

NEWSbits

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"MYTHICAL": WITH JERRY SEREGNI



Jerry Seregni of WWL-TV's Eyewitness Morning News ('Digital Gumbo') is always a group favorite to CCUG-PC. He's not only a good friend and member, but he's *one dynamic speaker*. At the May meeting, he entertained and informed the group as expected. Taking a subject like "PC Myths and Legends: How many are true?" and demystifying this topic was itself a magic act. Some say that his presentations are measured second-to-none in our computing neighborhood.



Seregni's PowerPoint presentation helped him disperse numerous myths that many of us have come to know as rule or fact. For example, slides listed questions that asked for "True or False" responses from the audiences. Although many slides wreaked with authenticity--enough to believe, they turned out being myths and falsehoods. On the other hand, there were

those that appeared real enough to deem as factual were just "figments of the imagination", urban legends or perhaps be considered proof that you should not always believe what you hear and read!

Jerry's aim was to "dispel the myths and separate fact from fiction about computer security, broadband access, and dozens of other carved-in-stone rules that simply aren't true." Whether it involved on-line sites and e-mail gossip or word-of-mouth discussions, we learned about the beginnings of the MAC and PC, websites that help us dispel

the notion that what your best friend relays is not always 100% accurate. So Jerry asked us to check out a few websites so that we might check out the authenticity of the "blab", rumor, or legend before we believe it ourselves and pass it on as true.

(Mythical, continues on page 5)

June 4: Summer Sizzle Raffle
Will you win the \$250.00!!!!!!??

Gift Certificate

One size fits all!

Always in style! 

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Perfect for any occasion!



Perhaps you need a new printer, scanner, camera or office equipment? Tickets: 7 for \$10.00!

Upcoming Presentation July 9

Digital Music—Digitizing CD Music and MP3 Formats

WITH **Ray Paternostro**

Learn how to "Rip CD music into MP3 format" for listening on the PC or handheld devices such as the iRiver IHP-140 Music Player, iPod, MP3 Players, and other portable devices. You'll see how portables can be hooked up to your vehicle. Ray will demo the free jukebox player *Media Monkey*. Lots about learning to use music in your PC or portable setup. *You'll have to attend to learn more!!*

The Wonder of the Current Computer Hardware Transitions

by Timothy Everingham

When we have been changing computer hardware standards frequently, it has been one thing at a time. At other times those in authority say that if we are going to change one thing lets get some other changes done too. We are going through much more of the latter right now.

The thing that is more in the forefront of change currently is the move from PCI and AGP motherboard card slots to PCI Express (PCIe). PCI Express also changes the way data is transferred (serial rather than parallel) and has more intelligent data traffic management. This puts you in the position of having to decide whether to migrate to the AGP and PCI cards when upgrading to a new processor and motherboard or buying a new computer, something that is more of a problem if you recently paid a lot of money for a high end AGP graphics card or have a specialized PCI card where there is no equivalent

PCIe card available. However, there are motherboards currently available that have both old and new type slots.

On the other hand you could go to the other extreme by buying a computer with the new NVIDIA SLI system. That is a motherboard with two PCIe graphics slots where you can run two NVIDIA graphics cards in parallel to get a 3D graphics



performance boost similar to what was done to the old 3dfx Voodoo 2. We also started a shift last spring from Sockets 940 and 754 to Socket 939 for AMD 64 bit processors (Socket A remains for 32 Bit AMD processors) and from Socket 478 to 775 for Intel Pentium 4 processors, which also limits your upgrade options. Dual core processors, which have two CPUs on one chip, will be coming out for workstations, servers, and desktops in the second half of this year. Support for dual core processors will come from more of a BIOS change than socket change; however, some motherboards will be able to support

dual core processors by upgrading your flash BIOS, but others will not. We also are making the transition from DDR to DDR2 system RAM, and some motherboards only support DDR2.

Now you think you have had enough. I am nowhere near finished. We now have a new power supply standard too. ATX Power Supply 2.01 is in process of replacing ATX Power Supply 1.3. Newer motherboards have different power connectors now. The new connector has 24 pins rather than the old one with 20. There have been adapters for the 1.3 power connectors to fit 2.01 compliant motherboards, but now we are going to move to adapters for 2.01 power supplies to fit into 1.3 compliant motherboards. Some motherboards and power supplies had AUX connectors, but the new standard does away with that. One thing that is nice with the new standard is that having SATA drive power connectors is now mandatory rather than optional. Also power supplies under the new standard are supposed to be more efficient. Nevertheless be aware that some power supply manufacturers have been exaggerating the capacity of their power supplies.

However, this new power supply standard is just a step in another transition, the move from the ATX motherboard and case design standards to BTX design standards. I say standards because there are three different BTX motherboard design formats: BTX, MicroBTX, and Pico BTX. BTX replaces the standard ATX motherboards, with MicroBTX going against the Mini-ATX motherboards and PicoBTX goes against the ITX motherboards. Part of the reasons for the change is to redesign the airflows in the case to get rid of all heat generated by the latest processors.

Back to BASICS

"Have you tried "Back to Basics?" "Back to Basics" is a very popular member benefit.



Long time board member & Member Representative Margaret Wynn as well as other members have devoted themselves to helping members & new guests with their questions and problems in a

semiprivate environment that is a quickly growing segment of our membership! *Meets from 9:30-10:20 A.M. monthly before the general meeting.*

Try it once, you'll instantly want to join the group at a low price membership of only \$25.00 per year...(Where else can you get so much information at about 2 bucks a month?) We're the "best kept secret in the whole Metro area" according to *WWLTV's Jerry Serigni of Digital Gumbo!* Don't wait—join today and enjoy *all the member benefits!*

(Configuring, continues of page 9)



PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hi, CCUG-PC Members!

“T” was in a restaurant they met
Alas, poor Jerry-O and Juliet
They had no money to pay the debt..
So, Jerry-Owed what Julie-Et.”

Each summer I do my “half-year” summation of how we’re faring at CCUG-PC. I have to report that by the time summertime approaches, I’m well beyond worn. Long hours with a computer can be a contributing cause to eyestrain, Carpel-Tunnel Syndrome, bone problems and fatigue.

When it’s scorching outside, we tend to “relax” more at the PC (Geez, I can’t tell if anyone watches a TV any more since programs are hideous to watch, and even the news has the same type of criminals and corruption as last night’s viewing). At the time of writing, I’m on an icepack, the legs are throbbing from circulatory problems and I’m digging into the Cheetos. While it’s true that my ergonomics can be improved—it’s being challenged by the intensity in time before it, so slouching and bad posture are the net results. As the body leans back to adjust for long sitting, or the elbows get calloused from leaning to either side, and even the back gets arched from the drooping—healthy ergonomics at the computer fades with each additional hour spent before it.

Here’s how I can practice what I preach on “proper ergonomics” when it comes to computer usage:

1. Indirect natural (sun) light is best, but reducing glare is important.

2. Chair--if you spends lots of time on the ‘puter, spend considerable amount on the chair. Nothing like a wobbly “non-padded” office or hard chair to encourage slouching quickly. Sit upright with feet on floor and eyesight pointed downward at a 17 degree angle. When you start drooping downwards, it’s time for a break (which should be every 40 minutes anyhow). Avoid fatigue which proper ventilation and walk around to check up on loved ones and pets who might feel distanced by any addiction to the computer.

4. Monitors should never be placed on top something to tilt the head upward at 17 degree angles. Keep your eyes no closer than 2 1/2 feet to avoid “burn-in” from CRT exposure to rays and electromagnetic radiation.

5. Use a keyboard and/or pad to rest wrists to avoid bending and Carpal Tunnel.

6. Repetitive mouse clicking can be an excessive health hazzard. (Pssst: Don’t tell the gamers this! ;) Hold the mouse loosely in hand, using arm or shoulder to move mouse—not just the hand.

Back to work...

Jerry Montalbano

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NOTICE!!

Upcoming Dates in 2005

Jun. 4	Sept. 10
Jul. 9	Oct. 1
Aug. 6	Nov. 5
	Dec. 3

ARTICLE CONTRIBUTIONS

1996 Lotus
Intergalactic
Newsletter



CCUG-PC

NEWSBITS Newsletter is published monthly by CCUG-PC. Articles for publication *must* be submitted, typewritten and on disk to our newsletter staff by the **15th** of the month for publication. We welcome all articles of computing interest and we reserve the right to edit when appropriate. **SHARE YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH US.** If you have a tip or technique with a software program (or hardware), please enlighten us. All computer related articles are welcomed. Please submit your contributions to us in a file of any disk format or upload to jerryccug@cox.net for our *Newsbits* Newsletter Staff. CCUG-PC would love to hear from you! Submissions from our members, or reprints from other publications are welcomed, but do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Board of Directors nor the membership. Reprints are granted when credit is given to the author. Submissions of any content, articles or materials become property of CCUG-PC for sole use and publication.

FROM THE DEALS GUY



by *Bob Click*, Greater
Orlando Computer User Group



Surprise Fella, You're Out Of Luck!

I read an article by Lynn Kauer, editor of the Blue Chip News, newsletter of the Saginaw Valley Computer Association, that might interest you about hard drive warranties. When purchasing an Iomega drive he was urged by the clerk to purchase a store warranty because hard drive warranties begin on the day of manufacture. At home, he checked the Iomega Web site, entered the serial number of his unit just purchased, and found that the warranty had indeed already expired. He still had 14 days from his date of purchase to buy a store warranty.

When attending the Comp USA show, I talked to the guys from Western Digital about that and they confirmed it was standard policy. They said the problem is how long a drive sits on shelves at distributors and stores, and that almost nobody keeps their purchase receipt. But if a purchaser still has their store receipt should the drive fail within the stated warranty, they will honor the warranty from the date of your receipt. I can't speak for all vendors, but keep your store receipts just in case that is their policy also.



I Did Something About The Weather

I'm still bragging about my new weather station. Both my wife and I really enjoy ours, especially the Big Weather Picture accessory that lets you easily see all of the day's stats at a glance. I've seen other brands at shows, but none I've seen had anything like the Big Weather Picture. Peet Bros. displayed at the Home & Garden Show recently and said they'd still honor my deal of including an inside temperature sensor and a serial cable at no extra charge. [<http://www.peetbros.com>] Even our visitors are always fascinated and ask about ours. To get the special, send your order to [peetbros@peetbros.com]. We especially watch the peak wind speed information and the rain gauge. We sometimes wonder when we are at work if it rained at home, but a glance at the Big Weather Picture will tell us all that when we get home, and how much.



A Deal Renewed

Right at my deadline, I had to withdraw a deal that they said was not ready yet from Zio Corporation for a small and convenient product that handles all of the memory cards for digital cameras and cell phones, and also serves as a USB hub. Hopefully, it should be ready for the DealsGuy column next month. In place of it I am reminding you about "CameraMate VideoSafe" and "CameraMate Real Time Video" by Zio Corp

from last month's column that had rebates expiring May 31, 2005. I am happy to say they have extended those rebates. I will include text from a message they sent me:

"Purchase select Zio Corp. products from any retailer from Feb. 05, 2005 through Sept. 30, 2005. Submit a completed rebate offer form; the original UPC code from select Zio products packaging; a copy of the dated 'Any Retailer' receipt for the select Zio products purchase with the retail price circled. Consumer also needs to include the rebate sticker (outside the box) along with the UPC code." For information on those products see [<http://www.easiestvideover.com>]. My friend is having a great time playing with those Zio products that I asked him to test out for me last month.



Announcement For ActiveStartup Deluxe - Below is an edited announcement:

"I'm pleased to inform you that HexileSoft releases ActiveStartup Deluxe! We offer a 30% discount on ActiveStartup Deluxe to user group members.

"Smart StartUp Manager For NT-based Windows OS With Anti-Malware Options. Startup manager is a popular software category with dozens of different titles. ActiveStartup Deluxe has been specifically designed for network-based Windows versions, like Windows NT, 2000 and XP. The program gives its users a brain-dead simple way to backup and restore startup settings, add/delete/disable programs on the startup list, and control services.

"Unfortunately, the Internet is packed with malicious software like an overstuffed sandwich. Viruses, worms, trojans, spyware and other malware can easily sneak into PCs and wreak havoc. Oftentimes, the only way to catch the intruders is at the startup point. This is why ActiveStartup Deluxe offers users to perform virus check at startup and makes it possible to run, stop, enable or disable any service that may be used by malicious software. ActiveStartup Deluxe is capable of opening system utilities like RegEdit or SysEdit, checking for "dead" files on the startup list or launching any application. The program does not require any in-depth computer knowledge - ActiveStartup comes with a simple clean interface, support for clipboard and dragging & dropping, hotkey activation and other beginner-friendly options.

"ActiveStartup Deluxe is very easy to operate. This tiny application (only 691 KiloBytes) has been awarded over a dozen prestigious awards including a four-cow rating from TuCows. There is also another version of the program with fewer features called ActiveStartup. The differences between these two versions are available at [<http://www.hexilesoft.com/windows%20startup%20managers.html>]. A 30-day trial version is available at www.hexilesoft.com for evaluation purposes.

(Bob Click continues on next page 5)



(Deals, continued on page 4)

ActiveStartup Deluxe 1.07 is priced at \$29.95 US Dollars per copy."

Any inquiry, please contact Oleksandr Svider at info@hexilesoft.com

Company website

[http://www.hexilesoft.com]

Product page

[http://www.hexilesoft.com/activestartupdx.html]

Download

[http://www.hexilesoft.com/files/activestartupdx.zip]

Buy link

[http://www.hexilesoft.com/purchase.html]



Last Minute Problem

Just before time to send out the DealsGuy column to the editors, I could not send messages, but could receive them. Earthlink tech support says my Eudora Email software cannot be configured to work with their new servers. I may have to find another ISP so be aware that my email address may change.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound.

Bob (The Cheapskate) Click!! !!



Volunteer!

New Members

"Helloooo Folks!" I'm Guildersleeve—the CCUG-PC Welcoming Gator.

—•Kathy McKee•—

—•Rosita Porras•—

—•Micah St. Germaine•—

—•Arlene Hughes•—

—•Anthony Mustaccia•—

—•Rosita Porras•—

—•Michael Sevin•—

—•John Iennusa•—

Help us help others—tell your friends, relatives, and co-workers about CCUG-PC. You'll be doing them a favor and doing a good deed besides. CCUG-PC—watch us grow!



Volunteers

Certificate of Appreciation
Quarterly Outstanding Volunteer

George Santos



(Mystical, continued from page 1)



At the end of the meeting, Seregini entertained the group with a question and answer period which extended the presentation to a whopping 90 minutes of fun and awe! Thanks to Jerry for spending this first day of his weekend with a giving spirit that included his time and donated items for our prize drawing.

Members can only speculate on what he'll come up with for his next "mysterious" presentation!

June, 2005

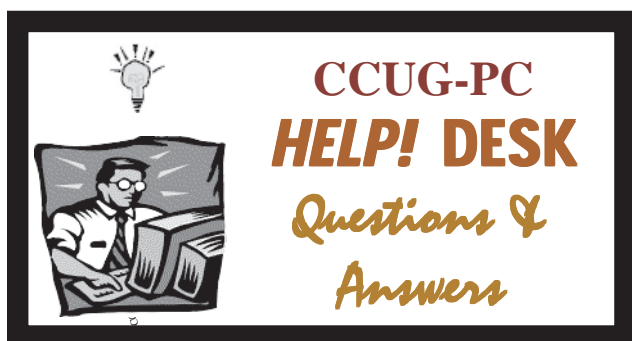
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p><i>May 29</i></p> <p>On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet</p>	<p><i>May 30</i></p> <p>TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri Attack of Show 6 PM Digital Cox Ch.344</p>	<p><i>May 31</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 1</i></p> 	<p><i>Jun 2</i></p> <p>Gather up your unnneeded donated items for our monthly auction!</p>	<p><i>Jun 3</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 4</i></p> <p>CCUG-PC Meets</p> <p>Hard Drive Utilities with Gene Barlow</p>
<p><i>Jun 5</i></p> <p>On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet</p>	<p><i>Jun 6</i></p> <p>TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri Attack of Show 6 PM Cox Ch.344</p>	<p><i>Jun 7</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 8</i></p> <p>Can you write an article about a product you've tried?</p>	<p><i>Jun 9</i></p> <p>We can use your help! Just submit it to us. We'll do the rest!!</p>	<p><i>Jun 10</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 11</i></p> <p>Living with Electronics: Jerry McCann WTIX 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p><i>Jun 12</i></p> <p>On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet</p>	<p><i>Jun 13</i></p> <p>TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri Attack of Show 6 PM Cox Ch.344</p>	<p><i>Jun 14</i></p> 	<p><i>Jun 15</i></p> <p>Newsbits Deadline</p>	<p><i>Jun 16</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 17</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 18</i></p> <p>Living with Electronics: Jerry McCann WTIX 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p><i>Jun 19</i></p> 	<p><i>Jun 20</i></p> <p>TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri Attack of Show 6 PM Cox Ch.344</p>	<p><i>Jun 21</i></p> <p>Summer</p>	<p><i>Jun 22</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 23</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 24</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 25</i></p> <p>Passover</p> <p>Living with Electronics: Jerry McCann WTIX 10:00 a.m.</p>
<p><i>Jun 26</i></p> <p>On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet</p>	<p><i>Jun 27</i></p> <p>TechTV Daily-Mon-Fri Attack of Show 6 PM Cox Ch.344</p>	<p><i>Jun 28</i></p> <p>BOD Meeting</p> 	<p><i>Jun 29</i></p>	<p><i>Jun 30</i></p>	<p><i>Jul 1</i></p>	<p><i>Jul 2</i></p> <p>No Meeting Meets July 9</p>
<p><i>Jul 3</i></p> <p>On Computers WODT AM 1280 12:05PM-3:00PM Web/CNet</p>	<p><i>Jul 4</i></p> 	<p><i>Jul 5</i></p> <p>Gather up your unnneeded donated items for our monthly auction!</p>	<p><i>Jul 6</i></p> 	<p><i>Jul 7</i></p>	<p><i>Jul 8</i></p> <p>⇒ NOTE:</p>	<p><i>Jul 9</i></p>  <p>CCUG-PC Meets: 10AM Digital Music with Ray Paternostro</p>

CCUG-PC General Meeting

8201 W. Judge Perez (Gov't Complex Bldg.), Chalmette, LA.

Board of Directors Meeting

Nunez Community College Library Conference Room 1-102



with Jerry Montalbano

Q With Windows 98 installed, I used to be able to just install XP over the top to replace missing or corrupted files. How is this done, now that I've using Windows XP?

A Here's what you do:

- * Boot from the Windows XP CD.
- * Do not choose Repair when it is offered. That will take you to the Repair Console and you don't want to be there.
- * Choose Upgrade—the installer will find your existing XP installation and offer to repair it.
- * Now you choose Repair. Let it do its thing.

Q No loss in settings, programs or data. You will lose any patches/updates, though. So be prepared to do the Windows updates, etc.

I'm going to purchase a 5.1 surround sound system. I have sound built in to my motherboard. Is that sufficient? Or should I buy a separate sound card?

A If you're not sure if your computer has a sound card, just jump over to a Web site that will give you a free report of the hardware and software installed in your computer. I use Belarc (http://www.belarc.com/free_download.html).

Like many things, computer sound has advanced rapidly in recent years. The answer depends on the age of your computer, and what you plan to do with it.

As your question implies, most computers today have a sound system built into the motherboard. That is especially true of cheaper computers. Or, you can buy a sound card. That's an extra expense, obviously. So, let's look at what you get with those two options.

Since last summer, motherboard audio has been based on Intel's Integrated High Definition Audio standard. Previously, Intel's AC 97 standard ruled.

The best way to understand this is to look at some numbers. When you talk about sound systems, you get into

(Help Desk, continues on page 8)



Defend Your System from Possible Attacks

by Kim Komando

National Cyber Security Day was April 6th. However, you should give some thought to defending your computer. Given the Middle East situation, terrorists, hackers, or Iraqis could launch a virus. But you're more likely to get hit by scam artists trying to take advantage of the Iraq situation.

The new threats are expected to be variations on old themes. Already, e-mails are circulating about Iraqis and their money. The e-mail relies on "social engineering"—the computer term for trickery. This is not new. It is the Nigerian 419 scam in its endless variations.

Perpetrators of this scheme lure their victims with the promise of easy money. In a recent example, the son of an Iraqi businessman supposedly seeks help. His father, the e-mail says, has been murdered by the government. He needs help getting \$120 million out of the country. The person who helps can expect to make \$20 million.



In these schemes, victims are asked to open a bank account and wait for the riches to flow. But first, victims get requests for money to pay this fee and that bribe. It goes on and on, until the victims wise up or are drained. The vast sums do not exist, of course.

In an odd twist, an e-mail supposedly from President George Bush is also circulating. It requests money for military and post-war operations in Iraq. It apparently is a parody.

People have lost hundreds of millions of dollars in e-mail scams. Don't fall for them.

Now is the time to also watch for dangerous downloads. Again, the people who send these things rely on social engineering. The message is intended to entice you to open an attachment. Often, messages promise pictures of women. But given the current situation, expect something to do with Iraq—a thesis, a picture, a game or a presentation.

The attachment may be a worm. These things propagate by sending themselves to everyone in the victim's address

(Komando, continues on page 9)



(Komando, continued from page 4)

book. Worms have been around for several years, but people still fall for them.

The e-mail will appear to be from someone you know. That's because it is being sent from that person's address book, or from the address book of a mutual acquaintance. Iraq or otherwise, the same

rules apply: Don't open the attachment. Check first with the person who supposedly sent it.

If something does get through, you must be prepared. A good defense will include an anti-virus program. There are a number of such programs, and they all work. The best known are Norton, <http://www.symantec.com>, and McAfee, <http://www.mcafee.com>. There are many others.

Every anti-virus maker permits you to download updates. This is essential, because new viruses and worms appear constantly. Weekly updates should do it. Many anti-virus programs have automatic downloads. They work well if you're often online.

You should also have a firewall. These programs hide your computer from hackers, who run scanning programs on the Internet to find computers with open communications ports. After finding a vulnerable computer, they attempt to trick the owners into downloading Trojan horses.

Trojan horses tout a supposedly useful program. They also include a dangerous, secret program. The hazardous program uses the open port to send information from the victim's computer to someone else. A firewall should keep the hacker from ever seeing your computer.

Even if the hacker succeeds in placing a Trojan horse on your computer, a good firewall will block transmissions to the Internet. Windows XP includes a firewall that hides the computer, but it doesn't block outbound transmissions. Instead, use ZoneAlarm, <http://www.zonelabs.com>, or Outpost, <http://www.agnitum.com>. Both are free for personal use.

To see how vulnerable your system is, visit Symantec's Security Check, <http://www.symantec.com/securitycheck>. This free test will expose any open holes. But the test cannot prevent you from falling prey to e-mail social engineering tactics. For those, you must use your common sense.

(More about Kim: I am a radio host, with daily and weekend shows. I also write a weekly column that runs in more than 100 newspapers nationwide. In addition, I write a Q&A column for USA Today, a column for Talkers magazine, which serves the talk radio industry, and a column for MSN's small business section, bCentral. <<Copyright C 2003, WestStar TalkRadio Network. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission).



(Helpdesk, continued from page 6)

sample rates and resolutions. Sample rates are measured in kilohertz (kHz); resolutions are measured in bits. Higher numbers are better. Check these standards:

- (1.) CD quality--44.1 kHz and 16 bit
- (2.) Intel AC 97--48 kHz and 20 bit
- (3.) DVD quality--96 kHz and 24 bit
- (4.) Intel Integrated--192 kHz and 32 bit

So, the next question: Are you listening to music? AC 97 may be fine. Some versions can do Dolby 5.1 (five speakers and a subwoofer) and some cannot. If yours doesn't, ask your computer manufacturer if a new driver is available. If not, you'll need a sound card. Intel Integrated should be fine.

If you're playing games, and you have AC 97, you might want a card. Intel Integrated is OK for most games. However, some games have EAX, a 3D sound standard from Creative Labs. Check the game's specifications. Intel Integrated supports older versions of EAX. But if your games have version 3 or 4 of EAX, you'll need a Creative Labs card to get the most out of them.

Here's another thought: Your integrated audio might limit you on connectivity. You might need USB or FireWire ports. Or, you might want plenty of options for microphone or CD audio inputs. The integrated audio typically doesn't offer many extra connections.

So, here's the bottom line: If you listen to music or play games casually, sound on the motherboard usually is OK. However, if you have an older computer, you may need a card to run Dolby 5.1. And if you are a serious gamer and watch movies, you almost certainly need a card. Great ones out there include the Creative Labs Live/Audigy 2 series cards. (<http://us.creative.com/>). However, here are some general tips on buying sound cards:

What Level Of Sound Card Do You Need?



Sound cards can basically be categorized into three areas:

- **Basic Cards** - Typically, this will be a 16-bit sound card, such as the SoundBlaster Live. This type of add-on card will be your first step above the onboard sound chips that came with your computer. It will usually support up to Dolby 5.1 Digital Sound.
- **Advanced Cards** - The SoundBlaster Audigy series of sound cards is a very good example of this level. You pay more, but you'll get a much richer, fuller sound experience from your computer. This level of sound card is of particular interest for gamers and those who listen to music on their computer daily.



•Advanced Cards w/ Professional Features -

Finally, if you will be using your computer to mix sound, create music, or input lots of voice data for whatever reason, then this level is for you. These cards will also take up a CD-ROM slot in the front of your computer and will allow you to plug in all manner of devices, such as guitars, keyboards and professional level microphones.

The quality of the sound card is mostly reflected in number of bits; 16 bit, 32 bit, 64 bit or 128 bit sound cards. More bits equals higher quality.

Speakers will range from the pair of cheap \$20 speakers that sound rather poor all the way up to Dolby 7.1 Surround Sound speakers with six speakers and a subwoofer. Most major computer stores will have an in-store display where you can listen to the quality of various speaker systems.

For both sound cards and speakers, it just depends on how much you want to spend for more quality sound. Its like paying more for a luxury car—you pay more, you get more, and how much more quality you want depends on your personal tastes.



(Hardware, from page 2)



The airflow of BTX designs is from the front of the computer straight through to the back of the computer rather than typical lower front intake with exhaust in the upper back. The CPU has been repositioned towards the front of the computer so it gets the cool air first. That means a redesign of the power supply to a new

BTX standard. Also a thermal module has replaced the standard CPU heat sink and fan. It takes a more global approach in covering the highest heat producing components sitting on get an entire new computer rather than upgrade. This puts into motion another round of the old computer becoming the backup computer and the old backup computer becoming a boat anchor, flowerpot, or for the more adventurous: Christmas or Chanukah display control system for the whole house and yard. However, because there are so many changes with these transitions that many people will get a new computer sooner than normal, resulting in some of the retiring old backup computers being new enough to where nonprofit organizations and schools may want them. As such the probability is that not just those selling computers and computer components benefit from the chaos caused by this round of the wonder of computer hardware transitions.

(Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is also part-time press in the areas of high technology, computers, video, audio, and entertainment/media and has had articles published throughout the United States and Canada plus Australia, England, & Japan. He is a member of TUGNET. Further info can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>).



Media Player 11 Changes

Microsoft intends to release WMP11 (Codename: Polaris) as an XP compatible version of the Windows

Longhorn media player.

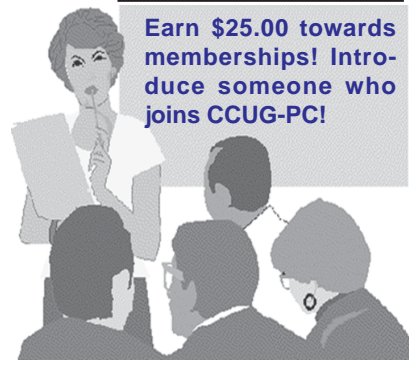
Microsoft's original plans for Windows Media Player (WMP) 11—formerly code-named Aurora—were fairly low-key, with just a few minor new features. That's all changed: Microsoft has canceled Aurora, and the company is moving the Longhorn media player to XP. Now code-named Polaris, WMP 11 will be a major release. There's just one problem: Instead of shipping in November, as per the original plan, WMP 11 will now ship in a public beta during that month, coinciding with Longhorn Beta 2. *The final release is roughly scheduled for early 2006.* ❖

Yahoo Inc. is introducing a test version of a new service called PhotoMail that lets users insert up to 300 digital photographs into the body of an e-mail and store an unlimited numbers of photos on the Web and media company's computers. users can also add borders and captions to photos embedded in the body of e-mails and can perform limited editing on them, such as rotating them or adjusting the size and quality of the image. ❖

Didya Notice??!! At the May Meeting?



- ☺ The presentation lasted 90 great minutes of the 120 total with no boredom?
- ☺ There were tons of old computers, printers and accessories that went for \$1 at the low-budget auction?
- ☺ About a third of the members enjoyed themselves thoroughly enough at the meeting that for 15 minutes afterwards—they were still in conversation. That was, until Jerry Montalbano quoted jokingly: "I've turned out the lights. You don't have to go home, but you can't stay here!" ;)





CCUG-PC'S
CHUCKLES—
LAUGH 'TIL YOU
CHUCKLE!!!



Frank soon came to regret installing the "Mr. Ventriloquist" screen saver

Fantastic Computer Tips



DISABLING THE 'UNSIGNED DRIVER' DIALOGS

This option will disable the screen wick keeps popping up when you try to install 'digitally unsigned drivers'.

Normally you can choose to continue the install anyways, but I have had situations where you cannot continue the Install.. very annoying.. This is how to fix it: Click Start - Run, then type: gpedit.msc—then hit enter.

Browse the folder tree to the following location:

User Configuration - Administrative Templates - System now right-click Code signing for Device drivers and select Properties.

On the Settings tab, either select - enable, and then select ignore from the appearing listbox. - or click the disable option. Click apply and Ok and your set!

Alternatively especially for XP Home users:

Open "System" properties (Windows key + pause or Right click 'My Computer' - properties or Control Panel - System). On the Hardware tab click the "Driver Signing" button. In the dialogue that comes up choose "Ignore" to install the new driver anyway.

SHAREWARE PICK OF THE MONTH:

(Try before you buy--smart software of all sorts...)

CDBurnerXP Pro

CDBurnerXP Pro is a quick, no-cost burner that is both both flexible and powerful. It can make CDs from a mix of .MP3, .WAV, .WMA. It can also rip music from your CDs. But CDBurnerXP Pro isn't just about music. You can burn data CDs or make discs for your DVD player. Videos can be cut into scenes so you can skip through them easily. Runs on Windows 98 and up.

<http://www.cdburnerxp.se/features.php>

DiscBlaze from *Radical Breeze*

DiscBlaze is fast and flexible. It can convert several formats to .CDA or .MP3 when burning discs. You can drag individual songs or entire folders into your burn list. It can do data CDs. It can also make disk images to burn CD copies. It can handle multi-session burning so you can add more to your burned CDs. Another nifty option is burning PC-readable data discs. Free - Runs on OS X 10.2.6 or higher

<http://www.radicalbreeze.com/blaze/index.html>

Many shareware are available at download.com, cnet.com and shareware.com.



Yahoo
Online
Help from
CCUG-PC!

Any of you who haven't joined the CCUG-PC Yahoo Online Group are doing yourself and your PC a disservice.

With all the things that are packed into a limited time frame for the monthly meetings we can't possibly answer all your questions fully or tell you: the latest news and virus alerts, software bugs and patches, scams, trojans, spywares, new technology, workarounds, new software, great sites for pc resources, hardware and software bargains, the many MS bulletins that come out each month and more.

There's no time limit on our CCUG-PC Yahoo Online Group We have over 400 members from all around the world who will take all the time needed to get your questions answered and your problems solved. You can post anything pc related and if it needs a reply check back at your convenience and see if anyone has one for you.

It also takes some of the stress off of Jerry and other techs as they can respond when time is available and not have to rush to something else to keep on schedule.

This is the best Free Support you'll find anywhere and you can do it from work or home! Try it, you'll like it.

*Buster Matthews,
Yahoo Group CCUG-PC Online Moderator*

Member Classifieds

Selling?



CLASSIFIEDS

Advertising Policy—Members are welcomed to place an advertisement for personal computer-related items in *Newsbits* at no cost. There could be limit-spacing on a first-come basis. Commercial ads from members and nonmembers are welcomed. For placement of member ads, call:



Jerry Montalbano, Editor at 279-2761

Rent Me Now & Support CCUG-PC!

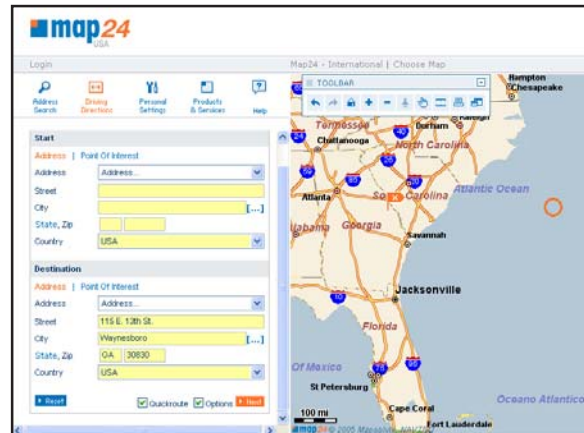
websites of the MONTH

June



www.us.map24.com/

Map24 takes online mapping to a more personal level. Things like your preferred speed and road type are considered in the routing. For example, you can pull a "Smokey and the Bandit" by choosing to avoid toll roads altogether. driver-friendly map makes the highways "pop." with a great feature, you have the option to smell the roses along the way. Just use the integrated "Find along the route" menu to locate nearby sites.



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1. Check your *Newsbits* mailing address label.
2. Inquire at the membership table.
3. Remember your dues date from the time you joined. One year free with new member signup.

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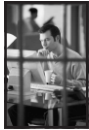
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