

ACPCUG

July 2002

From The DealsGuy by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group June 2002 Meeting!

This was a frustrating month for me. I certainly get a lot of junk e-mail. I have used Eudora Pro version 4 as my e-mail software for some time because it was doing what I wanted and I feel I have fewer consequences if I trigger a virus. Most spam I delete by looking at the header, although with my version, I have not found a way to turn off the message preview.

One night I was deleting spam and all of a sudden the program froze when I hit delete. I had to use ctrl-alt-delete to close the program and even had to reboot. From then on, I had problems with Eudora (couldn't delete) and it finally would reboot my computer when I tried to start the program, causing an improper shutdown because it started scandisk on the startup. I removed Eudora and reinstalled it.

It ran pretty good for a couple of days, but finally the same thing happened again so I tried using Outlook with the same results, but worse. At the same time, I seemed to be having problems with other things on my machine. I suspected a virus, but my Panda AV found

(Continued on page 2)



Frank Ramsey shows Pocket PC PDAs! Note how nice screen shows!



Paul Ferris of Canton Linux Enthusiasts Shows Us Linux Works on PC's (OK, OK, Windowing Crashed Twice!)

July 1, 2002

Stark Tech Main Auditorium

North Canton, Ohio

6:00 PM Introduction to Newsgroups

by Frank Ramsey 7:30 PM Q&A

**8:00 PM Converting DVDs to CDs
by Sandy Davis**

The Deals Guy

(Continued from page 1)

nothing when I scanned my drives and Panda updates each day. Things got so bad that I finally had a friend help me check things out, then Fdisk my hard disk and reinstall the OS in case there was a strange virus.

In the meantime, I used my laptop for a few days to download my e-mail and read it. All of a sudden the same thing happened. Eudora locked up when I tried to delete a spam message. In each case, there was no attachment. These spam messages were very colorful as though they reached out to the Web, as many of the other spam messages do. After that, I stopped using the laptop because I had no AV on it and wondered if perhaps whatever was affecting my desktop machine had spread to my laptop through the network.

At this point, I am reloading software on my desktop machine and trying to figure out what to do with my laptop. I am certainly going to install an AV on it, which I already have. It will be the Panda Titanium, which ran invisibly on my desktop machine. Panda gave me their Platinum to try so I'm putting it on the desktop. I certainly hope it is telling me the truth. I would think that after a month of updates, it would have caught any virus that was a month old. Another friend thinks my machine simply ran out of resources. I'm skeptical on that one because of the corruption.

I hope my machine is clean when I send this out. At any rate, I have very little this month because vendors are not responding, and two deals are still cooking, not to mention the lack of time. One item is from our good friend Dave Whittle for MGI software. Roxio recently acquired MGI and since Roxio hasn't communicated any plans for supporting users groups, Dave is proactively reducing his inventory of MGI-logo software.

Another item is something I saw demonstrated at a user group meeting I attended, and the members all liked it. Let's take a look at them.

Dave's Deals

I'm inserting Dave's words: "PhotoSuite is the all-time best-selling, easy-to-learn and easy-to-use digital photography favorite. It's an all-in-one package offering digital photo editing, stitching, touchup, organization, enhancement, ready-made templates, web site creation, e-mail

sharing, and much more.

VideoWave 5 is an all-time favorite digital video editing package offering easy-to-learn video editing, plenty of special effects, transitions, text effects, slow and fast motion, automatic scene detection, and now, DVD authoring and CD and DVD burning. Make up to a 20-minute DVD with just a CD-R and a CD burner!

PhotoVista 2.0 is the best way to create an immersive 3D panorama that gives you the power to share that 'being there' feeling with family and friends.

MGI Cinematic is video at its very easiest for home users and novices. You shoot the video; we'll make the movie! Offering much of the power of **VideoWave**, it has a wizard-driven interface and extra transitions and templates especially for home movies.

PhotoSuite Mobile Edition is for Palm-OS handhelds, including any Palm, Handspring or Clie, including color or black and white units. It simplifies the storing and sharing of your digital pictures and video on your Palm-powered handheld device.

MGI PhotoSuite 4 Platinum Edition -- (retail, \$49.99). Special \$18.00, saving \$31.99. MGI VideoWave 5 -- (retail \$129.99). Special \$50.00, saving \$79.99. Bundle of PhotoSuite 4 + VideoWave 5 -- (retail \$179.98). Special \$65.00, saving \$114.98. MGI PhotoVista 2.0 -- (retail \$49.99). Special \$20.00, saving \$29.99. MGI Cinematic -- (retail \$89.99). Special \$35.00, saving \$54.99. MGI PhotoSuite Mobile Edition -- (retail \$24.95). Special \$10, saving \$14.94. Any 3 products -- (retail up to \$269.97) -- only \$80, saving \$189.97. Any 4 products - (retail up to \$319.96) - only \$90, saving \$229.96. Add \$7.95 for shipping. (Dave says he'll offer FREE S&H *IF* you write 'DealsGuy' on your order!)

"You may order by US mail if you pay by check or money order, or by e-mail, fax or phone if you pay with VISA or MasterCard. Please provide your name, complete mailing address, phone number and/or e-mail address along with the product(s) you'd like and the total price you expect to pay based on the above. Mail orders to: Webworking Services, 653 N 600 E, Springville, UT 84663. Phone orders to 1-801-489-0605. Fax orders to 1-801-489-0609. E-mail orders to orders@webworkingservices.com.

"Don't miss out on the great prices for these highly popular, highly-touted products. Tens of thousands have been sold to user group members nationwide during the past three years. These are the easiest to learn and the easiest to use products

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

you can find, yet they're powerful enough for almost everyone, including many professionals!"

I've watched Dave's presentation a number of times and have always been impressed with what he can do with all these products. I own one MGI product and it certainly did what I wanted easily.

What, Another Free Office Suite!

I was at a Space Coast PC Users Group meeting one evening and their very able Webmaster, Curt Potsic, did a great demo on this fine office suite that will do the job if you don't need the gargantuan work of MS Office or Corel Office Suite. He was even using voice recognition during his demo. I took the description below off the Web.

EasyOffice 2001, a Powerful but easy-to-use office suite. EasyOffice includes Easy Word, Easy Spreadsheet, Easy Presentation, Easy Bar Coder, Easy Web Page Creator, Easy Contact Manager, Easy Bookkeeper and Easy Speaker. EasyOffice is self-explanatory -- No manuals to read. EasyOffice automatically gets you working with the Internet -- one click sends your document as e-mail. Save your files on the Internet. Create great looking Web pages. EasyOffice 2002 is compatible with Microsoft files."

It's hard to find the freeware version, but when I looked it was at [http://www.e-press.com/demo_downloads.html]. I'm told it's also on ZDNet and c/net. [<http://www.download.com>], doing a search for EasyOffice. Or try [<http://www.winsite.com>], [<http://www.tucows.com>] and [<http://www.zdnet.com>] doing a search for EasyOffice.

It is only free for personal use. However, I saw it on the Provantage.com site for \$21.00 and it would be worth that to be able to avoid the nag screens and be able to download the upgrades to it when they come out, if I understood it right. Be sure and read all the latest improvements introduced this year, such as its EazyZip, EazyBackup, etc. What a deal this is.

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, or disgruntled, I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [Bobclick@dealsguy.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. There are also interesting articles from user

group newsletters on my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading.

Trouble Shooting Linux with Unix Tools by Darren Kressin, Alamo PC

With the evolution of the personal computer, we are seeing the changes in networking grow exponentially. A network enables the user to share files and devices like printers, external zip or other drives with other computers on the network. As more people acquire computers, the need to have the computers communicate with one another is growing rapidly. Networking used to be beyond the price range for the average person. With the change in technology and drop in cost, most everyone has two or more computers and can now have their own network. The network can range from Ethernet to token ring to wireless. The most common as of this writing is Ethernet.

With the reasonable priced, High speed Internet connections that are available, the inexperienced user now has a new set of hazards that must be addressed.

The first priority after connecting to a High speed Internet connection should be a firewall to protect the computers that are always on and connected to the Internet. Firewalls protect the computers from hackers. This can be accomplished with a hardware firewall device or software that is loaded on the computer.

The second dilemma is connecting all the computers, in the building or house, to a network system that allows the computers to access the same Internet connection. The newly created network brings its own additional problems that require attention. The remaining sections of this article address those concerns.

I would like to discuss the advantages of using networking tools designed for Unix that will run on the Linux operating system. These tools will make it possible for a User to trouble shoot network problems and carry out an overall review of computer security.

When networking computers together, you have additional layers of potential problems that could and will occur. One has to either hire someone to come in and troubleshoot the network or else the user develops the necessary skills and troubleshoots the problems themselves. Although Windows provide tools to ad-

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

dress the troubleshooting process, there are more powerful tools available elsewhere on the Internet to help a user analyze what the problem is. This is where the basis of the matter appears.

Most networking tools for the Unix platform are freeware or shareware. However, the freeware or shareware tools that can be used on a Windows system are becoming readily available on the Internet, but still lag behind most of the Unix tools in versatility and robustness.

Unix tools have not been ported to the Windows environment. I am specifically speaking of tools that assist a user to pinpoint a problem within a network or security system or on a specific computer. I am also referring to tools that are freeware or shareware. There are tools for the Windows environment that the user could purchase, but most are rather expensive. The tools that I have come across seem to be more specific in nature and not multi-functional and this singularity adds to the purchase cost.

Unix OS dates back to the late sixties. Some of the first networking tools developed were for Unix platforms. The only way to take advantage of these tools is to run Unix. This is where Linux comes in. With the development and release of Linux, this enables the non-Unix user to employ these very powerful tools since Linux is based on Unix.

As Linux grows, the operating system is becoming friendlier to the average user. It is fast approaching to the point of being a system that the average user can load and start using with very little training or reading. The Linux community is achieving great progress in the development of the operating system. They are working hard to make the system more user friendly. This is going to allow the operating system to grow and become more easily accepted. The system engineers are working to integrate Linux within a Windows network environment, and are exceeding very well.

Since Linux OS is an open source code system, all the tools I have found are either freeware or shareware. To locate the tools on the Internet, open a search engine and type in the type of tool that you need. That is the easy part. The hard part is determining where to trouble shoot your problems.

You will need to have a basic knowledge of networking and understand the flow. Both Linux and Windows have available the basic tools to get you started in troubling shooting your network. If your problem is not a basic TCP/IP related or related driver then you will require tools to help you in defining the problem and the method to fix it.

One of the most difficult problems is pinpointing

a bad network card. The card from hell is the one that demonstrates connectivity but doesn't function as it was designed. Locate the tool that can look at packets and the flow of packets. Also having a program that can measure TCP/IP throughput is also quite useful. Ideally, you want a program that does both. Qcheck is such a program that will work on the Windows operating system and does both. There is talk about porting it to the Linux platform. This is the foundation to trouble shooting your TCP/IP connections.

Security is the other shoe that I am going to drop. One could be reminded of the saying, "fight fire with fire" in describing the following advice. Keep in mind that most of the hackers in the world are using some version of the Unix operating system. Hacker sites are the best places to obtain additional necessary tools and to keep up with the cyber-criminals. Be aware that when you go to a hacking Web site you are entering the devil's den. I would suggest using a computer that has no important information on it and will not hurt you if it is crashed by the hacker. I realize this is a big risk, and this is something you will have to consider. If tugging the devil's beard is not your cup of tea, then the software security industry has something just for you.

A software tool with an attitude is called SATAN. It was written by Dan Farmer and Weitse Venema. It is designed to scan hosts on an IP network and report about well-known security vulnerabilities. It is one of the most helpful tools that a system administrator can use in securing their systems.

I have touched on just one area a user is going to have to face when upgrading to a high speed Internet connection. Nevertheless, one of the best defenses that a user can do is to "network" or reach out to other users. Employ all the resources that you have available to you. One place is the PC Alamo Organization. Avail yourself of the talent concentrated there and don't hesitate to ask questions. By speaking with other club members you may discover ways to avoid mistakes that others have made.

Darren Kressin has been in computers since taking a basic programming course in college in 1986. Presently he is the Network Administrator for the Alamo Area Council of Governments while maintaining a separate computer/networking consulting business.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using the article as long as it is kept in context, with proper credit given to the author.

(Continued on page 6)

Male Friend Needs Technical Support

Sequel to Upgrading to Wife 1.0.

Can you please advise me. I'm having some problems. I'm currently running the latest version of Girlfriend and I've been having some problems lately. I've been running the same version of DrinkingBuddies 1.0 all along as my primary application, and all the girlfriend releases have always conflicted with it. I hear that DrinkingBuddies won't crash if you run girlfriend in background mode with the sound turned off. But I'm embarrassed to say I can't find the switch to turn the sound off. I just run them separately, and it works okay. Girlfriend also seems to have a problem coexisting with my Golf program, often trying to abort Golf with some sort of timing incompatibility. I probably should have stayed with girlfriend 1.0, but I thought I might see better performance with GirlFriend 2.0. After months of conflicts and other problems, I consulted a friend who has had experience with GirlFriend 2.0. He said that I probably didn't have enough cache to run girlfriend 2.0, and that eventually it would require a Token ring to run properly. He was right --- as soon as I purged my cache, it uninstalled itself. Shortly after that, I installed girlfriend 3.0 beta. All the bugs were supposed to be gone, but the first time I used it gave me a virus. I had to clean out my whole system and shut down for a while.

I very cautiously upgraded to girlfriend 4.0. This time I used a SCSI probe first and also installed a virus protection program. It worked okay for a while until I discovered that GirlFriend 1.0 was still in my system! Then I tried to run GirlFriend 1.0 again with GirlFriend 4.0 still installed, but GirlFriend 4.0 has a feature that I didn't know about that automatically senses the presence of any other version of girlfriend and communicates with it in some way, which results in the immediate removal of both versions! The version I have right now works pretty well, but there are still some problems. Like all versions of girlfriend, it is written in some obscure language that I can't understand, much less reprogram. Frankly, I think there is too much attention paid to the look and feel rather than the desired functionality. Also, to get the best connections with your hardware, you usually have to use gold-plated contacts. And I've never liked how GirlFriend is totally "object-oriented". A year ago, a friend of mine upgraded his version of GirlFriend to GirlFriendPlus 1.0, which is a Terminate and Stay Resident version of GirlFriend. He discovered that GirlFriendPlus 1.0 expires within a year if you don't

upgrade to Fiancee 1.0. So he did. But soon after that, he had to upgrade to Wife 1.0, which he describes as a "huge resource hog". It has taken up all of his space, so he can't load anything else. One of the primary reasons that he upgraded to Wife 1.0 is that it came bundled with FreeSexPlus 1.0. Well, it turns out that the resource allocation module of Wife 1.0 sometimes prohibits access to FreesexPlus, particularly the new Plug-Ins he wanted to try. On top of that, Wife 1.0 must be running on a well warmed-up system before he can do anything. Although -he did not ask for it, Wife 1.0 came with MotherInLaw 1.0 which has an automatic pop-up feature that he can't turn off. I told him to try installing Mistress 1.0, but he said that he heard if you try to run it without first uninstalling Wife 1.0, Wife 1.0 will delete MSMoney files before doing the uninstall itself, Then Mistress 1.0 won't install anyway due to insufficient resources. Can you help??

Getting Rid of the Little Yellow Speaker in the Tray

The little yellow speaker in the lower-right of the screen, next to the clock (the clock can be removed by right-clicking and selecting **Properties**, by the way), lets you display the volume control by clicking on it. For those of us who have volume controls elsewhere, or simply do not need to repeatedly change the volume, there is a way to remove the icon.

- Open **Control Panel** by selecting **Settings** from the **Start** menu.
- Double-click on the **Sounds and Multimedia** icon (it's just called **Multimedia** in Windows 95/98).
- Under the **Audio** tab, in the **Playback** section, turn off the **Show volume control on the taskbar** option.
- Click OK.

Written by: Annoyances.org
Last updated: Thursday, August 30, 2001

Intended For
Windows XP
Windows 2000
Windows Me
Windows 98
Windows 95

Akron-Canton PC Users Group
PO Box 2151
Akron Oh 44309-2151

**Next Meeting - July 1st,
 Stark Tech Auditorium
 North Canton, OH**

First Class Mail

**In This
 Issue...**

Page 1 – **The DealsGuy** by
 Bob Click, **June Meeting –
 Frank Ramsey & Paul
 Ferris.**
 Page 3 – **Trouble Shooting
 Linux**

Mailing Label Address Goes Here

Published by: Akron-Canton PC Users Group
Box 2151, Akron, Oh 44309-2151
www.acpcug.org

* Membership - 1st year \$25, renewals \$20 per year
 * User groups are granted permission to reproduce arti-
 cles with source credit.
<http://www.acpcug.org>

(Continued from page 4)

This article is brought to you by the Editorial
 Committee of the Association of Personal
 Computer User Groups (APCUG), an Interna-
 tional organization to which this user group
 belongs.

Club Officers				Future Events	
President	Murray Davis (2003)	440-248-0021	murray5050@yahoo.com	Sun., July. 14th, 2002	Peter Trapp Computer Show at Tadmor Temple off I-77 to Ar- lington Road, Akron, OH (Exit 120)
Vice President	Frank Ramsey (2004)	330-699-4711	aframsey@yahoo.com		
Club Outreach	Rick Lubinski (2002)	330-928-7179	lubinski@bright.net		
Secretary	Walt Ruthenburg (2003)	330-283-7867	wruthenburg@usa.net		
Program Director					
Treasurer	Joe Krause (2002)	330-484-2338	Joek4646@yahoo.com		
Newsletter Editor	Art McRowe	330-666-3189	amcrowe@bright.net		
Software Review	Jim Carter (2004)	330-882-4222	jwcarter@bright.net		