

ACPCUG Newsletter

**Akron Main
Public Library**

February 5, 2007

Feb. Program:

Starts at 6:00 PM

Internet on Cell Phone

by Frank Ramsey + **Q&A**

- **Intro to Office 2007**
- by Frank Ramsey
-

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February 2007

Akron-Canton PC Users Group

**From The DealsGuy for
March 2007**

by **Bob (the cheapskate)**

Click,

**Greater Orlando Computer Us-
ers Group**

***An Attempt To Change Urolo-
gists**

A neighbor told me about his urolo-
gist who, he said, used the latest
laser equipment, and had been
written up in the newspaper as us-
ing very advanced procedures. I
decided the best might not be too
good for me, so since I am having
urinary problems, I would try him. I
went for my appointment with him
and in came a Nurse Practitioner to
examine me. (You all know how I
feel about that.) While she asked
her questions and did the prelimi-
nary work, I told her how I felt
about the use of NPs substituting
for doctors and that I felt I should
always be actually diagnosed by the
doctor. In so many words, she as-
sured me she was just as capable
as any doctor, and that she often
offered suggestions that helped the
doctors there. Maybe! However, she
assured me I would definitely see
the doctor, which turned out to be
about 15 seconds when he stuck his
head in the door and greeted me.

(Continued from page 1)

Needless to say, I didn't make another appointment no matter how good he was. My old urologist might not have the latest equipment, but he is the one who actually examines me. I feel he is capable so I'm going to stick with him. I have since seen him and he assured me he also has the same laser equipment. I am not comfortable being examined by a "substitute doctor" who has nowhere near the training an actual doctor goes through making important decisions concerning my health.

***Interesting Items**

Here are a couple of items I found interesting in Information Week. Read about invisible RFID ink for cattle that also won't contaminate anything. <<http://www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=UKBMPSHVFDNIKQSNDLRCKH0CJUNN2JVN?articleID=196802844&queryText=K.C.+Jones>> Also a robot called "iRobot Create" that you can send to the kitchen if you are thirsty. I couldn't find it on the magazine's Web site so here is the product's URL: They have other robots that you have probably heard about, such as the Rhumba robot vacuum cleaner. <<http://www.iRobot.com/>>

***Reminders**

My reminder about the free version of Tax Act for doing your taxes is never very timely, but perhaps it's because of how early I must write this column and the fact that I'm not doing my taxes yet. <<http://www.taxact.com>> You can even file your tax return electronically with the free version. If you don't feel comfortable doing your federal income tax on your own computer, and you make \$39,000 or less, you can call for an appointment with an IRS volunteer who will meet face-to-face with you to do it. Call 1-800-829-1040 to find the nearest IRS volunteer office. Don't forget the free income tax help from the great folks at AARP. Call the AARP chapter near you to see where they offer this help, and the times they are available.

Two items below are announcements that included a user group discount. I have edited them, but they are mostly in the vendor's own words so check further on their Web site for complete information. I have not tried any of the products myself although I was invited to do so. They both sound very useful.

***Manage Your Clipboard History. One Version Is FREE And A Nice Discount On The Other.**

(Continued on page 3)

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LW-WORKS Software has released Version 4.0 of Clipboard Recorder, an application that helps users to manage their Windows clipboard history and provides easy ways for users to access their saved clipboard data.

Once it is running, Clipboard Recorder adds an icon to your system tray and monitors your system clipboard. As you copy any data from other applications to the system clipboard, Clipboard Recorder will capture it and store it to the listening clipboard record list in a compressed format.

Clipboard Recorder provides four ways to select the records: Popup Window, Floating Window, Menu Window and Main Window. Most of the time, you don't need to leave your working application to access your clipboard history! The selected clipboard records can be pasted to your working application directly just as if you have pressed "Ctrl + V". Clipboard Recorder also features transferring clipboard data between computers. Therefore, users can do "Ctrl+C" on one computer and "Ctrl+V" on another.

Clipboard Recorder is available in two versions, Professional and Standard (Freeware). The professional version with complete online help costs \$29.95 (user group members get a 30% discount using the coupon code "Special"). Clipboard Recorder 4.0 runs under Windows 98/ME, Windows 2000, or XP Home and Professional. Visit the LW-WORKS Software home page at <<http://www.lw-works.com>> to order Clipboard Recorder or to download a fully functional trial copy.

LW-WORKS Software
<<http://www.lw-works.com>>

***Here Is Help To Sort Your MP3 Files**

This handy utility will sort a musical collection of any size, quickly reorganizing folders and renaming files on your hard drive. MP3 Sorter physically rearranges music on your hard drive while similar programs just create a list of files, but make no actual changes. After you use MP3 Sorter, all changes will be seen in Explorer as if you arranged files manually. Prior to actually rearranging files, MP3 Sorter allows users to see the structure of files and folders after renaming/rearranging takes place. MP3 Sorter renames files according to the artist's name and the title of the track and places them in folders like this; "Artists\Album + Year". The utility has an adjustable renaming system.

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(Continued from page 3)

The utility has a preview window showing the newly arranged structure and comes with a Duplicate Checker feature that insures against accidental overwrites. You can see the transfer result to avoid any transfer mistake, and if you want to undo the transfer operation, it is possible to return the original file and folder structure with the help of the Roll Back Manager. Also, you can make MP3 Sorter delete source files, which will be done only if copying was successful.

MP3 Sorter provides an advanced editor so you can change custom tokens whenever you like. After MP3 Sorter neatly reorganizes your MP3 collection, you will be able to find required music tracks on your hard drive with the speed of a radio DJ.

MP3 Sorter runs under all versions of Microsoft Windows and costs \$24.95 (USD) for a single-user license, but user group members get a 10% discount by using this URL: <<https://secure.shareit.com/shareit/cart.html?PRODUCT%5B300080839%5D=1&COUPON1=MP3ST891>>. Licensed customers are entitled to the fully functional version of the product, free technical support and free upgrades. Further information on 'MP3 Sorter', as well as a free trial copy is available free of charge from <<http://www.prograce.com>>.

Product page link: <<http://prograce.com/index.php?page=mp3>>

Download link: <<http://prograce.com/download/MP3SorterInstall.exe>>

***The Bundle Is Back!**

Colleen Toumayan from Diskeeper Corporation tells me the "Bundle" is back. It consists of one Diskeeper Home Edition, and one Undelete 5 Home Edition for just \$49.95. Most of you already know the good qualities of the Diskeeper products. Get it here: <<http://purchase.diskeeper.com/checkout/addtocart.aspx?Item=2140>> I'm glad Colleen stayed (she had considered leaving Diskeeper) with the company because she keeps me apprised of special offers and is great a great resource.

***Free Software That is Interesting**

I saw this in Mug Monitor, newsletter for Macon Users Group, <<http://www.maconusersgroup.org>> and wondered if it would interest any of my

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(Continued from page 4)

readers. It is called Google Sketchup 6. It is a FREE 3D modeling software that helps you in remodeling or landscaping. It has to do with Google Earth. I can't fully explain it so check it out at <<http://sketchup.google.com/>>. It is a great deal because if you want their Pro version, it will cost you a cool \$495. I don't know what that one has that the free one does not, but you can read up on it.

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

Traveling with Computers

by **Diane George**, Webmaster, PC Community

Hayward, California

<http://www.pcc.org>

[digeorge\(at\)sbcglobal.net](mailto:digeorge(at)sbcglobal.net)

My husband and I have taken several cruises and both of us do some other traveling for business and pleasure that keeps us in a hotel for several days at a time. Being addicted to using our computers, it's impossible to travel without our notebook computers. We both take our own notebook computers. As a result we need to do a little additional planning to take what we need to connect and use both computers.

First item is a small power strip. We found some lightweight ones with a short power cord and four outlets that are easy to fit into a computer bag. Because we also take digital cameras, it helps to be able to plug in several devices at once, computers and chargers. While most hotels have multiple outlets, cruise ships typically have one outlet so the strip is doubly important.



Did I mention that we use bags on wheels that can be carried on an airplane? The basics need to fit into that bag. Usually there is enough space for some personal items (e.g., toothbrush, underwear, medications).

We take lots of spare batteries—neither one of us can stand to use the touch pads on our notebooks so we use cordless mice. The cameras also use batteries. Plan to bring the used batteries back with you as most places don't provide for disposal of spent batteries.

When we are going to be staying in a hotel, we take a small wireless access point—it's designed for travel and comes with a carrying case that includes the Ethernet cable that is needed. The one we have is made by Linksys and is slightly larger than a deck of cards. For some hotels, this will allow us to simultaneously use an Internet connection. This will usually work where hotels provide free Internet access—it doesn't help when there is a charge because they track the user's IP address for billing purposes.

Expect to pay about \$10.00 a day for Internet access at those hotels that charge—they may have wireless access, but be sure to pack an Ethernet cable in your computer bag in case they don't. There are still some hotels

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that only offer a modem connection, but in general most hotels now offer some type of Internet access.

On board ship, connections are provided via satellite and the cost is fairly high. On our most recent cruise, the basic charge was 75 cents per minute on a pay as you go basis. You could also purchase longer time periods for a lower rate per minute, e.g., 100 minutes for \$55.00. Connections suffer from some lack of reliability due to weather and satellite positions. The ship offered wireless access in a few locations for people with their own computers. The charges applied whether you used the ship's computers or your own. We opted not to use the on board access because the cost did not seem reasonable. On other trips, we used on-shore Internet cafes to review email, in Mexico, Costa Rica and the Caribbean. This trip (Hawaii) we did not find any that were near the port.

One of the conveniences of having Internet access on board was the ability to check-in online for our flights while we were still at sea. Southwest Airlines, in particular, allows you to check in 24 hours before your flight time. If you check in online within the first couple of hours, you will usually be assigned to the A group—first in line to board. The ship offered a short (30 minutes) package for \$12.95. I was able to check in for four people at Southwest and had a few minutes to spare—nobody said it was fast!



Online check in requires you to print your boarding passes. At many hotels, you can get the concierge to print your boarding pass—you give them the confirmation number and they will do it for you. On the ship, we could have paid for the Internet access and to have the passes printed, but instead we took a printer with us so we were able to print our own. I saved the passes as PDF files and then took them back to our stateroom for printing.

In prior years, we took a small photo printer with us, but found that to be too limiting. We bought an HP 460, an inkjet printer, which prints photos and 8 ½ x 11 pages as well. It was designed to be mobile, so is fairly compact and lightweight. It can be tucked into a suitcase among your clothes. The printer has an AC adapter and a USB connection. We took a small supply of paper, both plain and photo paper tucked in the bottom of a suitcase.

Aside from printing boarding passes, we also used the printer to print photos to give to some of the friends we made during the cruise, passengers and staff. The pictures were much appreciated.

This leads to the main reason for taking the computers—we take a lot of pictures with two digital cameras. On cruises, in particular, we have to download the images in order to recover space on the memory cards. Even with multiple cards for the cameras, we would never have enough storage space without off-loading the images. We get pictures from our in-laws who travel with us and spend some time on the trip organizing the images before we get home. On the last cruise we had five days at sea before we got home, so there was plenty of time to work on them.

Another item that has been useful is a small external drive. We have a 40 gigabyte drive that is about 6 inches by 3 inches and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick. It connects via USB and does not require a power supply if you connect it to your computer directly. This allows us to back up the photos and to share them with each other or our traveling companions. You may also want to take a card reader if your notebook doesn't have a built-in card reader. A USB hub may also be useful.

We take a small scanner (about 1 inch thick) and a folding table. Because there is usually one desk in hotel rooms or in staterooms, the second notebook user has to resort to using the coffee table, a chair or the bed. It's really inconvenient and hard on the back, so we have a small plastic table that comes apart and is easy to reassemble. It folds to less than 2 inches thick and fits in a medium size suitcase. You can work with a notebook and have room for a mouse. It weighs about two pounds so it's not a big burden to include it and it saves fighting over who gets the desk.

Before you leave, double check to make sure you have all the USB cables that you need, as well as the adapters for your devices. If you take a printer, be sure to include extra ink cartridges. Depending on where you travel, you may or may not be able to find what you need.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

How Does Windows Handle USB Devices?

by Dave Gerber, Program Chair, Sarasota PCUG, Florida; member of the "Live on the Internet" Bits and Bytes radio show team
Dave_bytes(at)comcast.net
<http://www.davebytes.com>

One subject that often comes up is how Windows handles USB (Universal Serial Bus) devices and what you can do when USB devices don't work as you expect. First, let's talk about the two versions of USB that you'll probably encounter:

USB 1.1: these were the first widely-available devices and usually ran at a speed of 1.5 mb/sec. They were meant to replace old-fashioned serial and parallel (printer) connections that ran at only a fraction of the speed and could connect only one device at a time. While this speed was OK for slow devices like mice and keyboards, it wasn't useful for transferring large amounts of data, like from digital video cameras. For faster speeds, you needed SCSI or FireWire (IEEE 1394) connections. Since these were used mostly on the Mac, you often needed an add-in card for your computer to use them, which is one of the inconveniences that USB was supposed to alleviate.

USB 2.0: typically runs at the much higher speed of 480 mb/sec, which is faster than the original FireWire standard and much faster than SCSI. This is more appropriate for large data transfer, such as to external hard drives, and necessary to connect CD or DVD burners. However, some people still prefer FireWire for devices like video cameras, because FireWire is really a network that allows devices to be more interactive.

So how do you know which USB you have? If your computer was made sometime in the last few years, chances are its USB ports are version 2.0, which are backwards-compatible with 1.1 devices. One way you can tell which version your computer has is to look at the Device Manager in Windows XP:

- Press Windows Key + Break to open Device Manager (or click the Start button, then right-click My Computer and select Properties).
- Click the Hardware tab, then click Device Manager.
- At the bottom of the list, click the plus sign next to Universal Serial Bus controllers.

If your computer has is equipped with USB 1.1, you'll see a device or two called a Host Controller or Open Host Controller.

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If your computer is equipped with USB 2.0, you'll see a device or two called an Enhanced Host Controller or USB 2.0 Controller.

Any USB device you buy will have the regular USB trident logo and any high-speed USB device will have the red, white and blue high-speed logo.

If you connect a high-speed USB device to a low-speed USB port on your computer, Windows will probably give you a message that the device can run faster if you connect it to a high-speed port. A USB 2.0 internal expansion card costs about \$20 and a USB 2.0 notebook adapter (fits in the PC Card slot) costs about \$40.

The most common problem people have is when they connect a USB flash drive (sometimes called a thumb drive) to a computer and the computer doesn't recognize it.

First, let me say that these are great devices. Connect one to your computer and it works like a removable hard drive.

When you connect a USB device to a computer running Windows XP, the computer will detect it immediately. When that device is a USB drive, you'll probably see a message on the taskbar that Windows detected a new device, followed by a dialog box that asks if you want to open the drive to see its contents, play a movie and other choices. Windows will also assign a drive letter to the device. But sometimes you won't get this dialog box, and when you open My Computer manually (Windows Key + E), you won't see the device listed. That means there's a drive letter conflict.

Here's how you fix it:

- Select Start/Control Panel, then double-click Administrative Tools. (You may also have Administrative Tools directly on the Start menu.)
- Double-click Computer Management.
- On the left side of the Computer Management console, select Disk Management.
- On the right side, you should see a device listed as a removable drive, probably with the same letter as another drive you're already using.
- Right-click the white bar where it shows the letter, then select Change Drive Letter and Paths.
- Select the letter, then click the Change button.
- Pick a letter not already in use from the list, then click OK.

- Click OK on the warning message, then click OK again. (I assign U: to all USB flash drives, since I never use more than one flash drive at a time.)
- Close the Computer Management console. When you go back into My Computer, you should see the USB drive with the new letter.

Another common problem is running out of ports. When USB started being implemented, the idea was that you would daisy-chain the devices together. So computer manufacturers would put in only two ports (always in the back) and only one port on laptops. For a variety of reasons, the daisy-chain idea never caught on, and computers made today typically have four ports in the back and two in the front, for quick access.

If you run out of ports, you can fix the problem -- as with so many others -- by applying cash. Buy an external USB hub for anywhere from \$10 to \$40, depending on size, number of ports and power. A hub will split a single USB port into several more. The better ones have their own power supply, so your devices don't have to rely on the computer for powering the USB connection. When there isn't enough power to go around for all the devices, they can go offline.

This brings me to the last problem I'll mention: USB devices going offline because of reasons unrelated to power shortage. This was fairly common when you had many devices connected using USB 1.1 in versions of Windows older than 2000, where the devices had to supply their own software to get USB to work. (Native USB drivers were first included with 2000, then made more robust in XP -- and Vista, presumably). If this happens, simply unplug all the USB devices, then plug them back in one-by-one. If any are daisy-chained together, connect the parent devices before connecting the child devices.

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Accessories for that New Christmas Computer

By Ira Wilsker, APCUG Director; columnist, The Examiner, Beaumont, TX; TV and radio show host lwilsker(at)apcug.net

WEBSITES:

<http://free.grisoft.com> - AVG Free Antivirus Software

<http://www.zonelabs.com> – Zone Alarm Free (and commercial) Firewall

<http://www.safer-networking.org> – Spybot Search & Destroy

<http://www.openoffice.org> OpenOffice Free Office Suite

This Christmas season Santa delivered countless new desktop and notebook computers to good boys and good girls of all ages. Many also received gift cards as welcomed presents, which will allow the recipient to purchase whatever he/she wishes.

While almost all new computers will run out of the box, these same new computers are often the epitome of vulnerability as they often lack appropriate protective security software. While many new computers come with some software and utilities, there are still several items which would make good last minute Christmas gifts, or an appropriate utilization of a gift card.

New computers are generally very vulnerable to a variety of attacks from hackers, crackers, viruses, spyware, and other virtual threats. I would strongly suggest that the new computer be accompanied by any one of the many readily available security suites. Under the premise that something is better than nothing, any of the commonly available comprehensive software security suites will do a reasonable job of protecting the computer. Brands of security suites from such well-known companies as Trend Micro, Symantec (Norton), McAfee, Kaspersky, Panda, CA (Computer Associates), and Zone Alarm, will all do a satisfactory job protecting the computer from attack. All of these brands, as well as most others, recently released the 2007 dated suites which include the latest in features, including antivirus, firewall, anti-spyware, and other utilities.

Those who will be using the computer with broadband access may decide to forgo the gift card and utilize the free security software offered by the broadband companies. Alternatively, free protective software from such companies as Grisoft's AVG Free Antivirus software, (free.grisoft.com) if used along with a free firewall such as the free version of Zone Alarm (www.zonelabs.com – under the "Quick Links" heading on the bottom left of the page) will provide reasonably effective security. Since spyware of various types is now considered by many as a greater threat than viruses, anti-spyware software is a necessity. The above suites all include anti-spyware software, but those who want free anti-spyware can get the free and excellent Spybot Search and Destroy from www.safer-networking.org.

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Regardless if a commercial or free product is selected, it must be immediately installed on that new computer, updated and configured (the default configurations are good enough for the common user), as computers are subject to immediate attack the instant they go online, and new computers lacking appropriate protective software are prime and juicy targets for miscreants and purveyors of malware.

Another very useful device that can be utilized with that new computer is one or more USB flash drives (also called thumb or pen drives). Since very few new computers come with floppy disc drives anymore, the user will need some easy and efficient way to move data between computers. USB flash drives are ideal for this purpose. The prices of these small drives have plunged in recent months, and capacities have soared. For reasonable prices these drives can be purchased at any computer store, electronics store, discount store, or warehouse club.

Many of us do much more with our computers than surf the net. We will likely need some productivity software that has a word processor, spreadsheet, and other utilities. Microsoft's Office Suites (the MS Office 2007 Suite is just coming on the market) are arguably the most popular productivity suites on the market, but they are quite pricey, even if purchased as a student edition. Alternatively, there is an excellent suite published by Corel which continues the WordPerfect tradition with its Corel WordPerfect Office X3. Since many of us find that our finances may be a little tight following the holiday season, a free office suite may meet our needs. OpenOffice is an outstanding and comprehensive office suite consisting of a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation program, database, and other office utilities, and is available for free download from www.openoffice.org.

A new computer is often accompanied by a new monitor, printer, and other peripherals, most of which have demands for clean electrical power. A good surge suppressor type of power strip is a necessary but somewhat inexpensive adjunct to the new computer, in order to protect it from power surges and spikes that could "fry" sensitive electrical components. Surge suppressors should have a UL label showing that it meets the standards of UL1449. The ability to resist power spikes and surges is measured in joules, and generally the more joules listed on the label the better. It should also be noted that most surge suppressors can and do wear out, so it would be a good practice to include a new one with that new computer, or as soon as practical after Christmas. If the budget or capacity of the gift card will allow it, a good "UPS" (Uninterruptible Power Supply) may be better than a surge suppressor. As a caution read the package label carefully to verify that the selected UPS has the battery capacity to power the computer and monitor (other peripherals need not be connected to the battery side of the UPS) in the event of a power flicker or failure. If the power fails and an appropriate UPS has been installed, the user will have time to safely shut the computer down. If A UPS is selected look for features like "AVR" (Automatic Voltage Regulation) which will provide clean power to the computer in the event of surges or brownouts.

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There are a lot of other useful peripherals and software which should be considered, such as media (blank CDs and DVDs), web cameras, digital cameras, backup software and hardware, and other helpful and necessary items.

Whatever you do with that new Christmas computer, be sure that it is always properly and adequately protected from a variety of threats.

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Tour the World with World Wind

by **Rob Rice**, a member of the Computer Club of Oklahoma City and a computer specialist in Anchorage, Alaska
[http://www.ccokc.org/articles\(at\)isp.com](http://www.ccokc.org/articles(at)isp.com)

Lots of folks are familiar with Google Earth the free downloadable virtual globe program. Yet, I am finding that many have never heard of NASA'S World Wind. World Wind is developed at the NASA Ames Research Center and is an open-source competitor to Google Earth. While it has been around for several years, it is a fascinating piece of software that can keep you glued to your monitor for hours on end.

Like Google Earth, this free program maps the earth by superimposing images obtained from satellite imagery and United States Geological Survey aerial photography over a 3D globe. Once the 60 megabyte program has been downloaded and installed, you are treated to a true-color image of the entire Earth from space upon opening the program. The globe can be manipulated with your mouse. Use the mouse wheel to zoom from satellite altitude down to any place on earth. Hold the left button and move the mouse to rotate the globe and the right button to tilt it.

The Landsat satellite imagery and Shuttle Radar Topography Mission data allows one to experience



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Earth terrain in 3D, just as if you were flying low over the landscape. Visit any place in the world.

But as they say on TV, "Wait! There's more!" World Wind also comes with virtual globes of the Moon, Venus, Jupiter, Mars and the Sloan Digital Sky Server, which allows you to explore outer space.

A variety of views are available. Below is a summary from the World Wind website:

Blue Marble

World Wind has a full copy of the Blue Marble, a spectacular true-color image of the entire Earth as seen on NASA's Earth Observatory: the Blue Marble.



Put together from data of a variety of satellites such as MODIS and Terra, the Blue Marble can be seen in all its glory at 1 km per pixel resolution.

Land Sat 7 –

Using World Wind, you can continue to zoom past Blue Marble and reveal the extremely detailed seamless mosaic of Land-Sat 7 data.

LandSat 7 is a collection of images from 1999-2003 at an impressive 15 m per pixel resolution. It in-



(Continued from page 16)

cludes other color bands such as the infrared spectrum. Users will be able to browse these different sets as they become available. Any changes and updates are automatically inherited by World Wind.

LandSat 7's resolution makes it possible to see your own city, neighborhood, or landmarks in your vicinity. Seeing the whole globe like this puts the world in context with scientifically accurate data.

The complete LandSat 7 data set is too large to fit on a single machine so World Wind only downloads what you see and stores a compressed copy on your computer for later viewing.

SRTM

Combining Landsat 7 imagery with Shuttle Radar Topography Mission (SRTM) Data, World Wind can display a dramatic view of the Earth at eye level. Users will literally be able to fly across the world in any direction.

In addition, World Wind can exaggerate these views so a user can easily pick out the details.

NASA SVS

Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) has produced a set of visually intense animations that demonstrate a variety of subjects such as hurricane dynamics and seasonal changes across the globe.

World Wind can take these animations and play them directly on the world. Anyone can immediately grasp where the event is taking place as World Wind rotates automatically into view.



MODIS

(Continued on page 18)

Moderate Resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer or MODIS produces a set of time relevant data that's updated every day. MODIS catalogs fires, floods, dust, smoke, storms and even volcanic activity.

World Wind produces an easily customized view of this information and marks them directly on the globe. When one of these color coded markers are clicked, it downloads the full image and displays them.

MODIS images can download publication quality material at a resolution of 250 m per pixel. Anew fresh set of images can be downloaded every day.

World Wind also has a "tour mode" to automatically skim through any number of samples.

GLOBE

World Wind is capable of browsing through and displaying GLOBE data based on any time the user wants. For example, a user can download today's (or any previous day's) temperature across the world.

You can view rainfall, barometric pressure, cloud cover, or even the student GLOBE samples themselves. Each sample comes with a temperature scale

Country & (USA) State Borders

World Wind has a complete set of borders that traces every country and state. As you zoom into the world, the boundaries become more precise

You can observe where mountain ridges and rivers have formed the political boundaries of today.

Place names

World Wind has a full catalog of countries, capitals, counties, cities, towns, and even historical references. The names update dynamically, by increasing in number as the user zooms in. This prevents too many names from cluttering up the screen.

It's likely that you'll find your own town no matter how big or small it is in World Wind.

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Oklahoma City

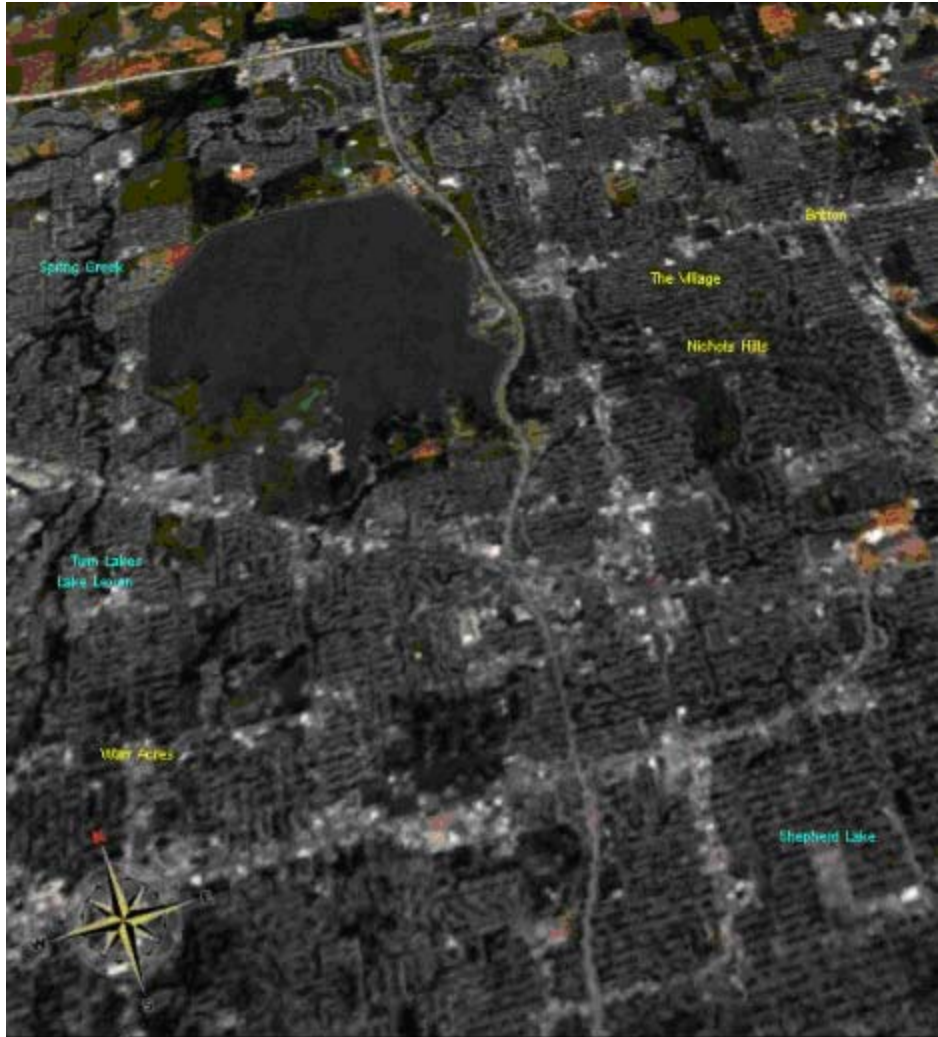
Visual Tools

World Wind comes with a variety of visual guides that help the user's experience such as latitude and longitude lines, as well as extremely precise coordinate data.

These helpers can be toggled on or off any time and are viewable with any of World Wind's other features turned on.

Landmark Set

World Wind has the capability to display actual 3d models of landmarks on the Earth. This helps to see the world in context to places a user may have been to. Those landmarks that do not have 3D models for it yet have place markers similar to how MODIS displays places of interest.



(Continued on page 20)

Las Cruces, NM –
World Wind is an incredible and highly addictive program that anyone with a high speed Internet connection should not be without. Give NASA'S World Wind a try and you won't be sorry you did!



Minimum system requirements:

System Requirements

Windows 2000, XP, or 2003

3D graphics card

Internet connection

Sorry, no support for Linux or Macintosh yet

Microsoft .NET 1.1

Microsoft DirectX 9.0c

With the minimum configuration, performance and functionality may be less than expected.

700 MHz or higher CPU

128 MB RAM

1 GB disk space (World Wind's cache size is 2 GB by default; you must reduce the size of your cache)

Recommended configuration

1.4 GHz or higher CPU

256 MB of RAM

DSL/cable connection or faster

3 GB of disk space

World Wind Home Page

<http://worldwind.arc.nasa.gov/index.html>

World Wind Wiki, "A knowledge base about NASA's World Wind that anyone can edit". http://www.worldwindcentral.com/wiki/Main_Page

World Wind Forums

<http://forum.worldwindcentral.com/>

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Video Card Compatibility List http://www.worldwindcentral.com/wiki/Video_Card_Compatibility

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XP Disk Maintenance Tools

By Dick Maybach,

Member of the Brookdale Computer User Group, New Jersey

<http://www.bcug.com/>

N2nd(at)att.net

Windows disk operations have improved greatly over the years to the extent that we seldom have problems with XP. However, XP does include tools to inform you about your disks, to improve their operation, and, if needed, to repair the data on them.

For general information on your drives, use the *Disk Management* tool – right-click on *My Computer*; select *Manage*; and select *Disk Management* (under Storage). You will see a table showing the properties of all your partitions as well as a graphical summary. Select a volume in the table or on the graphic, click on the *Action* menu item, and then click on *All Tasks* to see a list of the actions you can perform. Be careful, as some of these are drastic and irreversible, e.g., format and delete the volume.

If you suspect that a hard disk is corrupted, double-click on *My Computer*, right-click on the desired drive, select *Properties*, select the *Tools* tab, click the *Check Now...* button in the Error-checking section, and click the *Start* button. This will run an updated version of the old *chkdsk*. Don't select either of the options. If you do find problems, run the program again, but before you click Start, select *Automatically fix file system errors*. You may have to reboot for the operation to complete. Also, be aware that this may result in the loss of some files. If there still errors, run the program again, but select both options. (You can also run this program from the command line; type "*chkdsk /?*" in a Command Prompt window to see the options. I prefer the command-line version, because it's more informative.)

With time, Windows collects many unneeded temporary files. To clean these up, double-click on *My Computer*, right click on the desired disk, select *Properties*, and click the *Disk Cleanup* button under the *General* tab. Windows will take a few minutes to analyze your disk, and then will display a list of actions and how much space each will recover. You can single-click on each name to see its description. I select everything except the last two (*Compress old files* and *Catalog files for the Content Indexer*). Clicking the *More Options* tab shows other ways to recover space by removing Windows components, removing installed programs, or deleting old system restore points. Under the *General* tab, you will see two check boxes, *Compress drive to save space* and *Allow Indexing Service to index this drive for fast*

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file searching. By default, the first is not checked and the second is; don't change these. Large disks are very cheap, and if you are running low on space, a much better solution is to install a second disk and keep your user data on it. Compression adds complexity, and I've seen it cause serious problems.

With use, a disk gradually becomes fragmented. That is; long files are broken into parts and scattered over the disk. You can correct much (but usually not all) of this with XP's disk defragmenter. Double-click on *My Computer*; right-click on the desired drive; select *Properties*; select the *Tools* tab; click on the *Defragment now...* button in the *Defragmentation* area; and click the *Analyze* button. Usually, you will be told that there is no need to defragment the volume. If so, take the advice. If you do decide to defragment the disk, bear in mind that there is a small risk of destroying its contents, since many files will be deleted and rewritten – a power failure could be catastrophic. Before you defrag a disk, run *chkdsk* or, even better, back it up.

A little-known command-line utility is *fsutil*. To run this first open a *Command Prompt* window (found in the *Accessories* group), then type "fsutil" to produce a list of fsutil commands. Usually, you will have to stack up several fsutil commands to do anything useful. For example, typing "fsutil dirty query c:" will show you whether you need to run *chkdsk* on C:. It can be worthwhile to explore the other features this command, being careful of course that you don't make any changes to your file system.

The *recover* command will make undamaged portions of a damaged file readable. For example, to recover the damaged file *c:\n2nd\junk*, open a *Command Prompt* window and type "recover c:\n2nd\junk". Like most command-line programs, you should be careful when using *recover*.

A very powerful command-line program is *debug*, but you can do a lot of damage with it if you are not an expert; I recommend that you avoid it. If you are curious, type "debug /?" in a *Command Prompt* window to find out more about what it can do.

The NTFS file system is superior to the older FAT32 one. If you are still using FAT32, seriously consider converting it to the NTFS format. For example, to convert your C: drive to NTFS, open a *Command Prompt* window and type "convert c: /fs:ntfs". There are two caveats: (1) the conversion is not reversible unless you buy third-party software, and (2) if you dual-boot

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both XP and an earlier version Windows on the same PC, the old version can't read NTFS volumes.

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Shopping for free and open source software are

by Bill Wayson, Member of the Channel Islands PC Users Group, California

<http://www.cipcug.org>

[bwayson\(at\)gmail.com](mailto:bwayson(at)gmail.com)

By the time you read this, the holiday shopping season will be over and many of you will be trying to figure out what to put on your new computer. It seems fitting, then, to make a few suggestions of programs you will find in your Web browser-based shopping center, the Mall of Free and Open Source Software, or the Mall of FOSS. All of the suggestions made here are suitable not only for users of Linux and BSD, but also for Windows diehards. In some cases, other operating systems, such as the Mac and Solaris are supported. So fire up your computer and head on out to the Internet highway. Oh, and you can leave your credit card at home, for the goods at the Mall of FOSS are priced most attractively: free.

Screensavers

The holidays are really meant for the child that resides in all of us, and all children want to have fun. So spice up your PC with some fun items. Start by stopping at the Really Slick Screensavers Web site at <http://www.reallyslick.com/>. Here you will find out-of-this-world, mesmerizing screen savers that range from "psychedelic" to "nauseating." One includes great sound effects. They all perform best with hardware-based video acceleration, but that should not be a problem with recent hardware. Once you see these, you'll never go back to the flying Windows or pipes again.

Web browsers

Is your gift recipient still using Internet Explorer? Head on over to <http://www.mozilla.com/> to get Firefox for him or her. Firefox is a great Web browser with such features as tabbed browsing, configurable security, extensions that provide additional features, and themes that change the look and feel. Firefox version 2.0 was released Oct. 24. Or you can shop for a

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newer browser, Flock, at <http://www.flock.com/>. Flock is based on the same page rendering engine, Gecko, that the Mozilla family of browsers is built around. But Flock focuses on sharing and connecting with other people online, with enhanced support for blog posting, RSS feed integration, photo posting on Yahoo Flickr, and saving your bookmarks on the Internet for sharing between all the computers you use.

Instant messaging

Maybe your giftee spends time in the world of instant messaging. If so, get Gaim, a multi-protocol instant messaging (IM) client, from <http://gaim.sourceforge.net/win32/>. Gaim will work with several different protocols, including AIM, MSN, Yahoo!, Jabber, ICQ and others, so it could become the only IM client anyone needs. If someone prefers the more traditional Internet Relay Chat (IRC), consider getting Xchat (<http://xchat.org/windows/>) or Kirc (<http://www.kirc.net/>) for them.

Juice Receiver

Has someone on your holiday giving list complained about using iTunes on Windows? That person may enjoy receiving an open source replacement, Juice Receiver, available at <http://juicereceiver.sourceforge.net/>. It has access to many of the same podcast indexes that iTunes provides, as well as a number of indexes that it does not.

Bittorrent for file swapping

If you have diehard computer geeks on your list, they most likely share files with their friends. The standard file-swapping protocol is bittorrent, and you will find bittorrent clients for them at <http://www.bittorrent.com> and <http://www.getazureus.com/>. Perhaps they have always wanted to create their own dynamic Web site but have balked at the price of commercial Web server software for Windows or the Mac. If so, head over to the XAMPP for Windows store at <http://www.apachefriends.org/en/xampp-windows.html>. XAMPP for Windows will give them everything they need to build a robust, full-featured, dynamic Web site, and it is ready to go out of the box.

CLAMAV

Does anyone on your list need or want to try a different virus scanner? The shop at <http://www.clamwin.com/> has the open source scanner, CLAMAV for Windows, available for you to give. They'll be getting a GUI-

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based virus scanner, free and automatic signature updates, and scheduled virus scanning.

Outlook alternatives

The shops at <http://www.mozilla.com/thunderbird/> and <http://shellter.sourceforge.net/evolution/> offer alternatives to the Outlook e-mail client. The former site has Thunderbird, an easy-to-use product of the Mozilla project, while the latter provides Evolution, which sports additional support for calendaring and Microsoft Exchange e-mail servers.

GIMP

Moving on to applications, if there is one on your gift list who does any sort of work with images, ranging from doctoring photographs to graphics for a Web site, you owe it to them to stop off at <http://www.gimp.org/windows/> and pick up a copy of the GIMP. Somewhat mischaracterized as the "Poor Man's Photoshop," the GIMP provides a large range of image processing tools and plugins, as well as a framework for writing custom plugins. With the GIMP, they'll be able to do just about anything they'd ever want to do to their pictures.

Audacity

Or maybe you are looking for something for someone who is into sound recording, someone who perhaps was a Mr. or Miss A/V in high school? They undoubtedly would really enjoy receiving the Audacity sound recorder, editor, and writer. Look for it at <http://audacity.sourceforge.net/>. This powerful program literally will turn a PC into a full-featured sound recording and production studio. Pair it with a professional-quality sound card, and it is hard to beat at any price.

DVD-capable media players

Many of those on your gift list also want to be entertained, and maybe they'd like to watch a DVD while working at their computers. A couple of DVD-capable media players they would like can be found at <http://www.mplayerhq.hu/> — which offers the MPlayer media player — and <http://www.videolan.org/> — which offers the VideoLAN VLC player.

Office applications

Chances are the computer users on your holiday gift list use traditional

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applications such as word processing, spreadsheets, presentations, and the like. There are several gifts in this category that you cannot go wrong with. OpenOffice.org is possibly the most popular open source office application suite available. The latest version, which can be found at <http://www.openoffice.org/>, is highly compatible with Microsoft's Word, Excel, and Powerpoint formats, and all but the most complex of documents can be shared in both directions. OpenOffice.org also supports out-of-the-box export to PDF and Flash formats.

OpenOffice.org is certainly not the only option in this arena. The Abiword word processor from <http://www.abisource.com/> is a mature product offering a range of features. Since it is a lightweight user of computer resources, it runs well on older hardware that might bog down under OpenOffice.org, Microsoft Office, and Vista.

GNUmeric, from <http://www.gnome.org/projects/gnumeric/>, is a nice, mature spreadsheet program that has all the options and features your giftee wants for the spreadsheet work. If someone would like something to help create pretty, Visio-like organizational and flow charts, stop over at <http://dia-installer.sourceforge.net/> and pick them up a copy of DIA, a diagramming tool.

PDFCreator, Scribus

Do your giftees need to produce PDF documents? If so, they'll be grateful to receive PDFCreator, which is available at <http://www.pdfforge.org/>. PDFCreator works with any application that prints to the Windows printing system, making it easy to create not only PDF documents, but PNG, JPG, TIFF, BMP, PCX, PS, and EPS as well. Or maybe they want to create professional-looking documents like brochures, booklets, or newsletters. For them, take a trip to <http://www.scribus.net/> and get them Scribus, a desktop publishing system with many of the same page layout and formatting features you expect to find in the more expensive commercial systems. Scribus also runs on the Mac.

Web page design

Do you have a Web designer on your giving list? He or she might like to receive Nvu (pronounced n-view, and found at <http://www.nvu.com/>), a WYSIWYG Web page editor that will remind you of Dreamweaver. With its integrated FTP client, it may be all an e-designer would need. Perhaps they prefer to develop their Web pages from scratch (or someone on your list might like to get an advanced text editor). If so, stop off at <http://notepad-plus.sourceforge.net/uk/site.htm> and pick them up a copy of Notepad++ ,

which is what Windows' Notepad might be if it consumed strong steroids. It will give your recipient syntax highlighting, auto-completion, WYSIWYG markup, bookmarking, zooming, multi-document viewing, and much more.

I hope this gives you some ideas about which stores to look at for your holiday gift-giving needs. And do not forget the most important person on your holiday gift list: you! If anything here looks interesting as you read about it, make sure to get yourself a copy. The great thing about all the stores offering FOSS software gifts is that they always have a great two-for-the-price-of-one sale going on, the perfect holiday sale.

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Your Personal and Online Privacy

Author: Dan Tynan

Reviewed by Bayle Emlein, Secretary and APCUG Representative,
PC Community, CA

www.pcc.org

[pcc\(at\)ix.netcom.com](mailto:pcc(at)ix.netcom.com)

Dan Tynan starts off with a couple of personal revelations, such as how he got to be writing this book and how much of himself he'll share. He also notes his discovery that "...privacy is, well, personal. Everyone has an individual definition of what's an acceptable level of privacy and when that limit has been exceeded." For example, his wife loves receiving the catalog of offers that he loathes. As a result, he reports a variety of ways to address most privacy annoyances and potential problems.

Though just this side of full-blown paranoia most of the time, Tynan does distinguish levels of vulnerability and sensible precaution. Is it clear that your online banking needs better password protection and encryption than your records of your kids' Little League schedules? He didn't say it out loud, but his cautions frequently reminded me that way back when a computer took up a good-sized storeroom and needed a dedicated air conditioning system, we had a saying: "Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean they aren't after you." But now the ageist cry has turned around to "Never trust anyone under 30."

Annoyances has explanations replete with screen shots. Unfortunately, a lot of the screen shots are too small to be completely readable. This might be OK for a graphic whose purpose is to give a general idea of the configuration of the desktop at a given point. However it's a major annoyance when an essential detail is obscured in the screen shot. Exactly which one is the radio button I'm supposed to pick in order to make my life safe and secure without limiting my freedom or spending all my waking hours covering my tracks? And what are you hiding in that black-on-gray fine print? Something else I'd like to see in the next edition are page references when another section is discussed. In this edition, Tynan rarely tells me where to look when he refers to a Table, Chart, Figure, Tip, or Sidebar. Is it coming right up? Is it two pages back, or in the last chapter?

Given the publishing cycle, a book on any technology topic has to be out of date by the time Amazon gets it. However, this nearly-three-year-old edition of Annoyances agrees surprisingly well with the October 2006 issue of Consumer Reports (pp. 41-45).

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Of course, Tynan goes into much greater detail. He includes phone numbers and internet addresses for following up, checking for various potential problems and security leaks and for plugging them where possible. He subdivides privacy concerns into the areas of life where they occur: at home, at work, on the Net, in public, with governments mostly Federal, though he has some discussion of interesting state variability in managing citizen privacy and security. Moving the data in all these areas to computer databases has enabled access by almost anyone; the ease with which databases can be combined means that information that formerly sat in isolated dusty drawers and files can now be linked and massaged to easily relieve the typical citizen of her rights, reputation, and/or cash. The "Privacy in the Future" section discusses implications of current trends, precautions that could be taken to prevent further erosion of privacy and to limit unauthorized access and potentially harmful use of one's data.

This could be an intense, dense technical tome. Instead, varying from straight exposition to sidebar to tip and including many tables and charts helps make it comprehensible. Tynan's conversational style adds to the readability, though a couple of times, his vernacular sent me scrambling for the dictionary. There have been some changes in focus since Tynan wrote: renewal of the Homeland Security Act was just gearing up as he wrote and college campuses were trying to figure out how to cope with the original Napster. On the other hand, RFIDs (Radio Frequency ID chips) were just moving into the public consciousness beyond a way of identifying a lost pet and potential abuses of medical and genetic records were becoming apparent. His information is still surprisingly current, given the annoying speed of change in areas computer-related. I had intended to read *Computer Privacy Annoyances* and then pass it on. Given the amount of useful information and the number of useful web addresses and telephone numbers, I'm going to hang on to it for a while.

While details change, and specific companies and scams come and go, computer safety has to be added to crossing the street in the instructions for growing up in the 21st Century. *Computer Privacy Annoyances* provides a sound set of guidelines for protecting your identity (or rescuing it if stolen); fighting back against aggressive marketers; stopping (or at least slowing) spam, viruses, adware, spyware and other invasions; avoiding cyber-stalking; shopping safely; protecting your home network; coping with workplace monitoring of surfing and information and the number of useful web addresses and telephone numbers, I'm going to hang on to it for a while.

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In summary, computers being a powerful tool, they can be used for good or ill. Just as truck drivers need more training than the drivers of passenger cars, we as users need training in how to manage computer email or our own benefit. While details change, and specific companies and scams come and go, computer safety has to be added to crossing the street in the instructions for growing up in the 21st Century. Computer Privacy Annoyances provides a sound set of guidelines for protecting your identify (or rescuing it if stolen); fighting back against aggressive marketers; stopping (or at least slowing) spam, viruses, adware, spyware and other invasions; avoiding cyber-stalking; shopping safely; protecting your home network; coping with work-place monitoring of surfing and email; and telling those folks who are profiting from use of your personal data to cease and desists. Just gathering all the resources to address these issues is (was for Dan Tynan) a major project. Make use of his work: go forth and protect yourself without hiding from all public contact and unplugging totally.

Product Information:

Computer Privacy Annoyances

How to Avoid the Most Annoying Invasions of Your Personal and Online Privacy

Dan Tynan, Author

O'Reilly Media, Inc., Distributor

800-998-9938

www.oreilly.com

List Price: O'Reilly Media: \$19.95 (UG Discount Price \$13.96)

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ACPCUG Club News

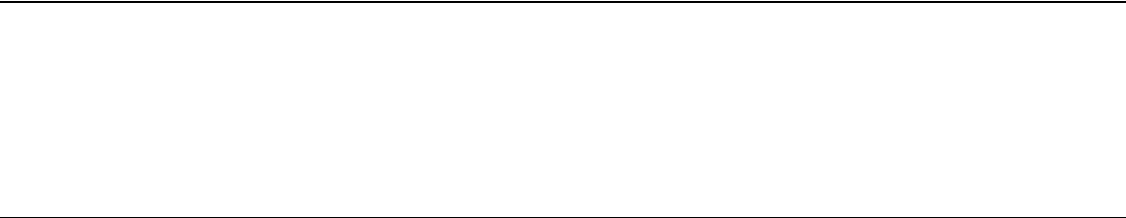
AKRON MAIN Library

Maps & Description on ACPCUG Website, www.acpcug.org

NOTE TIME is 6:00PM! This is because while free parking starts after 6:00 PM, you get your parking ticket stamped by security and the first hour is free anytime. So meetings again start at 6:00 PM. Just don't forget to have your ticket punched (..err stamped).

FROM North or South on Rt. 8 freeway: Exit *West* on Perkins Street going down the hill to a third light on **High Street (one-way going South, left)**.

Cross E. Market and *immediately* look for parking building entrance on your right. Go down to lower level for indoor connection to library.



Club Officers area code 330, unless noted otherwise			
President	Frank Ramsey (2007)	699-4711	aframsey@yahoo.com
Special Projects	Stu Barnes (2008)	864-9338	picture_professor@hotmail.com
Secretary	Walt Ruthenburg (2009)	283-7867	wruthenburg@usa.net
Membership/Publicity	Gerry Schaefer (2009)	499-5623	shaefer@bright.net
Treasurer	Jim Albright (2008)	923-8686	jra823a@usa.com
Newsletter Editor	Art McRowe	666-3189	acpcugnews@yahoo.com
VP	Dave Bohm (2007)	762-6745	bohm320@aol.com