

Newsletter

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August 2001



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The Webmaster's SIG went extremely well. We had hot food and cold drinks and a great topic from Donald Franklin on his trials, tribulations, and success in setting up <http://psychologyinfo.com>.

We need to thank Donald additionally for providing the projection equipment. We found that the Hunterdon Library was a bit barren in that area. Further thanks goes to Doris Moore for securing the room.

Based on this SIG meeting, I think the policy on SIG food and drink will be a donation at each SIG meeting for what you feel is appropriate. The club would then take up the financial slack or surplus. As far as menu, whoever gets the food picks the menu. I suspect pizza and soda will be a popular choice because of convenience. Thus if you have a special diet need, you need to bring your own food.

Jim Russ returned to the Program Chair role. At the July meeting Jim showed us how law enforcement uses computers to create the faces you see on wanted posters.

Ilene Shope is thanked for providing the meeting with fresh fruit and flowers.

For the next meeting, the date has changed to August 25th instead of the 18th. The Hospital is moving dates around on us for this meeting and the remaining dates to year end. You should see those dates elsewhere in this newsletter and on the Web.

Also Barbara Smith who handles the room reservations is trying to find some dates for the SIGs. So lets keep our fingers crossed.

I have an interesting follow up to a previous comment in this column many issues back on the Sharp Elsimate EL-334A solar powered calculator. I had complained about the effort of finding a small solar powered calculator that had large LCD numbers, large buttons, 4 rubber quality feet, and only basic functions.

The Sharp Elsimate EL-334A had all those plus a tilt feature on the LCD panel. However once I unearthed it from the wrapping I learned that it needed to be under a light source to power up. After a year of using it I did not notice that it gradually over came this handicap. The workspace lighting is the same. Go figure.

For those in the software developer area, I am hearing doomsday for Java dominance. It seems that in a matter of time, one year or so, after release, the .NET thingy from Microsoft will eliminate the unique position Java fills. At least I know some international IT investors who think that is what will happen.

Finally, rumor has it that Don Columbo, our Secretary and membership person touring the innards of Asia, has recruited new club members from Mongolia, Siberia, and China. The power of the bagel is awesome.

AUGUST MEETING

" PC Upgrade And Buying Guide"

Presenter, Jim Russ

This topic was to be presented by a local company called "JTec Systems, Inc." but they can not make it on the rescheduled meeting date of August 25. Thus I will be speaking on the same topic. I will endeavor to give guidelines on what can and should be upgraded and the cost.

This will include :

- 1) Memory
- 2) Video Card
- 3) CPU
- 4) Hard Drive

I will attempt to answer the questions: "How much more power do I need?" and "How much do I need to spend?" Lastly " What should I look for when shopping for a PC?"

I will be taking questions from the audience and trying to answer them.

GREAT WRITER

(submitted by Jac Carroll)

There was once a young man who, in his youth, professed his desire to become a great writer.

When asked to define "great" he said, "I want to write stuff that the whole world will read, stuff that people will react to on a truly emotional level, stuff that will make them scream, cry, howl in pain and anger!"

He now works for Microsoft, writing error messages.

FACES*July's Presentation (Jim Russ)*

Designed and created by Canadian software company IQ Biometrix, FACES is a breakthrough composite picture software available on CD-ROM, containing a database of close to 4,000 specially-coded facial features. By simply clicking on these features with the mouse, users of all ages can create endless combinations of faces of either sex and any race -- in as much time as it will take you to read this paragraph! All of the selected features are automatically blended together, making the resulting picture look just like a photograph.

By simply clicking on the easy-to-find features with the mouse, the average user can create a complete picture in less than 10 minutes. For police officers who are out on the front lines in the war against crime, a 10-minute head start on criminals can make all the difference in the world.

Police officers expressed relief and satisfaction when FACES was first introduced to the law enforcement community in early 1999. Cops say they love FACES because it's simple, efficient and -- at \$49.95 U.S. -- easy on police budgets.



Because it's so easy to use, FACES requires no special training. That means you don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure out how FACES actually works. Even grandma can become fully comfortable with the FACES technology in little time. Unlike other composite-picture tools on the market, FACES is remarkably efficient. Not only does FACES allow you to create superb quality composite pictures in minutes, but you can also send them around the world in a matter of seconds. This is due to a revolutionary feature, exclusive to FACES, called the InterCode. The InterCode is a 38-digit alphanumeric ID code that the FACES software automatically assigns to each composite picture you create. FACES users can freely exchange InterCodes by phone, fax or e-mail. Once the recipient keys in the code, the corresponding composite pic-

ture is automatically generated on his or her screen, thus completely bypassing the problem of transmitting graphic data electronically.

The rapid and accurate transfer of InterCodes comes as good news for cops who track down criminals. By immediately transmitting the FACES composite of a wanted suspect to another law enforcement agency in a different region, APBs (all-points bulletins) suddenly become more efficient and timely, making the job of police investigators easier. For the first time, FACES has made it possible for law enforcement agencies, businesses at risk and the general public to become part of an international information network, sharing high-quality graphic data (composites) with unprecedented speed and ease. This is ultimate networking. This is FACES technology at its best.

Designed for Windows and Mac platforms, FACES can be operated on any standard desktop or portable computer, eliminating all complicated and costly set-up procedures. For optimal results, a Pentium or PowerPC processor and 600 DPI laser printer are recommended. Although FACES requires 680 MB of hard-disk space, you do not have to install the software to use it; you can simply run FACES from your CD-ROM drive, leaving yourself plenty of free disk space for other applications.

COMPUTER BUS*(The New York Times, July 26, 2001)*

Generally speaking, the bus is a series of wires inside the computer that carries information from one component to another so that the central processing unit and main memory area can communicate with the rest of the machine's parts. If you have add-in cards like a sound card or a modem installed in your machine, they communicate with the memory of the CPU through the expansion bus. Like processors, buses have clock speeds measured in megahertz. A bus with a higher speed can transfer data faster, and higher bus speeds make programs run faster. Buses are also measured in width, and as you might expect, a 32-bit bus can carry more data than a 16-bit bus.

WHAT IS A TILDE

It looks like a wiggling dash.

This is a ~tilde~

From www.allwords.com

tilde (n.)tilde

1. a diacritic (~) placed over an n, as in Spanish mañana, to indicate a palatal nasal sound or over a vowel, as in Portuguese são, to indicate nasalization.
2. See "swung dash."
3. Math. a symbol (&sim) indicating equivalency or similarity between two values.
4. Logic. a similar symbol indicating negation.

From: <http://www.computeruser.com/resources/dictionary>

Used in some cases to represent a user's home directory. World Wide Web home pages often use the tilde in this form: www.some.com/~jones.

For HTML coders you use the tag `~` to produce a tilde.

WHAT IS AN UMLAUT?

It looks like a colon turned on end.

This is an "umlaut"

From www.encyclopedia.com

Pronounced As: oomlout [Ger., =transformed sound], in inflection, variation of vowels of the type of English man to men. In this instance it is the end product of the effect of a y (long since disappeared) that was present in the plural; the y caused the vowel before the n to be pronounced higher and more forward in the mouth in the plural than in the singular; eventually there was replacement of the vowel in the plural. Other examples are mouse, mice; tooth, teeth; to fall, to fell; doom, deem. Umlaut is also called mutation and inflection. For the variation of sing, sang, see ablaut. Umlaut is also the name for the diacritical symbol placed above a vowel to indicate a sound change in Germanic languages, as in the German Fräulein and the Swedish fröken (see accent)

NOTES FROM THE JULY MEETING

(Submitted by Lon Hosford & Irene Shope)

Gaye Lowe: Requirements for networking two computers in Windows. For just two computers only a cable called a cross over cable is required.

Bill Woodall suggested that you can get this at www.simplybargains.com.

Pat Frusco: Problem with AOL messaging where computer freezes leaving a blank line on the top of the screen. The recommendation was to perform a CTRL ALT DEL the next time it happens, jot down the names of the running programs and report back.

Glynn Gillette: Kicked off a lively discussion on refilling Ink cartridges. Club members had various experiences from the process being extremely messy to potential problems to not being messy and a way to save money.

Bill Woodall reported the HP 300-400-500 was not advisable.

Members reported that new HP ink machines are putting the print head on the cartridge.

Some comments from the discussion included putting refill needle at bottom of cartridge to reduce splashing and not leaving empty cartridges too long because of ink drying inside causing clogging.

Lon thinks it was Harvey Schramm who claimed he wraps tape around cartridges to prevent drying.

Ilene Shope: Do we pay for recycled cartridges? Yes.

Jac Carroll: Started a discussion about AD-aware anti spy software. This is freeware and current version is 5.5. The problem is for IE users. Here web sites may install ActiveX software at your approval or not. This software becomes part of your browser and works as you used your browser sending data to marketing spys about your browsing habits.

AD-aware publisher site is www.lavasoft.de. They describe the product as "Ad-aware is a free multi-spyware removal tool that detects and safely removes components of advertising parasites from your system."

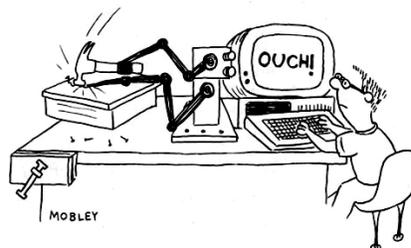
Jac Carroll: Wanted to know how you can get emails that are not addressed to you. The answer provided by Bill Woodall is the use of blind carbon copy which is built into most everyday email software.

The use of blind carbon copy sometimes shown on your software screen as BCC allows you to send to a list and the list email addresses do not appear in the email people receive. The sender sends to a dummy address which is what you see in the email as who it was sent to. But actually it was sent to a list that you cannot see.

Your own use of blind carbon copy is recommended when there is no need for others to see who is copied. This prevents the accidental inclusion of a email dummy sending your list to spammers by accident. However it may confuse folks thinking you only sent the email to them and not a list and perceive the email more personal than you intended.

John Warsinski says memory cards for Pentiums are cheaper than memory cards for older machines. Staples has memory at a cheap price now. 128 MB SDRAM is \$19.98 whereas 32MB of an older chip is more expensive.

Bill Woodall mentioned a cheap website www.simplybargains.com for memory and other computer stuff. E.g. 100 CDR at \$15. And 100 recordings at a bargain.



RESEARCHING AND BUYING A CAR

(Computer Shopper, August 2001)

autobytel.com is a one-stop shop for researching and buying a new or used car. You can compare prices and options, read reviews, then get a price commitment without haggling. The site uses a network of 5,000 dealers, so you can take a test drive and close the deal in person.

autotrader.com specializes in used cars offering 1.5 million listings for pre-owned and new vehicles. Build a list of cars for sale in your local area or nationwide, limiting hits to a particular make, model, and year. Insurance and warranty quotes, as well as loan rates, are available.

autoweb.com is a full-service research and buying site offering an informative, haggle-free shopping experience. Related services include the ability to get an insurance quote, explore financing options, and check your credit report.



You can place a classified ad to find a buyer for your old jalopy.

edmunds.com car-buying guide is a free, unbiased source for automotive information. This site includes new-car reviews, insightful feature articles, and impartial advice about buying, selling, and financing. The appraisal tool will tell you what to pay for a used car and what to expect for your trade-in.

Use kbb.com (Kelley Blue Book) to find the trade-in or used-car retail value of any car made since 1981. The site also offers previews of models coming soon to dealerships, and of concept cars that may never see a showroom floor.

www.nhtsa.dot.gov/cars/testing/ncap - The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration wants to help you in Buying a Safer Car. Before you buy that new or used vehicle you've got your eye on, check this guide to find out how it performed in crash tests. The site also offers guides to choosing a safe car and reducing the chance of rollovers.

PARTS OF SPEECH*(PC Magazine, August 2001)***Call Center**

A location where a group of employees answer customer service lines for a business and either provide answers or direct the caller further.

Concatenated speech

Words that have been recorded from human speech or synthesized on a computer, then spliced together to create an answer or directive as part of an interactive dialog between the computer and a person.

Contact center

A new kind of call center that covers not only telephone calls from customers but also e-mail, chat, and other Web-based queries.

CTI (computer/telephony integration)

The integration of computers with telephones, often to create sophisticated automated call centers.

IVR (interactive voice response)

A type of automated service that relies on speech recognition or speech concatenation, or both, to create a dialog between a computer and a person.

Speech recognition

The use of algorithm-based programming that lets computers recognize the words of human speech and record it into memory, where it can be saved into files, or use it to command and interact with an IVR system. Also called *voice recognition*.

Speech-to-text

The use of speech recognition to translate words spoken into a PC's microphone to text that can be recorded into memory, read on-screen, and saved as a file. Also called *dictation*.

Text-to-speech

A process where words in a computer file are read aloud by a computer-generated voice.

Voice over IP (VOIP)

A technology that uses the Internet Protocol, instead of speech recognition, as the conduit for a telephone-like voice conversation. This technology permits cheap overseas calls via the internet.

TIPS FOR USING YOUR NEW CD-RW DRIVE*(Computer Shopper, August 2001)*

CD-RW drives can be tricky to install and even trickier to use. Here are some tips to get you burning CDs like a house on fire.

Know your terminology. A 6x drive is much hotter than a 4x drive, which itself couldn't be shown in a mainstream movie theater.

While being written, audio files must be synchronized properly to avoid errors that result in hissing and popping noises on the finished CD. Record audio files to your hard drive first, then burn them to CDs. Remember, Rome wasn't stolen in a day.

Some pens can harm your blank discs, particularly if you use a ballpoint pen to write on your CD.



Members of HCC helped Lon celebrate his 50th Birthday at a barbecue at his home on Sunday 08/05/01. Lon's daughter Julianne Hosford (a young member of HCC herself) shared her Middle School Graduation celebration, with her dad, while her mother and sister looked on.

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RECORDING RESOURCES*(Computer Shopper, August 2001)*

If you want to learn more about how to get the most from your CD writer and software, many Web sites cover the topic in great detail. CD-RW Central (www.cdrwcentral.com) delivers news and reviews of CD-RW hardware and software, plus tips on using software. Also check out the comprehensive CD Recording FAQ at (users.forthnet.gr/ath/axatis/FAQs/CDR). TDK's Web site has a useful primer on digital recording at www.tdk.com/cdr, and you'll find an-

other CD-R primer at www.mrichter.com/cdr/primer/primer.htm. ZDNET has reviews and articles about CD recorders and recording at www.zdnet.com/products/cdrw.

If you're more interested in downloads than lowdowns, a number of Web sites offer legal digital-music files, posted by the artists themselves or with their permission. MP3.com (www.mp3.com) is the granddaddy of these sites, but you'll find lots of others that feature free music downloads, including MusicBlitz (www.musicblitz.com) and Trax In Space (www.traxinspace.com). Other sites, such as Emusic.com (www.emusic.com), feature both free samples and fee-based downloading, pointing the way to a new business model for music distribution.

HOW TO STOP AUTOFILL FEATURE WHEN TYPING A URL

Although the autofill feature is designed to speed up you surfing, it can be a nuisance or even a security threat (if you share your system with others). In Internet Explorer the AutoComplete feature not only remembers URLs you type into the address bar, it also stores your Web password and the name and address you use to complete online forms. But you can make sure that AutoComplete stores only specific information or even none at all. To do this, go to the Tools Menu and choose Internet Options. Click the Content Tab, then the AutoComplete button, and set your preferences. To delete all stored Web addresses, go to this same menu and select the General tab. Then, in the History section, click Clear History.

Netscape 6 also stores you personal information. To clear the history, go to the Edit menu, select Preferences, then History (under Navigator). Click the Clear Location Bar button to erase all history URLs. To void personal data and passwords, click the arrow next to Advanced and below it select either Forms or Passwords. Click the View Saved Data, View Saved Passwords, or Remove All buttons to remove this information.

WEBMASTERS SIG

(Donald Franklin)

The Webmasters SIG met on Friday, July 13, 2001, once again demonstrating that true computer addicts have nothing else to do on Friday evening. Lon Hosford brought pizza, for which everyone was eternally grateful! The SIG welcomes all levels of webmasters, from those with good web development skills to beginners interested in learning about website development.

The Q & A focused on hosting options and web development tools. Don Franklin presented on the history of his website, Psychology Information Online (<http://psychologyinfo.com>) which was first developed several years ago with Composer, a web development tool that comes packaged with Netscape. Since then, Psychology Information Online has grown to several hundred pages and receives over 30,000 unique visitors per month. It has also been ranked highly by many of the major search engines, including Yahoo and Excite, for several keywords related to psychology.

As the website has grown, several revisions have been necessary, and another revision is in progress now. First, it became necessary to upgrade to a more sophisticated web development tool. Don has used Homesite, Frontpage and Dreamweaver, but decided on Netobjects Fusion because of its ease of use and its WYSIWYG layout.

Netobjects is similar to Frontpage, in that it works like a publishing program, but it does not have the flaws and quirks all too familiar in Microsoft products. For example, Frontpage tends to create pages that seem to only look good if you use Internet Explorer, and sometimes Netscape has trouble loading the pages. Netobjects has no affiliation with either browser, and produces pages that look good in both environments. Don demonstrated the ease of selecting and changing web page designs with Netobjects, and also reviewed how you can create web pages with information generated from a database like Access or Excel (and most other databases).

The best part about Netobjects is their recent price reduction. They hold a very small share of the web developer market, so they recently shifted their marketing strategy to small business owners who want to develop their own websites. As part of that effort, they dropped their price to \$99, instead of \$399 to \$499 for previous versions. Like all web development tools, it is better if you know how to hand code html to fix minor problems, but Netobjects produces high quality web pages,

**Visit our Club's Website for
Scheduled Programs.**

**WWW.
hunterdoncomputerclub.org**

Paul Glattstein, Webmaster

Ilene Shope made placards for the bagel table proclaiming the bagels are for the HCC Members and to serve as an advertisement for Membership growth: \$25-Single and \$30- Family. Doris Moore placed the placards beside the coffeepots.

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Computer Volunteers
ALL MEMBERS

Guests Welcome – all ages all levels

Program: **PC Upgrade And Buying Guide**
Presenter, J im Russ

8:30 A.M. to Noon

Hunterdon Medical Center
Rt 31 Flemington NJ

Next Meeting Saturday, August 25, 2001
(note the change of date)

Hunterdon Computer Club

HCC NEWSLETTER

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

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