

**From the DealsGuy, Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group**

My thanks to James Anderson (Editor) for sending the data for IBM Humboldt Users' Group in Eureka, CA to add to my distribution page. They've been regularly using the column. Also, French Prescott, Editor for Big Bear Computer Club in Big Bear Lake, CA, asked to start using the column. French is also the contact for Enfish Software in this month's column. I look forward to more information from groups already publishing the DealsGuy.

Talking about "paid referral URLs," I'll try to leave out the ones that are obvious, but I think some are actually just a shorter way to take you to an information page. I'm going to leave it up to your own discretion whether you will use a numbered URL or not, now that you know the possibilities.

Some feedback on freedsl.com says that if you don't keep the service for one year, there is a stiff termination fee. I noticed that you are forwarded to a different URL, but the information is the same. Thanks for the feedback.

*(Continued on page 2)*

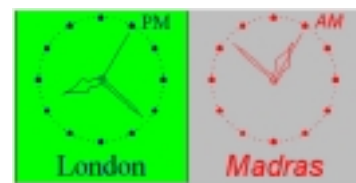
**Shareware Shelf  
by Art McRowe, ACPCUG  
"It's About Time"**

This column is about some time utilities. Last year I touted Atom TimeClock by Bruce Adelsman. Atom-Time98 queried the NIST atomic clock over the Internet with great precision and compensation for milliseconds lost in pack transmission. It only cost \$10 after trying for 30 days (e-mail version only). But it was not a good computer citizen when you tried to get rid of it. (Dunning messages persisted because it had not wiped itself out in the Windows Registry.)

I did without it for over a year. And yes, my computer clock drifted about 4 minutes every six months or so. No big deal, but annoying. I longed for a simple click to get back in sync with real time. (Corporate network administrators usually take care of this chore so the whole network is in sync.)

Then, over a short time a number of utilities popped up that do a number of different things, so they aren't really competing. But they're all about time!

ClockRack by Charles Petzold at Ziff Davis Media is free for downloading at [www.ZDNet.com](http://www.ZDNet.com). ClockRack puts a number of clocks on your screen (all the time or at your click). These clocks are either analog or text (your choice). The purpose is to show the real time in other locations. Back when I was phoning Hong Kong, Seoul and Puerto Rico, I was never sure of times. And ClockRack takes care of this (you can see the ClockRack's defaults for each location or add or modify your own). Some of the niceties include daylight-savings-time (or not as common near the equator). Also, places like Madras, India are on a time of GMT + 5:30,



so that they're not even at the same minutes

*(Continued on page 4)*

October 2, 2000

Taylor Memorial Library

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

6 PM MS Excel 102

by Rick Lubinski; 6:30 Q&A;

7 PM: DSL/HighSpeed Internet Connec-

tions by Bright.Net Representative

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## From The Deals Guy, *continued from page 1*

### **Offer Still Good -- Including Two New Games**

The Hang2000 game is still good and Ken Winograd e-mailed me that he has released two new games that are very educational. They are "States3000" and "Presidents3000" and are based on an improved Hang2000 engine. You can check for more info at his Web site [<http://www.winograd.com>]. The "private" URL for Macintosh users group members only is [<http://www.winograd.com/macug2.html>], and [<http://www.winograd.com/pcug2.html>] is only for PC users group members.

### **I'm Keepin' Mine**

I think you can still take advantage of the Sizzlin' Summer offer for the Friendly Robotics lawn mower. I have kept a diary on my Web site (Announcements page) for you to read. I've had some minor problems, but so far I love it. They have offered to send me a new mower to correct a bad charging message which I'll take advantage of. That doesn't keep the mower from doing its job and I certainly have the neighbors intrigued. How embarrassing that I didn't include the ordering number (1-888-244-5178) last month. A few people e-mailed me about it.

### **This One's For You Cheapskate Investors**

I know many of you are trading stocks for as low as \$8.00 per trade, but how about trading securities for FREE. Freetradez.com is the latest entry in the online brokerage field. They said they went into operation on June 19, 2000 with the intention of doing options trading towards fall. They are offering trades with NO commission charge, even for limit orders, plus, they offer Nasdaq Level II quotes.

You guessed it, advertising pays for it. If you type in a ticker symbol, up pops an ad from that very company. Or, get this, if that company wasn't interested, the ad at the top of your screen will be for their competitor or a related company. How's that for strategy! And, another company will sponsor confirmations. Your monthly statement has an ad from that same company.

Most trades should be executed in one second, but if it is not executed in 45 seconds, your account is credited with \$5.00. A day trader can set a price at the bid, or below the bid. Just so you know, anytime you type in a stock symbol,

an advertiser pays them. And yes, they accept trades any time of the day or night. Check them out at [<http://www.freetradez.com>].

### **Convert Those Old Videos (After Brushing Off The Dust)**

Here is an announcement I received some time ago from Bill Loesch, vice-president of Consumer Products for Pinnacle Systems. I've not tried their products which appear to be just for PCs.

"Do your members want to edit those baby videos collecting dust in their attics, or maybe preserve the memories of their best vacations? With Pinnacle Systems' Emmy-award-winning technology, video editing is simple. All you need is a Pentium-based computer, a video camera and/or a VCR. Sign up your Users Group at the Users Group Support Program Web site at [<http://usergroup.pinnaclesys.com/>] and review our products for your newsletter on a 60-day loan. [DealsGuy note - "a loan" just doesn't work for me. If the reviewer can't keep it for all their work, forget it.] User group members receive a 15% discount off suggested retail price (SRP) on all our Studio line of video editing products; arrange for a customized demo from a Pinnacle Systems representative in your area.

Sincerely, Bill Loesch."

### **Check Out E-mail Hoaxes.**

I hate to take up column space with this kind of stuff, but I have been deluged with so-called warnings lately and many people read this column. If you are a person that "insists" on sending out all those "warnings" to your friends, do them a favor and check further before you send them any more "spam." Here are some informational sites gleaned from newsletters I receive. Out of all those URLs I read and tried, several either didn't work, or else I couldn't find the correlation, but here are the ones that worked for me:

[<http://www.symantec.com/avcenter/index.html>]

[<http://www.avp.ch/avpve>]

[<http://www.datafellows.com/virus-info>]

[<http://www.datafellows.com/news/hoax>]

[<http://www.icsa.net/services/consortia/anti-virus/aler-hoax.html>] (I had problems with this one but I'm including it anyway).

[<http://www.kumite.com/myths>]

[<http://www.snopes.com>] (This one also has music so it loads slowly.)

[<http://hoaxbusters.ciac.org/>]

### **Can Your Web Browser Get A Ticket?**

Not likely, but I assume everybody is interested in accelerating his or her browser power. **Murray**

*(Continued on page 3)*

**Davis of the Akron/Canton PC UG passed this one on to me.** Your browser's cache is meant to help if visiting a Web site again by already having the data to load it. However, you have little control over that cache. There is PC software to speed the whole process called "NetSonic." It works with any browser and they can share NetSonic's cache, thus saving space on your hard drive as well.

It also retains Domain Name Server information. There's more, so I suggest you visit their Web site and take a look at this FREE program. They are hoping you will like it enough that you will eventually purchase their more full-featured "NetSonic Pro" that sells for \$39.95. (\$29.95 if you use a special URL given to me by their marketing people) [[http://www.netsonic.com/redirect/buy\\_redirect.asp?DIRECT\\_FLAG=25off&netsonic=~,%c~,~](http://www.netsonic.com/redirect/buy_redirect.asp?DIRECT_FLAG=25off&netsonic=~,%c~,~)]. Find out more about the software at [<http://www.netsonic.com>] where you can also see a description for the Pro version. Unfortunately, I had to wrap up this column a bit early and the special ordering URL doesn't find the \$29.95 price. If it is a problem this month, I'll feature the special offer next month for the Pro version. That will give you time to see if you like the free version enough to buy it.

### ***A Way To Combine Both Your PC And The Web For Some Projects***

Beth Fordyce from Southeastern Michigan Computer Organization referred this to me some time ago and I'm just now following up. I e-mailed French Prescott of Enfish Software and the following is what he told me: "Enfish's current release product is 'Onespace.' This product has superseded the Tracker Pro, their original flagship product. It incorporates the same tracking and search function of Tracker Pro, but it now extends the product to bring Web content and the user's own content into one unified workspace.

"For example, if you're working on a project, say the annual Christmas party, you can earmark the relevant Web pages (maybe caterers or decoration suppliers) and see it all in context with all the e-mail you send and receive about the project. You'll see any documents (word processing, spreadsheets, etc.) related to the planning, and any other files that you specifically indicate are involved. Onespace does the tracking on your own system automatically and you can use search tools (much like Internet search engines)

to expand the tracking. The user can set up and configure the working area to fit individual needs."

This product is a FREE working download from the Enfish site: [<http://www.enfish.com>].

The latest release version was made available July 19. French gave me many more details, so check the above Web site for more information. Looks like it is for PC only. I've seen good reviews on it.

### ***More Invasion Testing For Hacker-Worried Computer Owners***

You've all read in many places about Steve Gibson's "Shields Up" for testing your machine for hacker invasion, a great service at no cost. In case you want an additional test to check further, I read that you can visit Webtrend's site at

[<http://www.webtrends.net/tools/security/scan.asp>]. Or try Hacker-Wacker at [<http://www.hackerwacker.com>] and click on "Free Security Scan."

That's it for this month. 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 Cheap-skate) Click [[dealsguy@mindspring.com](mailto:dealsguy@mindspring.com)]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. Also check out the distribution page.

### **Check the ACPCUG Website**

**[www.acpcug.org](http://www.acpcug.org)**

Why, because there you'll find interesting things from past meetings, references too long to list in newsletter.

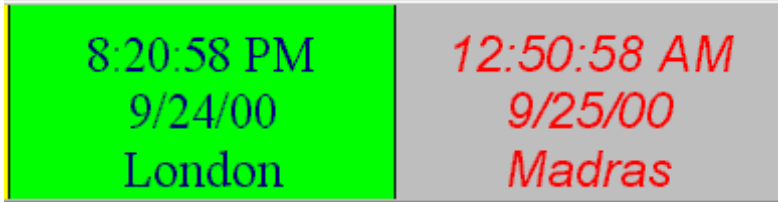
Frank Ramsey has a new edition of the web page. We are all excited about it! We should all be able to maneuver about it clearly and easily.

Frank is looking for input, too. Some features may possibly be browser dependent. Since JavaScript is used, Internet Explorer and Netscape need to be version 3 or later.

**Try it out! Give comments and suggestions!**

## About Time by Art McRowe, *cont. from page 1*

as most of us. You can change the whole size, the colors, just about anything is customizable. And yes, you can sync your system clock to government standards! All this for free! A deal! It works and is



handy, especially if you use the phone or Internet for faraway places!

The next goodie is also free! And it's very different. Speaking Clock by Life Porsklev is a multilingual talking clock! It's not visual; it's aural! Very clearly, every interval or time that you pick, a voice announces the time. It can be a pain, but it's also nifty, too. You pick the language, too. If you want some language not yet covered, send in a recording of the words needed to be put into a file. All this for free from their web site: <http://www.abc.se/~m8501/spclock/>. Now, you get more power such as running programs at specified times and in calibrating system clock in the Pro version, which is a reasonable \$30 for a useful and different program

program on its own and very interesting to try out.

Last, but my favorite is yet another freebie! It is **WebTime** by Gregory Braun, who has a lot of good shareware available on his website: [www.execpc.com/~sbd](http://www.execpc.com/~sbd). **WebTime** is free and simple. Get on the Internet and click the icon, and bingo, your system is synced with a NIST site of your choice. **Quick and simple!** Both are attributes suited to me! And probably you, too. Try!

I guess this shows that some of the best stuff is really free! I don't understand the driving force, but it is really great for us PC Users!

## Directory Printer 3.0 A Utility That Windows Forgot

By Jim Gaffney, SWIPCC Member

Would you like to have an ASCII listing of the names of all the files on your system? On a particular drive? In a particular folder? As you know, that task is a bit difficult to accomplish (even in the venerable DOS) without a special utility.

Such a utility is Glenn Alcott's Directory Printer, now at version 3.0. This utility is well thought out and extremely versatile. You can send a directory listing of any or part of your files system to either an ASCII file on

your system or directly to the printer. The user can specify which of the standard directory elements that should be included (short file name, long file name, size, date/time and/or attributes) and also specify the order in which files should be listed \_ i.e., the sort order for any of those same elements. If you only want a listing of the directories/folders on your system without any file listings, that capability is also in Directory Printer's repertoire. If only part of the files on the system are to be listed, the user can specify which directory in the directory tree to use as a starting point and how many subdirectory levels below that to include. Even the file types to be listed, as



like this. But free Speaking Clock is fully working

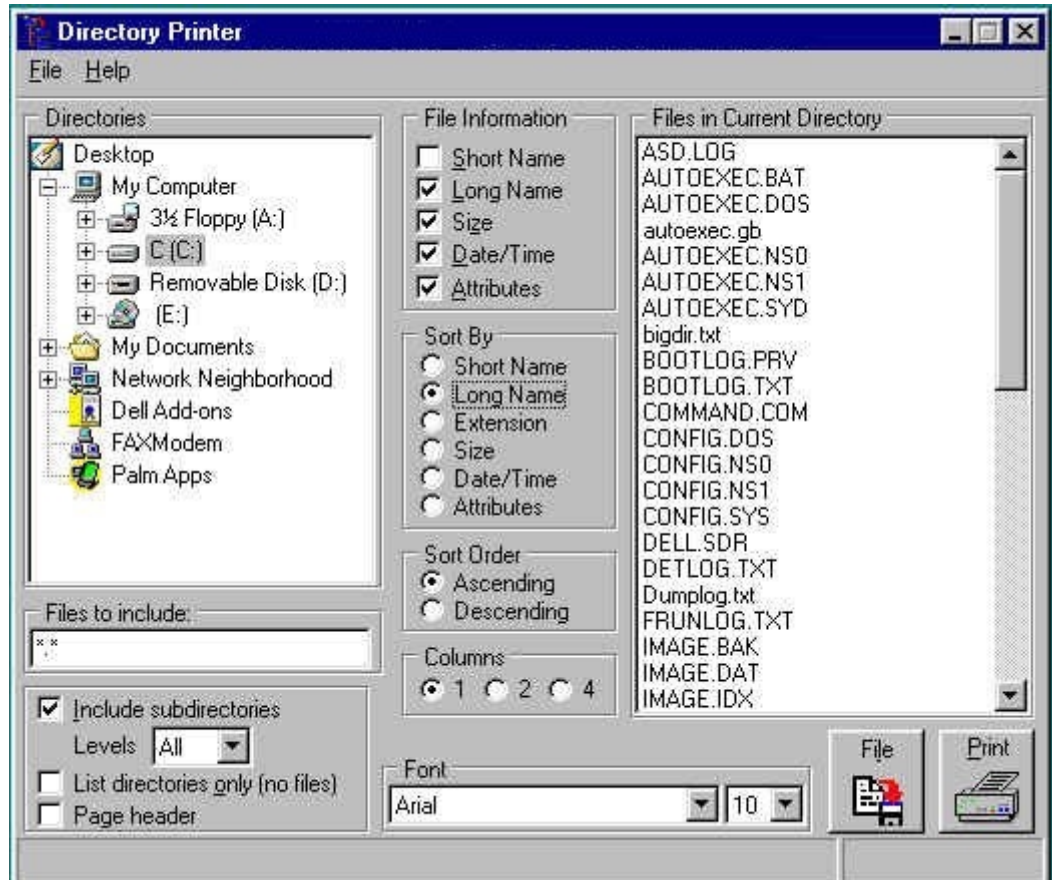
(Continued on page 5)

## Directory Printer 3.0, cont. from p. 4

determined by the file extension, can be specified. Want a little more? Well, you can specify the font and font size as well as the number of columns to be used for your listing \_ handy if you are saving paper \_ and you can also produce listings in a comma delimited format if you plan to import them into a table, spreadsheet or database program. A page header may also be added to each of the pages of your directory listing.

If you'd like to take the application for a test drive, it is available for free 30-day trial via Internet download from <http://www.galcott.com> Should you decide you like and wish to keep using it, the registration fee is a reasonable \$15.00

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This article was reprinted from the April, 2000 issue of *Throughput*, the Journal of the SouthWest International Personal Computer Club.  
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Akron-Canton PC Users Group  
 PO Box 2151  
 Akron Oh 44309-2151

**Next Meeting - Oct. 2,  
 Taylor Memorial Library  
 Cuyahoga Falls, OH**

**First Class Mail**

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Mailing Label Address Goes Here

*Published by: Akron-Canton PC Users Group  
 Box 2151, Akron, Oh 44309-2151*

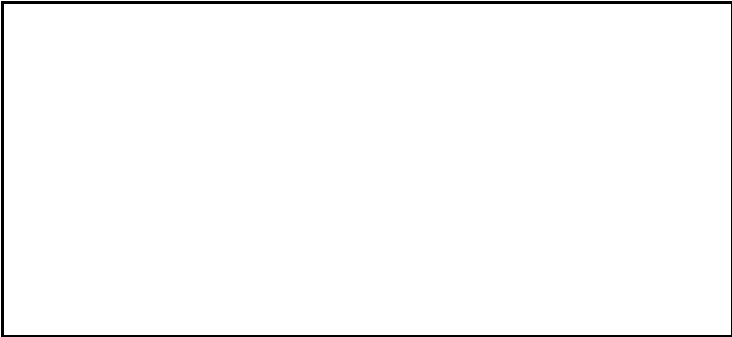
*[www.acpcug.org](http://www.acpcug.org)*

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<http://www.acpcug.org>

**November 6, 2000 Meeting,  
 Stark Technical College, North Canton  
 We're Back at Usual Main Auditorium  
 Use Vistor's Parking Lot**



Club Officers			
<b>President</b>	Frank Ramsey	699-4711	af Ramsey@yahoo.com
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rick Lubinski (1999)	928-7179	lubinski@bright.net
<b>Secretary</b>	Walt Ruthenburg (2000)	283-7867	wruthenburg@usa.net
<b>Program Director</b>	Murray Davis (2000)	440-248-0021	murray5050@yahoo.com
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Art McRowe	666-3189	amcrowe@bright.net
<b>Software Evaluation</b>	Gerry Schaefer	499-5623	schaefers@bright.net

Future Events	
Sat., Oct. 14th, 2000	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Cuyahoga Co. Fairgrounds, Berea, OH, west on Bagley Rd. off I-71.
Sun., Oct. 15th, 2000	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Tadmor Shrine Temple, Akron, OH off Arlington Rd & I-77.
Tu-Wed., Oct. 17-18	ITEC Expo + Broadband Connections at the IX Center near Cleveland Airport