

ACPCUG

December 2000



December 4, 2000

Taylor Memorial Library

Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio

6 PM MS Road Runner Experiences

by Frank Ramsey; 6:30 Q&A;

7 PM: Visual Basic Scripting—Free

Batch Tool for Windows, Art McRowe

From The DealsGuy

Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Bob Read from Polk Computer Users Group sent me the club info for my distribution page, and Ron Walters from Computer Operators of Marysville and Port Huron give me updated info. Thanks to both for their help.

I attended the Florida Association of Users Groups' one-day fall conference and it was a great meeting. It had 57 attendees representing 15 user groups. We all had a wonderful time with great roundtables and an interesting presenter. The Mac groups were well rep-

(Continued on page 2)

From The Deals Guy, *continued from page 1*

resented, arriving in a big motorhome with an Apple banner on the side. They also helped with some very informative roundtables. The next FACUG [www.facug.org] meeting will be March 2-4, 2001 in Kissimmee, FL. That one is always at capacity, about 150 attendees. I saw no Linux groups, but they are also welcome and encouraged to join. There were even a few Linux prizes in the drawing. Actually, I wish they would open it up to more attendees from wherever.

The Old Disappearing Tech Support Trick

I found out the hard way that Symantec no longer offers free voice tech support on its products. Not even the 90 days they used to give. You must pay, or use the on-line knowledge base. You can also e-mail them and wait for an answer, hoping the answer solves the problem. I hope your luck is better than mine. I knew I should have gotten Zone Alarm, which is free. I wash my hands of Symantec's products.

I've had the same experience with Creative Labs and 3Com. I would like to see APCUG keep a database about vendors giving no tech support. Regardless of opinions regarding Microsoft, I have unlimited telephone tech support on my MS Office Professional and MS Money (not all MS products offer unlimited). I know tech support cost money, but without it, how do you solve your problems, or their bugs.

Received From the MS Rep

Microsoft Press 20% Discount Code

Use the code MCPC to receive a 20% book discount for user group members.

Call 800-MSPRESS to order your books. Select a title from the Microsoft Press page: [http://mspress.microsoft.com/]. Also, if you are interested in receiving the Mindshare newsletter, go to [http://www.microsoft.com/mindshare]. (I found the discount on the Mindshare site, but not the newsletter info. You may be better at digging than I am.)

More Book Discounts

Louise Miller from Adobe called and asked me to remind you about the discounts on Adobe Press and PeachPit Press books of 20% to 40%. Go to the Adobe Web site [http://www.adobe.com/usergroups] and download the new form. Louise said it should be posted by the time this gets published.

How About Some Trivia (No deal here, I just liked it)

Lost your dog and can't seem to find it?

You've looked all over and have given up. Don't give up just yet --- try [http://www.ThePoop.com] where you'll find data concerning some 5600 different dog rescue groups (I enjoyed the artwork). In this database, you can search for a rescued dog by the breed. Then narrow it down by city, state, zip code or even an organization. Originally, this site was meant to help owners find lost dogs, but more importantly, to help families adopt animals from various shelters around the country. Good luck!

On the other hand, if you lost your job instead of your dog, try [http://www.flipdog.com]. No connection as far as I know. How they connect "Flipdog" with jobs, I'll never know.

Other Office Suites of Distinction - Just A Reminder

How much did you pay for your Office Suite? I was lucky. I won Office '97 in a Raffle. We had a great deal on Corel Office 2000 in NY at the APCUG events, and my laptop came with SmartSuite installed. However, I've seen a couple of glowing reviews for StarOffice 5.2 from Sun Microsystems [http://www.Sun.com], which is absolutely free and it is multi-platform. However, I did read a complaint about poor importing of WordArt files.

Another suite receiving complimentary reviews is Applixware 5.0 from [http://www.vistasource.com] selling for \$99. This one is for Linux and Unix, and their AnyWhere Office Suite is also for Windows. That one works with fewer resources. I read two complimentary reviews on Applixware that did include a couple of complaints. I'm only pointing out some other Office Suite choices. (Actually, you can sometimes buy Corel WordPerfect Suite for less than Applixware, which I feel is a better deal and would be my preference.)

If you are a full power user, these might not be for you, but it is a known fact that even most power users don't use more than 35% of the capabilities of the software they are using.

Handy Accessories

I was looking through the "Mobileplanet" catalog the other day and found some interesting things. Do you dig through your car's armrest or glove compartment for your cell phone when you make a call? Mobileplanet has a cell phone holder that fits in the cup holder. I also saw a holder to affix a cell phone to a laptop screen for better data transmission.

I saw the QuickLink Pen Optical Scanner listed for \$139.95, which is almost as good as the UG special offer I published last year. They also offer Palm accessories. Their phone is 1-800-675-2638. [http://www.mobileplanet.com]. Specialty catalogs are never cheap, but this one was not bad.

Corel Rebate Stuff

(Continued on page 3)

From The Deals Guy, *continued from page 2*

Dave Gerber from Sarasota User Group suggested I include the following item: Many rebates and deals are available for a wide variety of Corel software. Visit [http://ri-r1.corel.com/servlet/click?](http://ri-r1.corel.com/servlet/click?9hkLsDZEikLlpKLGmFlIJNnDhknE0Eikthmpghl)

9hkLsDZEikLlpKLGmFlIJNnDhknE0Eikthmpghl to learn more about the following offers:

- Buy CorelDRAW(R) 9 Premium Color Edition and Get \$150 US/\$200 Cdn cash back.

- Buy WordPerfect(R) Office 2000 Voice, WordPerfect Pro or WordPerfect

- Small Business and Get a Logitech Cordless Wheel Mouse.

- Buy CorelDRAW(R) 9 Office Edition and Get \$30 cash back.

- Buy Corel(R) KnockOut 1.5 and Get \$50 US/\$60 Cdn cash back.

- Buy Paradox(R) 9 and Get \$50 cash back.

- Buy WordPerfect(R) Family Pack and Get \$20 cash back.

- Buy WordPerfect(R) Office 2000 for Linux(R) Standard and Get \$20 cash back.

- Buy WordPerfect(R) Office 2000 for Linux(R) Deluxe and Get \$40 cash back.

Wow, Great Graphics For Nuthin'

Here is a graphics program that picks up the pieces and makes something out of them. Its called "Hotmedia 3.0" and is by IBM no less. I read a very positive review for this software and it would take too much room to adequately describe it. However, it will combine video, audio and 3D files and produce a great finished product. It runs on Windows 95/98/2000/NT or Macintosh. The best part is it's free just for the download, so point your browser to <http://www6.software.ibm.com/dl/hotmedia/hmkt-p>. I have not tried it yet, but it sounded great. The panorama capability sure piques my interest.

According to the Web site, it looks like you may get the new 3.5 version now. I had problems with this URL, but it worked OK for friends.

Are You Right On Cue, Literally?

Have you asked for your CueCat yet? At a Space Coast meeting recently, they were showing a neat gadget - a hand-held scanner that you run across bar codes. Its input into your computer will instantly take you to the URL and more information. That sounds great if you have tried typing in a long URL, especially if you made a typo. They are FREE just for the asking at any Radio Shack store. They are also seen advertised in some magazines - just call and ask for it to get it

free.

Right away, I wanted one, but I also wondered why a company would go to that much cost to get thousands of them into people's hands, and free.

Included in the package is the cable, booklet and installation disk. The fact that you must register personal information when you install the software to receive an activation code might alert you that something is up. So I kept an eye out for more info, which I found. Nobody tells you that each device has its own unique serial number, or the reason for that. Neither is that fact in the material included with the CueCat, although I didn't check the CD.

The device works with many kinds of bar codes, that you see everywhere, and your TV can also be hooked up to provide bar codes. It sounds like a great device, but if its true, I am not ready for it to collect statistics about my browsing habits. However, if you have no qualms about privacy concerning your surfing, you now know where to get one, and it's free. My firewall should prevent the disbursing of any data if it indeed does so after installation, but I'm still thinking about it. I could create a new person at my address and see how long it takes before he gets junk mail.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. I hope to find some deals at Fall Comdex. If I find anything that can't wait, I'll post it on the Announcements page on my Web site. 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.

Treasurer's Report By Rick Lubinski

Savings Account Balance
\$1,090.65

Checking Account Balance
\$2,418.17

Checks on:
Calhoun Trust \$4,000.00
Jerry Award \$ 200.00

Congratulations!

CALHOUN TRUST Awards Grant to ACPCUG

**By Richard G. Lubinski, ACPCUG
Treasurer**

The Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust, administered by Key Trust Company of Ohio has awarded ACPCUG a grant towards our community outreach and education efforts. I made the grant request on the behalf of ACPCUG in September 2000 and explained our 'community outreach' that is part of our mission as a 501 (C)(3) non-profit organization. In November we received a letter from Key Trust advising us that our grant request had been approved and a check for the full \$4,000 requested. The funds will be used to pay for expenses for our public educational efforts and provide much-needed funds for parts/equipment for our computer recycling effort in the Akron area. These funds have already been put to work by purchasing some used VGA monitors and CD ROMs to add to some donated PCs.

If you have been an ACPCUG member for over a year you may recall the touching story how Kenneth L. Calhoun placed his life savings in a charitable trust to benefit the Akron area. After many years in sales working for Goodyear Tire he returned to the Akron area for the final days of his life. The \$1.5 M charitable trust he created at Key Trust has grown at the same time it has assisted numerous non-profit groups and public interest programs in our community. We will place a copy of our March 2000 ACPCUG Newsletter on our website in a PDF file if you would like to read about this thoughtful gentleman who cared enough to return his lifetime of savings and investments to our community.

You may recall a year ago ACPCUG received another grant from the Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust that permitted ACPCUG to

purchase a new projection system for our meetings and educational efforts. ACPCUG used \$1,000 of our member dues plus \$4,000 from the Calhoun Trust to purchase the projection system that greatly improved the clarity and brightness of our computer projections. The retail price of the true XGA / 1400 lumen projector we purchased was \$8,500.

THANKS to the Kenneth Calhoun Charitable Trust and Key Trust Company of Ohio, Senior Trust Officer Karen M. Krino and retired Sr. VP Phillip Bradley for their support of our volunteer efforts for our community.



Third Year in a Row!

The national (well, they are really world-wide) APCUG has awarded your ACPCUG the Jerry Award! OK, it's "only" \$200 compared to the Calhoun award of \$4000. But it is really significant!

Both awards are for community outreach where, under the leadership of our Rick Lubinski, we have been refurbishing and recycling donated Pentium machines to charitable organizations and needy people.

We use the monies from these grants to purchase cables, old CD-ROM's, keyboards and the like, to make useable machines for people and organizations which need help! Congratulations Rick and all ACPCUG members!

Drive Image 4.0 PowerQuest's System Backup and Recovery

By Jim Gaffney, SWIPCC Member

How many times have you heard "Backup, backup, backup!"? While the effort of creating redundant copies of your important files seems to rank in personal priority right up there with completing your income tax return, your investment in time can save you from the grief of hours of "reinventing the wheel."

Data protection has come a long way from using DOS's backup program and 360 KB floppy diskettes. A computer user now has a broad array of storage media to which data backup can be written. The user may also choose from a wide selection of excellent software with ever-increasing sophistication and ease with which to get the job done. One of the better choices for the task comes from PowerQuest, a respected provider of proven solutions.

The latest version of PowerQuest's Drive Image package is version 4.0, released in late September 2000. The application creates an exact sector_by_sector image of a hard drive, allowing the user to recreate valuable resources in the event of damage or catastrophic failure of a hard drive. Your data may be backed up to a separate hard drive partition, a secondary hard drive or removable media such as a Jazz or ZIP disk. New in version 4 is the ability to write to an IDE, SCSI, or ATAPI CD-R or CD-R/W drive. With the proliferation of CD-R's and CD-R/W's in most new systems and the rapidly decreasing price of compact disk media, this new capability represents a very attractive capability to accomplish an onerous task. Of note is the fact that CD drives connected via a parallel port, PCMCIA card or USB are not supported. (perhaps in a subsequent version). The new Drive Image version is compatible with all versions of Windows, to include Windows 2000 Professional and Windows Millennium Edition (ME).

Included in the package is the latest release is PowerQuest's DataKeeper application. "DK" combines hard drive imaging with continuous data monitoring. Once installed and configured to the user's requirements, the application continuously monitors file activity in the background and creates incremental compressed backups on the fly. Are you a little lax in frequently backing up your critical data files? DataKeeper's automation of vital file backup might just be your salvation one day.

Drive Image 4.0 is delivered on a single CD

containing approximately 210 MB of files. Installation is straightforward and follows normal Windows Auto start prompting. Executing Drive Image is a bit different in that it runs from DOS level, so that even if installed on your hard drive, the system will automatically restart in the DOS mode when executing. As a part of the installation process, the user is prompted to create a pair of rescue diskettes which may be used to boot the system and run Drive Image should a system become nonbootable from the hard drive. The application CD contains a PDF copy of the well-done 130_page User Guide as well as several ancillary documentation files in PDF format and a copy of Acrobat Reader for viewing the PDF files.

Application menus are user friendly, clear and self-explanatory. Backing up your vital data is as easy as selecting a storage media, designating a filename for the image (.PQI is the default extension) and allowing Drive Image to "do its thing". Likewise, restoring an image requires only selection of an image file and its location.

Media spanning is, of course, supported, meaning that very image files can span across multiple Jazz, Zip, or compact disks. The user, according to how much secondary storage space is available and his/her personal preferences, controls the degree of compression of files into the image; less compression means faster backups, more compression means smaller storage requirements.

A bit about backup media philosophy: While Drive Image supports backup to a secondary partition on a single hard drive, I would be reluctant to use this capability. In that configuration, a mechanical failure of the hard drive would leave you without access to either the original files or the backup image. With the bargain basement prices of large capacity hard drives today, it would seem to be a much better choice to add a second hard drive to your system and use it as your backup medium. Remember that access speeds to a hard drive are better than CD, Zip, Jazz, tape or (ugh) floppy diskettes. The only concern in using two hard drives is that they are both vulnerable to a virus attack - but then you do use a good virus checker and keep the virus definition files current, don't you? Access speed to a CD device is also very favorable and as noted earlier the media cost for those devices is now very favorable.

The bottom line - backups are essential and Drive Image is a great way to get the job done. PowerQuest has even "sweetened" the product availability a bit. User group members may purchase Drive Image Version 4 at a special price of \$30 by ordering from the secure web site at www.ugr.com/order/. Indicate the special price code of UGEVAL00 with your order.

**Drive Image Version 4.0
MSRP \$69.95, UG pricing available
PowerQuest Corporation
Orem, UT 84059_1911**

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Next Meeting - Dec. 4,
 Taylor Memorial Library
 Cuyahoga Falls, OH

First Class Mail

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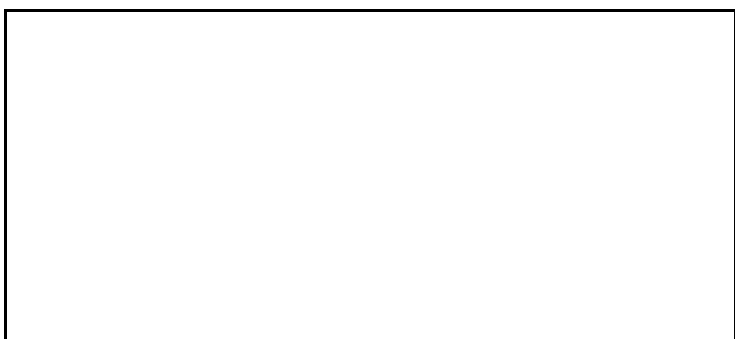
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<http://www.acpcug.org>

January 8, 2001 Meeting,
 Stark Technical College, North Canton
 We're Back at Usual Main Auditorium
 Use Visitor's Parking Lot



Club Officers			
President	Frank Ramsey (2001)	699-4711	aframsey@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Rick Lubinski (2002)	928-7179	lubinski@bright.net
Secretary	Walt Ruthenburg (2003)	283-7867	wruthenburg@usa.net
Program Director	Murray Davis (2003)	440-248-0021	murray5050@yahoo.com
New Board Member	Joe Krause (2002)		joek46@aol.com
Newsletter Editor	Art McRowe	666-3189	amcrowe@bright.net
Software Evaluation	Gerry Schaefer (2001)	499-5623	schaefer@bright.net

Future Events	
Sat., Dec. 16th, 2000	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Che-ton's on Arlington Rd. alongside I-77. Exit I-77 at Arlington and go NORTH. Look for the ACS Computer Factory Outlook. New Venue for Trapp Show!
Sun., Dec. 17th, 2000	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Cuyahoga County Fairgrounds. Exit I-71 at Bagley Rd. going West