Tucows.Com](http://www.tucows.com), and Editor's Pick at [MyMusicTools.com](http://www.mymusictools.com). The program is translated in all major European languages. A free version of Media Catalog Studio Lite 1.7 is available now [<http://www.maniactools.com>]. The freeware Lite version supports up to 5 disks in database. Upgrade to Pro version costs \$24.95 US/Euro for individuals and \$34.95 US/Euro for businesses / organizations. We offer a 15% discount to user group members. Use discount code 4567841341, redeemable at www.ManiacTools.com/soft/media_catalog_studio/discount.shtml. If you have any questions, please contact Alex Pavlenko at [press@maniactools.com].

"Company Website [<http://www.maniactools.com>]; Product Page [http://www.maniactools.com/soft/media_catalog_studio/]; Download at [http://www.maniactools.com/media_catalog_studio.exe]"

*Fontonizer

I received this announcement in November of 2004. They offer a 15% discount to user group members.

Fast Reports Inc. would like to announce the release of Fontonizer for Windows 95/98/ME/NT/2000/XP. To get 15% discount for Fontonizer use Coupon Code

Continued

FTC Names Its Dirty Dozen

12 Scams Most Likely to Arrive Via Bulk Email

Email boxes are filling up with more offers for business opportunities than any other kind of unsolicited commercial email. That's a problem, according to the Federal Trade Commission, because many of these offers are scams.

In response to requests from consumers, the FTC asked email users to forward their unsolicited commercial email to the agency for an inside look at the bulk email business. FTC staff found that more often than not, bulk email offers appeared to be fraudulent, and if pursued, could have ripped-off unsuspecting consumers to the tune of billions of dollars.

The FTC has identified the 12 scams that are most likely to arrive in consumers' email boxes. The "dirty dozen" are:

1. Business opportunities

These business opportunities make it sound easy to start a business that will bring lots of income without much work or cash outlay. The solicitations trumpet unbelievable earnings claims of \$140 a day, \$1,000 a day, or more, and claim that the business doesn't involve selling, meetings, or personal contact with others, or that someone else will do all the work. Many business opportunity solicitations claim to offer a way to make money in an Internet-related business. Short on details but long on promises, these messages usually offer a telephone number to call for more information. In many cases, you'll be told to leave your name and telephone number so that a salesperson can call you back with the sales pitch.

The scam: Many of these are illegal pyramid schemes masquerading as legitimate opportunities to earn money.

2. Bulk email

Bulk email solicitations offer to sell you lists of email addresses, by the millions, to which you can send your own bulk solicitations. Some offer software that automates the sending of email messages to thousands or millions of recipients. Others offer the service of sending bulk email solicitations on your behalf. Some of these offers say, or imply, that you can make a lot of money using this marketing method.

The problem: Sending bulk email violates the terms of service of most Internet service providers. If you use one of the automated email programs, your ISP may shut you down. In addition, inserting a false return address into your solicitations, as some of the automated programs allow you to do, may land you in legal hot water with the owner of the address's domain name. Several states have laws regulating the sending of unsolicited commercial email, which you may unwittingly violate by sending bulk email. Few legitimate businesses, if any, engage in bulk email marketing for fear of offending potential customers.

3. Chain letters

You're asked to send a small amount of money (\$5 to \$20) to each of four or five names on a list, replace one of the names

Continued

DealsGuy, *continued*

'UserGroupPR-FO' on register here:
<https://secure.element5.com/shareit/checkout.html?productid=168090>.

"Fontonizer is making big waves in web-design and publishing industries. While an average PC has about one hundred different fonts installed, marketers, designers, publishers, editors and print professionals often have collections with 5000 different fonts or more. With so many fonts, only very experienced professionals can match font name with its appearance. But Fontonizer is not merely a font viewer, though it comes with this function built-in. Fontonizer is a font organizer.

"With Fontonizer, any professional can easily classify fonts. First, one creates categories like "Business Letter Body", "Groovy and Hip", "Classy", "Headlines", "Attention Grabbers", "Exotic", "Fine print", "Comments and footnotes", "Hand written", "Miscellaneous". Then, fonts are "placed" in these categories, so they can be easily located when necessary. The best thing about Fontonizer is that it works with fonts that aren't currently installed on a PC. In fact, it works with fonts that are stored not only on hard-drive, but CDs, DVDs, flash-drives and External Drives.

"Even though the fonts may not be installed, you can write a word or sentence to see how it looks. If necessary, Fontonizer will automatically show a list of the same word or phrase visualized with different fonts. This way one can easily compare and find the font that is most appropriate for a certain occasion.

"Finally, Fontonizer comes with even more functions font professionals need. For example, the program performs installation /deletion /restoration of the deleted fonts. Plus, Fontonizer is capable of displaying "symbol table" of any font, even if it was deleted. With Fontonizer, professionals can experiment not only with fonts and sizes, but backgrounds as well. Fontonizer is distributed electronically over the Internet. A free demo version is available at <http://www.fontonizer.com/> for evaluation. The price of a single license is \$29 US. Company Website <http://www.fontutilities.com/>; Product Page: <http://www.fontonizer.com/>; Download: <http://www.fontutilities.com/download/fo100.zip>; Buy Link: <http://fontutilities.com/order.htm>."

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [bobclick@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site: [http://www.dealsguy.com]. I have posted Web pages with announcements I received in 2004. Sorry they are not well organized, but what is there was a lot of work, as they all have to be edited. I have received some since then and will also post them one of these days.

on the list with your own, and then forward the revised message via bulk email. The letter may claim that the scheme is legal, that it's been reviewed or approved by the government; or it may refer to sections of U.S. law that legitimize the scheme. Don't believe it.

The scam: Chain letters — traditional or high-tech — are almost always illegal, and nearly all of the people who participate in them lose their money. The fact that a "product" such as a report on how to make money fast, a mailing list, or a recipe may be changing hands in the transaction does not change the legality of these schemes.

4. Work-at-home schemes

Envelope-stuffing solicitations promise steady income for minimal labor — for example, you'll earn \$2 each time you fold a brochure and seal it in an envelope. Craft assembly work schemes often require an investment of hundreds of dollars in equipment or supplies, and many hours of your time producing goods for a company that has promised to buy them.

The scam: You'll pay a small fee to get started in the envelope-stuffing business. Then, you'll learn that the email sender never had real employment to offer. Instead, you'll get instructions on how to send the same envelope-stuffing ad in your own bulk emailings. If you earn any money, it will be from others who fall for the scheme you're perpetuating. And after spending the money and putting in the time on the craft assembly work, you are likely to find promoters who refuse to pay you, claiming that your work isn't up to their "quality standards."

5. Health and diet scams

Pills that let you lose weight without exercising or changing your diet, herbal formulas that liquefy your fat cells so that they are absorbed by your body, and cures for impotence and hair loss are among the scams flooding email boxes.

The scam: These gimmicks don't work. The fact is that successful weight loss requires a reduction in calories and an increase in physical activity. Beware of case histories from "cured" consumers claiming amazing results; testimonials from "famous" medical experts you've never heard of; claims that the product is available from only one source or for a limited time; and ads that use phrases like "scientific breakthrough," "miraculous cure," "exclusive product," "secret formula," and "ancient ingredient."

6. Effortless income

The trendiest get-rich-quick schemes offer unlimited profits exchanging money on world currency markets; newsletters describing a variety of easy-money opportunities; the perfect sales letter; and the secret to making \$4,000 in one day.

The scam: If these systems worked, wouldn't everyone be using them? The thought of easy money may be appealing, but success generally requires hard work.

7. Free goods

Some email messages offer valuable goods — for example, computers, other electronic items, and long-distance phone

cards-for free. You're asked to pay a fee to join a club, then told that to earn the offered goods, you have to bring in a certain number of participants. You're paying for the right to earn income by recruiting other participants, but your payoff is in goods, not money.

The scam: Most of these messages are covering up pyramid schemes, operations that inevitably collapse. Almost all of the payoff goes to the promoters and little or none to consumers who pay to participate.

8. Investment opportunities

Investment schemes promise outrageously high rates of return with no risk. One version seeks investors to help form an offshore bank. Others are vague about the nature of the investment, stressing the rates of return. Many are Ponzi schemes, in which early investors are paid off with money contributed by later investors. This makes the early investors believe that the system actually works, and encourages them to invest even more.

Promoters of fraudulent investments often operate a particular scam for a short time, quickly spend the money they take in, then close down before they can be detected. Often, they reopen under another name, selling another investment scam. In their sales pitch, they'll say that they have high-level financial connections; that they're privy to inside information; that they'll guarantee the investment; or that they'll buy back the investment after a certain time. To close the deal, they often serve up phony statistics, misrepresent the significance of a current event, or stress the unique quality of their offering-anything to deter you from verifying their story.

The scam: Ponzi schemes eventually collapse because there isn't enough money coming in to continue simulating earnings. Other schemes are a good investment for the promoters, but no for participants.

9. Cable descrambler kits

For a small sum of money, you can buy a kit to assemble a cable descrambler that supposedly allows you to receive cable television transmissions without paying any subscription fee.

The scam: The device that you build probably won't work. Most of the cable TV systems in the U.S. use technology that these devices can't crack. What's more, even if it worked, stealing service from a cable television company is illegal.

10. Guaranteed loans or credit, on easy terms

Some email messages offer home-equity loans that don't require equity in your home, as well as solicitations for guaranteed, unsecured credit cards, regardless of your credit history. Usually, these are said to be offered by offshore banks. Sometimes they are combined with pyramid schemes, which offer you an opportunity to make money by attracting new participants to the scheme.

The scams: The home equity loans turn out to be useless lists of lenders who will turn you down if you don't meet their qualifications. The promised credit cards never come through, and the pyramid money-making schemes always collapse.

Continued

Computers Of The Future

Pim Borman, Web Editor & APCUG Representative, SW Indiana PC Users Group

For the last 40 years or so computer chips have closely followed Moore's Law, which states that the number of transistors doubles every 18 months. The corresponding increase in computing performance has been enormous, but chip manufacturers are beginning to reach the physical limit of miniaturization. Intel's latest chip, "Prescott," with 125 million transistors an improved version of the 55-million transistor Pentium 4, was delayed by production difficulties and proved to be only marginally faster. Cramming more transistors in a certain area by reducing their size leads to increasing electrical leakage problems and crosstalk; it also increases heat generation. Some recent microprocessors consume over 100 watts, generating more heat per square centimeter than a laundry iron on the cotton setting (W. Wayt Gibbs, writing in Scientific American, November 2004, pp.96-101). Increased computation speeds have, to a large extent, also been the result of clever changes in computer architecture that allow the chip to execute multiple instructions for each clock tick. We are finally reaching the inevitable end of Moore's Law.

Intel has already announced that it will no longer distinguish its microprocessors by clock speed, which is after all only part of the system's performance characteristic. In addition, starting next year, all Intel chips will have not one but two "cores" that allow higher computation speeds through parallel processing. AMD already has such chips. There is nothing new about fast computing with parallel processing computers; the fastest computers in the world are now built using thousands of processors that operate in parallel to perform specific oper-

ations, such as playing world champion chess. But all current software for home and office use will have to be rewritten.

Many users, as well as software companies, may decide it is not worth the hassle. If you have an up-to-date computer it probably responds faster to your inputs than you can provide them, unless you are a game freak or use industrial-strength graphics or database programs. Customers will be better served by improved security and simplified operations.

Not by coincidence, W. Wayt Gibbs also wrote an article in the same issue of Scientific American (Nov. 2004, pp. 80-87) about future computers using photons (light) instead of electrons (electricity) to perform computations and connections between the cpu and memory storage. There are many technical problems to be solved as yet, including the challenge to bring the cost down, but it seems likely to be the computer technology of the future. Photons move many times faster than electrons and do not significantly generate heat. All the rest is engineering detail!

Pim Borman (swipcug@sigecom.net) is Web Editor and APCUG representative for the SW Indiana PC Users Group, Inc (http://swipcug.apcug.org). This article appeared in the November 2004 issue of the P-SEE URGENT, newsletter of SWIPCUG. There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ☐

Dirty Dozen Scams, *continued*

11. Credit repair

Credit repair scams offer to erase accurate negative information from your credit file so you can qualify for a credit card, auto loan, home mortgage, or a job.

The scam: The scam artists who promote these services can't deliver. Only time, a deliberate effort, and a personal debt repayment plan will improve your credit. The companies that advertise credit repair services appeal to consumers with poor credit histories. Not only can't they provide you with a clean credit record, but they also may be encouraging you to violate federal law. If you follow their advice by lying on a loan or credit application, misrepresenting your Social Security number, or getting an Employer Identification Number from the Internal Revenue Service under false pretenses, you will be committing fraud.

12. Vacation prize promotions

Electronic certificates congratulating you on "winning" a fabulous vacation for a very attractive price are among the scams

arriving in your email. Some say you have been "specially selected" for this opportunity.

The scam: Most unsolicited commercial email goes to thousands or millions of recipients at a time. Often, the cruise ship you're booked on may look more like a tug boat. The hotel accommodations likely are shabby, and you may be required to pay more for an upgrade. Scheduling the vacation at the time you want it also may require an additional fee.

The FTC works for the consumer to prevent fraudulent, deceptive and unfair business practices in the marketplace and to provide information to help consumers spot, stop and avoid them. To file a complaint or to get free information on consumer issues, visit www.ftc.gov or call toll-free, 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357); TTY: 1-866-653-4261. The FTC enters Internet, telemarketing, identity theft and other fraud-related complaints into Consumer Sentinel, a secure, online database available to hundreds of civil and criminal law enforcement agencies in the U.S. and abroad. ☐

Getting to Know Google

Billy Mabray, Oklahoma City PC Users Group

These days, whether you consciously choose it or not, your Web search engine is probably Google (<http://www.google.com>). That's because most search sites, whether they admit it or not, are powered by Google. And, why not? Google rose to the top of the search engines because its formula provided more relevant search results than any other. Also, its deceptively simple page makes it fast and easy to use. I say deceptively simple because, underneath that friendly, colorful logo is a powerful search system that can accept queries as complex as you want to make them. Many people don't realize that if they do not find what they want on the first try, there are techniques they can use to improve their results. There are also ways to search Google that are more appropriate for certain specialty queries. And, Google is hiding a few extras that take it beyond a search engine into an amazing reference tool.

Let's start with an example. We're cooking dinner tonight, and we need a recipe for spaghetti sauce that does not use sugar. We might go to Google and type in:

```
no sugar spaghetti sauce recipe
```

Google tells us we have about 56,000 results to wade through. A daunting task, considering the first page doesn't seem to contain anything relevant. The first thing we will try is grouping our search terms into phrases, using double-quotes. This tells Google that certain words should be searched for together. So, we try this:

```
"no sugar" "spaghetti sauce" recipe
```

That certainly narrowed things down, didn't it? This is a good technique to use when your search contains a lot of common words that could appear together in different contexts than what you are looking for. Unfortunately in this case, our first page of results is still not as relevant as we would like. The next thing we will try is searching for pages that do not contain a certain term:

```
-sugar "spaghetti sauce" recipe
```

This tells Google that we want pages that are about "spaghetti sauce" recipe, but specifically do not contain the term sugar. That seems to have done it — our first page of results is chock full of spaghetti sauce recipes that don't use sugar. "Subtracting" a term can also be useful when what you are searching for has multiple meanings. For example, if you are researching the "Holy Grail," you might want to add "-Python" to your search to eliminate all the references to the movie Monty Python and the Holy Grail.

Now, maybe spaghetti sauce is too specific—we might want to also consider marinara sauce. In that case, we use:

```
-sugar "(spaghetti | marinara) sauce" recipe
```

When there are multiple words that will satisfy our search, we can group them with parentheses and separate them with the "pipe" character — a vertical line that is most likely on the right-hand side of your keyboard. Google will then search for references to "spaghetti sauce" or "marinara sauce."

At this point, we've become so intrigued by what we can find with Google, we've completely forgotten about dinner. Now

we are interested in just how many different chicken casserole recipes we can find. Here's one way:

```
"chicken * casserole" recipe
```

Notice the asterisk. This is called a wildcard. It tells Google we don't care what word comes between chicken and casserole, but there should be something there. This can be particularly useful when you know most of a title of something, but are unsure of all the words. This particular search brings back all kinds of chicken casserole recipes. Something tells me we better just eat out tonight.

Besides its standard Web search, Google has many specialty searches that are triggered either by a keyword or simply by what you are searching for. For example:

```
site:microsoft.com "Internet Explorer" patches
```

This searches for references to "Internet Explorer" patches on microsoft.com only. If your favorite Web site does not offer a search function, this is a pretty good substitute.

Maybe we want to know which sites on the Web link to the OKC PC User's Group Web site:

```
link:okcpcug.org
```

We can also tell Google that what we are looking for is in an Adobe Acrobat PDF file:

```
filetype:pdf refrigerator manual
```

Google pays attention to what you are searching for, and offers helpful services based on what it thinks you want. For example, have you ever noticed Google shows your search words in the blue bar above your results? The search terms that are underlined link to a definition of that word at dictionary.com. If you spell a word wrong, Google will prompt you with the correct spelling and ask if you would like to search for that instead.

Google has many tricks like this up its sleeves. Search for a phone number, and Google will do a reverse lookup on the number. Search for a name with a city and state and/or zip code, and Google will look up their phone number. Search for an address and you will get links to maps of that location. Include a zip code with your search terms, and Google will offer you local results — Web sites for locations near the zip code, ordered by distance. You can even type in a shipment tracking number, and Google will figure out who the shipping company is and give you a link to the tracking information.

Google offers some services that have nothing to do with searching. Try this:

```
68.12 + (68.12 * .2)
```

The Google calculator will return the result of this computation. Fun, although admittedly not particularly useful. The Google calculator can be useful though, for things like conversions:

```
68mm = ? inches
```

You can do all kinds of conversions using Google — a handy tool whenever you get around to making that spaghetti sauce.

Continued

Windows Media Player 10

Chuck Guion, Editor, Rockport Computer Users' Group, Inc. (www.rcug.net)

Microsoft has a new Windows Media Player 10 (WMP10) available now. Go to www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia to download it. It was designed for Windows XP. It does not have any help files, but there is an article: Using Windows Media Player 10 you can download at: www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/mp10/usingplayer.aspx.

You can use WMP 10 to listen to music on CDs, MP3s, MIDI, Wave, etc. You can play CD's and DVD's (if you have a DVD drive on your computer) with the program. You can also use it to watch your home movies, film clips, etc. You can also use the Internet to find more information about a CD or DVD; i.e. the Album and the Artist. You can quickly Rip from a CD to your computer as well as use different Formats for doing this.

You can also burn your own CD's. Most of the music CD's that you buy have only one or two songs you really like. With WMP10 you can pick and choose your favorite songs from several CD's and put them on one Master CD. Isn't that great & it's free!

You can also organize your digital media collection. The program will even tell you where you can buy your favorite albums! All in all, I think it is a great program and it is free! About the only disadvantage is not having any help file.

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the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ☺



Getting to Know Google, *continued*

Google is much more useful than most people realize — we've only scratched the surface of what Google can do. If you are interested in more, check out Hacking Google by Tara Calishain and Rael Dornfest. It includes many more search tips and information for programmers who want to include Google search results in their applications. As you explore what Google can do, you will probably discover that Google feels like more than just a Web site. In fact, Google is your friend.

Billy Mabray and his wife, Angela, own Smart Goat, a local software development and web design business. They are members of the OKCPCUG. Comments or questions on the article are welcome and can be addressed to billy@smartgoat.com. *There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ☺*

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Google Hacks: 100 Industrial-Strength Tips and Tools

Ken Blake, Tulsa Computer Society

I greatly prefer the subtitle of this book, “100 Industrial-Strength Tips and Tools”; at least to me, the word “hacks” conveys an image of making substantial changes to the way something works, usually by writing code.

There’s a fair bit of that kind of hacking here, but the book is more than that. Much of it consists of simple tools and techniques for using Google. For example, hack #17 is called “Consulting the Phonebook;” by my definition it’s not a hack at all, but a simple and well-written explanation of how to use the telephone number search tools built into Google — to do residential searches, business searches, and reverse searches (supply the telephone number and Google returns the name and address) — a Google technique that few people know about.

But names are chosen for marketing purposes, and I’m carping about a very minor issue. Overall I found the book to be outstanding. Most Google users know how to do little more than type in a word or two, then laboriously plod through the results in the hope of finding what they’re looking for. For people like that, the book can open up a new world of capability.

The book (318 pages and a brief index) consists of 100 “hacks,” organized into eight chapters: Searching Google, Special Services and Collections, Third-Party Google Services, Non-API Google Applications, Introducing the Google Web API, Google Web API Applications, Google Pranks and Games, and The Webmaster Side of Google.

Most of the first four chapters (hacks 1 through 40) consist of simple tips and techniques for using Google; what most people would consider to be real hacking doesn’t start much before chapter 5. And most of those last four chapters with real hacks requires an advanced user with the ability to write some code. Yet there’s so much useful material in those first four chapters that I think they’re worth the price of the book even for someone without any coding skills.

Here are some examples of my favorite useful tips found in those first four chapters:

- Hack #2—Language Tools. How to translate a few words or an entire web page into another language
- Hack #13—Using Full-Word Wildcards. I wasn’t aware that wildcards were even usable in Google. Although partial wildcards (like B1*ke) aren’t allowed, you can search for a phrase with a word wildcarded (for example “The Return of the * Musketeers.”)
- Hack #16—Consulting the Dictionary. Look up word meanings.
- Hack #17—Consulting the Phonebook (mentioned above)
- Hack #18—Tracking Stocks. Get current stock quotes and other information.

- Hack #20—Searching Article Archives. How to search for published articles.
- Hack #22—Finding Technical Definitions
- Hack #24—The Google Toolbar. Adding a Google toolbar to Microsoft Internet Explorer.
- Hack #26 The Quick Search Toolbar. This tip was my personal favorite. I’ve become an instant fan of this freeware program. Find it at <http://notesbydave.com/toolbar/doc.htm>.
- Hack #30—Google Groups. How to search newsgroups. An outstanding source of information on almost any subject you can think of.
- Hack #31—Google Images. How to find particular downloadable images.

Those, as I said, are some of my favorites. We all work differently, and my favorites may not be your favorites. But I can almost guarantee that there is something here for everybody, and almost certainly several useful things that you didn’t know.


What of the rest of the book—hacks 41-100? As I said, most of these require coding skills and are for advanced users. My coding skills are rusty and I haven’t really tried these, although I hope to experiment with some of them in the future, as time permits.

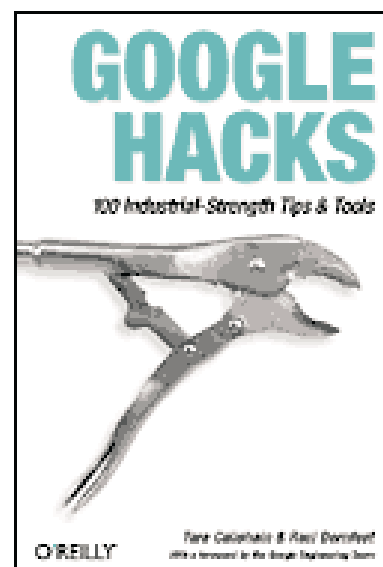
Highly recommended.

Google Hacks: 100 Industrial-Strength Tips and Tools

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The Value of Removable Hard Drives

Allan Pogensky, Las Vegas PC Users Group

One of the most frequent topics on any newsgroup dealing with operating systems or when computer users get together, is what's the best strategy for backing up one's hard drive. Hardly a day goes by where you don't come across literally dozens, if not scores, of postings on the various newsgroups relating to this subject. The queries (and responses) invariably focus on the problems the user has encountered in using this or that software backup program — either some third-party program or whatever built-in backup program is included with the user's operating system.

In my opinion, the best backup system for the average home user and even small business owner in most cases is having his or her computer equipped with two removable hard drives. There are other advantages, but the most significant one is providing a near fail-safe backup system. The speed, flexibility and peace of mind far outweighs (for most users) the relatively small additional cost.

Using this setup, backing up your hard drive is simple, straightforward, fast, and most important of all — effective. By making a clone of your hard drive, using a software program like Symantec's Norton Ghost which is specifically designed for this purpose, you get what seems to me the ultimate backup solution. Unlike backup programs that merely back up your data files — the files you've created in the various programs and applications that you use — by cloning your hard drive you are making a bit for bit copy of the drive, an exact duplicate of that drive. Thus, you are backing up your operating system, your registry, all your programs and applications, your configuration settings, your data files. And you're doing this in one fell swoop. For added safety you can remove this newly-cloned hard drive from the premises, and/or make another clone for near-absolute security.

So when the day comes — as it surely will — that your hard drive fails because of some mechanical or electrical defect, it's a wonderful feeling to know you have a perfectly good copy. If a miserable computer virus plays havoc with your system, you have at hand a virus-free clone. Then simply clone that "good" hard drive to the virus-infected one and once again you have two good hard drives. In case the hard drive is kaput because of some mechanical/electronic failure, you purchase a new hard drive, plop it in the removable tray, make two simple connections, shove it in the computer and clone your good hard drive to the new one. There's no need to partition and format the new drive; no need to reinstall your operating system on the new drive, no need to reinstall your programs and data files. The added beauty of this arrangement is that there's no need to take apart your computer because each hard drive resides in a removable tray (caddy) that you slide into the mobile rack.

I use Lian Li RH-42 all-aluminum mobile racks which are available from a number of vendors on the net. I've purchased mine from an at 2/\$66 plus shipping. I'm sure mobile racks from other manufacturers will serve the purpose just as well. Many users have been using inexpensive (about \$10 each) plastic mobile racks without any problems.

As I've previously indicated, the cloning process itself is easy and fast. Using Symantec's Norton Ghost cloning program as an example, with the two removable hard drives connected to the computer, you boot up the computer with the floppy disk that contains the Ghost program and after a few key clicks the cloning process begins. My present computer has an Intel Pentium 4 2.0 GHz processor and I can clone one hard drive to another at the rate of nearly 1 GB per minute. The cloning process is practically automatic and you need not be in attendance.

I can virtually guarantee that once you begin working with two removable hard drives, you'll have but one regret and only one regret. And that is you didn't have this arrangement on your previous computer or computers. There is perhaps one negative to this arrangement and that is the additional cost involved in equipping your computer with the two mobile racks to house the hard drives, the second hard drive, and the software cloning program. I would estimate it adds roughly about \$100 to \$200 (as of June, 2003) to the cost of the computer depending upon the size of the second hard drive and the specific make and model of the two mobile racks. Naturally, your computer case should have available two 5¼" bays to house the mobile racks in addition to the 5¼" bays needed to house your other IDE devices (CD/DVD-ROM, CD-RW, etc.). Mobile racks come in two basic versions, depending upon whether the hard drive to be housed is an IDE/ATA or SCSI device. At this writing I'm not aware of any mobile racks designed to house the recently introduced SATA hard drives, however, I'm certain it won't be too long before they come on the market.

The software program I use for the cloning process is Symantec's Norton Ghost 2003 which I've recently seen selling on the net for about \$30 for the CD-only version (no retail box), which is really all you need. (There's an older 2002 version of Ghost available which is considerably cheaper than the 2002 version. In my experience the 2002 version works just fine for straight cloning one hard drive to another hard drive regardless of whether the file system is FAT32 or NTFS). Norton Ghost is also included in Symantec's Norton SystemWorks 2003 Professional Edition. There are other disk cloning programs available, e.g., Powerquest's Drive Image and Acronis' True Image among them, both of which seem to get favorable reviews, however, I've had little or no experience with these programs. Another cloning tool is the installation disk that comes packaged with the retail boxed hard drives from several manufacturers, including Maxtor and Western Digital.

When you consider the enormous advantages of having two removable hard drives on your computer, the additional cost pales into insignificance.

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SIG News

Investing

Norm Wiss (cut.up@verizon.net)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.htm

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. **Our next meeting: Thursday, March 10.** ☐

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmc@optonline.net)

<http://www.angelfire.com/linux/gamers/>

www.lanparty.com

The next Friday Night Frag is Friday March 11th 6:00 pm.. \$5.00. Friday 10:00 pm to Saturday ????

BYOC - Bring your own computer

BYOF - Bring your own food.

and if you don't like sitting on metal chairs... BYO chair! ☐

Macintosh Users

Keith Sproul (ksproul@noc.rutgers.edu)

This group is no longer meeting, but Keith is still available to help Mac users via telephone or email. ☐

Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Meetings are on the third Friday of the month.

February: Lenny Thomas (lennyt27@netzero.net) Using Handhelds

March: Frank Warren presents on "Digital Money — Ebay & Paypal" ☐

Visual Basic

Rick Elbanna (rick@mastersofthecode.com)

<http://mastersofthecode.com/html/sig.htm>

This is a public Special Interest Group affiliated with ACGNJ computer club and sponsored by Online Marketing Network LLC and Ricardo Capelli Associates LLC. This is a co-operative meeting with the Excel VBA and WebDev group. Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month at East Brunswick Public Library in East Brunswick, New Jersey. Meeting times vary depending on the busy schedule of the Library. Times will be emailed to interested developers — send email to Rick to put your name on the notification list. Because of limited seating, those expecting to attend should email Rick prior to the meeting. Walk-ins are welcome, but are not guaranteed a seat. ☐

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

We are a group of UNIX enthusiasts, with specific interest in Linux and other open source operating systems and applications. Meetings are normally on the first Monday of the month at 8:00 P.M. Be sure to check the webpage for the latest news and updates. Coming **April 1:** Mike Bianchi will present "Finding and Fixing Memory Leaks Using Geodesic Systems' Great Circle(tm) Diagnostic Tool". ☐

Web Dev

January 19: Led by Evan Williams, we discussed, argued and kick around many concepts and ideas about the club's new web site design. Gregg, Manie, Dave and John were all encouraged to "think out of the box". A general outline was formulated for the front page — the "look" part of the "look and feel" concept, so to speak. The devoted web design crew will experiment with the design on-line at one of the club's experimental web sites <http://www.acgnj.us/>. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion.

Human Networking

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/hns.htm>

Mark Douches (mad-networking@pobox.com)

The purpose of this SIG is to expand the number of professionals that we know so that connections can be made into different markets or industries when a career change or business need is necessary. We are not just a group of people who like computers or technology. Our membership consists of Information Technology professionals from various industries. We will discuss over a time period the tools and skills that are necessary to cross a bridge advance your career. Meetings are held 2nd Wednesday of the Month at 7:00 P.M. ☐

Genealogy

Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com)

<http://www.webwarren.com/kb4cyc/gensig.html>

Genealogy SIG is for genealogists interested in computers and computer users interested in genealogy, and is a forum to assist members in furtherance of both endeavors. Meetings usually focus on genealogy more than on computers. We meet at 8 PM on the fourth Thursday of the month, and we have been exploring available on-line and CD-ROM databases at our recent meetings. In addition to our Web page, we also have an electronic mailing list. Messages to the list should be addressed to gensig@webwarren.com. To subscribe, include the line "subscribe gensig" in the body of the message. ☐

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net)

<http://www.blast.net/barnold>

January: Presentation by C.Net Leader Manuel Goyenechea

February: Programs on handwriting recognition ~1999 by R. Winter: A blast from the past, a trip down memory lane. PenRite MobileBuilder — the zip is two files, a readme text and a setup.exe, which is a self installing zip the will become only about 25 MB! Everyone is free to use it, as it has become “abandonware”. Read more about it at

<http://home.earthlink.net/~barnold2002/Acgnj/Ron2005Feb.htm>.
Download the program files at

<http://s94049471.onlinehome.us/penright/penright!.zip>.

March: To be announced ☞

Main Meeting

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

Evan Williams (nhpressgo@blast.net)

February: Michael Redlich “Current IT Market”

March: Brenda Bell on “Intellectual Property” ☞

DotNet

Manuel J. Goyenechea (mgoya@comcast.net)

<http://www.servertec.com/dotnetsig>

Whether you are a seasoned .NET professional or new to .NET, you will find the .NET SIG an invaluable resource. The presentation for November was "An In-depth Look At .NET Remoting". We also examined numerous C# source code snippets that demonstrate .NET Remoting.

Feb 17: In-depth Look At The Mono .NET Implementation

Mar 17: In-depth Look At The .Net Compact Framework

April 21: In-depth Look At The .Net Framework 2.0

Now available for download PowerPoint presentation and examples from December 16, 2004 meeting. ☞

VBA & Excel

Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com)

<http://www.excelvba.homestead.com>

VBA is implemented in Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Project and Microsoft Access, and will be implemented in Word and PowerPoint. Anyone interested in using any Microsoft Office and VBA is invited — 7 PM third Monday. Currently Jim is improving his skill set, so David McRitchie and John Raff will carry the banner. ☞

March 2005

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)

<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/>

The Java Users Group covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications, but can include related topics such as Java I/O, JavaBeans, Reflection, object-oriented programming and software design issues. Meetings are held the second Tuesday of the month starting promptly at 7:30 PM.

February: Have you ever wondered about all the rage with lightweight frameworks? This month, Paul Hart will delve into the Better Pet Shop Application, built using Tapestry, Hibernate and Spring. Tapestry provides the presentation layer which interacts with the domain business interfaces. These interfaces obtain the implementation classes via a Spring configuration and call the persistent layer implemented in Hibernate. ☞

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

We meet on the second Monday of the month (no meetings in July and August) to discuss issues of interest to novice users or those who are planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. ☞

MCP

(Microsoft Certified Professional)

Gregg McCarthy (greggmc@optonline.net)

<http://www.angelfire.com/linux/gamers/mcse.html>

The MCSE SIG is a study group with the goal of preparing for the Microsoft Certification Exams. In February of 2000 “Windows 2000” debuted along with new MCSE tests. It’s two years later and we have settled somewhere between W2k Pro/Server and Windows XP in our studies. Windows NT while still viable, is history as far as Microsoft is concerned. Windows .NET server should be out this year and should look like Windows XP-Server.

The books we will be using are “Mastering Windows 2000 Server” by Mark Minasi and the “MCSE Self-Paced Training Kit” from Microsoft Press. These books are important because as a study group we won’t have a teacher to explain the concepts. We’ll *need* to discuss them in the group. This is a study group not a class given by a teacher. Since hands on training is crucial in acquiring the skills needed for these tests, we’ll also try to focus on lab work as well. The Microsoft training kits are good for labs.

We meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 7 pm to 10 pm. Attendees are encouraged to bring a PC properly configured with NT, 10BaseT network card, and Netmeeting 2.1. For more info, reading assignments, course schedule, visit our website. ☞

Guru Corner

Jo-Anne Head (tinarock@aol.com)

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

	Hardware	
	Scott Vincent	973-539-8169
	Software	
HTML	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
CSS	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-537-4915
e-Commerce	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Networking	Scott Vincent	973-539-8169
Home Automation	Charlie Huffsmith	732-549-1734
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Operating Systems	
WindowsNT	Scott Vincent	973-361-5793
Windows95	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Windows98	Rick Elbanna	800-323-7575
Windows3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
	Charlie Huffsmith	732-549-1734
	Macintosh	
Mac O/S	Keith Sproul	(732) 821-4828

Discount Computer Magazine Price List

As described by the DealsGuy

	1 yr	2 yr	3 yr
Computer Games	\$10.95	20.95	29.95
Computer Gaming World	14.95	28.95	41.95
Computer Shopper1	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

These prices are for new subscriptions and renewals. All orders must be accompanied by a check, cash or Money Order. Make payable to Herb Goodman, and mail to:

Herb Goodman, 8295 Sunlake Drive, Boca Raton, FL 33496

Telephone: 561-488-4465, e-mail: 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 I will mail a renewal notice about 4 months prior to their expiration date. I carry more than 300 titles at excellent prices — email for prices. 📧

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at http://www.acgnj.org/membership_update.htm and pay dues with PayPal.

	US/CANADA	FAMILY OF MEMBER (No Newsletter)	Dues	FOREIGN	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25	\$10		\$55	\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40					
3 Years	\$55					\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

New Member Renewal Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups		
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, Princeton U. (609) 252-1163	NY/NJ/CT Relational Database User Group: Corporate and independent users. (212) 839-0125	New York Personal Computer Club: For information call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: 7:30 pm, 2nd Wednesday, St. Asaph's Episcopal Church. Lee Le'mon, (717)786-2260	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, NAS 100 at Brookdale Community College, Lincroft NJ. (732-739-9633) www.bcug.com	Macintosh User Group: Third Tuesday, Dickson Hall, Montclair State University, Montclair NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org .
WordPerfect SIG of PCUG of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 2101 Chapel Ave., Cherry Hill NJ after 7pm Main Meeting. http://www.pcugsj.org	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am to noon 3rd Saturday, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington. (908) 995-4042	PC Club of South Jersey: 7 pm, 2nd Monday, 2101 Chapel Ave, Cherry Hill NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360. http://www.pcugsj.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat., 9 am Main Meeting, groups follow. Drexel Univ., Philadelphia. Pat Murphy, (609) 428-8759	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, Trenton St. College. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC Users Group: Bergen County Community College, Paramus NJ. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432
Morris Micro Computer Club: Bill Traywick, (201) 635-5393.	Fairlawn Computer Club: Last Monday, Fairlawn Senior Citizen Center. Joe Mathias (fair.lawn.computer.club@juno.com)	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrence Library, Rt 1 & Darrah Ln, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org
Workshop, Hands-On: 2 P.M. to Midnight on last Saturday of the month. First United Methodist Church, Church and Atlantic Streets (one mile from GSP exit 117A), Aberdeen NJ. Bring your project, computer and extension cord. For information call Burke Mawby, (908) 566-7445.		

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



<http://www.apcug.net>

Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI
99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

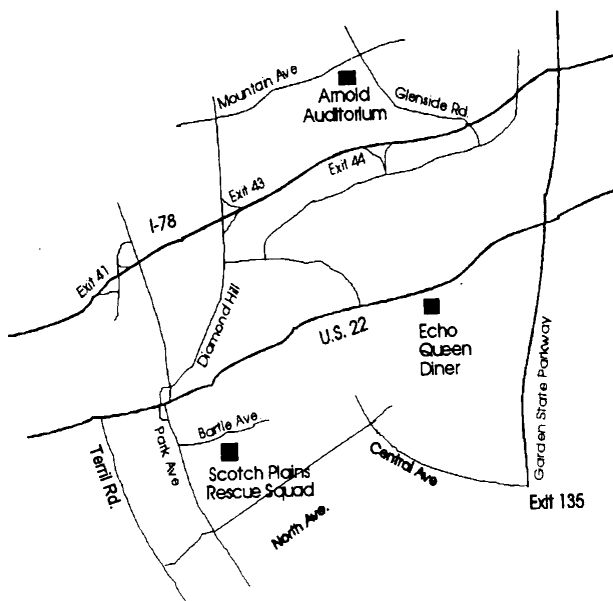
PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1800-876-WPEN, Webcast at <http://www.pctalkweb.net>.

PC Shows Inc (KGP)

(Visit <http://www.pcshow.com>)

March 5-6: New Jersey Convention Center, Edison NJ

April 16-17: 30th Trenton Computer Festival at the College of NJ, Ewing, NJ. ☐



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐

XP's Firewall

How and when to enable it

Linda Gonse, Editor, Orange County IBM Users' Group, California

Most users are aware of the need for an antivirus program and a firewall in order to be protected from regular, daily Internet threats. What some may not know is that Windows XP has a built-in firewall. While it lacks the bells and whistles of a full version firewall, such as Norton or Zone Alarm, it is still useful.

You can enable the firewall by going to Control Panel and clicking on the Network Connection icon. In the Connections window, right click on the name of your connection and click on Properties in the drop-down menu. Click on the Advanced tab. Check the box next to "Protect my computer and network by limiting or preventing access to this computer from the Internet." Then, click OK.

Follow these steps each time you wish to enable the firewall for other Internet connections on your computer. Before enabling XP's firewall, you should be aware of these points:

- It must not be used through software or hardware routers.
- It only works on incoming Internet traffic, not outgoing traffic from spy-ware, Trojan viruses, or hacker tools.
- On local area networks (LANs) with other computers, it will block File and Printer Sharing.
- It can be turned on or off for each of your dial-ups, LAN, or high-speed Internet connections.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you. ☺

ACGNJ MEETINGS

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings visit the ACGNJ Web Page (<http://www.acgnj.org>)

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board of Directors Meeting

Wednesday, March 2

7 P.M. - MCSE Study Group, Gregg McCarthy (greggmc@optonline.net).

Friday, March 4

8 P.M. - Main Meeting, Evan Williams (nhpressgo@blast.net).

Monday, March 7

8 P.M. - Lunics (Linux/Unix). Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org).

Tuesday, March 8

7:30 P.M. - Java, Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net) 908-537-4915.

Wednesday, March 9

7 P.M. - Human Networking, Mark Douces (mad-networking@pobox.com)

Thursday, March 10

8 P.M. - Investing, Norm Wiss (cut.up@verizon.net).

Monday, March 14

8 P.M. - Layman's Forum, Matt Skoda (som359@aol.com), 908-359-8842. Thursday, September 9

Monday, March 14

Visual Basic, Rick Elbanna (rick@mastersofthe.code.com), meets at East Brunswick Public Library in East Brunswick on the second Monday of each month. Meeting time varies due to the Library's

busy schedule and seating is limited, so those interested in attending are asked to email Rick.

Tuesday, March 15

8 P.M. - C/C++ Users, Bruce Arnold (barnold@blast.net), 908-735-7898

8 P.M. - Lotus Notes, Mike Barlow (barlowm@bright-ideas.com), (732) 417-5778 ext 5. Meetings at Bright Ideas offices.

Wednesday, March 16

7 P.M. - MCSE Study Group, Gregg McCarthy (greggmc@optonline.net).

Thursday, March 17

8 P.M. -Dot .Net, Manuel Goyenechea, (mgoya@comcast.net).

Friday, March 18

8 P.M. - Window Pains, John Raff.

Friday, March 18

6 P.M. to 5 A.M.- Gamers Guild. Gregg McCarthy (greggmc@optonline.net), 732-721-6507. Break from 8 to 10 P.M.

Monday, March 21

8 P.M. - VBA, Jim Ditaranto (fryr92a@prodigy.com), 201-986-1104

Thursday, March 24

8 P.M. - Genealogy. Frank Warren (kb4cyc@webwarren.com), 908-756-1681.

Tuesday, March 29

7 P.M. - ACGNJ Board of Directors Meeting ☺

**All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains, N.J.
Directions and map inside back cover.**