



Ken's Korner

by Ken Fermoyle **Flash Memory Gaining Ground As Portable Devices Increase**

Perhaps "flash memory" is not part of our daily vocabularies, but the technology is rapidly becoming part of our lives, even if many of us don't realize it. Flash memory, you see, is used in cell phones, digital cameras, MP3 music players and other portable devices we all use more and more these days. It also plays a big role in unseen areas, such as networking devices from companies like Cisco.

Perhaps the most visible use of flash memory to consumers currently is in the little memory cards or sticks that slip in and out of digital cameras. Familiar brand names include Smart-Media and CompactFlash. Many other devices have built-in flash memory, so we aren't even aware that it's there.

But it is, and in growing numbers. Sales for 2000 are expected to hit \$10 billion or more, more than double the total for 1999. Manufacturers such as Intel, AMD, Atmel and Fujitsu will reap substantial profits as a result. And companies continue to announce new products or developments almost weekly.

For example, Intel Corporation in October 2000 introduced a new flash memory chip designed to enhance the performance of next-generation Internet phones and wireless devices. Intel claims that the new 1.8 Volt Wireless Flash Memory is the "highest performance flash chip available, carrying out key functions up to four times faster than existing flash solutions." The increased performance will result in higher data throughput rates to speed up data-intensive Internet phone applications such as browsing, data streaming and text messaging, the company reports. Energy savings of up to 60 percent are also claimed for the new low-voltage memory. In another indication of flash memory growth, AMD earlier

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The Handy Four Using the Keyboard for Editing

**By Jim Gaffney, SWIPCC
Member**

They've been around since DOS (Disk Operating System, for those of you who came aboard since Windows 95 hit the scene). They can make your work a whole lot easier. Yet, they are largely ignored. Computer users have become so addicted to the mouse that they frequently ignore using the keyboard. I'm referring, of course, to "keyboard shortcuts" _

January 8, 2001

Stark Technical College,
North Canton, Ohio

6 PM: Virus Protection

by Gerry Schaefer; 6:45 Q&A

7:30 PM Intro to Software Firewalls

by Rick Lubinski

FlashMemory - Ken's Korner

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announced that it has entered into an agreement with Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) to supply flash memory products over the next three years. Under the contract, AMD will provide HP with flash memory products designed to support a broad range of products including its inkjet printers and various print servers.

"Our high density and Page Mode flash memory devices offer an ideal complement to HP's innovative products," said Walid Maghribi, group vice president of AMD's Memory Group.

AMD produces a broad spectrum of flash memory products, including the award winning Simultaneous Read Write (SRW) product family, Super Low Voltage 1.8V flash memory devices, and Burst and Page mode devices. Significantly, all of AMD's flash memory products are guaranteed for a minimum of one million write cycles per sector and 20 years data retention, "making them the most reliable non-volatile memory devices offered in the industry," according to AMD claims.

Ken's Korner NewsByte

by Ken Fermoye

Wireless Headset Is First To Meet Bluetooth Standard

You may or may not have heard the name "Bluetooth" in the past, but you are sure to hear it a lot in the future. Reason? Bluetooth is expected to be the jumping-off point for a giant leap forward in wireless communications.

To understand why, you need only recall the story of the Tower of Babel. Inability to communicate stymied its builders. That's been true of wireless communication devices. Until now, an industry-wide Special Interest Group developed the Bluetooth standard to ensure interoperability between wireless devices such as cellular phones, computers, and PDAs (personal digital assistants).

Nokia, Ericsson, 3Com, IBM, and Lucent Technologies are among the more than 100 companies that make up the Bluetooth Special Interest Group.

Interestingly, a small New Hampshire company beat mobile phone biggies Nokia and L.M. Ericsson out of the Bluetooth starting gate. GN Netcom has announced one of the first officially qualified Bluetooth devices, its GN 9000 Bluetooth wireless headset.

Now a new headset might not seem like a big deal, but releasing one of the first Bluetooth devices is a "milestone" both for GN Netcom and for Bluetooth technology, according to Michelle Boockoff-Bajdek, the director of marketing communications at GN Netcom.

The product underwent the extensive testing required by the Bluetooth Qualification Body to ensure interoperability with the standard, Boockoff-Bajdek said. This is a crucial step, because "the success of Bluetooth as a standard hinges on interoperability," she said.

The headset will require a Bluetooth host device -- either the base station, which GN Netcom sells, or a Bluetooth card for a PC or PDA -- to operate. When such a device is present, the GN 9000 Bluetooth headset will offer users a mobile range of up to 30 feet (900 centimeters). The device will retail for \$299, and a package including the base station and headset will cost \$499.

Though this price level puts it out of the reach of small office/home office (SOHO) users, which includes most Ken's Korner readers, I agree with GN Netcom's Boockoff-Bajdek that the headset is a significant milestone. It is the harbinger of things to come, the "first robin" of a wireless communications spring, as it were.

We must put the cost into context, notes Paul Mahoney, the director of product marketing at GN Netcom. The idea of Bluetooth "is to allow [the consumer] to use a single device instead of six or seven," he said, adding that \$299 for a single product is not expensive compared to buying multiple items for multiple devices.

Treasurer's Report

By Rick Lubinski

Balances through November 24, 2000

| | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Checking Account | \$5455.76 |
| Regular Savings | <u>\$1094.51</u> |

Total \$6550.27

Rick is retiring as Treasurer, and Joe Krause will be taking over in Jan. 2001

Handy Keyboard Shortcuts

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keystrokes that will accomplish common editing functions (and more). Let's revisit the most common.

The "Handy Four" are the four keys just to right of the left-hand shift key.

The functions they accomplish are among the most common and frequently used.

<CTRL>+Z

Undo. This is actually a "Break" key. Old timers may remember it as the escape from "ED", the original ASCII text editor. It accomplishes from within Windows applications the same thing as that funny looking left-hook button on the toolbar.

<CTRL>+X

Cut. Why didn't they use Control and C? Well, then what would you use for Copy? Next best choice is X _ when you "X" something out you are deleting it. And besides, the X looks a little bit like an open pair of scissors.

<CTRL>+C

Copy. All right!!! We finally got one that is logical.

<CTRL>+V

Paste. V = Paste? Well, aside from the fact that it is in a group next to the previous three shortcuts, you can think of it as an inverted caret or a wedge. Thus, the combination will insert whatever has been placed on the clipboard (copied or pasted) into the application at the location of the cursor.

So why do I use these keystrokes in deference to the mouse? Actually, I use them in concert with the mouse. If I select text with the mouse, I can easily cut or copy with my left hand using the shortcuts. I then reposition the insertion point with the mouse, and paste back in using the shortcut keys via my left hand. (OK, so you "lefties" have got a problem, but you've probably already given up and started using the mouse with your right hand, anyhow).

I use the technique a lot in capturing information from E-mail messages and pasting it into my address book or a database. Then, too, there are a lot of applications out there whose authors have carelessly neglected to include undo, cut, copy, and paste on their menus. Or maybe you have the toolbars turned off at the moment? Or perhaps the application window is scrolled up where you cannot see the toolbar on the screen? If you forget the "Handy Four", just click "Edit" on the menu bar of most any Windows application _ from that drop-down, you can quickly refresh your memory of Ctrl_Z, Ctrl_X, Ctrl_C, and Ctrl_V.

And while I'm at it, let me throw in two more handy key combination that while not part of the "Handy Four, they will help you work faster.

(After a recount there are three extras.)

<ALT>+F4

This combination will exit an application. I use it frequently in the classroom for closing programs that students have carelessly left open at the end of a class period. It does the same thing as selecting File, and then exit or clicking the "X" button on the program title bar.

F2

The F2 key is an universal edit key. If you have selected a filename in Explorer, a cell in Excel or perhaps field data in Access, striking the F2 key places you into the edit mode.

F5

The F5 key is an update key. If you find that your desktop icons or MS Office shortcut bar buttons are incorrectly displayed, striking the F5 key will frequently re-scan and correct the problem. Likewise, if you have recently created a file and it appears at the bottom of the directory, the F5 will rescan and display the filenames alphabetically.

Use your keyboard. It may not always be the best choice, but frequently it can be.

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The Deals Guy, Bob Click

Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Comdex is history, but I enjoyed it while my wife trudged along. People were shoulder to shoulder and I was whopped often by people swinging around with bags on their backs. My feet were smashed by people dragging carts full of stuff behind them, and heavy paper bags were dragged across my neck as people plunged through the crowd with force. When a booth presenter threw out a tee shirt, somebody might rip it out of your hand if you caught it. You have to really love shows to put up with all that.

It was exciting, but we barely covered it in the four days we attended. With 220,000 attendees, vendors were difficult to talk to unless you had time to wait, and I assume my follow-ups will not be that fruitful, as usual. However, I'll give you what I can put together over the next couple of months, which will be slim-picking.

My buying restraint excelled this year and the only thing I acquired was a neat little portable USB drive. Called the Pockey, it is 3" X 5" X 5/8" with a capacity of 6 gigs. It fits in my tee shirt pocket with room to spare. They're available in 6, 10, 15 or 20 gigs with a MSRP of \$249 for the 6-gig model. Power comes from the USB. I was unable to get us a deal because it is just being introduced. It works on my desktop PC, but so far I can't get it to work with my laptop. See [<http://www.pockeydrives.com>] for info. There was a smaller product of the same nature at the show, but they only had display product.

The APCUG event came off beautifully with 327 attendees representing 134 user groups. Many hard-working APCUG volunteers made it a huge success. Vendor support has waned again this year, but vendors that were there really showed us a great time. The Microsoft dinner was especially outstanding with an Improv group's sidesplitting entertainment after the presentation. MS table reps asked us what MindShare could do to help our groups. Our table asked for a discount on the MSN service and our rep wrote it on his list.

Many APCUG attendees thanked me for doing the column. My highlight of the weekend was when Jeremy Dunn of Connecticut PC Users Group thanked me for the column, saying his members love it and warned they would lynch him if he ever left my column out of their newsletter.

Other Comments

Last month I complained about the lack of voice tech support from Symantec and two other vendors while saying Microsoft gives lifetime support on

some products. Little did I know that I lying through my teeth/keyboard while writing that. I've since read that MS had already posted notice that the lifetime tech support was discontinued and replaced with a maximum of two tech support calls, citing survey results - yyyyeah-right! I guess that's why agreements contain clauses to renounce promises to the customer.

Sterling Button of St. Louis Users Group for the PC says they have long used my column and sent me information for the distribution page on my Web site. Thanks Sterling.

Now The Deals

Linda & Gene Barlow announced that PowerQuest released major new versions of PartitionMagic 6.0 and Drive Image 4.0 this fall. PartitionMagic 6.0 has new support for Windows ME and Windows 2000 Professional, ability to undelete partitions, new Copy Partition Wizard, ability to split partitions and view & modify pending operations. Drive Image Version 4 has CD-R and CD-RW Support, supports Windows ME, Image Size Estimator, Image Integrity Checker, create images on hidden partitions, improved Drive Image File Editor and includes DataKeeper Utility.

Prices: PowerQuest bundle (PartitionMagic 6.0, Drive Image 4.0, SecondChance 2.07 supports Windows ME, Lost & Found 1.0 for \$99.00 plus

\$5.00 shipping & handling. Individual prices are: PartitionMagic 6.0, \$30.00 plus \$5.00 S&H, Drive Image 4.0, \$30.00 plus \$5.00 S&H, SecondChance 2.07 \$25.00 plus \$5.00 S&H, Lost & Found 1.0 \$30.00 plus \$5.00 S&H, For Mail Orders, send to: Gene & Linda Barlow, User Group Relations, PO Box 275, Orem, UT 84042. Tel. 801-796-7370. For faster service, use their secure Web site at [<http://www.ugr.com/order/>] and use the Code UGDEALS00.

Get This One FAST

Adobe's LiveMotion lets you quickly create vector-based Web sites with motion, sound and interactivity. Enhance your productivity and streamline your workflow through superior integration with Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator and GoLive. This offer saves you \$200 (US) if you take advantage of it before Feb. 28, 2001.

Order at [<http://www.adobe.com/offer/71401>] to buy for just \$99.00 or call 1-800-967-7853 and mention offer 71401. I am told you can even beat that price on the Web.

(Continued on page 5)

The Deals Guy, Bob Click

(Continued from page 4)

I noticed there is an update on the Adobe Web site to download if you are a registered owner. I also found some free music downloads.

Hey, Scan These Prices - OK!

ScanSoft offered special prices on their products at the APCUG vendor's party Sunday evening. Their user group coordinator said I could pass them on to my readers. I assume you are familiar with their products. If not, visit their Web site [<http://www.scansoft.com>].

Here are the products and prices:

OmniForm 4.01 - MSRP, \$149.99, APCUG price - \$104.99

OmniPage Pro 10 - MSRP, \$499.00, APCUG price - \$349.00

PaperPort Deluxe 7.0 - MSRP, \$59.99, APCUG price - \$41.99

PhotoFactory - MSRP, 29.95, APCUG - \$20.95

Prices are plus tax (CA, GA, IL, MA, NY, OH, NC) and S&H of \$9.95 US -

\$15.00 Canada. Visit their online store for user group special pricing at [<http://www.digitalriver.com/scansoft/usergroup>] or get the order form from whoever handles them in your group.

Talk To A Web Site, Sort Of!!

The "Conversay" booth at Comdex had a demonstrator telling his computer to find things for him on the Web and it acknowledged his request, then did as he asked. It was a fascinating demonstration and you can download the software absolutely free. Voice training is simple.

"Conversay Web" is a voice browser that allows users to surf the Web by voice using MS Internet Explorer 4.0 or higher, and is the object of this item, but they also have the products below:

"Conversay Web Conversation Developer Kit" is a toolkit for voice-powering Internet sites. It enables Web site developers to add voice-elements to interact with site visitors.

"Conversational Server" is an NT server-based environment, which utilizes telephony hardware, software, and standard Windows components to provide a visual-free interface to networked content through a telephone conversation.

"Embedded Applications" is better explained on their Web site, so visit [<http://www.conversay.com>] to read about products and get the free download (need your own headset). Then you can just TELL your computer what you want on the Web. I have not tried it yet. Next month I'll write

about another of these products that intrigued me.

Free Clipart and Animations

Interested in such things? Microsoft has plenty of it absolutely free for the download. Just visit the "Microsoft Clip Gallery Live" [<http://www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/pfclipgal.htm>] where you will find free downloads of over 120,000 graphic images and sounds, including photographs, Web animations, and clip art.

You can also visit [<http://www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/pfmusicdwn.htm>] where you will find free, downloadable programs for music students. Start with the basics, like chord structure and famous composers, then work your way up to ear training and composition. If that isn't enough free stuff, try out a few puzzles from Pandora's Box and experience the visually stunning, intricate world this game has to offer. Download them for free today at: [<http://www.microsoft.com/insider/mi/pfpanboxtri.htm>].

Another FREE ISP

Bob Dooley, editor for Broward Personal Computer Assn., told me about 1NOL (One Nation OnLine), a free ISP, but before I could write it up, 1NOL passed it's users over to "One World OnLine" as per the following instructions: "Simply re-register at [<http://www.1nol.com/signup.htm>]. Once your new account has been established, visit <http://mail.1nol.com:8383> and click on the 'Change Forwarding Information' link and follow the instructions." That's all I know, so check it out for yourselves, but Bob said he liked the service when it was 1NOL.

Here is another popular free ISP. "Address.com" is a free ISP that uses Spinway.com to supply its nationwide network. I liked their home page, which displays news items and has stock reports flowing across. The selection of nationwide phone numbers looked good. It even had a couple of access numbers for 321, which is a new area code overlaying our present 407.

I saw requirements for Windows 98 or NT, no Mac info. They offer e-mail, Web pages, personalized home page, URL forwarding, Web searches, personalized stock ticker quotes, news, sports, weather and horoscope. Also offered are free instant messaging and free chats. Check further info at [<http://www.address.com>]. You can download the software or ask to have a CD sent. I have not tried the service.

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 Cheapskate) Click [dealsguy@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns.

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Next Meeting - Jan. 8th
 Stark State Technical
 College
 Main Auditorium

First Class Mail

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 Page 4 – **Deals Guy** by Bob Click

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**February 5, 2001 Meeting,
 Taylor Memorial Library, Cuyahoga Falls**

All SIGs at 200 Charlotte Street (East Entrance) Annex #8 Reservations Required
Call 330-499-5623

INTUIT SIG - Reservation Required.
E-MAIL SIG - Reservation Required.
INTERNET SIG - Reservation Required.
WINDOWS SIG - Reservation Required.
3COM SIG - Reservation Required.

Contact Gerry at 330-499-5623 for SIG availability

| Club Officers | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
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| Future Events | |
|---------------|--|
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