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Abort, Retry, Ignore...

FOUNDED 1984
The Official Newsletter of THE
COMPUTERS ARE EASY USER GROUP

CAEUG Computers Are Easy User Group

September 2001 | Suggested Retail Price $1.95 | Volume XIV | Issue **9**

Calendar of Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting dates for 2001
See page 10
for all confirmed dates.
Time and Place remain the same.

Upcoming CAEUG meeting
Saturday, September 22 2001
9:45-12:00

Roger Kinzie will demostrate Digital Cameras

SEE YOU THERE!!

US President George W. Bush has designated Friday as "a national day of prayers and remembrance," for the thousands of victims of the attacks on New York and Washington

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CD of month/Webmaster
& Technical Consultant . . . . . Richard Scalzo
Coffee Service . . . . . Joan Thompson
Picnic Chairpersons . . . . . Mike Goldberg
Roger Kinzie

CAEUG LIST OF SUPPORTING RETAILERS

The retailers listed below have in one way or another supported CAEUG and we thank them.

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE, INC.
1433 W. Fullerton Avenue, Suite M
Addison, IL 60101
630/953-1555

AMERICAN COMPUTER
330 S. Naperville Road, Suite 310
Wheaton, IL 60187
630/260-4020

BOOKS & BYTES, INC.
Retail store is closed
630/416-0102
http://www.bytes.com/

SOFTWARE EMPORIUM
123 E. Front St.
Wheaton, IL 60187
630/653-0085

ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

This printed version of our newsletter was laid out using Adobe's Pagemaker Version 6.5 for Windows and was printed on a EPSON EPL-7000. Our group's membership database is maintained using MSWorks and address labels are printed using PostalSoft Desktop Mailer software. Our checking account records are kept in Quicken software.

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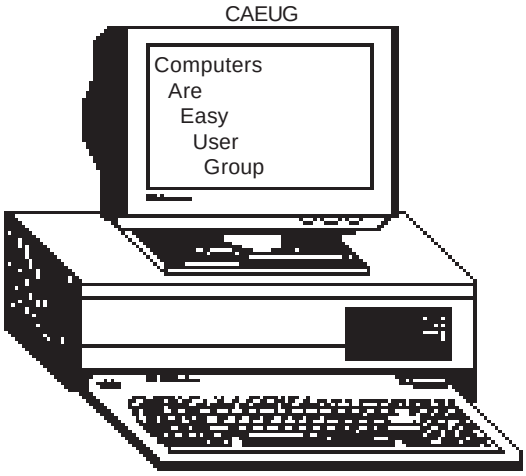
The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.



Computer Central

Next show date
SUNDAY, Sept 30
College of Dupage
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
Chicagoland's Oldest and Largest
Multi-Vendor PC Show & Sale for
Home and Business

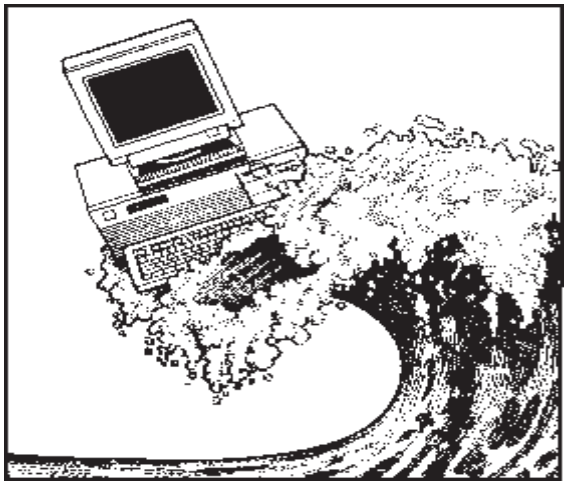
COLLEGE OF DUPAGE
Main Arena of Physical Education Building
Corner of Park Blvd & College Road
Glen Ellyn, IL
FREE PARKING
Admission - $6.00
(With this coupon admission $5.00)
www.computercentralshows.com
E-mail address:
compcent@megsinet.net

COMPUTER CENTRAL
2001 dates
September 30
October 28
COD

PICTURE YOUR AD HERE!
FREE ! !

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF CAEUG THIS SPACE COULD SELL ANY COMPUTER RELATED ITEM FREE OF CHARGE.

JUST CONTACT ANY CLUB OFFICERS OR THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE NEWSLETTER.



In order to have your article or item for sale appear in ARI they must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

MEMBERS HELPLINE

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline. Contact Carl Schow.

Beginners Helpline.....Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems.....Dick Fergus

QuickBooks, Turbo Tax, IBM Lotus, MS Excel, Corel's Quattro Pro....Terry Moye

Win 9x, NT, 2K.....Rick Scalzo
e-mail.....mitsufan@webcentrix.net

Hardware problems
& WIN NT4, Linux.....John Spizzirri

Start UP Discussion Group

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences with the Start UP group. Such as:

1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

Meets before regular meeting from 9:15 to 9:45

Getting Started With Internet Music

By Bruce Fries - author of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook

This article provides an overview of what you need to record and play music on your computer and how to get music from the Internet.

Introduction New audio compression technologies, such as MP3, allow you to use your computer as a digital jukebox that can hold thousands of CD-quality songs. You can quickly find and play any song with a click of a mouse and never have to worry about tapes wearing out or records getting scratched. Instead of spending hours making tapes or programming a CD changer, you can compile customized playlists in minutes.

Audio compression also makes it practical to download music from the Internet, where you can access thousands of songs from artists all over the world. With MP3, you can download a four-minute song in less than 15 minutes (with a 33.6 kbps modem), compared to more than 3 hours for the same song in CD audio format. Now you can sample a wide variety of music from the comfort of your home and find some great music from independent artists you might not otherwise be exposed to.

Music on the Internet On the Internet, youÆll find music in the form of files that can be downloaded to your computer; music that you can listen to as itÆs ôstreamedö over the Internet (similar to the way you listen to AM and FM radio), and physical media, such as records, tapes and CDs, that you can purchase and have shipped to you.

Downloadable music is simply music in the form of a computer file (usually MP3 or WMA format) that you can download from a Web site to your computer. Downloadable music can be played on your computer, a portable digital audio player like the Rio 800, or newer CD players the Rio Volt (www.riohome.com).

Streaming audio enables you to listen to digital music without having to wait for the entire file to download. Streaming audio is used by many online music stores to play short clips from songs so you can listen to samples before they you the record or CD. To listen to streaming audio, you need a sound card and an internet connection.

Digital Audio Formats MP3 (technically, MPEG Audio Layer-III) is a standard format for compressing digital audio. MP3 squeezes audio files to about one tenth of their original size, while maintaining close to CD quality.

RealAudio was the first widely used system for streaming audio and video over the Internet. It is a proprietary format, but it is used by many online music stores for sample clips of songs, and by many Internet radio sites.

WAV is the default format for digital audio on Windows PCs. WAV files usually contain PCM format audio, which means they are uncompressed and take up a lot of space (10MB/ minute for CD quality audio).

Windows Media Audio (WMA) is a proprietary format developed by Microsoft. WMA is supported by most full-featured player programs and by many portable players

Internet Radio Internet radio is a form of streaming audio, usually in Real Audio or Windows Media Audio format. MP3 can also be streamed, but is more commonly used as a downloadable format. Spinner (www.Spinner.com) provides a nice tuner interface with access to dozens of stations and programmable presets. Sites like Live365.com and Radio.Sonicnet.com allow you to set up a personal radio station, which you customize by selecting the artists and the types of music you want to hear.

Hardware Requirements To listen to music on your PC, you need a sound card. To play MP3 files you need at least a Pentium PC (133mHz or faster recommended) or a PowerPC Macintosh. A CD Recordable (CR-R or CD-RW) drive is recommended for recording audio (Redbook format) or MP3 (data format) CDs.

You will need plenty of RAM, lots of free disk space, and a modem to download songs or listen to music streamed over the Internet. To convert your existing CDs into MP3 files, you'll need a CD-ROM drive that is capable of digital audio extraction (DAE)ùcommonly called ripping.

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Software Requirements To play MP3 files, you need a player program or a portable player that supports MP3. The latest versions of the Windows and Mac operating systems come with built-in players, but you'll be better off using an all-in-one program like MusicMatch Jukebox (www.musicmatch.com) because it has more features and is easier to use, even for non-technical users

MusicMatch Jukebox includes everything you need to create, organize and play MP3 files. MusicMatch supports ripping from CDs, analog recording from records and tapes, and burning MP3 files directly to a CD. MusicMatch also automatically organizes you MP3 files into separate folders by artist, album, genre and other categories.

To listen to Internet radio you need a program that supports streaming audio. At the very least, you should install the latest versions of the RealPlayer (www.real.com), Windows Media Player (www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia) and a full-featured audio player, such as MusicMatch Jukebox. These programs will allow you to listen to the majority of Internet radio sites.

Downloading Music To obtain songs in MP3 format, you can download them from the Internet, create them from prerecorded music or obtain pre-made MP3 CDs. Web sites like MP3.com and EMusic.com offer thousands of downloadable songs in MP3 format. Many of these songs are free, and those that aren't usually cost only a dollar or so.

Napster (www.napster.com) is an MP3 file sharing service that maintains a central directory of shared MP3 files that exist on individual userÆs computers. Users search by song title or artist name and Napster displays links to matching files on the computers of other users. Each link lists the fileÆs resolution and size, and the speed of the userÆs Internet connection. The first user then selects and downloads the MP3 file directly from the other userÆs computer.

Creating Your Own MP3 Files To create MP3 files from records or tapes you'll need to record them in real-time, using a sound card. You should use a good stand-alone recording program like Cool Edit 2000 (www.cooledit.com), since the sound recording applications that come with most computers are fairly limited. Cool Edit also has a nice audio clean-up plug-in that can remove clicks, pops and hiss from the sound before you convert it to MP3 or burn it to a CD.

When you record using Cool Edit, the song will end up as an uncompressed WAV (pronounced wave). The advantage of a WAV file is that you have the option of editing it to adjust the volume or trim off unwanted silence before it is converted to MP3 or burned to a CD. MusicMatch can also record from analog sources like records and tapes, but lacks the advanced editing features of Cool Edit.

WAV files can be recorded directly to an Audio CD or converted to MP3 files. The process of creating an MP3 file is called encoding. Encoding compresses the audio by removing sounds that most people can't hear. The size and sound quality of the MP3 file is a function of the bit-rate usedùthe higher the bit-rate, the larger the file and the better the sound quality.

To create MP3 files from an audio CD, the best method is to bypass the sound card and rip the audio directly to your hard disk. Ripping is better than recording through a sound card because it results in a perfect copy without added noise or distortion. Because it is a digital process, ripping is also much faster than recording. For example, a system with a fast CD-ROM drive can rip a four-minute song in less than 30 seconds. Recording the same song through a sound card will always take at least four minutes.

Most audio CDs do not contain information, such as artist names and album and song titles. To save you from having to enter this information manually, programs, such as MusicMatch, can automatically get this information from the CDDB (www.cddb.com) and use it to automatically name the files.

Organizing Your Music Now that you've downloaded or created MP3 files, you need a way to organize them. MP3 files can be organized in one big folder that contains all files, or they can be grouped in separate directories with similar music. It's up to you to decide which method to use, although if you have more than a few hundred songs you should organize them in separate

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The Lamp Post

Number 22
by John Spizzirri
September 11, 2001

CNN (http://www.cnn.com/) in an effort to keep up with the huge influx of Web traffic after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington striped out all it's graphics (ad's) tripling their capacity.

Microsoft (MS, http://www.microsoft.com) has essentially won the anti-trust case with the Justice Department's (DOJ) announcement on September 5th that it would not seek to break up the company nor would it pursue the tying allegations. To be fair, MS had already unbundled IE6 from XP (a feat that could not be done when it came to IE5 and Win98 or WinME). The U. S. Court of Appeals (http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/ and a Web site with link to MS case http://www.cadc.uscourts.gov/ecf/Microsoft/Microsoft.asp) sent the case back for adjudication by a new trial court judge who was picked by lot. She is District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly. Since the DOJ will not press the most damaging parts of its case, MS will be more likely to settle out of court. What will the possible remedies be? There are a few items that have leaked. They are:
1. Opening the Windows source code to competitors
2. Amending the MS's licenses with PC makers. This would let the companies install any OS they'd like, without having to pay for Windows or worry about getting blacklisted by MS.
3. A loosening of rules about Windows, that would let PC makers select software components in a system according to users' wishes, not MS's.
I think number 1 is unlikely and something MS would fight tooth and nail. Numbers 2 and 3 are almost certain providing the states don't try extorting money from MS in the 'settlement'. Speaking of the states, New York, Connecticut, Iowa, and California attorneys general have publicly stated, "We look forward to continuing to work with the (DOJ) in the proceedings that are about to begin before the trial court, but will, if necessary to protect the public, press for remedies that go beyond those requested by the (DOJ)". Tough talk by the states does not bode well for MS unless it's only money.

XP has entered the final phase of development before release. MS has made these concessions; IE6 does not have to be installed, Kodak picture handling software can be used in place of MS's, AOL installation software may have a place on the desktop if MSN installation software is there as well, and the WPA has been softened (twice). What won't be in XP is Java plugins, MP3 encoding (recording), or DVD playback. MP3 and DVD will be available on the MS Web site but will not be free (no price has been set as yet). Sun is screaming about the Java (their product) but MS is paying them back for their complicity in the DOJ case. Java plugins probably won't be available for some time after the introduction of XP. By the way, the price of XP Home will be about $190 full and $90 upgrade. XP professional will cost $280 full and $185 upgrade. XP will be pretty, feature rich, bloated, and resource hungry. You can read all the hype at

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http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/default.asp .

WPA (Windows Product Activation) was softened the first time so that if you made 6 component swap outs you would have to reactivate through a toll free number. The most recent softening is that you can replace any or all components on a machine that came loaded with XP as many times as you want provided you use the same BIOS chip. If you restore the system using the PC makers restore CD, you will not have to reactivate. Who will the WPA affect? People that build their own machines and people that wipe a machine clean and install a fresh copy of XP. If you buy a machine with XP on it, you won't be affected most of the time. If you upgrade your machine, you will be required to activate at least once. If you buy a full copy and move it from one machine to another, you will have to activate with each move. If you do not activate, the operating system will cease operating in 30 days. I guess that MS will react when there is enough backlash to their proposals. At least they are not making the same mistake that IBM (http://www.ibm.com/) made with the MicroChannel architecture.

Corel (

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CAEUG Millennium Picnic
Michael Goldberg

The weather on the morning of August 25 was rainy,but it was rain free 11am-3pm. This allowed 30 members to enjoy a club picnic. The food was good and plentiful.The conversation was delightful. The raffle had many interesting software and some hardware items and was lead by Lynn Johnson(ticket coordinator and ticket number caller) .I think Lynn may be a bingo number caller on the side.

Our picnic tables even had flowers brought by a caeug flower child they were a classic touch.

The picnic was enjoyed by all and is a good example of teamwork which made it possible.

A big THANK YOU to

Michael Goldberg
and
Roger Kinzie

for their co-operation in the planning of our annual CAEUG picnic.
Their great effort is what makes CAEUG so GREAT!

CAEUG
P. O. Box 2727
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

FIRST CLASS MAIL

Meeting place and date information:

The next REGULAR meeting will be held at the Glen Ellyn Library in Glen Ellyn at 9:45 am on
Saturday meeting September 22, 2001

The library is located 1 block west of Citibank at the corner of Prospect & Duane FREE PARKING
Directions: Park to Duane; go west on Duane to Prospect Street. Please park at the West end of the lot, away from the building. Thank you.

The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Rick Scalzo at . Individuals with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and/or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president,Rick Scalzo at , at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made for them.

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2001:	September 22, October 27, November (no meeting), December 1 (Nov/Dec meeting),
Confirmed Meeting dates for 2002:	January 26, February 23, March 23, April 27, May 25

CD of The Month: Available at the meeting or by ordering previous CD's via the CAEUG website.