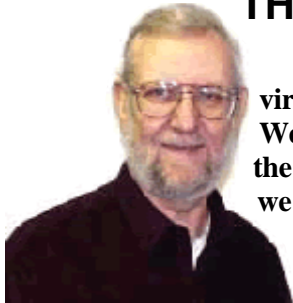




THE PREZ SEZ...



Well with Dutch down with virus's (that don't look right) and the Web Goddess gallivanting all over the country, no May news letter. But we will make up for it in June with whole bunches of interesting and cost saving items.

I continue to be amazed at the advances being made in the "Consumer Electronics" field. Cell phones that let you connect to the internet and get you e-mail, take pictures and send them to all your friends. That phone-picture business has a whole bunch of possibilities. Just let your imagination loose for a few minutes and you will be amazed at the ramifications.

Toshiba just announced a 2 to 4GB hard drive that is one

(Continued on page 2)

Lon's Freeware of The Month



by Lon Whistler,

whis@hotmail.com

Web Washer Classic

This utility filters unwanted ads, crushes cookies, and prevents companies from profiling your surfing habits. You can eliminate pop-up windows, banner ads, and the new, larger "skyscrapers" and "rectangles" that increase the time it takes to view Web pages. You're

(Continued on page 2)



Quick Tip - Undo Shortcut

CTRL-Z

CTRL-Z is normally used in word processing documents, but it also works just about anywhere in windows. Let's say you accidentally drag an icon to your desktop and really wish you had it to do over. Well, hit CTRL-Z and the icon vacates your desktop and jumps back to wherever it was before. Try it!

USER GROUP DISCOUNTS

At the May 25 meeting there were several companies mentioned that give user group members discounts on software. The web addresses were listed and code numbers to use if a purchase was made. Here is the information to take advantage of these offers in case you did not get the information you wanted about a particular item.

Thanks to Sherry Zorzi for this freebie from Microsoft. She found it on one of the Cajun Clickers' discussion lists.

Microsoft is running a special at <http://msdn.microsoft.com/vstudio> for Visual Basic .NET. Click on Visual Basic at the Movies. All you do is view and rate five short vb.net programming movies (5-6 minutes each). Then sign up to receive your redemption code email entitling you to a complimentary Not-For-Resale copy of Visual Basic .NET 2003 Standard Edition.

In true studio fashion, MS is releasing two categories each week, so check back often to catch the latest releases. Grab your popcorn and soda, sit back and enjoy!

The fine print ... This offer is valid in the 50 United States, the District of Columbia, all U.S. military bases that contain valid APO/FPO addresses, and Canada. Please allow 4 - 6 weeks for shipment. Offer good only while supplies last, or until September 30th 2004.

(Continued on page 3)

MORE USER GROUP DISCOUNTS

It is always a pleasure to hear from Gene Barlow. Gene and his wife were regular (annual) presenters the CCMV. Gene always had some interesting information about how computers work and especially detailed information about hard drives. Although the whole scene of company presentations has changed, Gene is still a strong supporter of users groups and indicated in the following article that he will be sending out similar items in the future. The two pieces of software mentioned at the end would be good additions to your security



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Take a look and take the poll

Meeting Time and Place
2nd and 4th Tuesday
9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.
Seventh-day Adventist Church
29885 Bradley Road
Sun City, CA

THE PREZ SEZ...

(Continued from page 1)

inch square. Should be on the market late 2004. Plans are to use it to expand the capabilities of digital cameras and PDA's.

There is some strong indication that a new broad band standard is just around the corner for wireless use of all kinds of connections' computers, tv's, sound systems, etc., etc., etc. These items can all communicate with out being connected by wires. Not only that, but they will be fast, fast, fast

The really mind blowing part of this is that computers continue to drive tech advances at and astounding rate. The old bit about buy it and by the time you get it home it is outdated still seems to be operating. I guess that's what makes it so much fun.

Ed Freeman

Lon's Freeware of The Month

(Continued from page 1)

even protected from Web bugs, invisible graphics hidden in documents that trigger the sending of messages to third parties. With the cookie filter, you can classify cookies as good, bad, or neutral so that you can keep the ones you need (such as for home shopping), while classifying the ones that spy on you. And the included SecretMaker software sends phantom data in place of personal information and surfing habits.

A picture is worth a thousand words, but it uses up a thousand times the memory.

Computer Classes

Looking to get the most out of your computer? Then CCMV Computer classes are for you. Whether learning for the first time, or brushing up on tips and tricks you may have forgotten, Computer classes are the best way to do it.

Been computing for awhile and want to share what you've learned? Become a trainer or assistant. Contact our Dean, Ed Freeman for more information.
ebfreeman@aol.com

There will be a few summer classes running. Now's the time to sign up for our fall semester.

You can sign up at the back table at the next CCMV meeting, at the Kay Cenicerros Community Center front desk or contact the Registrar, Evelyn Rahn, to sign up at:
erahn@inland.net

Classes are first come, first served so get your reservation in early!

Evening Classes By Joannie

Joannie's new Class schedule is out. Classes will be running throughout the summer months. Each class is two evenings and runs from 5:00 PM-8:30 PM, on Tuesday & Thursday. Find complete schedule and class outlines at: www.ByJoannie.com.

Intermediate Word-June 8th & 10th

Intermediate Excel-June 22nd & 24th

Basic Outlook-July 13th

Basic PowerPoint- July 27th & 29th

Basic Word-August 10th & 12th

Basic Excel- August 24th & 26th

Register online at:

www.ByJoannie.com or call (909) 301-6226.

User Group Disc.

(Continued from page 1)

PC Annoyances for under \$8.00!!

This one is from Steve Bass, PC World columnist, retired president of the Pasadena IBM User Group and author. Amazon.com has his book, PC Annoyances, for the amazing low price of \$7.98. Here's your chance to buy it for dirt cheap - actually, for less than wholesale. Take advantage of this great price for a gift - or for yourself.

In fact, if you want to impress a friend, say you know Steve (well, you do, sort of...) and he'll send you a free signed, self-adhering bookplate label that goes into the book. He'll even add a personal note to you or your buddy.

Send Steve an e-mail at stevebass@earthlink.net and let him know how many bookplates you need!

StompSoft, here in southern California, is new to User Groups. They have offered UGs a deep discount on their software and will provide review software on request. Please get those reviews back to StompSoft within 90 days. They are not making presentations to UGs but are interested in putting a couple of PIABs together for us. More on that as it develops. I asked Mike if there was a timeframe for the discount and he said, no. Our code is UG0504. They only ship to the US and Canada. Visit their site www.stompsoft.com to see the comparison charts between their software and

other vendors.

Please send your requests for the discounted software to:
Mike Moriarty
mikem@stompsoft.com

Spyware X-terminator: part number 03010. Retail \$29.99, our cost \$18.00
Virus X-terminator: part number 03030. Retail \$39.99, our cost \$24.00
Firewall X-treme: Part Number 03050. Retail \$39.99, our cost \$24.00
BackUp MyPC: part number 03004. Retail \$79.99, our cost \$34.00

New in mid-June Parental Control X-treme: part number 03040. Retail \$39.99, our cost \$24.00
Span X-terminator: part number 03020. Retail \$29.99, our cost \$18.00

Do you work with lots of images and video files? Need to create thumbnails, resize images or convert them into different formats?

Media Resizer offers you a 30% discount for the professional version of the advanced thumbnail creator, Media Resizer! This program allows you to create thumbnails from any picture or video file and resize them. You can add cool borders, image or text watermarks, beautiful styles and more. You can check out the reviews by Lockergnome and CNet on the Media Resizer webpage www.mediaresizer.com

Please download Media Resizer PRO using this link: http://www.mediaresizer.com/download/MediaResizerPRO_setup.EXE

Your discount coupon is MEDI-SVO1 <http://www.mediaresizer.com/order.htm>

The program is distributed electronically over the Internet. A free 15-day trial version is available at <http://www.mediaresizer.com/>. Retail price of a single copy is \$79; volume buyers and software resellers should inquire about special prices.

If you have additional questions or would like to request an editor's copy, please contact Anton Branchuk at anton@sibental.com

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GhostSurf Pro (\$29.95 - 25% discount) allows users to take control of their personal information online - it searches for spyware applications, can clean computers of recent files and "Internet tracks" so other users of the computer can't tell which websites have been visited, blocks ISPs from watching their customers, and it blocks all types of advertisements. Find out more about the software at www.tenebril.com. To order GhostSurf Pro, call 888.781.1162 and use Promo Code 112630.

=====

MailWasher Pro, US \$29.95 - a saving of \$8.00. MailWasher Pro is the ultimate solution to getting rid of spam and unwanted email. It's easy to use and very effective. Over 3 million downloads! For more information about MailWasher Pro and to order your copy, visit www.firetrust.com. Use code GTUGAD. This code expires on May 31.

Happy computing! Ed Freeman

MORE UG Disc.

(Continued from page 1)

software collection. Here's Gene.

Deleting Information from Hard Drives By Gene Barlow User Group Relations Copyrighted May 2004

The early hard drives on mainframe computers were not considered very reliable. Information stored on these early devices would often not record properly or may become contaminated easily. Programmers using these drives would write the data in two separate locations on the drive. Then, when the data was needed later, it would be read from both locations and compared in memory to make sure it was still the same. If differences were detected, then the program could not continue until the data was corrected and rewritten to the hard drive.

As technology advanced, special mathematical checking codes were stored with the data that could detect if the information retrieved from a hard drive was still valid. These codes eliminated the need to record the data twice, but did nothing to clean up any errors found. It wasn't long before more sophisticated checking codes were introduced that could not only detect errors, but would also actually correct most single and double character errors. Still, the recording of information on hard drives was not considered real reliable and frequent backup copies of the drives were necessary.

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MORE UG Disc

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When the IBM PC was introduced with hard drives, the designers of these drives were still very concerned about loosing data on these devices. So, everything was done to make sure the data written to the drive remained on the hard drive and could not be accidentally deleted or lost. Today, it is almost impossible to permanently delete information, once it is written to a hard drive. Who would have thought that this retention of information would become a problem for computer users?

In today's world, privacy and security of information are major concerns. Identity theft is a major problem that we all face. With just a few pieces of information about us, dishonest individuals can steal large sums of money from us and ruin our credit ratings. At the same time, computers and the internet have made information much more widely available not only to us, but to these dishonest individuals. Unless we are careful, our private information can get into the hands of these dishonest individuals and they will certainly take advantage of the situation.

Recent studies have shown that hard drives on PCs contain a wealth of private information that most users thought they had removed from the drive months or years earlier. What these users do not understand is that simply deleting a file from the hard drive does not permanently remove it from the drive. In fact, all that deleting a file does is to flag that file space for future reuse. It may be years before that space is reused with another file or it may never be reused. So, the deleted information remains on the hard drive, hidden from the user, but still there. Dishonest individuals using commonly available software can find and access all of these deleted files.

Users that are knowledgeable enough to know that deleted files remain on the hard drive are often surprised to learn that formatting the hard drive does not get rid of these deleted files either. All the formatting function does is to create a few tables at the beginning of the partition. The deleted information on the hard drive is not removed or changed

during a format. Operations such as defragging a hard drive only cause your private information to be copied and spread across the entire hard drive. So, how can you permanently remove private information once it is written to a hard drive?

The only effective way to permanently remove information from a hard drive is to write blanks or zeros over the top of the deleted information. This obliterates the information that was written there earlier. To do this, special hard drive wiping utilities must be used. Two of the best hard drive wiping utilities were developed by WhiteCanyon Software. I have come to know and rely on these excellent products. One or both of them could make your job of keeping your hard drive clean of hidden private or personal information easy to do.

The first of these two products is called WipeDrive. This is the bulldozer of the two products. When you use it to wipe your hard drive, it starts at the beginning of the drive and writes blanks on top of everything on the drive. It continues to wipe the drive until it reaches the end of the hard drive. When it is done, the entire drive is totally clean and empty. Nothing remains on the hard drive that a dishonest person could see or use against you. Everyone should use this utility before they sell or give their old computer or hard drive away. Otherwise, you are giving away all of your private information with your old computer. WipeDrive boots from a diskette or CD and can wipe all PC type hard drives. WipeDrive sells for up to \$45 in computer stores, but user group members can obtain a copy from our User Group Store for just \$24.

The second of these two products is called SecureClean. This is more like a vacuum cleaner, than a bulldozer. It vacuums the dirt out of the carpet, but does not knock over the furniture or the walls. In other words, it can clean the deleted information off your hard drive, but does not disturb the actively used files on the drive. The selective ability of SecureClean to wipe your hard drive, but not disturbing your current files, makes it the ideal tool to use on your current

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Sign Up for a Class TODAY!

MORE UG Disc

(Continued from page 4)

hard drives to keep them clean of deleted information. I recommend that you run SecureClean about once a month on your computer to permanently wipe over all deleted information on the drive.

Packaged with SecureClean is a bonus utility called SecureScan. This product will scan your hard drive and show you all of the deleted information that is hidden on the drive. You will be surprised at what you'll find still on your hard drive. You may find personal files that you deleted months or years ago that are still on the drive. You may even find some files that were accidentally deleted and you thought they were forever lost. If a deleted file is still complete, SecureScan can even bring this file back to life and make it available again on your hard drive. This undelete function of SecureScan is not the main purpose of this program, but a nice additional feature that you may want to use. SecureClean and SecureScan install on any Windows operating system. SecureClean sells for \$40, but user group members can obtain a copy from our User Group Store for just \$24. Buy both WipeDrive and SecureClean/Scan for just \$39, a \$60 value.

To order either or both of these excellent hard drive wiping utilities, go to the User Group Store at <http://www.usergroupstore.com>. (or <http://www.ugr.com/store>) You can read more about these two products in the security department of the store. Click on any of

the Buy Now buttons to get to our secure web order form. Complete the form including the special code of UGWCM04. You will be given the chance to verify and correct your order before it is submitted. Once you submit it, we will receive it shortly and normally we ship all orders the following morning. You should have your products in just a few days. While you are at the User Group Store, check out the many other products we offer, all at great user group discounts.

Preventing personal and private information from building up on your hard drive is important for all of us to do. Get the tools you need to keep your drive clean today. If you have any questions about these products or this technical newsletter, please contact me at gene@ugr.com. I look forward to helping you.

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This is one of a series of monthly technical articles that I plan to distribute on a regular basis in the coming months. Watch for them and learn more about your computer and its hard drive. User group newsletter editors may print this article in their monthly newsletter as long as the article is printed in its entirety and not cut or edited. Please send me a copy of the newsletter containing the article so that I can see what groups are running the articles.

Computers and Cars

For all of us who feel only the deepest love and affection for the way computers have enhanced our lives, read on.

At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated, "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry has, we would all be driving \$25.00 cars that got 1,000 miles to the gallon."

In response to Bill's comments, General Motors issued a press release stating: If GM had developed technology like Microsoft, we would all be driving cars with the following characteristics:

1. For no reason whatsoever, your car would crash twice a day.
2. Every time they repainted the lines in the road, you would have to buy a new car.
3. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason. You would have to pull to the side of the road, close all of the windows, shut off the car, restart it, and reopen the windows before you could continue. For some reason you would simply accept this.
4. Occasionally, executing a maneuver such as a left turn would

Computers and Cars

(Continued...)

cause your car to shut down and refuse to restart, in which case you would have to reinstall the engine.

5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast and twice as easy to drive - but would run on only five percent of the roads.

6. The oil, water temperature, and alternator warning lights would all be replaced by a single "This Car Has Performed An Illegal Operation" warning light.

7. The airbag system would ask "Are you sure?" before deploying.

8. Occasionally, for no reason whatsoever, your car would lock you out and refuse to let you in until you simultaneously lifted the door handle, turned the key and grabbed hold of the radio antenna.

9. Every time a new car was introduced car buyers would have to learn how to drive all over again because none of the controls would operate in the same manner as the old car.

10. You'd have to press the "Start" button to turn the engine off.

