

# *User Friendly*



**January  
2003**

## **Next Meeting**

**January 8, 7:30 p.m.**

**Patrick Crispen presenting**

## **The Internet Tourbus**

**Guide to the Most Useful Sites in the World**

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## Palmia Computer Club



**President:** Barry Robbins  
**Vice-President:** Doug Harley  
**Secretary:** Ali Tabikh  
**Treasurer:** Ralph Lazar  
**Webmaster:** Jerry Moore  
**APCUG Rep:** Art Green

### User Friendly

a publication for members of the Palmia Computer Club & the Palmia Community.

Published monthly, January through June, September and October. Combined issues are published July/August and November/December.

**Managing Editor:** Ali Tabikh  
**Technical Editor:** Herbert Sax  
**Advertising Editor:** Joe Lebovitz  
**Editorial Staff:** Joe Lebovitz  
**Lee Okerblom and Ruth Tabikh**  
**Circulation Manager:** Eva Schmidler

### Guidelines

Articles (1) must be submitted to the Managing Editor no later than the 10th day prior to the month of publication; (2) should be no longer than 1,000 to 1,500 words (approximately three columns), although longer articles may be published; (3) may be edited by staff for clarity, spelling and grammar, and should be relevant to its readers. The choice of articles to be included in any issue is solely the prerogative of the Editorial Staff.

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## Computer Club Special Interest Groups

SIGs meet from 3:30 to 5:00 P.M. on the specified Fridays unless noted otherwise:

- 1st Friday** - Computer Hardware .....Richard Jenkins  
(*Notice: New SIG Leader*)
- 2nd Friday** - Email and the Internet .....Jerry Moore
- 3rd Friday** - MS Office (Word, Excel) .....Barry Robbins  
(*Notice: Special Time 4 to 5:30 P.M.*)
- 4th Friday** - Photo Editing & Scanning .....Don Yenche

There is also a "HELP" SIG! This SIG is intended for beginners to answer your basic questions relating to computers (This is not a class). It meets on the first, third and fourth Mondays of each month at 10:00 A.M. The SIG leader is Joe Lebovitz.

## Contacting Board Members and Officers

All Board members and officers are available for help or information via their email addresses as follows:

**Barry Robbins**, President - drdisk@cox.net  
**Doug Harley**, Vice President - dharley01@cox.net  
**Ali Tabikh**, Secretary - alitabikh@cox.net  
**Ralph Lazar**, Treasurer- ralphrhea@juno.com  
**Jerry Moore**, Webmaster - jerryamoore@cox.net  
**Art Green**, APUG Representative - artgrnsr@fea.net.

**User Friendly Newsletter:**  
**Ali Tabikh**, Managing Editor - alitabikh@cox.net  
**Herbert Sax**, Technical Editor - saxsr1@cox.net  
**Joe Lebovitz**, Advertising Editor - jlebov1@aol.com



The Palmia Computer Club meets in the Palmia Ballroom the second Wednesday of each month, except July and August, at 7:30 p.m. The doors open at 6:30 p.m. for Q&A and socializing. For visitors from outside our Palmia community the address is: 21455 Monterey, Mission Viejo, CA 92692. The parking lot is just past the gate on the left side of Monterey. Telephone: 949-472-5075

## Help Wanted

Your User Friendly newsletter needs a back-up, or co-editor, to Ali Tabikh who is not in good health. This fine publication must continue to serve everyone. So many members rely on it to stay up-to-date on computer developments. This is a learning opportunity for someone willing to help as well as a fine way to help the Club. **Please call Ali at 699-1962 or Herbert Sax at 455-1315.**

# From the President's Desk

By Barry Robbins

It is hard to believe that the New Year is here. It seems like just yesterday that we were worried whether or not our computers would be compatible with the new millennium. Here we are 3 years later and we don't even think about that anymore.

As you know we elected four executive officers at the November meeting. This group met, together with Don Yenché, the past president, and the following were selected as your executive officers: Barry Robbins as President, Doug Harley as Vice President, Ali Tabikh as Secretary and Ralph Lazar will continue as Treasurer.

It is my pleasure and honor to again serve as the President of the Palmia Computer Club. I look forward to an exciting and successful year. We have many programs planned for the coming year that should be of interest to all of us regardless of how much experience we have had with computers.

We have more classes planned in both MS Word and MS Excel and a new one for Windows XP. All of our classes are taught by a professional instructor. The fee for these classes is nominal.

Our Special Interest Groups (SIGs) will continue each Friday from 3:30 PM to 5:00 PM with the exception of the third Friday when the SIG will start at 4:00 PM and continue until 5:30 PM. The first Friday, led by Richard Jenkins, will cover computer hardware. The second Friday session will be led by Jerry Moore, and will cover the Internet. On the third Friday I will lead the discussion on Microsoft Office, primarily discussing word processing and spreadsheets. On the fourth Friday of each month, Don Yenché will lead the discussion on scanning and photo editing. If there is a fifth Friday, we will be dark. All of Palmia is welcome, as membership in the Palmia Computer club is not necessary to attend the SIG sessions.

Jerry Moore is willing to train one or two people to assist him on maintaining our website. If you are interested, let Jerry know and I am sure that he would appreciate your assistance. Also, Ali Tabikh is looking for someone to assist him in producing our User Friendly newsletter. He would be

happy to train anyone interested.

If you would like to assist or teach any of our SIG sessions, please let me know, as we could use your help.

This is our club, and we all need to participate to make the organization successful. If you would like to help in any way, either on a one time event or serve on the board as a committee chairperson, let me know as I am sure I can find a task for you.

Programming is a key to the success of our club. If you have any ideas as to the type of programming that you would like or if you know of someone who could make a presentation to us, please let me know and one of the board members will follow up on your recommendation.

Roz and I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a very healthy and happy new year. May this year be everything that you want it to be.

## Goodby Win95, Win3x

Synopsis of article by Fred Langa, InformationWeek

**Fred Langa** bids farewell to Win95 and Win 3x, two operating systems that literally changed the world but will no longer be supported by Microsoft.

On Dec. 31 this year, Windows 95 and Windows 3x will reach what Microsoft calls EOL, or end of life. In short, there'll be no further support, no further patches, updates, or online help available for these products from Microsoft.

It's noteworthy because these products shaped the computing landscape as we now know it. Love them or hate them, Win95 and Win3x had an enormous impact on us all—on everyone who has used any computer, including Macs and Linux boxes, in the last dozen years. In fact, I think Win95 and Win3x were arguably the most important commercial operating system releases ever; and that no future operating system release, ever, will match their impact.

# How to Evaluate Digital Cameras

By Ali Tabikh

*Condensed from "What The Heck's A Megapixel?" By Jennifer Farwell, Smart Computing - November 2002 • Vol.8 Issue 11*

From their first introduction in the early 1990s to the last few years digicams (digital cameras) have evolved. Originally they were viewed as means to create images for the Web, where image quality and size were not major concerns. Now they have achieved sufficient technological advancements to challenge picture qualities of film cameras. Because of their many electronic functions, choosing a digicam can be a minefield for the uninformed. In this article, we will answer the questions that consumers should know when they purchase digicams.

**Q:** A friend has a 1.3-megapixel camera that he is very happy with, but many of the newer cameras are 3 megapixels or higher. What is a megapixel and how many do I need?

**A:** Megapixel is a term, like megabyte, that uses the prefix "mega" to mean one million of something, in this case pixels. Pixels are the smallest parts of a digital image that a computer printer, display, or camera can control. A 1.3-megapixel camera uses approximately 1.3 million pixels to capture and reconstruct the image present in the camera's viewfinder. A 3-megapixel camera uses approximately 3 million pixels to capture the same image. Cameras that use more pixels provide more detail and can replicate more depth of color. A 1.3-megapixel camera will reproduce close-range shots, such as portraits, very well. For distance shots, such as landscapes, you'll be happier with a 2- or 3-megapixel camera.

**Q:** In addition to megapixels, I keep hearing cameras discussed in terms of resolution. Is that different from megapixels?

**A:** Resolution is the total number of pixels in an image, broken down by height and width. Megapixel is a unit of measurement for resolution.

For example, a 1.3-megapixel camera produces an image that measures 1,280 pixels by 960 pixels.  $1,280 \times 960$  equals 1,228,800 pixels, which rounds up to 1.3 megapixels. A 3-megapixel camera produces an image that measures 2,048 x 1,536 pixels (3,145,728 pixels).

**Q:** One camera I looked at has a 3X optical zoom, while another has a 5X digital zoom. What is the difference between optical and digital zoom

and which is better?

**A:** A camera with an optical zoom has a lens that physically moves in and out as you zoom back and forth, just like the zoom lens in a traditional film camera. A digital zoom isn't really a zoom lens at all; it is a software enhancement that enlarges and crops the image you are shooting.

Many digital zoom cameras will reduce the available resolution when you turn on the digital zoom feature (from 2 megapixels to 1, for example). This prevents loss of quality during the enlarging process, but it means your images will be smaller. Other cameras have digital zoom features that don't reduce resolution, which results in over-enlargement and produces images that are grainy or have jaggies, obvious stair-step transitions between colors. Most photography buffs prefer an optical zoom to a digital zoom, even if the zoom factor is lower. Unfortunately, optical zoom cameras are more expensive than digital zoom ones.

Many newer cameras offer both optical and digital zooms: a 2X optical zoom with a 5X digital zoom for a total zoom factor of 10X, for example. This is handy if you often take shots of faraway subjects. Just make sure you can turn off the digital zoom if you don't need it.

**Q:** If I buy enough megapixels to allow for cropping, why get a zoom lens?

**A:** Cameras without a zoom lens are called fixed focal-length cameras; the lens doesn't move and the camera always covers the same angle of view. To change the angle of view, the photographer must move closer to or farther from the subject. In order to provide the broadest range of uses, most fixed focal-length cameras use a slightly wide-angle lens, which means the angle of view covers a wide area. A wide-angle lens works well for distance shots. On close-ups, it tends to produce a slight fishbowl effect, which means that the objects in the center of the image appear larger, while those on the edges appear to be smaller and receding. Consequently, are not the best choice if you frequently take close-up portraits of friends and family.

Zoom lens cameras are more expensive than

**Continued on page 5**

## Evaluate Digital Cameras, continued from page 4

fixed focal-length models but well worth the extra cost. If the camera you are considering has a true optical zoom, you can sacrifice a megapixel if necessary to bring the price down. With a zoom lens, you will be able to move in on your subjects and not lose resolution, so you won't have to perform as much cropping.

**Q:** Digicams offer a variety of storage systems. Are any better or easier to use?

**A:** Most digicams use removable storage devices to store images until you can upload them to your PC. A few low-end cameras have internal storage only; avoid these, as you can't upgrade them. Removable storage devices range from 1.44MB floppy diskettes to 512MB cards about the size of matchbooks.

The most important consideration for memory is how much storage space you'll need. A 32MB CompactFlash card holds about eight uncompressed, 1.3-megapixel images and about three 3-megapixel images. However, you can increase that number considerably by saving your images using JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group) compression, which virtually all digicams support. Just remember that when you increase compression, you reduce quality correspondingly. You can save money up front by purchasing a camera with a small amount of memory. Just plan to spend money down the road on spare storage cards or sticks.

**Q:** I've read that not all digicams use the same technologies. Which technology produces the best quality pictures?

**A:** All digicams use mechanics similar to those of traditional film cameras to let light travel through the lens and onto a receiving medium. However, rather than hitting unexposed film, the light coming through the lens strikes a group of sensors that record the image digitally. The two technologies used for image sensors are CCD (charge-coupled device) and CMOS (complementary metal-oxide semiconductor). CCD chips consume more power and cost more than CMOS sensors, but they produce higher-quality results.

**Q:** I am bewildered by the variety of features and options present in digicams. How do I determine which ones I need?

**A:** Beyond the crucial items discussed already in this article, there are a number of variables that

will affect your enjoyment of your camera.

Some items you should consider are:

**Focus.** Basic digicams offer only fixed focus: the camera is permanently focused from about four feet to infinity. Others offer auto focus, which is preferable to fixed focus. The best option is a manual override that lets you fix the focus by pressing a button and moving the camera to change the view. This is useful if there will be more than two subjects in the image and none are in the center.

**Viewfinder.** Most digicams have an LCD (liquid-crystal display) on the back panel that lets you hold the camera up and see the area you're capturing for posterity. This is a nice feature, but keep in mind that LCDs use more battery power than standard viewfinders.

**Connection method.** Many digicams use a serial connection to transfer images to your computers. Virtually all computers have a serial port, but serial data transfer is slow. If you have an open USB (Universal Serial Bus) port on your computer, you may be happier if your camera is USB-compatible. Some cameras also offer transfers via wireless methods or FireWire connections.

**Shutterbug options.** Digicams now come equipped with many nearly professional-level enhancements, including manual exposure override, burst mode (where several pictures are shot in rapid succession), macro mode (super-close focus), sensitivity settings (which mimic the effect of using different film speeds), self-timer (where the image is taken about 10 seconds after you press the shutter button), and built-in flash with red-eye reduction. Some can also take short video clips.

The most important thing to consider when you begin evaluating options is that features and quality both affect price. You cannot buy an inexpensive camera with numerous bells and whistles and expect it to provide top-quality images. No amount of special effects can compensate for poor photos, so unless you plan to use your shots on the Web only, buy the highest-quality (rather than the most feature-laden) camera you can afford. You can buy a decent camera for \$300 or less, but it won't have a large array of fancy features. You can buy a good camera with lots of features or an excellent camera with a smaller array of features for \$500. Once you head into the \$700 range, you can have numerous features and top quality.

# Use Drawing Toolbar in Word for Emphasis

By Herbert Sax

## Emphasize With a Bracket

There are times when I want to bracket several lines in a document to look like this:

{ This is line one  
This is line two  
This is line three  
This is line four  
This is line five

This line is not to be bracketed.

Creating the bracket is simple. Type a few lines as I have done above and activate the drawing toolbar (click View + Toolbars and check Drawing).

Click the down arrow to the right of AutoShapes. A drop-down menu will appear. Navigate to Basic Shapes and click on the large left curly brace. A drawing box will appear in your window, and the cursor will turn into crosshairs. Ignore the drawing box. Holding down the Shift key draw a brace outside the box the approximate length of the lines you have typed. (The Shift key will enable you to draw a perfectly vertical line.) You don't have to be too accurate – you will adjust the size of the line after you have placed it where you want it.

Right-click the image and click Format Auto-Shape. Click the Layout tab and then on the Square icon. Place the mouse on the image; it will turn into a four-sided arrow. Drag the image to the left of the rows you want bracketed. An alternate to dragging is to use the arrow keys on the keyboard. Select the image by clicking on it, and move it up, down, left, or right until you have it where you want it.

The bracket may be placed outside the document's margin by dragging the drawing box to the left or using the arrow keys as described above. It may also be placed inside the margin, indenting the rows to be emphasized.

If the bracket isn't the right size, click on it. Sizing handles will appear at its top and bottom. Drag the handles up or down until it is the right size.

## Emphasize With a Shape

Do you **Boldface** when you want to empha-

size a word or two? Or use an Underline? Or *Italicize*? Or use a **combination** of all? They all work, but did you know that you can also place a **circle, oval, square or rectangle** around the area you want to bring the reader's attention to? It's pretty simple, but you will have to make a few adjustments or enhancements once the image is drawn.

On the Drawing toolbar click the oval symbol; you will see a drawing box, a Drawing Canvas toolbar, and the cursor will turn into crosshairs. Draw an oval outside the drawing box approximately the size you will want. Right-click the image and click Format Auto-Shape. Click the Layout tab and then on the Behind Text icon.

If you want to fill the oval, click on the Fill Color icon on the Drawing toolbar, select a color, and then Fill Effects if you want the background a bit fancier. Drag the image over the words you want emphasized. If the image doesn't fit the way you want it to, try to select it. If you can't select the image (the text is getting in the way), press the Enter key a few times to expose the image. Adjust it to a better size and remove the extra paragraphs you created when you pressed the Enter key.

Follow the same steps if you want a rectangle instead of an oval.

If you want a circle or square instead, hold down the Shift key when you draw the image.

## Emphasize With an Arrow

The process for creating an arrow is similar to those described above. Click the Arrow icon on the Drawing toolbar, and draw an arrow inside the drawing box. If you want a perfectly horizontal or vertical arrow, hold down the Shift key while you are drawing.

That might be enough for you, but if you want to enhance the appearance of the arrow you have several choices.

Click the Line Style icon and select from a choice of line thicknesses and styles. Next, click the DashStyle icon to select from a variety of dashes; then click the Shadow Style icon to select a shadow

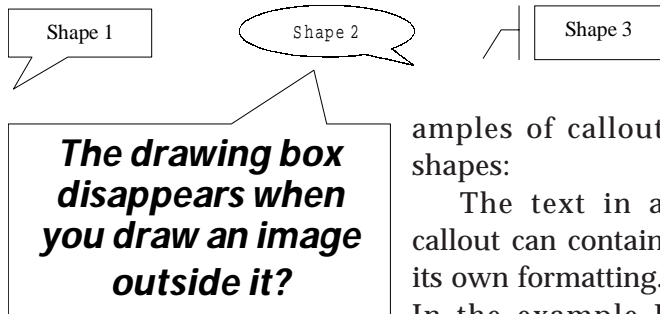


## Emphasis, Continued from page 6

style. Here's what all this will produce for you:

### Emphasize With a Callout

A callout is a box filled with selected text that brings attention to part of your document. It can be almost any shape, and can be placed anywhere in your document. Here are a few ex-



amples of callout shapes: The text in a callout can contain its own formatting. In the example I will use, I have made a larger font, and bold-faced, italicized, and centered it.

Let's use Shape 1 for the first example. Click AutoShapes on the Drawing toolbar, navigate to Callouts, and select the image that looks like Shape 1 above. The cursor will turn into crosshairs (sound familiar?). Draw a callout box outside the drawing box. You will see that each callout shape has some form of an arrow. I will place the callout so the arrow points to some appropriate information. If the arrow doesn't point in the right direction, place the mouse on it and drag it in the direction desired. At the same time you can lengthen it or shorten it. And, by dragging on the sizing boxes you can make the text fit inside the callout.

By the way, have you noticed that the drawing box disappears when you draw an image outside it?

You will see an insertion point inside the callout box. This means that you can start typing. Once you have inserted and formatted the text that will draw attention to an important part of the document, click on the border of the callout and drag it to an appropriate spot in the document.

You can use a text box in a similar way. Click on the Text Box icon on the Drawing toolbar and draw it somewhere in the document. Type and format the attention-getting text. Right-click on the border of the text box, click Format Text Box, choose the Layout tab, and the Square icon. Drag the box in between the two columns. Notice how the text moves over to allow both the document text and the text box to be displayed. Use the arrow keys on the keyboard to better place the text box.

### Emphasize with Highlighting

This one doesn't use the Drawing toolbar, but is very simple and very effective.

#### Select the text you want to highlight.

Click the down arrow to the left of the highlight icon on the Formatting toolbar, select a color and the text will be highlighted. For further emphasis, I have bold-faced the text. If you have a color printer, you can also color the text. Click the down arrow to the right of the Font Color icon and select a color.

### Conclusion

There are lots more to play with, but this will give you a good start to creating more meaningful documents.

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## Murphy's Laws of Computing

Submitted by Norbert Jaruszewski

1. When computing, whatever happens, behave as though you meant it to happen.
2. When you get to the point where you really understand your computer, it's probably obsolete.
3. The first place to look for information is in the section of the manual where you least expect to find it.
4. When the going gets tough, upgrade.
5. For every action, there is an equal and opposite malfunction.
6. To err is human... to blame your computer

for your mistakes is even more human, it is downright natural.

7. He who laughs last probably made a backup.
8. If at first you do not succeed, blame your computer.
9. A complex system that does not work is invariably found to have evolved from a simpler system that worked just fine.
10. The number one cause of computer problems is computer solutions.
11. A computer program will always do what you tell it to do, but rarely what you want to do.

# Thoughtful Lessons

Excerpts by B. Bower reported in *Science News*, November 16, 2002, vol.162

## Training may enhance intellect in elderly

Among physically healthy seniors, advancing age often takes a toll on memory and other mental abilities. There's encouraging news, though, for those who want to boost their brainpower.

A brief training course in any of three domains of thought - memory, reasoning, or visual concentration yields marked improvement on tests of these cognitive skills, according to the largest geriatric study to date of these instructional techniques. The enhancement lasts for at least 2 years.

"Improvements in memory, problem-solving, and concentration following training roughly counteracted the degree of cognitive decline that we would expect to see over a 7-to-14-year period among older people without dementia," says psychologist Karlene Ball of the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Ball and her colleagues report their findings in the Nov. 13 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.

It's not yet clear whether training-induced effects translate into improved thinking in everyday situations, cautions Ball.

In their study, the scientists recruited 2,832 men and women, ages 65 to 94. They came primarily from senior-housing sites, community centers, and medical facilities in six urban regions of the United States. Participants were in good health and living independently.

These volunteers were randomly assigned to one of three training groups or a control group that didn't receive any training. One course of instruction focused on ways to improve memory for word lists and stories. Another bolstered reasoning in problems analogous to daily tasks such as reading a bus schedule. A third coached participants to identify visual information quickly in computer displays that corresponded to challenges such as reading traffic signs while driving.

Each training course consisted of 10 roughly hour-long sessions over 5 to 6 weeks. Most who completed training received a refresher set of four training sessions 11 months later.

Immediately after the first round of sessions,

26 percent of memory-trained participants, 74 percent of reasoning-coached volunteers, and 87 percent of those instructed in visual concentration showed substantial improvement on the targeted skill. While most members of the no-training group showed no change or decline, a small number improved as much as those who had received training.

The proportion of trained participants scoring markedly above their starting value dipped slightly over the next 2 years but remained greater than the proportion of untrained volunteers who upped their performance similarly. Refresher sessions enhanced training-induced gains in reasoning and visual concentration but not in memory.

"I think we can build on these results to see how training ultimately might be applied to tasks that older people do everyday, such as using medication or handling finances," comments psychologist Richard M. Suzman of the National Institute on Aging in Bethesda, Md.

## Tips and Tidbits

By Barry Robbins

### Improve Your Image

When using Windows Explorer to view image files in Filmstrip mode, you can press F11 to maximize the view. This gets rid of the Windows Explorer window outline, toolbar, and Folders panel, as well as the Taskbar that's normally at the bottom of your screen, and leaves you with a barebones toolbar and a much larger view of the image files. To return to the normal view, press F11 again.

### Drag Start Menu Items

If there are shortcut icons on your Desktop that you'd like to add to the Start menu, click and drag the icon to the Start button. When you click the Start button, you should see the icon. Likewise, if there's an icon on the Start menu you want to move or get rid of, drag it to the location you prefer. If you want to get rid of a shortcut icon entirely, drag it to the Recycle Bin.

### Copying Text from Microsoft Internet Explorer

When you need to copy text from IE into a word processor, you simply select the text and press **Ctrl**

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## Tips, Continued from page 8

+ C. Next, you move to the word processor and press Ctrl + V to paste the text. The alternative way is to highlight the text, right mouse click, click copy, place cursor in Word document, right click, then click paste. I find the second method quicker.

If your word processor recognizes all the web formatting (as MS Word does), you can paste with the formatting intact. If you want to lose the formatting, you can paste first into Notepad and then copy the Notepad contents and paste that into the word processor.

### Working with the Address Book

The standard Outlook Express address book is more versatile than ever before. For example, you can now add new folders to the address book. This helps you keep your business contacts and personal contacts separated. You can create a separate folder for family members, or members of a club or professional group.

To create a new folder, run Outlook Express and click Addresses. When the Address Book opens, choose File | New Folder. Name your new folder and then add the necessary E-mail addresses. Note that you can drag addresses from existing folders to a new folder.

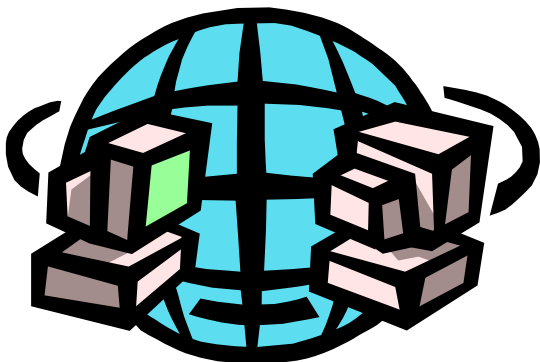
### Cleaning Up Your History

If you'd like to cover your tracks after a session on the Internet, you need to try iSystem Wiper. This program will remove the history of your activities from the computer.

iSystem Wiper will clear out your History folder, delete the contents of your Temporary Internet Files folder, delete the cookies, and clear your Run list and your Windows Media Player Recent.

The URL to download this software is:

<http://nn101.virtualave.net/clean.html>



## Web Surfer

By Ali Tabikh

If you are like me, feeling nostalgic for music of our youth, long gone, help is here at hand.

National Public Radio has put out a public, on-going Quest for Sound, at [www.npr.org/programs/Infsound/](http://www.npr.org/programs/Infsound/) It has so far posted a wealth of sound recordings, including, for instance, a reading of the Gettysburg Address by a man who witnessed it as a child, to a woman singing a lullaby in an extinct South African language called Kukasi, to a woman recording her worries about her husband during World War II.

Have you lost anything? If you lose your keys, wallet, or even your pet, here are a couple of web sites with plenty of good Samaritans ready to help. Lost and Found: [www.lostandfound.com/](http://www.lostandfound.com/), for example. It's easy to report an item missing or found. Simply click on the appropriate icon, fill out a short Web form, and post. Then the item seeker can scroll items by category, which are in turn listed by date. If an item looks promising, simply click on the magnifying glass next to it for contact information. Plenty of lost pets are reported here, but another good spot to try is Lost and Found Pets USA [www.lostandfoundpet.com/](http://www.lostandfoundpet.com/), where you select your state and city, and, hopefully, you will find your missing dog, cat, or noisy parrot.

If you're surfing the web and not sure what you're looking for, but you'll know it when you see it, visit Neat New Stuff on the Web [marylaine.com/neatnew.html](http://marylaine.com/neatnew.html), a weekly collection of interesting, useful, and fun non-commercial sites compiled by Marylaine Block, a busy librarian from Davenport, Iowa. Here are some of her interesting listings: the Human Nature Daily Review, a portal that collects articles and other information on behavior from newspapers, magazines and journals [app.consumerguide.com/](http://app.consumerguide.com/), the World Wide Biomed Project, an integrated biology and computer project for students [human-nature.com/nibbs/](http://human-nature.com/nibbs/), and if you are looking for an out-of-the-way rare book, record, or antique store [www2.kpr.edu.on.ca/cdcivilbioxnes/](http://www2.kpr.edu.on.ca/cdcivilbioxnes/).

# Another Virus Caution

Submitted by Barry Robbins

*From the Ultimate Update Newsletter*

## BEWARE OF THE KLEZ WORM!!

If you use email often then you've probably heard of the "KLEZ Worm" viruses. We hope you have been lucky enough to avoid these nasty cyber intruders that rob system resources and destroy your files. This issue of the Update should help you know what to look for to make sure you don't get infected!



The virus has been around for quite a while and it is the most reported virus in existence today. Obviously, once you get a variation of the KLEZ Worm on your computer you will need to use anti-virus software to remove/quarantine the virus. In this issue, we wanted to alert you to the most recent subject lines that have been detected in e-mails distributing the KLEZ Worm.

Even if you know someone, we suggest that you avoid all e-mails with the following subject lines. If you think the e-mail may be legitimate, e-mail your friend prior to opening the suspected message to make sure they actually sent it to you.

### Recent KLEZ Worm Distribution Subject Lines

- How are you?
- Can you help me?
- We want peace
- Where will you go?
- Don't drink too much
- Your password
- Don't cry
- Look at the pretty
- Some advice on your shortcoming
- Welcome to my hometown
- Why don't you reply to me?
- How about have dinner with me together?
- Eager to see you
- Never kiss a stranger

If you see these subject lines in your e-mail box (even from your best friend) be careful and make sure the e-mail is not a KLEZ Worm!!

# Compaq Service

*An Unsolicited Endorsement*

By Herbert Sax

The other day I was getting ready to make a budget presentation to our community. With great confidence I loaded my laptop with the Power Point file I had prepared and headed down to the Clubhouse. But alas, my laptop wouldn't work. Even though the problem was battery-related, I couldn't even get it to start with the power plugged in. Fortunately I was able to use one of the Computer Club's desktop computers and all went well.

When I got home I called Compaq. I spoke to a very nice lady who actually didn't accuse me of doing something wrong. Surprise, surprise! She guided me through a possible fix and told me to call back if it didn't work. Total time on the telephone: ten minutes from beginning to end. Unfortunately, the fix didn't work so I called back, this time talking to a different service representative. He had my file in front of him, knew exactly what the problem was, asked me a few questions, and told me he was going to send me a new battery. Telephone time: five minutes! This was on a Tuesday. I asked him how long he thought it would be before I got it, and he said two or three days. The next morning UPS showed up with a brand new replacement battery. I installed it and my laptop runs like a charm.

How is this experience different from others I have encountered? First, the rep assumed I was competent. That was refreshing. Second, the rep recognized that computers and their parts occasionally fall apart before their appointed times (usually two days after the warranty runs out), and gave me credit for trying everything before calling them. Third, they made a replacement without a fuss. And fourth, I didn't have to spend the better part of my life waiting to talk to a rep.

I know there are many brands out there, and they are probably very close in quality and price. But I will go with the company that provides topnotch service every time. In the long run it saves me a lot more than the few pennies I might save with a company that doesn't have the sterling reputation for service that Compaq exhibited. I like smiling rather than frowning.

# Tech Mart

## Guess What This Is



If you think this is just another watch read on.

**Suunto's XS HR** ushers in a new era for the most advanced wrist instruments in the world. A new, easy to use, menu-based interface borrowed from cell phone design makes accessing the X6 HR's many features an enjoyable and speedy experience. Computer download ability preserves your outdoor experiences for improved training and performance analysis, while the new Suunto transmitter belt serves as a heart rate monitor, measuring your heart rate throughout the duration of your adventure.

Features include:

The X6 HR's accurate altimeter measures your vertical performance when trail running, hiking, biking, trekking, or climbing.

The X6 HR barometer measures pressure and temperature. A built in storm alarm alerts you to sudden pressure drops - a sign of a rapid impending weather change.

Read slope steepness in degrees or percent to

analyze the potential challenge of steep terrain, The compass displays in one degree resolution and is an essential safety device for hiking and other backcountry travel.

HR owners can keep a training diary of their hikes, trail runs, or biking outings; view and analyze their performance on the PC with customized graphs; and generate reports linking pictures and texts to the hiking profile, for a lasting record of one's adventures.

SuuntoSports.com, a new forum where mountain enthusiasts can meet and share information on the trips they've made and the places they enjoy.

Other features include sophisticated watch functions with a practical sport chronometer with lap and split measurements, calendar clock pre-programmed to the year 2089 with three daily alarms, and dual time display.

Suggested MSRP of SuLnto@ X6 HR is \$429.00.

## Robo-Vac Is Finally Here

Eureka wowed us three years ago with a robotic vacuum that not only swept the floors clean but was smart enough (thanks to radar) to avoid furniture and walls ['Best of What's New,' Dec. '99].

That device is now shipping in Europe, but there are still no U.S. plans. Now there's another option: irobot's Roomba Intelligent FloorVac isn't as sophisticated,

but at just 4 inches high it can slip under most beds and sofas. And its edge brush, which handily passed our impromptu mashed-Cheerio test, gets at the

dirt right up against the wall. The Roomba runs for 90 minutes on one charge, long enough to clean two 16- by 20-foot rooms. Price: \$199.

<[www.irobot.com](http://www.irobot.com)>



# Secretary's Message

By Marlene Bergman, for William Reinholtz



Our President, Don Yenché, brought the the November 13, 2002 meeting to order.

Gary Gruenewald reminded us that our December 11th social will be a lot of fun and tickets must be purchased by December 6<sup>th</sup> to insure that we will have enough food for all that attend. Don Yenché added that we will have dancing after dinner.

Our Vice President, Richard Jenkins, gave accolades to all who have contributed so much to the computer club during the past year. He especially thanked our President, Don Yenché, for an outstanding job. He hopes that our new Board will follow up to keep our organization great. Don remarked that it is difficult to find new officers. The nominations for our new executive board are as follows:

Doug Harley, Barry Robbins, Ralph Lazar and Ali Tabikh. Don asked if there were any other nominations. There were none. The above nominations were seconded and passed. Don also

pointed out the virtues of the computer club and the hard working members responsible.

Our Vice President, Richard Jenkins, gave a short background about our speaker for the evening, Pamela Swartwood, from PriceGrabber.com. He then introduced her to the club. The topic was "Comparison Shopping on The Net". Pamela gave us a wonderful overview of the advantages of shopping on the net.

Don reviewed our SIG group subjects given each Friday at 3:30. He also reminded us that we will have an instructor from Saddleback teaching the use of an Internet Website Maker called "Dream Weaver". The class will begin on Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 and will be for 4 hours. The fee for the class will be \$25.00.

Chris Wiley conducted our 50/50 drawing and won \$20.00. Five members won PriceGrabber.com t-shirts. Don presented Pamela with a t-shirt from the Palmia Computer Club in appreciation for her informative talk.

Don adjourned the meeting and invited all of us to enjoy coffee and sweets.



## Another Virus Alert

Barry Robbins has just received this in from a reliable source: It seems that there is a virus out called the Senile Virus that even the most advanced programs from Norton cannot take care of...so be warned. It appears to affect those of us who were born before 1950!

Symptoms of Senile Virus:

1. Causes you to send the same e-mail twice.
2. Causes you to send blank e-mail.
3. Causes you to send e-mail to the wrong person.
4. Causes you to send e-mail back to the person who sent it to you.
5. Causes you to forget to attach the attachments.
6. Causes you to hit "SEND" before you've finished.

## January Program

Our January program will feature Patrick Crispen, an academic technology consultant for the Faculty Development Center at California State University.

His presentation will be on **The Internet TOURBUS Guide** to the Most Useful Sites in the World.

Don't miss this program it will be of great interest to all of us.

