

Bits & Bytes

A Publication of the Kern PC Users Group

Mike Ryan presenting

Security and Firewalls
for Computers

Meeting time is 7 pm on September
12 at our usual 17th St and L St loca-
tion



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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.

Business Card \$ 5.00
Quarter Page \$ 15.00
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Full Page \$ 60.00

ADVERTISERS

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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I hope everyone has had a wonderful summer off. Running a round doing lots of good stuff and of course trying to staying cool on the side.

Iolo Mechanics contacted me and are not going to be able to come speak on System Mechanics at the September meeting. I have contacted Mike Ryan one of our members who has graciously agreed at the last minute to speak on Security and Fire Walls for Computers. It should be a very interesting program and hope you all enjoy it.

We have programs supposedly taken care of by December 2002. If you or any one you know would like to do a program for next year (2003), please contact me by email. See you there, Thursday, September 12th. Rhonda [:-)

Well the end of summer is finally at hand(I hope). I've had a pleasant two months off from the duties of the paper. Now back to the grind. I guess everyone took off this summer. My article bin was bare. I ran Jim Opperman's article a bit late, as there was no July issue. Hope you don't mind Jim. Keep those reviews and comments coming in Ed.

Genealogy Corner

Bits and Bytes

July 2002

Jim Opperman

Greetings, we trust you all had a great 4th of July!

The latest Social Security Death Index now totals 68,021,492 names. It is available at:

<http://ssdi.rootsweb.com/>

To get the most out of this index, go to: <http://www.rootsweb.com/~rwwguide/lesson10.htm>

Make sure your computer is virus free; especially from the Klez virus that attaches itself to e-mails from familiar contacts you regularly receive messages from. Genealogy related e-mails could be contaminated, too. Find out if your computer is virus free at:

http://housecall.antivirus.com/pc_housecall/

For a map guide to pinpoint your census county or town where you wish to locate family census records—you

need the MAP GUIDE TO THE FEDERAL CENSUSES—where you can also check out the MAP GUIDE, AMERICAN PLACE NAMES OF LONG AGO at:

http://www.genealogical.com/search_gen.cfm?Cat_ID=AG

Remember that place names change due to city, county or state border realignments as well as names that go out of existence, or purely renaming.

History Magazine offers a free trial copy at <http://www.history-magazine.com/> where stories often provide genealogy or family surname leads.

Genealogy Warehouse is a good site to visit when looking for discounted copies of genealogy related books and reference material. <http://www.genealogical.com/warehouse.cfm>

If you catch a fish, share what you found with others here.

Enjoy!

Thanks Jim
I only published it two months late
Ed.

Ten Years Ago

A look back at a column that deals with the transition to Windows in 1992. The title: “The Ongoing Windows Dilemma”

By Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

If you're like many computer users, you're gradually making the switch to Windows. You've abandoned some of your DOS applications and forced others to work in Windows and maybe even found some neat replacements that are designed for Windows.

If you play around with a few Windows applications, the advantages are easy to see. To begin with, Windows applications all adhere to the same basic interface. That means once you've grown accustomed to clicking the mouse on the File portion of the menu in one application — for example, to Save, Open, or Print a file — you'll discover it's in the same place



on all Windows applications. That reduces the learning curve on new applications and, well, just makes each product easier to use.

From Here to There

You'll also find out how easy it is to transfer data from one Windows application to another. That's because all Windows products — as opposed to DOS programs — are generally made to work in the same way thereby allowing

them to share data. And because Windows is a graphical environment, it means you can easily see things on the screen just as they'll look when you print them out.

Some adjustments, however, are harder to make. Because I come from a DOS environment, I rarely used the mouse. Unfortunately, Windows word processing programs are notorious in their attempt to make me use the ro-

dent. When I write — as opposed to working in a spreadsheet — I like to keep my fingers on the keyboard. So along with learning to use the mouse, I've searched out keyboard alternatives to mouse clicks. It's not that difficult, but, as you may have discovered, not always a slick solution. Especially if you're used to a series of DOS keystrokes.

To get around the problem, I've taken advantage of the macro function of most Windows programs. A macro gives me the ability to assign numerous keystrokes to one or two key combinations, easily duplicating keystrokes from my old DOS programs. Now I know you're going to laugh but the first Word for Windows macro I created was CTRL-T.

1-2-3...Quattro

Borland's Quattro Pro for Windows, the star of Windows spreadsheet programs, took a bold — but obvious step — in making the mouse more useful. If you've highlighted a spreadsheet cell and click on the right mouse button, for example, you'll get a dialogue box allowing you to modify the properties within that cell. Pretty bright. Not only that, as you scroll across QP/WIN's Speedbar, a brief description

telling you what each icon does appears on the bottom of the screen. Boy, does that help in learning. Overall, I think the most daunting part of switching to Windows is first facing — and then choosing from — the staggering number of Windows applications on the market.

The problem is they're all solid contenders. (We should always have such problems.) In the last month, for example, I've tried to decide on a word processor. Because of my work with PC World (I have to test every user group tip so I've tried lots of software), I've played with Lotus' Ami Pro and Microsoft's Word for Windows. Both products are winners and each has half a dozen features I like.

For example, Ami Pro's Smart Icons — shortcut buttons that help me get to many other features — are a great help with navigating through the program. I can move the icons to just about any location, handy if I'm fiddling with some design at the bottom of the page. Ami Pro's Icons are colorful, something I didn't think was important until I compared it to Word for Windows' monochrome Toolbar.

But wait, Microsoft has some neat

things too. Word for Windows' Create Envelope feature lets me address and print an envelope in less time than it takes to lick a stamp. The outlining feature, something I've ignored in stand-alone programs because it was so hard to get to, was addicting. The Page Preview functions in Word for Windows are glorious.

Too bad I can't combine the best features of both and call it BassWord WinPro.

Need a Database?

The one program that I'm still up in the air about is a Windows database.

The two software giants are slugging it out, each vying for my attention, trying to get me to buy their database. And if you played your cards right, you cashed in on the ridiculously low prices. I mean, Microsoft's Access for \$99 bucks. Hell, it's almost like buying shareware.

Then Borland, with its stock wallowing in the low twenties, (it looked like it dropped a point for every day Paradox was delayed), tempting you with user group specials. Paradox for Windows for \$125 and, for another \$55, Quattro for Windows. At the Borland

meeting, one guy bought five copies and said he was a commodities broker. Sure, I'll take a hundred pork bellies, a bushel of soy beans and a handful of PDX/WIN's.

Look, the prices are low because there's a lot at stake for both companies. Generally, the product you start with is the one you'll stay with because you've spent so much time learning the keystrokes. So if they can get the product into your hands before the other guy, well, you get the picture.

And we're in the catbird seat because they look at user groups members as Influential End Users. They figure that if you buy one and like it — and with any luck use it — you'll likely tell ten other users. Then if you like it and you're MIS, well, they've really hit the jackpot.

But I Digress...

Hey, did I get off the subject?

Both Access and Paradox for Windows are great products. Microsoft's tempts you with Wizards and Templates while Paradox for Windows mesmerizes you with power, speed and, the best of all, familiarity. You already know Paradox, why learn

something new?

So which one are you going to choose? It's the perennial battle, the one you face with every program you see at Egghead. §

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 PCW's current edition at www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter.

Dr. Seuss Explains Why Computers Sometimes Crash

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,
and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort,
and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,
then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,
and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,
and your data is corrupted cause the index doesn't hash,
then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house,
says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,
but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,
that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,

cont pg. 10

SPOTLIGHT ON...

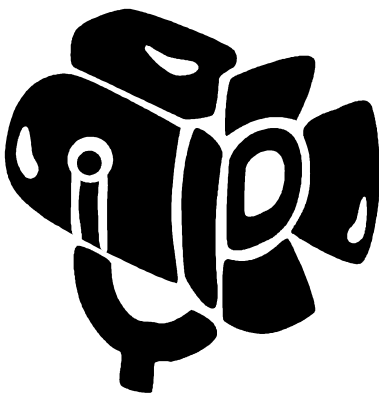
Sarah Perelli-Minetti
KIPUG Webmaster

Would you believe that an interest in stamp collecting could lead to becoming a Certified Internet Webmaster? That's what happened to Sarah Perelli-Minetti, KIPUG's new Webmaster.

Sarah started collecting stamps in college and was especially interested in collecting by topics, in other words, by the pictures on them, rather than by country of origin. Someone might collect stamps with cats, windmills, lighthouses, volcanoes, or any number of other topics. When Sarah couldn't find a website that specialized in topics, her friends suggested that she create her own site. That led to courses at New Horizons, and as she put it, she got "hooked." Sarah ended up taking all the required courses for certification and has passed the test on website design.

For practice in what she was learning in the classes, Sarah started building

her own website, which has been running for the last three years. It's called www.topicalsonstamps.com, and at this point, she has nearly 140 different stamp topics listed. Her site is linked to a secure server affiliation with a stamp shop in Florida, and she sells stamps through them.



At present, the site gets more than fifty separate visits a day. Sarah also puts out a newsletter, and her first mailing list member was located in Moscow. She has corresponded with people in China, England, Japan, the Netherlands, Canada, Poland and the Arctic so far, all through her website and newsletter.

Sarah first started working with computers in the late 80's after graduating from University of the Pacific where she had majored in international relations. (She had developed that interest when she lived for a year in Holland right after high school graduation.) That first computer experience was working on a 286 PC in her dad's office, transcribing psychological records and preparing worker's comp

reports.

Sarah first developed an interest in the Internet when she went to a meeting about ham radios and saw someone surfing the Net. She quickly signed up with an Internet service provider for her home computer, which until then, she had used only for word processing and writing letters. Now, she has progressed to the point where she is consulting with others who have websites.

Sarah recently took over the task of getting our KIPUG site back up and running. She has given it a snappy, new look and updated all the information. That took some work, since the previous hosting company had closed down. She had to jump through numerous legal hoops to get it transferred to a new host and have herself listed as Webmaster, but she persevered. KIPUG is now a presence on the World Wide Web once more. Be sure to visit and check it out at <http://www.kipug.org/>. You'll be impressed, I know.

Caroline Corser

Cont from Dr Seuss from pg. 8

And your screen is all distorted by the
side effects of gauss,
so your icons in the window are as
wavy as a souse;
then you may as well reboot and go
out with a bang,
'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's
gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's get-
ting sloppy in the disk,
and the macro code instructions cause
unnecessary risk,
then you'll have to flash the memory
and you'll want to RAM your ROM.
Quickly turn off the computer and be
sure to tell your Mom!

Submitted by Stuart Ree



Membership Application

Annual Dues \$30.00 Mail to:
PO Box 2780
Bakersfield, CA 93303

Please Print Clearly — This application is [] New [] Renewal [] Address Change

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State, Zip + 4 _____ ()

Home Phone _____ ()

Business Phone _____ @

E-mail _____

I'm a:	I'm Willing to:
<input type="checkbox"/> Beginner	<input type="checkbox"/> Serve on a committee
<input type="checkbox"/> Intermediate	<input type="checkbox"/> Assist the Editor
<input type="checkbox"/> Advanced	<input type="checkbox"/> Help at Meetings
<input type="checkbox"/> Hobbyist	<input type="checkbox"/> Join a SIG
<input type="checkbox"/> Professional	<input type="checkbox"/> Do Whatever..

The Software I use is

<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 95	<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 2000 ME
<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 98	<input type="checkbox"/> WIN NT
<input type="checkbox"/> WIN 98 SE	<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____

The Kern Independent PC Users Group — KIPUG is a nonprofit organization of computer users — novices, experts, professionals and hobbyists. KIPUG welcomes all new members interested in computers. A General Meeting is held on the second Thursday of the month at the Kern County Superintendent of Schools Building, City Center, at 17th and L streets in Bakersfield. Meetings run from 7:00 PM until 9:00 PM and include a business meeting along with product demonstrations, door prizes and a drawing.

Membership Information and Benefits:

General Meetings are open to the public, free of charge. The public and guests are welcome but certain benefits apply to members only.

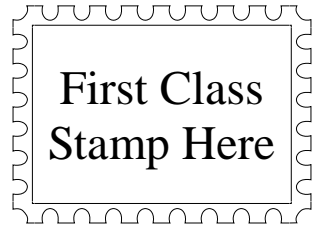
To become a member, complete the form above and mail your check to KIPUG.

Member Benefits Include:

- A monthly newsletter — *Bits & Bytes* — a place to publish your articles!
- Free ads to buy or sell computer items.
- One free month's business card ad for corporate members.
- Web Site with free Listserv and access to the newsletter on-line.
- User group product discounts and special offers.
- Networking with computer enthusiasts who share common interests.
- Special Interest Groups (SIGs) to help you solve problems.
- All general memberships are family memberships, bring the family.
- Eligibility for door prizes and vendor giveaways.
- Product evaluation/review program — write an evaluation — keep the product.

Visit KIPUG's Web Site: <http://www.kipug.org/>





P.O. Box 2780
Bakersfield, CA

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