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

Abort, Retry, Ignore...

CAEUG Computers Are Easy User Group

November/December 2002 Suggested Retail Price $1.95 Volume XVIII Issue 11

Calendar of Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting dates for 2002/2003
See page 10
for all confirmed dates. Time and Place remain the same.

December 7
Kathy Groce
Demostration of
StarOffice 7.0

SEE YOU THERE!!

COD Dates
2002 dates
December 15

COD Dates
2003 dates
Jan 19
Feb 23
Mar 30

From CAEUG Board

To All Members and their families

Very Best Wishes for a Joyous Holiday Season

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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 7.0 for Windows and was printed on a EPSON EPL-7000. Our group's membership database is maintained using MS Access and address labels are printed using MS Access software. Our checking account records are kept in Quicken software.

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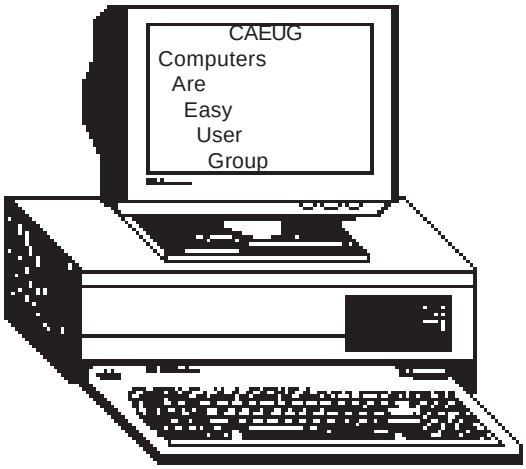
The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.



Great Midwest Computer Show ©

Next show date
SUNDAY, Dec 15
College of Dupage
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The Midwest's oldest and largest
Multi Vendor PC show and sale for
Home & Business

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE
Main Arena of Physical Education Building
Corner of Park Blvd & College Road
Glen Ellyn, IL
FREE PARKING
Admission - $7.00
(With this coupon admission $6.00)
www.CODSHOW.COM
E-mail address:
info@codshow.com

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 Rick Scalzo.

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 9x, NT, 2K & Linux.....John Spizzirri

Great Midwest Computer Show ©

2002 dates	2003 dates	
December 15	Jan 19	Sept 28
	Feb 23	Oct 26
	Mar 30	Nov 23
	Apr 27	Dec 21
	May 18	
	June 29	
	July 27	
	Aug 24	

For Sale

Compaq Armada 1530DM Laptop
Pentium 133, 32MB RAM, 1.2MB HD, floppy, CD-ROM, Sound, Win 98
Battery does not hold charge more than 20 minutes
Runs fine plugged in - $200

Membership Costs.....

	First Yr.	Renewal
Individual	$25.00	$20.00
Family	$30.00	$25.00
Corporate	$30.00	$25.00
Associate	$20.00	$15.00

Beginner's SIG

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences with this 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 9:05 to 9:45

PowerDesk Pro 5 - Product Review
by John Spizzirri

VCom (http://www.v-com.com/) purchased OnTrack (http://www.ontrack.com) thus acquiring the System Suite 4, Fix It Utilities 4, and PowerDesk Pro 5 programs. They sell PowerDesk Pro 5 online for $19.95 for a download. Vcom also makes System Commander, Partition Commander, Copy Commander, and CD Anywhere.

PowerDesk PRO 5 is a desktop utility and Windows Explorer replacement for Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, NT 4.0 and XP. PowerDesk PRO 5 consists of seven utilities (PowerDesk, Toolbar, Folder Synchronizer, File Finder, Size Manager, Dialog Helper, FTP, and Playlist Editor) that help you in the organization of Windows. Here is a rundown of each of the utilities.

The PowerDesk utility provides Windows Explorer-like file management. It includes tools such as a toolbar, Zip compression support, and support for many other compression formats. The drive tool bar gives you quick access to your drives (much like the File Manager in Windows 3.x). It even recognizes network drives. The launch bar gives you one-click access to your favorite programs. You can add any programs you want to the bar. Another File Manager feature in PowerDesk is the ability to have two drive views open at the same time. You can create self-extracting files from Zip files. PowerDesk has its own keys stroke short cuts but if you are familiar with Xtree or Norton Commander, you can use those short cuts by setting a preference. It also has a file viewer that views most file types including sound files, which play. The viewer window can be a frame on the main screen or a stand-alone window. Some of the file types the viewer reads include; Word, Word Perfect, Excel, Lotus 123, WordPad, text, zip, jpg, bmp, and PowerPoint.

The Toolbar is a powerful, customizable standalone toolbar that places programs, files, system information and utilities on the desktop (much like the Microsoft Office or Lotus Office Suite tool bars).

The Folder Synchronizer compares and synchronizes the contents of two folders. This is particularly useful for user-initiated back ups to a network drive, a second hard drive, or even a floppy or Zip drive.

The File Finder is similar to the file finder utility in Windows but it provides extra functionality. It does everything that Find or Search does plus it can filter on file attributes. Many of the search features are click-able instead of requiring you to type in the data.

The Size Manager shows you where the space on your drives is being used. It shows this information using the standard tree view with a bar graph to the right. It shows how much space is any given folder or file is taking up.

Dialog Helper enhances Open and Save dialog boxes by adding a menu of up to 20 previously opened files, and another menu of previously opened folders, for each application.

The FTP utility gives you a drag-and-drop interface to what you're used to in PowerDesk or Windows Explorer. You can set up a list of FTP Internet sites. Once connected uploading and downloading are just a drag-and-drop away. PowerDesk 5 will resume broken connections if you want.

Playlist Editor lets you create and edit MP3 playlists. It allows editing of MP3 tags. Sorting songs can be by title or file name. You can copy playlists to your portable MP3 player.

I believe it is well worth the twenty dollars. That's why I bought it. It is an all-in-one solution. I seldom have to load a single utility because PowerDesk has most of them built in. I can also place a utility on the launch bar so I don't have to go to the start button, programs menu. It is a 15.4MB download.

Bumper Sticker:

When cryptography is outlawed,
bayl bhgynjf jvyy unir cevinpl.

The Lamp Post
Number 35
by John Spizzirri
November 22, 2002

I wish everyone a happy holiday season. Here are a few Web sites that may set the mood;
http://www.holidays.net/christmas/
http://www.christmas.com/worldview/
http://www.merry-christmas.com/
http://www.religioustolerance.org/winter_solstice.htm

I will kick off this article with the news about Microsoft (MS http://www.microsoft.com). MS hired a research company to find out how their public relations war on Linux and open source software (OSS) was going. The research company found that people and companies think that Linux and OSS are cheaper to own than MS products. Further, they believe that MS is lying about Linux. A portion of the report was leaked to OpenSource.org at http://www.opensource.org/halloween/halloween7.php

*** An internal MS white paper (explanatory report) from two years ago has been posted on the Web at http://remus.softimage.net/hotmail.html . It details how Hotmail (http://www.hotmail.com) was converted from a Unix (FreeBSD) to a MS software after MS bought the free e-mail provider. The report stated that MS engineers wanted to use the existing equipment, but that "A Microsoft property should eat its own dogfood" meaning that the servers had to be converted to MS software. The report lists the advantages and disadvantages of Windows and Unix. If you used Hotmail before and after the conversion, you know what a mistake it was.

*** The Securities Exchange Commission (SEC http://www.sec.gov) requires periodic filings from public corporations. The MS filing is posted at http://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/789019/000103221002001614/d10q.htm . If you are into monetary reports, look it up. For the rest of us, the report shows that MS lost money on almost every product it produces except Windows and Office. Those two products MORE than made up for the other loses. MS stated that the profits ($4.05 billion) were an anomaly and refused to issue a stock dividend. Adding these profits to its cash reserve brings the amount of on-hand cash to almost $41 billion. I'll grant that they need some cash for all the lawsuits and R&D spending, but $41 billion is a bit much. For those of you with MS stock, I do not see a dividend in the foreseeable future.

*** It's been seven years in the making. MS was given a consent decree in 1995. That decree was to have prevented the behavior that led to the MS anti-trust case in 1998. In 2000, Judge Jackson found MS guilty. It was appealed and sent back to the district court. US District Court Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly ruled that the settlement between the DOJ and MS was acceptable with little modification. The ruling surprised even pro-MS pundits. The nonsettling states will continue with their suit but with this Federal ruling the prospect for success is muted. The ruling prohibits MS from making exclusive agreements with PC vendors and prohibits retaliation against OEM's for five years. MS still has a number of cases brewing. Sun, Netscape/AOL, and Be/Palm are suing MS for damages as a result of the Jackson ruling. The

(con't on page 6)

European Union (EU) is continuing its anti-trust investigation of Windows Media Player. There will be a ruling by the end of this year. 60 private lawsuits by individuals are pending in various states based on the Jackson ruling. The main contention is that MS charged too much for Windows. The laws in California and Maryland could cost MS billions. Taiwan is just beginning its investigation of MS for antitrust violations. This one is also about the high cost of MS software. A good account of the United States case is at http://eletters1.ziffdavis.com/cgi-bin10/flo?y=eSjC0EyAyy0HX60rxQ0An.

*** MS and Disney have entered an agreement to put family oriented content on MSN8, the Microsoft Network ISP. This is an attempt by MS to one up AOL. The story is at http://www.cbronline.com /cbr.nsf/latestnews/9CA3007AEFA679CE80256C5D002E589D?OpenDocument .

*** Windows Media Player 9 beta is reviewed in PC Magazine at http://eletters1.ziffdavis.com/cgi-bin10/flo?y=eSaR0EyAyy0HX60rYe0Ai. Your 20x CD burner will do you no good because MS has seen fit to restrict burn speed to 2x. That article compares RealOne player and concludes it is better even though is costs about $30.

*** Internet Explorer has newly reported security flaws. GreyMagic reported on the flaws at http://sec.greymagic.com/adv/gm012-ie/ . MS has this explanation site with a patch at http://www.microsoft.com/security/security_bulletins/ms02-065.asp.

*** BetaNews.com reported that the next version of MS Office will not work on Win9x and ME. The report at http://www.betanews.com/article.php3?sid=1035914045 stated that the older Windows products are “inherently insecure”. The new Office will only run on Win2k and XP for stability and security reasons.

*** The tablet PC was introduced with great fanfare at the Comdex show in Las Vegas. Bill Gates gave an Interview at http://www.comdex.com /news/fall2002/index.php?d=features&s=common&c=gates_qa .

*** In a very critical piece The Register reports on Bill Gates trip to India and his donation of $100 million for Indian AIDS research. The writer, Thomas Greene, thinks the visit was PR in advance of a sales push in India. The article with citations to the NY Times is at http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/28039.html . In a related item the Indian Health Minister Shatrughan Sinha criticized Gates for spreading panic about AIDS at http://www.hindustantimes.com/news/181_99936,0003.htm .

*** There have been rumors floating around that Windows XP will have a ‘second edition’ just like Windows 98. The Win98 second edition was nothing more than a bug fix. This second edition would be released some time next year. MS has denied these rumors at http://www.cbronline.com /cbr.nsf/latestnews/22FC429E7CA577BC80256C780016102F?OpenDocument .

*** Paul England, an MS researcher, has done a white paper for MS that says that digital rights management (DRM) will fail. Peer to peer (P2P) file sharing is here to stay regardless of the measures the government or companies take. The paper is available here http://crypto.stanford.edu/DRM2002/darknet5.doc. It is sixteen pages long but well worth the read.

Have you heard of Crank Yankers? It is a Comedy Central cable television show, which uses Muppet-type puppets in various situations. The sound track is composed of crank telephone calls (apparently made specifically for the show). The Web site is

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You may have used the FatWallet Web site (http://www.fatwallet.com/) to price check items at Wal*Mart, Target, Best Buy, Staples, or OfficeMax. Unfortunately, you can no longer do that. The stores have made a claim that their prices for goods are copyrighted under the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA). FatWallet does not have the money to fight the bullies in court, so it has taken those prices off its Web site. The DMCA is a creation of Congress that was lobbied heavily by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) and the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA). It was to protect the MPAA and the RIAA from Napster and from you making copies of CDs and DVDs. The law applies to all forms of 'media', thus if someone asserts that they own something that is an idea that they have written down in any way, they can invoke the DMCA to stop anyone from republishing that idea. FatWallet just happens to be the newest victim of this legal tyranny. FatWallet has contacted the EFF and ChillingEffects (http://www.chillingeffects.org/) for help. We'll see if prices can be copyrighted. You can read the law at http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/ .

It's about time! The French media giant and conglomerate Vivendi Universal (http://www.vivendiuniversal.com) has finally taken the first, faltering steps into the electronic age by offering 40,000 of its music titles as downloadable files for a nominal cost ($0.99 per cut or $9.99 per album) as reported by the Electric News (http://www.electricnews.net/news.html?code=8829343). The music is available at MP3.com (http://www.mp3.com/), Tower Records (http://www.towerrecords.com), and others. I checked Tower and found the music on the front page. When I checked MP3, I could not find the downloads anywhere even though MP3 is owned by Vivendi.

The Evangelical Environmental Network (http://www.creationcare.org/) have been lobbying Congress and automobile companies for increased gas millage on SUVs. Their project is called What Would Jesus Drive (WWJD http://whatwouldjesusdrive.org/). We are fortunate to live in a country where a statement that may be considered blasphemous does not result in riots and murder as has happened in Nigeria (http://sg.news.yahoo.com/021123/1/34zvx.html). On a lighter note, a Web site that looks at Bible verses and shows specifically what various people drove (http://www.highrock.com/personal/WWJD/).

You have probably heard of TiVo (http://www.tivo.com/). It is a 'tapeless VCR' that can record two programs simultaneously as well as all the things a VCR can do. It records to a hard drive. The Ziff-Davis Extreme Tech pages have a project called roll your own Tivo at http://eletters1.ziffdavis.com/cgi-bin10/flo?y=eSr40EyAyy0HX60sFt0AS . It has the parts list and instructions to turn your PC into a home theater. It may be less expensive than the $400 TiVo price.

The Wireless Ethernet Compatibility Alliance announced a new security standard for Wi-Fi at http://www.weca.net /OpenSection/ReleaseDisplay.asp?TID=4&ItemID=118&StrYear=2002&strmonth=10 . You may have to upgrade your current Wi-Fi products for compatibility.
You may have heard about the Homeland Security Act provision called Total Information Awareness (TIA). A good deal of background information about it can be found at http://www.2600.com/news/display.shtml?id=1411 . It is a Pentagon project led by John Poindexter, a convicted felon in the Iran-Contra matter (conviction overturned on appeal). The TIA

(con't on page 9)

will cross link databases (government and commercial) allowing the government to know your credit records, debts and loans, annual income, IRS records, employment history, divorce records, driving record, Social Security #'s, mail order purchases, any criminal proceedings, gun registrations, civil lawsuits, professional licenses, passport information, military & civil services files, bridge toll records, bank accounts, airline travel records, police/FBI dossiers, surveillance camera files, pay-per-view rentals, video store rentals, Web sites visited, library withdrawals, and schools attended. The Senate passed this measure but all is not lost. By contacting your representative and Senators and stating that you do not want this measure in the bill, the committee that works out the differences between the House and Senate bills can remove it before it goes to the President. Of course, if you don't mind some low-level DoD civilian employee or a buck private looking at your information, do nothing.

Between you, me, and the LampPost - that's all this month.

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting
October 26, 2002
Al Skwara

John Spizzirri called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

There were 39 in members in attendance, and 2 visitors.

The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

The Financial Report for July showed a starting balance of $3,364.82 income of $572 and expenses of $115.39 for a balance of $3,821.43. The Financial Report for August showed a starting balance of $3,821.43 with no income and expenses of $388.53 for a closing balance of $3,432.85. The Financial Report for September showed a starting balance of $3,432.85 income of $188.00 and no expenses for a closing balance of $3,620.85.

Volunteers for the COD show were discussed. Anyone willing to represent the club at the show can get a free admission. The show lets two members in free and the club will reimburse two other members who work at our table. The reimbursement does not happen until the next monthly meeting

Old Business

There was a gold serving spoon left at the picnic.

New Business

There was an announcement that the Chicago Computer society has a special interest group, (SIG), the 1st Monday of the month Computers for Schools. This is a chance to learn about the physical aspects of building a computer. Computers are refurburised and provided to schools. Anyone interested in going would need to leave at 7pm.

Members' Forum addressed several problems that members were having with both hardware and software.

We then had our traditional break with coffee and doughnuts, bagels, and muffins.

There was a CD of the month with many kilobytes of programs.

Raffle items included Math Blaster, Algebra Blaster, Marty and the Trouble with cheese, and Politically correct bedtime stories.

There was a special raffle of three copies Windows XP Professional, three copies Office XP Professional and three copies of Links 2002 for those members that participated in the special survey.

The presentation was made by Scott Mueller the author of Upgrading & Repairing PC's.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Skwara

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 December 7, 2002

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 2002:
Nov/Dec meeting December 7

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2003: January 25, February 22

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

-> Our next meeting will be ~ December 7, meeting presenter will be
Kathy Groce -- StarOffice Suite

Hope to see you there.