

**Ken's Korner
 Check Out WordWeb 1.61,
 Free Dictionary & Thesaurus
 by Ken Fermoyle**

Do you ever get stuck for the meaning of a word, or grope for a synonym that eludes you completely? The handiest tool I've found for such occasions is a software program called WordWeb for Windows.

In fact, I count it as one of the most valuable utilities currently installed on my computer. And the basic program, Version 1.61, is free for the downloading! There is one version for Windows 95/98/NT and another for Windows 3.1. Sorry, DOS diehards, there's no version for you.

As a writer, avid reader and major crossword fan, I've depended on dictionaries since childhood. I taught my kids to use them from the time they were very young, often much to their chagrin. ("Dad, how do you spell ____?" "Look it up; you know where the dictionary is." "Aw, Da-a-d, do I hafta?") But they've thanked me since for that training.

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**From the Dealsguy, by
 Bob Click, Greater Orlando
 Computer User Group**

Please Take Note

In the five and a half years I have been writing this column, several unwritten guidelines have arisen that help include necessary information for all readers, locations and for all platforms. Always short of time, I sometimes fail to follow up on something, and I hear about it. For example, the Pram battery checker I included three months ago -- I checked the URL to see if it worked, but didn't dig down or I would have noticed it was for Mac only. I'm still getting e-mail asking where to find it for a PC. Many people now are aware of that important battery and, I hope, found a program on a shareware Web site.

Last month became an education you should know about. When including reader's feedback, one item sounding interesting was a URL e-mailed to many members of the local UG, myself included, by another member. It was a glowing description of a Web site as a FREE Internet Service Provider with no advertising or floating banners, etc. He said it was stable and urged everyone to "go grab it," stating he didn't know how they could do it (not exactly true). He also urged people to check out the freeware there, which he said was excellent. I asked his permission to include this information in the June column, using his name, and was given the go-ahead, but no caveats.

About a half-hour after e-mailing the column to my editor lists, I received e-mail from Ira Wilsker (an APCUG BoDA member) quoting the part with the URL. He said I might be interested to know that the URL was, in fact, a "paid multilevel referral scheme" (his words) and suggested I leave off the number string at the end of the URL.

I was unaware I had unwittingly included something to provide income

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July 10, 2000

**Stark Technical College, Diebolt Technical
 Center, North Canton, Ohio**

6 PM: Considerations for Relational Databases like Access, Part I; 6:45 Q&A

7:30 PM: *Your Favorite Web Sites*

By everyone

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for the person e-mailing everyone that URL. I phoned Ira in Texas who told me the number string at the end was probably the sender's registration number for that URL. He said not only would the author of the message receive money for each person clicking on the URL, but also any links clicked on within that Web site. Ira is a part time Justice Dept. employee who occasionally gives talks on Internet "situations." He also has a weekly radio program about computers that can be heard at [<http://klvi.com>] each Tuesday at 6PM Central time.

I e-mailed Ira's message to the author whose response confirmed that it indeed was a "paid" referral situation, but he objected to the words "scheme" and "multilevel." He "then" also suggested I omit the numbers at the end (too late since the column had already been released). I disagree with his ethics, unless I'm missing something here, even though there's nothing illegal about it. My opinion has nothing to do with user groups that make money for their treasury by having their members use certain "paying" URLs. In those situations, everybody knows the whole story right up front.

I decided to immediately send out a correction to editors asking them to remove the numbers from that URL. I then needed to change the file already posted on my Web site, and on the APCUG bbs. Another education! I opened the file in MS Word and placed the cursor at the beginning of the numbers at the end of the URL, deleting them one at a time (a mistake). It "looked" OK so I replaced the files on the necessary Web sites. I re-submitted it to the local newsletter committee who called a couple days later telling me that when they placed the cursor on the URL hypertext in MS Word, the pop-out box still included the numbers, even though they were not showing in the URL. How could that be!!

The answer turned out to be that I should have used the often-neglected "right-click" and chosen Hypertext/Edit from that menu. At any rate, last month was a very embarrassing and exasperating experience. The crux of it all is for you to take a good look at any URL sent to you by anybody, even friends. If it sounds interesting, but has a number at the beginning or end, or even a combination of numbers and letters, leave them off and see if it works. Why unknowingly create

income for people trying to make money from your lack of knowledge. Officers especially should be aware of people, including members, "exploiting" (my opinion) their membership in this manner.

Still Good

The PlanetWare travel-planning offer is still good. E-mail [info@planetware.com] with the necessary information. Remember that e-mail is not a secure way to send credit card info to PlanetWare. The special-offer for the "Active Directory for Dummies" book is still good.

Order at [<http://www.fatbrain.com/shop/info/0764506595?from=XUU975>].

I heard from Linda Barlow of User Group Connection who sent me this for the column.

"First, from 'amazingmail.com,' 5 FREE 'real' postcards just for trying AmazingMail. Here's how you do it. Simply go to [<http://www.amazingmail.com>] and enter the following source code at sign-up: h1132db38hhvdvd (special user group code). Choose your image, enter your message, address the card and click "Send." In a few days, you and/or your friends will receive an actual postcard via US Mail. Great for Birthdays, Thank You Notes, Advertising, or just to let your friends know you've caught on to something! This special offer comes from User Group Relations (Gene and Linda Barlow), representing AmazingMail."

Next, from PowerQuest Corporation, who just announced Drive Image Version 3! Special User Group Prices can be found at this hidden web site for user group members. Products are: Partition-Magic V5, Drive Image V3, DataKeeper V3, Second-Chance V2, Lost & Found V1, and from Caldera Systems, OpenLinux eDesktop V2.4: [<http://www.ugr.com/order/>] The Special User Group Price Code is: UGDEALS00

Free Antivirus Protection

I mentioned F-Prot antivirus last month. Another free antivirus software is Computer Associates' Inoculate-IT. It works with Windows 95/98/NT. If you want brand name, it doesn't get much more brand name than CA. Inoculate-IT looks for and takes care of any file and boot sector viruses. It also works on those Macro viruses that are automatic unless you turn the macros off on Microsoft products, such as MS Word and Excel. You'll find information on this product at [<http://antivirus.cai.com>]. You can register and download it.

Update Your Web Site While On Line

Brad Williams (from a small company in southern

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Ken's Korner

Check Out WordWeb

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In the five months since I discovered WordWeb, I find myself making fewer trips to the bookshelf for my hardbound Webster's University dictionary or to the big Webster's unabridged version on its own stand in the living room. Instead, I click on the WordWeb icon on my desktop or, if I'm using Word, I simply open the Tools menu and select WordWeb from it.

Version 1.61 contains definitions and synonyms for 120,000 root words, 100,000 synonym sets, many antonyms, a host of proper nouns and more. It also has an installation feature that allows you to tie it to Word, as mentioned above. The Setup program asks if you want to include a template to make WordWeb available from within MS Word.

(I only wish a similar option was available for WordPad, which I use for a lot of my writing, but I guess that might be difficult.)

I've tried WordWeb on several of my computers and it runs fast on all of them, even the oldest model with a 225MHz cpu. It not only comes up fast when using it on a stand-alone basis, but pops up definitions and synonyms in its own window from within MS Word in a hurry, too

All you have to do to get a definition or synonym while in Word is highlight or just click your cursor on the word you want to check. Then open the Tools menu and click on the WordWeb icon. (See

Lookup line, which contains the word you want defined. (If you use WordWeb outside of MS Word, you must type in the word at this point.)

Below that line is the definition window, then comes a series of tabs: synonyms, antonyms, types, etc. You click on whatever tab you want to get additional information about your Lookup word.

It's even simpler than it sounds, actually.

You can download the program at: www.network.demon.co.uk/wweb/

Developer Antony Lewis also offers two other programs, including WordWeb Pro, which adds several features to the basic utility:

1. Wildcard word searches. For example `??d??ek` would find the word `midweek`.
2. Find straight and multi-word anagrams. For example WordWeb Pro finds `powder brow` + many others.
3. You can edit and add to the dictionary/thesaurus as well!

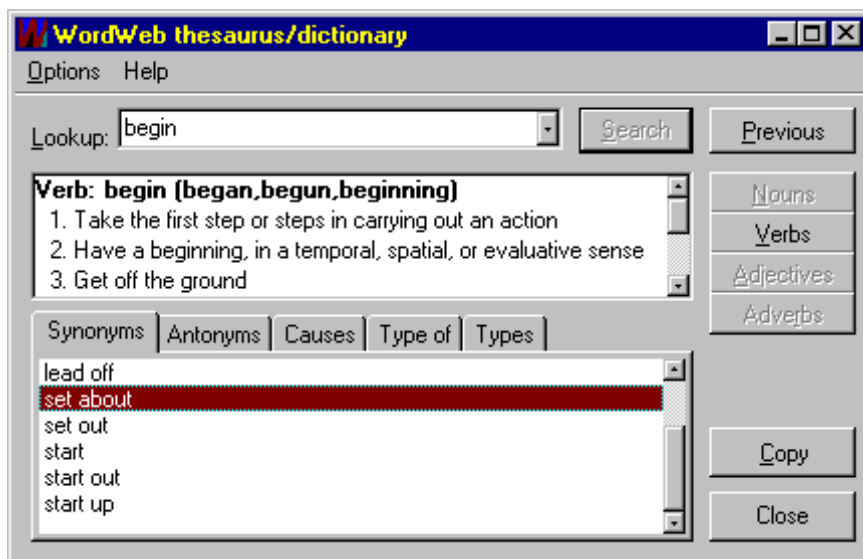
The first two items are especially important to crossword fans (like me!) and the latter is a big benefit for anyone. Cost of the Pro version is just \$18.

The third program Lewis has written is Crossword Compiler, which turns you into an instant crossword puzzle constructor. This one costs \$45 for the full version but a demo version, restricted to 10x10 squares, can be downloaded for free.

Lewis also offers various word and language lists to add to the programs, as well as assorted bundles.

I started with the free WordWeb utility, then upgraded to the Pro version. I like the "add & edit" feature, and the wild card and anagram features are helpful when you're trying to solve a really tough crossword puzzle. WordWeb Pro takes up 7.74MB of hard drive space. The base version is about 1MB smaller. Frankly, I think the free version of WordWeb is one of the best deals you will find on the Internet but check it out for yourself at the URL given above.

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sample screen shot.)

At the top of the WordWeb dialog box is the

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California) sent me this and asked if I would put a link on our Web site [<http://www.OmniUpdate.com>]. I visited the URL and tried its demo on my own Web site. It failed to finish loading my home page. I tried it twice, but to no avail, but that doesn't mean it won't work since I'm only using IE4. I've not had the time to download the software and give it a try. I noticed one place where they mention a small one-time fee. Here are excerpts from their Web site: "OmniUpdate FREE(tm) puts you just one click away from directly updating your Web pages, right in your browser! View any page of your site and, with one click, you can update it right there, with WYSIWYG ease! Use OmniUpdate often to keep your Web site fresh and your visitors coming back.

"It's Free! Your use of OmniUpdate is completely free. No products to buy, download or install. OmniUpdate works right in the web browser you normally use and requires no plug-ins, Java, or server-side modifications.

"OmniUpdate is not a Web site hosting service but rather a quick way for you to make updates and changes to your existing Web pages wherever they are currently located. Your Web site may be hosted on your own server, on your ISP's server, on AOL (tm), Geocities(tm), or anywhere.

"How does it work? Start by signing up for a free account. Within minutes you'll be updating pages on your Web site in a word processor-like window. When you save the update, OmniUpdate places a small green button at the bottom of your page. Simply click this button to login and have this page automatically displayed and available for update. For a small one-time fee, you can customize the button using your own graphic, or choose no graphic at all. Seeing is believing . . . There's much more.

That's it for this month. Darn, I've exceeded my word count again. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click dealsguy@mindspring.com. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns.

Shareware Shelf by Art McRowe, ACPCUG

We've written about terrific free replacements for WordPad that comes with Windows 9X. Well, there are a bundle of replacements for that ol' standby Notepad. Notepad is a small, no-frills, highly useable "word processor". There are lots of them, but I want to write about **Metapad** from Alexander Davidson, who wrote this free program as a personal exercise in ANSII C, although it was compiled in C++.

Boy, are we lucky! **Metapad** is about 1/2 the size of Notepad, but has more functions at twice the speed! What do I mean? By the time you have lifted up your fingertip from the mouse, **Metapad** is up to speed and waiting for you! That's fast!

Metapad is not a Multiple Document Interface program (like MS Word), but it's small enough, you have two or more *instances* of the program in a tiny memory space, so you can cut 'n paste and edit two documents easily. It's so small, I think nothing of starting it off in *Minimized* mode at Startup. Then I always have a receptacle ready for receiving some sort of text file.

Most importantly, Metapad has undo and redo functions, which in this small program is remarkable. OK, **Metapad** doesn't have a spell check! (Maybe WordWeb as described in Ken's Korner column this month will work!). **Metapad** will print automatically at the minimum margins of your printer, optionally, you can set all four margins! How's that for a small and fast Notepad?

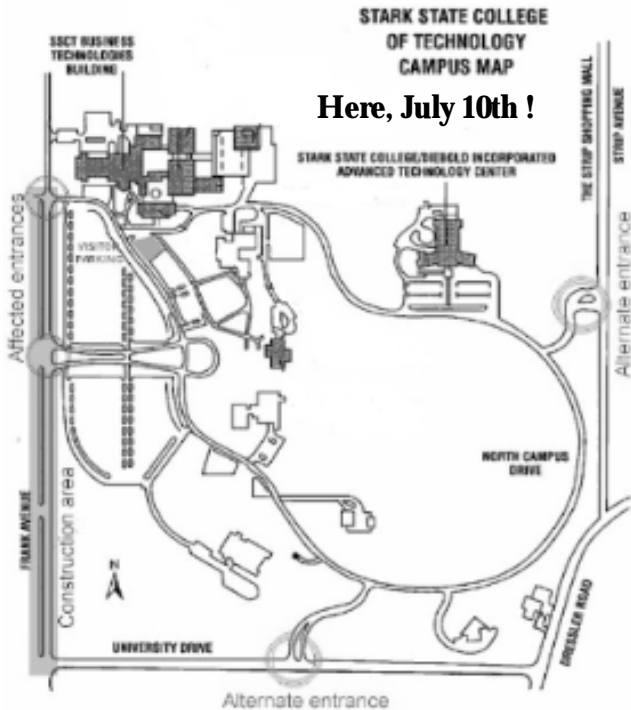
OK, it's smaller and faster than Notepad, what else? Besides being your DOS (Windows) file format, it can also save text files as a Unix text file, as an option (but it works under Windows only). This is a 32-bit program, so Windows 3x is not covered!

Metapad can also work in two different default fonts (including TrueType proportional fonts!). Word wrap, natch! There is also a fully functional find and find and replace functionality. It's easy to set the Tab key values. And there is even a keyboard shortcut to Save As (Control + F2). You can save the Windows position so **Metapad** always starts up in the same spot and proportions – handy for a catchall text utility.

This free program is easy to download off the ZDNET utilities site at www.zdnet.com.

You can't go wrong.

Special July 10, 2000 (Only) Meeting Site! Die- bold Technical Center



For the special July venue, try coming in from *The Strip* on the East side of the campus! This will avoid construction!

Ken's Korner Intel Faces Strong Challenge from AMD

Is the WinTel dominance over the PC universe crumbling at the edges? The synergistic combination of software and central processing chips forged so successfully by Microsoft and Intel is far from losing its place as king of the computer hill, but it is facing new challenges.

For Microsoft, of course, the main problem it faces is the legal one, the threat of being broken up into two separate companies. A lesser thorn in Bill Gates' side is the growth of Linux and other open source code, including Apache, which rivals NT in the Internet server arena.

In the case of Intel, the clear and present danger comes from AMD and its expanding impact on the central processing unit (CPU) market. AMD's current Athlon chips already have leapfrogged Intel offerings in some respects and a recently announced cross-licensing deal with Motorola promises to result in high-performance copper-based chips running at more than twice the speed of today's fastest mainstream CPUs.

This could make AMD an even more formidable competitor for Intel, which has not yet announced plans for a similar copper interconnect technology.

Only a few years ago, AMD was strictly a minor league

player. Its products were the poor relations of the CPU family, while Intel was Big Daddy, Big Mama and Big Brother, all rolled into one.

The K6 processor marked the beginning of AMD's rising fortunes, but a modest one. The chip was used only in lower-priced computers, and vague rumors surfaced that it might not be fully compatible with all Windows features and some applications. That was fully laid to rest with the advent of K6-2 chips, but the gurus advanced new doubts. Would AMD be able to produce the chips in adequate quantities to win respectable market share?

Then came the K7 chip. It attacked Intel right in the heart of its most lucrative product area: high-end, premium-priced, cutting-edge processors for power or work station users and other early adopters willing to pay top dollar for the latest and greatest in computerdom.

Better known as the Athlon, the K7 processor is totally different from that of the earlier K6 series. The processor has an internal architecture, which uses Digital Equipment Corporation's Alpha EV6 system interface technology. This gives it a system bus interface of 200 MHz, capable of delivering data transfer rates of up to 1.6 GB/sec. The EV6 can scale up to 400 MHz in future, as faster processors arrive. The Athlon has a 128 KB L1 cache broken into two 64 KB instruction and data caches each. It is a .25-micron chip with 22 million transistors

By contrast, the latest Pentium III (PIII) processors run have a 100 MHz system bus. The PIII has a 32 KB L1 cache. Both processors have a 512 KB L2 cache. It is also a .25 micron but with 9.5 million transistors

The Athlon employs enhanced 3DNow! technology. Instead of the original 21 instructions meant to improve the floating-point capabilities of the processor, the K7 has 45, or 24 new instructions. They are designed improve the processor's performance in speech-recognition and video processing, and to provide enhanced functionality for Internet browser plug-ins. They also add new digital signal processor (DSP) instructions, to enable better communication with soft modems, ADSL, and sound.

The PIII fits into a Slot 1 motherboard based on the Intel SE440BX-2 chipset. The Athlon fits into a Slot A motherboard based on the AMD-750 chipset. This chipset consists of two chips, namely the AMD-751 and AMD-756. The first controls the 200 MHz front-side bus, system memory, AGP, and the PCI bus. The second one controls the PCI-to-ISA bridge, USB interface, and EIDE interface for both UltraDMA/33 and UltraDMA/66.

What does all this mean in practical terms? Essentially there seems to be little difference between the K7, or Athlon, and equivalent PIII chips when it comes to running typical productivity programs: word processing, spreadsheets, presentation apps and the like.

Where the Athlon outpaces the PIII in most cases is in high-end tasks, such as CAD and other graphics-intensive processing where good floating-point capability is important. This is a major improvement in an area where previous AMD processors were notably weak

Despite AMD's improvements, Intel PIII chips still seem to have an edge in 3D performance and remains the best choice if you do such 3D tasks as animation and rendering.

As for the AMD-Motorola alliance to produce copper-based processor chips, it's far too early to tell how successful the effort will be - though the combination is intriguing.

Announcements so far report that Motorola's Semiconductor Products Sector, Austin, Texas, will contribute its manufacturing expertise to the effort, moving both parties to a 0.18-micron, and then to a 0.15-micron design rule with its HiPerMOS copper interconnect process technology.

In return, Motorola will receive the rights to AMD's flash-

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Akron-Canton PC Users Group
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Next Meeting - July 10th
 Stark State Technical
 College

First Class Mail

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memory patents, allowing it to begin offering high-density, low-power embedded flash micro controllers some-time next year. The two companies will conduct jointly staffed programs in Austin and at AMD's headquarters in Sunnyvale, Calif., and will share development expenses.

Keep tuned for more information on future developments.

August 7, 1999 Meeting,
Taylor Memorial Library, Cuyahoga Falls
TBA

No SIG's during this summer

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Future Events	
Sat., July 15, 2000	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Cuyahoga Co. Fairgrounds, Berea, OH
Sun., May 14th, 2000	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Tadmor Temple, Akron, OH