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WINdows usERS

Vote pad

February 2002

Comdex 2001

Part 1

by Terry Currier

Comdex this year was disappointing. It was much smaller than in the past. It was disappointing in the sense that it could have been more. A lot of companies dropped out after September 11, thirteen companies withdrew on Sunday before it was to start. If it were not for the large areas taken up by Korea, Taiwan, and other international companies only 2/3 of the convention center would have been full. I usually take a dozen or more boxes of press material—this time six. Anyway here is information on some of companies showing there, more to come in the following months.

I have to mention the SSP booth, so popular at the show partly because you got to relax in a comfortable chair; but it was cool. They had a dozen chairs in a circle around seven video projectors which moved back and forth, and up and down. This

Continued on page 3

Bits & Bytes & Xp

by Siles Bazerman



I hope all of you had a happy and good holiday season and are now ready and able to settle down for the new year of computing. I had a great holidays, and made it through another year successfully. I anticipate another good year with many less problems in Windows Xp as the software developers are rolling out patches, upgrades and fixes for their software to work under Windows Xp, both Home and Professional editions.

Corel has released SP2 for PerfectOffice 2002 which allows it to run natively in Windows Xp, instead of in compatibility mode. Also, some enterprising individual worked out a very simple, elegant fix for Dragon Naturally Speaking 5 to work in Windows Xp by replacing a file that it thinks it installed but really didn't. Umax scanners can be updated for VistaScan through the German site. Don't worry, the text is in English. For some reason, that site seems to have all the updates that the others fail to get or post.

Roxio (Adaptec) has released several updates for Easy CD Creator, both versions 4.5 and 5, that now let both the CD creation features and Direct CD work properly under Windows Xp. Microsoft has also released an update for CD burning which should be applied first. Version 4.x can be updated with a free patch, and version 5.0 is

now up to version 5.02c. In both cases the patches and upgrading must be done exactly as outlined at the Roxio web site otherwise failure is insured. Also note that Take Two, the backup utility for CD, will not run on Windows Xp. It will be disabled by these patches if it is already installed, and on a new install will not be permitted. Also the built in CD burning utility will be disabled, but as far as I am concerned, will not be missed. It was far too basic.

There are several other software packages both for writing CDs and Packet Writing. Notable is Nero Burning ROM 5.5.5 with its included InCD. Also DLA is a good packet writer. Please note, you can only run one of the packages. Use of or, in some cases, even installing more will not allow any of them to work properly. This was probably also the case in earlier OS usage. I don't know as I never tried more than Easy CD. It did everything I needed including making music CDs from 8-track tapes.

I am still investigating backup utilities. So far, the one I like best is Stomp Inc's Backup MyPC. A trial version is available at

<http://www.stompinc.com>

and is good for 30 days. This will write to a file, tape drive and CD. It will span multiple CDs, unlike the Microsoft version, written also by Veritas. At the moment the Windows Xp version has no disaster recovery utility, although the versions for other Windows and Linux operating systems does. It also will

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Telephone Help Line

PROGRAM/SOFTWARE	NAME	PHONE	TIME
CompuServe	Cathy Grammer-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
CorelDraw 5	George Margolin	949-645-5950	Most times
CorelDraw & Ventura & PhotoPaint	Sunny Lockie	949-644-0103	6-10 p.m. weekdays 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends
Hardware	Jonathan Means	714-542-2204	6-9 p.m.
Internet	Cathy Grammer-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
Novell, NT & Networking	Jonathan Means	714-542-2204	6-9 p.m.
Quicken & Quickbooks	Max Lockie	949-720-8170	6-10 p.m. & weekends
Windows 95,98,Me,Xp	Siles Bazerman	714-897-2868	9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Word for Windows	Cathy Grammar-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
WordPerfect Windows	Sunny Lockie	949-644-0103	6-10 p.m. weekdays 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends

General Meeting February 9 at Orange Coast College 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in Science Room #151 Stomplnc

*Pig Sig at Acapulco
on Adams in Costa Mesa*

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PURPOSE

WINNERS, a computer association, is a volunteer organization providing a forum for sharing information and experiences related to Windows-based software, encouraging ethical use of computers and software, and offering service to our communities.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership is \$20.00 for individuals; \$5.00 each additional family member.

MEETINGS

WINNERS generally meets the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Orange Coast College in the Science Building, Room #169, 2701 Fairview, Costa Mesa.

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FUTURE MEETING DATES

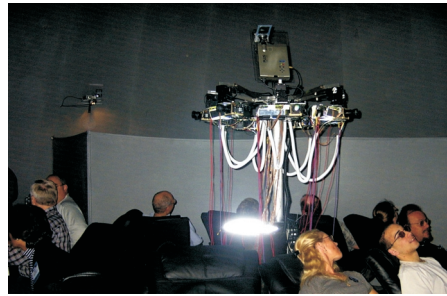
- ★ February 9
- ★ March 9
- ★ April 13
- ★ May 11

work with NTFS 5.5 which many other programs will not do.

I am holding off on a purchase of this for one major reason, the promise of the future availability of the disaster recovery program. Here is a short history program about this software.

Back in the days of DOS and Windows 3.0 a company called Arcada produced an excellent tape and file backup program. It included a utility to run the restore from a DOS boot disk and worked in case of a complete disaster to restore the system to its state at the time of backup. It was even distributed free with Seagate and Conner tape drives. At the "Midnight Madness" event for the release of Windows 95, I was personally assured by several Arcada software developers that, although the new version for Windows 95 did not include the disaster recovery feature, it would soon be released as a free upgrade. About a year later at the APCUG conference in San Diego this was repeated to me. Arcada was sold soon after to Seagate, and in late 1997 the disaster recovery problem was solved by an update. Seagate, though, wanted to charge for this fix. After a protest and reviewing the many e-mails on the subject, Seagate relented and provided me and many others with access to a "secret" site for a free update. Seagate also renamed it to Backup Exec, then sold it to Veritas.

Veritas added the ability to span CDs and renamed the various versions to reflect the OS version it would run on. They also finally produced a disaster recovery utility for NTFS 5.0. Again, they wanted to charge for this utility. Veritas has recently licenced Stomp to be the sole distributor of Backup MyPC (Backup Exec Desktop renamed) and has promised the disaster recovery utility "shortly." Since most of the developers are the same team that worked for Arcada, I have taken the attitude of wait to see. I will not consider purchasing this package until the recovery feature is included. Too many promises and too late delivery.



really made the presentation more fun.

Games

Belkin Nostromo SpeedPad n50 (\$36), for the gamers out there this is a cool new tool. It can best be described as a combination keyboard and game pad. The 10 keys on the n50 act as keys on a keyboard with the advantage of being easily accessible and intuitively configured. The n50 also has an eight-way directional pad, much like the d-pad on a standard game pad. Call (800) 2BELKIN or

<http://www.belkin.com>

CyberExtruder.com is a company that has developed software (CyberX-3D™) and web-based technology, which will convert a single 2-dimensional (2D) image into a fully developed 3-dimensional (3D) model—in just a few seconds. You can put your face on the character or a game such as Quake3. They put Bin Laden's picture as an addition for Quake and other games and it became a popular download for people who wanted to "kill" him. They are also working on using your own face in chat, instant messages, or online shopping.

<http://www.cyberextruder.com>

KVM

Keyboard Video Mouse devices used to control two or more computers using only one keyboard, video display, and mouse.

APC has switches with automatic scanning feature, cascading capabilities, hot pluggable operation,

keep alive feature, Microsoft Intellimouse support, a mouse reset feature, on screen display capability, Password Security, push button or keyboard switching, status indicator



LED's, and video modes up to 1600 x 1200 at 72Hz. Call (800) 877-4080 or <http://www.apcc.com>

Avocent will extend a keyboard, mouse, monitor, speakers, microphone, and serial port up to 500 feet away with one Category 5 UTP cable. Their Outlook series is for Enterprise users. The 8 port 180ES is a single user system with a built-in Windows like interface. It will control up to 128 computers from a single console. Call (866) AVO-CENT or

<http://www.avocnet.com>

Belkin was featuring new innovations in Keyboard/Video/Mouse Switches for the SOHO environment. The OmniView E Series 4-port KVM Switch PS/2 platform is \$100. The E Series also supports high-quality resolution of up to 2048x1536@85Hz when used with coaxial VGA cabling. It requires no additional power supply and standard features include hot key functionality, keyboard and PS/2 emulations, and a Two-Year Warranty. They also have a 16-port for \$900 allowing selecting up to 256 attached servers. Call (800) 2BELKIN or

<http://www.belkin.com>

DigitalV6 showed the Kaveman which has 8 KVM port hookups. Use it for remote server management over IP. Security includes 128-bit SSL encryption, stealth and turtle mode. Monitors attached computers for failed power loss, and video

problems. It can reset controlled computer either by turning off its AC power, or performing a hardware reset. Call (905) 513-3107 or

<http://www.digitalv6.com>

IOGEAR introduced the MiniView III a USB KVM Peripheral sharing switch with USB sniffing technology. It allows one USB console to control up to four computers and two USB devices with one switch. It also reduces the delay typically experienced when



switching computers and allows multiple computers to be booted simultaneously. It includes 2048x1536 video quality. The two and four port adapters are priced at \$200 and \$300 respectively, available in the first quarter of 2002. IOGEAR's GCS124U is daisy chainable, allowing you to control up to 64 computers from one USB keyboard, monitor, and mouse. The on screen display allows you to name each computer and set security access for each. Call (949) 428-1111

<http://www.iogear.com>

Linksys manufactures the ProConnect KVM Switch connecting multiple PCs to a single keyboard, video monitor, and mouse. Switching is done with the touch of a key. Call 800) 546-5797

<http://www.linksys.com>

Raritan makes a number of different KVM adapters. The Paragon will control up to 2,048 computers from 16 user consoles. The MasterConsole II will control up to 256 computers from one console. With Cat5 Reach you can extend the distance between your

KVM up to 1,000 feet using Category 5 UTP cable. Call (800) 724-8090 or

<http://www.raritan.com>

Tripp Lite KVM Adapters allow users to control a mixed installation of Macintosh, USB, SUN or AT computers with Tripp Lite 2-, 4- or 8-port PS/2 KVM Switches. The adapters seamlessly convert the signals to PS/2 keyboard/mouse and video commands. It allows users to locate a keyboard/monitor/mouse console in a convenient location for easy access while connecting to computers up to 500 feet away. Inexpensive Category 5e cabling provides communication between the two locations. Call (773) 869-1234 or

<http://www.tripplite.com>

Networking

Belkin was displaying for home, or SOHO use Wireless LAN (802.11b) products. The complete line offers 11Mbps data transfer rates, data and network security providing 64/128-bit WEP data encryption. It comes with software that guides users through the configuration process of their Windows-based PCs for networking. The Access Point (F5D6130 – ESP \$180) allows users to connect their wireless-equipped computers to their wired network.

Their PCMCIA 11Mbps Card (F5D6020 – ESP \$100), and 11Mbps Wireless Desktop PCI Network Adapter Card (F5D6000 – ESP \$40), both add Wireless Ethernet capabilities to a user's choice of PCs

Need a Cable/DSL Router? Try the F5D6230-3 – ESP \$300. It allows PC and Mac users to share a Broadband Internet connection. Its integrated 3-port 10/100 Base-T Ethernet switch allows the user to connect wired computers to their wireless network. With its added NAT firewall, the Router protects the user's network from outside

intrusions by hackers. Advanced features include IP-Sec pass-thru, which allows the user to work from home using Virtual Private Networking (VPN), and DMZ hosting, which, among other things, lets users play accelerated games over the Internet by placing the gaming computer outside of the firewall. Call (800) 2BELKIN or <http://www.belkin.com>

Linksys truly has all the bases covered. With 10/100 Ethernet LAN setups including a new 16 port switch featuring auto-partitioning and data collision control. Move up and you get the new 2000Mbps Gigabit Series and 24 ports. Want wireless? Their 80211.b EtherFast Wireless AP+Cable/DSL Router with printer server gives you 11Mbps, and operates up to 1500 feet. Connections with PCI cards, PCMCIA cards or USB. Coming soon they will have USB 2.0 hubs, cards, and adapters. They also have wireless routers, and broadband modems for the networks. How about phone line networking? Yes, they have that too. With setup using Ethernet Bridge or USB network adapter. The new HomeLink PhoneLine Cable/DSL router even has a built-in firewall. Call (800) 546-5797 or

<http://www.linksys.com>

NETGEAR was exhibiting the MR314 Cable/DSL Wireless Router, based on 802.11b technology. It allows wireless and wired LAN users to share a broadband Internet connection while providing Web-content filtering options. For small office networks the FR318 Cable/DSL Firewall Router includes Stateful Packet Inspection (SPI) for Denial of Service (DoS) attack protection and one VPN tunnel capability. The FV318 Cable/DSL VPN Firewall Router initiates five Internet Protocol Security-based (IPSec-based) VPN tunnels for end-to-end security between authentic remote sites or mobile

users, and includes SPI, static and dynamic content filtering capabilities. The FR318 and FV318 support 168-bit Triple Digital Encryption Standard (3DES) technology.

NETGEAR is promoting its end-to-end gigabit solutions for the small business network. It supports 1000 Mbps over Category 5 cables and up to 2000 Mbps of full-duplex bandwidth over copper wiring. It comes in 16 and 24-port. If you want another way try their Powerline home network. It enables multiple PCs and entertainment devices to share the broadband Internet even while other appliances, such as a hair dryer, use power. It uses the HomePlug 1.0 specification compliant, and operates at speeds up to 14 Mbps from anywhere in the home. Call (888) NETGEAR

<http://www.netgear.com>

Proxim lets you experience 100 Mbps wireless networking in your conference room, classroom, or office



with the Harmony 802.11a FastWireless Kit. With the Harmony CardBus Card you get 54 Mbps data rate in 802.11a mode, but up to 108 Mbps data rate in Proxim's 2X mode. Each Harmony contains:

- Two (2) Harmony 802.11a CardBus Cards
- Driver disk for Windows 2000
- Quick Start Guide

The 802.11a protocol improves the speed, capacity, and reliability by offering more channels than 802.11b, operating in the license-free 5 GHz band. With their Homeline™ Product Family you can turn your phone lines into a network. Anywhere you have a standard telephone jack you can create a network. Call (800)229-1630

<http://www.proxim.com>

SMC makes the EZ Connect 802.11a Wireless Access Point (SMC2755W) based on the new IEEE 802.11a wireless standard. Using an enhanced "turbo mode" feature, this new Wireless Access Point can transfer data at speeds up to 72Mbps, and can also support a maximum operating range up to 1,650 feet. By using a built-in Web-based interface, you can easily configure and manage the Access Point into your existing wired home network. It supports up to 64 simultaneous wireless network connections. To provide network security it supports encryption using both 64-bit and 128-bit WEP, and provides an extra security feature with 152-bit WEP. It's designed to operate in the 5GHz frequency spectrum, and features simple Plug-and-Play support. Call (800) SMC-4YOU or

<http://www.smc.com>

Phones

ArialPhone is designed to make phone calling more efficient. Its voice-dialing software allows users to place analog phone calls through a computer contact database, simply by saying a person's name or phone number. Works with Microsoft Outlook or Outlook Express. They announced a new light-weight (1.25 ounces) wireless microphone

It allows the user to be mobile up to 150 feet from the ArialPhone unit. Ready now for \$400, works with Windows 98, ME and Windows 2000. (847) 573-9925 or

<http://www.arialphone.com>

Nokia certainly had a phone that caught my interest, albeit not my pocketbook. It was the Nokia 9290, a cell phone and PDA combination.



The body of the phone lifts up so you have a fair size LCD (up to 4,096 colors) display, allow with a QWERTY keyboard. It weights 8.6 ounces, up to 5-way conference calling, a voice recorder, and speakerphone. Wireless Internet (via WAP1.1), send and receive faxes, or email. Office applications compatible with Word and Excel, and has a PowerPoint compatible slide viewer. It cost \$800. Call (888) NOKIA-2U or

<http://www.nokia.com>

Security

SecuGen makes biometric peripherals including keyboards secured by a smart card, or fingerprint recognition. They also make mice with fingerprint recognition including an optical mouse. Fingerprint activated 128 bit encryption is provide with SecuDesktop2000 to secure data files. The images are not stored on the system, but rather used and encode as templates from which they can not be recreated. Call (408) 942-3400 or

<http://www.secugen.com>

Siemens was showing a biometric ID mouse, and software development kits for them. Call 011-049-89-722-49255 (Germany) or

<http://www.siemens.com/biometrics>

SSP Solutions has announced their SSP™ Biometric 250, it's a smart card reader integrated with fingerprint biometrics. Used for secure data transmission, protected communications and transactions, and proof of identity in networked and physical environments. It offers optional three-factor authentication, something you have (the smart card), something you know (the PIN) and something you are (your fingerprint)—resulting in a high level of security. The biometric template of a person's fingerprint is actually held on the smart card along with the digital certificate. It requires USB port connectors, supports Windows 95(2nd edition)-98, ME and 2000

platforms. It is expected to be available for mass deployment in March 2002. Call (949) 851-1085 or <http://www.spsolutions.com>

Visionics asks: Did you know there are about 80 nodal points on the face? Only 14-22 nodal points (landmark) are needed for their program *FaceIt* to identify you. These landmarks are closely related to the anatomical bone structure on the face. Identity is by the presence of them as well as the spatial relationship between them.

UPS/Surge Protectors

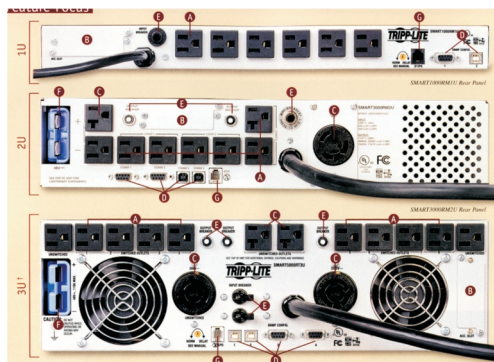
Note that each of the following make both UPS and Surge Protectors.

APC makes a UPS with 650VA/410W with Interface Port DB-9 RS-232 port. Its general features include surge protected outlets, audible alarms, automatic voltage regulation (AVR), Ethernet protection, hot swap batteries, battery management, Internet FAX - modem - DSL protection, along with a site wiring fault indicator. Software for desktops that provides UPS manageability and safe system shutdown in Windows 95/98/ME environments. Surge energy rating is 480 joules, filtering multi-pole noise, zero clamping response time with it meeting UL 1449 specs. Call (800) 877-4080 or <http://www.apcc.com>

Belkin produces UPS and Surge Protectors. For example the Regulator Pro Gold Series, the 525VA UPS Regulator Pro with Automatic Voltage Regulation suggested cost is \$105. It protects against power brownouts and blackouts, and has a \$80,000 equipment and Data Recovery Warranty. Which means if your computer and/or hard drive is damage while connected they will provide data recovery services at no cost to you. This unit has 8 surge-protected outlets, four of which also include battery backup.

Free shutdown software, Internet line and 10Base-T Network protection with built in splitter and 6-foot RJ11 cable included. It has 32 minutes of backup time. Their surge protectors go all the way up to 3540 Joules/180,000 amps maximum spike. Ask for their catalog with informative frequently asked questions. Call (800) 2BELKIN or <http://www.belkin.com>

Tripp Lite has a unique feature on their UPS units. Select models have special receptacles that allow you to control independently through PowerAlert software. It lets you reboot a locked up computer, or shut down less important systems, preserving battery runtime for more



critical equipment. Their BC PRO 600 UPS System provides allows you to work online through short blackouts or safely shut down during longer ones. Features 6 outlets (3 UPS & surge + 3 surge-only outlets), diagnostic LEDs and a built-in serial port that works with optional PowerAlert Software to provide automatic unattended shutdown. Built-in RJ11 jacks prevent surges from damaging your modem/fax equipment. Up to 43 minutes typical backup time, with \$25,000 Ultimate Lifetime Insurance. Call (773) 869-1234 or <http://www.tripplite.com>

USB & Firewire

FireWire, also known as IEEE 1394, is an industry standard for high-speed peripheral communication. With it you can daisychain up to 63 FireWire

devices, and transfer at 400Mbps. With Universal Serial Bus (USB) 1.x you can transfer up to 180Mbps, but with the new 2.0 you can transfer up to 480Mbps. With USB you can daisychain up to 127 devices.

APC has KVM devices with Automatic scanning feature, hot pluggable Operation, push button or keyboard switching, mouse reset, on screen display Capability, status indicator LED's, universal input voltage range, and video modes up to 1600 x 1200 at 72Hz. They have 4 and 8 port available. Call (800) 877-4080 or <http://www.apc.com>

Bafo brought out USB 2.0 PCI cards for about \$45. It has 5 ports (4 external and 1 internal). Call (732) 572-3338 or <http://www.bafo.com>

Belkin announced its new USB 2.0 high-speed 4-port hub (F5U221 - ESP \$70). It complements the Belkin USB 2.0 PCI card and all Belkin USB 2.0 compliant cables. It is backward compatible with USB 1.1 devices. Check out their 7-port USB hub expandable to 14, 21, or more ports by stacking, without taking up additional desktop space. Belkin has FireWire PCI Cards, ComboCards and CarBus Adapters to add instant FireWire capabilities to your PC. The cards have 3 ports. Want more? They also have FireWire Hubs with 4 and 6-Port Hubs. They transfer video as a perfect digital file copy, free from the risk of conversion loss. Included is video-editing software: MGI's VideoWave™ III SE and PhotoSuite III SE. They also have a FireWire/USB ComboCard for PC \$110 which gives you 3 FireWire ports (also internal and 2 external) and 2 USB ports. Call (800) 2BELKIN or <http://www.belkin.com>

GoldX with their stackable PowerCore system (each sold

separately) comes with a Surge Protector, Firewire (3 ports), USB Broadband Adapter, and USB hub (43 ports). The surge protector provides the power for the series of products. Call (866) 24GOLDX or <http://www.goldxproducts.com>

IOGEAR introduces the first Dual Port USB 2.0 PCMCIA CardBus card (\$100) along with USB 2.0 PCI cards and MiniHubs, each with 4 ports. They also have one PCI card with five ports on it for \$59. In addition, they have a USB 2.0/Firewire Combo Card with 2 Firewire and 2 USB ports each. Want to transfer data between two computers? Then look at their SmartLink for hooking up between both computers' USB ports. It will transfer at 6Mbps. Call (949) 428-1111 or <http://www.iogear.com>

Tripp Lite shows a cool-looking USB hub the size of a credit card with the connect sticking out the end. It had four ports and you can buy an adaptor for assured power. Call (773) 869-1234 or <http://www.trippelite.com>

USBgear has a motto of, "If it's USB and we don't have it, it doesn't exist." Their catalog shows everything from USB hubs to hard drives. They even have USB converters for PS2, printer cable, serial, IRDA, and SCSI. They also carry some Firewire products such as hard drives and CD ROM devices. Call (888) 850-9543 or <http://www.usbgear.com>



WinTasks 2000

By Terry Currier

If you've used Windows (95/98/NT/2000/ME) you probably familiar with the three finger salute. When Windows locks up you press CTRL ALT DEL to bring up the task manager. You then select the program that is not responding and tell Windows to end the task. The other time you may use CTRL ALT DEL is when you notice the computer is acting very slow. You check the Windows resources through various methods and find they are low. WinTasks 2000 is an enhancement on the Windows task manager.

The Windows task manager merely shows you what programs you have running. From that you can choose to end the task or shut down Windows itself. WinTasks 2000, on the other hand, shows you what you have running and where they started from. Where they are started from is the most important. So you know what the program is for. Better than guessing which program to unload to speed up the computer.

Bringing up WinTasks shows you how many processes (programs) you have running, how much memory is in use, and CPU usage. Programs that are running on your computer are not

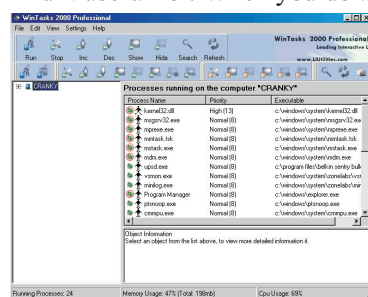
truly all running at the same time. The CPU and Windows allocates the amount of time and memory each process gets. Windows system-needed files are circled in red so you know which programs not to play with. Programs critical for Windows, of course, get the highest priority. Others get just normal priority. You can get a much more detailed description of the processes by going to the WinTasks web site.

So what can you really do with it? Well, for one thing you can experiment. If your computer is running slow, try lowering the priority of a program you are not using, or even stopping the program. You can see immediately on the bar any improvement for memory or CPU usage. Here are a couple of things you can find it useful for. When you do a Defrag or Scandisk, the more programs you can demote or stop, the faster it will finish without the "drive's content changed: restarting..." message. It can also help with CD burning. If you don't have one of the new burn proof CD writers you will be familiar with errors due to buffer under runs. This is where the writer could not keep up with the CPU. Many people have problems with gaps and jumps in their audio-CDs. With WinTasks you can stop interfering programs and raise the priority of your burning program in order to minimize the risk of errors. You can stop several processes at a time. By giving you information on the most important system processes, it helps you to decide which processes to stop, and which ones are better left alone.

WinTasks 2000 is \$17. They have a Professional version for \$55 which they had at a reduced price before the new year—hopefully it will go on sale again. It lets you add and remove Autostarted programs, monitor CPU and Memory usage, and some printing options. Alltogether a very handy program. If you would like to try it out you can download a 30 day trial version from Download.com (not the Professional version.) Call (800) 903-4152 or <http://www.liutilities.com>

Windows created by thread *4255569251* owned by the process *WinTasks 2000.doc

Window Title	WindowState	Visible	Width	Height	Left	Top
WinTasks 2000.doc - Microsoft...	Maximized	Visible	808	580	-4	-4
Line Color	Normal	Invisible	53	19	73	554
Text	Normal	Invisible	168	217	179	202
	Normal	Invisible	0	0	0	0
	Normal	Invisible	0	0	0	0
	Normal	Invisible	0	0	400	300
	Normal	Invisible	0	0	0	0
DDE Server Window	Normal	Invisible	0	0	0	0
OleMainThreadVndName	Normal	Invisible	0	0	0	0
	Normal	Invisible	0	0	0	0
File Open Message Window	Normal	Invisible	160	160	80	80



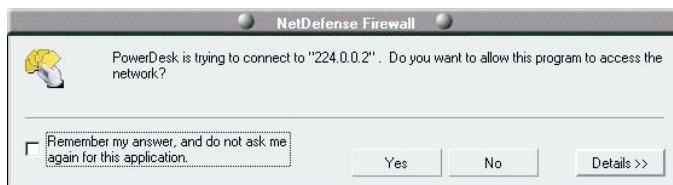
Ontrack SystemSuite 4.0

by Terry Currier

If you want a utilities program that has just about everything and for a low price, you'll really like the new Ontrack SystemSuite 4.0 (SS4).

Firewall

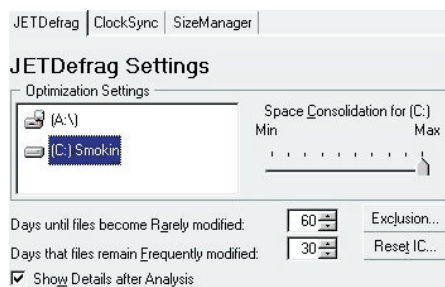
New to the System Suite is a Firewall from Sygate Technologies. The NetDefense personal firewall is a bi-directional defense to help keep out hackers and Trojan horse programs from calling home.



Anti-Virus

Trend Micro supports their anti-virus program. Configure it the way you want to. Choices include fast scan for memory and boot sector to deep scan including compressed files. You can also set AutoFileScan your files to check any file you access from your hard drive, before the file is actually opened. It also scans the boot sector and memory for viruses during system boot. AutoEmailScan will check your email for virus attachments.

Optimize and Maintain



JETDefrag defragments the hard disk, bringing together the fragments of files to help your computer access the information quicker. In terms

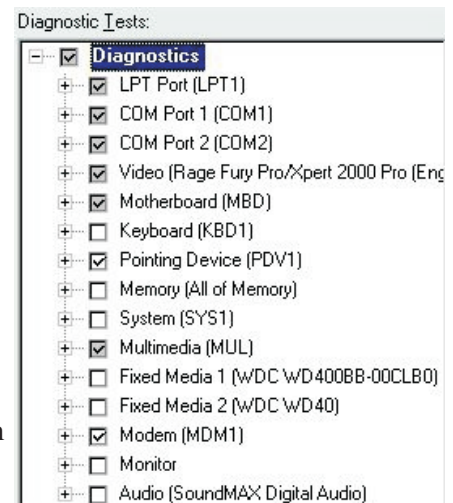
of speed you could say it's not a jet, but it's not constantly allowing itself to be interrupted only to start over with the "drive's content changed: restarting..." message. So it is much faster than the defrag utility that comes with Windows. What also sets it apart is the use of what it calls the use of IntelliCluster technology to organize chunks of available space into one contiguous free space area, and moving files and other data into another area of the disk. It analyzes the drive to see what programs you run, how often you run them, and all of the

associated files that each program calls while it is launching or running. Then this information is used as the basis for organizing files on the disk. Programs are placed next to the files they need. Programs run most often are placed where they can be accessed fastest. RegistryDefrag will defrag the registry, attempting to make it respond quicker. You can also edit the registry using RegistryMagic which is easier, and quicker to use than Regedit.

Diagnose

Critical to such a utility suite is recovery from a crash. SS4 will even help prevent them, or at the very least warn you of a possible crash. This is what you would expect from a company that is a specialist in recovering data from failed hard drives.

The PC Diagnostics module will let you know how the components of your computer are working. If it finds a problem, it offers one or more probable causes. System Explorer gives you information about your system from who made your motherboard to every program running, and the amount of memory each is using. You can use the SystemMonitors to watch your resources. Part of the hard drive test uses the Self-Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Technology (SMART), a standard procedure for checking on the physical health of the disk and report potential problems. The SMARTDefender module uses this technology to tell you if your disk is in trouble. Along with that it checks the Partition table against the master boot record, boot records, file allocation tables (FAT/FAT32 systems only), and files to verify the directory structure, looking for invalid directory contents and file sizes.



Fix

RegistryFixer searches for invalid links in the system registry and either repairs or removes them. You must agree to the changes, or SS4 will not do them. After it scans your registry, it will present to you suggestions for deletion. They put colored icons for you to recognize

Registry sections to scan for problems	Section description
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> User Software Settings	Stores user specific application information.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Machine Software Settings	Stores machine specific settings.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ActiveX and COM Sections	Stores information on installed COM objects.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fonts Section	Lists the fonts that Windows applications can use.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Run Section	Lists the programs to run at startup.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sound Section	Associates application events with sound files.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uninstall Section	Contains information on how to uninstall applications.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Services and Device Drivers Section	Lists the device drivers and services for Windows.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Application Paths	Associates executables with their install directory.
<input type="checkbox"/> Shared Files	Lists files that are shared between Windows applications.
<input type="checkbox"/> Help Section	Associates help files with their install directory.

ones that can be done safely (green), whereas yellow or red have varying degrees of caution or danger. It will not process the changes unless you agree to them. DiskFixer is the same as scandisk that comes with Windows.

CrashProof is a utility that senses when a program is about to hang or crash. It can halt some types of crashes (not all), allowing you to save your data. SystemUpdate has you install another program from

<http://updates.cnet.com/>

on your computer that then scans your drive to see what you have. After that it will search for updates to those programs that have one. EasyUpdate makes it easy to go to the Ontrack.com website to check on updates for the SystemSuite.

Recover

SystemSaver is one of the first utilities you should run. It makes a backup copy of your system files. Its good to have a backup of those files, and this makes it easy to do so. In the same vein is DiskSnapshot which makes a copy of your File Allocation Table (FAT) and Boot Sector information in case of a crash. The Easy Recovery module will help you recover up to 50 files due to hard drive failures, virus attacks, or software corruption. This alone can make it worth buying. There is also a file undelete and rescue disk creator.

System Saver Results:

Run: 12/21/01 9:47:14 PM

The location of the backup files is C:\Ontrack\BACKUP\mxbF0E5.mxb\

Registry Files was backed up successfully.
 config.sys was backed up successfully.
 autoexec.bat was backed up successfully.
 system.ini was backed up successfully.
 win.ini was backed up successfully.
 protocol.ini was backed up successfully.
 command.com was backed up successfully.

Uninstall

Their uninstall section does everything. It will monitor installations, backup an application, and move or copy a application to another computer. Uninstall will uninstall any application for you, while Archive will backup, and then uninstall an application. Use Restore to reinstall a backup application.

Cleanup

Here you can empty your Internet cache, cookies, history, and delete unneeded plug-ins. One click to delete the temporary files, remove a unneeded Active X, and have the registry scanned for unnecessary links. Use AdvancedFileClean and you can select from additional categories of files you might want deleted. To restore files that were backed up before deletion, use the UndoIt tool.

Zip

Simply put, you can do everything you need to regarding zip files. Zip, unzip, create self-extracting, backup to zip, and repair zip files.

One-Stop Solutions

With One-Stop you can speed up the computer, clean up unnecessary files, fix problems with your computer, or even do everything at once.

The FixUp Wizard will backup system files, tests critical hardware components, test the hard dive to see if it is about to fail, and test for invalid links in your registry.



Wizard initializing
 Saving system files
 Repairing invalid registry keys
 Inspecting hard drives
 Receiving hard drive status
 Wizard finished

All this comes with PowerDesk 4 Pro my favorite file manager program. Even if you don't buy

SystemSuite I recommend you go to the Ontrack website and download their freeware version of PowerDesk.

Ontrack SystemSuite 4.0 is compatible with Windows 95, 98, Me, NT, 2000 and XP and sells for about \$60. For more information go to

[Http://www.ontrack.com/systemsuite/](http://www.ontrack.com/systemsuite/)

Summary

A great well rounded utility program that will help recover and protect you from viruses to a hard drive crash.

Ontrack SystemSuite Win 95/98/ME Win NT 4.0/
 Windows2000/XP

Required RAM 32MB

Recommended RAM 64MB

Free disk space 20-90MB depending on which modules you load

The \$152 Internet Bargain

When to decide if a trip to Target is a better bet

By Steve Bass
Pasadena IBM Users Group



I don't have a good head for numbers, so double-check these figures for me, okay? I went online, pressed a few buttons, and two minutes later, bought a bottle of multivitamins for \$10 and some Folic Acid for \$3. Shipping was \$3 so the entire bill was \$16, right?

Nope. It cost me closer to \$152 and two hours of futzing.

Raise your hand if you think shopping on the Internet can save you money. No doubt it can, provided you use it efficiently.

In the next few minutes, I'll show you the mistakes I've made (hey, I'm not as bright as I look, okay?), how you can avoid them, and maybe stave off a few gray hairs in the process.

Bargain Hunting

The trap I always seem to fall into is spending a few minutes

trying to find the best deal on the Internet. (Computing minutes, as you may have noticed, are not related to real minutes, but that's another story.) I started by opening my Internet Explorer Favorites and trying to remember which folder I tucked the "vitamins and drugs" into.

Oddest thing, I muttered, is how these darn Favorites have a way of getting disorganized. I mean, what was I thinking when I combined DVD Rentals and DVD Player Research into the same folder. That's confusing, even to me, and it might be best if I separated them into two folders. I wouldn't take five minutes to fix. You think?

Of course, an interesting thing happened while cleaning and dusting my Favorites. I noticed the "Free Stuff" folder, the one with coupons, discounts, and giveaways. Right, I think, I'd better stop by there first and see if Drugstore.com or MotherNature.com is offering free shipping. My first stop is to couponsforyou.com. Nothing for me there because it's a dot.gone. So were four other coupon sites. I hit the jackpot with www.dealofday.com because drugstore.com offered free shipping and a free diaper travel bag with any \$20 order. Cool, I could use the diapers for buffing the car and I'd find something to do with the bag. And free shipping will put \$4.95 in my pocket.

So What's the Deal?

The deal wasn't difficult to handle. Do all your shopping, stick the code into the special box on checkout, and shipping was deducted from the total. I did all my shopping, clicked done, and drugstore.com gleefully greeted me.

"Yo! Steve-o! Welcome back buddy. Good to see you! But listen, the free shipping, and diaper deal? New customers only. Sorry, pal." Busted.

I couldn't just let that go. It was a challenge to my hacker mentality and less-than-adequate hacking skills. Creating a new user name and account couldn't be much work, and drugstore.com wouldn't be the wiser. I really wanted that diaper bag.

Busted Again

"Hey, Frank, when did you move in with Bass?" Around ten this morning, I fumed. It was a good question and one that I felt drugstore.com had no right to ask. As a consenting adult, what I did with my alias is my business.

I was busted again and chose not to play around with drugstore.com's cookies. So I headed back to AdvanceRX's site, added three bottles of Folic Acid to AdvanceRx's shopping cart. But it hit me that Drugstore.com was selling it in bottles of 200 tablets, a better deal. I think. But hell, even if I paid for shipping and went without the diaper bag, that'd save me roughly \$2. Better check.

So I open a fourth browser window, navigate to the site, and find I was right the first time. Advance RX is the best deal. You know, Bass, I think, kicking myself. You oughta stick this stuff on a spreadsheet so next time you can refer back to it. Easy enough to do, so I do a few rows and columns, stick in sites, vitamins, prices, shipping, and whether I've ordered there before. It was worth the 35 minute investment, really, even though I decided to forego any fancy fonts or formatting.

Stay Calm, Okay?

By now I'm feeling a little antsy so I head back to AdvanceRX to place the order and get on with my life. At this point, you're probably one step ahead of me. I faced a really dumb problem: After all my futzing elsewhere, AdvanceRX timed out. The shopping cart was empty, my patience was fading, and I was in dire need of a psychotropic drug. Try clicking IE's Back button, I thought and Windows applauded my decision with a General Protection Fault. With

all the B vitamins I'd depleted, I didn't think it made sense to bother rebooting.

I asked my wife if she'd like to make a quick trip to Costco. She did, we found the vitamins (about \$2 more than online, not including the stress formula I felt a need to buy); we also bought \$100 of stuff we really didn't need and went out for lunch.

Next month? Shopping Tips for Internet Shopaholics. §

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. He's also a founding member of APCUG Write to him at Steve_bass@pcworld.com.

Check PCW's current edition at <http://www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp>

Sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at http://www.pcworld.com/bass_letter.

GENERAL MEETING

Our presenter for February 9 is Joe Lorenzini from Stompinc.

You may remember Joe from the past when he demonstrated for Touchstone.

Stompinc makes a number of programs. Be sure to bring your checkbook to buy what you are interested in. Among with other programs they make:

Backup MyPC

(Formerly Backup Exec Desktop by Veritas)

A powerful, yet easy-to-use, data protection and disaster recovery solution for a single computer or peer-to-peer network. Peer-to-peer data protection support and scheduling ensure comprehensive protection. Create unattended backups with an advanced scheduling system. Back up to Recordable CD/DVD, Tape, Zip,

Jazz, and other removable media drives and employs disc spanning and data compression which typically can double your media capacity for significant savings.

RecordNow MAX

RecordNow MAX is packed full of features to give you the perfect Audio, CD, DVD, Video, Data and MP3 recording solutions. It's now faster and easier than ever!

Click'N Burn Pro

Click'N Burn Pro lets you start burning in 2 clicks. Burn audio CDs directly from MP3, WAV, WMA or CD tracks on the fly with no hard drive overhead. Flawless CD-to-CD Copies, Single or Multi-Session CD-ROMs. Perfect for sending large files to others. Supports Burn-Proof technology. Creates Video CDs from standard MPEG-1 files playable on most DVD players.

Click'N Design

Click ' Design is for creating labels for CDs.

Please note the room change – we are now in room #151 just to the right of where we have been.

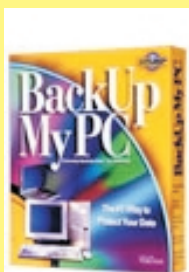
We are making a change in the meeting format: For the last half hour we will make it a tutorial of how to do things.

This month we will show you how to edit graphical files (digital pictures or scans) using Jasc PaintShop Pro.



- Adjust contrast
- Adjust brightness
- Fix red eye
- Take out some object
- Crop
- Resize

PIG SIG: We will go to the Acapulco Restaurant on Adams



February 9 – 9 a.m. to 12 noon Orange Coast College Science Building Room #151

Stompinc

Joe Lorenzini will show some great programs.
See article on page 11...

**Everything You Need, to Burn
Everything You've Got!**

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- ▶ Data, Music & Video
- ▶ Unlimited MP3 Ripping
- ▶ Flexible, Powerful, Easy to Use

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The Choice of HP and IBM

"The Best Burning Software Ever"
- Bill Douglas



For the PIG SIG we will go to the Acapulco Restaurant on Adams

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