

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group

This is the annual Christmas Party

Prizes and eats galore



7:00 pm on Dec 12



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The following rates are for one insertion in the **KIPUG** newsletter. All copy must be received camera-ready, no later than the 15th day of any given month for publication in the following month's newsletter.

Camera-ready copy should be submitted to Bits & Bytes, c/o Dave Chalmers, P.O. Box 2780, Bakersfield, CA 93303

KIPUG members who have computer related items for sale or trade or who have information they would like to share with other members may do so **FREE** of charge as space permits. Ads larger than business card size are subject to 50% of normal advertising fees. Non-members are subject to the normal advertising fees.

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KIPUG will mail your direct computer user targeted mail advertisement (fully prepared for mailing, including postage) to our entire membership at a reasonable fee. For more information, please contact Rhonda Pierce, President, at pierce27@earthlink.net.

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As I was recovering from all of the walking that I did, I wrote this article. I went for the usual APCUG meeting weekend, followed by Comdex.

The APCUG meeting consisted of a number of seminars during the day along with sponsored meals. Adobe started out the dinner sessions on Saturday. We got an excellent show using Adobe's InDesign product. This was followed by a drawing(Rick Daney was a winner of GoLive). All of us received a copy of PhotoShop Elements 2.0(a great photo editor). I use PhotoShop, however Elements contains a stitcher program that the big package doesn't.

Sunday gave us a breakfast by JASC and a lunch by CREO. Creo makes a document finding and sorting program based on Email. If you get a ton of email and need to find old emails and their contents, this is a possibility.. The Vendor Exhibition and Reception was a bit thin this year. Usually there are vendor tables all around the ballroom. This year there was a lot of visible wall space.

Monday gave us the Microsoft Mindshare dinner. We had a good demo of the Media version of Windows XP. After dinner we all got copies of Digital Image Pro which is a simple but powerful photo editor.

Monday was also the first day of Comdex. Wow, the show has sure downsized. The Convention Center was partially empty. There is speculation that this year might be the last. I wonder if the Consumer Electronics Show in January will replace Comdex.

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Be a Proofreader

In the mid-fifteenth century, Johannes Gutenberg created what can be argued to be the most significant invention of modern times. *Movable type* meant that publishing as we know it was now possible. Books and manuscripts, and thus knowledge could be spread relatively easily and inexpensively. Without this spread of knowledge, civilization as we understand it could never have come to be.

Five centuries later computers have helped take us another step on the road to widespread dissemination of knowledge. Despite all the advances associated with faster processing power, it is the power of computer networks to transmit information and the rapidly increasing capacity for storage that may prove to be the most important attributes of the computer age.

Thirty years ago, a fellow named Michael Hart was given a computer account with access to a great deal of computer resources. After some thought, he decided that the most effective way to “create value” using all this computer access would be to cre-

ate a system to store, access and search the contents of all our libraries.

Thus was born Project Gutenberg.

Over the last thirty years, Project Gutenberg has transcribed into digital form over six thousand books. All of these are available to anyone who wishes to download them. You may print them out convert them to other formats, or do pretty much anything else you care to do with them.

Included are most of *the classics*. The Bible, the works of Shakspeare, Kipling, etc. Alice in Wonderland, Aesops Fables, Peter Pan. Dictionaries, thesauruses, encyclopedias. Because of copyright issues, most of the books in the PG archives are *public domain*. This means they were originally published before 1923, and the copyright has expired.

The rate of book conversion has been steadily increasing. There have been close to 2000 books entered into Project Gutenberg so far this year (by October), which compares favorably with 1200 for all of last year. For more information about Project Gutenberg, go to <http://www.gutenberg.net>

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SO YOU THINK YOU ARE
TECHNICALLY CHAL-
LENGED?
THINK AGAIN!!

Take heart, anyone among you who believes you are technologically challenged, you "ain't seen nuthin' yet." This is an excerpt from a "Wall Street Journal" article.

1. Compaq is considering changing the command "Press Any Key" to "Press Return Key" because of the flood of calls asking where the "Any" key is.
2. AST technical support had a caller complaining that her mouse was hard to control with the dust cover on. The cover turned out to be the plastic bag the mouse was packaged in.
3. A Dell technician advised his customer to put his troubled floppy back in the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to hold on and was heard putting the phone down, getting up and crossing the room to close the door.
4. Another Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax

anything. After 40 minutes of troubleshooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "send" key.

5. Yet another Dell customer called to complain that his keyboard no longer worked. He had cleaned it by filling up his tub with soap and water and soaking the keyboard for a day, then removing all the keys and washing them individually.
6. A confused caller to IBM was having trouble printing documents. He told the technician that the computer had said it "couldn't find printer." The user had also tried turning the computer screen to face the printer but that his computer still couldn't "see" the printer.
7. An exasperated caller to Dell Tech Support couldn't get her new Dell Computer to turn on. After ensuring the computer was plugged in, the technician asked her what happened when she pushed the power button. Her response, "I pushed and pushed on this foot pedal and nothing happens." The "foot pedal" turned out to be the computer's mouse.

8. A woman called the Canon help desk with a problem with her printer. The tech asked her if she was running it under "Windows." The woman responded, "No, my desk is next to the door. But that is a good point. The man sitting in the cubicle next to me is under a window and his printer is working fine."

9. Tech Support: "O.K. Bob, let's press control and escape keys at the same time. That brings up a task list in the middle of the screen. Now type the letter "P" to bring up the Program Manager." Customer: "I don't have a "P". Tech: "On your keyboard, Bob." Customer: "What do you mean?" Tech: "'P' on your keyboard, Bob." Customer: "I'm not going to do that!!!"

Thanks Stu

Be a Proofreader from pg 4
Most of the work of transcribing the books is done by volunteer labor. And you can help. The **Distributed Proofreaders** site (<http://texts01.archive.org/dp/>) is a private effort to support Project Gutenberg, and they can use volunteer proofreaders.

Here's what they do. Certain experienced volunteers acquire books and scan in the pages. Using Optical Character Recognition (OCR) they convert each page into a text file. Then, both the scanned image and the text file are posted on their website.

If you sign up to help, you'll be presented with a page at a time to proof-read. The scanned image will be set side by side with the OCR text file on their web page, and you compare the two and make corrections to the text file. Then save your corrections and you'll get another page to check.

If you've ever seen the results of OCR text processing, you'll be amazed at how well the DP scans have done. But there is still a lot to fix. You should read the Document Guidelines before you start.

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Computing Factoids

There are unrelated things I pick up in e-mail that are terrific-but not long enough for an article. Here are two of them.

Compiled by Steve Bass,
Pasadena IBM Users Group

Saving Paper? Ha!

I just bought a program (which I think is excellent) called "Cool Edit Pro" from Syntrillium (www.syntrillium.com) which is audio editing and processing program.

The registration card has a box to check that has this amusing statement:

"Yes! Please send me a hard-copy manual. (A complete manual is included on your CD. In the interest of paper conservation, Syntrillium ships hard-copy manuals only on demand.)"

So I can print it out

(conserving their paper) or have them send me something that should have been in the box in the first place (conserving my paper, 225 pages for the manual plus 42 pages for the addendum). Since I paid \$399 for the program, I think I'll conserve my paper instead of theirs. --*Stan Slonkosky*

Listen Up and Take Heed!

I always tell people to unplug their PC when working on the insides. It's something I never do. My unsolicited advice? Do it. All the time.

Here's why: I added a sound card to my wife's PC the other day. Easy enough, right? Then, while the system was up and running, I replaced the cover. I've done it that way since I started with PCs in 1983. This time it bit me on the butt. The case cover touched an add-in card and the systemboard fried. Better it should have happened to my PC, you know what I'm saying? -*Steve Bass*

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG. Check his Home Office columns at <http://snurl.com/homeoffice> and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at <http://snurl.com/signup> §

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using the article as long as it is kept in context, with proper credit given to the author. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.

Be a Proofreader from pg 6
These tell you how to handle specific situations (what about *italics* or **bold**...? or footnotes?) If you do a few pages every day (they ask for a page a day) you can contribute significantly to the project.

And it's fun. I've done about a hundred pages so far, and that includes some nineteenth century novels, poetry, history, etc. Also some very dry references. (Somebody's gotta do it!) Some pages have been very easy, and others have been quite challenging. Don't forget that these books are nearly all at least 75 years old, and many much older than that. I've enjoyed the challenge.

Once all the pages in a book have been proofread, others will do a *second round* proofing, and then the project manager (each book has its own project manager, usually the one who scanned it in) will fix any final problems and stitch all the pages together. Once that's all done, the book will be released to Project Gutenberg.

Steve Garcia

Key Stuff to Remember for 2003

“Even if you’re on the right track, you’ll get run over if you just sit there.” Will Rogers

“It is the friends you can call up at 4 a.m. that matters.” Marlene Dietrich

“I think the one lesson I have learned is that there is no substitute for paying attention.” Diane Sawyer

“Advice: It’s more fun to give than to receive.” Malcolm Forbes

“Well done is better than well said.” Benjamin Franklin

“There’s a better way to do it. Find it!” Thomas Edison

“The biggest seller is cookbooks and the second is diet books - how not to eat what you’ve just learned to cook.” Andy Rooney

“Insanity is hereditary - you get it from your children.” Sam Levenson

“Life would be infinitely happier if we could only be born at the age of 80 and gradually approach 18.” Mark Twain



“The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with the rain.” Dolly Parton

Comdex and Your Editor cont pg 3

The little girl climbed up on Santa's lap, and he smiled and asked, So what would you like for Christmas?



She looked up at him with shock and dismay, and said, Santa! Didn't you get my e-mail?

Contributed by Caroline Corser

There was some speculation that the APCUG Meeting might change it's timing.

Tuesday's breakfast meeting by the Handspring folks showed us how things changed. Handspring is pretty much out of the PDA business and is concentrating on the integrated PDA plus mobile phone. All of their products, with one exception are like this. Ps there is some user group discounts available. Go to

www.handspring.com/company/usergroups/discounts

Click on Discounts

Enter Coupon Code:

For Treo 90 HAND39dbb94

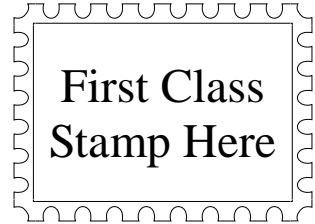
For Treo 180, 270 or 300

HAND3940351

The discount is \$30 for the 90 and \$100 for the rest

There was no vendor dinner on Tuesday so the KIPUG troops had to go to the strip to eat. Sam led us to a great buffet at the Mirage. Rick Daney and Steve Garcia proceeded to eat up all profits made by the Mirage that night. A good time was had by all

Ed



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We are on the web at
WWW.KIPUG.ORG

Your Address Here

Sarah Perelli-Minetti Webmaster

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of the month
at the Kern Superintendent of Schools Building.
17th and L streets Downtown
Meeting Time is 7 pm