



Bits of Blue



November in Tampa

A Monthly Publication of the Tampa PC Users Group, Inc.

Vol. 14 No. 11

November 2001

Meeting

Mike Galvin
From Office Depot

Wednesday, November 14, 2001
6:30 PM
Jan Platt Regional Library
3910 S Manhattan Ave.
Tampa Florida

Meeting Preview: Mike Galvin from Office Depot will tell us about new computer products. As usual, Mary Sheridan will conduct a computing and Windows discussion for the first 30 minutes of the meeting.

President's Message

By Mary Sheridan, President, Tampa PC Users Group
mcpease@mindspring.com

We had another good meeting this past month. The presenter was from Executrain, and he was knowledgeable about his topic. He fielded many questions from our members and answered them all.

I'm just back from the Microsoft Windows XP event. They had 1000 people registered and less than 400 were in attendance. I know there were many registration duplications, but other than that, I don't know why there was such a difference in the numbers. Microsoft hired a professional event person for the event and a security guard. A Microsoft field agent was also on hand.

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An unopened copy of Microsoft Office XP Professional will be raffled off at the November meeting.

December 12: Christmas party and Election of Officers

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However, for business concerning this newsletter, Bits of Blue, please contact the Editor, William LaMartin, at 821 S. Boulevard, Tampa, FL 33606-2904; 813-251-3817; lamartin@tampabay.rr.com.

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Minutes of the October Meeting

*By James Weber, Secretary, Tampa PC Users Group
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Our meeting started at 6:30. Elections are coming up soon and a call for nominees was put to the group. Microsoft held their Windows XP Event at the AMC Veterans Theater on October 20, 2001. Our president, Mary Sheridan, was able to get about ten people present to volunteer.

We also had Mr. Revis Bland from New Horizons learning center (<http://www.newhorizons-tpa.com>) present a catalogue of classes available in the Tampa and Clearwater areas.

Our main presentation started at 7:05. Mr. Kyle Brodie of Executrain (<http://www.executrain.com>) demonstrated some of the new features of the Office XP suite. The biggest new feature of all XP programs is a "task window". This is a separate window containing a list of the most commonly used functions within the particular program. The menus and windows can also be customized easier than previous versions of Office.

Office XP now recognizes print from writing tablets and offers voice recognition and text to speech. Excel XP added color to the tabs at the bottom of the open tables, rows and columns are now highlighted, and the auto sum function has been enhanced. PowerPoint XP has added new templates and outlines of slides, and the actual slides are more visible to ease use and development of a presentation. Access XP databases are more readily transferred to other XP programs. Front Page XP added a drawing tool bar to enhance creating your own web content.

There were a large number of T-shirts given away, as well as three trial versions of Office XP. The meeting ended at 8:05. ◆

What's Up with the Digital Copyright Wars?

By Tim Condon, Tampa PC Users Group
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What's the latest in the digital copyright wars? These are battles that are remaking copyright in the age of the computer network.

They include battalions in Washington, DC, including lobbyists doing their jobs; venal politicians without understanding; venal, lying industry representatives who understand only too well; and industrious, idealistic fighters from think-tanks like the Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) and the Center for the Public Domain who try to foment understanding among others. Such as those making the laws.

First the bad news. When last we checked in on this particular battlefield, Napster.com had been vanquished. The music file-sharing service was attacked by a pile-on group of lawyers representing, among others, the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the rock band Metallica, rapper Dr. Dre, and some musical has-beens like Deborah Harry and Aimee Mann.

Napster lost. It settled with some of the pile-ons, including issuing corporate apologies to some of the musicians. But the RIAA's lawyers are still pushing. They want monetary damages for copyright infringement against Napster. This will not only destroy Napster as a business entity, one of the goals of the RIAA, but will also establish an important legal precedent to be used to attack the post-Napster file-sharing services.

Napster, down but not completely out, is fighting a scrappy rearguard action. The RIAA wants the federal district court in California where they're appearing to rule as a matter of law that Napster is liable for copyright infringement damages. Napster fires back that the court hasn't even been shown that the music industry companies backing the RIAA **own** the songs which Napster is said to have violated the copyright on.

The RIAA tells federal judge Marilyn Hall Patel that the court can take it as a "given" that the record companies owned the copyright on all those popular songs. Napster riposted that there's no way to tell the truth of that unless the Napster lawyers have a chance to look at the **contracts** the record companies have with the various musicians.

OOOOooooohh. The RIAA and the record companies don't want **that** to happen. Why? Simple. Because it would show that the entire modern music recording industry has been built upon wholesale exploitation and economic rape of young, idealistic musicians.

Why? Because it would open up questions about why people are forced to pay \$15 to \$18 for compact disks that cost 35

cents each to produce.

Why? Because it would open up questions about how each member of one band, a trio named "TLC," made less than \$50,000 each in a year after they sold 16 **million** albums and toured nationally to sold-out arenas. Where did all that money go? Check in with the Dixie Chicks. Their first album sold 10 **million** copies; their second album has sold 7 **million** copies and counting. Well, at about \$14 each (conservatively), that comes up to over \$200 **million**. Dixie Chick Natalie Maines responds "I don't even have a million dollars in the bank. Tell me where this money goes. I have no idea." And they're said to be some of the luckier musicians, with "a great manager [and] great attorneys," says another of the Chicks.

What's going on here? And what does it have to do with Napster and the Napsteronian services that are following?

On the one hand, it has to do with the viciousness and greed of the music recording industry. But on another level it is merely one "front" in a battle raging across cyberspace, across the legal landscape, and across an academic world concerned with economics, property ownership, and copyright. The problem is that the way the music recording business has evolved, the recording companies control distribution. If you control distribution of copyrightable work, you control a **bunch** of the economic infrastructure of an industry.

But wait! What about the publishing industry? In that business the **authors** almost always own the copyrights, and they almost always have ultimate say on who publishes what of theirs, and how. Well, then, how is it that in the **music** industry, the copyrights to the music and songs are almost always owned by the **recording companies**? Well, it's partially because musicians are usually younger, less savvy, poorer, less educated, and more easily talked, scammed or cheated out of what they've created. (Feel free to read up about the numbers of old rock musicians who live penniless because they don't control the music and songs that they created.)

What is going ON here!?! Simply put, the Internet is going on. All of a sudden, the record companies—not to mention the movie companies—can't monopolize the distribution channels as they've been able to do in the past. **Now** it turns out that music and songs and books and tomes and **movies**, for gawd's sake, can all be easily copied and reeeeeeeeee easily sent all over the world, to anyone who wants a copy. The distribution monopoly is being broken down by the onrushing Internet.

So the battles—the thrusts and parries—the hooks and jabs—the lawyers ripping and tearing at each other in venues all across the land—continue. And it's all happening so fast I can hardly report it to you. The exchange in federal court above between Napster and the RIAA happened a couple of weeks ago on October 10, 2001. And within the past year or so....

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Bad news: Congress passes the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA), which includes “anti-circumvention provisions” relating to digital encryption coding. That is, it is made illegal to publish or publicize “hacks” or “cracks” of encryption coding that is used (by the recording industry and movie industry) to thwart copying and sharing.

Good news: The motion picture association comes up with an unbreakable encryption system to “scramble” digitized movies, to protect against the illegal copying and sharing of movies.

Bad news: “2600,” sometimes referred to as a “rogue hackers magazine,” decides to publish DeCSS (De Contents Scramble System), the new decryption code for the unbreakable encryption system, above, and is immediately sued by the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA), an industry group representing eight of the biggest Hollywood movie studios. The MPAA asks the court to issue an order of “prior restraint” against 2600, thus running squarely into the First Amendment, which abhors prior restraint.

Good news: The Electronic Frontier Foundation (EFF) takes up the case of 2600, arguing that the DMCA is being utilized and interpreted in such a way as to stifle freedom of speech and expression and is thus impinging on the First Amendment.

Bad news: The court grants the MPAA’s request, ruling that 2600 is enjoined from either publishing the DeCSS code or providing online links to anywhere the DeCSS code can be obtained.

Good news: Napster comes on the scene and becomes one of the most astounding success stories in the Internet’s short history.

Bad news: Napster gets piled-on in court and has to fight a desperate rearguard action or become extinct.

Good news: Napster’s rearguard action may bust open to public scrutiny the contracts in the recording industry where musicians are often little more than indentured servants, making about 10% royalties on their music even in the best of cases.

Bad news: The Big Five record companies backing the RIAA have announced that they’re creating a duopoly for online music. Sony Music and Vivendi Universal’s Universal Music are setting up a pay-me service called “Pressplay,” while AOL Time-Warner’s Warner Music, EMI Group and Bertelsmann’s BMG are forming another pay-me service called “MusicNet.”

Good news: In mid-October 2001 the U.S. Justice Department announces it is investigating whether the record companies are cooperating in order to kill off any competition in the still-evolving online music industry (such as...Napster).

Bad news: The RIAA and the MPAA gang up and file lawsuits against MusicCity, Kazaa and Grokster, three post-Napster file-sharing services that were beginning to share not only music files but whole **movies too**. In addition, similar legal actions were able to shut down Scour, another sharing service, and pushed Aimster, another such service, close to bankruptcy.

Good news: Swarms of other music-sharing services start popping up from all over the world. Besides Grokster, MusicCity, and Kazaa, there appear AudioGalaxy...Gnutella...Freenet...Gnotella...FastTrack...iMesh. “One, two, many Napsters!” seems to be the chant.

Bad news: The recording industry fights back and tries another technological fix. The Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) produces uncrackable cryptologic coding to protect music files and other digital works from being copied and shared. The SDMI holds a “Hack SDMI” contest, daring hackers to try cracking what they call their new “watermark” system.

Good news: Six months later Professor Edward Felton, a Princeton University cryptology expert, and a few of his students announce they they’ve cracked all the watermark schemes. Prof. Felton prepares to present a formal academic paper at the Fourth International Information Hiding Workshop, explaining how the crypto watermarks were cracked.

Bad news: Professor Felton is threatened with a lawsuit by the RIAA if he presents or publishes his paper, based in part upon the DCMA anti-circumvention provisions. The threat is effective. Professor Felton withdraws his paper from the conference, noting that “litigation is costly, time-consuming, and uncertain, regardless of the merits of the other side’s case,” and saying he and his group didn’t want to “expose ourselves, our employers, and the conference organizers to litigation at this time.” The threat of lawsuits by the RIAA is thus used to stifle not only the free speech of 2600, but also academic freedom and research. Seems to work great!

Good news: Everyone realizes that Professor Felton’s work was already being distributed throughout the Internet anyway. And the EFF files suit on behalf of Professor Felton and his colleagues. Noting that the DMCA contains criminal provisions for use against individuals or companies that violate the non-circumvention provisions, and that parts of the DMCA interfere with academic research and scientific progress, the EFF asks the court to overturn as unconstitutional some provisions of the DMCA.

Bad news...

Heyyyy...wait a minute. We all get the picture, right? We’re in the middle of a business and technological revolution! Right now chaos reigns. It’s open legal warfare over technology that threatens the distribution monopolies of two very, very lucrative

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industries: music and movies.

Where will it all end? Probably before the U.S. Supreme Court. But that may not even put a stop to it (think about the “final” abortion decision in 1973, and the battles still raging over that). Possibly before Congress again. The whole notion of copyright is being transformed by modern technological advances, and the “old system” is breaking down.

From this ferment, presumably, will eventually arise some kind of steady-state where creators of music and movies can be fairly rewarded for their creativity, while the old distribution monopolies wither away.

And you know what? All of this is merely prelude. It’s a prelude to a far more important issue that will come to the fore within the next year or so. As I’ve noted before, eventually, somehow, some hardware company is going to get it through their thick heads that there is a **market** for light, inexpensive, clear, electronic reading appliances with reasonable battery lives. That’s all it’s going to take. One company.

When that implement is produced, and when the early overpricing inevitably declines with mass production, millions upon millions of those things are going to be sold. Ebooks. **That’s** where the final digital showdown is going to happen. Because whereas music and movies are fun and entertaining, **books** can and do deal in the most fundamental and important commodity of all: Pure information. Fasten your seatbelts. ◆

Internet picture of the month



Synapta sp. (medusa worm) skin (100x)

Nikon Small World 2000 Competition Winner, Second Place, 2000 Competition, Christian Gautier, PHO.N.E. Photo Agency, Paris, France.

<http://www.microscopyu.com/>

“The Nikon International Small World Competition is dedicated to furthering creativity and excellence in photomicrography. Combining microscopy and photography, a photomicrographer is able to capture an image of the world that the naked eye cannot see.”

Editor’s note: Looks like modern art, doesn’t it?

November’s Interesting World Wide Web Locations

Tampa PC Users Group (that’s us)

Digital Camera Buyers Guide

Nikon MicroscopyU

Guardian Unlimited – UK newspaper

FluWatch.com

lefigaro.fr – French newspaper

Le Monde interactif A la Une – French newspaper

Bandwidth Place - your internet services marketplace

Internet Traffic Report

Picture of the Day

<http://www.tpcug.org/>

<http://www.digital-camerastore.com/>

<http://www.microscopyu.com/>

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>

<http://www.fluwatch.com/>

<http://www.lefigaro.fr/>

<http://www.lemonde.fr/>

<http://bandwidthplace.com/>

<http://www.internettrafficreport.com/>

<http://pictureoftheday.kodak.com/>



Some of these links will join the many already on the Links page at our web site, where you need only click on the name.

Windows XP has arrived

By Larry Anders,
 Librarian, Tampa PC Users Group
Larry@AndersNet.com

If you're **NOT** like me, and have decided to wait for all the bugs to show up in the latest incarnation of Microsoft's newest operating system before taking the plunge, then I've got a site for you to take a look at while you wait. (By the way, I wouldn't expect too many bugs with WindowsXP. This software was beta-tested by over half-a-million users.) InfiniSource has created quite a site related to all the Windows operating systems and if you've got a problem or a question about anything from Windows 95 forward to XP this is a good place to start. (<http://www.windows-help.net/index.shtml>). The site this article is concerned with is <http://www.windows-help.net/WindowsXP>.

One of the features I was really interested in was the Windows XP Upgrade Advisor. The Upgrade Advisor is a tool that checks your system hardware and software to see if it is ready for upgrade to Windows XP. If you run Upgrade Advisor while you are connected to the Internet, and if your system needs updates that are available on the Windows Update Web site, Upgrade Advisor will find and install the updates for you. Can't get much easier than that. I used the Upgrade Advisor when I upgraded to Windows 2000 and it saved me some time and headaches.

If you're not aware of it, there are two different versions of WindowsXP. Another nice feature on this site is a thorough comparison of both the Home Edition and Windows XP Professional. Most home or small business users can probably get by with the Home Edition (and save \$100) but XP Pro has all the features of the Home Edition plus several other features like added security, remote access, access to files & folders on a network even when disconnected from the server, and backup and automated system recovery, to name just a few. There are several more. And if you're into web publishing Win-

dows XP Professional includes the IIS Web server 5.1 software. In my case, I felt the extra \$100 was well worth the investment.

If you want to use the upgrade version, like I did, you need to realize that some older versions of Windows are only upgradeable to XP Pro. Below is a table from the site that lists the upgrade options:

Previous Version	Win XP Home	Win XP Pro
Windows 3.1	NO	NO
Any Evaluation Version	NO	NO
Any Server Version	NO	NO
Windows 95	NO	NO
Win 98/Win 98 SE	YES	YES
Windows Me	YES	YES
Windows NT 3.51	NO	NO
Windows NT 4.0	NO	YES
Win 2000 Professional	NO	YES
Win XP Home Edition		YES
Win XP Professional	NO	

And yes, if you purchase the Home Edition now, you can upgrade to Professional later. If the price is the deciding factor, the ERP of Windows XP Home Edition is \$199.99 for the full version, and \$99.99 for the upgrade, while the ERP for the full version of Professional is 299.99, and the upgrade is \$199.99.

There are many, many more features on this site like free downloads, etc., but this writer's intention wasn't to tell you about all of them. I just wanted to entice you to visit the site and find out for yourself. And even if you're not considering XP, there is plenty of information to help you out with whatever Windows operation system you're using. Check it out. I think you'll get something out of it. ♦



Editor's Comments: Delphi, Lost Office CD and cmdninst.exe

By William LaMartin, Editor,
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Delphi Programs In the past I have made reference to the programming language Delphi from Borland. I find it a nice complement to Visual Basic, since, unlike VB, for fairly simple programs it allows you to create applications that don't require an installation package to install the program. Of course, you can also use Delphi to create just as complicated a program as you would in VB.

I have posted some of these programs to my lamartin.com web site at http://www.lamartin.com/vb/delphi_examples.htm. Here are their descriptions.

Automated Browser Log Run this program, and while you surf the web it will keep track of everywhere you go. When you're finished you can save the log file. Of course, Windows provides a history of where you go also, but you can't save it to a text file.

Share a Network Clipboard I work with two or three computers arrayed around my swivel chair, which is on rollers. While working on one computer, I frequently want to send some text to one of the other computers. My former way of doing this was to copy the text to Computer A's clipboard, open up Microsoft Notepad, paste the text into it and save this clipboard file to Computer B's hard drive over the network. That is inconvenient. This program speeds up the process. Simply run the program on Computer A and Computer B, then a mouse click on each computer gets the copied text transferred.

This program is not meant as a substitute for the Windows accessory, WinPopup. WinPopup will transfer only a small amount of unformatted text. This program will allow the transfer of large amounts

of formatted text.

Get Blocked Email Senders List Microsoft Outlook Express has a blocked email senders list to which you can add either an email address or an entire domain from which you wish to have the messages automatically put in the Deleted folder. You can, of course, view this list in Outlook Express, but as the list gets large (mine is now over 500) it is not convenient to view it as presented--especially since it is not alphabetical. This program captures that list, orders it alphabetically and allows you to copy it to the clipboard. One advantage of this is checking if there is someone on that list that shouldn't be there. The program depends on finding this list at a certain place in the registry, which may vary for different versions of Outlook Express. It does automatically find the listing for different identities using the same computer. I would be interested in any feedback on the program for those using Win NT/2000 or other versions than 5.0 or 5.5 of Outlook Express. I have tested it with win 98/ME and Outlook Express 5.0/5.5.

WHOIS Search This program performs a WHOIS search for Internet domain name registration. However, life is not as simple as it used to be. Now you need to first do a search using whois.crsnic.net to get the Registrar of the domain, then, if you want more details, do a second search using the WHOIS server of the Registrar of the domain. Of course, the same information may be obtained by doing the search using your WWW browser to do the search. This program just simplifies the process.

Get List of Files in Directory With this program when you select a drive and directory on your computer, the list of files in the selected directory is displayed. You can then print the entire list to your printer, copy the entire list to the clipboard, or copy selected items to the clipboard. This solves the problem of Windows not providing such a feature (although, if you can recall the method, a list can be gotten in DOS).

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Looking Back to 1991

Tampa IBM PC User's Group Minutes of 9/11/91 Meeting

INTEL is having trouble with their 486-50 chip and has stopped making them. The problem crops up when used with AUTOCAD. Dell and IBM are still shipping PCs with their version of the chip. INTEL is also being sued by AMD about the use of the name "386" for their chip.

Bits of Blue delivery date has been decided by majority vote. The Editor will make every effort to have the newsletters in the hands of the members about 7-10 days before the meeting date. The question was raised because some members are not attending, and it was thought that later delivery would serve as a reminder to attend the meeting.

Marylee Bruneau, Bits of Blue Editor, was roundly applauded by the members in recognition of her outstanding efforts in preparing the newsletter.

Training sessions on DOS Fundamentals (same as last time) will be given again. The three session course is scheduled to begin with the October meeting. Course time will be from 5:45 to 6:30 p.m. Watch the BBS and the newsletter for confirmation of this course. You do not need prior registration to attend. The first session will cover PKWARE (PKZIP and PKUNZIP) and a DOS tutorial program.

Secretary duties will be shared by Charles Howe, Jim Clark, and Ed Buzza.

DOS 5.0 problems and solutions have been documented by Fred Kyle in a WordPerfect formatted file available on the BBS. Since this is a five page document, it was not placed in the newsletter because it would raise the price of postage. Some copies are available at the meeting for those who are interested.

DOS 5.0 seems to be the predominant operating system for the majority of group members. AND they're pleased with it! Perhaps the most significant feature is the improved shell, provision for using a mouse, the DOSKEY utility, and the undelete and other file utilities licensed from Central

Point Software (PC TOOLS). It also allows task swapping but that is a **s-l-o-w** procedure.

PACE has a pretty good buy for a fax (4800 baud), modem (2400 baud) circuit board - just \$99.00.

DR DOS 6.0 will be available soon and will feature disk compression. This feature could double disk capacity.

Harvey (The President) expressed regrets that he couldn't bring us the latest news about PC technology. He has been quite busy and just couldn't find the time to cull these most interesting tidbits from the various trade publications.

SOFTWARE PUBLISHING CORPORATION PRESENTATION

Linda Confer demonstrated the DOS version (3.0) and the alpha copy of the Windows version of Harvard Graphics. This is not to be confused with the 2.3 ver for DOS which is still being marketed as a separate package. Since the 3.0 ver requires a 286 PC, or higher, it is not considered to be an upgrade to the 2.3 version.

Registered users of ver 2.3 can get ver 3.0 for \$125.00. If you have ver 3.0, you will be able to get the Windows version for \$50.00 when it is released sometime between [now and] this winter.

The new package includes a completely rewritten draw module (old Draw Partner accessory); it provides for macros and the ability to add eight additional programs to be launched from the main menu. The Chart Gallery brings up chart templates (pie, bar, 3-D, line, etc.) that make building a presentation fast and easy. You can create your own templates and add them to the Gallery.

The Intelligent Charting concept allows for adjusting the font size to make the text fit the chart. It uses Bitstream scaleable fonts for this purpose. It can also be used to prepare speaker notes.

Up to 210 boxes can be shown in organization charts. Also, it is very easy to select/create a subordinate from the master chart. Of course, such attributes as foreground and background colors and graphics are easily handled. Further, these attributes

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can be carried across chart lines.

The new draw module is quite impressive. Especially the Status Box which shows the element currently being used. There are over 500 symbols (coins, arrows, currency symbols, trees, etc.) that can be animated or used as fade symbols. There are 32 palettes, each with 64 colors, besides the customization that lets you select your own colors.

In the area of animation, one image can be evolved into another; arrows can fly to a target graphic; bar graphs can use a plant symbol that grows to represent the bar value - all this in addition to various wipes and dissolves.

One nice feature is the use of "hidden" buttons that can be mouse selected to jump to another chart rather than follow the scheduled order of presentation. The Presentation module includes 17 different backgrounds (clouds, trees, planets, etc.) or you can create your own.

Linda also demonstrated the alpha version of Harvard Graphics for Windows. That the program is pretty solid was proved by the fact that it ran without ever "locking up." The DLL (dynamic link library) feature was well shown with an EXCEL spreadsheet serving as the base for one of the presentation charts.

GeoGraphics is a mapping program. Showing such items as counties, zip codes is done with ease. The Pentagon used this package for some of its TV presentations of the Desert Storm operation.

Software Publishing Corporation has been long known for its very "user friendly" PFS series of programs for the home and small business user. Recently, the company decided to get more involved with the corporate environment and sold the PFS series to Spinnaker Software.

THANKS:

Special thanks to the Software Publishing Corporation for their generous donation to the group of copies of Professional File, Professional Write and Harvard Graphics. And a very special "Thank You" to Linda Confer for her excellent presentation.

THE WINNERS:

Harvard Graphics - Ron Mirth

Professional File - Ben Benedict
Professional Write - Ed Buzza
50-50 - Dee Gabbard ♦



(Editor.....Continued from page 7)

Lost CDs about six months back, I needed an Office 2000 CD to add a feature to the Office 2000 suite installed on one of my computers, and I couldn't find the CD. I tore the house apart for several days to no effect. I then contacted Microsoft via email to try and get a free replacement (I provided documentation). Finally a fellow said he could take care of that and asked for my mailing address. I provided the address, but nothing ever came in the mail. Follow-up emails to the fellow went unanswered. Microsoft has a number, 800-360-7561, to call for replacement software, so I called it, provided documentation that I owned the Office 2000 Professional suite, gave them my credit card number for an approximate \$28 charge and then received the CD in the mail a few days later. Pretty good service.

Except that it was Office 2000 Premium instead of Professional. Well, I didn't want to bother them by telling them that they had really sent me Office 2000 Pro plus FrontPage 2000. I already had FrontPage, so it wasn't like I was getting something I didn't already have. Unfortunately when I used the Premium CD and tried to add features to Office Professional, the add/remove program told me it wanted an Office 2000 Professional CD and would go no further.

Another call to Microsoft produced a replacement Office 2000 Professional CD sent via one day air. You can't beat that for service.

This illustrates one result of Microsoft's new attempt to cut down on piracy. It is obvious why you would

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Special Interest Groups

Microsoft Access SIG

This SIG meets the first Tuesday of the month at the Gateway 2000 Store on North Dale Mabry (just south of Columbus Drive) at 6:30 PM. For information contact either William LaMartin at lamartin@tampabay.rr.com, or Merle Nicholson at merlenic@tampabay.rr.com.

Genealogy SIG

To be included on the TPCUG genealogy mailing list, contact Jenny Lind Olin at 960-5723, or jlolin@tampabay.rr.com.

Visual Basic for Applications SIG

This SIG meets the third Tuesday of the month, at the Gateway 2000 Store on North Dale Mabry (just south of Columbus Drive) at 6:30 PM. For information, contact Merle Nicholson at merlenic@tampabay.rr.com.

Windows SIG

This SIG occupies the first 30 minutes of our monthly, regular meeting and is devoted to a general Windows and computing discussion. Mary Sheridan moderates the discussion.

Merle Nicholson

Custom computers for home and business
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The event went off without a hitch, and I was glad that our user group had the chance to be part of it. I'd like to thank Le Bennington, Marcia Bennington, Lisa Fagan, Tim Hamilton, Mike Hodges, Bob LaFave, Jenny Lind Olin, Jim Weber and Kevan Sheridan for all their hard work. Microsoft is supposed to give copies of Windows XP to everyone who volunteered. I'll get your copies to you as soon as I can. I didn't see any of our members in attendance, but I was pretty busy and may have just missed you. If I did, thank you for attending the event.

The FACUG fall conference was an incredible success. There were 92 attendees and a record number of sponsors. The lucky people whose numbers were called first received copies of Office XP, Paint Shop Pro and lots of other really nice software titles. Macintosh had a strong presence at the conference. They brought software for the Apple platform and the Ap-

ple users were thrilled to win it.

I will be in Las Vegas from November the 10th through the 17th for the APCUG Fall Conference. I'm excited about going. I went two years ago, and it was lots of fun. Because of the few articles I write for the newsletter, I'll be able to get a press pass for Comdex. A press pass enables better access to some of the speakers and events. I know that security will be an issue this year, so I'm not sure what to expect.

Don't forget to nominate your favorite person at the November meeting. Happy Computing! ♦

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need a CD to add features, although it is not all that obvious—except to cut down on piracy—why you need the Professional version instead of the Premium since the Word, Excel and Access programs are the same for both versions. What will shock you, though, is that if you want to uninstall Microsoft Office 2000, you may also need the original CDs to be able to uninstall. It is all tied up with the new installation method of using Windows Installer to handle both the installation and the de-installation. I haven't experienced this myself so I don't know if it is al-

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Friends of the User Group

We acknowledge the following firms for their support

Gateway 2000
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And these software and hardware vendors for their demonstrations and review software and contributions of evaluation software to our group

Adobe Systems	Microsoft
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Corel Systems	PowerQuest
Imprise/Borland	RDI, Inc.
Intuit	Symantec

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Go to our web site <http://www.tpcug.org> and click on the Join link to fill in an online membership application

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MEMBERS' HELP LINE

Program	Code	Name	Time	Phone	Codes
Adobe Acrobat	AA	Cheryl Alexander	Mon - Fri 10:00am - 9:00pm	914-0008	HTM,PSP,WP
AOL	AOL	Larry Anders	Mon - Sun 6:00pm - 10:00pm	989-9119	AOL, ME, MW, FP, PSP
Computer general	CG	Bob LaFave	8:00pm-10:00pm	960-0208	W95/W98, MOS
Delphi	DE	William LaMartin	Mon - Fri 9:00am - 9:00pm	251-3817	AA, FTM, IG, MOS, MP, VB, W95
DOS	DOS	Merle Nicholson	Mon - Fri 7:30pm - 9:30pm; weekends	879-3602	CG, DE, DOS, HG, HM, HP, VB
Family Tree Maker	FTM	Jenny Lind Olin	Mon - Sun 8:00am - 10:00pm	960-5723	ME, MW, PAF, Q, WP
Hardware general	HG	Don Patzsch		689-8662	CG
Hardware Modem	HM	Mary Sheridan	9:30am - 9:00pm	988-6480	AOL, CG, DOS, HG, IG, MW, Q, W95, W98
Hardware Printer	HP				
HTML coding	HTM				
Internet general	IG				
Micrografx Graphics Suite	MGS				
Microsoft Access	MA				
Microsoft Excel	ME				
Microsoft FrontPage	FP				
Microsoft Office Suite	MOS				
Microsoft Publisher	MP				
Microsoft Visual Basic	VB				
Microsoft Word	MW				
Networking	N				
PAF	PAF				
PaintShop PRO	PSP				
Quicken	Q				
Windows 3.1	W3				
Windows 95/98	W95/98				
Windows NT	WNT				
WordPerfect	WP				

We encourage other members to add their names to the list of those willing to assist fellow members with their computer problems. Contact William LaMartin to add your name to the list.

Tampa PC Users Group, Inc.

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ways the case, but there are certainly more than a few people in the Office Usenet newsgroups who claim to have run into the problem. So don't lose those CDs.

Cmdninst On Start-up, my Windows Me computer sometimes hangs, and CTRL-ALT-DEL shows the file cmdninst is causing the problem. The only solution is to reboot, then everything is OK. According to Microsoft, "Cmdninst.exe is the Configuration Manager Device Installer launcher. Along with the Windows Configuration Manager (Configmg), Cmdninst.exe is a component that drives the process of detecting and installing devices and their nodes in the hardware tree along with the allocation of resources." They say that problems are caused by outdated device drivers on the system. Not knowing what driver might be outdated, I simply chose to restore the file cmdninst.exe to see if that would help—so far it has.

