THE PRINTER

Chesapeake PC Users Group, Inc.

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Welcome Back!

I hope everyone has had a safe and happy summer!

It's time to come back to the Users Group meetings for the autumn. We have a lot of things planned for the immediate future. I think the meeting topics that are planned are all very good and this should make for some great meetings. Without further adieu, I'll review what we have coming up.

September Meeting

Fran Damratowski will compare and contrast OpenOffice with Microsoft Office software suites. OpenOffice is a free office suite and has almost all of the same features as the office suite from Microsoft (why would you use anything else?). Below is a brief description of the product.

OpenOffice.org is both an Open Source product and a project. The product is a multi-platform office productivity suite. It includes the key desktop applications, such as a word processor, spreadsheet, presentation manager, and drawing program, with a user interface and feature set similar to other office suites. Sophisticated and flexible, OpenOffice.org also works transparently with a variety of file formats, including those of Microsoft Office.

Available in 25 languages with more being constantly added by the community. OpenOffice.org runs stably and natively on Solaris, Linux (including PPC Linux), and Windows. Additional ports, such as for FreeBSD, IRIX, and Mac OS X, are in various stages of completion.

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Emoticons (Smilies)

by
Fran Damratowski

As I said in previous issues of the Printer, because there are thousand of abbreviations used only selected abbreviations and symbols will be presented here. For those who haven't seen earlier issues, an emoticon is a way of expressing emotions when sending e-mail, an emotional icon (look at them sideways). If I missed an important or favorite abbreviation, acronym or emoticon between A and P send it to me fdamratowski@concast.net I will include it in the final list. We will continue with the letter

P

P: Paragraph HTML tag

P: Peta Prefix for 10 power 15 (or, in IT parlance, 2 power 50)

p: Pico Prefix for 10 power -12

P&D: Plug & Display [Hardware]

P&M: Personalization & Membership [Microsoft]

P&S: Point And Shoot Digital camera type [Hardware]

President's Corner

OpenOffice.org allows any knowledgeable developer to benefit from the source. And, because the file format for OpenOffice.org is XML, interoperability is easy, making future development and adoption more certain.

October Meeting

At our October meeting Jen Clausen will give a presentation about her companies publication, *Smart Computing* magazine. This is an excellent periodical, and I am sure that many of you will find it a very intriguing presentation. Below is a short summary about the magazine.

*Smart Computing i*s a monthly magazine devoted to helping users improve their productivity with personal computers. The magazine, founded in 1990 as PC Novice, emphasizes tutorial articles and plain-English writing that defines technical terminology.

Smart Computing is more than just another periodical for its readers; the magazine becomes a valuable part of many readers' computing reference libraries. Popular regular features include a Q&A section, which answers readers' questions; PC Operating Instructions, which focuses on the fundamental skills of using various operating systems; and Quick Studies, which contains how-to articles explaining a single feature of major applications such as Microsoft Word, Microsoft Excel, WordPerfect, and Quicken. Other sections cover the Internet, computing basics, upgrading components, troubleshooting, and more.

Each monthly issue also includes hardware and software reviews packed with common-sense buying advice based on the needs of real buyers, rather than just technical test results. These straight-talking reviews provide insight on the latest and best hardware and software.

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P - cont'd

P&S: Publish & Subscribe

P-JPEG: Progressive Joint Photographic Experts Group Compressed images file format

P-POP: Plain-Paper Optimized Printing [Canon - Hardware]

P-RAM: Parameter Random Access Memory

P-SRAM: Pseudo-Static Random Access Memory

P/N: Part Number

P/PC: Palm Personal Computer [Hardware]

P/T: Part Time

P2C2: Pantone Personal Color Calibrator [Pantone]

P2P: Peer To Peer

P2P: People To People

Point To Point

P2SC: Power 2 Super Chip BM's Deep Blue processor [IBM - Hardware]

P3P: Platform for Privacy Preferencies Project

PA: Platform for Privacy Preferences Project [HP - Hardware]

PA-RISC: Precision Architecture Reduced Instruction Set Computer [HP]

PAB: Personal Address Book

PABX: Private Automatic Branch eXchange [Hardware]

PAC: Perceptual Audio Coder Hardware]

PAC: Platform Adaptor Component

PAC: Privilege Attribute Certificate

PAC: Programme Advisory Committee [Communication]

PACE: Priority Access Control Enabled [3Com]

PACS: Picture Archiving and Communication System

PACS-L: Public Access Computer Systems List

32.	PAD: Packet Assembler/Disassembler
An access device to an X.25 network [Communication]

PADS: Pen Application Development System

PAE: Physical Addressing Extension
Extension for Windows 2000/2003 Advanced Server to address more than 4 GB of memory [Microsoft - Operating systems]

PAF: Postal Address File
http://www.acronyms.ch/

http://www.steves-digicams.com/digi_dictionary.html

Toshiba Glossary

Don't miss the next exciting and breathtaking installment of

Abbreviations, Acronyms, and Emoticons (Smilies)

Instant Reference Guide to Keyboard Shortcuts

by
Mike Regimenti

Windows Naviagtion

ACTION	KEYSTROKE
Open or close the Start Menu	**\<Ctrl>-\<Esc> or \<Windows>**
Switch back to a running program	**\<Alt>-\<Tab>**
Switch to another running program	**Hold Down \<Alt>, press\<tab> repeatedly**
Open Windows Explorer to My Computer	**\<Windows>-E**
In Explorer, move to the current folder's parent folder	**\<Backspace>**
Rename the selected folder or file (on the desktop, in an Explorer window, and in many dialog boxes)	**\<F2>**

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Top 5 IDE Hard Drives

Guide Picks   August 10, 2004

Storage and performance is what we demand of our hard drives. They need to store all our applications and data and the faster it can read and write that data, the better. This list is of the best IDE performance hard drives based upon my experience and research. All of the drives in this list are 7200 RPM drives.

1) Maxtor 250GB Ultra Series

The Maxtor 250GB Ultra Series 7,200rpm ATA series hard drives is one of the largest capacity drives available for the consumer market. The retail kit is referred to as the Ultra series, but it is also found as the DiamondMax 9 Plus series drive. It features an 8MB cache and an Ultra ATA/133 interface.

2) Western Digital 250GB Caviar Special Edition

Western Digital has been one of the top drive manufacturer's for some time thanks to its Caviar Special Edition drives. The WD250JB is the largest capacity IDE offered by Western Digital and features an 8MB cache and ATA/100 interface. Thanks to firmware optimizations by Western Digital, the WD250JB is generally on the top of performance benchmarks.

3) Seagate Barracuda 200GB

Seagate may not have the best performance of the hard drive manufacturer's, but their drives still perform very well. The Barracuda line is priced well and offers very low noise operation compared to some of the higher performance drives. Also, Seagate has recently increased their drive warranties to five years, something many manufacturers have been reducing.

4) Samsung SpinPoint 160GB

Samsung is not very well known in the US market for hard drive because the drives are only sold to OEM partners. This means that the drive is generally not found in most retail outlets. The drive is by no means the largest or best performance drive on the market, but those looking for the drive that produces the least amount of noise possible should look at the SpinPoint. This drive is an excellent choice for home theater based PCs.

5) Western Digital 80GB Caviar Special Edition

If capacity is not the primary focus for a new hard drive, but value and performance are still key factors, the Western Digital 80GB Caviar Specia Edition drive is the drive to consider. These workhorse drives have a proven track record of reliability and excellent performance. Combining several of these drives together can provide for a very inexpensive RAID array with the appropriate hard drive controller or motherboard.

Many of the new motherboards come with both IDE ATA 133 and Serial ATA controlers. The data cable for the SATA drive is about 1/2" wide & 1/16th of an inch thick. No more blocking the airflow with those wide IDE cables. - Editor

Keystrokes - cont'd

ACTION	KEYSTROKE
In Explorer, search for a file	**\<Ctrl\>-F or \<F3\>**
Search for a file in a new window	**\<Windows\>-F**
Search for a computer in a new window	**\<Ctrl\>-\<Windows\>-F**
Minimize open windows (or restore minimized windows)	**\<Windows\>-D**
Minimize open window	**\<Windows\>-M**
Close an open window	**\<Alt\>-\<F4\>**
Close a folder and all its parents	**\<Shift\>-\<Alt\>-\<F4\>**
Restore windows minimized by \<Windows\>-M	**\<Shift\>-\<Windows\>-M**
Open the Run Dialog box	**\<Windows\>-R**
Open the current window's Control menu	**\<Alt\>-\<Spacebar\>**
Open Task Manager	
Delete without using the Recycle Bin	**\<Shift\>-\<Delete\>**
Go to the beginning	**\<Ctrl\>-\<Home\>**

ACTION	KEYSTROKE
Go to the end	**\<Ctrl\>-\<End\>**

Applications

ACTION	KEYSTROKE
Save the current document	**\<Ctrl\>-S**
Open a new document	**\<Ctrl\>-O**
Undo the last thing you did	**\<Ctrl\>-Z or \<Alt\>-\<Backspace\>**
Undo the last undo	**\<Ctrl\>-Y**
Select the entire current document	**\<Ctrl\>-A**
Delete the section and move it to the clipboard	**\<Ctrl\>-X**
Copy the section to the clipboard	**\<Ctrl\>-C**
View contents of the office clipboard	**\<Ctrl\>-C twice**
Paste the clipboard's contents into the current document	**\<Ctrl\>-V**
Open the print dialog box	**\<Ctrl\>-P**
Turn italics on or off	**\<Ctrl\>-I**
Turn bold on or off	**\<Ctrl\>-B**
Turn underlining on or off	**\<Ctrl\>-U or \<F5\>**

7

Locking Down Internet Explorer

If you've read about Microsoft's Service Pack 2 for Windows XP, you know about the new, improved firewall that is turned on by default. But there's a more important security enhancement in SP2 that will make a bigger dent in the stream of vulnerabilities in Internet Explorer: SP2 locks down the My Computer zone.

The security model for Internet Explorer has been based on security zones. Different Web pages execute in different zones, which have varying levels of privilege. To see this, go to Tools | Internet Options and click on the Security tab. Click on a zone and you can add a site to it if you like or change the security settings.

One of the most important zones is the My Computer security zone, which is actually hidden by default. (To view and modify the settings for this zone, see "How to Enable the My Computer Security Zone in Internet Options - http://support.microsoft.com/?kbid=315933".) Web pages on your computer run in the My Computer zone, which is completely trusted. The theory is that pages running on your computer were installed—perhaps as part of an application—and need access to local resources such as files on the system.

The problem is that a large number of cross-zone vulnerabilities, such as the one described at www.securityfocus.com/bid/9628/, have let Web pages on the Internet execute script and other code in the My Computer zone. Plugging these holes has been a never-ending battle, and so in Windows XP SP2, Microsoft has locked down the My Computer zone. Pages running in that zone will no longer be privileged and will not have free rein on the computer.

But SP2 isn't an option for everyone, especially those who don't run Windows XP. These people need another solution. You could do the lockdown yourself—Microsoft provided instructions [http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;833633 some time ago—but it isn't easy, and you might break some applications in Windows or from third parties.

Or you can get QwikFix-Pro from PivX, which does the same thing for all Win32 versions of Windows. (Expected prices: $60 per desktop, $500 per server, volume discounts available; home edition free until October 31. PivX Solutions LLC, www.pivx.com/qwikfix. (✱ ✱ ✱ ✱ out of 5)

Over the past year, as Microsoft revealed new exploits in Internet Explorer, PivX released its own announcements detailing how Qwik-Fix Pro users were already protected. PivX's solution is to identify and block vulnerabilities before they are exploited. The company calls this "proactive threat mitigation."

Locking down the My Computer zone is just one of QwikFix Pro's preventive measures. The product blocks dangerous URL protocols like "javascript" and restricts anonymous (null) sessions using the Local System Account, a tool often used by viruses. It also blocks the Windows Messenger service (not the same as the Instant Messaging program), disables UPnP, restricts network RPC and DCOM, and restricts other popular vehicles for attack, including LSASS and PCT. Qwik-Fix Pro is available in both Home and Enterprise versions. The Enterprise version, meant for managed networks, lets administrators centrally deploy and manage security settings of client systems. PivX claims that the product will work in any established management console.

Like Windows XP SP2, Quik-Fix causes some compatibility problems because of practices that are no longer permitted. On our tests, some Windows Help pages wouldn't work properly because ActiveX controls were disabled. PivX admits that a small number of such problems exist but says that the number is decreasing.

QwikFix-Pro works on Windows 95 and later, even XP with SP2. PivX claims to address security at a much deeper level than Microsoft, so you might want to try QwikFix-Pro even if you use XP. But if you use a non-XP version of Windows, you definitely need a security boost like QwikFix-Pro.

8

Top 5 DVD Burners

8/26/04 - The rapid change of pace in the optical storage market can make keeping up with the latest and greatest technologies difficult. Format wars continue but most drives support both formats. Dual-layer discs are now becoming available to store twice as much data. With all these recent changes, here are some of the best drives available based upon the research and experience of the About PC Hardware / Reviews Guide.

1) NEC ND-3500A

NEC is currently the top of the market for overall speed and media support. The ND-3500A drive supports the latest dual-layer DVD+R media with a 4x speed. It also supports the latest 16x speed for both DVD+R and -R media types. Rewritable media is supported with a 4x speed. What sets it apart is the high speeds for the CD media. It runs at 48x for CD-R and 24x for CD-RW. This makes for a very high speed drive regardless of the media that you need to use.

2) Pioneer DVR-108

Pioneer's DVR-108 DVD burner is a very close second to the NEC drive. It matches nearly all the same speeds as the ND-3500 with 16x DVD+/-R, 4x DVD+/-RW and 4x DVD+R Dual Layer. The difference is that the DVR-108 is slightly slow for CD media with a 32x CD-R speed and a 24x CD-RW.

3) Plextor PX-712A & PX-712SA

Plextor was a ground breaking with its PX-708A DVD burner, one of the first drives to support the 8X recording speed for DVD media. The new PX-712 is ground breaking for a different reason. The PX-712SA model is one of the first available DVD burners with a Serial ATA interface. For those with the old IDE/ATA interfaces, the PX-712A shares the same specs. Recording speeds are 12x DVD+R, 8x DVD-R, 4x DVD+/-RW, 48x CD-R and 24x CD-RW.

4) TDK AID+1280

TDK has been making a very solid name for themselves in the optical storage market. They produced many very fine CD burners and that business has expanded to the DVD market with the latest AID+1280 Indi model. Recording speeds have been bumped up to 12x DVD+R, 8x DVD-R, 4x DVD+/-RW, 48x CD-R and 24x CD-RW

5) Sony DRU-540A

Sony was one of the first companies to offer multiformat support, something that is common in almost all DVD burners now. The DRU-540A is their latest multiformate burner. It has increased recording speeds over previous generations. The DRU-540A supports 12x DVD+R, 8x DVD-R, 4x DVD+/-RW, 40x CD-R and 24x CD-RW. While it is slightly slower than other DVD burners for CD speeds, it still is a solid drive.

Chesapeake PC Users Group

The Next Regular Meeting will be at
The Severn River Middle School

on Wednesday,
October 13th, 2004
Meeting will be held in the large meeting room.
It starts at 7:00 PM with club business and a short discussion period.

There will be a Presentation on
Smart Computing
by
Jen Clasen

Members and their friends are welcome to come, ask questions and be enlightened.

How to Find: Severn River Middle School

SRMS is close to the Arnold, MD campus of the Anne Arundel Community College. From Annapolis and parts south, take Rte 2 (Ritchie Highway) north about 3 miles from the intersection of Rte 50, **turn right on College Parkway**. At the first light, turn left on Peninsula Farm Road. (Of course, if you are coming from points North, you would turn left on to College Parkway) about a half-mile down the road the large SRMS school building, set back off a large two level parking lot, will be visable on your right. Park here and go the the main entrance. Signs will be posted to direct you to the **Large Group Room** where we will be meeting.

How to find: The Internet SIG, A ChPCUG Special Interest Group**

The meetings are held at the SRMS in the Library.

Note: *The date above your name on the mailing label is the expiration date of your membership. Contact the Membership Chairman (see page 2, column 2) to update.*