

Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 5 May 2004



PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

(by Lon Hosford)

The April meeting hosted the presentation of Bill Woodall on "How to Calibrate your Printer and Monitor For Realistic Image Production".

Bill took us through the tricky aspects of tuning the color parameters of your computer so "what you see is what you get" or WISIWYG. Bill presented some dramatic examples of before and after images resulting from following some of the basic steps he expertly outlined.

Our April meeting welcomed a new change of having the Q&A in the auditorium. The aim was to take advantage of both the high speed internet connection and a running computer to help answer questions with live demonstrations. With the positive feedback, we plan to continue this approach to Q&A for the indefinite future.

For the upcoming May meeting we will premier a new recurring club meeting topic: "It's On The Web". The topic is intended to allow members to present and discuss web sites that are helpful to computer users. For about 2 or 3 meeting of the year this will be the presentation topic with a specific focus, such as "Good Sites To Purchase Computers".

"It's On The Web" may also occur as a short side topic at other meetings where time allows. "It's On The Web" may have one or more members participate with their suggested web sites. Coming up in June is "How To Publish Yourself With A Web Log" Jac Carrol will conduct this presentation. He intends to show you software for creating web logs and the types of web logs running on the Internet.

Last meeting club members learned about the passing of Rick Williams. Rick was a long time member of the club and the previous club President. Rick was known for interjecting dry but very funny computer humor into meetings, handling the coordination of the club meetings with the Hunterdon Medical Center and assuring the operation of the auditorium projection equipment.

There are some pictures of Rick on the club web site. One I took when I bought my first digital camera is under photos March 1998 Meeting. The caption honors his dry wit.

Rick worked for the Hunterdon Medical Center in various capacities over the years. As a result members want to promote donations on his behalf to HMC. You can make donations with checks made out to the Hunterdon Medical Center Foundation or with cash to the club. The club would like to present the total of all donations as a group. You can bring your donation to club meetings and give it to myself, the club Secretary, Jim Aller, and Sara Oderwald, the club treasurer.

If you want to mail the check you can send it to the Hunterdon Computer Club P.O. Box 5198, Clinton, New Jersey 08809 care of Lon Hosford.

Many thanks to newsletter contributors for last month including Carl Kukula, Evelyn Stewart, Ilene Shope, John Warsinski, Eleanor Mistler, and Grace Marcus.

EMAIL GROUP FOR HCC MEMBERS

(submitted by John Gbur)

Recently the club's "loop" has been resurrected in the form of an email group hosted by Yahoogroups.com. Any member of the group can send a message to hunterdoncomputerclub@yahoogroups. com. This message will be sent to all members of the group. With a current membership of twenty-five members, this is a good way to tap into the knowledge of group members outside of meet-Currently, there are three ings. "moderators", who act as a filter and approve messages before being sent to the entire group. They are Jim Aller, John Gbur, and Bill Woodall.

If you would like to join the group, send an email to johngbur@earthlink.net. You will get an email "invitation" to join the group. Simply reply to this message. DO NOT click on any link in the message. If you do, you will have to fill out a long form to join Yahoo. YOU DO NOT have to do this. Simply Reply to this message and you are in!

Inside this issue:	
Quiet Your PC	2
April Quests	3
Important Notice	3
Remembering Rick Williams	3
Bionic Running Shoe	3
Is It RIP For HTML	4
Spam Petition	4

12 Step Program for Web Addicts

USB Flash Drives

Senior Classes

5

QUIET YOUR PC: EASY WAYS TO CUT COMPUTER NOISE

(submitted by Don Colombo)

1. Move the PC.

First, try a simple solution. If your system is sitting on the desk next to you, move it onto the floor (assuming that its case is designed to sit vertically rather than horizontally). The vibration from the PC often sets up a sympathetic vibration with the desk surface, turning the case into a soundboard. Moving the computer under your desk can eliminate this problem. You'll get the best results if the PC sits on a carpeted surface. If you have a tile or hardwood floor, try putting the system on a carpet scrap or a piece of packing foam. For a really "far out" solution, purchase keyboard, mouse, and monitor extension cables (available from any computer dealer) and move the PC farther away. This will, of course, make the CD or DVD drives harder to access.

2. Tighten up to reduce rattling.

Sometimes, the biggest contributor of PC noise isn't so much the direct sound of fans and motors as it is the vibration of PC components. It can be as annoying as a rattle somewhere in your car. You can often solve these problems by unplugging your PC, removing its cover, and methodically tightening the mounting screws of parts such as the power supply, drives, motherboard, and cooling fans. Be careful, though: Overtightening screws is worse than leaving them too loose, since you could damage components. Some noise-reduction kits include screws with polymer or rubber washers to reduce vibrations further.

3. Install gaskets.

Inexpensive polymer gasket kits can isolate vibrating fans and parts from the case, reducing noise. NoiseMagic's No-Vibes hard-drive suspension kit can do the same for your hard drives. Follow the manufacturer's instructions.

4. Install heat-sensitive case fans.

Because of the heat generated by fast processors and other components, almost all PC cases have one or more fans dedicated to exhausting heat. The inexpensive fans that many manufacturers use can be noisy, but fans don't always have to work at full speed, since a PC produces much less heat when it's idling. Thermostatically controlled fans use temperature sensors that slow the fans down when the internal case temperature drops. Alternatively, some manufacturers supply single-speed fans that are designed to be quiet. Installing them is usually simple, though you may need to remove drives or add-in boards to take out the old fan and insert the new one. Note whether the fan power is connected on the motherboard or to a power-supply connector. If your new fan has an external temperature sensor, follow the manufacturer's directions to place the sensor in the optimum location.

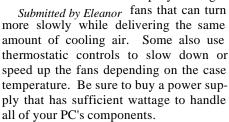
5. Upgrade to a quiet power supply.

... CAN I BORROW THE PASSWORD

TONIGHTE

Your computer's power supply may be one of the primary sources of noise. Many rely on two built-in fans to move large

amounts of air. Switching to a power supply that is designed to be quiet can dramatically reduce your PC's overall noise level. Designs vary, but most units simply employ larger



6. Install a new CPU cooler.

Today's processors run very hot--often from 145 to 175 degrees Fahrenheit. At these temperatures, effective and continuous cooling is essential. In fact, an uncooled CPU can grow hot enough to damage itself in a matter of seconds. The CPU heat sink and fan that came with your PC are probably louder than you realize. You can lower the noise by installing a specially designed CPU cooler. Most coolers include a larger, more efficient heat sink that can be paired with a much quieter fan. Buy a cooler that's designed for your processor, and follow the manufacturer's directions for installing it.

7. Install acoustic insulation.

If your PC still isn't quiet enough after you've taken the preceding steps, try some more-extreme measures. Acoustic insulation kits let you add a layer of special sound-absorbing foam on the inside of your case. Installation is relatively easy: You cut the foam to size, peel off a backing, and stick it in place. The SilentDrive enclosure isolates your hard drive in a sound-deadening box. You'll need a free 5.25-inch mounting space for each SilentDrive. Follow the manufacturer's directions to install it.

A wide range of PC-quieting products are available. They can be used singly or in combination.

- 1. Acoustic insulation (\$40 to \$85): Sound-absorbing foam, installed inside the case, turns your PC into an almost-soundproof miniature room, though it can make your PC run a bit hotter.
- 2. Hard-drive enclosure (\$32): Dampen the whine of your PC's hard drive by enclosing it in an isolation chamber. Note: This requires a free 5.25-inch drive bay for installation.
- 3. Silent case (\$100): If you're building your own PC, consider a case designed with a quiet power supply, quiet fans, and large air vents.
- 4. Case fans (\$7 to \$25): Specially designed and thermostatically controlled case cooling fans can move enough air to keep your system cool, while keeping noise to a minimum.
- 5. Quiet power supplies (\$45 to \$150): The power supply may be the noisiest component of your PC. Quiet power supplies can dramatically reduce the clatter.
- 6. Gasket kits (\$10 to \$15): Gaskets and insulated mounting washers for power supplies and fans can help reduce vibration.
- 7. CPU coolers (\$20 to \$50): If your existing CPU cooling fan sounds like a miniature vacuum cleaner, consider fans with larger heat sinks and quiet rotary blades; these can virtually eliminate CPU cooling noise.

GUEST IN APRIL

(by Ilene Shope)

"Who me?" She said.

Lon said the club sometimes imposes upon visitors to say something. Claire DeLucca, our guest today, said she knew the club was here but was daunted by the 8:30 a.m. time on Saturday, but she made it in for this meeting. WELCOME.

Members Patricia Frusco, Barbara Lane, Dennis Belgard, Bill Powell and Seymour Fishkin were among the early members, for coffee. Mr. Fishkin said he bought a new Dell computer, just six days ago, and he is getting acquainted with WinXP.

Bea and Dr. Barad, recently visited their son in Uganda, Dr. Barad displays succulent plants at the Philadelphia Flower Show. Photographs -cacti succulents- are on his website. Ask him about this.

Bill Woodall showed a print photo of his capture in the wild. (Little bird of praise?) The small bird in the American Flag photograph is a pigeon as observed by Peter Czerwinski when members gathered around Bill's sharp, clear American blue sky with the Stars and Stripes flying in the wind. The pigeon sits on a high twig, up close and in line-of-sight with the flag, and at 'salute'. This is truly a rare occurrence captured in focus by ground maneuverings of Woodall and his camera. (Patience and luck) (Minolta digital 3.2 Mega pixel)

Paul Glattstein, stated that he made changes on the club's website and welcomes comments from members. (Click on hunterdoncomputerclub.org)

Lon stated his appreciation to the contributors in the April issue of HCC Newsletter.



Submitted by Eleanor Mistler

IMPORTANT NOTICE

(submitted by Paul Glattstein)

To: All Internet Users

From: Kim Dereksen, Interconnected

Network Maintenance staff Main branch, Massachusetts Institute

of Technology

Subject: Internet Cleaning

PLEASE PASS THIS NOTICE TO OTHER USERS WHO MAY NOT SEE

As many of you know, each year the Internet must be shut down for 24 hours in order to allow us to clean it. The cleaning process, which eliminates dead e-mail and inactive ftp, www and gopher sites, allows for a better-working and faster Internet.

This year, the cleaning process will take place from 12:01 a.m.GMT on June 1 until 12:01 a.m. GMT on June 2. During that 24-hour period, five very powerful Japanese built multi-lingual Internet-crawling robots (Toshiba ML-2274) situated around the world will search the Internet and delete any data that they find.

In order to protect your valuable data from deletion we ask that you do the following:

- 1. Disconnect all terminals and local area networks from their Internet connections.
- 2. Shut down all Internet servers, or disconnect them from the Internet.
- 3. Disconnect all disks and hard drives from any connections to the Internet.
- 4. Refrain from connecting any computer to the Internet in any way.
- 5. Avoid placing operating microwave ovens or toaster/toaster ovens near your computer modem.
- 6. Avoid wearing nylon (or other dielectric fiber) undergarments because of the possibility of electrical discharge.

We understand the inconvenience that this may cause some Internet users, and we apologize. However, we are certain that any inconvenience will be more than made up for by the increased speed and efficiency of the Internet, once it has been cleared of electronic flotsam and jetsam.

We thank you for your cooperation, Kim Dereksen Interconnected Network Maintenance staff Main branch, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

REMEMBERING RICK WILLIAMS

"Something Happy"

(by Ilene Shope)

I smile into the corners of my lips ... and up to my forehead it goes...

some weeks ago, I visited my friend in the nursing home it was only two months before that he talked and smiled and we laughed...

the scalpel has not removed all the bit

he lingers in a half-between and seldom speaks and never smiles, but he knows what time it is, or else he asks....

I see him the same as when he laughed he my friend then was when we talked.

THE BIONIC RUNNING SHOE

(New York Times, May 6, 2004)

Shoes have long been sensible. Now some getting Smart smart.

enough, that is, to sense their environment electronically, cal-

culate how best to perform in it, and then instantly alter their physical properties to adapt to that environment. In short, the designers say, shoes that can do whatever is needed to deliver improved athletic performance or just a better experience in the ancient poetry of feet striking the earth.

Sleek and lightweight despite its batterypowered sensor, microprocessor and electric motor, the shoe, named 1, is expected to be in stores by December and will cost \$250.

Each second, a sensor in the heel can take up to 20,000 readings and the embedded electronic brain can make 10,000 calculations, directing a tiny electric motor to change the shoe. The goal is to make the shoe adjust to changing conditions and the runner's particular style while in use.

The shoes will have push-button controls, light-emitting diodes to display settings and an instruction manual on a CD-ROM that will advise wearers on, among other things, how to change the battery after every 100 hours of use.

IS IT RIP FOR HTML?

(by Lon Hosford)

Being a computer professional I find it comforting that each day I know more and more obsolete technology.

This seems to be the case for my knowledge of HTML (Hypertext Markup Language). HTML is what forms a web page. Actually it is a web browser that forms the web page using HTML.

Tim Berners-Lee is credited with inventing the web and HTML in 1989.

I learned HTML at the Hunterdon Computer Club in the same month that AOL (America On Line) started allowing members to have some web space. I forget the exact year but it was the digital yesterday of the early 1990's.

I remember the Saturday club meeting clearly. In the morning the presenter plugged out about six HTML tags using Windows Notepad. I took copious notes and was so motivated that by late afternoon was beaming over my first web page.

HTML took a few years to get "official". Eventually we started numbering it using a strange form of numerology.

The first version was numbered 2. This version added tags so one could enter data in a web page such as you now do to place orders on the web. Those tags have barely changed.

Then there was version 3.2. Somehow version 3 was skipped, yet HTML books were published with version 3 in the title.

Eventually we reached version 4.0, but before the ink dried we had the now obsolete version 4.01.

HTML is now frozen in digital ice and will have no further versions beyond 4.01.

Replacing HTML is XHTML. XHTML is still in version 1.0 and holding. XHTML is a merger of XML (eXtensible Markup Language) and HTML.

HTML is a set of tags that you embed into the web page content for layout and formatting as you do in word processing.

It really was nothing new as we did the same with word processing in the early days of personal computers.

I remember putting those "control" characters into memos and letters.

After Tim's first batch of HTML tags, new HTML tags were invented by the web browser companies like Netscape.

This eventually lead to inconsistencies that remain as traps to this day. Eventually the World Wide Web Consortium (www.w3.org) formed out of the early Internet sand storm; providing an arbitrator for the "official" HTML tags.

With the "profit motive" removed, HTML became bloated, convoluted and redundant. Yes like government. But unlike government, this progress lead to the death of HTML.

XML provides a way to mark-up data. Using your own home made tags, the data values in a file are identified. For example any tag may be invented to denote where a first name starts and ends in a data file.

Being a programmer, I have created many different data files with tags to markup data before the arrival of XML, and I could claim to have invented XML along with many other programmers. But none of us bothered.

What was missing in data markup efforts was a standard. Hence the digital bureaucrats conceived of XML.

So it is RIP for HTML? Not if you consider the number of web pages on the planet that use HTML in all its versions official or not. These HTML tags will need support for a long long time to come.

The answer is also yes if you consider the fate for typing control characters into word processing files.

I have faith that there is a similar fate for my efforts typing in and for bold on and off in HTML.

Perhaps for HTML the RIP date is uncertain for now. However I am more certain about the day someone needs to summarize my life on a granite stone. The writer might consider "RIP ... who knew a whole lot of useless obsolete stuff like HTML whatever that was".

EXCUSE ME, THERE'S BEEN A MIX-UP...
YOU GAVE ME A COMPUTER MONITOR, BUT I
ORDERED A MONITOR LIZARD!

UH, OH.

(submitted by Don Colombo)

Visit the HCC website at hunterdoncomputerclub.org.

Read an interesting history of the club.

Access other information.

SPAM PETITION

(by John Warsincki)

I hope this does not offend everyone, but I think it needs saying.

We all hate spam, at least we all say we hate spam. It seems that some of us do not practice what we preach. I don't want to offend anyone but a good look in the mirror could be just what we need.

Have you ever forwarded email to everyone in your address book without any consideration of the subject matter of that email? You are a spammer.

One of my pet peeves is to get an email with an attachment which has been forwarded umpteen times and gives me carpal tunnel syndrome just trying to click through the "do you want to save or open" boxes which lead to more "do you want to save or open" boxes.

Another one is to get what appears to be a real work of genius with the notation that "this is really great, turn up your sound!" only to open a series of empty boxes accompanied by a deafening silence.

One of the greatest annoyances is a petition. I guess that is the real subject of this piece. Why do otherwise intelligent people forward to everyone in their mail list a petition which they signed, along with a plea that the recipient sign and forward to everyone in his list. I guess that is why pyramid schemes are so successful. Think about it, your signature is on (maybe) 20 copies of the petition. When it is forwarded by each of those twenty people, your signature will be on 400 copies of the petition and so on and so on and so on ad infinitum. Of course all of this effort goes for naught, because you are only allowed to (validly) sign a petition once. All the copies are void because of (your) duplicated signatures, assuming that you started the petition. If you merely forwarded what was sent to you, it was already dead on arrival for the same reasons.

Now that I have insulted your intelligence, let me give you a tip on how to "do it right". Go to the website http://www. PetitionOnline.com. Here you can com-

pose and post your petition on the web. Click on the link "create your own free petition today". You can write just about anything you want. In order to get signers, send an email of your purpose (perhaps a copy of the petition) and request that the recipient click on the link, which you supply, to go to the website and sign the one and only copy of your petition. Your request can be pyramided just like the spam, only this time it will not be an exercise in futility. The software which handles your petition on the website checks that each signature is unique, and therefore countable. When you are happy with the results, you can send the petition to the person you want to address with your complaint, suggestion, or whatever you are petitioning

Perhaps this has not been in the form of a petition, but I hope it will cut down on the SPAM which comes to my inbox. If you want an apology, follow the directions above and send me ONE petition.

TWELVE STEP PROGRAM OF RE-COVERY FOR WEB ADDICTS

(submitted by Eleanor Mistler)

- 1) I will have a cup of coffee in the morning and read my PAPER newspaper like I used to, before the Web.
- 2) I will eat breakfast with a knife and fork and not with one hand typing.
- 3) I will get dressed before noon.
- 4) I will make an attempt to clean the house, wash clothes, and plan dinner before even thinking of the Web.
- 5) I will sit down and write a letter to those unfortunate few friends and family that are Web-deprived.
- 6) I will call someone on the phone who I cannot contact via the Web.
- 7) I will read a book... if I still remember how.
- 8) I will listen to those around me about their needs and stop telling them to turn

the TV down so I can hear the music on the Web.

- 9) I will not be tempted during TV commercials to check for email.
- 10) I will try and get out of the house at least once a week, if it is necessary or not.
- 11) I will remember that my bank is not forgiving if I forget to balance my checkbook because I was too busy on the Web.
- 12) Last, but not least, I will remember that I must go to bed sometime... and the Web will always be there tomorrow!

USB FLASH DRIVES

(Smart Computing, April 2004)

USB (Universal Serial Bus) flash drives are highspeed, high-capactiy memory devices designed for long-term data storage and easy transport among PCs. The host PC treats the device just like a drive, so you can transfer files of all types to and from the device. Because the device emulates a drive, it supports any type of file. In addition, USB flash drives can easily support applications.

USB flash drives are smaller than a pack of gum and can easily fit onto a key ring.

USB flash drives are particularly appealing due to their low system requirements. Only a working USB port and Windows 98 (or newer) is required. (When working with a Win98 computer, you must install a separate device driver which the USB flash drive manufacturer generally provides.)

After you connect the flash device, the computer assigns a new drive letter to it so that you can access and use it just like a diskette or hard drive.

Flash memory typically holds data for as long as 10 years.

The data stored on flash memory devices is often unsecure, another person could easily access it simply by attaching the device to another computer. To combat this, some manufacturers of USB flash drives are shipping devices with security software that password-protects data.

SENIOR CLASSES

(by Grace Marcus)

Note: Registration is required for all classes, EXCEPT for the Open Lab and the Computer Social. Any requests and/or suggestions you may have for specific topics are always welcome.

Print Artist with Evelyn Stewart

Mondays 9:30-11:30

May 10th - Class Project (1 of 3)*

May 17th - Class Project (2 of 3)

May 24th - Class Project (3 of 3)

*Project: Class will create a bound book of short poems for children

Open Lab - Mondays 1:00-2:30

Volunteer monitor available. All welcome. No reservations needed.

Selling on eBay - Bill Woodall

Tuesdays-9:00-10:30 (4 weeks)

May 4th – How to Photograph your item & get it on your PC

May 11th - Pricing Strategies May 18th — Listing & Payment proce-

May 25th — Shipping & Follow-up

Transfer & Print Digital Photos

Ken Jones

Tuesdays, 11:00 - 12:30

Hands-on digital camera basics for the beginner.

Tuesday May 11th 11:00 – 12:30 - Digital film or memory cards, in camera picture format, and ways to print digital pictures

Everyone should have a digital camera, and they should bring their cameras to class together with batteries, memory card, and USB cable. Instruction books are a must.

ADOBE Photoshop Elements Basics

Ken Jones

Tuesdays, 11:00—12:30

(6 weeks) May 18th and 25th, June 1st,

8th, 15th and 22nd

Introduction

Basic commands

Opening and closing image files

Using the file browser (in PSE)

The tool box

Color managing images

Printing images

Fixing Images

Evaluating images

Quick fix

Specifying images sizes

Cropping images

Adjusting tonal range

Retouching images

Sharpening images

*REQUIRES: Basic Windows skills: open and close programs, basic mouse operations (right click), taskbar use, and file management.

CD Burner Questions & Answers

S. Shah

Thursday, May 13th 9:30—11:00

File Management - Suketu Shah

Thursday, May 20th 9:30—11:00

Computer Social

Friday, May 28th - 12:30 – 2:00

Spyware for ADVANCED Windows users*

Diane & Ron Steiner Saturday, May 15th 9:30—11:30 *BASICS pre-requisite

Computer users gather monthly to share their knowledge and experiences. Bring a bag lunch. We provide coffee, tea, and dessert. And there's always a door prize!

HCC NEWSLETTER is published monthly at 267 Federal Twist Rd., Stockton, NJ shortly after the regular meeting, which is normally on the third Saturday. Subscription is included in the annual dues of \$25 for an individual, and \$30 for family. Non-member subscriptions, out of state only, are \$8.00 a year. Contributions are eagerly sought, and may be on paper, by phone, on disk, or file or email to mreuter@ptdprolog.net.

Marlyn Reuter, Editor

Paul Glattstein - Liz Dunbar **Contributing Editors**

Joe Burger, Banner Design

President Lon Hosford 908-996-7941 lon@hosfordusa.com

Vice-President Peter Czerwinski peterhccc@itsagoodlife.org

Treasurer Sara MacQueen Oderwald soderwald@worldnet.att.net

> Secretary Membership Jim Aller jimaller@att.net

Program Bill Woodall woodall@woodall.com

Ex Officio Richard Williams **Immediate Past President**

HCC Web Page www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org Paul Glattstein, WebMaster pglatt@ptd.net

> **Computer Volunteers ALL MEMBERS**

H.C.C. HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Attn: Jim Aller, 85 Little Philadelphia Road, Washington, NJ 07882 — jimaller@att.net

MEMBERSHIP FORM ☐ RENEW ☐ NEW ☐ LAPS ANNUAL DUES \$25 Single \$30 Family

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

First Name	Last Name				
Address					
City	State	Zip Cod	de		
Home Phone ()					
Fax ()					
Information that will help us help you:					
1. WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP THE Club officer Technical advisor Settin Other	g up for the meeting T	•	Newsletter	Programs	
2. DO YOU HAVE AN AREA OF COMPUTE		SO, WHAT IS IT?			
3. PLEASE LIST ANY COMMENT AND/OR	LIST WHAT WOULD Y	OU LIKE TO SEE IN	OUR COMPU	TER CLUB	

Thank you to the following club members for their contributions to this month's newsletter:

Jim Aller (mailing list)
Don Colombo
Lon Hosford
Grace Marcus
Eleanor Mistler
Ilene Shope
John Warsincki

Submissions for articles, cartoons, pictures, or other information pertinent to the club are due to the editor by the 3rd of each month. If you plan to email your submission, please be sure to include HCC in your subject line. Send to:

mreuter@ptdprolog.net

or

marlynreuter@hotmail.com

or use snailmail





FIRST CLASS MAIL Address Correction Requested

HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

Marlyn Reuter

267 Federal Twist Road Stockton, New Jersey 08559

HCC NEWSLETTER

Hunterdon Computer Club

Rf. 31 Flemington NJ Hunterdon Medical Center Next Meeting Saturday, May 15, 2004

no oN oT .M.A 08:8

PROGRAM — It's On The Web