

Newsletter

Volume 14 Issue 4

April 2001

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APRIL 2001 PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am very excited about the first HCC SIG launch for Digital Photography coming on May 19th.

May 19th is our regular club meeting so plan on being there even if you are not in the SIG. The meeting will focus on the Digital Photography SIG and its topics. However, regular meeting activities such as Q&A will also occur, so bring those questions.

At this meeting we plan to have a presentation related to the SIG.

We also are planning a "show and tell". All members with a digital camera are encouraged to bring it. We plan a round robin so each member can tell us something about their experience with their own camera.

At the meeting we plan to elect a Chairperson for the SIG. We also will decide on events for the SIG, particularly the date of its first meeting outside the regular club meetings.

Jac Carroll has offered to host the first official Digital Photography SIG meeting, so the facility issue is solved.

I thanked everyone who assisted me at the last meeting, particularly the raffle team and those helping set up the room. I had to deal with the bagel people shorting special order bagels for us after they were notified of our needs, set up and give the presentation, host the meeting, and acquire tables. These items plus a number of other items kept me real busy. I slept well that afternoon.

The bagel shop did compensate our loss with free bagels for the special order ones missed.

Our program chair, Jim Russ, is tackling a significant health problem and as a result cannot perform the Program Chair functions. While he is out, I am the Acting Program Chair. Last reports from Jim are that the problem is identified and corrective measures are being administered.

This meeting, I plan to talk about PowerPoint. The basics are planned for the discussion. I will also show you how to prepare your PowerPoint presentations for publishing on the Web.

If you are interested in presenting at one of our meetings let me know. The topics do not have to be deep.

Lon

MARCH MEETING

This month's meeting welcomed Wayne Voorhees, a member. He's not attended in a while as he moved to the Bethlehem, PA area. He had been employed by the Hunterdon Medical Center for a number of years. He now works for an aseptic processing company. He was able to provide some enlightenment on several topics during the meeting. Also visiting was Zenaide Reiss. She stated that she's been wanting to come for a long time.

Many year's ago she purchased an application to produce designs for her loom. As always it's great to have visitors and new members.

Thank you to Ilene Shope for setting up an interesting display of posters she has created using the program Print Artist (a favorite of Evelyn Stewart). Her use of photo paper enhanced the colors in the graphics as well as the fonts.

Our thoughts were with Jim Russ as he entered a Rehabilitation Center to address his recent surgery and recovery, and Evelyn Stewart who was not in attendance due to a problem with leg pain. We look forward to their speedy return. While Russ is recovering, Lon Hosford will act as program chair. He will focus on getting web mastery and digital photo SIGs up in a couple of months. Basics and Genealogy will start soon afterwards. Watch further newsletter editions for schedules.

Glynn Gilette offered that the Office on Aging has information on genealogy.

One of our members said that on Tuesdays at 3:00 PM, seniors can go to Hunterdon Central High School and receive help on how to work on their computer. The contact person at HCHS is Judy Gray.

Lon Hosford demonstrated how to get into your CMOS using the presentation computer. The main topic however was on creating basic Access queries. Lon started with a review of creating a table and adding data. Lon showed how to create queries for multiple column sorting. He pointed out that the left to right order of the fields placed on the query determines the sort order. Lon showed how to create basic criteria expressions for numeric data, date data, and text data. He demonstrated how to copy queries.

Q & A Questions & Answers

From our March meeting

There were several questions regarding Spam. Glynn Gilette mentioned that AT&T can act as a 3rd party filtering system. Joe Burger said he likes to use Spamslammer because it sends mail back to the sender. Lon uses Agent and likes it.

Someone else mentioned Window Washer, however it has nothing to do with Spam, it cleans cookies.

Question—If you highlight e-mail to remove it will you get a virus just by highlighting it? No, it's opening the attachments that brings in the virus.

What happens when one clicks on "remove me" in an e-mail message? You are validating your e-mail address to the sender.

Question about auto launching in Outlook Express. Answer—go into the Options areas and turn the feature off.

Question about making purchases on the net. Peter Cerwinski mentioned Shop-Safe. Mastercard lets you generate a special number for the current purchase and limit money spent at the site. It voids the number after a month. Discover card has a similar program. It provides a special number for a one time purchase. Both of these methods keeps your credit card number confidential and provides you with better protection.

Question as to whether there are Internet Provides in Flemington. Answer—yes, They are listed on the club's web page.

Ilene Shope asked is there is a difference in the BIOS chips,? Answer—not really.

**Trenton Computer Festival
May 5 & May 6, 2001
NJ Convention Center
Edison, NJ**

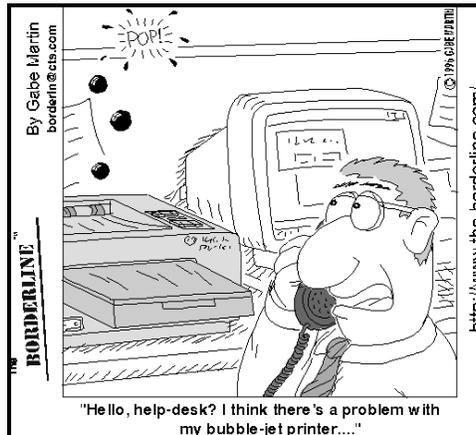
OFFICER'S REPORT

Jac Carroll reported that the club has \$942.26 in it's treasury.

Paul Glattstein reports that he continues to update the web page. He is currently working on Computer Volunteers.

Joe Burger comes to each meeting prepared to entertain us with the latest computer news. Here's this month's:

A fellow in Australia has prepared for the deorbiting of the MIR by covering his house with pillows to protect it. Russia says there is a 0.2% chance that any deprey will hit land and has taken out a \$200,000,000 insurance policy just to be on the safe side.



Also from Australia—it was announced that hackers will be tried as terrorists.

The judge in the Microsoft case has withdrawn, so the pressure is off.

The Asian market for chips is decreasing which means they may come down in price.

Napster may sign an agreement with Gracenote.

:(has been patented—a favorite of disgruntled computer users. The patent process was done as a joke.

A Seattle company is using laser for high speed connections between offices. The lasers are put on high buildings. This works well in a foggy atmosphere such as Seattle's. It will not work with an 85% loss in visibility.

DEFRAGMENT YOUR HARD DRIVE

One of the most important things you can do to keep your system running at peak performance is to regularly defragment your computer.

In the course of normal usage, files are regularly being read from and written to the disk, often in small chunks. As a result, pieces of files end up getting scattered around the disk, which compromises your computer's performance.

If your computer runs Microsoft Windows 95/98, you can run a utility program called a "disk defragmenter," to resolve this problem. The "disk defragmenter" finds the scattered pieces of files and reorganizes them into contiguous chunks on your hard disk, making them run more efficiently. It also moves the files that you use most often to the beginning of the hard disk where they'll load faster.

How do I use the disk defragmenter tool?

Click Start, point to Programs, point to Accessories, point to System Tools, and then click Disk Defragmenter. Click the drive you want to defragment, click OK, and then click Yes.

Note: Some systems run other programs such as Diskeeper or Diskeeper Lite. Please follow instructions contained with these programs.

Can I use my pc while defragmenting?

Yes, however, the utility may take an hour or two to run and slows down other applications; so, you might want to defragment your hard drive when you are not using your PC.

How often should I do this?

How often you should defragment your files depends on the type of work you do. If most of your computer work is word processing, you'll need to defragment about four times a year. If you use programs that create several temporary files (web browsers, scanning software, music programs, etc.) or if you work with large files (accounting files, imaging files, or complicated spreadsheets), you should defragment your hard drive more often.

SOFTWARE REVIEW OF TextAloud MP3 v1.3

by Peter Czerwinski

This shareware program can be downloaded for free trial. Registration cost is \$19.95. The website address is - <http://www.nextuptech.com/TextAloud/index.html>.

Note: This newsletter article is also on the Hunterdon County Computer Club website, in a special website form, where links and downloadable examples are available. The club's website address is in this newsletter where the club officer's names appear. Once at the website, go to - <http://www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org/textaloudmp3.htm>.

One of the major uses of the program **TextAloud MP3**, is to have it read text aloud that you highlight and copy, or have it read aloud a text file from your hard drive. There are times I like to hear a voice read the text on a website, or read email I've received, or an article I am writing. The artificial voice sounds a little strange, but I have gotten used to it. The voice can do many things including pronounce large numbers, dollars and cents and abbreviations like khz. The voice can also put some inflection in a sentence, and pause at commas. The program comes with one female voice, but other voices can be downloaded for free.

TextAloud MP3 can also save its speech to an audio file, either in the MP3 or WAV format. As an example, I had TextAloud MP3 save a 27 word paragraph from this article, to a file I named **text_aloud_sample.mp3** (52 kb). I later clicked on this file and listened as my MP3 player read the text passage aloud, which lasted about 13 seconds. Common, free, MP3 players are Real Player, Windows Media Player and Winamp.

On some occasions, I have sent both the email text and its spoken audio MP3 file together, to people who would benefit from hearing the email, as well as reading it. They could of course, replay the spoken email as many times as they wished.

If you don't have an MP3 player you could have TextAloud save the spoken



TextAloud MP3 thumbnail

text as a WAV file. Since most computers have a WAV file player included with their operating system, you and your email friends will be able to hear this type of audio file without downloading any special audio player. The major disadvantage of using the WAV file type is its large size, which can take a long time for the recipient of your email to download. A WAV file is about 10 times larger than an equivalent MP3 file that has the same sound quality and length of spoken text.

TextAloud MP3 has quite a few other capabilities, here are a few. You can copy multiple text sections into the program and have different voices read each one, then save each of these spoken texts into individual files or into one large file. You can use the Pronunciation Editor to customize how certain words are spoken. You can Edit a voice for pitch and speed, have the program read only selected (highlighted) text, and control the quality of a saved MP3 file.

In this version (1.3) of TextAloud MP3, only one voice can be saved per file, even if you save multi-article voices as one file. Tech Support tells me that future versions of this product will allow different voices to be saved in one file. This will allow the user to write scripts for various characters and have them perform a play. You could become writer and director.

After playing around with TextAloud MP3 for a few weeks, I registered it for \$19.95 with my credit card through the company's website. After payment approval, the company sends you an email with a code number. By typing this number in your shareware version of TextAloud MP3, it becomes your registered version, with no more popup purchase reminder notices.

I did not use my actual credit card number, but used Mastercard's ShopSafe service on the internet. This service generated a special one-time credit card number that allowed me to give it a maximum transaction value and an expiration date. I have heard that American Express and Discover cards also have this service.

If any of the above information sounds interesting to you, I suggest a visit to the company's website for more details at - <http://www.nextuptech.com/TextAloud/index.html>. At this website, you can read FAQ, use the Online Tutorial, read other reviews, and download a shareware version of TextAloud MP3, as well as other voices.

BAGELS BAGELS BAGELS



Thank You Doris (center)

"Just because nobody complains doesn't mean all parachutes are perfect."

Benny Hill

HOME NETWORKING

submitted by Evelyn Stewart

A professional wiring person named Frank Ehrmantraut called to say he is available to install wiring for fancy telephone hookups and for networking home computers. Call him at 732-878-2839. This is so to speak a one time free commercial, passed on because it sounds useful and unusual.

He read about HCC in the Computer User, a publication we don't see at meetings since Phil Stonesifer left us. If anyone has access to copies it would be admirable to carry them in.

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPH
ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING**
MAY 19th.

The May 19th meeting is the official launch of the Digital Photography SIG. All club members and particularly the members of the SIG should bring their digital cameras to the meeting. Members are asked to explain the features of their camera, what they liked about it and what they did not like about it. A formal talk is not required.

A presentation is also planned. The topic is to be announced and we are looking for members to assist in the presentation. Suggestions are "What you need to know to buy a digital camera", "Basics of Digital Editing", or any related SIG topic.



The meeting includes organization actions to appoint a Chairperson and plan events for the SIG this year.

Jac Carroll will host the first meeting of the Digital Photography SIG at his facility. Time and date of this meeting will be announced between now and May 19th.

I haven't tried this but advice from my Print Artist list is usually good. I don't think I'd bother with it unless I wanted to sell stuff and figure costs ... Evelyn

HP Monitor v1.2

This is a useful and free program for ink printers (designed especially for Hewlett-Packard models, but will work with any other type, such as Canon, Epson, etc.). It allows you to track the amount of the ink in your printer cartridge according to the number of already printed pages. This version has an updated algorithm for calculating the amount of the ink in the cartridge for even better results. Select the type of ink cartridge you use and then enter the amount of previously-printed pages. This program knows how many more pages you can print, according to the selected cartridge. It will display the amount of ink left in the cartridge. The program can be also used for tracking the amount of printed pages by days.

SIGNS YOU LIVE IN THE YEAR 2001

See if this strikes a chord...

You just tried to enter your password on the microwave.

You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three.

You call your son's beeper to let him know it's time to eat. He emails you back from his bedroom, "What's for dinner?"

Your daughter sells Girl Scout Cookies via her web site.

You chat several times a day with a stranger from South Africa, but you haven't spoken with your next door neighbor yet this year.

You check the ingredients on a can of chicken noodle soup to see if it contains Echinacea.

Your grandmother asks you to send her a JPEG file of your newborn so she can create a screen saver.

You pull up in your own driveway and use your cell phone to see if anyone is home.

Every commercial on television has a web-site address at the bottom of the screen.

You buy a computer and 6 months later it is out of date and now sells for half the price you paid.

Leaving the house without your cell phone, which you didn't have the first 20 or 30 years of your life, is cause for panic and turning around to go back and get it.

Using real money, instead of credit or debit, to make a purchase would be a hassle and take planning.

Cleaning up the dining room means getting the fast food bags out of the back seat of your car.

Your reason for not staying in touch with family is that they do not have e-mail addresses.

You consider second-day air delivery painfully slow.

Your dining room table is now your flat filing cabinet.

Your idea of being organized is multi-colored Post-it notes.

You hear most of your jokes via e-mail instead of in person.

You get an extra phone line so you can get phone calls.

You disconnect from the internet and get this awful feeling, as if you just pulled the plug on a loved one.

You get up in morning and go online before getting your coffee.

You wake up at 2AM to go to the bathroom and check your E-mail on your way back to bed.

You start tilting your head sideways to smile. :)

You're reading this.

Even worse; you're going to forward it to someone else.

Ain't it the truth.



TRACKING SATELLITES



Kathryn DeMott, one of our members sent this e-mail to Don Colombo about how to track the many satellites, and other man made space debris. Don looked them up and they are all fun sites.

www.heavens-above.com

www.drsky.com

www.spaceflight.nasa.gov



Tandy 5000 MC Professional System

NEW FOR **89** **8499⁰⁰**

Monitor and mouse not included

- 20 MHz Intel® 80386™ Microprocessor ■ VGA Graphics
- 2 MB RAM (16 MB Capacity) ■ Cache Memory

Our most powerful computer ever! The Tandy 5000 MC Micro Computer is strictly business, from the look of its 256,000-color VGA graphics to the tactile feel of its newly-designed keyboard. Its Intel 80386 processor operates at a lightning-fast 20 MHz, and a memory cache controller provides RAM-fast access to your data. IBM® Micro Channel™ compatible architecture provides a 32-bit wide data path for virtually simultaneous data transfer between peripherals. Will operate MS-DOS® 3.3, MS® OS/2, SCO® XENIX® 386 and network operating software. The 5000 MC's technology, performance and price all add up to an incredible value. VGA graphics, serial and parallel ports and mouse support included.

25-6000 8499.00

Makes today's machines seem cheap, doesn't it?

Jim Aller

DISASTER, ANYONE?

Evelyn Stewart

As a club we have neglected GAMES. In 13 years we have had a program demo of Myst, Doom by Bill Woodall, and War Planes by Jac Carroll. Even the URL's members have recommended have seldom been for games. Here is a download that may be just the game you need. CARMAGEDDON TDR 2000. Download at www.pcworld.com/downloads/file_description.asp?fid=3049 Ram cars and target pedestrians. Enjoy ferocious collisions and spine chilling gore. "What other action game lets you add a Nose Bleed pack?"

This is a Demo.
File size 129737K.
Needs 64 MB of RAM

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Computer Volunteers
ALL MEMBERS

PDA's: HANDHELD COMPUTING

(from HP on-line newsletter)

A personal digital assistant (PDA) is a hand-held computer that allows you to store, access, and organize information. Basic PDAs allow you to store and retrieve addresses and phone numbers, maintain a calendar, and create to-do lists and notes. More sophisticated PDAs can run word processing, spreadsheet, money manager, and electronic book reading programs, and also provide e-mail and Internet access. Most PDAs can exchange information with a desktop or laptop computer, although you may have to buy additional accessories.

e-mail and internet access

Most PDAs allow you to download e-mail and some Internet content from a desktop or laptop computer. You can write e-mails with most PDAs and later send them from your computer. Many PDAs can access e-mail and the Internet by connecting to a telephone jack, although you may have to purchase a special modem. Other PDAs can provide wireless access to e-mail and the Internet if you buy a wireless modem or connect them to certain types of digital mobile phones. Still other PDAs permit wireless access to e-mail and the Internet without the need for additional hardware or software. Be aware that not all content of every Web site may be available on a PDA either because of the limited power relative to a desktop computer or because the PDA does not come with the software necessary to view all content on every Web site. Sometimes, additional software may be purchased and loaded onto the PDA to allow additional Web content to be displayed on a PDA. Many PDAs allow you to access your e-mail accounts, but some PDAs limit your ability to send, receive, or view e-mail attachments. Not all devices are able to display attachments in popular formats like MS Word and HTML without additional software.

connecting to a desktop or notebook computer

Typically, PDAs come with cables or docking stations to connect them to your desktop or notebook computer. Connecting lets you synchronize and update the

files on your PDA with your desktop or notebook computer, such as your calendar, address book, and to-do lists. Some PDAs also enable you to synchronize word processing and spreadsheet files as well as e-mail messages, and copy Web site addresses and Web pages for offline viewing on your PDA.



screen displays

Some PDAs have monochrome or gray-scale displays, while others can display anywhere from 256 to 64,000 colors. PDA screen displays are either active matrix or passive matrix. Active matrix displays generally are easier to see, more responsive, faster, and can be viewed at larger angles than passive matrix displays. Most PDA screens may be seen adequately in many light conditions. Many have gauges for indoor, outdoor, and power-saving modes. Some color PDAs can be set to dim the backlight if the PDA is not in use for a set time -- this extends the battery life.

batteries

Some PDAs use permanent rechargeable batteries, while others use either rechargeable batteries that can be replaced or standard alkaline batteries. How long you can go without recharging or changing batteries may vary depending on the PDA. The time it takes for recharging may also vary depending on the battery. You can use the PDA while the battery is recharging.

memory

PDAs in today's market typically have

between 2 MB to 32 MB of built-in memory. Two MB of memory is generally sufficient to fill address books, maintain an active calendar, take notes, and load useful programs. More memory may be necessary to store large files like digital photos or audio recordings, or to hold large software programs. You can expand memory of some PDAs with small storage cards that can be inserted into the PDA. Think about your anticipated memory requirements before you buy, so that the PDA you select is capable of addressing your needs.

size and weight

Today's PDAs range from the size and thickness of 10 business cards, weighing 1.4 ounces, to the size of a paperback book weighing significantly more. The smallest PDAs have only basic information-organizing functions: they allow you to maintain address books and calendars, and create to-do lists. Complementary hardware -- for example, modems, cradles, and battery chargers -- add to the overall size and weight of PDAs.

entering information

You have to use a pen-like stylus to enter information into many PDAs. You tap on an on-screen keyboard or enter data by writing on the screen, which may require learning a new way of printing the alphabet. Some PDAs use common alphabet characters, while others use variations. Test the handwriting recognition on several PDAs to make sure you're comfortable with how they work. Other PDAs have built-in keyboards. Some of these also let you use a stylus; the stylus substitutes for a mouse for navigating through on-screen menus and controls. External keyboards are available as accessories for many smaller PDAs.

adaptability

Some PDAs can be upgraded. You may be able to add software from the Web or other sources, and some PDAs offer more software applications than others. You also may be able to add memory or removable storage to a PDA, or connect it to an external monitor, a network, or a modem. Printers and external keyboards can be added to many PDAs as well.

FOOT-AND-MOUTH BELIEVED TO BE FIRST VIRUS UNABLE TO SPREAD THROUGH MICROSOFT OUTLOOK

(submitted by Bill Woodall)

Researchers Shocked to Finally Find Virus That Email App Doesn't Like

Atlanta, Ga. (SatireWire.com) - Scientists at the Centers for Disease Control and Symantec's AntiVirus Research Center today confirmed that foot-and-mouth disease cannot be spread by Microsoft's Outlook email application, believed to be the first time the program has ever failed to propagate a major virus.

"Frankly, we've never heard of a virus that couldn't spread through Microsoft Outlook, so our findings were, to say the least, unexpected," said Clive Sarnow, director of the CDC's infectious disease unit.

The study was immediately hailed by British officials, who said it will save millions of pounds and thousands of man hours. "Up until now we have, quite naturally, assumed that both foot-and-mouth and mad cow were spread by Microsoft Outlook," said Nick Brown, Britain's Agriculture Minister. "By eliminating it, we can focus our resources elsewhere."

However, researchers in the Netherlands, where foot-and-mouth has recently appeared, said they are not yet prepared to disqualify Outlook, which has been the progenitor of viruses such as "I Love You," "Bubbleboy," "Anna Kournikova," and "Naked Wife," to name but a few.

Said Nils Overmars, director of the Molecular Virology Lab at Leiden University: "It's not that we don't trust the research, it's just that as scientists, we are trained to be skeptical of any finding that flies in the face of established truth. And this one flies in the face like a blind drunk sparrow."

Executives at Microsoft, meanwhile, were equally skeptical, insisting that Outlook's patented Virus Transfer Proto-

col (VTP) has proven virtually pervious to any virus. The company, however, will issue a free VTP patch if it turns out the application is not vulnerable to foot-and-mouth.

Such an admission would be embarrassing for the software giant, but Symantec virologist Ariel Kologne insisted that no one is more humiliated by the study than she is. "Only last week, I had a reporter ask if the foot-and-mouth virus spreads through Microsoft Outlook, and I told him, 'Doesn't everything?'" she recalled. "Who would've thought?"

Try this—Lon sent it:

Open a blank Microsoft Word document and type

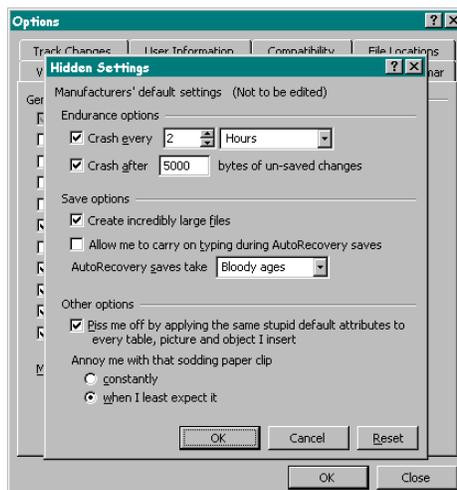
= rand (200,99)

Press Enter and wait a few seconds if you have a slower computer.

LEGACY 3.0 IS NOW FREE!

(submitted by Jim Russ)

Legacy Family Tree, one of the most comprehensive and easy to use family history software programs is now free for downloading from their Web site at <http://www.LegacyFamilyTree.com>. However, its a long download of about 1 and 1/2 hr. You can also get it for the cost of shipping (about \$5) by calling 1-800-753-3453.



DOWNLOADING FILES

The Web is home to thousands of multimedia tools, but downloading them isn't always a Snap. Here's a handy checklist to follow: know what it is you're downloading. Don't download a file unless you understand what it does. Go to trusted Web sources for finding downloadable software (<http://www.zdnet.com/downloads/> or <http://download.cnet.com/>).

determine the file size

Depending on the file size (as well as modem speed and Web server traffic), downloading can take anywhere from a few minutes to several hours. Is the file really worth the download time?

save the file to your hard disk

Once you have located the program you want, right-click on its link (when the cursor changes to a hand).

In Netscape Navigator, select Save Link As... from the pop-up menu. In Microsoft Internet Explorer, choose Save Target As... Using the Save dialog box, select a location on your hard disk where you would like to store the file. Click OK to begin the download.

open the file

The file you download will not be the program itself but an installation routine. If the file name ends with the .exe extension, open it. Either the setup will launch or the installation files will decompress automatically. In the latter case, the download file will "explode" into several larger files. Look through these files for a program called setup.exe or install.exe and run it to launch the installation program. If the file ends with the .zip extension, you'll need to decompress the program. The two most popular decompression utilities are PKZip and WinZip.

clean up installation programs

After installing your new software, perform a little house cleaning. Delete the original installation programs, or if you have the disk space, stash them away in a folder (in case you ever need to reinstall them).

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PRINTER BASICS

(from HP On-LineNewsletter)

Whether you use your PC to keep in touch with friends and family, to explore the World Wide Web, or manage your finances, chances are you'll want a printer attached to it. Here's a brief introduction to the different types of printers available and a guide to getting your printer up and running.

types of printers & how they work

INKJET

The most common type of printer found in homes today is the inkjet printer. This printer works by spraying ionized ink onto the paper with magnetized plates directing the ink to the desired shape. Inkjet printers are capable of producing high quality text and images in black and white or color, approaching the quality that is produced by more costly laser printers. Many inkjet printers today are capable of printing photo-quality images. Bear in mind that the special ink used by inkjet printers is apt to smudge on common copier paper, so remember to buy paper specifically manufactured for inkjet printers.

LASER

Laser printers provide the highest quality text and images for personal computers today. Like standard copy machines, they operate by using a laser beam to produce an electrically charged image on a drum, which is then rolled through a reservoir of toner. The toner is picked up by the electrically charged portions of the drum, and transferred to the paper through a combination of heat and pressure. While full-color laser printers are available, they tend to be much more expensive than black and white versions and require a great deal of printer memory to produce high-resolution images. Also, be warned that many specialty papers, such as iron-on transfers, are not suitable for laser printers as the heat used in the transfer process could damage the paper and gum up your printer.

DAISY-WHEEL & DOT MATRIX

More popular a decade ago but still in use today are daisy-wheel and dot-matrix printers. Like a typewriter,

the daisy-wheel printer has a plastic or metal wheel on which the shape of each character stands out in relief. A hammer presses the wheel against a ribbon, which transfers the image of that character to the paper. Daisy-wheel printers cannot print images and are very limited in the fonts they can print, but produce high-quality text. Dot-matrix printers also work with ribbons, but use a number of pins to create the character images, providing the ability to print simple images and a larger range of fonts, though of a poorer quality than the daisy-wheel. Both types of printers tend to be noisy, but they print quickly and have the ability to print carbon copies, of which neither laser printers nor inkjet printers



ALL-IN-ONE

the final type of printer to be mentioned here is the multifunction or all-in-one printer. Many home office users prefer the space-saving convenience of an all-in-one device which combines the functions of printer, scanner, copier and fax into one machine. All-in-one printers can be either inkjet or user based.

INSTALLING YOUR PRINTER

The steps involved in getting your printer up and running aren't complicated but you should be sure to read the manual before you start because the manufacturer may have specific instructions for your particular model. This is especially true if you are installing an all-in-one device since the steps for connecting the fax machine to your phone line are not covered here.

1. Take everything out of the box and be sure you have everything you will need. Besides the printer itself, you will need the ink or toner cartridge, the installation disk, a printer interface cable, and paper.

Most manufacturers don't include cables along with the printer, but you can easily find standard parallel printer cables at most computer supply stores.

2. Remove all the packaging material that might still be on the printer. There might be restraints within the printer itself--used to keep non-stationary parts from moving around during shipping--that you will need to remove. Your manual should be able to guide you in their removal.

3. Make sure your computer is turned off. Attach the printer cable to both the printer and the computer and lock or screw in place.

4. Attach the printer power cable to the printer, and then plug it in. Do not yet turn it on.

5. If you are installing a laser printer, you will now need to install the toner cartridge. Gently rock the cartridge before installing to loosen any caked toner and spread it evenly through the cartridge. A protective plastic strip keeps the toner in place during shipping. Avoid juggling the cartridge after removing this strip as spilled toner is difficult to clean up. Remove the strip according to the package instructions and install the toner cartridge into the laser printer as directed by the manual.

6. If you are installing an inkjet printer, you will probably need to power-up your printer first, allowing the cartridge carrier to move out from its "home" position under one of the sides. A plastic strip on the outside of the cartridge protects the ink nozzle and the copper electronic contacts during shipping. Remove the strip, raise the cover of the printer, and then follow manufacturer instructions for installing the cartridge (or cartridges, in the case of color inkjets printers). Close the cover and turn the printer off.

7. If your printer has a removable tray, install it at this point. Then add paper to the tray or built-in hopper. Be careful not to overfill the tray or it will jam. Turn on the printer, your monitor, and your PC.

PRINTER BASICS (continued)

8. When your computer starts up, Windows should detect the new device you have connected and ask if you want to locate the drivers for it. A driver is a program that allows your computer to communicate properly with your printer and was probably included on a disk included with your printer. If Windows does not recognize the printer, and offers to install the proper drivers, you may need to run a specific installation program provided by the manufacturer in order for it to work properly. Installation instructions vary greatly between manufacturers and even between models, so read the installation instructions included with your manual to determine how to proceed.

CARE & MAINTAINENCE

Your printer should require very little in the way of maintenance. Most important is to keep the printer as dust-free as possible, especially in the areas where the paper feeds. It's a good habit to clean your printer whenever you replace the ink or toner cartridge. Use a dry, oil-free cloth to clean the paper-path and inside the toner cartridge cavity of a laser printer (be careful not to touch the roller). The outside of the printer can be cleaned with a damp cloth. Additionally, you should also regularly check the manufacturer's website for driver updates. These updates contain fixes to minor bugs in the original software, and will improve the performance of your printer. Most manufacturers provide free notification of driver updates, either by mail or via the Internet, when you register your printer

The following articles were taken from the "New York Times," 3/29/01.

EVEN HARDWARE NEEDS DESIGNATED DRIVERS

Drivers are pieces of software that allow your operating system to communicate with hardware devices and programs. Windows itself comes with a large selection of drivers for commonly used devices and can often automatically detect

and install what is needed. The Add New Hardware Wizard in the Control Panel area will help you along.

Windows will not usually have drivers for devices that were released after the operating system came out, but most new hardware will include them in the box with your new device. Unless otherwise specified in the manufacturer's instructions, you should install the driver software before plugging the new device into your computer so Windows can recognize it.

Some hardware makers are also putting the latest versions of their drivers (often ones that have had problems corrected from the original versions) on their Web sites for users to download and install, and your system can sometimes help find them. The Windows Update feature on the Start Menu will also take you to a spot on Microsoft's site where you can download some types of updated drivers and other software for your system.

AUTOMATICALLY STARTING CD-ROMS

Instead of forcing users to click on desktop CD icons, both Macintosh and Windows computers have an autoplay function that allows the computer to start the music or program on the disk automatically. Windows users should go to the Start menu, then to Settings and Control Panel. Double-click on the System icon and the Device Manager tab, then on CD-ROM and on the name of your CD-ROM drive. On the Settings tab on the box, check the Auto Insert Notification box. Click O.K., close the box and restart the computer when prompted.

Mac users should go to the Quick-Time settings control panel found under the Apple menu, select AutoPlay from the pop-up tab and check the boxes for enabling CD-ROM and audio CD autoplay.

WHAT DOES A "MODULE KERNEL32.DLL" ERROR MEAN?

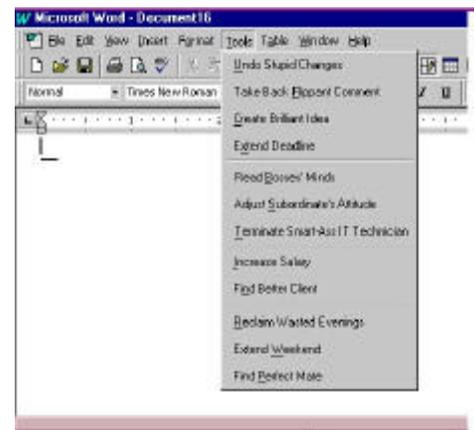
The questioner seemed to keep getting this message while working in Microsoft

Word 2000 on a Windows 98 system ... The kernel module is the central component of any operating system. It loads first into the main memory of the computer when you start up the machine and is responsible for managing the system's disk, memory, processing and tasks.

A kernel error is a type of operation error in Windows and can occur when there is a conflict or miscommunication between the program you are using and the Windows operating system. There are many possible reasons for getting kernel 32.dll errors. You might try restarting the computer in Safe Mode (restart the machine from the Shutdown menu and hold down the Control key as it starts back up to select Safe Mode from the Windows 98 Startup Menu) and then repeating the last thing you did. If you can perform the same task without crashing, you may have a driver or other system conflict.

Running ScanDisk and defragmenting your hard drive with Windows' built-in system tools may also help. Files that are severely fragmented can affect the program's overall performance.

Some other things to check for include making sure that your Word and other Microsoft Office programs have at least 20 megabytes of free hard-disk space on the drive where the program's Temporary folder resides. Removing and then reinstalling Word might also fix the errors. Other possible solutions can be found at support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/Q218/8/53.asp.



Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting Saturday, April 21, 2001

Hunterdon Medical Center

Rt. 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon

Program: Creating Presentations in Powerpoint

Speaker: Lon Hosford

Guests Welcome – all ages all levels

HCC NEWSLETTER

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

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