THE WYSIWYG

TUESDAY Feb 3
Main Meeting
7:30 PM

The meeting topic has not been finalized at the time of publication.

Nominations will be taken for a special VP Election to be held at the February meeting.

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

At the January meeting nominations for vice president were opened. There were no nominations. We need a vice president. Please consider carefully what SHCC is worth to you. Remember that this is a club, the members do all the jobs, and all the work. If you are not already an officer or a coordinator, run for vice president. The only real qualifications for the job are being an interested member who's willing to spend a few hours a month for the good of the club.

Have you ever just gotten that new software loaded and just getting used to it when you get a notice in the mail or an email notifying you that there's an upgrade available? I have, too many times. Have you ever tracked down the problem you're having with some software package just to have tech support tell you that "It's fix in the new version, rev up!" I have, to many times. Have you ever bought software that's supposed to do something and the features listed on the package just aren't there? I have, to many times.

I would like to take this opportunity to suggest a new law. I'm not a lawyer so I might not get the words just right so work with me here and look for the spirit of the following: "Packaged (shrink wrapped) software that's sold shall perform all listed functions in a straight forward error-free manner on the equipment specified on the package as required. If a software package fails to perform any listed functions for a user and that user documents and demonstrates the problem to the software manufacturer, the manufacturer has four months to fix the problem and supply the fixed version to that user. If the software manufacturer fails to supply that user with the fixed version within the time limit, the software manufacturer will refund the retail price paid for the software and the user will retain ownership of the license. There is no restriction on the user from letting other users know about the problem and the other users also identifying the same problem to the software manufacturer. These additional users have the same rights."

Call me weird but when I buy something I look at it as sort of a contract. I give them my money and they give me

Guests and visitors are welcome. People can attend any SHCC meetings during two consecutive months before decid-ing 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: Open
Secretary: Pat Little   Treasurer: Ed Trombley

Four Month Meeting Schedule:

FEBRUARY 2004
3 - SHCC - Main Meeting
4 - COMP meeting
9 - Net/Comm SIG
15 - SEMCO meeting
16 - Novice SIG
25 - PC SIG

APRIL 2004
6   - Main Meeting
7 - COMP meeting
11 - SEMCO meeting
12 - Net/Comm SIG
19 - Novice SIG
28 - PC SIG

MARCH 2004
2 - SHCC - Main Meeting
3 - COMP meeting
8   - Net/Comm SIG
14 - SEMCO meeting
15 - Novice SIG
24 - PC SIG

MAY 2004
4   - SHCC - Main Meeting
5   - COMP meeting
10 - Net/Comm SIG
16 - SEMCO meeting
17 - Novice SIG
26 - PC SIG

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

Contact Information:

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Don VanSyckel	586-731-9232	don@vansyckel.net
Jack Vander-Schrier	586-739-7720	jvanders@myself.com
Jim Waldrop	586-731-6481	jwaldrop@tir.com

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 Com-mission) Computer Club
Time: Every Tuesday at 10:00
Place: OPC in Rochester
248-656-1403.
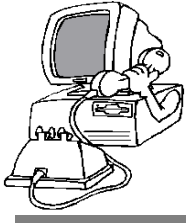Web page: http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/Village/1904/

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

The WYSIWYG was printed by STERLING PRINTING AND GRAPHICS, located at 35976 Mound, Sterling Heights, MI 48312.
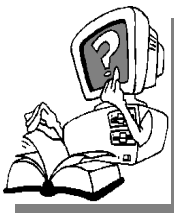
SIG Meetings

Net/Com SIG

The next meeting of the Internet/Communications (Net/Comm.) SIG will be Monday, February 9, 2004, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb County Library. The SIG meeting days are generally the second Monday of the month.

Each month the members of the Net/Comm SIG discuss the Internet to help members of the SHCC learn more about this communications media.

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

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Novice SIG

The next meeting of the Novice SIG will be Monday, February 16 2004, starting at 7:00PM, at the Macomb County Library. The SIG meeting days are generally the third Monday of the month.

A little more than half of the people attending the SIG use Windows 98 so the actual presentations will be done on Win98. The beginning concepts are applicable to WinME and WinXP directly. As we progress through the year and get to more advanced Novice topics a few items will vary between the different Windows versions, but we'll cover those differences at that time.
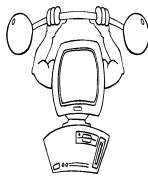
There is always a question and answer period at these meetings.

The computer training sessions are free to club members, but members will be advised to purchase the book in use by the class.

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

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PC SIG

The next meeting of the PC SIG is Wednesday, February 25, 2004. The SIG meeting is generally the last 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, and there will be some surprises.

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

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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.

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Selling Your Used Computer Equipment or Software

If you have some computer equipment or software to sell, you can either place a free add in the WYSIWYG, or bring the article to the club meeting. You can set up at the back of the room before the meeting, and sell your items to people at the meeting interested in buying them. Members are responsible for any damage to the table tops, so bring a pad to prevent damage.

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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.

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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.

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

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 Jerry Carson at his e-mail address: jerry@smilesgalore.com

Q: Dear Expert,

Should we worry about the results of this security test on our computer? This was done on www.grc.com. Attached are results from "File Sharing" and "Common Ports" testing. This is all Greek to me! (We do have Norton Personal Firewall.) <Note: actual results have been removed>

Worried

A: Dear Worried,

This is actually a pretty good report. The stealth responses mean that your computer wouldn't even respond to queries using most ports. In other words, most hackers won't even know your computer exists! There were two ports that did respond: The TCP port, which your computer correctly denied access to, and the ping report which it responded to. Neither of these ports gave out any information other than that your computer exists. In neither case did your computer accept unsolicited information from the internet (which is how you can get a virus).

So, basically, you did great. It probably is possible to adjust your settings on Norton to ignore requests made to both of these ports. I'm not sure I would bother as neither of these are likely to cause you any real problems. It's not likely, but it is possible that closing the ports may cause some programs or services to stop working. If you do close these ports, write down exactly what the settings were before you made any adjustments so you can reset them in case there are side-effects. Also, try closing one port, then use the computer for a week or two before trying to close the other. That way if there are side-effects you will know which port is causing them.

The Expert

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Door Prizes

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

September's coveted winner's circle included:

Marshall Steele won Vigilance Game

Edward Trombley won PrintMaster

Donald VanSyckel, John Mulhall, and **Mary Ann Warner** won CD Jewel Cases

Paul Baecker won Links 2003 Game

Jerry Hess won a MicroSoft Tee Shirt

Fred Plamondon won MicroSoft Office 2003

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Club Record Changes

To update your e-mail address, phone number, etc., please e-mail the club secretary at: Secretary@SterlingHeightsComputerClub.org. Using this address will provide the smoothest and quickest venue for any changes.

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Door Prize Coordinator

There is a need for a Door Prize Coordinator. This person does the very important task of getting the door prizes that are raffled off at the end of the meeting.

A letter of introduction will be provided. This person would go around to various places, and get contributions of items for door prizes. We should mention the contribution in the WYSIWYG, which is advertisement to people that buy the computer related items that they sell.

For more information, or to volunteer for this important club activity, see Don VanSyckel.

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Program Coordinator

A meeting coordinator is needed for the club. The duties of this program coordinator position will be to get presenters for the main meeting, and follow up with them prior to the meeting. This position will bring you in contact with a lot of interesting and influential people.

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World Wide Web Column on the Club Web Site

Do you enjoy the World Wide Web column in the WYSIWYG? Do you find the sites mentioned beneficial?

You can see past web sites reviewed in the column on our club web page. They are arranged into various topics to help locate a specific site.

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Internet Comparison Shopping
by Jerry Wonderly, Daytona Microcomputer Association, Inc.

Christmas has come and gone. Many of us were caught up in the rush of going from mall to mall and store to store in search of that unique gift. However, many Americans now do much of their shopping online and the savvy shopper uses comparison-shopping websites. After some research, recently I think I've come up with some sites that will be helpful in the future for online shopping. I'm admittedly no expert so please consider the following as my own personal opinions.

In preparing for this article, a list was compiled of six possible gifts from six different categories because some comparison shopping sites are more comprehensive than others. The six theoretical gifts include: a highly-rated Canon Powershot A70 3.2 megapixel digital camera; a best-selling book called "Founding Brothers – The Revolutionary Generation" by Joseph J. Ellis; a top 10 PC game called "Rise Of Nations" by Microsoft; a bottle of Estee Lauder perfume called "Pleasures" in a 1.7 ounce size; a board game called "Harry Potter: Heir Of Slytherin;" and a popular golfing putter called the "Titleist Scotty Cameron Studio Design 1.5."

Next, a list of comparison-shopping websites was put together. As with last year, some of the popular sites have been swallowed up by their competition. Deal Time, for example, is now Shopping.com and Epinions is now run by Shopping.com while Lycos Shopping uses the Bizrate search engine. Strangely though, affiliated sites don't always return the same merchant results and even the price results can vary. At any rate, the following comparison shopping sites were used in my research:
Lycos shop.lycos.com/,
BizRate www.bizrate.com,
Price Grabber www.pricegrabber.com,
Shopping.com www.shopping.com,
Epinions www.epinions.com,
My Simon www.mysimon.com,
Yahoo http://shopping.yahoo.com,
Value Find www.valuefind.com,
Shop Best www.shopbest.com,
NexTag www.nextag.com, and
Price Scan www.pricescan.com.

An improvement over last year is that most of the comparison-shopping sites now have merchant reviews, and automatically compute tax and shipping to get an accurate display of true pricing. These include Lycos, BizRate, Price Grabber, Shopping.com, Epinions, Yahoo, and NexTag. My Simon and Price Scan don't compute tax but do for shipping and also have merchant reviews. Shop Best and Value Find have unusual sites in that the results usually took me to only one vendor to choose from. Shop Best had a very slow search engine and Value Page's frames are cumbersome and wouldn't react properly when clicking links. However, overall, most of the sites worked extremely fast, were laid out well, and offered several categories and stores to choose from.

Many online merchants are listed on multiple comparison-shopping websites. Their prices often vary from site to site though, so it pays to search more than one comparison engine. Many sellers offer free shipping. As with brick-and-mortar stores, use good judgment when deciding which vendor to buy from. Don't be hesitant about getting seller information from the Better Business Bureau at www.bbb.org/. Also, consider looking for coupons and discount codes from websites like Amazing Bargains www.amazingbargains.com, Deal Catcher www.dealcatcher.com and Deal Of Day www.dealofday.com.

Here are the results of my make-believe shopping trip:

On the camera, NexTag had the lowest price from a merchant called Dbargains at $240 plus tax and shipping. Unfortunately, you don't know what the tax and shipping are until after you've completed all of the online purchase orders. The next lowest price on the camera came from a Yahoo vendor called Rush4Digital. They are selling it for a total price of $264.80. However, Rush4Digital is an unrated merchant at the time of this writing. My Simon's vendor, Beach Camera, offers the camera for $269.00 plus tax, if any. Beach Camera www.beachcamera.com appears on many of the comparison search sites.

Note: Whenever purchasing electronics over the Internet, be sure to ask the vendor if the item you want to purchase comes with a valid U.S. warranty. Sometimes the very lowest prices found in searches are for "gray market" goods that were intended by the manufacturer to be sold overseas and thus do not carry a U.S. warranty (and, infrequently, may not even have an owners manual written in English). The lack of a manufacturer's U.S. warranty should only be a problem if you need warranty service so every buyer must decide for himself whether to assume the lack-of-warranty risk with some gray market merchandise in exchange for a potentially lower price. See what the New York Better Business Bureau has to say about gray market merchandise at http://www.newyork.bbb.org/library/publications/subrep45.html.]

For the book, Lycos and Bizrate bested the competition with identical deals of $9.19 with tax and shipping included from Overstock www.overstock.com. I've bought from Overstock before and have had good experiences.

As far as the PC game, Yahoo had the lowest price at $37.95 total from a company called Purplus based in California. They have a high merchant rating on Yahoo.

Shopping for the perfume led me to the lowest price at Price Grabber's LuxNY.com based in New Jersey. They offered it for a total price of $34.94. The drawback is that LuxNY is an unrated merchant. Shopping in the fragrance category on all of the comparison shopping sites was a bit unusual. None of them formulated tax and shipping for some reason.

Next, I looked for the Harry Potter board game. Most of the search sites came up with nothing. Only Lycos, Biz Rate and Yahoo had listings. The lowest price was found on Lycos and Biz Rate at a merchant called TovBid.com. They sell the board game for $8.99 with free shipping. There's no mention of sales tax.

Lastly, the Titleist putter was kind of hit or miss. Five of the sites either didn't have a category of Sports or just didn't list this putter. Of those that do have merchants selling this putter, Price Scan has a store called Golfalltheway who lists it for $219.99 plus tax and shipping. Yahoo's Need2Golf.com sells the putter for a grass blade less at $219.00 plus tax and shipping.

In conclusion, I was pleased overall with the improvement of the Internet comparison-shopping experience over last year. There are several good competitors out there with many reputable stores in their listings. It is pretty easy to navigate their sites and most of them allow you to sort the results by total price. This year we can be spared some of the aggravation of running from mall to mall and store to store in search of that perfect gift by doing at least some of our shopping online. But, you want to know something? Even if I

do find all of my gifts online, I think I'll still venture out into the madness of the store crowds just to get that Christmas feeling.

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Would You Like Printer Repair With Your Order?

by Mark Presky, Los Angeles Computer Society, Los Angeles, California

Hunger contributed to the repair of my inkjet printer. Several months ago I was driving along Santa Monica Blvd. in West LA, approaching a set of the Golden Arches, when I realized that it was Filet-O-Fish Friday (99 cents), and I was hungry. I have significantly reduced my consumption of fried foods, but the thought of deep fried compressed minced cod (or whatever they use) oozing with a glob of fatty, salty tartar sauce was too much to resist - I must have been REALLY hungry.

After receiving my order I sought a clean table upon which to dine. There was one unoccupied small table well seasoned with various condiments, so I looked further to a larger nearby table occupied by only one gentleman. After asking if I might join him at the table, and introducing myself, I started up a conversation.   He was dressed in a jacket and tie, so I asked what he did for a living. When he said that he serviced computer peripherals including printers and fax machines - my ears perked up. I told him that I had been wrestling with a frustrating printer problem for over a year and hated giving up. He inquired further.

PROBLEM
I told him that my HP 694C would print a page or two and then stop suddenly often mid page, to inform me that the printer carriage was unable to move. Over the months I had discovered that by turning the power off and then using rubbing alcohol (not orally

consumable spirits) to clean the stainless steel or chrome shaft upon which the carriage with the ink cartridges traveled, I could get it to print another page or two or three ... if I was lucky. After several months of this I finally replaced the 694C with an even older HP 600 monochrome printer (manufactured in the days before humans were upgraded with retinal cones) of my father's that I kept in the closet for emergencies.

SOLUTION
The gentlemen said that it sounded like the bearings underneath the carriage were clogged with dried ink. I asked him how ink would even get there. He responded that ink tends to distribute itself everywhere inside most printers. He is no longer amazed at the places he finds it doing damage.

He suggested using a small amount of Windex on tissues to dissolve and tease out the congealed ink from the bearings, and then to lubricate, sparingly, the shaft upon which the carriage moved.

FIXED
Later, I pulled the inoperable printer from my closet and set it up on the kitchen table. I assembled some discount glass cleaner (sorry, Windex) and several off brand Qtip type cotton tipped sticks and went to work. Close examination revealed a glob of gelled ink on either side of the carriage adjoining the shaft. I must have gone through about 20 of these cleaner

dampened cotton tipped sticks before the amount of dissolved ink coming from the sides of the carriage where it joined the shaft began to subside. It just kept coming and coming. There must have been a cartridge's worth of ink in there (OK, I exaggerate a bit). I then used the tiniest bit of silicone gel lubricant (an amount the volume of about a quarter of an apple seed) and spread it over the shaft. Although I spread it so thin that I couldn't see it, I then wiped off most of that with a clean tissue. From my years of experience maintaining medical equipment I have learned that less is usually better in these situations.

CONCLUSION
Now, time for the test. I replaced the older printer on my system with the newer, and hopefully, fixed instrument. After plugging it in and powering it up, I requested the printing of a 6-page document. IT WORKED! After all the hours of frustration I had endured with that printer I was not satisfied. I now ordered it to deliver another 6 pages. And another. I was ecstatic.

My day was made. And I owe it all to fast food. It maybe clogged my arteries, but it helped me clean out my printer's clogged carriage bearings.

Hey guys and gals, maybe we should be trolling for new LACS members at fast-food outlets, offering to help with computer problems.

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

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Moments From Your Possible Near Future
by Timothy Everingham of APCUG

With us increasingly in an interconnected world, you may experience this in the near future:

1. Just before you head off to work in the morning, you start the dishwasher.

2. During your commute, a plate falls down onto the heating coil of your dishwasher. When the drying cycle begins, the plate starts to burn and melt. The dishwasher picks up the burning plate via its chemical sniffer and heat sensors; It then shuts off the heating coil and discharges its CO2 fire extinguisher. It then detects there is no more danger.

3. The dishwasher then uses its Internet connection to enter a voice paging service. The dishwasher then calls you on your cellular phone and informs you what it detected, its actions, that it detects no further danger, and is on standby mode. It leaves a copy of this message on your voice mail.

4. As you are walking from your car to your office, you get a call from an appliance repair place you have a service contract with. The service rep informs you that they have received an email from your dishwasher informing them of what occurred to it this morning. They activated the netcam inside the dishwasher and saw the burned plate on the heating coil. She says they should come out to service the dishwasher (remove the plate, clean off the heating coil, and check for damage to the dishwashers components). You say you will get back to her in a few minutes.

5. When you reach your office, you log into your dishwasher's website. It confirms what the dishwasher's voice mail said earlier. You also activate the dishwasher's netcam and see the burned plate.

6. You then call back the service rep and inform her to go ahead and send someone to fix the dishwasher. You are logged into your home security system's website so you give the service rep a code received from the website that will allow someone to enter the house only that afternoon.

7. That afternoon you receive a voice mail from your home security system that the repair person has arrived.

8. Later on you receive an instant message from your dishwasher that repairs have been completed and asks you whether you want to start it again to wash the dishes you put in it this morning. You reply yes and it does so.

9. A few minutes later you receive another voice mail from your home security system that the repair person has left. It also informs you that it was informed by the refrigerator and kitchen cabinets that the repair person took a bottle of soda and some cookies. Thinking that it was probably ok, you don't do anything about it. You log into your grocery home delivery website and add more soda and cookies to your current order.

10. When you arrive home, you find the dishwasher repaired and the dishes washed.

About an hour after you arrive home, the grocery delivery truck arrives with the items you have ordered, including the soda and cookies. You could have had them put them in the kitchen cabinets and refrigerator while you were at work, but you like to do this yourself.

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

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Users Need To Know More About Popular, New DVD Technology

by Linda Gonse, Orange County IBM PC Users' Group

DVD writers and recordable DVDs are a fairly new entry into Personal Computerland. Consequently, most of us still need to know what to look for in a DVD writer and how to record DVDs.

Almost everyone knows that a DVD is a type of optical disc that looks like a CD, but has a significantly larger storage capacity.

What you might not know is that the capacity of a DVD may vary depending on different physical formats technology, ranging from 4.7 GB to 17.1 GB. And, while CDs are recorded only on one side, some DVDs such as DVD-RAM, support two layers per side and are rewritable up to 100,000 times. (This type of DVD is enclosed in a plastic case similar to a floppy disk which protects its surfaces and provides a label area.)

Another reason DVD drives are growing in popularity is that they can read most CD media as well. With such impressive features, it isn't surprising that DVDs are expected to become the next CD-ROM. In many cases, manufacturers are even building new PCs with DVD drives instead of CD drives.

The DVD "started in 1994 as two competing formats, Super Disc (SD) and Multimedia CD (MMCD). DVD now is the result of an agreement by both camps on a single standard to meet the requirements of all the various industries involved," according to Deluxe Global Media Services (formerly Disctronics). But, media formats still split into two groups: + (plus), or - (known commonly as minus; manufacturers may refer to it as dash). The quality comparison is close, and some DVD players will recognize both, while other models will only accept + or -.

Although there are many aspects of DVDs that we still need to learn, one of the basic questions people inevitably ask is, "What do the letters in DVD mean?"

The letters originally stood for Digital VideoDisc. As the technology gained in importance to the computer world, the word "video" was dropped, and the media and the technology was simply D-V-D. Later, it was given the name Digital Versatile Disc by the DVD Forum, which sets DVD standards. Most people just say D-V-D.

In addition, "The Burning Question," by Don Labriola, a detailed, comprehensive look at DVD recording with reviews on 23 products, is in the October 28, 2003 issue of PC magazine; it's also online at http://www.pcmag.com/article2/0,4149,1306042,00.asp. For an excellent overview of DVD technology and disks, history, specifications, formats, DVD-5, -10, -9, -18, hybrid formats, file systems, copy protection, and DVD Forum, go to http://www.disctronics.co.uk/technology/dvdintro/dvd_intro.htm.

Note: This is the manufacturers' description of the Jackrabbit DVD writer/player:

The DVD writer is a Philips Jackrabbit JR32RWDVK – "Smart, Mobile, Multi Purpose, DVD Player, CD Rewriter / DVD Read Combo, Audio MP3 CD Player. The first 'All-in-One' device that converges your Home and PC environments."

Linda is the editor and webmaster for Orange County IBM PC Users' Group, in Southern California. You can contact her at editor@orcopug.org. Or, visit the user group's website at http://www.orcopug.org.

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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The President's Pen

a software program that's suppose to do certain things. When I find that the program does not fulfill the promises on the package, I have little to no recourse. I should NEVER be told "Oh yea, that problem is fix in the new version, rev up." I could switch programs but I might run into the some other problem with the second program and I already have hours invested in learning the first program. I'm sure most of you have seen the joke about "if GM built cars like &^%#$&*() built software ..." Well it's more than a joke.

My suggested law above might seem a little radical, however, if a software manufacturer sells good software they will never have to make even one refund. So what's the problem? It's the companies that rush product out the door, the companies that don't do adequate testing, the companies that are too greedy to do it right and simply hold the consumer hostage that are going to pay. We need to reward good work and hold manufacturers responsible for shoddy products.

Think about it?

Currently there isn't a topic scheduled for this month. We're still looking for a program coordinator. If nothing materializes by meeting time, I'll do a short presentation and we'll do some questions and answers. Hope to see you Tuesday if you can brave the cold.

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WYSIWYG WEB WATCH (www)
By Paul Baecker

This column attempts to locate sites containing valuable, amusing and free content, with no overbearing pressure to purchase anything. Send your favorite (entertaining, helpful or just plain useless) sites, with brief site descriptions, to excuser@excite.com for inclusion in a future WYSIWYG issue. Also check the SHCC web site (Web Page Reviews) for previous gems.

If your goal is to be a top-gun typist, go here for free typing tests (including the numerical keypad). Test as often as you want, and change the tests at will.
http://www.learn2type.com

A comprehensive resource for mobile phone shoppers, users, and enthusiasts. The site offers a detailed database of mobile phone information, including phone features and details, industry news, technology guides and hardware reviews.
http://www.phonescoop.com

Hundreds of high-quality pictures commemorating 9-11 in New York City. Browse by category.
http://hereisnewyork.org

General Windows, Internet, and e-mail tips and terminology. Easy to understand, many with detailed illustrations.
http://www.worldstart.com/

This organization provides information to empower you at any stage of your marital partnership (pre-/post-marriage or divorce), with practical tips, easy-to-use checklists, essential things to remember, special e-mail notes and links to other resources arranged according to your life stage.
http://www.equalityinmarriage.org

Nolo's motto is "putting the law into plain English". Articles on wills/estate planning, retirement and elder care info, employment and internet law, real estate, landlord/tenant, marriage/divorce, bankruptcy, lawsuit/mediation, traffic tickets, and more. Encyclopedia, dictionary, calculators.
http://www.nolo.com

View stained glass art in various US and UK religious buildings.
http://stainedglassphotography.com

A photojournalist documents his experiences through kidney failure, dialysis, and transplant. Over 100 images detail the journey step-by-step.
http://www.johnfmartin.net

World's largest toothpaste collection online with over 1000 items, including six-proof Scotch Whiskey toothpaste.
http://www.toothpasteworld.com

Chronicle of the life and death of this New Jersey hospital that was built in 1902 and abandoned in the 1970s.
http://www.mountainsanatorium.net

This site documents the humorous English mistakes that appear in Japanese advertising and product design.
http://www.engrish.com

This organization lists their favorite outrageous, sometimes humorous, quotes from various media sources. Search for quotes by topic/reporter from 1988-2004, in print/audio/video formats.
http://www.mrc.org

An historic pictorial trip through the history of U.S. currency.
http://www.currencygallery.org

Browse through recent in-flight meals from a variety of air carriers, visit airline catering companies, view vintage meal pics and ads and menus.
http://www.airlinemeals.net

An exploration of sense relationships within the English language. By clicking on words, you follow a thread of meaning, creating a spatial map of language associations. Try "automobile".
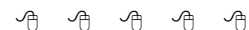http://www.visualthesaurus.com/online/index.html

Univ. of Cal. attempts to measure how much information is produced globally each year. Site offers charts, statistics and data by media type.
http://www.sims.berkeley.edu/research/projects/how-much-info/

NASDAQ site offers a color-coded price change map, which updates once a minute during trading hours and includes relevant company data.
http://screening.nasdaq.com/heatmaps/heatmap_100.asp

Site investigates the history, traditions, and performance of the perilous art of swordswallowing, with photos and x-rays and animations, types of equipment, medical terms and complications. If you're considering doing it, don't!
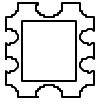http://www.swordswallow.com

Click on "Elections and Voting" here for explanation of the Electoral College voting process.
http://www.fec.gov

A collection of vintage toy ads from the '60s to the '80s.
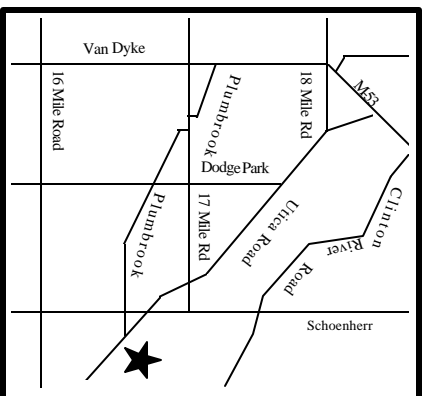http://www.toyadz.com

FEBUARY AT SHCC:

TUESDAY   Feb 3
Main Meeting.
7:30PM at
Carpathia Club.
38000 Utica Road
Sterling Heights

The meeting topic has not been finalized at the time of publication.

SIGs

MONDAY
Net/Com SIG

February 9
7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

MONDAY
NOVICE SIG

February 16
7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.

WEDNESDAY
PC SIG

February 25
7:00PM at the Macomb County Library.