



# Newsletter

Volume 17 Issue 10

October 2004

## Power Tools for Power Users - Part 2: Email

By Bill Woodall

[Warning: Strong opinions follow.]

Past choosing a decent browser, the next most important powertool a user can have is a good email package. With a good email client, mail can be organized and archived, spam can be someone else's problem, virus and worm and web bugs all a

thing  
of the  
past.



Let's  
look at  
the  
free-

ware clients first. In this category, the best is Thunderbird, from the Mozilla group (<http://www.mozilla.org/>). Thunderbird is a stand-alone email client with a browser-like interface; it provides reasonably good management features, including the ability to handle several email addresses at once. Out-of-the-box, Thunderbird selects a medium-weight security profile, allowing for HTML rendering of pages, but no automatic download of images. It does however auto-respond to "return-receipt" requests. It has a "junk mail" filtering system which is margin-

ally effective.

The integrated email client in Mozilla is a variant of the Thunderbird product. Mozilla's email is missing some of the advanced filtering/sorting capabilities of Thunderbird.

I haven't taken Netscape seriously as a product since the release of Mozilla and therefore can't comment on the current Netscape Messenger release. In the past, Messenger has been adequate for basic communications needs.

For those with plenty of time to figure it out, Pegasus Mail is worth a mention. This

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### Hunterdon Computer Club

Next Meeting: **Saturday, October 16, 2004**

Hunterdon Medical Center

Rt. 31 Flemington NJ

8:30 A.M. To Noon



**PROGRAM** — *Choices: Browsers and Tools for PowerUsers* — If you're disenchanted with MS Internet Explorer's fat, slow, snoopy, popup-riddled, unsecured product, then join us for **Bill Woodall's** informative and sure-to-be enlightening program. Find out why Mozilla's Firefox may be a better browser choice than Internet Explorer. Bill's article "**PowerTools For PowerUsers—Part 1: Alternate Browsers**" appeared on page 5 of the September issue of the HCC Newsletter.

Guests Welcome — All Ages — All Skill Levels

*(Power Tools Continued from Page 1)*

product from New Zealand appears to be quite powerful and adaptable... if you experiment a lot. Pegasus is distributed for free; you have to pay for the book. The help file, while ostensibly written in English, freely redefines common terminology without deigning to provide a translation glossary.

Outlook Express lives down to expectations. If you enjoy reading junk mail, like frequent crashes and want to have a system riddled with viruses, this is your choice product.

The real power tools in email have to be bought. There are three I will discuss briefly: Outlook, Eudora and Agent.

Outlook should not be confused with Outlook Express. Yes, they're both from Microsoft, and yes, they have security problems. But with proper attention, Outlook is a reasonable solution, with good calendar integration. If you must operate in the corporate sphere, Outlook may well be your only choice. Just keep track of the updates, and remember if you use Outlook as your email client, keep IE updated as well, since Outlook depends on IE for a good deal of services.

Eudora is one of the pioneering email clients. Currently at version 6.1, it is a reasonable alternative if you don't need advanced filtering/sorting or a calendar function. Eudora's distribution is unusual. You download for free, then during installation, decide on one of three "modes" for operation. "Light" mode is free, without advertising, but limits the maximum size of mes-

*(Continued on Page 6)*

### **Adobe Systems proposes new universal format for digital photos**

By May Wong,  
AP Technology Writer  
Mon Sep 27 2:34 AM ET

Adobe Systems Inc. plans to introduce a new format for digital photos on Monday in an attempt to create an industry public standard to make the archiving and editing process compatible across all types of cameras and photo software.

Most consumer digital cameras today capture images in the JPEG format, but a higher-quality raw photo format is gaining in popularity among higher-end and professional camera models.

A major frustration among photographers, however, has been how different digital camera makers use different, proprietary versions of the so-called raw format, industry analysts say.

That incompatibility has forced users, especially in media and other companies, to maintain multiple software programs to handle the raw photos taken by different cameras. It has also raised concerns that archived raw images could become inaccessible with future software.

Now, Adobe, which dominates the photo editing market with its Photoshop products, is proposing that its new Digital Negative Specification, or DNG, becomes a universal standard for the raw format. The San Jose-based company is also launching a free software tool that will allow users to convert the raw formats from more than 65 cameras into the DNG format.

Raw photo files contain all the original information captured by a digital camera sensor before any in-camera processing occurs and thus gives users truer images and more flexibility when editing. By comparison, JPEG photo files are compressed images that suffer some data loss.

*(Continued on Page 4)*

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Computer Volunteers

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Visit us at:

[www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org](http://www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org)

HCC NEWSLETTER is published monthly at 202 Jacobs Creek Road, Titusville, NJ 08560 shortly after the regular meeting, which is held on the third Saturday. Subscription is included in the annual dues of \$25 for an individual, and \$30 for family (i.e., same mailing address). Non-member subscription, out-of-state only, is \$8.00 a year. Submissions are eagerly sought and should be e-mailed to the editor by the first Friday of every month to:

**Editor@hunterdoncomputerclub.org**

S.M. Oderwald, Editor

Banner Design by Joe Burger

## HUNTERDON SENIOR MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER

COMPUTER LESSONS AVAILABLE FOR HUNTERDON COUNTY RESIDENTS 60 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER

### Digital Photography BASICS

K. Jones

Wednesdays  
9:30—11:00

**Oct 13 - Part 1**

**Oct 20 - Part 2**



### Print Artist

E. Stewart

Mondays  
9:30—11:30

**Oct 18** Pocket Cards

**Oct 25** Pop-Up Bat Cards

### Beyond Computer BASICS\*

(5 weeks)

S. Shah

Thursdays 9:30—11:00

**Oct 21** File Management

**Oct 28** Defragmentation

**Nov 4** Saving data files, e-mail address book, picture files on CD

**Nov 11** Center CLOSED—No Class Today

**Nov 18** Creating Audio CDs

**Nov 25** Center Closed—No Class Today

**Dec 2** Tips for using Internet Explorer/Outlook Express

\*BASICS prerequisite



**If you would like to volunteer to teach, or tutor one-on-one, please contact Grace Marcus. 908-788-1359**

### Enhancing Digital Photos\*

(4 weeks)

K. Jones

Wednesdays  
9:30—11:00

Learn various tools and techniques to improve your digital photos including:

Photoshop Elements 2

File Formats

Printing & e-Mailing

**Oct 27**

**Nov 3**

**Nov 10**

**Nov 17**

\* BASICS prerequisite

### Hands-On Digital Camera Workshop\*

(2 weeks)

B. Woodall

Thursdays  
1:00—3:00

**Oct 14** Field Trip—bring your camera and be prepared to shoot!

**Oct 21** Back to the Computer Lab for downloading, copying and printing your photos

\*BASICS prerequisite

**For more information please contact Grace Marcus at 908-788-1359**

**<http://www.co.hunterdon.nj.us/aging/smpc/computerclasses.htm>**

**OPEN COMPUTER LAB**

The Hunterdon County Senior Center's Computer Lab is open every Monday (except holidays) from 1:00 - 2:30 . All are welcome.

Bring your computer questions. The instructor on duty will do his/her best to assist you. Donations gratefully accepted.



**SELF-GUIDED TUTORIALS AVAILABLE**

You may reserve the SMPC lab to use the following interactive CDs:

- Typing Tutor**
- MS Word XP**
- MS Word 2000**
- Excel XP**
- Excel 2000**
- Outlook XP**
- Outlook 2000**
- PowerPoint XP**
- PowerPoint 2000**
- Access XP**
- Access 2000**

Call Grace Marcus: 908-788-1359

**WHAT A PHISHER!  
Thwart Identity Theft**

Have you ever received an e-mail from what looks like a trusted company asking you to click a link, go to a Web site, and submit personal information? This could be a "phisher" site, or part of a scam to steal your credit card, Social Security Number, password, or identity. These scams are increasingly common and difficult to detect.

As part of EarthLink's commitment to making the Internet easier and safer to use, they're offering a new EarthLink Toolbar featuring ScamBlocker—free for all Internet users, even EarthLink nonsubscribers!

ScamBlocker flashes an icon with a thumbs-down if you approach a dubious website.

<http://www.earthlink.net/home/software/toolbar/>

(Submitted by John Carroll)

*(Adobe Continued from Page 2)*

Last year, Adobe began offering support for some of the raw formats from different cameras in its Photoshop program but decided that wasn't enough.

"Our customers have been struggling over the past few years. They see the flexibility of raw files but don't want the pain of having to deal with different formats," said Bryan Lamkin, an Adobe senior vice president.

Yet it will be up to camera makers to support the specification, which Adobe is making available for free.

"It will be adopted by many, maybe not this year, but within five years because it's to everyone's advantage," predicted Paul Worthington, an analyst at the Future Image Inc. research firm.

Eventually, more consumer cameras may end up offering the higher-quality raw photo format as well, Worthington said.

(Submitted by John Gbur)

**Revenge!**



Check out new member, **Alex Farmiga's** gaming website where you will find some very green slime:

- One Slime**
- Power Slime**
- Slime 2004**
- And lots more Slime!

[www.slimezone.com](http://www.slimezone.com)

**BOOKS STILL AVAILABLE**

*The Secret Guide to Computers* by **Russ Walter**.

Only \$8.00

Please contact Evelyn Stewart to reserve your copy. [estewart@ptd.net](mailto:estewart@ptd.net)



**TREASURER'S REPORT**

Sara Oderwald

Nothing new to report. We still pay \$47.10 per month for coffee service, plus about \$9 for cream cheese. We pay nothing for the photocopying of our Newsletter. Envelopes cost about \$.06 each. Postage runs about \$26 per month.

Account Balance:  
**\$530.72**



(The following notes reflect meeting and program observations as recorded by **Ilene Shope**)

### **NOMINATIONS**

The Club's By-Laws require nominations for Officers during Sept. and Oct. meetings. When asked, Peter Czerwinski, Vice-President declined his post for the upcoming year. Our three incumbent officers- Secretary, Treasurer, and President agreed to continue in office.

### **GUESTS**

Karen Magliore of Three Bridges, Lillie Dorchak of Whitehouse Station, Luba Farmiga and her son Alex of Flemington, and Iris Knight of Pittstown. Iris came to ask about the new Windows XP-SP2. Lillie Dorchak came for help with her computer losing its menu and tool bars. She is with the Hunterdon Democrat.

### **DUES**

Jim Aller reminded members that dues should be sent to Sara Oderwald, Treasurer.

### **THANK YOU TO MARLYN**

Club members thanked Marlyn for producing the HCC Newsletter for the past four years. The new editor advised the Club that bright-color mailing envelopes were immediately instituted when someone reported the white-envelope Newsletter was not received. Marlyn Reuter expressed her good feelings of having done the Newsletter. The new editor stated that this is our Newsletter and she welcomes Club member's ideas.

### **PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENT**

John Gbur reported he places HCC ads in local newspapers including the Hunterdon Democrat. He asked that the 'Join Us' flyer, that Sara designed, be placed on the Club's website.

### **MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE**

Jac Carroll attended MediaTech's (mediatech.org) "Blogging the Borough" discussions held on the 2nd Floor-Flemington Free Public Library. There is a projector on site. He suggested that this location might be suitable for our SIG events.

### **Q AND A**

Patricia Frusco had a Win95 problem. Jac urged members to upgrade to Win98SE. Marlyn Reuter asked about the Walmart computers. Jac said the reviews are good on the E-machines.

John Warsinski bought two E-machines - XP 3000. He is satisfied. He received the rebates with no problem. George Knoedl queried the WinXP-SP2 for the CD. John Warsinski led him to Microsoft's, customize, catalog, CD's for update information. Jac Carroll reiterated the need to clean the machine (and do backups) before updating. Luba Farmiga received information on anti-virus and firewall programs and on SP2 features when she asked about Security. Jim Aller displayed the webpage for Robert Trotter's Umax scanner problem ([www.umax.com/support/manuals.jsp](http://www.umax.com/support/manuals.jsp)).

### **PROGRAM**

"How to Clean the Hard Drive" presented by Jac Carroll

Jac spoke on the cleaning process in Win98SE and in WinXP.

Empty the Recycle Bin.

Use: Disk Cleanup.

Use: Control Panel- Internet Options\General \Temporary Internet Files- it calculates the amount (MB) of space you might be able to save by disposing of cookies.

Jac deleted cookies from

C:\Windows\TEMP files and he blew away the debris in

C:\Windows\Temporary Internet Files.

(In WINDOWS XP the Temporary Internet files will accumulate by the multiples of logged-on users. Each user must clean out his/her own cookies.) Cookies are in hidden files under

C:\MyComputer\Document and Settings. Find each folder (Cookies folder and Temporary Internet Files) in Local Settings.

Edit, Select all, Delete and click Yes.

Visit <http://www.Trendmicro.com> (to do a scan online) and

<http://www.majorgeeks.com/downloads31.html> (for freeware).

Jac uses "Adaware," "Spybot" and "Hijack This" to remove advertising cookies, spyware, and other mischief-cookies. Jac caught the audience by surprise when he mentioned

"CrapCleaner" (ccleaner.exe)

### **EVERY WIZARD**

**Evelyn Stewart** recommends downloading **Avery Wizard** software to use for printing labels.

<http://www.avery.com/us/Main?action>

=tutorial.SoftwareTutorial&catalogcode=WEB01&softwarecode=3201&software\_cat=Avery+Software



**Avery Wizard** is the Avery software companion for Microsoft® Word. With the **Avery Wizard**, there's no guesswork. It will guide you step-by-step to go from mailing list to labels in no time flat.

### **SCSI General Information**

By Bob Inglis

**SCSI** – an acronym for **Small Computer System Interface** is a specification for peripheral bus and command set **NOT a device standard**. SCSI also defines standards for the computer software and communications rules needed to connect SCSI devices. This leaves manufactures to develop the devices to work with their systems.

Editors Note: Bob has written a very informative article detailing SCSI technology. The article is too lengthy to publish here in its entirety. If you are interested in reading the rest of the article, please contact Bob and ask him to e-mail you a copy of "SCSI General Information"

[bob.inglis@comcast.net](mailto:bob.inglis@comcast.net)

*(Power Tools Continued from Page 2)*

sages, and is missing some other frills. "Sponsored" mode is "free" but bombards you with advertising. "Paid" mode, at \$50/year, removes ads, adds technical support options, and adds a "Spam-Watch" filter... reports on this feature are varied.

Agent(<http://www.forteinc.com/>) is currently at version 2.0, and costs \$29. When you download the package, it will operate for 30 days as Agent, then revert to FreeAgent functionality. Agent is the email-capable package; FreeAgent is a newsreader. Agent has been my choice for email since the 0.9 release in 1996; the depth of filter and sorting support is unmatched in the industry. On an average day I will receive about 150 emails; Agent automatically sorts the messages and places them into one of six different inbound folders, or into the various newsletter folders. Agent also handles threading of messages better than any other client I've used; keeping track not only of replies, but also able to continue threads even as subjects change! By design, Agent is impervious to virtually all virus/worm/Trojan threats - although I may receive the attachment, I would have to take several positive steps to execute the item.

For user reviews, ask around at meetings. There are members using many of the products mentioned; they'll know best the good, bad and downright ugly parts!

Next time - newsreaders - the hidden internet.

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*e-mail me at [woodall@woodall.com](mailto:woodall@woodall.com)*

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## Us Like Spies

### How computer users ask to be doomed to viruses and spyware.

By Clive Thompson

Posted Wednesday, June 23, 2004, at 2:55 PM PT  
<http://slate.msn.com/id/2102856/>

The digital pests never seem to let up. For years we've dealt with worms and viruses, and now we've got spyware and adware invading our computers—hijacking browsers, popping up ads, and harvesting personal information. A recent study found that 90 percent of computers harbor this stuff, and spyware and adware are the No. 1 reason people call Dell tech support. We could be forgiven for wondering whether there's any light at the end of



the tunnel. Will we ever halt these digital epidemics?

Here's a dismal answer: No. These afflictions stem from a thorny cultural problem: The entire software industry has been designed around our computer illiteracy. That isn't an easy, or even a possible, thing to change.

More than any other modern tool, computers are a total mystery to their users. Most people never open them up to

fix them or to see how they work. Software is shrouded in particularly Delphic obscurity. When we want to install a new program, we just click on the installer, and presto, the elves arrive and magically scatter a zillion files all over our hard drives. Who cares how Microsoft Word works, as long as it does?

Granted, consumers like it this way. We prefer our software be super-easy to install and use. The computer industry began with home-brew boxes that everyone had to program for themselves, but that was a huge hassle. The computer revolution didn't explode until the first Macintosh arrived, with its point-and-click simplicity. You didn't need to know anything about software or programming to use a Mac. We asked for ignorance, and the industry responded.

And now it's biting us in the rear. Consider: Most spyware arrives on our computers with our permission. We download a free application like KaZaA, or one of the many apps that deliver local weather reports or synchronize your computer's clock (usually from [WhenU](#) or [Claria](#)). The software asks us to click and approve a ponderously long "end user license agreement." Somewhere inside that license the company explains, sotto voce, that the tool will monitor your surfing, or even control your computer remotely. Any smart computer user would never agree to such a thing. But of course, nobody reads those agreements. Hell, I write about technology for a living, and I don't read them. Adware makers exploit our laziness. That seems kind of sneaky and underhanded, doesn't it? Except all software makers behave the same way. Above-the-board folks such as Microsoft (which owns **Slate**), Yahoo, RealNetworks,

*(Continued on Page 7)*

*(Spies Continued from Page 6)*

and Google use equally confusing click-through agreements that you don't read either. And they also sometimes install monitoring applications, again with your supposed approval. Software is now so complex—requiring so many gazillions of tiny files all over your computer—that most consumers don't want to bother to know what's really going on.

The industry's cultivation of ignorance goes beyond the use of indecipherable user agreements. The software industry has lobbied hard for laws that keep you in the dark. If you, or any public-spirited programmer, wanted to figure out what the software on your machine is really doing, tough luck. It's illegal to reverse engineer the source code of commercial software to find out how it works. Is it fair to expect computer users to be knowledgeable about the innards of software? We use plenty of other complex, dangerous tools—such as cars—without needing to understand the fine points of their internal mechanics. But our computer ignorance is, even by those standards, horrific. When a computer user doesn't know that an ".exe" file is a program (and possibly a virus), it's like not knowing that cars are fueled by gas and that gas is explosive. It's basic stuff.

Instead of learning about computers, we rely on the software industry to save us from ourselves by deploying ever more layers of code: spam filters, virus detectors, spyware removers. Although these tools certainly help, they don't tackle the central problem of computer illiteracy. They actually make things worse. We become the dupes of software companies, who make all manner of outlandish claims about the efficacy of their goods, which consumers

have few ways of assessing. I've often called tech support and been told a computer problem was "my fault," only to later discover, doing online research, that it was actually a software bug.

It's possible, though, that our digital plagues could become a wake-up call, a way of finally getting us to pay more attention to our machines. When my computer recently became totally paralyzed with junkware, I ran [Ad-aware](#) and [Webroot's Spy Sweeper](#) to get rid of much of it. But I also downloaded a diagnostic program called [HijackThis](#), which displays suspicious contents inside your computer, including the Windows registry, a list of the programs that automatically start when you boot up your computer. I spent an hour taking the names of each item—stuff like "atiptaxx.exe" and "sgtray.exe"—and running them through Google to figure out which were adware and which were legitimate. I picked up a few that the other tools hadn't caught. When I was done, it was a nice feeling, rather like pulling back the hood of a car to fix something yourself.

If we can cultivate even a bit more computer intelligence, we could find our digital age filled with fewer errors and pests. But it won't be easy. For example, if you want to fix your computer the way I did, be very careful: Eliminating "good" items from the registry can wreck your operating system. That's the crux of our digital-age dilemma: A little knowledge can be a dangerous thing, but total ignorance is worse.

(Submitted by Don Colombo)

Beware of the latest computer virus that is attacking mice.



## JOIN US

**next month** for the November 20 Hunterdon Computer Club presentation when **Ken Jones** will demonstrate **LINUX Fedora Core 2**.

Red Hat Linux now has two descendants, Red Hat Enterprise Linux and The Fedora Project. The Fedora Project is an openly-developed project designed by Red Hat, open for general participation, led by a meritocracy, following a set of project objectives.

Linux Fedora Core is virtually virus free and quite secure. Ken will explain where to get the free software and how to install it. His own system is a dual boot Windows 2000 and Linux.



<http://fedora.redhat.com/>

## Linux Users Group in Princeton

is a computer club serving the Central New Jersey area. LUG/IP's members are dedicated to GNU/Linux™ (a powerful, free, Unix-like operating system), Free Software, Open Source, and other related topics.

Club goals include education, advocacy, support and socializing.

Regular meetings are held on evenings of the **second Wednesday** of each month, with guest speakers and informative presentations. LUG/IP also holds other regular and semi-regular events and workshops. Meetings and membership are open to the public. <http://www.lugip.org/>

(Submitted by William Bilancio, former member of the Hunterdon Computer Club)

**Make Check Payable To: HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB**

c/o Sara Oderwald , 202 Jacobs Creek Road, Titusville, NJ 08560-1429 treasurer2004@hunterdoncomputerclub.org

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

Please indicate if this membership is: New  or a Renewal

ANNUAL DUES (please circle one): \$25 Single / \$30 Family (same-address household)

PLEASE PRINT THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Information that will help us help you:

1. HOW WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP THE CLUB ? (check one or more)

- Club officer
- Technical advisor
- Setting up for the meeting
- Taking club minutes
- Newsletter
- Programs
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

2. PLEASE TELL US IF YOU HAVE AN AREA OF COMPUTER EXPERTISE?\_\_\_\_ IF SO, WHAT IS IT?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. PLEASE COMMENT ON YOUR INTEREST IN JOINING THE HUNTERDON COMPUTER CLUB

\_\_\_\_\_

Many thanks to the following Club members for their contributions to this month's Newsletter:

**Jac Carroll \*Don Colombo\*John Gbur \*Bob Inglis  
Ilene Shope \* Evelyn Stewart \* Bill Woodall**

Special thanks to the **BAGEL CLUB** (coupons below) for generously donating good eats. And continued thanks to **Barbara and Mike Middleton** for ensuring that we always have refreshments available during HCC meetings.

Submissions for articles, cartoons, pictures, or other information pertinent to the club are due to the editor by the **first Friday of each month**. When you e-mail your submission, please be sure to include **HCC Newsletter** in the subject line. Send to:

**editor@hunterdoncomputerclub.org**

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