

# *User Friendly*



**March  
2002**

**Next Meeting  
Wednesday, March 13, 7:30 p.m.  
Program of Questions & Answers on  
Internet, Quicken, MS Word, MS Excel,  
Windows and Family Tree Maker**

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### *User Friendly*

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Computer Club & the Palmia Community.*

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# From the Boardroom

by Don Yenche



If you missed our club's February meeting you missed one of the most enlightening sessions our members experienced. Dana Berkoski brought us important insights into Microsoft's latest Operating System: Windows XP. This OS does more for the user that any other product Microsoft has produced. There is one important feature it possesses - stability! You can check out the new OS when you buy your new computer system or upgrade your present system. A week after the meeting, I spoke to one of our fellow members who informed me that after the meeting he purchased the XP upgrade at Costco. He said it was a breeze to upgrade his Windows 98. He was elated with its performance.

Our attendance at that meeting was well over half our club's membership of 215 members. Sorry if you missed it.

Let's look ahead to what we have planned for our March meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Many of our members have enjoyed the Question and Answer period we recently implemented before our club meetings. There have been many suggestions that we begin this Q&A earlier in the evening. We are going one better: the entire March meeting will be devoted to Q&A's.

When you enter the ballroom on the 13<sup>th</sup>, setup will be differ-

ent than you have been accustomed to in prior meetings. There will be six Stations set up around the ballroom. These Stations will be devoted to the most commonly used software. The leaders will address your questions as briefly and as understandably as possible. The reason for emphasizing the briefness is for the leaders to be able to answer as many questions as possible.

The Stations will be as follows:

1. INTERNET - Jerry Moore
2. QUICKEN - Hal Zeschmann
3. MS WORD - Herbert Sax
4. FAMILY TREE MAKER (Genealogy) -Bertha O'Gara
5. MS EXCEL - Doug Harley
6. WINDOWS - Barry Robbins

There will be a seventh Station in the Crafts/Computer Room that will be devoted to Adobe Photoshop.

Here is how we are going to handle the Q&A's. As you pick up your name badge prior to the meeting's start at 7:30 PM, you will be given a 3x5 card. If you have a computer question write it clearly and then hand it to the leader at the relevant station.

Those of you who are Mac users have not been slighted at our meetings. Consider this: at our January meeting we demonstrated TurboTax which has a dual operating system application. Six out of the seven software packages that will be demonstrated in March will operate on both Operating Systems. We anticipate seeing Mac users as well as PC users at this session.

**Continued on page 9**

# Create Form Letters in Word

by Herbert Sax

In the January 2002 issue of User Friendly I showed you how to create a table in Word. In February we used the data in that table to create mailing labels, using both Microsoft Office XP and Office 2000. In this issue I will take you one step further and show you how to use that same data to create form letters. We will be using Office XP, but the procedure is similar in Office 2000. Below is the table we created in January.

First	Last	Address	City	State	ZIP	Tel #
Mary	Abel	50 Elm St.	Ames	IA	50010	(800) 555-5555
Nate	Bollard	2150 17 <sup>th</sup> St.	New York	NY	10000	(212) 222-2222
Henry	Crane	50 San Pablo	Mission Viejo	CA	92692	(949) 457-1234
Barbara	Eller	Box 4567S	Syosset	NY	11791	(516) 111-1111
Harry	Howell	75 Main St.	Ames	IA	50011	(888) 888-8888
Frank	Jones	15 Oak Place	Chicago	IL	60001	(303) 888-8888
John	Jones	123 Main St.	Mission Viejo	CA	92692	(949) 455-1234
Mitchell	Maxwell	74 Los Alisos	Mission Viejo	CA	92692	(949) 699-8989
Shirley	Sommers	100 Main St.	Los Angeles	CA	90017	(213) 123-4567
James	Willer	Rte. 17, Box C	Corinth	MS	44444	(723) 619-9999

Reproduce the above table and save it with the name “Sample Addresses”. To make retrieving it simple, save it on your desktop. Now start a new document, press Enter to insert a blank line at the top, and type the following letter:

*It was good seeing you the other day, (first name). Please let me know if (tel #) is still your current telephone number.*

*Sincerely,*

You will be automatically inserting an address block that contains the recipient’s first and last name, address, state, city, and ZIP code. You will then be inserting a greeting that contains the recipient’s first name. The body of the letter will contain the recipient’s first name and telephone number. You will later delete the words in parentheses. OK, let’s get started.

Click Tools, navigate down to Letters and Mailings, and click Mail Merge Wizard. Instructions will appear in a window on the right side of the document. Follow these steps:

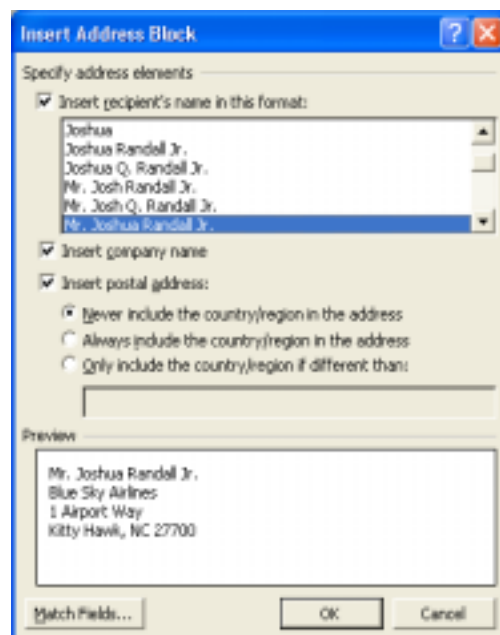
**Select document type:** there are several choices. The top one is Letters, and it should already be selected – there will be a black dot in the radio button next to it. Now, we’ll follow the instructions.

**Step 1 of 6 – Click Next: Starting document.** Here you will be asked how you want to set up

your letter. You will choose “Use the current document”.

**Step 2 of 6 – Click Select recipients.** We will use an existing list – the table you just created. Click “Browse” to find that list. Look for it on your desktop. Select it and click “Open”, and then OK.

**Step 3 of 6 – Click Write your letter.** You have already written your short two sentence letter, so you don’t have to write it again. You do, however, have to insert the address block which will contain the recipient’s name and address. Click “Address block”. You will see window below.

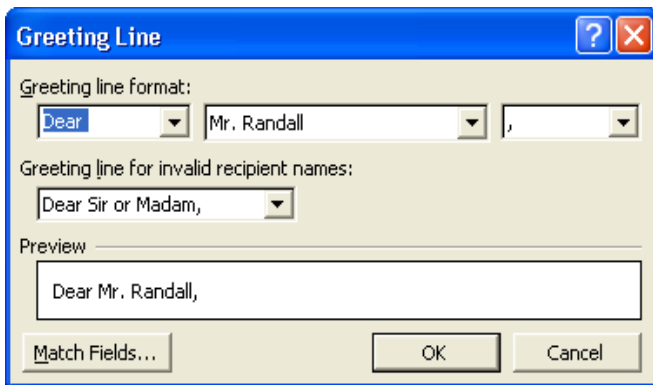


### Create Form Letters, continued from page 3

Here you are given a choice of how you want to display the recipient's name, whether or not to insert a company name, and whether or not you want to insert the country into the address block. The preview window shows you what the address block will look like. If you don't like it, you can manually choose the fields you want from the address table you created. When you click OK, you will see the following field entered just above the body of your text.

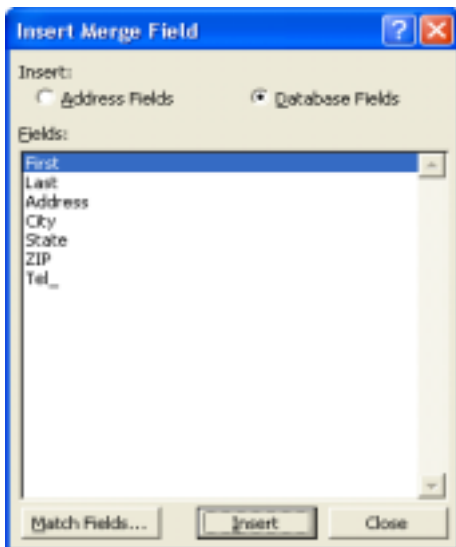
««AddressBlock»»

Press Enter twice to add two blank lines, then click "Greeting line". Here is what you'll see:



Choose the greeting line of your choice, click OK, and press Enter twice. You are now ready to insert fields for first name and telephone number.

First, delete "(first name)" from the letter, but leave the insertion point in place. Click "More items". The dialog box will show you all the fields in your table. Make sure that First is selected and click "Insert", then "Close".



Now, delete "(tel #)", again leaving the insertion point in place. Click "More items" and this time select "Tel\_". Click "Insert" and "Close" to bring you back to the letter. Notice that two fields have been inserted, one for First Name and the other for Telephone.

**Step 4 of 6: Preview your letters.** If you don't like the choices you have made, go to the previous step and start again. In the letter I prepared, I did not leave a space after "day," and <<First>>. To correct this, I placed the insertion point after the comma, and pressed the spacebar.

**Step 5 of 6: Complete the merge.** We are now ready to print or edit individual letters. Click Print and you are on your way.

**Step 6 of 6: Previous - Preview your letters.** This last step gives you yet another opportunity to step back in time and change what you have done.

Here is the end result of the first letter:

Mary Abel  
50 Elm St.  
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Mary,

*It was good seeing you the other day, Mary. Please let me know if (800) 555-5555 is still your current telephone number.*

*Sincerely,*

This is a great tool to use when you need a form letter, but want to personalize it. Try it. You'll like it ☐

## Work Station Problem Reports

If you encounter any hardware or software malfunction in a given workstation in the Computer Room, please use the problem reports now being kept in the room. Fill out a form, giving the information indicated below and leave it in the folder so that we may make the needed corrections.

**TODAY'S DATE :**

**WORK STATION NUMBER :**

**PROBLEM BEING REPORTED :**

# Six Ways to Move to Windows XP

By Gene Barlow

Copyrighted February 2002

During the past few months, I've seen a growing interest among user groups members to adopt the Windows XP operating system. Questions about how to move to Windows XP are coming up more and more in user group meetings. This article briefly describes the six ways to move to Windows XP, so that you can determine which would best suit your personal needs.

**Families of Operating Systems:** For the past several years, Microsoft has offered two families of operating systems to use on personal computers. For the home user, they provided the Windows 95/98/Me family of operating system. This operating system has included five major versions over the years — Windows 95, Windows 95B, Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition, and Windows Millennium. While it may sound like these are several different operating systems, in fact, they are different releases of the same operating system with different names.

While end-users were using the Windows 95/98/Me operating system, businesses were getting to know the Windows NT operating system. This operating system included six different versions over the years — Windows NT, Windows NT2, Windows NT3, Windows NT4, Windows 2000, and Windows XP. While Windows XP comes packaged two different ways - a Home Edition and a Professional Edition - they are both the same operating system with slightly different features to meet the needs of their intended audiences.

Microsoft has told us that Windows Me was the last version of the home operating system that they will release and that Windows 95/98/Me users are expected to move to the new Windows XP operating system for the most recent version of Windows. All future personal computer operating systems put out by Microsoft will be based on the Windows XP system we now have. This has prompted many users to take a close look at Windows XP and to determine when and how they will move to this new operating system version.

**Six Ways to Windows XP:** A look at the documentation that comes with Windows XP will iden-

tify one or two ways to take when moving to XP. Upon closer inspection, there are actually three approaches that you can take to move to Windows XP, plus a couple of options on each of these three approaches to give you a total of six ways to get to Windows XP. Let's briefly review the three main approaches and then look at the two options that make up these six ways to Windows XP.

The first way to move to Windows XP is also the easiest way to get there — buy a new computer with Windows XP already installed on it. This saves you the expense and effort to upgrade your current computer to a level that will support Windows XP. It also saves you from installing the new operating system on your computer. All of this is taken care of for you by the computer manufacturer. Microsoft has stated that they expect 90% of their users to take this first approach.

The second approach to getting to Windows XP is to purchase a Windows XP upgrade package from your software dealer and to install it on your computer replacing your current operating system. When you are done, you will have Windows XP on your computer and your old operating system will be gone. I find this approach a bit risky and do not recommend it to most users. If anything should happen while you are installing Windows XP, you might end up with a bad installation of XP and you may also destroy your old operating system in the process. Select this option only if you have taken a full backup of your entire system before starting the installation.

The third approach is to purchase a Windows XP upgrade package from your software dealer and to install Windows XP on your hard drive, side-by-side with your old operating system. When you are done, you have both your old operating system and your new Windows XP system on your computer. This approach takes a little more disk space to run and some partitioning utilities to set up the hard drive, but it is by far the safest way to move to Windows XP. You will also find that some of your hardware and software may not run at first under Windows XP. This side-by-side ap-

## **Six Ways, continued from page 5**

proach gives you the ability to continue to run these hardware devices and applications on your old operating system until you can get them to also work on Windows XP. Therefore, you can migrate your system slowly from the old operating system to Windows XP and still have all of your system working on one operating system or the other.

Each of these three main approaches has two sub-options to choose from - a Clean install or an Upgrade install. This refers to how closely you connect to your applications and settings on your old operating system. A Clean install is a total replacement of your operating system with little connections to your past operating system. You will need to re-install all of your applications on your new XP system and then select all of your application settings again after they are installed. This approach may take a bit more work, but it promises you the most efficient system after you complete the installation.

The Upgrade install retains as many links to your old applications and settings as it can. It is sort of a merging of the new Windows XP operating system with your old operating system, so that when you are done, your applications will run just the same as they did on your old system. While this may appear to be the easiest to do, it may take you longer overall to take this option. Not all of your applications will work under Windows XP and you may need to spend a great deal of time testing out your applications to make sure they work properly on XP.

**Which Way is Best for You:** At first, all of these six ways may sound like they should work for you. Actually, it is a bit more difficult than that. Here are some guidelines to help you decide which of the six ways to move to Windows XP is actually the best one for you to follow.

One of the first things to determine is if your computer hardware is powerful enough to support Windows XP. The Windows XP operating system is a robust and stable operating system, but it demands a more powerful computer to run on. As a rule of thumb, if you purchased your computer in the past two years, then it will probably handle Windows XP without too many equipment upgrades. If it is older than two years, then the cost to make many upgrades to the computer may offset the cost of purchasing a new computer in-

stead. Take a close look at your computer hardware to make sure it has the following equipment on it:

- 300 Mhz Processor
- 256 MB RAM
- 1.5 GB of Available Hard Drive Space

If your old computer is not up to these minimum specifications, then you need to buy what is needed to bring your computer up to this minimum level. The cost to do this may help you determine whether to spend your money upgrading an old computer or purchasing a new computer instead.

If you purchase a new computer, you may be able to use most of your external devices on the new computer. For example, your display and printer may work just fine on your new computer, thus saving the cost to replace these devices, too. To be sure that your devices will work on your new Windows XP system, you can download a free tool from the Microsoft website and run it on your current system. This tool is called the Windows XP Upgrade Advisor. After you run the Upgrade Advisor on your current (non-Windows XP) system, you will know which of your devices may not work under Windows XP without obtaining new drivers for them.

The next consideration you need to make is whether your applications will run on Windows XP or not. If you currently run an earlier version of Windows NT or Windows 2000 and your applications work ok on that operating system, then there is a good probability they will also run under Windows XP. If you are using a release of the Windows 95/98/Me operating system family, then some of your current applications may not work unless they are re-installed or new versions of them have been obtained and installed. Low-level utility software is almost certain not to run on Windows XP without a new release of the utility. The Windows XP Upgrade Advisor mentioned above should also tell you which of your applications will work on XP and which ones may not work for you. This information is good to know in advance so that you can be prepared by obtaining the latest versions before you install Window XP.

**Tools to Help you Move to XP:** Perhaps the best tool you can use to help you move to Windows XP operating system is PartitionMagic by

## Six Ways, continued from page 6

PowerQuest Corporation. Version 7 of this excellent partitioning utility is designed to work with Windows XP as well as other common operating systems. PartitionMagic will let you create multiple primary partitions in which to install your new operating system. With the BootMagic utility, which comes as a part of the PartitionMagic package, you can switch between your new Windows XP system and your older operating system as mentioned in the third approach above. This is one tool that will make the process of moving to Windows XP so much easier for you to accomplish. Don't attempt this move without PartitionMagic.

The second tool that you should have is Drive Image v5, which also works with Windows XP. Making changes to your operating system is a serious undertaking that you don't want to attempt without a full backup of your current system before you start to install Windows XP. Drive Image is one of the best backup utilities on the market and one that you really need to have to accomplish this project of moving to Windows XP.

Finally, I have just completed an educational CD entitled, "Discovering your Hard Drive" that contains all of the detail steps of these six ways to move to Windows XP. This CD will guide you through the steps of each of these six approaches, besides providing many additional topics to help you better understand and organize your hard drive. This information is difficult to find in other sources and many of the ideas covered on the CD are only found in this one source. This is a must to

help you get to Windows XP.

**How to Order Products:** User group members and guests can order PartitionMagic v7, Drive Image v5, and the "Discovering your Hard Drive" CD at a significant discount off the list price of these products. PartitionMagic and Drive Image have a list price of \$69.95 each, but the user group price for these excellent utilities is only \$35 each. That's the best price you will find on these quality products. Likewise, the "Discovering your Hard Drive" CD is available to user group members and others for only \$20. With a \$5 shipping fee, the total price for these three items is only \$95 delivered to your door.

To order the products, access our secure web site at [www.ugr.com/order](http://www.ugr.com/order) and complete the order form. Enter the special price code of UGEM02 on the form where required. You can use your VISA, MASTERCARD, or Discover Card to purchase the items or complete the form and mail it with your check or Money Order. As soon as we receive your order, we will ship it via US Priority Mail and your products should arrive at your door in less than a week's time. If you are not happy with your products, you may return them within 30 days for a full refund of their purchase price.

I hope this has helped you think about when you need to move to Windows XP and how to do it. I plan to write other such technical articles in the future that you can watch for. Thank you for your interest in hard drives and PowerQuest's products □

# MICROSOFT SECURITY and PRIVACY ISSUES

By Art Green

At last month's regular meeting on February 13th, Microsoft's newest XP Operating System (OS) was presented and demonstrated to our Club. The Microsoft presenter did an excellent job in promoting the product, and trying to get us to migrate to this new OS, if it were not already installed on our personal computers. During the Q & A period, one of our members queried the MS presenter about recently published articles that have been appearing in the various media, concerning the critical software security flaws found in MS XP, Internet Explorer (IE) and their 2000 SQL and

Commerce Servers. The MS presenter admitted that there were some recently discovered deficiencies within these systems, and that MS was in the process of issuing "patches" to fix the problems. The actual potential for personal harm was not known at the time.

In two major articles published on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, it was revealed that MS had just released three critical software patches to plug the "holes" found in XP, IE and the noted servers.

Included also was the possible warning that MS Outlook and Outlook Express e-mail programs

# Web Surfer

By Jerry Moore

Are you getting tired of all those pop-up windows that are constantly flooding you with advertisements while you're surfing the web? With all the dot com financial problems that have occurred over the last two years, I can understand why many Internet companies are desperate for revenue, but the intrusiveness of these ads has really gotten out of hand.

Fortunately, there is a solution and it's



This free software program available from <http://www.panicware.com> offers a simple, easy to use solution. The program is not yet certified for use with Windows XP, but I have been using it for several months on a PC running XP and have not encountered any problems.

The first step is to download the 426KB install program named PopUpStopper26.exe to your Windows Desktop or any other folder on your hard drive that you prefer. Then double-click on the install program to begin the installation process.

After the program installs itself, the first window you will see is the Welcome window.

This window will remind you to hold down the Ctrl or Shift key when clicking a link with your mouse if you want to temporarily disable the Pop-UpStopper.

Next, you will see the StartUp window that reminds you that you can also enable and disable Pop-UpStopper by double-clicking the system tray icon.



You can also bring up a menu to see if the program is running by right-clicking on the system tray icon as shown below.



If you select preferences from this menu, you can also control how aggressive you want the program to be in blocking pop up windows and if you would like a sound or visual cue when a pop up is being blocked.



Don't forget to delete the install program when you're finished. That's all for this month. Happy surfing!

## HELP NEEDED

To deliver PCC User Friendly newsletter. If you live on one of the following streets:  
**Alanya, Astoria, Canea, Cythera, Serreta**  
or **Terraco**, please volunteer to help by calling  
Eva at 462-3114.

## From the Boardroom, continued from page 2

You all owe it to yourself to take advantage of this learning experience.

The center area of our ballroom directly in front of the stage will have several tables to accommodate those of you who wish to enjoy an iced soft drink and snacks. We will maintain our tradition by concluding the meeting no later than 9:00 PM by inviting you to indulge in a cup of Starbucks coffee and savor a delicious desert.

We will resume our brief Question and Answer session prior to our April meeting when two club members will answer questions. This Q&A period will only last from 7 to 7:30 PM. Then our formal meeting will begin.

Finally, we will continue to educate through our Special Interest Groups. See the schedule of days and times by monitoring our exit gates boards.

SURF OUR WEB SITE AT:

[<www.Palmia.org>](http://www.Palmia.org)

## Hacking

By John Okerblom

There is one method of hacking I have become aware of. This is not a theoretical example, but the one used to knock Gibson Research off the Internet. This explanation is a little technical but you may realize that it can be used to cause your computer to do almost anything, for almost any reason.

This technique uses IRC (Internet Relay!Chat). This is an Internet standard for "chat" programs, much like AOL's proprietary "Instant Messages." It is very popular with people under 30 years old. It works like this:

Somewhere on the Internet, someone sets up an IRC server. This is a computer running IRC software that orchestrates the chat sessions. Each user runs, on their own machines, chat "client" software. Those that I have seen generally require the user to choose a currently unused nickname and present them with a list of chat "rooms" after they connect. This simply means that any messages they type in will be routed, by the IRC server, to those who have chosen the same "room," for all in that room to see.

Continued on page 11 9

## Tech Mart

### Cruise With Your Entire CD Collection

On your next trip, leave that cumbersome CD case behind. The e. Digital Treo 10 portable digital jukebox ([www.edigital-store.com](http://www.edigital-store.com)) can store up to 150 hours of music (approximately 3,000 songs) on a 2.5-inch, IOGB hard drive. At only .77" x 4.63" x 3.03", the lightweight device is one of the smallest of its kind on the market. It supports both MP3 and Windows Media audio formats and is fully upgradeable. The manufacturer estimates the battery will last for six hours between charges. The player comes with Koss portable stereo earphones, an AC adaptor/charger, a carrying case, a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, and MusicMatch Jukebox software and e.Digital Music Explorer software for music and file management □



### Good News For Mac Converts

As an increasing number of PC users consider the switch to Macintosh, Virtual PC 5.0 from Connectix ([www.connectix.com](http://www.connectix.com)) may be the needed push to make them true converts. The software enables a user to install and run multiple PC operating systems on a Macintosh, including Microsoft, Linux, or IBM. This allows a user to run any Windows, DOS, or Linux software just like it would run on a PC. This new version of Virtual PC is receiving rave reviews - some critics even report that it allows PC operating systems to run smoother on a Mac than on a PC. New features - including support of Mac OS 9 and Mac OS X in one application, multiprocessor support in Mac OS X, virtual switch in Mac OS X to a network between Virtual PCs running on the same Mac, undoable drive images, ability to back out of any Windows session, and more - are combined with a "snapper" user-friendly interface □



## Microsoft Security, continued from page 7

could also be affected. The vulnerability in these applications could allow hackers to obtain user names, passwords, credit card info, and possibly do even a greater amount of damage. Of course, the risk of attack is always greater if your Internet access is via Cable or DSL modem, rather than a dial-up network connection.

The pros and cons of Microsoft having acted improperly in the release of XP with known defects will not be the subject of any determination here. Suffice it to say, that a much better job could have been done in the marketing and release of this product. There is no question in my mind that major lessons have been learned, unfortunately, the hard way. Microsoft's future will depend on regaining the public's trust and providing us with the privacy and security we expected all along.

In view of the above, the first question that comes to mind is what can I do to protect myself? If you are using any of the aforementioned products, you need to download these "critical" patches from the MS website now! Alternatively, you could also use Netscape Navigator as your web browser in lieu of, or in addition to MS Internet Explorer. You can actually install both browsers on your hard drive and switch back and forth as the need arises. Hopefully, you have already installed a firewall and are using an anti-virus program on your computer. A true and tested firewall that you can install for free is ZoneAlarm. It can be downloaded at [www.zonelabs.com/](http://www.zonelabs.com/).

Additionally, you can get expert advice on the Microsoft controversy and a means to check the vulnerability of your system through a downloadable program called "Leak Test". Another program you can use is "UnPlug-n'-Pray". These are only some of the many products that are available from Steve Gibson of Gibson Research Corporation, located in Aliso Viejo. Steve is a very well respected and long-time computer industry inventor, author and developer. Pay a visit to his website at [www.grc.com](http://www.grc.com) to become better informed on these security and privacy issues □

### Be a User Friendly Pro-Active Friend

- ◆ Write articles to publish
- ◆ Send clippings of general interest
- ◆ Let's know what you like to read
- ◆ Leave material at the Clubhouse



## Answers to Questions

By Jerry Moore

### Question:

**What is this ZIP and Unzip stuff?**

### Answer:

A zip file is a single compressed file that contains one or more program or data files. Compressed files are valuable in the electronic world because they cut your downloading time drastically, and make it possible to download just one smaller file instead of a number of different larger files (which can often number in the dozens). ZIP is a form of "lossless" compression, which means that when you uncompress the file you have an exact duplicate of the original file(s). This is different from JPG for pictures or MP3 for audio, which are forms of "lossy" compression where a portion of the original data is removed.

To decompress (unZIP) a ZIP file, you need a copy of an unZIPing utility. There are a number of utilities that handle .ZIP files (and other compression formats as well).

Most are shareware [http://www.cknow.com/ckinfo/def\\_s/shareware.shtml](http://www.cknow.com/ckinfo/def_s/shareware.shtml) programs, which need to be registered if you plan to continue using them. If you go to <http://palmia.org/>, enter the site and click on "Favorite Links" in the table of contents, you will see a web site named <http://www.filext.com> at the top of the list. Click on the letter Z on the main page of this site and navigate to file extension zip. There you will find a thorough definition of the zip process as well as links to web sites where you can download a free copy of a zip/unzip utility.

Keep in mind that if you have Windows XP, an unzip utility is already built into this operating system. Just navigate to the zip file you want to uncompress, double - click on the file to view it's contents and then choose Extract All Files □

**"To err is human, to forgive, divine"**

*Alexander Pope*

## Hacking Continued from page 9

The server can also support hidden or secret rooms. These don't appear in the list, but if a client knows the name, he can type it in, and chat with his hacker friends in that room.

The exploit comes from the chat client end. A chat client can be planted on your machine by several means; one is through an email attachment; click on it, and you are hooked.

The Windows GUI (Graphical User Interface) is such a strong illusion that many people don't realize that programs can run on their machines without one; this means that nothing appears on the screen. This is what rogue IRC clients do, and more. When a computer is connected while running such software, or restarted if it has an "always on" connection, a rogue IRC client can log in to a hidden IRC chat room, using a randomly generated nickname, and send a message. It can contain the IP address of the compromised computer, the type and version of the "Trojan" client software, and a randomly chosen unused "port number" (long story). All hackers currently logged into this hidden room will see this message. The

Continued on page 12

## Help Line

Subject	Person to Call	Tel/Email
PC-General	Barry Robbins	699-0572
Windows	Jerry Moore	jerryamoore@cox.net
MS Word	Barry Robbins	699-0572
Excel/Access	Barry Robbins	699-0572
Quicken	Hal Zeschmann	830-9882
Internet	Jerry Moore	jerryamoore@cox.net
Photo Editing	Don Yench	457-1081
Graphics	Ali Tabikh	699-1962

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# Secretary's Message

By Chris Wiley for Bill Reinholtz



For a half hour prior to President Don Yenche calling the meeting to order at 7:00 on February 13, homeowners were given the opportunity to ask questions and have them answered by two club members. Special Interest Groups (SIG) were again introduced and members were encouraged to participate.

Don introduced Dana Berkoski, from Microsoft, who gave a presentation on Windows XP to an appreciative audience of well over 100 people. She

demonstrated its many capabilities, including receiving computer help without leaving your home, downloading, storing and playing back the highest quality digital music, and video making.

After Dana's very informative program Jack Morros won the Windows XP, Judy Elbogen won Money Deluxe 2002, Anthony Musalino won the Zoo Tycoon, and Claire Estelle and Pete Christy (a guest from Casta del Sol) each won \$20 in the 50/50 drawings (2).

The meeting was adjourned and delicious dessert and Starbuck's coffee was enjoyed ☐



## Hackers, Continued from page 11

message, in effect, announces to all that your machine is ready to be exploited. The server, and hacker clients, can be located anywhere in the world.

Such a rogue chat client is not designed to chat; the "user" sees nothing on his screen, and is not even aware that this software is using his Internet connection. These things are designed, however, to accept commands issued by anyone in the hidden chat room, using IRC. They need only know what commands the particular Trojan will accept, and type them in.

If a hacker manages to plant one of these things on your machine, it is opened up to any and all other hackers who are aware of it. They may be able to get file listings from your machine, steal software from your machine, or upload other, more sophisticated Trojans. If you have an "always on"

connection, this can happen at any time your computer is running, even while you are asleep.

This stuff is real. A DDOS (Distributed Denial Of Service) attack was perpetrated against Gibson Research, using this method. Over 100 machines were commanded in this way to flood his servers with garbage, effectively knocking him off the Internet. The hacker who confessed to it was 13 years old. Gibson captured information about the attack, and published the IP addresses, and the associated domain names that attacked his site. These were not the attackers, but compromised machines that were commanded to do so. They are known as "zombies", "robots" or "bots".

Five of them on this list use the same ISP that I do. Perhaps this is why my Internet experience is such a pain ☐

