

User Friendly

February 2003



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Tuesday March 11, 2003	—
Tuesday April 8, 2003 ♦	—

LACS General Meeting

Marci Gunn from *Smart Computing Magazine*

Tips, Hints and Help

Tuesday February 11, 7 P. M.

Fellowship Hall, 8065 Emerson Ave., Westchester

COMPUTING MAGAZINE is a great magazine source of hints, tips and technical help. There's also a companion magazine, CPU (Computer Power User). Marci Gunn will show us how to find information and to navigate our way through the SMART COMPUTING website. Some sections of the website are: General Computing, PC Project, Trouble-shooting and lots more.

Easy to find learning series, a question and answer board and lots more are available at <http://www.smartcomputing.com>. Marcy will explain the smart computing User Groups program and provide free copies of the magazine for attendees. Special User Group subscription Order Forms will be offered and with each subscription there will be offered a free issue from the Reference Series (\$9.95 value). We'll have time for questions and door prizes. Open to the public. Come and learn with us.

NOTE: The usual "computer forums" for beginners and advanced users start at 6:00 PM.

Information: (310) 289-7177 or <http://www.lacspc.org>. ♦

User Groups – Change or Die

Compiled by **Ron Ingraham**,
Space Coast PC Users Group
From: The Space Coast PC
Journal – October 2002

Diminishing membership in our group has become increasingly worrisome this year. Your Board of Directors has discussed the problem at

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January Meeting Report

By **Dianne Gamble**, LACS

In what may be the "biggest little presentation" of the year, our January meeting was presented by Dr. Garred Sexton, retired physician and president of the South Bay Users Group. Using his Palm Pilot, and Will Rogers' style wit, we

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 2)

(JANUARY MEETING REPORT)*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)*

were treated to very technical information that kept us engaged and amused.

The first term we were introduced to was **Evidence Based Medicine**, and as its name implies, there must be some evidence to substantiate it being medically accepted. The second point was how that information is evaluated, and thirdly the source of the evidence.

As you might expect, the Internet has risen to be a major source of information for the medical community, as well as the lay person. So now medical journals that were traditionally circulated only amongst doctors, are now online. Even the **Physician's Desk Reference** is available for Palm Pilot (ePocrates.com). Other sites such as the American Medical Association, Center for Disease Control, and the Food and Drug Administration were noted as good ones. Ovid.com has pay-as-you-go subscriptions for health topics.

In the search for information by traditional means, we were told that most large hospitals have their own library, and the hospital librarian can usually direct you to the latest study, or source of information on a given subject. Dr. Sexton also gave us a few things to keep in mind about studies: 1) the randomly controlled, double blind is the best kind; 2) information is usually at least one year old (the time it took to pass through proper channels

to be presented); and 3) in evaluating them, if the confidence level crosses 1 (either + or -), the study is meaningless.

While it is true that most of us will not be so scholastically minded as to read medical studies, you never know when it might become needful. Of the practical sites that many of us do want to look into, there are sites that will tell us about drug interactions, and sites for cash purchases of prescriptions from Canada (PBM Rx) and Mexico (SafeMeds.com) each with annual membership fees.

My personal favorite is the site that allows you to look up your physician and see general information about their education and practice. (Now if it could only tell us if we're dealing with an honor's student or the class clown ☺)

In what turned out to be a handy coincidence, Kay Deeney, a former president of LACS, distributed bookmarks and pens from the national health organization which (medicineplus.org.) which she uses as a UCLA Medical librarian. (For your convenience, a list of all the websites Dr. Sexton brought to us is available on the LACS website and was sent to the LACS PC e-mail list.. While access to all the info is nice, Dr. Sexton mentioned many times that all of us are unique, and no one set of rules/medications works for everyone.

OTHER NEWS

Two of our visitors introduced

themselves at the meeting. One was Steve Goldberg, who runs Computer Software Training. The other was Heather Hinton who teaches Beginning Internet access to senior citizens at the Pasadena Senior Center. If anyone knows of seniors in the Pasadena area who are willing to learn, the free classes are taught in small groups.

Club president, Charlotte Semple brought and posted a list of recycling centers that take both computer, and other discards as well.

CALLING ALL CORKBOARDS

Stephanie Nordlinger would like to hear from anyone who knows the whereabouts of the Club corkboard. She has the stand, but no board.

WE NEED A HAND

Charlie announced the need for a new **Program Chair**. He has speakers arranged for the next two meeting but after that, it's someone else's turn. Will **you** do it?

LACS also needs a Vice President who should have served as an officer or director for at least six months.

Charlie emphasized the need for input and help from all members to make the club more enjoyable for everyone. So all are welcome to attend board meetings, and any and all SIGS, and " to step up to the plate." ♦



Buying a Monitor ?

By **Charlie Semple** and **Herb Van Brink**, LACS

Prepare yourself. There's such a wide variety that arming yourself with knowledge will help avoid costly errors and save you time.

Decisions, decisions. How large a unit can your space accommodate? Should you get a conventional CRT (like TV) or should you get one of the new LCD (liquid crystal display) types? First be sure you understand the terminology. There are some other considerations but let's keep it simple.

CRT MONITORS - (CATHODE RAY TUBES)

CRT monitors (or "displays", as they are technically called) can be bulky and heavy, use significant electric power and produce noticeable heat. CRT monitors today commonly use 0.25 or 0.26 mm. dot pitch (the spacing between the centers of the dots on the screen). Inexpensive CRT monitors may use 0.29 mm. dot pitch and the image is not as clear as monitors with a smaller d.p. The smaller the number, the closer together the dots (pixels) are, thereby providing better definition of an image on your screen.

LCD DISPLAYS Liquid Crystal Displays)

LCD displays are usually thin (front to back) and only moderately heavy, compared to CRT displays — a consideration when moving stuff around.

and they don't produce much heat.

LCD displays today are mostly TFT (thin film transistor) (otherwise known as "an active screen") type instead of the older passive displays. Producing LCD displays with small dot pitch is more costly than with larger d.p. You will find that most of the inexpensive LCD units use d.p. 0.28 or larger. Interestingly, in most cases these are very adequate for general use. LCD's with smaller d.p. can be helpful when doing a lot of detailed graphic work or CAD (computer aided design) such as architectural or technical drawings.

LCD Brightness is a consideration. Many of the inexpensive LCD's have a brightness (average) of 200 cd./sq. meter. That is 200 Candelas. As the unit ages, this number decreases and the screen becomes increasingly difficult to see in a lighted room. 250 cd./sq. meter is probably a good minimum to start with. More are better (and more expensive).

DIGITAL vs. ANALOG:

Usual LCD displays are analog and most people find them quite satisfactory. Digital displays are less prone to "shimmering" or flicker, which is noticed by some people but not others. If you choose a digital display usually a special video card must be installed in your computer.

FLAT SCREEN - CRT monitors may be "flat screen" or not. Remember that it is a large vacuum tube and a "bulbous" screen is the conventional

technology. LCD displays are inherently "flat screen".

OTHER CONSIDERATIONS

Here are some of those "other considerations" that you may also find helpful: What do you do most? (If mostly e-mail or plain text documents, who cares? Almost any monitor will do.) If lots of detailed image processing, you'll want a monitor with high resolution capability - working on pictures at 800x600 is an exercise in futility - for the higher resolutions, bigger monitors are better - You'd hate to look at a 1600x1200 display on a 14" monitor. (Because a lot of windows simply counts pixels instead of adjusting for actual size - so with higher resolutions, your icons and other images get smaller)

SCREEN RESOLUTION

Some Commonly used Screen Resolutions: VGA 640 pixels x 480 pixels, SVGA 800 x 600, XGA 1024 x 768 and SXGA 1280 x 1024 "

Don't just look at the monitor demos in the store. Look at something that's like what YOU use it for. You might bring along one or two of your own files on a floppy and run them on the demo monitors. ALL monitors look good when showing movies of bright yellow flowers with red centers against a navy blue sky with brilliant white clouds.

CONTROLS

How adjustable is it? Can you easily change the contrast, brightness, centering, screen coverage? On-screen adjust-

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(BUYING A MONITOR ?)*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3)*

ments by using buttons on the monitor are more common now than the row of adjustment knobs we used to see under the front edge of earlier monitors.

If you have vision problems, some monitors have special features like push-button magnification or high-contrast, but this can also be done - easier and cheaper - with software.

SOUND

Some monitors have built-in speakers. While the sound is not as good as from separate speakers, it could free up some space on or under your desk.

Some monitors have USB ports in front or at the side. The wires might get in your way, but that could be easier than connecting things in back of the computer.

QUALITY

How GOOD is it as a monitor? This is hard to describe, but it includes things like pincushioning and barreling, consistent clarity in all portions of the screen, etc.). These factors can be very important in architectural work or engineering drawings etc.

REFRESH RATES

Faster refresh rates reduce the probability of noticeable flicker and put images on your screen faster. You may or may not notice the difference.

For LCD's, how wide is the easily readable viewing angle? A wide angle of view is

important if more than one person is often looking at the screen at the same time very often. (Tell me that you don't say "Come over here and look at this!") Or if you move around a lot while working at the computer - leaning over to peck a few keys now and then.

VIDEO CARD

Does your video card (or on-board video circuitry) support the monitor you're looking at? Adding a new top-of-the-line monitor doesn't help if you've got a 1989 graphics video card and you are not be able to update it..

DIGITAL VS. ANALOG CONTROL

In addition to digital vs. analog LCD's, there's a digital control vs. analog control applicable to all monitors . Analog control monitors need to be manually readjusted whenever you change modes. Digital ones remember the settings for each mode. On the other hand, how many people change their resolution frequently? (Some of us do it a lot more than most, and it's probably once or twice a month). The cheapest monitors are analog only.

FLAT VS. CONVENTIONAL SCREEN

Choosing a Flat Screen monitor instead of a conventional screen seems mostly to be a matter of preference. Some people contend that flat screen images are less distorted. Others prefer the better ability to manage reflections by using a flat screen.

Good luck. We hope that this information helps you make a good choice. ♦

TIPS 'N TRICKS

Compiled by **Charlotte Semple**, President LACS

1. Unwanted Lines Have you ever had a horizontal line appear in a word document that you neither entered nor do not want? It turns out that this line is a border, not a line of characters or even a drawn object. By default, if you enter three or more hyphens (-), underscores (_), equal signs (=), or asterisks (*) followed by a carriage return, Word automatically gives the current paragraph a thin, thick, double, or even a dotted bottom border. To get rid of the line, put the cursor directly above it and select Borders and Shading from the Format menu. Click the None box and click OK. To prevent the automatic insertion of borders, select AutoCorrect Options from the Tools menu, click AutoFormat As You Type tab, and uncheck Borderlines. In Word 97, the menu item is AutoCorrect and the check box is labeled simply as Borders.

2. What Have You Done? Has someone "fiddled" with or edited a document, making revisions that you never authorized, and you want to see what the revisions were? You can force Word to record revisions made by anyone who edits your file by simply clicking on Tools Protect Document, selecting Tracked Changes, and entering a password that is easily remembered. This works even when you edit and revise your documents yourself so, if you don't want to see your

revisions turn out blue and underlined, you might want to go to Tools Unprotect Document for your own revisions, remembering to turn everything back on when you are through. I just tried this and it works! This is a standard procedure for writing legal documents or when several people are working on the same document.

3. EXCEL Here are a few standard shortcuts for working in Excel: Edit or create a comment in the current cell: Shift-F2. Move a comment that's being edited: Esc, Arrow keys. Close a comment that's being edited: Esc, Esc. Fill a selected range: Type the data, then Ctrl-Enter. Copy the value from the cell above the current cell: Ctrl-Shift-" (quotation mark). Copy the formula from the cell above the current cell: Ctrl-' (apostrophe).

4. Fit Data Onto Pages Excel tries its best to get as much data as possible onto each sheet of paper, but you can reduce or enlarge your spreadsheet data by changing the Adjust to % Normal Size option. Or you can use the Fit To Pages option to compress data to fill a specific number of pages. Simply choose File, Page Setup and experiment with these two options by changing their settings. Finally, click the Print Preview button to see the results. When resetting these options, be careful to take into account placement of any page breaks. ♦

Your Own Domain

By **Bart Koslow**, Thousand Oaks PC Club Reprinted from *Nibbles and Bytes*, The journal of TOPCC, Sept. 2002

Registering and using your own domain is now inexpensive and easy. You may register a domain name and obtain services such as email, web space for a home page, URL forwarding, etc. for between \$9.95 and \$15 a year. About three years ago it cost \$35 a year just to register a domain name without any services. Competition has brought the price way down.

SERVICES MAY INCLUDE:

Email forwarding – My ISP provides my email address as bartkoslow@network56.com. My domain (www.koslow.net) email address is bart@koslow.net. If you send mail to bart@koslow.net, it will be forwarded to bartkoslow@network56.com without your being aware of it. My present domain registrar allows me to use up to 50 email addresses from which mail will be forwarded to any of 50 other email addresses.

POP mail – A mail box on the Web that permits you to receive and send email to and from an email program on your computer, or to handle mail at the web mailbox.

Web space for a home page. Web building tools.

URL Forwarding – If I had a home page at a site other than my domain host (for example my real home page is at www.

aol.com/bartkoslow), and you type www.koslow.net, you would be forwarded to my AOL home page. This may be done without your knowing you are looking at a home page on AOL. In that event, you will still see the website name as www.koslow.net. My present registrar permits forwarding for up to fifteen sub-domain names. Examples of sub-domain names are sales.koslow.net and info.koslow.net.

Domain Name Server (DNS) Management – You may manage your domain name from your registrar's site.

Domain Parking – If you do not have a home page, you may set up a parking site. When someone types www.yourdomainname.com, they will see a short title or message provided by you.

Support by email or phone.

HERE ARE SOME REGISTRARS' SITES YOU MAY WISH TO VISIT:

- www.gfmedia.net/namesu.com - \$9.95/year. Up to fifty email forwarding names free, free URL forwarding, up to fifteen free sub-domains, free DNS management, Parking Page free - up to 255 characters personalized text, 10 page website free with website building tool and hosting - I use and recommend this registrar. Good support. You cannot buy these services as inexpensively.
- Namesecure.com/services/index.cfm – \$15/

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(YOUR OWN DOMAIN)*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5)*

one year, \$24/two years, \$60/five years with free URL forwarding, E-mail Forwarding, and a One-Page Mini-Site.

- www.eyehome.com - \$15/year, \$29 for 2 years. Free Domain Parking. Free Domain Control Panel. Free Cloaked Domain Forwarding (with 2 year registration). Free Email Forwarding (with 2 year registration)
- www.reserveyourname.com - \$14.95/year. Free email forwarding and DNS management.
- www.kalberg.net/domains - \$15/year. All free: email forwarding, website hosting, domain management, URL forwarding, and domain parking.
- Domains.dewdesigns.com - \$15/year. Email forwarding, URL forwarding, DNS management. Poor support. Not recommended.

Here is your chance to become more professional. Let me know if you find other good registrars at competitive prices. ♦

**MP3's Aren't Just Music Anymore**

By **David Navratil**, Member 1960 PC Users Group, Houston, Texas July 2002 PC News

Just about everyone with a computer has probably tried their luck with downloading MP3 files. In the past two years I've put together quite a collection of songs from the 1920's through the 1970's, accumulating almost 3,000 songs during that time. I've covered the Big Band era, easy listening, holiday music, country, folk, classical - just about every genre you can imagine. During one of my many afternoons of surfing the net looking for that one elusive MP3 that would fill another CD-R, I came across a genre that was new to me but may be of interest to members of our club.

OLD TIME RADIO SHOW (OTR)

The name of these new finds is "Old Time Radio Show" or OTR's for short. What could be a better use for the MP3 format than OTR's! Most OTR's length is from 15 minutes to 1 hour. In regular "wav" format the size of one of these files could be from 60 MB to 400 MB but in MP3 format an average show is from 3 MB to 30 MB. Another advantage is that since most of these shows are from the 1920's through the 1950's the sound quality of course is not up to par with newly recorded material. This again saves you room on your hard drive because you don't have to use a bit rate of 128 kbps but can

use 24 to 64 bits. (Most OTR's I've downloaded from the net are in 24 to 32 kbps.) This lower bit rate saves much space and when played back kind of gives the performance that "old time radio sound.". You can easily record 60 hours of OTR's onto one CD-R, using the lower bit rates, without sacrificing sound quality.

OTR SOURCES

As to the quantity of OTR's available on the net, I have found at least 560 different series and as many as 57,000 different programs. Some of the more popular and easy to find are - Amos & Andy, The Shadow, Fibber McGee & Molly, Tarzan, Sherlock Holmes, Dragnet, Inner Sanctum, I Love a Mystery and the list just goes on. Most of these shows include the original commercials that were aired at that time. The shows started becoming popular in the late 1920's and I have some from as recently as the 1980's.

I have many of the "Classic Books" presented in OTR format. These are not audio books where one person just reads to you, but full productions with sound effects, music and such. Most of these last from one hour to three hours. The late Orson Wells was involved with many of "Classics". Some titles are "War of the Worlds," "A Christmas Carol," "Pride and Prejudice," "Time Machine" etc.

FINDING OTR'S

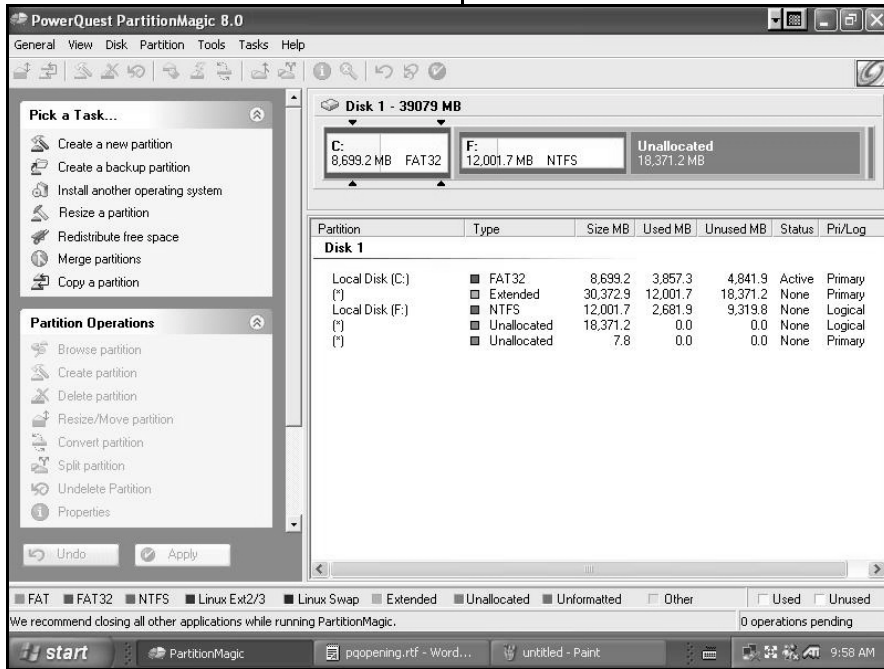
Finding these programs on the

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Review — Partition Magic 8.0

Reviewed by **Douglas Mechaber**, MCSE, MCNE, CCDA, BCSD, LACS

New to this edition is the redesigned interface – see the figure below.



This requires SVGA resolution, looks more professional than previous versions' unsophisticated look, and includes more information in the same space than previously. Support for larger partitions is doubled, to 160 GB. *BootMagic* is included as before, but it may now be installed on any hard disk, so you can boot to that DOS or LINUX partition for other maintenance. You may now resize NTFS clusters.

Also new to this edition is *DataKeeper*, PowerQuest's backup program, which will ask you to designate primary and secondary backup loca-

tions, followed by choosing which files to backup. I skipped that part – too time consuming, just like the automated registration process – register now, or later, but we'll include that 30 day reminder, just so you don't forget to register! Also new to version 8 are more wizards for

backup and other OS's and a flash tutorial.

OPERATION

Though I don't have a 160 GB hard drive, I did test on a 100 GB drive and an 80 GB drive. Sadly, my dual Athlon MPs with two 80 GB drives in a RAID 0 configuration (striping, so total is 160 GB) is running 2000 Advanced Server, and has the disks configured as Dynamic disks. Though PM8 supports RAID 0 and 5 (striping with parity), it does not support Dynamic disks, only Basic disks, so installing an XP Pro partition would not

have solved the problem.

I had previously installed my boot partition on Athlon 1 (1.4 GHz) as FAT32, so I could dual boot to either XP Pro or 2000 server. I installed PM8 on XP Pro, and, living dangerously, neglected to run checkdisk /f or scandisk before commencing PM operations. If you value your partition contents, you should follow PM's instructions, and make sure the disk file structure is in good shape before proceeding. I also have all my computers on UPSs, so I could very likely make a recovery if most likely data munching scenarios occur. For another review, I have installed ATI's All-in-Wonder card, which can give the user TiVo-like functionality for the price of a good game card (and free *Guide+*)!

I wanted to create a separate partition for dumping large video files, and then thought I should extend my main NTFS partition (drive F:) and possibly drive C: (though FAT32 is limited). To do this, I needed to move the partitions to the right, so that there would be unpartitioned space between the partitions, as well as resize them. This is simply done by right clicking on the partition, selecting move/resize, and then moving the position arrows or sizing arrows appropriately. To finish, simply click on commit changes, at which point I had to reboot. A DOS-like screen comes up, as the progress for each operation is described - in words – no graphics. This took almost fif-

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(REVIEW — PARTION MAGIC v8)
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7)

teen minutes, but I was resizing two partitions, and moving three, so that would be expected.

Though I find DataKeeper of very limited use, BootMagic is very useful for setting up machines to dual boot. Though I have one dual boot computer on BootMagic, and one not, some of you are probably asking "Why do I need to set up more than one computer to dual boot?" There are myriad reasons for setting up dual boot scenarios – in one, I have XP Pro and 2000 server; in another, I have NetWare server (two different versions, and LINUX, running a competitor's product), and in the third, both are running server – NT and 2000, but are parts of different networks.

DOCUMENTATION

The slim manual is strictly for beginners or first-time users. At 24 pages, there's little information that is relevant or helpful, save extended system requirements for certain operations, where to go for basic technical support, and how to perform standard operations. The two real manuals are in pdf, on the CD. The small box also included the CD, an erratum sheet, a registration card, and an advertising sheet. Obviously, given the recent street price of the product, it's all about shelf space.

CONCLUSION

Certainly the extended hard drive support in this edition of PM was long in delivery, but I expected that server versions

of OSs would be supported now. ServerMagic, a Partition-Magic/Drive Image like product for servers, hasn't kept up with the new versions. Other multiple boot programs directly support LINUX, though PM BootMagic can be configured to boot to LINUX. If you need a disk resizing tool, automatic multiple boot tool, PM belongs on your very short list. If you need other features, such as DataKeeper because you misplace files or your system is prone to failure, PM is the only game in town. At the typical street price for PM8, no power user should be without it.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Free technical support is available at www.powerquest.com/ support. Otherwise, it is \$30 per incident.

REQUIREMENTS

For all operating systems: at least 70 MB of disk space; a 233 MHz Pentium or better for Windows XP versions; 150 MHz or better for other supported operating systems: 2000, 95B-98SE, Me, NT with SP 6a. 128 MB of RAM for XP versions, 64 MB min RAM for 2000 Pro; 32 MB RAM min. for other Windows, NT versions. Tested on partition sizes up to 160 GB; over 120 GB requires at least 256 MB of RAM on NTFS for resizing. Will not work on NT server or 2000 server computers.

PowerQuest Corporation, P.O. Box 1911, Orem UT 84059-1911. (801) 437-8900. Website: partitionmagic@powerquest.com. Street price: as low as \$29, with a \$20 rebate. ♦

LACS Board Member Wins Logitech io Pen

By **Richard Harmetz**, LACS

Logitech has announced that LACS board member Dick Harmetz has won one of the company's new **io** pens. The **io** writes on specially prepared paper. The pen picks up and stores up to forty pages of digital signals from the paper. When finished, the writer inserts the pen into a docking station penholder attached to a computer, and the computer stores whatever was written exactly as it was written. Harmetz won the pen with his entry in a Logitech contest that was open only to attendees at last November's APCUG annual Las Vegas meeting..

If I Only Had an io

*If I only had an io, I would duel
In meetings with the hard-eyed
men who rule
Before the mighty pens, sharp
weapons fall
And the digital pen is mightiest
of all.*

*If I only had an io, I would earn
An A in Spanish, verbs to learn
Uploaded neatly to their proper
place
In my second brain, computer
space.*

*If I only had an io, I would think
Great Thoughts, and then upon
the brink
Of losing midnight fancies, I
would pour
Them upwards to my hard disc
store.*

Forevermore ♦

February 2003 into March 2003

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 February Board meeting 7 PM sharp	4 Daytime SIG <u>12 PM (lunch)</u> Office SIG 7 PM	5	6	7	8
10	11 General Meeting 7 PM Forum 6:00 PM	12	13	14	15
17	18 Daytime SIG <u>1 PM</u> Hardware SIG 7 PM	19 Internet/ e-mail SIG not meeting today.	20 Membership Committee 7 PM	21	22
24 Digital Photo SIG 7 PM	25 Beginners/ Internet 7 P:M Americ. Legion	26	27	28	1 March
3 Board meeting 7 PM sharp	4 Daytime SIG <u>12 PM (lunch)</u> Office SIG 7. PM	5	6	7	8
10	11 General Meeting 7 PM Forum 6:00 PM	12	13	14	15

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

SIG meetings are run by and for LACS members. Visitors are welcome to attend up to six SIG meetings (three of the same SIG) before joining LACS. To inquire about a SIG, please call or e-mail the contact person in advance. SIG Coordinator: Charlie Semple, sig.coord@lacspc.org.

SIG	Contact	Telephone	When and Where, Notes
After Meeting	Cap Kierulff	310-472-9206	Dinah's Restaurant on Sepulveda, southwest of Centinela.
Beginners	Dorothy Miliman	310-473-1391	4th Tuesday, 7 PM. Check e-mail for location
Computer Forum	Beginners Welcome		2nd Tuesday, 6:00 PM before General Meeting. Front of hall.
Daytime	Cap Kierulff	310-472-9206	First Tuesday, 12-1:30 PM, Golden China Restaurant, L.A
Digital Photo	Helen Karagozian	310-454-3426	capk@juno.com Third Tuesday, 1-3 PM, Felicia Mahood Center, W.L.A. helenk2@earthlink.net. 4th Monday, 7 PM American Legion
Genealogy	Leah & Joe Clark	310-677-2792	Hall, 5309 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City Second Thursday, 7 PM once a quarter at the Clark's home lclark@ucla.edu.
Hardware	Charlie Semple	310-398-5052	Third Tuesday, 7 PM, Cal. Fed. * csemple93@earthlink.net
Internet/e-mail	Patsy Bellah	310-280-0951	Watch e-mail 7 PM at American Legion Hall, 5309 Sepulveda Blvd., Culver City
Investment	Stephanie Nordlinger	323-299-3244	TBA If interested, Call or e-mail pastpres@lacspc.org.
Membership	Vacant		Third Thursday, 7 PM.
Office Suites	George Wolkon	310-459-2671	First Tuesday 7 PM. Cal. Fed.* wolkon.gbvolkon@verizon.net

* California Federal Bank Community room (in the basement), 12101 San Vicente Blvd. (at Saltair), Brentwood, \$1/meeting donation requested for room rental at Cal Fed and at American Legion Hall. ♦

Members Helping Members

LACS members volunteer to help other members solve hardware and software problems by telephone during the hours listed below. Select the topic from the list and then call a person whose number is listed next to it. We hope that you find this free service useful. ***If you are experienced in a particular program or topic, please volunteer to be a consultant.*** To volunteer for this list or to make corrections, please e-mail editor@lacspc.org or call Dick Smith at (323) 294-3441. More Quick Consultants are always needed. You can always decline or postpone a call if it catches you at the wrong time. You perform a valuable service and often learn something unexpected! ♦

Adobe Acrobat - 47	Microsoft Access - 48	Printing - 42, 43
America Online - 20, 44	Microsoft Excel - 7, 49, 51	Procomm + - 24
Ami Pro, WordPro - 14	Microsoft FoxPro - 27,48	QModem, QMPro - 24
Basic - 8, 48	Microsoft Office - 41, 43	QuickBooks - 14, 37
C++ - 27	Microsoft Power Point - 49	Quicken - 14, 20
Communications - 24	Microsoft Publisher - 14, 32, 33	Speed Read - 24
Data Bases - 48	Microsoft Word - 9,43, 49	Terminate - 24
Genealogy - 20, 34	Microsoft Works - 32, 34, 44	TurboTax - 14
GoldMine - 41	Modems - 24	Unix - 48
Graphics - 33	Netscape - 43	Viruses - 46, 48
Hardware - 7, 41, 42, 43, 48	Networks - 7, 41, 48	Windows - 7, 32, 48
Internet - 43, 44, 45, 48	OLX - 24	Windows 95/98 - 7, 41,43, 48
LA FreeNet - 14, 24	OnTime - 1, 20	WordPerfect - 1, 20, 33
Linux - 48	PhotoDeluxe, Adobe - 50	WordPro - 14 ♦

No.	Name	Daytime Phone	Eves/Weekends	From	To
1	Broido, Joe	310-829-3736	310-829-3736	9 AM-10P M	
7	Greenberg, Allan	310-576-1310	310-576-1310	10 AM-10 PM	
8	Heller, Elmer	310-839-9764	310-839-9764	9 AM-10 PM	
9	Hershman, Irv	310-397-9453	310-397-9453	11 AM-11 PM	
14	Kammerman, Cora	310-472-7487	310-472-7487	10 AM-8 PM	
20	Nordlinger, Stephanie	323-299-3244	323-299-3244	9 AM-10 PM	
24	Springer, Karl	310-645-3410	310-645-3410	10 AM-10 PM	
27	Rombouts, Tom	310-519-2941	310-519-2941	6 AM-11 PM	
32	LaVere, Hy	310-837-6517	310-837-6517	10 AM-9 PM	
33	Kierulff, Cap	310-472-9206	310-472-9206	9 AM-9 PM	
34	McDonald, Len	310-836-8698	310-836-8698	9 AM-10 PM	
36	Hage, Elias	310-815-8020	310-815-8020	9 AM-10 PM	
37	Ganz, Bill	310-360-7088	310-360-7088	9 AM-9 PM	
41	Engfer, Mark	N.A.	310-451-1942	5 PM-10 PM	
42	Theodore, Carol	310-659-0604	N.A.	9 AM-5 PM	
43	Semple, Charlie	310-398-5052	310-398-5052	9 AM-10 PM	
44	Lang, Bobbi	310-454-9903	310-454-9903	10 AM-5 PM	
45	Gibson, Merrill	310-785-9487	N.A.	9 AM-5 PM	
46	Martin, Todd	818-766-1151	818-766-1151	10 AM-10 PM	
47	Gold, Mike	N.A.	310-379-8321	6 PM-10 PM	
48	Flores, Alexys	N.A.	310-306-8403	8 PM-11 PM*	
49	Beckman, Loling	310-471-7893	N.A.	9 AM-5 PM	
50	Silverstein, Elliot	310-670-1544	310-670-1544	10 AM-10 PM	
51	Katz, Effie (Pager)	310-785-3313	310-785-3313	9 AM-10 PM	

*Weekend: 3 PM-10 PM ♦

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Software for Review

By **Stephanie Nordlinger**,
LACS

Members can get free software in exchange for writing reviews for *User Friendly* and our website. Be a published author! Almost anyone can write a good review, and we supply guidelines and editors to help you. Some products will make you more productive, while others are just for fun. Members wanting to review something make a deposit (usually a check) in the amount shown (the approximate list price of the product, without tax or discounts) that will be returned uncashed if you submit a printable review.

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If you want to review a program shown below, contact the Product Review Coordinator (productreview@lacspc.org) or 323 299-3244. All programs require a 4x- or faster CD ROM drive unless otherwise specified. The editor also accepts well-written reviews of products you obtain by purchase, etc.

If you would like to review another program and need a review copy, contact me and I will attempt to obtain one for you. By "contact," I mean send me an e-mail with as much of the pertinent information as possible. If you are precise (title, publisher, version, toll-free number, e-address, and web address), I can act promptly. If you make me work, the job is likely to get into my pile of stuff to do, and you know what that means! Also, please be sure we haven't already reviewed that version.

NEWER PROGRAMS

askSam v. 5 - the latest and greatest version of this data organizer. (www.asksam.com) (\$90).

Microsoft's Pandora's Box features over 400 original 3-D puzzles from the creator of *Tetris*. You can follow the game's story line, jump directly to a puzzle, and play singly or competitively. Pentium 166 and lots of hard drive space needed. (\$20)

NaturePainter Digital Canvas 1.0. Would you like to paint but feel you aren't very good at it? Here's a way to try it with no costly materials and the ability to hide (delete) your mistakes. For artists and art educators. (\$33)

Discovering Your Hard Drive, Part 1, v. 1.3 from User Group Relations (Gene & Linda Barlow's company). (\$20 deposit) Excerpts from this were presented at a meeting last summer. (www.ugr.com). CD; for special UG price of \$20, contact me for the code.

WatzNew 1.9.5, a personal web portal program for Windows 95 through XP from A.I. Studio. It regularly checks your favorite websites and mailboxes and notifies you of changes. You get the relevant information without banners, ads or graphics, so it is efficient. Needs 32 MB of RAM, 5 MB of HD space. Downloadable. (watznew.com) (\$25)

Wipe Drive 3.0 from Access Data lets you permanently eliminate individual IDE or SCSI hard drive files or quickly clean whole drives to Department of Defense standards. (\$50)

Sammy Surricate 1.45 - Cute 3-D action/puzzle game for all ages. (www.surricate-software.com) Win 9.x-XP, 3D accelerated graphics card, 15 MB of HD space. Downloadable. (\$20)

Clean It Up! Helps preserve your privacy by deleting caches of file names, etc. that Windows keeps. It will clear your Internet history, cookies, temp folders, recent document listings, etc. Can work in the background and on a schedule. (www.xcentricsoft.com) Downloadable. (\$20)

Essential Net Tools v. 3.1 from TamoSoft, Inc. Win 98 through XP. These are indispensable tools for network administrators, security professionals, etc. (www.tamos.com/-products/nettools). Downloadable. (\$29)

OTHER PROGRAMS

Alpha 5 for Windows from Alpha Software. This version of a major database program has

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12)

been in development for three years and is designed to offer the functionality of MS Access with significantly greater ease of use and the ability to build applications much more rapidly. www.alphasoftware.com. (\$349)

Advanced CATalogue 2.3, a catalogue for all removable media files for Windows 95/98/ME/NT 4.0/2000 and XP. It also performs file management tasks, Boolean searches, finds duplicate files on any drive, etc. Be able to access your CDs and other data through easily created databases. (www.evgenysoft.com) (\$35)

Novosoft Inc.'s **Handy Backup 3.5** for Windows 9x/NT/2000/Me/XP automatically backs up critical data to virtually any type of storage including CD-R/CD-RW, remote FTP servers, local network drives, ZIP, JAZ, MO, HDD and floppy disks. Designed for a single computer or a network, it can be used to synchronize files between two computers. Its disk spanning option allows backups to be divided among several CD-R/W disks. Award-winning. Downloadable. <http://www.novosoft-us.com> (\$30)

Click'N Design 3d. Are you creative? Create 2D and 3D text and texture mapping. All major CD Label templates are supported. Includes 100's of designs and over 5,000 photos and pieces of clip art. Includes some photo effects. <http://www.stompinc.com>. (\$20)

XPlay by Mediafour lets you plug an Apple iPod into a Windows computer and transfer MP3 music files back and forth, so that you can organize

songs, artists, playlists and albums for on-the-go listening. Automatic synchronization is also available. Even data files and documents can be transferred to an iPod, which Xplay makes appear like a normal hard drive. XPlay was a finalist for Best of PC Expo 2002 (awarded by *PC Magazine*). www.mediafour.com (\$30)

Reviews are many months overdue from David Trilling (Individual Software's Resume Maker Deluxe) and Carolyn Rosenberg (Family Trees). ♦

(MP-3'S AREN'T JUST MUSIC ANYMORE)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

net is even easier than finding music. There are thousands of individuals who collect OTR's as a hobby. Most of them have their own websites and offer a few selections to download changing the selection each week or month. Many sites will also send you an email when new offerings are available. You can go to Google or any search engine and key in "OTR" or "Old Time Radio Shows" and you will get thousands of different sites. Also using one of the many music download sites, such as KaZaa, keying in the name of the series will bring up hundreds of results. You can join OTR clubs at any of the major websites like AOL, Yahoo, and MSN. There are OTR trade and share sites where you post a listing of the shows you have and can trade via CD-R with others for shows you need.

If you are running out of hard disk space or don't have a CD

burner you can still enjoy the experience of OTR's. There are many sites on the web that broadcast the shows over the web in different formats. All you need to listen to these is one of the many free media players available on the web.

LISTEN

Turn off the TV some night, relax and listen to one of these shows and you may find that MP3's are not just about music!!

A FEW SITES

Here are a few sites to get you started:

<http://old-time-radio.com/>

<http://www.starcreations.com/otr/links/MP3links.htm>

<http://www.homestead.com/repsonline/BrowserDownloads.html>

<http://users2.ev1.net/~ey/audio.html> <http://www.otrcat.com/index.html>

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which LACS belongs. ♦

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From the Workbench ©

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN “DELETING” AND “UNINSTALLING” A WINDOWS APPLICATION?

By **Carol Theodore**, LACS

The best way to understand this is to explain what happens when you install a program in Windows. Let's use Windows 98 as an example. In the “good old days” of DOS, you installed a program by creating a directory and copying files into that directory. You then ran the executable files connected with the program. Some programs installed lines into your auto-exec.bat and config.sys files. Essentially that was it.

Windows 98 is different. When you install a program the “installer” (a special program included on the CD which usually runs automatically) may put files in a number of directories (now called Folders) and make entries into the Registry. The Windows Registry is a special file that keeps track of the settings and all the programs installed in your particular Windows installation. The application install program also may make other changes to your Windows installation for example installing Startup files such as taskbar items that stay in memory when you are running your computer.

Now that I've explained what commonly happens when you install an application in Windows 98, you may see that you can cause yourself a host of problems by simply deleting a Program Folder or even some of the files associated with that

program. If you just delete the application folder for the application you want to be rid of, there are still lines in the Windows Registry relating to that program. In addition, there may be Startup files set to load with Windows that may be missing causing you to receive an error message at startup.

HOW DO I UNINSTALL AN APPLICATION?

Now that you know that it's not a good idea to simply delete an application, you may want to know how to properly uninstall a program. There are a couple of easy ways to do this. The first that may be available for most applications is to use the program's uninstaller. If you go to Start, Programs and find the application, check for an uninstaller utility. If there is one, click on it and follow the prompts. If the program is an anti-virus program then you must first disable auto-protection. This is usually in the Taskbar and if you right-click on the icon there should be a Disable feature. This may vary from program to program, so read your manual or help file before you begin.

The other option is to use the Add/Remove programs utility in Windows. Click Start, Programs, Settings, Control panel,

Add/Remove Programs. Find the application you wish to uninstall on the list of applications and highlight it. Then click the Add/Remove button. Follow the onscreen instructions. As with the other method, you should remove any startup files (related to the program you're uninstalling) from memory before uninstalling the application.

TRANSFERRING APPLICATIONS TO A NEW COMPUTER

Considering the explanation above, consider how you would transfer applications to that new computer you got for Christmas or Hanukkah. Just as you need to uninstall an application not delete it, you can't simply copy or move an application folder to your new system. One of the easiest methods is to use PC relocation software (for instance Aloha Bob's *PC Relocater*). One caveat: this is an all or nothing proposition. It transfers all of your applications and settings to your new PC. You cannot transfer selected applications and settings. The only other way to do a selected transfer properly is to copy your **DATA** to an external medium such as a ZIP disk or CDR/CDRW disk and then, using the program disk reinstall the application on your new system. Then you can

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310-659-0604

copy your data onto the new computer.

I hope this has been clear. As always, e-mail questions are welcome. I can answer them either by reply or in the next column. My e-mail address is listed below.

Carol Theodore is an LACS member and owner of Mycroft Consulting specializing in computer consulting for businesses and individuals, solving an array of hardware and software problems. She offers a special rate to LACS members. She can be reached at 310-659-0604. Her e-mail address is: cgtheodore@earthlink.net ♦

Welcome To You All

NEW MEMBERS (3)

John Neblett
Jeanne Sampson
Ivin Tarnove

RENEWING MEMBERS (16)

Mark Aronson
Loling Beckman
Armin Dolin
Richard Earlix
♥ Virginia Ford
Allan Greenberg
Irene Hymanson
Karen Johns
Cora Kamerman
Cap Kierulff
Nilan Kincaid
Marie Martinelli
Mary Masters
Jack McGruder
Carol Serling
George Wada
Jack Wilder

♥ **Contributing** ♦

(USER GROUPS — CHANGE OR DIE)

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

some length, but haven't come up with any viable solutions.

A recent issue of PC Magazine's online service featured an article by John C. Dvorak, titled: **User Groups Redux**. This article may be found online at: <http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,476659,00.asp>

Those of you who were readers of Windows Magazine may remember John's articles – always thoughtful discussions of the subjects addressed.

I attempted to get permission to reprint the article or portions of it, but have not received any response from PC Magazine. Lacking this permission, I'll excerpt pertinent quotes from the article and from the discussion forum.

“August 19, 2002 User Groups Redux my *PC Magazine* column lamenting the situation with user groups has created interesting reactions from a variety of sources. While I lament the apparent low point in the world of user groups, this may be the time to reevaluate what might have been the cause.”

“I believe that the role of user groups must change. They must move away from functioning as traditional help networks.” John quotes from letters he received which offered interesting insights regarding User Groups.

The first comes from Marc Librescu who writes: "User groups died because their

members were a small but dedicated group of people who were computer users before computers had become ubiquitous with the general population. As pioneers, if you will, they didn't have access to a lot of information relating to computers. If someone needed how-to information, he or she didn't have many options available, save for asking a knowledgeable friend, or logging on to a User Group bulletin board and posting the question there." He goes on to quote from an article by Hasha Godavari in the Winnipeg PC User Group newsletter of February 1990. Mr. Godavari saw an obvious cycle in the life of user groups in general. They all begin with experts getting together to learn things collectively, followed by business people joining to leverage the information, followed by never-ending newbies just there to get as much free help and tutoring as they can get. Once the newbies become the majority, they drive out the other two groups. Essentially the groups lose the true leadership-base, become brainless, and eventually die off. Much of this is because of a natural conflict that will develop between the technologists who founded the group and the seemingly lazy newbies who try to exploit and dominate the technologists.

John goes on to say: "Many of the most active user

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(USER GROUPS — CHANGE OR DIE)*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15)*

groups today are now Linux groups. The PC groups that have survived have become social clubs. User groups are not dead, but they are different. Popularity killed them, or at least ran off the experts, who apparently got tired of answering the same questions over and over—and being slighted in the process.

I may have mentioned this before but one of our SCPCUG members stated that those attending the Second Saturday SIGs and the Resource Center were Ron's Good Old Boys Club. There is a certain amount of truth to that statement. We do not seem to attract any significant numbers of different people to those sessions. Those who do attend will attest to the fact that they nearly always learn something new.

OTHER COMMENTS

Further review of other comments in John's article may provide food for thought pertinent to our SCPCUG situation. Consider what Steve Mann cynically writes: "For the most part - manufacturers and software publishers do not want their users talking to each other. How else can they keep flaws and bugs secret? Before I make a major hardware or software purchase, I always look at the Usenet newsgroups and do a Google search to see what the users are *really* saying about the product."

Whatever is the reason for the current low point for user groups, we have to assume

that they're not going back to the way they were. I welcome your thoughts on the matter.

In response to this article, Eleutieri wrote: The increasing complexity of computer technology and specialization of professionals may also play a role. I see a second general cycle at work here.

The first one (the subject of your second article on the matter), the life cycle of groups which you attributed, not only sounds plausible, it reflects what I've seen in other hobbyist's clubs: started by a close-knit group of personal friends, who were not able to extend the same personal friendship to all members once the group began to draw new members from the public at large; the original members had to withdraw somewhat to protect their personal privacy and not be overwhelmed.

I submit that the second general cycle is one of increasing technological sophistication and specialization, which gradually excludes hobbyists, and pushes collaboration by experts into ever smaller areas.

AUTOMOBILE ANALOGY

As an analogy, consider automobiles. When automobiles were first invented in the early 20th century, a number of hobbyist clubs sprung up. It was a novelty at the time just to be able to drive around (versus riding a horse or whatever). The hobbyists must have been excited to compare the new models and features coming out, with standard controls and even steering wheels yet to be invented. People got together

for road trips. Autoclubs were formed for mutual support, to promote roads and infrastructure and to provide help during breakdowns - they exist to this day.

For a long time, any person with some mechanical aptitude could learn the basics of auto maintenance. I used to change the oil, oil filter, gas filter, air filter on my own car. The working of the carburetor was no mystery. With some tools and help from my father, I replaced the brake linings of my car, and even adjusted the engine timing.

Not any more. Although changing the oil and various filters is still possible, messing around with the engine of my current car is no longer practical. Too much specialized knowledge is required, too many special and expensive tools. The complexity and interdependence of the computer-controlled components makes fooling around when you don't really know what you're doing dangerous. Finally, cars have become a commodity and are no longer a novelty. Sure, there are still old-timers clubs and sports car enthusiast's groups, but like User's Groups, these are clubs more for socializing, not for learning the latest auto technology. Most people can't do any maintenance on their cars anymore so there would be no point in having a user's group for that purpose.

I think that this happens in every situation where technology is involved, and in many which you wouldn't off-hand

associate with technology. If you want to be on the cutting edge of a technology past its introductory phase, you pretty well need to be a professional. A hobbyist is just not able to keep up. Now, when being an expert in a single computer application has become a full-time profession, about the only thing left for general Computer User's Groups to do is help the computer-illiterate newbies, and that is a really boring, repetitive job, which should eventually be made unnecessary when basic computer skills are taught in elementary schools. I say should, because I haven't seen it happen yet. . . .

Users at all levels now have better alternatives: Google, and any number of FAQs, How-To's, and forums on the web where basic to advanced questions are welcomed. (Of course, the newbies have to first be taught how to get online and use a browser.)

OPEN SOURCE

I suspect that the desire of experts to interact with and learn from each other has found a new outlet - the Open Source movement. My personal experience: with an IDE such as Eclipse and access to a CVS repository via the Internet, I've been both having fun, and learning and teaching by collaborating on Java development with friends. We use the voice chat capability of MSN Messenger to talk across continents while we synchronize the code we're working on in real-time via the repository. It's not something that lends itself to a large number of peo-

ple for a given project, but there are a LOT of projects. Well over 10,000 on the SourceForge site for example, and that's just one CVS repository of many. This isn't something for users, but it is something for hobbyist developers, who may in the past have been counted among the experts in the now languishing traditional User's Groups.

So the Internet, or rather new ways of interacting enabled by the Internet, are supplanting the User's Groups in BOTH respects - as a forum for experts to collaborate and as source of advice and training for general users.

Although the traditional User's Groups may have been abandoned or neglected, by both companies and users alike, that doesn't necessarily mean their original functions are no longer being carried out. It may be premature to lament their demise. IBM made public the source code for their Visual Age Java IDE product, which (at least to my understanding) formed the basis for Eclipse. If the Open Source community is regarded as a broad kind of User's Group, then support IS being given.

Another way of looking at it, is that Open Source and the various resources on the Internet represent the globalization of User's Groups.

ANOTHER VIEW

Another writer to the forum, Irene Chow, had different viewpoints as follows:

"There seems to be no point in joining or becoming part of a user group. I really do not see

the need. Instead, the mentor system is the alternative I present to you.

My initiation to Linux was started by my father. But then I left for college. Posting on college newsgroups, I met a few people at my college and actually was sort of mentored by one of them. She answered all my Mandrake and Red Hat questions, and helped show me how to install programs from tarballs. She pointed me to useful websites, lent me books and stuff on Linux for indefinite periods of time, provided moral support and rooted around for trivial information that I just absolutely needed to know.

She did all this until I got enough of a footing to start fumbling around effectively, and I still ask her questions often. (Recently she modified a Perl script I found off CPAN and actually patiently explained how the original worked and how her modifications worked, even though I have absolutely no Perl knowledge.)

Why would I need a user group? We have informal user groups formed from helpful people on newsgroups. In this way, too, you manage to weed out the lazy bums from the really-want-to-learns. The really-want-to-learns ask intelligent questions and when you give them a hint they take it and go along with it. They happily share their limited knowledge with those who know even less than they do, and thus when they ask ques-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 18)

(USER GROUPS — CHANGE OR DIE)*(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17)*

tions the more informed answer.

The bums and leeches appear and ask a question, and then disappear. They want a solution--they don't want to know what they did wrong and where they could have gone for help. You only get one free question.

We're going back to the age of the master and the apprentice. Once I gain enough confidence about this, I might even pick up a mentee of my own. (Bit behind to think about that, but I want to be able to give back what I got.) User groups were a good idea, and they still have their place and function. They've just changed--so

they aren't called user groups anymore."

I found all of these comments interesting. The ideas expressed may have some relevance to our situation, but each group is unique and what works for one (or doesn't work) may not be of use for another. We need to put our collective heads together to see if there is a solution that will work for us.

CONCLUSION

To start you thinking, I suggest that you check out the link to the PC Magazine article and the accompanying forums. The comments I have included here just scratch the surface. The *User Group Redux* I referred to in the beginning has a link to an earlier article by John Dvorak: *User Groups Overlooked Again*. It begins,

"In fact, computers are more like cars. The car has been around for over 100 years, and it still requires training to use. In fact, a car is so dangerous that it requires a license to operate. Why do we expect that anything as complicated as a computer will someday be trivial to use? It never has been. It never will be. And that's why we need User Groups. You may have heard of them.

Apparently the computer industry has forgotten about them." Tell us what you think. ♦



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Contributing and higher categories of members may attend all SIG meetings without charge, including those where an admission fee is normally charged. A corporate membership includes ten individual memberships including

free SIG attendance. Associate members are people who live in the same household or work for the same company as a regular member; they do not receive their own subscriptions to *User Friendly*. Students must prove full-time status. If you have a question, please call our Voice Mail at 310-289-7177.

In addition to LACS monthly general meetings, members enjoy these special benefits:

- ◇ Monthly Journal *User Friendly*. We publish your submissions! Free classified ads to buy or sell your computer items.
- ◇ Eligibility to win our presenters' door prizes.
- ◇ Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to solve your problems.
- ◇ Occasional swap meets and information on trade shows.
- ◇ Product discounts, special offers and group purchases.

- ◇ Free software and computer books (if you review them for *User Friendly*).
- ◇ Network with people sharing your interests.
- ◇ Members and Quick Consultants to call when you need help.
- ◇ Rewards for Recruiting Members: LACS will give you three extra entries for drawings for each new member you sign up. You may use any or all of them at any meeting within six months. While you may not win two prizes at one meeting, if your name is drawn twice, you may swap the first prize for the second one if you wish.
- ◇ Members receive LACS announcements and members' Q & A info via LACS e-mail lists. Send requests for subscription changes with your e-mail address to: changes.form@lacspc.org ◇

LACS

Membership Application

Please return this form with applicable fees to:
 Los Angeles Computer Society, 10410 Palms Blvd., PMB 13, Los Angeles CA 90034-4873

Please PRINT Clearly

- | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Renew | <input type="checkbox"/> Regular - \$36.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Associate - \$12.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student - \$18.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New | <input type="checkbox"/> Contributor - \$50.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting - \$75.00 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor - \$100.00 |

Name: First _____ Last _____ Name of Associate: First _____ Last _____

Company: _____ Your Title/Occupation _____ Retired?

Address: _____ Home Work Address

City, State, Zip + 4 _____

Phone: (Home): _____ (Business): _____

(Do not Publish Phone No. in Roster)

e-mail address: _____

I Think I am a:

- Beginner Intermediate Advanced Programmer Professional Hobbyist

I am willing to : (at least one, Please)

- Serve on a Committee Assist the Editor Help at the Meetings Join a SIG Other _____

User Friendly

Los Angeles Computer Society
 10410 Palms Blvd. PMB 13
 Los Angeles, CA 90034-4873

Voicemail: 310-289-7177
 Web site:
[http:// www.lacspc.org](http://www.lacspc.org)

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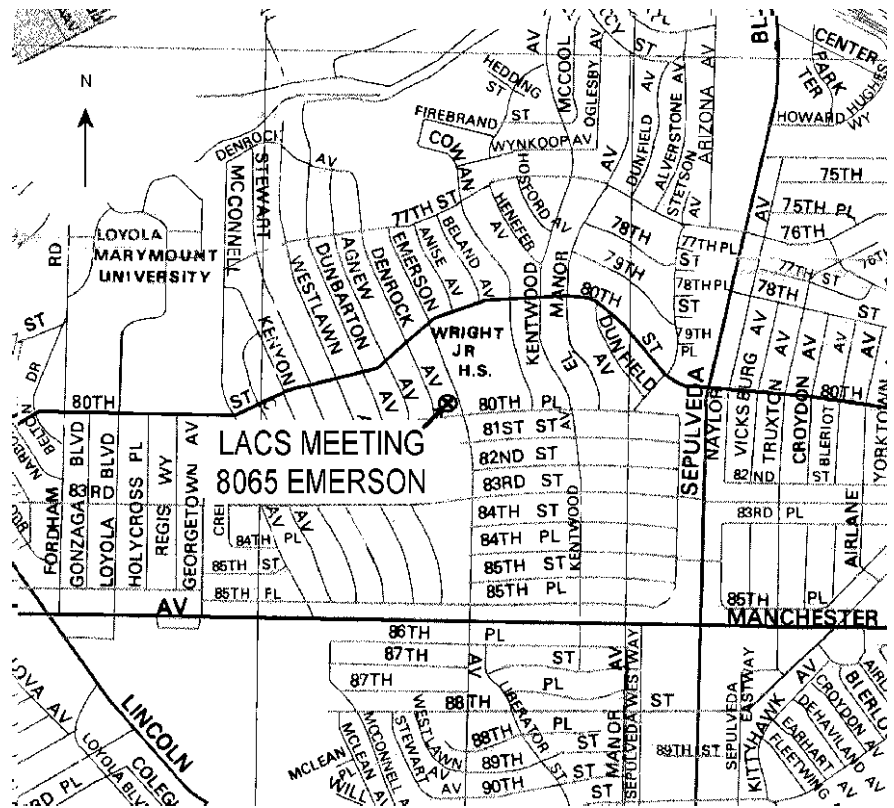
DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL MEETING

From the North: Take Sepulveda Blvd. SOUTH to W. 80th St. Turn WEST/right and go about one mile to Emerson Ave. Turn SOUTH/left and go one long block to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place.

From the South, East or West: Take Manchester Ave. to Emerson Ave. Turn North and go about eight blocks to W. 80th Place. Fellowship Hall is on the Northwest corner of Emerson and W. 80th Place. There is plenty of street parking and a small parking lot West of the church. ♦

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