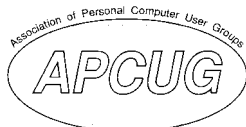




THE WYSIWYG



January 2005

Volume 17, Issue 1

STERLING HEIGHTS COMPUTER CLUB

PO Box 385

Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385

\$3.00

TUESDAY Jan 4 Main Meeting 7:30 PM

Anti-virus And Main- taining Your Com- puter System by Nick George of Disk-N-Dat

If your e-mail or mail address changes, please e-mail: secretary@SterlingHeights-ComputerClub.org

A person to fill the position of Program Coordinator is being sought. If interested in this very important function, contact Don VanSyckel.

The President's Pen

by Don VanSyckel



Happy New Year!! I hope each of you had a wonderful holiday and received everything you deserved. Well hold off on that one, I hope you got all you wanted. Last month we had a great meeting with Smart Computing. See the summary in this issue.

service and asked about this and was told it's my money so if a check doesn't get cashed just let them know to stop payment on the check and they'll refund the cash. So I asked how I would know if a check doesn't get cash and was told simply just call the person the check was sent to. Right, I'm going to call Detroit Edison and ask "Hey, I was wondering if you cashed my last check?" This answer to call the person is so lame, it's humorous.

This month I want to discuss electronic bill pay. Granted it's not a program you run but it's a computer related service you use. The thing that brought up this topic is some new information that I happen to learn recently. I have been using Charter One on-line banking for a while and really like it. However, there's been one issue in the back of my mind for a while. That is when I write a 'real' check and send it the bank debits my account when the check comes back to the bank. If someone loses the check or chooses not to cash it for whatever reason the check is never debited against my account. The issue that's bothered me with Charter One is when I issue a bill pay check, Charter One takes the money out of my account when they issue the check. There is no indication given by the bank when or if the check actually gets cashed. I called Charter One customer

I then asked several acquaintances if they use on-line banking and how their bank does it and no one really knew. I called Bank One, TCG Bank, and Standard Federal. All three offer on-line bill pay and all three deduct bill pay checks from your account when the check was received back at the bank after being cashed just like a check you write yourself. This sounded good to me so I looked into which bank offered the best deal for my circumstances. The cost of on-line bill payment range from free to charges per transaction to a flat monthly fee. Many banks will bundle services and offer discounted or free on-line bill pay if you have payroll direct deposit, a

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Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before deciding to become a member or not. Meetings include the main meeting and SIGs. July and August don't count since there is no main meeting. Membership includes admission to all SHCC functions and the newsletter. Membership is open to anyone. It is not limited to the residents of Sterling Heights.

DUES: \$25/YEAR

CLUB ADDRESS: PO Box 385, Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385
CLUB E-MAIL ADDRESS: Info@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org
CLUB WEB PAGE: http://www.SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

Resource People:

E-Mail Clients	-
Excel	Mike Greenen
Family Tree	Rick Schummer
FoxPro	Rick Schummer
Internet Explorer	-
MS Publisher	Rick Kucejko
Netscape	Don VanSyckel
Professional Write	Mike Greenen
Spreadsheets	Rick Schummer
Word	Rick Schummer

SHCC Coordinators:

Associate Editor	Rick Schummer
Net/Comm. SIG	Betty MacKenzie
Door prize	Open
Greeting table	Lindell Beck
Local Web Sites	Jim Golec
Newsletter publisher	Rick Kucejko
Novice SIG	Don VanSyckel
PC SIG	Jack Vander-Schrier
Publicity	Patrick Little
Resource People	Mike Greenen
Vendor Press Rel.	Jim Waldrop
Web Page	Rick Kucejko

2004 SHCC Officers

President: Don VanSyckel
 V. President: Jerry Hess
 Secretary: Pat Little
 Treasurer: Ed Trombley

Special Interest Groups:

MS-DOS (Main)	IBM compatibles
Net/Com	Computers communicating with other computers
PC	Intermediate users discuss various topics
Novice	Those starting out

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Four Month Meeting Schedule:

JANUARY 2005	MARCH 2005
4 -SHCC—Antivirus & Maintaining Your Computer System : Nick George of Disk-N-Dat	1 - SHCC - Main Meeting
5 - COMP meeting	2 - COMP meeting
9 - SEMCO meeting	13 - SEMCO meeting
10 - Net/Comm SIG	14 - Net/Comm SIG
17 - Novice SIG	21 - Novice SIG
26 - PC SIG	30 - PC SIG
FEBRUARY 2005	APRIL 2005
1 - SHCC - FileMaker Pro 7 by Jonathan Stars of Data Design Pro	5 - SHCC—Main Meeting
2 - COMP meeting	6 - COMP meeting
13 - SEMCO meeting	10 - SEMCO meeting
14 - Net/Comm SIG	11 - Net/Comm SIG
21 - Novice SIG	18 - Novice SIG
3/2 - PC SIG	27 - PC SIG

Other Computer Clubs:

As a member of SHCC, you can attend meetings of other clubs where we have reciprocating membership agreements, at no charge.

Computer Club of Marysville and Port Huron (COMP)
 Time: 1st Wednesday, 7:00PM
 Place: Mackenzie Bldg, Room 201, St Clair Community College, Clara E McKenzie Library-Science Building, 323 Erie St.
 Port Huron, (810) 982-1187
 Web Page: http://www.bwcomp.org
 Reciprocating: Yes

South Eastern Michigan Computer Organization (SEMCO)
 Time: 2nd Sunday at 1:30PM
 Place: Science & Engineering Building; Oakland University; 248-398-7560
 Web page: http://www.semco.org
 Reciprocating: Yes

The OPC (Older Persons Commission) Computer Club
 Time: Every Tuesday at 10:00
 Place: OPC in Rochester 248-656-1403.
 Web page: http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/1904/
 No cost to join or attend meetings.
 Reciprocating: No

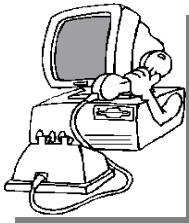
Newsletter submissions are due 10 days before the club meeting, but the earlier the better. They should be sent to :
 WYSIWYG Publisher
 5069 Fedora, Troy, MI 48098
 OR at the e-mail addresses: newsletter@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org

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SIG Meetings

Net/Com SIG



The next meeting of the Internet/Communications (Net/Comm.) SIG will be Monday, January 10, 2005, starting at 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library. The meeting topic will be "Internet Explorer Add-ons Or Helper Objects." The SIG meeting days are generally the second Monday of the month.

Each month the members of the Net/Comm SIG discusses the Internet to help members of the SHCC learn more about the Internet.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Betty MacKenzie (numbers are on page 2), or check the club web site.



Novice SIG



The next meeting of the Novice SIG will be Tuesday, January 17, 2005, starting at 7:00 PM at the Macomb County Library.

The Novice SIG has started over. We have two suggested books which will be considered to use in the SIG as a guide and reference. This is a good time to start in the Novice SIG to get going at the beginning. We will be using WinXP as the version of Windows to focus on. Since we will be dealing with novice topics, virtually all of the information will be directly usable by those using other versions of Win-

dows, Win98, WinME, and Win2000. The SIG meetings are generally the third Monday of the month; check the web site for actual date.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Don VanSyckel (numbers are on page 2), or check the club web site.



PC SIG



The next meeting of the PC SIG is Wednesday, January 26, 2005, starting at 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library. The topic will be "How To Scan Pictures And Documents Using A Flat Bed Scanner."

The SIG meeting is generally the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Intermediate level topics are discussed, aimed at users with some knowledge of computers. During this meeting, questions and answers regarding your computer will be discussed.

For more information about the SIG, call or e-mail Jack Vander-Shrier (numbers are on page 2), or check the club web site.



Attend A SIG

If you do not attend SIG meetings, you are missing out on important club benefits available to you. These small groups get into more detail and question and answer sessions than is possible at the main meeting.



Electronic WYSIWYG

You have the choice of receiving either the paper or the electronic version of the WYSIWYG. Contact the SHCC secretary to request the electronic version, since it will only be sent to those requesting it.



Advertising Space in the WYSIWYG

Pages, or fractions of pages are available for commercial advertising for a reasonable advertising fee. If interested in details, contact the WYSIWYG publisher at the address shown on page 2.



Directions To The Macomb Library

The Macomb County Library is located at 16480 Hall Road, in Clinton Township, between Hayes and Garfield, close to the light at Garfield, on the south side of Hall Road. A large red sign says "Macomb County Library". The phone number is (586) 286-6660.



SHCC Emergency Shutdown

The Sterling Heights Computer Club will utilize radio station WWJ - 950 on the AM dial to notify members that a meeting is canceled because of bad weather or for other reasons. The announcement will happen along with the school closings and other events. Please remember to listen to the radio when there is bad weather.



SHCC Business

“Ask The Experts”

by Jerry Carson



Please send questions to “Ask the Experts” at the club’s PO address, or e-mail your question directly to the Expert at the club e-mail address: AskTheExpert@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org.

None this month.



The President’s Pen

(Continued from page 1)

mortgage, a home equity loan, or other type of accounts with their bank.

For those of you who do not use on-line bill pay, I like it. It’s very handy. You can schedule monthly payments of a fixed amount for your rent, mortgage, car payment, cable bill, or anything else. A repeating payment does not have to be monthly. It can be weekly, every four weeks (different than a month), or any other period I’ve ever hear of bill using. Some of the companies I deal with want me to allow them to withdraw money from my account to pay their bill. I am categorically against this. No one has permission to automatically take my money. Using on-line bill pay is almost as painless (not quite) but it keeps me in control, and after all it’s my money so I should be in control.

This month’s meeting promises to be very interesting. Mr. Nick George of Disk-N-Dat Computers, will be presenting anti-virus, maintaining your computer system, and services Disk-N-Dat offers. Keeping your PC free of virus and doing other routine maintenance is very important for all of us. Hope to see you there, for your PC’s sake.



Last Month’s Highlights

Last month Ms. Jen Clausen of Smart Computing Magazine presented a tour of the magazine and features of their web site. Smart Computing offers additional magazines electronically on their web site with your subscription. SHCC gets credit when you subscribe to Smart Computing and refer to SHCC.



Door Prizes

The SHCC offers door prizes at most regularly scheduled club meetings. The door prizes for the January meeting were not known at the time of publication.

December’s coveted winner’s circle included everyone. A packet of Smart Computer Goodies was given to everyone present. Some additional prizes from Smart Computer were also given out.



DO YOU KNOW HOW SAFE YOUR CREDIT CARD NUMBER IS?

*By S. Jack Lewtschuk, Monterey Bay Users Group – PC, California
Columnist & Immediate Past President*

How many times have you typed your credit card number or password into your computer? Any idea what happens to it?

When you type in a password, it is stored in random access memory (RAM), where it is held temporarily until other data overwrites it or the computer is turned off. But every so often, the computer copies the contents of its RAM onto hard disk, where it is easy prey for a hacker, who can

read it directly or design a worm to e-mail it back. The longer sensitive data is in RAM, the more likely it is to be copied onto the disk, where it stays until it is overwritten – which might not happen for years.

On the other hand, do you know what happens to your credit card number after you hand your card to a clerk in a store or server in a restaurant? He/she has your number *and* your signature.



Are you paranoid yet?

SECURING YOUR CREDIT CARD BEFORE YOU LOSE IT

Keep a record of your credit cards and other contents of your wallet. Place the contents of your wallet on a photocopy machine or scanner; copy both sides of each license, credit card, etc. You will know what you had in your wallet and all of the account numbers and phone numbers to call to report the theft and cancel the cards. Keep the photocopy in a safe place.

If you do lose your wallet, don't forget to call these numbers to report it:

- Equifax 800.525.6285
- Experian (formerly TRW) 888.397.3742
- Trans Union 800.680.7289
- Social Administration Fraud Line 800.269.0271
- Your local police department to file a theft report

MYTH - TO SIGN OR NOT TO SIGN THE BACK OF YOUR CREDIT CARD

By the way, have you heard the idea that it is best *not* to sign the back of your credit cards? That instead of signing, you can print the words: "SEE ID" or "ASK FOR PHOTO ID?"

Here is what major credit card fraud departments had to say:

- **MasterCard** - To not sign your card is an urban legend that sounds sensible, but is not a good idea.
- **American Express** - We have warned merchants not to accept your credit cards if they aren't signed.
- **VISA** - They agree with the other credit card companies and said that merchants are instructed not

to finish the transaction until you sign the back of your card.

So, the idea of not signing the back of your credit card is an example of a very popular urban legend that is false. Sign your credit cards immediately when you receive them.

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.



New Computer Purchase 2004

by Rick Schummer of SHCC

I recently purchased a new notebook computer from Hewlett Packard (HP). I like to get a new notebook every two years for my business because I develop software and need the current technology to assist me in servicing my clients. So after much research I settled on the new HP Pavilion zt3000 notebook. This is my first HP notebook after three Gateways, and I looked at Dell and Compaq machines as well this time around. I have made it a tradition with the Sterling Heights Computer Club over the years to share my story, so here it is.

This is the first time I have purchased a new computer to replace the older computer and the older computer did not feel slow and worn out. The only complaints I have with my Gateway 600X laptop is the hard drive is nearly full (40GB) and it has a crack in the case. The crack in the case is a bummer because I never dropped it, or dropped anything on it. I am hoping Gateway will fix it once I am comfortable that I have the new computer all configured. I am planning on converting it to a server. It will serve as a backup machine and I will use it to test client software before I send it to them for their own testing.

"The Specs"

- Intel(R) Pentium(R) M Processor 735 (1.7 GHz - Centrino)
- 15.4" WVA WUGA (1920x1200)
- 64 MB ATI Mobility Radeon

- (TM) 9200
- 1.0 GB DDR SDRAM
- 80 GB 4200 RPM Hard Drive
- 4X DVD +/- RW/R & CD-RW Combo
- Intel(R) PRO/Wireless 2200BG (802.11b/g) & Bluetooth
- SD memory card slot
- 10/100 Network, 54kbs modem
- 3 USB ports, 1 PCMCIA slot, infrared, 1 firewire, 1 parallel port (no serial)
- Microsoft(R) Windows(R) XP Professional with SP2
- Extra 8 Cell Lithium Ion Battery
- Advanced Port Replicator
- Extra power adapter
- 10 DVDs
- HP Deskjet 3847 (free printer after rebate)
- Extra photo print cartridge
- Basic software to play DVDs, burn CD-ROMs and DVDs, Microsoft Works
- Three year warranty
- Free Shipping

After rebates and instant discounts: \$2587

So this machine is a little faster (yes a 1.7 GHz Centrino is faster than a 2.0 GHz Pentium 4), double the hard drive, double the memory, a rocking screen, a DVD burner, faster wireless, Bluetooth, sweet battery life, and \$500 cheaper than my last computer.

Ordering

I specced out the machine on HPShopping.com and it was entirely customizable from the base unit. During my research for this machine I found that not all the vendors are allowing customization on laptops and found HP, Compaq, and Gateway to be the most customizable. This is critical to me. The only trouble I found with HP and this machine was the lack of a 100 GB hard drive (top of the line in notebooks). So instead of buying it online I called the toll-free number to see if the sales people had more flexibility to configure the machine. Unfortunately they had the same settings as I did online.

Here is a tip when ordering a new computer from HP or Compaq: customize it, even just a little. Why? One simple reason: support. If you buy a pre-configure machine from Best Buy, Circuit City, another store locally, or even online, you get standard support from overseas. If you order a customized machine you get support direct from the tech support center in the USA. While I hope to never use the tech support, I like the idea that someone's job was not outsourced for the sake of saving pennies on the dollar. If tech support was better overseas then I can deal with competition, but this is not the case. I have friends who have machines purchased both ways and the customized machines get better technical support.

The peripherals and warranty shipped the same day I ordered them. The computer shipped and arrived 5 days before the estimated dates. HP provided me with a FedEx tracking number so I could track it from China to Sterling Heights.

Installation

There is one thing I hate about getting a new machine, the setup time. If you recall, the last time I did this it took me 24 working hours to go from

opening the box to having everything installed. This time it took 32 hours. Most of the increased time is accounted for by 40 more programs to install and configure. This time around I installed 110 applications. This process is feeding the machine CD-ROMs and finding the dozens of programs I have downloaded. Fortunately I have them all in a nice directory structure, but I have to locate them, see if there is a more current version on the Internet, download, and install. This is quite a chore. Fortunately HP did not pollute the machine with too many junk applications so I only had to uninstall a couple of apps.

One of the first things I do is install Partition Magic and repartition the hard drive. The drive is 80 Gigabytes. I prefer to have separate drives for the operating system and programs, another one for general data, another one for my client projects, and a fourth for business files (correspondences, contracts, accounting files, marketing brochures and the like). I have used Partition Magic for years with great success, but not this time. Along the way it trashed the C: partition which means I could not boot the machine. This was 2 hours into the process. What this means is I had to start from scratch, reload the operating system and bundled software, then start over. To get back to the point where I was took 4 hours. This was definitely frustrating.

Once I get the applications loaded I move all the data from my data partition on the old machine to the new machine. This is a direct copy over the network. Once the data is copied I run the applications and point them to the files as needed. I also set the options for each of the applications as I run them. This is very time consuming because I compare them to the way I have it set up on the old machine.

I then use the machine for a day or two, carrying around my old laptop

because I usually forget some things and need to copy files over or set up other configurations I missed. One of the things I always forget about is printers. I connect to two different printers in my home office and printers at different clients. All the printers are different of course.

The last setup is connecting the peripherals (mostly USB) like Zip and Peerless drives, my Palm docking station, video camera, and wireless keyboard and mouse. Each of these kicks off the plug and play drivers and some require a reboot. All part of the fun I guess.

The Box

The machine is really nice. It is a quarter inch wider, an inch narrower, and a half inch thinner. It weighs a couple of pounds less and feels sturdier. I love the footprint and form factor. I hardly notice it sitting on my lap. The fans are in a better position so it will not burn my leg when it kicks on. The fan rarely runs and the laptop is a lot cooler. It runs faster, boots quicker, and takes less power. All the ports are in the back, but for some reason the engineers thought putting the power jack on the right side was a good idea. It is not because the mouse cable for the portable mouse I use when I am at clients gets tangled in with the power cable. This is a non-issue when I am connected to the port replicator when I am home.

The "advanced" port replicator is very nice and even has a separate power switch, which is something I have asked for with every machine I have had. Weird thing about the replicator is the lack of a modem jack. The laptop has one, but the replicator does not.

The battery life is 4 hours when I am hitting the hard drive all the time (like running database applications). When I am just surfing the web I can go for almost 5 hours. I have not tried to

watch a DVD to see if I can do it with one battery charge. The most I can get out of the new battery on the old computer is 1 hour, 45 minutes. This is the Centrino technology shining. Most people might think Centrino means wireless because of the Intel advertising, but the best thing is the power management. It rocks!

My Priorities

This machine is downsized intentionally because the old laptop is too heavy. I haul it around everywhere and can tell the difference. I was very tempted by the 17 inch screens. Two of my friends bought one this summer and they are beautiful. I wanted less weight, less to carry and a smaller backpack with less junk. The larger notebooks have a heavier power adapter as well. Mine is very small and very light.

The screen is a 15.4 wide aspect screen, but has a higher resolution. I really

liked 1280x1024 because I can read the screen and I can have a taskbar that is twice as high as the standard size without taking up too much screen real estate. This screen defaults to 1900x1200. Most 15.4 inch laptops come with 1280x800 resolutions. The height was not acceptable as it has fewer pixels than my old computer. The screen is easy on the eyes, even at the higher resolution.

So why did I go with HP? Quality, features, reputation, and price were the priorities. I'm very happy with it so far and I even tried out the tech support, was happy with the responses and how they handled my questions. I can really recommend this laptop if you are in the market to buy one soon.



resulting in the minimum software requirements listed being as low as possible and may not reflect real world conditions. If you have a system that is exactly listed as the minimum system requirements (it is the minimum system requirements if only one is listed) consider that this product will run extremely slowly and crash at times. Some manufactures list both minimum and recommended system requirement, and you do not want to be too far below the recommended requirements. Also, some system requirements listed do not change the RAM requirements for different operating systems. They list as minimum RAM the one for the oldest operating system. A program may run on Windows 95, 98, 98 SE, ME, 2000, and XP; but the amount of RAM needed in reality is more for Windows 98, 98 SE, and ME than Windows 95 and more for Windows 2000 and XP than Windows 98, 98 SE, and ME.

To Upgrade Or Not To Upgrade

by *Timothy Everingham, TUGNET*

To upgrade or not to upgrade, that is the question. Whether it is nobler to upgrade the computer you have or to put aside the invested fortune of your current computer and get a new one? Or yet do you even need to put your cash into computer hardware? Even Shakespeare didn't have to deal with these questions, which in recent years have become even more complicated to answer.

Where you should start is by determining what your present and future needs and wants are going to be. Don't try to project over five years. I am not talking about what hardware you may drool over, but what you will want or need to do with your computer. Will it be word processing; web surfing; email; burning CD and DVDs; database or list management; software

development; photo, graphics, video editing and creation; or something else? Then you look at the application software that will accomplish those tasks. Also look at how long will your current application software and operating system(s) be supported by the manufacturer (Windows 98 no longer has support and patches available after December 31, 2003). Also, if you have software that is known to be troublesome, like Windows ME, the need or desire to upgrade it should be considered. Then you look at the system requirements to run these applications: hardware, operating system, and other supporting software (software that is required to be installed on your system in order for your application to run).

Remember that the companies want to sell you the software or hardware,

There are some general guidelines. If you have a Pentium II computer, AMD equivalent or older and are doing anything else than word processing, simple web surfing and email you are looking at having too many things needed to upgrade for it to be worthwhile. With Macintosh or notebook computers, upgrade options are more limited than desktop PCs so, unless it is fairly new, you should be looking at getting a new computer. Also, you have to look at how many of your computer's components are close to or past their expected lifetimes. If your computer's components are five years or older, your computer is living on borrowed time. Where the upgrade option looks better is with Pentium 3, Pentium 4 or Athlon-based desktop computers. However, software activation has made this more complicated. With activation the software takes a snapshot of your computer's hardware configuration. If you try to run it after doing too many upgrades the software decides that it is not the same computer; violating the software

license and shuts itself down. You then have to go to the software manufacturer and try to convince them that the computer you upgraded is not a new computer. The most famous of the programs that includes this feature is Windows XP, but there are a growing number of application software packages that also have this feature.

Of course this has bred a lot of fear, uncertainty and doubt (FUD) about upgrading computers, which the people who sell new computers are happy to take advantage of. If you do a combination motherboard (main circuit board) and processor replacement, activation should be a problem for you.

If your current computer fits your system's requirements of your expected needs and wants, congratulations; you are done without having to spend any money.

However, if you still are considering upgrading, the next thing you want to do is get out your motherboard manual (may be contained in computer manual). It will tell you what components can be installed on it. If you can't find your manual, there is likely to be a PDF of it on the manufacturer's website. While you are there check to see if there are any BIOS updates available that may give the motherboard new features that you may need. If the motherboard does not support the processor; type, speed or amount of RAM; or the type of plug-in card (AGP, PCI, EISA, ISA) you want to install, you will have to install a new motherboard that will. For drive (IDE, ATA, SATA, SCSI), IEEE 1394 (Firewire), and USB interfaces you can get plug-in cards instead of getting a new motherboard.

Upgrading your RAM is probably the thing that can be most effective in putting off the need to buy a new computer. The others would be a new video card and a new hard drive.

Installing a CD or DVD R/RW drive is also a good option in order to backup things on you hard drives and being able to take data and media files off your drives that you use infrequently.

Don't forget to calculate your power requirements and have the case be able to fit the motherboard. After you make up a list of your proposed upgrade parts, add up the cost of them. Then compare this cost to the cost of a similar system to what your upgraded system would be. If you are doing a lot of upgrading you will find that the totally new computer will be close to or cost less than the cost of upgrading (there is a discount for buying an entirely new computer rather than just the parts of one). If you find yourself in this position you should lean toward buying a new computer. With this type of consideration you should also be looking at how you will transfer data and applications from your old computer to your new one (remember software activation issues).

With AMD releasing their Athlon 64 bit desktop processors, one of the issues in upgrading or buying a new computer is "will I need a 64 bit processor." For most people the answer is not until the later part of this decade. To get the most out of a 64 bit processor you need 64 bit applications running on top of a 64 bit operating system. Of course if you have a Mac G5 system running Panther (Mac OS 10.3) and some of the recent versions of the high level Apple content creation applications you are already there, but for the PC world only 64 bit applications programs now are very high level server based or scientific applications.

There is 64 bit Linux, but the Windows XP version is still in beta and won't be out until spring 2004. There will be 64 bit versions of some games in 2004, but do not look until 2005 for a significant amount of 64 bit

software for Windows XP. Because there will be a lot of 32 bit computers around for a while there should be plenty of 32 bit software. The 64 bit Athlons and what rumors say Intel is developing as a 64 bit desktop processor will be able to run 32 bit applications well, which should also keep the 32 bit software market healthy for quite a while. So unless you are a high level gamer, run high-level scientific or content creation applications, or run Macs you should wait on getting a 64 bit processor computer.

Making the decision on whether to upgrade your current computer or buy a new computer has become more complex than it was a few years ago. A systematic step-by-step approach is appropriate. First determine your needs, then what will support filling those needs, and then weigh the costs of upgrading or buying new. May the wisdom of the Great Elizabethan Bard be upon you, resulting in a fruitful bounty of computer buying.

Timothy Everingham is CEO of Timothy Everingham Consulting in Azusa, California. He is Vice Chair of the Los Angeles Chapter of ACM SIG-GRAPH and is also on the Management Information Systems Program Advisory Board of California State University, Fullerton. In addition he is the Vice President of the Windows Media Users' Group of Los Angeles. 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 information can be found at <http://home.earthlink.net/~teveringham>

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

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WYSIWYG WEB WATCH (www)

By Paul Baecker

webwatch@sterlingheightscomputerclub.org



This column attempts to locate sites containing valuable, amusing and free content, with no overbearing pressure to purchase any-

thing. Send your favorite (entertaining, helpful or just plain useless) sites, with brief site descriptions, to the e-address noted above, for inclusion in a future WYSIWYG issue. Also check the SHCC web site ("Web Page Reviews") for previous gems.

Automotive ads, brochures and manuals from past decades.
<http://www.tocmp.com>

Nat'l Terror Alert Resource/Info Center advises about potential alerts with many Preparedness & Planning guides and checklists. Don't be paranoid, just prepared.
<http://www.nationalterroralert.com>

Digital camera articles and tutorials, and some reviews/fact sheets, for new camera shoppers and owners.
<http://www.photoxels.com>

Find accurate time anywhere in the world.
<http://www.worldtimeserver.com>

Move the rabbit to collect the carrots. A colorful, entertaining game. (Broadband recommended!)
<http://www.honda.co.uk/grrrgame/>

How-To Guides on upgrading to XP SP2, using msconfig, and disabling Windows Messenger Service.
<http://netsquirrel.com>

Some freeware gems (among the share/trial apps) if you are patient. Use 'Search' field and watch for 'related' categories. Or use 'Subcategories' section.

<http://www.handyarchive.com>

Free advanced file-difference analysis tool for Windows. Click on "Free Tools" here.

<http://www.componentsoftware.com>

Darwin awards, past and present.

<http://www.darwinawards.com>

Free fast search utility for MS Outlook (not Outlook Express....yet). Recently acquired by MS.

<http://www.lookoutsoft.com>

Free archiving utility for Windows; provides support for wide range of compressed, encoded and disc-image files, with powerful features.

<http://www.tugzip.com>

Camera, printer and accessory reviews, dictionary, high-quality photo galleries, picture format discussion, buyer's guide.

<http://www.steves-digicams.com>

600+ photos - misc. scenery, birds, horses, castles, deer, wolves.

<http://home.inu.net/branded/scenic/scenic.html>

Free utility displays internet bookmarks in an alphabetical register, whether or not they are stored in folders.

<http://cocoholo.com/abc.htm>

Photos from around the world being used to tell time. Click on "view the clock"; also view the gallery.

<http://www.humanclock.com>

1000+ photos of Earth from Above - click option #2, then the "Earth from

Above" option; then search by country. Save 'em to disc.

<http://www.yannarthusbertrand.com>

Meanings and origins of over 2000 English sayings, phrases, clichés and idioms.

<http://www.phrases.org.uk>

The New High-Tech Dictionary 2.0

<http://www.valleyofthegeeks.com/Features/Dictionary.html>

The Iconoweb Coffee Cantata - view the humorous "Coffee Taglines and Quotations".

<http://www.afactor.net/kitchen/coffee/index.html>

Stupid human tricks in action with motorbikes - click on 'Downloads', then on 'Videos'.

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

The telescope game - many levels. Click "Telescope Game" in the menu bar.

<http://www.dyson.com>

Site dedicated to "collecting, restoring and simply playing with old computers (vintage, classic, antique, out-dated)".

<http://www.vintage-computer.com>

Volcano World - search by country, region, name or description. Photos, videos, history, chemistry.

<http://volcano.und.nodak.edu>

Auto articles, news and tips, and sneak previews of cars of the future, all with photos.

<http://www.jalopnik.com>

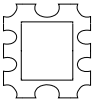
25 tall building projects that have been designed & proposed in the last decade. Broadband recommended.

http://moma.org/exhibitions/2004/tallbuildings/index_f.html

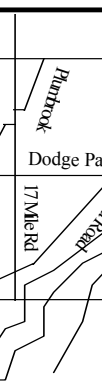




**STERLING HEIGHTS
COMPUTER CLUB**
PO Box 385
Sterling Heights, MI 48311-0385



JANUARY AT SHCC:



16 Mile Road		
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TUESDAY JAN 4
Main Meeting.
7:30PM at
Carrpathia Club.
38000 Utica Road
Sterling Heights

Anti-virus And Main-
taining Your Com-
puter System by Nick
George of Disk-N-Dat

SIGS

MONDAY January 10
Net/Com SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

MONDAY January 17
NOVICE SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

WEDNESDAY January 26
PC SIG 7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

FEBRUARY 2005
FileMaker Pro 7 by Jon Stars of Data Design Pros