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Of The  
Kentucky Indiana  
PC Users Group**

**July  
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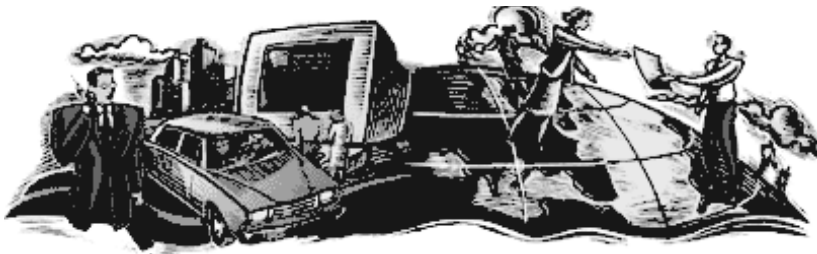
**Volume 18, No. 07**

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# Lernout & Hauspie

Connecting People and Machines through  
Speech and Language



L&H is the leading worldwide provider of  
speech and language products,  
technologies and services, including  
speech recognition, text to speech,  
compression, and translation.

## Have you seen the talking Parrot?



**Public is welcome at KIPCUG's  
General Meeting at IUS.**

**Free Program Starts at 6:30 PM**

**[www.kipcug.org](http://www.kipcug.org)**

# KIPCUG

Next meeting  
L & H SPEECH SOFTWARE  
IUS, OGLE CENTER  
Tuesday, July 6th, 6:30 p.m.

# From The Editor

The report is in! Karen Schuler, KIPCUG's Membership Director, reported that our membership is UP 25% over the last 10 months! We have reported previously that KIPCUG had a lot of positive enthusiasm. You elected a new Board of Directors at the last meeting. (Page 12 has a list of your leaders.) You have supported the growth of the SIG program. You have supported the general meetings. Most of all you have brought in friends, neighbors, and co-workers and asked them to join!

The challenge that our new President, Fred Soward, put in front of the Board of Directors was to keep the momentum going. As we look into the future, there will be a continuing battle to entice the best manufacturers in the industry to invest their money in the "road show." When you compare our membership size to other groups, we are certainly not the largest group. KIPCUG does stand tall in the percentage of membership that shows up for meetings. Many groups with twice as many members have a much smaller turnout than KIPCUG. Our greatest asset is our membership. Say hello to someone you don't know at the next meeting. Bring a friend with you. If Phil Whitehouse, our new Volunteer Director, calls you - I hope you will be happy to give us a hand. Next June when Fred's replacement takes over as our next President, Karen should be able to report the KIPCUG has had another 25% increase in membership AND a 25% increase in volunteers.

*How can we help you? John*

## Contributing staff writers

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Joey McKnight   Mary Gehant-Lagunez  
Mario Lagunez   Dave Zepka   Schoun Regan**

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# Lernout & Houspie

## Voice Power Your Computer... at Home, in the Office, and for Specific Professions... with L&H's Speech Products

by Bonnie Zepka, KIPCUG

Lernout & Houspie is a software provider of speech and language products which let you create, edit and format documents or enter database and spreadsheet information by talking to your computer. Now there is no more need to memorize key-strokes or commands and you can type as fast as you talk. It's great for overburden typists, slow typists, or anyone who wants to keep their hands free while working on their computer and reduce repetitive stress injuries.

### L&H products:

**1. Voice Xpress** - There are four versions of Voice Xpress available:

**A. Professional version:** designed for people who use a variety of MS applications, including MS Office 2000 and 97 and Word 2000 and 95/97. The full suite of MS Office application. Voice command macros in Excel, PowerPoint, and Word. Comes with four specialized vocabularies, plus Talking Tools, five-voice control a desktop accessory.

**B. Advanced Version:** Best for extensive word processing needs. It

comes with two standard vocabularies. Add-ons available

**C. Standard:** The best for the occasional computer users and newcomer to diction software. Lets you navigate the desktop and issue voice commands

**D. Specialties:** for those who are part of a profession with its own vocabulary and terminology for specific use. Medicine is programmed with a 64000-word medical vocabulary capacity with a 220000 word back-up vocabulary. Record and review clinical documents. Legal is customizable to up 64000 words specific to the terminology and context used by the legal professionals. Safety contain terminology and context situations specific to safety professionals. Record and review public safety and law enforcement documents.

### **2. Now You're Talking**

is a suite of voice-powered accessories for organization and surfing the Internet. Works with many of your favorite applications, including MS Office 95.

### **3. PowerTranslor**

Software to translate English to

and from: Spanish, German, French, Italian and Portuguese.

### **4. Kurzweil Education System**

products for reading education and for use by those with dyslexia and visual impairments. Kurzweil 3000 reading system helps the disable to read and study. It helps improve reading skills and comprehension by displaying the document on the monitor, highlighting words and phrases, while simultaneously reading it aloud.

### **5. Talking Max**

Users can teach Max words, phrases, or complete dialogues. You can train the parrot to say more than 50 phrases. He learns to associate phrases with specific actions and can engage users in complete conversations

### **6. Audio Café**

the plug-in free streaming audio solution for web developers. For any level of web developer who wants an easy to use method for incorporating streaming audio into their web site.

## Getting to IUS from Louisville

Our meetings are in the Ogle Center at Indiana University Southeast.

Take I-65 north to I-265. Turn west on I-265 (after passing under the overpass).

Take the Grant Line Road exit from I-265.

Turn right at the intersection onto Grant Line Road. IUS is a half mile on the left.

Ogle Center is at the back right of the campus. You will not "get a ticket" for parking in the wrong lot or meter area. Park behind or in front of the building.

# Over The Program Director's Shoulder

by Judy Lococo, KIPCUG

It's the first Tuesday of the month. I have not seen hide nor hair of an incoming vendor. I break out in a cold sweat, take White Lightning to IUS, and discover it's not on Grant Line Road anymore! Major panic. So I wake up....

I have inherited some awfully big shoes to fill in this job, but hopefully I can coast it out... <g> Fred Soward went on to bigger & better things (he'll deny it, though) but he did leave me with a jam-packed bag of meetings already on tap. I hope I can keep the momentum flowing for another year. If you have thoughts on a vendor you would like to see, please send an email to judyl@thorobred.win.net, and we shall try to find a way to get them to come to town.



**July 6 - Lernout and Hauspie** will be the star attraction with their flavor of speech dictation & voice navigation software. Don't miss this latest opportunity to see how the professionals handle the extremely complicated software tasks.

Also on tap will be **US Access Bank**, who will be showing their online banking. If you're interested in finding another solution to writing out endless checks each month (well, at least mine seem to be) by all means make this one. Imagine, telling your computer to pay your bills...



**August 3 - Corel** is bringing both Corel WordPerfect 2000 and CorelDraw 9! I haven't seen it yet, but the scuttlebutt is that there are a lot of really good reasons to use this particular edition.

**September 7 -** Come out and see

## September

two different presenters of **eCommerce** and other Internet technologies. It will soon be impossible to ignore all the online commercial ventures, as the dweeb in all of us would rather click on an icon than shop in a store. Yes, you read it here! What we need is more time in front of a monitor!! <g> Manpower Technical will also be presenting a seminar on their services and computer based training.

## October

**October 5 -** We aren't committed yet, (but maybe should be...) but **Adobe** has been invited to present at this meeting. It's been quite a long absence, and they have some delightful new packages for online publishing. Please stay tuned for further details.

Hopefully, we will have an exceptional Back-to-Basics by one of our newest Directors, Schoun Regan on proper e-mail etiquette. Not netiquette, which includes all things on the net such as newsgroups, but

instead focusing on the intricacies of sending and receiving of email messages. In other words, how not to forward a message that has been encapsulated in a file twelve times, with two hundred headers and one line of joke...



**November 2 - PowerQuest** and Gene Barlow! What a combination! This former patriarch of the IBM User Group arm (remember Team OS/2?) has retired to continue working! <grin> Gene will not only show us the latest goodies from this company, but will also be doing a Back-to-Basics on the care and feeding of your hard drive.

And all of these will bring us up to December, when the Y2K hype will suddenly send us to our travel agents looking for great deals on trips to tropical island retreats, roughing it until all the lights come back on. Stockpiling, are we?



KIPCUG's General Meeting is held the 1st. Tuesday each month in the Ogle Center at Indiana University Southeast.

IUS is located at 2nd entrance off Grant Line Road, just north of I-265

Parking is FREE

# L&H's VoiceXpress

By Joey McKnight, KIPCUG

As an untutored and (frankly) lousy typist, I have been anxiously awaiting the arrival of voice recognition software. So when the opportunity arose to test one of the newly available programs, I was swift to volunteer for the review of Lernout and Hauspie's VoiceXpress. This software, as with other voice recognition software (VRS) is supposed to replace most keyboard and mouse functions with voice commands. If proved successful, this software will not only help poor typists but will also help good ones. The necessity to move on and off the keyboard home keys to operate a mouse is very frustrating and a source of many typing errors.



VoiceXpress by Lernout & Houspie can be found on the Internet at [www.lhs.com](http://www.lhs.com)

This particular VRS product works fairly well in some areas (desktop and web navigation, data entry, etc. etc.) but needs refinement for word processing purposes. It is still struggling when large fields of text are dictated. Words are often mistaken for similar sounding words, background noise is picked up as a series of short, one syllable words such as I, a, is, and as, and words or commands require frequent repeating to achieve modest accuracy.

The procedure this software uses for adaptation to the pronunciation and rhythms of individual speech is extensive, repetitive and (at least in my case) not real successful in capturing the subtleties of Ohio Valley standard English. It consists primarily of reading a large amount of preprinted text as well as reciting numbers, letters, standard punctuation, and typical computer commands. Perhaps because I speak fairly rapidly, the program seemed to have difficulty adjusting to my speech. Before a final assessment of performance is rendered, it might be useful to evaluate the program with someone else's speech patterns.

This software was able to perform many of the mouse and keyboard functions thereby freeing hands for desktop and browser usage as promoted by Microsoft. The software version I reviewed is the professional edition of VoiceXpress and I would guess, that the advanced edition designed specifically for use with Microsoft Word may be a better product for use in word processing. As noted above, I also used this software for data entry in both spread sheet and a database formats. I found the software much more accurate and less tedious to use in these applications. At around one hundred and fifty dollars, the software is a little pricey for non-commercial use. On the other hand though, it is quite a tool for those of us who like the idea of talking to the computer and committed non-typists may well find the investment worthwhile.

VoiceXpress installs quite easily but Sound Blaster or a Sound Blaster compatible is required. I

also recommend a fast computer. The machines I installed on were all at least 350 mhz with UDMA or UDMA-2 harddrives and the performance degradation was still noticeable. I installed this software on Windows 98, Windows NT 4.0 (workstation and server) and Windows 2000 beta 3 (professional and server) and found that it loads easily in all Windows environments.

My only area of concern about how this software runs is the noise. Even with these fast machines, (one of which is an extremely fast AMD K-6 III 400 that has been over clocked to five hundred and has 64 mb of RAM) I still found noticeable lag in the opening and closing of programs. On a scale of one to ten, I would give this software about a seven. It gains points for ease of installation and operation but loses them for noise and inaccuracy in accepting dictation. In conclusion, I would recommend this software to home users or professional users who will not need it for word processing.

To contact Lernout and Hauspie you can phone them at 800-380-1234 or fax them at 781-238-0986. To contact them by snail mail write to 52 Third Avenue, Burlington, Ma. 01803. You will find them on the web at [www.lhs.com](http://www.lhs.com). This website has information on all of L&H's software, which include not only the voice recognition software but foreign language translation software as well.

*The reviewer is an MCSE at Eclipse Microsystems, Louisville, Kentucky.*

# L&H's Talking Max

By Dr. Mario Lagunez & Mary R. Gehant-Lagunez, KIPCUG

Talking Max, from Lernout & Hauspie, is more than just a screen saver; it is a virtual pet. It is a bright green, sassy parrot that lives in your computer. Max can be trained to respond to various commands and to wander through his three-room house. And he even talks back to you.

Using voice recognition Max learns to associate phrases with actions. You can teach him words, phrases, or dialog. The developer says that the more phrases you teach Max, the more he responds. He will ask, "Why don't you talk to me?" if there's too long a silence.

The program let you choose between three different personalities for Max -wacky, calm or lively - and you can pick any name you like for the bird. Several birds can be put into the program, so each family member could have their own pet.



Talking Max, the green sassy parrot is more than a screen saver

Although, Max has a limited range of places to go in his house there is some variation in how he acts. On one occasion he might dive into the bathtub, while at another time he gingerly put a toe into the water. And his phrases vary, too. Going into the kitchen, he might say "Let's eat" or "I'm as hungry as a horse."

When installing TM, we found that the instructions on the screen are not too clear and the help menu says what can be done, but not how to do it. For example, the bathtub has hot and cold taps, but we had a

hunt-and-click session to get the water turned on and did not find out how to turn it off. Well, it did turn off finally so the tub didn't overflow. On one occasion, Max had a freezing bath.

Exiting from the training mode to playtime was slow, requiring several clicks on "exit" to return to the start-up page in order to enter Max's house and begin playing with him.

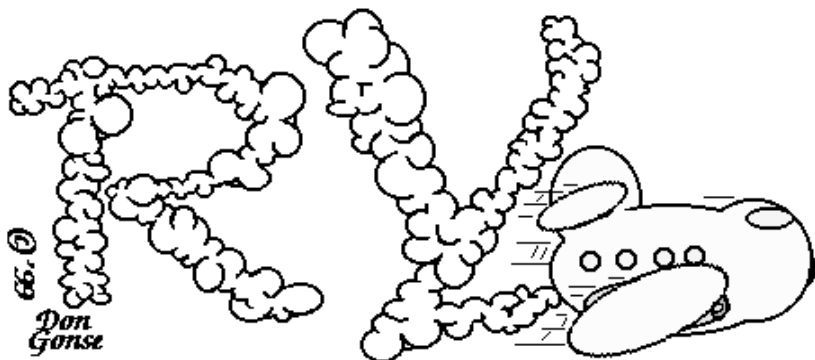


Max would probably appeal most to 8-10-year-old players, or maybe to retired people with limited human contact.

The game can be installed either to run on the hard disk or on the CD-Rom to save memory space. No instruction book or the special microphone headset came with the review copy. The instructions for installing the software need be more specific on what to expect from the user actions.

**THE REQUIREMENTS:**  
Pentium 166 or compatible  
Windows 95/98/NT  
32Mb RAM/40Mb if NT  
High color display (32k colors)  
8x CD-ROM if not installed  
16-bit sound card or equivalent  
11Meg in the Windows system.  
150Meg of free space (4Meg if run from the CD-ROM)  
Additional 11Meg for the optional screen-saver.

## Humorous Bits by Don Gorse



To be competitive, Roy got himself a new "bubble jet printer".

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# "The TECH SCENE"

by Charley May, KIPCUG

Normally, when you bring up (open, launch, start) Windows Explorer, it displays the top level of your C: drive with all the folders listed below the C: drive in the left window. If you have more than a few Programs, they run off the bottom of the screen and you can not see any of your other Hard Drive (or Partition) Letters or your CD-ROM Letter. Also, you can not see above the C: drive, to see your A: drive and (Optional B: drive) you must scroll up to the floppy drive then click on it to see the floppy's contents. Same problem with any drives past the C: drive. You must scroll down to bring the needed drive on the screen, then select it (unless you have very few programs). Or you can click on the minus in the box, in front of the drive icon for the C: drive, to close up the folders listed, then you can see the drives after c: drive and select the drive you want. Not as handy as it could be.

Well, this month the DOC is going to show you how to cure this problem. This method will work with any of your Drives, Floppy Drives, CD-ROMs, use the same principles.

The first TIP will be how to List ALL of your Drives in the Windows Explorer left Window with ONE double click on your Desktop! Wow, sounds Cool huh.

Just follow the steps. First close all programs you might be running at the time or start from a clean boot.

RULES: ("Click" always means "left click") A "right click" is just a "right click"

1. Find Windows Explorer and "right click" on it.

2. In the DROPDOWN MENU that opened, "click" on CREATE SHORTCUT.

3. Find the NEW icon on your desktop, it will probably be called "Windows Explorer (2)" and "right click" on "Windows Explore (2)". In the DROPDOWN MENU that opened, "click" on PROPERTIES.

4. A dialog box will open up called "Windows Explorer (2)", in this box SELECT the "SHORTCUT" tab. The fourth line down from the "SHORTCUT" tab is titled "Target:" and in its box it will say "C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE /n,/e,C:\". Insert the following:

"/select," after the comma following the lower case "e" so it looks like the following:

```
C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE /n,/e,/select, C:\
```

Then "click" the "Apply" button and then the "OK" button and the dialog box closes.

5.Last step, whew! "right click" the new "Windows Explorer (2)" ICON, then "click" on RENAME and you can change the label on the Icon to read "LIST ALL DRIVES"

**YOU ARE DONE!**

Want to see the contents of a floppy disk (or contents of your CD-ROM) with one double click? Sure you do!

Follow steps 1 through 3 above first.

4. Then when the dialog box opens up called "Windows Explorer (2)", in this box SELECT the "SHORTCUT" tab. The fourth line down from the "SHORTCUT" tab is titled "Target:" and in its box it will say "C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE /n,/e,C:\". Just change the last "C:\" to "A:\" so it looks like the following:

```
C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE /n,/e, A:\
```

--If you want to do this for the CD-ROM, use its drive letter.--

Then "click" the "Apply" button and then the "OK" button and the dialog box closes. That was simple wasn't it?

5.Last step! "right click" the new "Windows Explorer (2)" ICON, then "click" on RENAME and you can change the label on the Icon to read "Windows Explorer (A)". (If you did your CD-ROM, change the label on the Icon to read "Windows Explorer (what ever your CD ROM letter is)").

**YOU ARE DONE!**

So now you say, Doc, Charley, Hey You! ..... I just want to get to "My Documents" with one click. Can I do that, Huh, Huh? ..... Why sure Scarlet, every thing is going to be OK and they will rebuild Atlanta again.

And here is how you do it:

Follow steps 1 through 3 above first.

Continued on page 20

# Auraline - Spice Up Your Web Sites

By Dave Zepka, KIPCUG

Have you ever visited a really cool Web site with special effects and animation and wished you could create one just like it?

At COMDEX, last Fall's computer show in Las Vegas; I found a really cool program that lets you create these professional and expensive-looking web sites quickly and simply. Knowledge of Java, a type of programming language, is usually required in order to produce some of the great special effect found on web pages. Now, however, You can create your own cool web site easily and with all the effects of a professional site without knowing this Java stuff. AuraLine, by NEC System, is a software program that lets you create two types of presentations so you can be a smash hit with your audience. You can create an interactive animated presentation to insert in your Web pages or an interactive multimedia presentation to insert into your Microsoft

PowerPoint97 file.

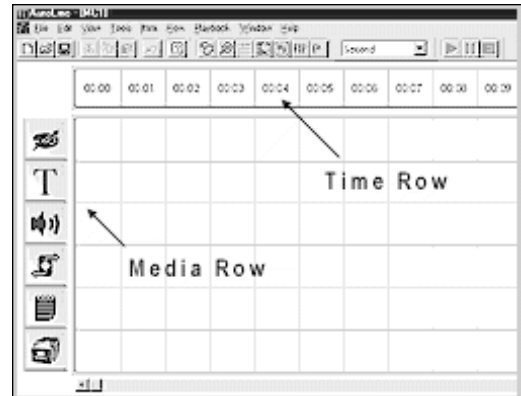
The Auraline is designed to be used by the novice as well as the professional Web page authors. With the AuraLine Java Multimedia Creation Kit, there is no scripting or Java knowledge necessary because the software does it all for you. Whether you create a web site or a PowerPoint presentation, you use similar techniques and the same type of graphics, text, sound, music, and video, or CD Audio.

The program uses a visual "TimeLine" and "Page Layout" environment to let you create your presentations. The Timeline is a grid consisting of six-rows and multiply columns. Each row represents a different element that you will use, such as, a row for text, or one for graphics, and sound, Logic, or comments and storage of media files. The timeline window is where you bring in bitmapped graphics and WAV. sound clips and combine them with text. You simply drag your multimedia elements into their starting points on the grid and viola you've created a great web page.

A neat trick you can do with the timeline to make your page sing is to set up different triggers to take effect at specific times. Triggers, such as making a noise or having fireworks go off when the mouse rolls over a certain spot or have bells ring when you click the mouse button, or have singing erupt with the touch of the cursor.

The Timeline is also where you create the animation effects. The

program lets you import GIF animation as a series of images from frame to frame and when played appears as animation. There are numerous special effects available to use such as page transitions or page turns and fades. There are 5000 files provided with the program.



Auraline uses a visual "timeline" and "page layout to assist in your projects

When you finish creating your masterpiece, all you need to do is save it. When you save the presentation, all the elements that require conversion are automatically converted into a web format or PowerPoint presentation. Once the files are generated you than copy them and place them on your web page. You can use the File Transfer Protocol function included in the program to send all your files to a server and view the presentation on the Web.

The program is easy to install. Just insert the CD and click on install and you're ready to go. I recommend using the tutorial feature of the program. It walks you through each step in the process of making a web page and explains what you need to

Continued on page 20

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We encourage all our members to support the companies that support us. Without them, we could not operate  
KIPCUG Appreciates your help!

# E-Mail Netiquette

By Schoun Regan, KIPCUG

Can we talk? Please?

Email etiquette is something that most new 'Net users need. Unless your career before the 'Net consisted solely of typing letters, you may need guidance in this new form of communication. There are courtesies and dangers to learn. Pitfalls to avoid. Strategies to follow. We'll examine some common email etiquette, thereby making your trip on the Internet polite, safe, and relatively secure.

You received your very first email today. Wow. Someone is welcoming you to something and you feel special. The last time you were welcomed somewhere they asked you to leave early. You are SO EXCITED!!! You hit the reply button and START TYPING! BUT YOU ARE NOT MUCH OF A TYPR AND YOO MAKE MISSTAKES AND TYPE IN CAPITOL LETTERS AND HAVE SEEM TO FORGOT YOUR GRAMMER TRAINING BUT YOU ARE SO EXCITED AND SO YOU KEEP TYPING AND THEN HIT SEND!!!!!!!

The person on the receiving end of your reply would like to reach across the great information highway, run you off the road into an Information Highway Safety Barrier and wreck your internetmobile. You have committed several email netiquette infractions.

1. Please do not type in capital letters. This is considered SHOUTING and is EXTREMELY RUDE. SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT?!?!?

2. We assume that even if you did

not finish school, you figured out how to use the spell check function on your email application. If you did not figure it out, keep a dictionary handy. Misspelling words will ruin your credibility.

3. Please use correct grammar. Mark Twain got away with incorrect grammar because he was a Great Writer and he is dead. Using bad grammar will ruin your credibility.

Well, you only do that twice and the person you replied to flames you. That is when they call you nasty names and scold you for being a bad speller with poor grammar who shouts. You take it under advisement and wonder how they knew about your cousin. You get another email, this time from a group that you signed up with so that you receive email involving cat hairballs and pillow stuffing. You are SO EXCITED but this time you keep your EXCITEMENT under control. You read with EXCITEMENT that a person in Belgium has perfected a certain technique involving the pillow seam leakage issue and you think you have another answer so you write a response, check your spelling and grammar, and send it off. You are so happy. For about an hour. You start receiving flames, about 300 and counting. Where are they coming from?!? You have violated another netiquette rule. You responded to the ENTIRE group instead of the person in Belgium. .. When you sign up for a newsletter, you commonly receive email from the group pertaining to the subject at hand. Often times a special email address is set up for people to post comments to. You didn't read the newsletter rules. Not

playing by the rules will ruin your credibility.

Ok, you make it through the newsletter group issue and now have several friends across the country with which you correspond in a polite and sensible manner. You get and send along jokes that you would never tell your spouse, especially after your run-in with the Solid Object of Pain. So you get this GREAT joke and feel compelled to send it to ALL your email pals. You place all their email addresses in the Send To box and send it along. The next week you start getting flames from your email pals, and they YELL at YOU for what you did. What did you do? You just gave all those email addresses to everyone else on the list and one person on your list sent that list to their friend and that friend sent it to a porno joke list and they collected all those email addresses and now all of your friends and you are on the e-mail porno train. Cover your head.

## What To Do

Take email addresses and create groups with your e-mail application. That way, you can place the name of the group in the Send To box and no one can see the list.

You Don't Send Me Files, Anymore

Surviving this long, you begin to send attached files to the few friends you have left. You just re-roofed your house and you simply MUST take a picture and send it to your friends. You have a cable modem (your friends are convinced life is NOT fair) so you send off a five megabyte file to your pals, not both-

## E-Mail Netiquette

ering to ask them if they have a fast connection. They log on and it takes them about one hour to download a high resolution shot of your roof. Here come the flames.

Huh?

You should always check the connection speeds of your e-mail pals if you are sending files. Since speeds can vary widely, this is another good way to get flamed. Not telling others before you send large items from your house will ruin your credibility.

Let's Summarize

You survived your first few months on the Internet with email. Congratulations. There is a moral here somewhere. I think it's slow and steady wins the race. No, maybe it's ask not and ye shall receive. Whistle while you work? Whatever the moral, it pays to be careful when venturing out on the Internet. Your personal information is yours. Keep it that way. Maintain proper netiquette habits and your credibility will sky rocket.

Schoun Regan reads mail sent to [kipcug@macgroupusa.com](mailto:kipcug@macgroupusa.com)

## From Your Board of Directors

The first order of business was the appointment of several Directors to the current Board. Under KIPCUG bylaws, we elected 12 Directors at the General Meeting on June 1st: The Board in then required to appoint additional Directors to fill described duties as required by the Bylaws. Both the elected and appointed Directors will serve through May, 2000.

The Board approved the following appointments:

David Brooks - Webmaster  
Mike Shaikun - Legal Advisor  
Schoun Regan - Director  
John Henderson - Editor  
Charlie Johnson - Publicity

The Boards first meeting centered on the future of KIPCUG, specifically the encouragement of members to buy into the organization by sharing their time and talent, developing a stronger publicity/public relations effort, and growing the membership through learning, quality of programming, and attracting other potential computer groups to offer a greater potential audience for national vendors.

Two Director positions that will play important roles:

Volunteer Coordinator - Phil Whitehouse and Publicity - Charley Johnson. They are looking for members that can help in small, short term projects such as helping at the door during meetings, staffing a booth at trade shows, answering questions regarding their favorite software.

Phil: [basicpop@aol.com](mailto:basicpop@aol.com)

Charley: [caj@iglou.com](mailto:caj@iglou.com)

In addition, most Board Members will be looking for "assistants." Not to carry the whole weight of the office, but to help out throughout the year. Please contact them directly if you would like to see the "inside operation."

-----  
by Karen Schuler, Membership

Please extend a warm welcome to our newest KIPCUG members.

ALLEN R BRUCE  
BLENN GOETZINGER  
GALLEY COLLINS  
IRMI TUESKOES  
JAMES B WHITE  
JIM FRAZIER  
JIM HANS  
M EMERY TUESKOES  
MARY WHITE  
MILLIE KRAINSKI  
RICHARD VAUTARD  
ROBERT MOHR  
ROBERT STEWART  
SAM ASAMOAH  
SAMUEL MANLY  
SHAWN A TERRY  
TERI BASKETT



Speed  
Reliability  
Knowledge

### Special Offer for KIPCUG Members

No setup charges for dial-up access (\$20 value)

100 free hours per month

50 MB web site for business or personal use

**· \$14.95 per month**

[www.win.net](http://www.win.net)

**589-6800**

"Possibly the best tech support in the business..." PC Magazine

# Directory of KIPCUG Leaders

Name	Position	Home	Work
Fred Soward	President	426-1829	
Don Fowler	Vice President		589-6800
Winnie Miller	Secretary	895-5360	
Anthony Krainski	Treasurer	429-5155	
Judy Lococo	Program Director	893-8710	893-8710
Karen Schuler	Membership Director	239-3841	
Phil Whitehouse	Volunteer Director		
Charley May	SIG Director	425-4604	
David Brooks	Webmaster	454-4421	540-2730
Bonnie Zepka	Software Review Editor		449-6205
John Henderson	Editor, I/O Magazine		945-1102
Charlie Johnson	Publicity Director	239-0266	961-0903
Mike Shaikun	Legal Advisor	425-3326	589-4200
Marvin Livingood	Director Emeritus	459-8888	459-8888
David Brooks	Webmaster	454-4421	540-2730
Steve Goldberg	Director	282-5186	
Larry Mand	Director		941-2384
Susan Moore	Director/SIG Leader	499-5222	
Schoun Regan	Director		485-1243
David Puckett	User to User Coordinator	549-9008	
Art Atkinson	SIG Leader	589-7411	
Martin Campion	SIG Leader	479-8952	
Glenn Fish	SIG Leader		589-6800
John Kilpatrick	SIG Leader	635-1153	
Grant McCormick	SIG Leader	935-2497	266-9999
Jim Travelstead	SIG Leader	375-4796	852-4761
Doc Viele	SIG Leader	452-6878	
Larry West	SIG Leader	239-7378	

## I/O Submissions

Articles submitted to I/O should be in ASCII text format and submitted one month in advance. If graphics are included, they should be submitted in TIF file format whenever possible.

## Advertising Rates for I/O

Ad size	Rate
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Half Page (3 col x 5")	110.00
Full Page	200.00

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Discount	Rate
Three consecutive insertions	10%
Twelve consecutive insertions	20%
Special discounts offered to KIPCUG members	Call

**NOTE:** I/O is published electronically in addition to its printed edition. Advertising materials not supplied in electronic form will **not** be included in the electronic edition.

All Advertising must be paid for at the time of submission or on approved PO. Rates are for **electronic (JPG EPS TIF)** copy. The deadline for submission of advertising materials is the first of the month for the next month's publication.

**Send all advertising materials to:**

**Anthony Krainski, Treasurer. For more information, call (502) 429-5155 or send e-mail to: akrain@iglou.com**

## KIPCUG Supporters

*Please support them with your business*

The vendors listed below have contributed hardware or software to KIPCUG to assist in production of the organization's monthly newsletter. We encourage you to support these vendors who are helping to support our organization.

Lexmark	Novell
Optra R+ Laser Printer	Netware 4.1
Adobe	Intuit
Photoshop 3.0	Quicken 5.0
PageMaker 6.5	

Paste July Calander

# The SIG Scene

## ACCESS SIG

Meets 10:00 am on the 4th Saturday of the month at the Louisville Free Public Library, Eline Branch, located in the St. Matthews City Hall Building, at the corner of Grandview Ave and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Road.

SIG LEADER: John Kilpatrick at 635-1153 or kilpat1@juno.com

## DELPHI SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at the New Horizons Learning Center, at 10200 Linn Station Road in Suite 110 of the Triad E. Bldg.

SIG LEADER: Larry West at 239-7378 or larrywest@hotmail.com

## GENEALOGY SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 3rd Monday of the month at the Louisville Free Public Library, Eline Branch, located in the St. Matthews City Hall Building, at the corner of Grandview Ave and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Road.

SIG LEADER: Susan Moore at 499-5222 or susankmoore@iname.com

## HARDWARE SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 1st Monday of the month at the Louisville Free Public Library, Eline Branch, located in the St. Matthews City Hall Building, at the corner of Grandview Ave and Fairfax Ave. about 3 blocks south of Shelbyville Road.

SIG LEADER: Grant McCormick at (wk) 266-9999 ext. 213, (home) 935-2497 or CO-LEADER: Charley May at 425-4604 or hardware@sig.win.net

## INTERNET USER & TELECOMMUNICATIONS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 4th Thursday of the month at 330-F, Distillery Commons in the Win.Net offices, at the corner of Lexington and Payne streets.

SIG LEADER: Glenn Fish at 589-6800 or fish@win.net

## INVESTING SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the Louisville Aero Club, Bowman Field. We do not discuss the relative merits of mutual funds.

SIG LEADER: Doc Viele at 452-6878 for details.

## NEW USERS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 2nd Monday of the month at the New Horizons Learning Center, at 10200 Linn Station Road in Suite 110 of the Triad E. Bldg.

Contact SIG Director Charley May at 425-4604 or sig@win.net

## OS/2 & OTHER 32-BIT OS SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 120 Webster in the Bakery Square Building, right next to the Butchertown Pub.

SIG LEADER: Art Atkinson at 589-7411 or aatkins@ibm.net

## VISUAL BASIC SIG

Meets 7 PM. on the 2nd Thursday of the month at the New Horizons Learning Center, at 10200 Linn Station Road in Suite 110 of the Triad E. Bldg.

SIG LEADER: Martin Campion at 479-8952 or mccampion@aol.com

## WEBMASTER SIG

Meets 6 PM. on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 330-F, Distillery Commons in the Win.Net offices, at the corner of Lexington and Payne streets.

SIG LEADER: Don Fowler at 589-6800 or dfowler@win.net

## WINDOWS, WORD & EXCEL SIG

Meets 6:30 PM. on the 4th Monday of the month at the new training center located in the CompUSA Louisville store at 825 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy.

SIG LEADER: Jim Travelstead, 852-4761 (W), 375-4796 (H) or jim.travelstead@louisville.edu

**SIG Director:** Charley May 425-4604 or sig@win.net

by Charley May, SIG Director

## ACCESS SIG

The ACCESS SIG meets the 4th Saturday of each month from 10:00 AM to noon, at the Eline Branch of the Louisville Free Public Library (LFBL) in St. Matthews. The ACCESS SIG is still new and is looking for more members interested in using Microsoft's Access Database Program. Is your company changing over to an all Microsoft

System requiring you to operate with Microsoft ACCESS? Well, come join the others who are converting to ACCESS and get some of those nagging questions answered and you will sleep better at night again. On the other hand, If you are just interested in learning about ACCESS and are would like to get together with others that want to use ACCESS, try out our meetings. We have room for more attendees and use a large screen TV for presentations.

In the June meeting SIG TEAM

LEADER John Kilpatrick, a business and personal user of ACCESS, will cover basics concepts on a new user level with easy to understand examples, followed by a Q & A session for all levels of users. Work on two SIG projects, will continue to develop, as both projects and learning tools.

The July and August meetings will continue covering the basics concepts on a new user level with examples, followed by a Q & A session for all levels of users.

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

## **DELPHI SIG**

In May the DELPHI SIG conducted their second meeting under the new leadership of Larry West and they are looking for more Delphi users to attend this SIG. Mr. West is an active DELPHI Programmer with the willingness and ability to pass his knowledge. If you are involved with DELPHI in any way, please try to attend the next meeting and if you can, bring a friend or associate that is interested in Delphi with you.

Mr. West has introduced a new meeting segment covering DELPHI Certification study. If you are interested in certification or all the things one must know to be at the "certified level" of knowledge, please attend and see if you find this segment interesting and productive.

The July meeting will discuss Components, component templates, dialog components, Delphi package and cover their advantages and more. See the Section 3: study guideline at the KIPCUG WEB Page "[http://kipcug.org/kipdiscuss/\\_kipdisc/00000078.htm](http://kipcug.org/kipdiscuss/_kipdisc/00000078.htm)". Larry will also cover the SIG Project, database design techniques and begin a discussion on what database format (e.g. Interbase, Paradox, dBase, etc.) is best under what circumstances. Also, they will continue to get attendees recommendations on SIG direction, and discuss projects brought to the meeting by attendees, plus a Q & A session.

The August meetings will contin-

ue with the SIG's Project, certification subjects as well as attendee's projects and/or problems brought to the meetings.

## **GENEALOGY SIG**

The GENEALOGY SIG meet at its regular library location for the May meeting. Susan Moore's presentation covered how you develop parameters for special information reports that are used in gathering and verifying your information. The presentation was followed by a Question and Answer session.

In the June meeting, Susan will cover any problems that attendees might have with "citations" and "list of reports" covered in the last two months. There will also be a review of the just released Version 4.0 of "The Master Genealogist" (TMG) and a refresher review of previous presentations. Following the presentation, Susan will have a general Question and Answer session.

Topics for the July meeting include more information on the newly released Version 4.0 of TMG, including charting, plus any questions on TMG conversion/setup.

## **HARDWARE SIG**

The June HARDWARE SIG had 24 attendees and we still had room for more, including YOU. This meeting covered how to hook up another computer in the house to your main computer. HARDWARE TEAM members T. Lee Harris and

Dale Yocom explored all the different methods of connecting your computers together, their relative cost, advantages of each method and ease of setup. Then they hooked up their two computers and demonstrated how easily their computers networked together. A Q & A session followed the meeting.

Ed Needham, KIPCUG member, [cypsyh@cyberpsych.win.net] gave a short preliminary report on CPU Overclocking and received such interest from attendees that we plan to have Ed back at a future meeting for a more detailed presentation on CPU Overclocking with a hands on demo! Cool! Or maybe it should be, HOT!

NOTICE: Due to the Fourth of July weekend, the July HARDWARE SIG meeting is now officially cancelled.

The subject of the August meeting will be the installation of a Flat Bed Scanner. We will also cover other related information, regarding the selection process, purchase (specifications VS prices) of a flat bed scanner for your computer. If you are planning to purchase one soon, consider the possibility of being part of the Demo at this meeting, and give us a call and tell us that you want to volunteer.

## **INTERNET USER & TELECOM SIG**

The May meeting featured SIG LEADER Glenn Fish's Guest Presenter Greg Swinney and group, who presented "Gaming over the

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

Internet". Seeing three gamers connected over the Internet with T1 lines was really amazing.

The topic for the June meeting will be ADSL (see last month's article, page 7, in the "The TECH SCENE"). Glenn will give us the latest scoop on ADSL and possibly a Demo of the new technology in action (if it is installed).

The July meeting will revisit I-PHONE, Internet Voice Communication to anyone's phone anywhere in the world. With on screen viewing, Glenn Fish will show us how to use I-PHONE and give us an understanding of the potential savings on your phone bill. The first half of the presentation will involve talking to people all across the world in the I-PHONE demo groups. The second half of the presentation is where KIPCUG members will talk directly with an individual in another country or state on their PHONE (not their computer).

In all meetings, KIPCUG Members and guest are invited to bring their questions on Internet subjects to the SIG for discussion.

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## **INVESTING SIG**

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SIG LEADER Doc Viele conducts the investing discussions that have been going on since 1986. There were 13 attendees at the May INVESTING SIG meeting. Most attendees still feel the market situation is continuing to improve slowly at this time. According to Doc, only a few SIG Members are making

limited new investments while most will continue to watch interest rates for awhile before re-entering the Market large scale.

Next SIG Meeting will include general information on investing and the usual information exchange.

This is not an investment club; they DO NOT discuss mutual funds.

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## **NEW USERS SIG**

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The June 14, 1999 meeting of the NEW USERS SIG met at New Horizons Computer Learning Center. There were two Guest Presenters covering two different areas of "how to get more Bang for Your Buck" when using your computer. One of the Guest Presenters was Karen Schuler, Computer Programmer, Database Expert, KIPCUG member and KIPCUG Membership Director. Karen covered two distantly related subjects, the first being how to better use the Internet Search Engines to "FIND" the many things you want to find more information on. She covered the methods of "wording the request" to maximize your results as well as which search engines work best for your chosen subject. Karen's second subject was using the Windows "FIND command" to seek out things you can't find any other way. The other June Presenter was Charley May, KIPCUG member, Hardware SIG Co-Leader and KIPCUG Director of SIGs. Charley showed attendees some Windows Explorer desktop tips and tricks to make using Windows easier and faster.

In July Guest Presenter Gary Nofrey, KIPCUG member and Computer Professional, will be teaching how, when and why to use Un-Installer programs. Gary will cover why Uninstall programs were originally developed and the Uninstall Functions Built into Microsoft Operating Systems. This will be a good chance to learn more about loading new software on your computer and how to get it off properly if you want or need to remove a program.

SIG Director's Note: If you are an intermediate or advanced computer user that has skills in any areas that would be of interest to NEW USERS and would be willing to be a one time (or more) Guest Presenter at the NEW USERS SIG, please contact Charley May, 425-4604 or "sig@win.net".

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## **OS/2 & OTHER 32-BIT OS'S SIG**

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The May SIG meeting presentation was given by SIG LEADER Art Atkinson covering various NT topics. A question and answer session covering 32-BIT OS problems, tips and shortcuts followed the presentation.

KIPCUG Member, if you are interested in OS/2, NT or LINUX, please consider attending Art Atkinson's SIG held at 120 Webster in the Bakery Square Building.

Future meetings will continue to see broader 32 BIT OS coverage, moving into NT and LINUX Operating Systems.

# The SIG Scene (cont.)

New attendees should e-mail or call SIG Leader Art Atkinson at 589-7411 or "aatkins@ibm.net" for meeting details. All meetings cover OS/2 tips, problems and shortcuts.

SIG Director's Note: We are looking for Guest Presenters or Team Members for the OS/2 & OTHER 32-BIT OS's SIG to give presentations on LINUX and Windows NT OS's. If you can help or know someone who can, please contact Art Atkins at 589-7411 or Charley May at 425-4604 or sig@win.net

## **VISUAL BASIC SIG**

The VISUAL BASIC SIG meets at the New Horizons Learning Center. At the June meeting, SIG Leader Martin Campion gave the presentation on a program that centers on Internet programming. Martin showed how to make an active-x control and use it on a simple web page, and how to do the same with an active-x document, all with Visual Basic of course. The evening finished with a description of the new combination of Data Environment and Data Report in Microsoft VB 6, followed by a Q & A session.

In July, Martin will guide the SIG's continued exploration into new areas, as he continues to delve into Internet programming. The group will also look at another new VB 6 feature, "file system objects". Martin will also cover questions that attendees have on their projects followed by a Q & A session.

If YOU have ANY interest in learning VB or think YOU might be

interested, please come to this SIG and give it a try.

## **WEBMASTER SIG**

On May 20th the WEBMASTER SIG met at the Win Net Offices and SIG Leader Don Fowler's Guest Presenter Kelly McKnight of Via Internet Studio, gave an enlightening presentation about "Marketing on the Net". Kelly covered the "new" question: "now that you have a web site, how are people supposed to find it?"

The June 17th at 6:30 PM. Meeting will feature Don's Guest Presenter, Elizabeth Lawler of Iris Interactive. Elizabeth will present Web Graphics layout, User Interface and Navigation Design. Learn about effective interfaces and get some good tips for professional design, functionality and loading speed.

In July Don's Guest Presenter will be John Henderson of I-NET Marketing, John is a WEB page developer, KIPCUG member and Editor of the KIPCUG Magazine. John's presentation will introduce you to HTML, how to write the HTML tags that create what you see on the Internet. John will cover web pages from the beginning. Mr. Henderson will teach you how to write YOUR WEB Page, starting from the very simple, up to using tables to place items on YOUR WEB Page. The July SIG is not for the professional WEB page designer, but someone just beginning their trip to becoming their own Webmaster.

In August the KIPCUG Webmasters' SIG will feature Don Fowler's presentation of Microsoft FrontPage 2000. Don feels that FrontPage is a powerful tool for experienced web developers but also easy enough to use for beginners. This is a chance for YOU to take a look at the latest version and see for yourself if it is the right program for your development needs and/or if it is worth upgrading.

## **WINDOWS, WORD & EXCEL SIG**

SIG Leader Jim Travelstead's May meeting started with Jim's covering the article on "Ultimate Window Insider Tips for Windows 95/98" from PC World magazine - May issue. Jim showed us how to implement the ones that various attendees were interested in.

The June meeting will cover "Undocumented Windows Secrets; how to Unlock Hidden Windows Features Now" a feature article in the May issue of PC Computing. Remember to bring your W, W & E problem(s) and get an answer from the Guru himself, SIG Leader, Jim Travelstead!

The topic for the July meeting will be "Microsoft Windows 98 second edition". Learn what it is all about and should you upgrade to it rather than Windows 2000?

You can E-mail Jim Travelstead at "jim.travelstead@louisville.edu" and Jim will have your answer at the next SIG meeting.

# MEETING



Blair Carruthers, LAVA  
[www.lavalink.com](http://www.lavalink.com)



**Blair Carruthers, LAVA Computer Manufacturing**, presented the world of a PCI cards. His message was that with all the accessories that we have connected to PCI slots, we are not achieving the through speed that we deserve. The accessory is not the problem, but rather the bottleneck is our standard parallel port connection. Blair demonstrated how their product produce 3X's the speed of a standard card while offering a lifetime warrantee. Their product line also included a "double" serial PCI card allowing 2 connections and taking up only 1 slot on your motherboard. Blair also showed a third product, LAVA port for ISDN connections.

**Mark Getches from American Power Conversion, APC**, was our main presenter. His program on something we all take for granted, electricity, was interesting, educa-

## June 1, 1999

tional and informative. While the majority of the audience admitted they had their computers protected by a surge protector, Mark pointed out that only 8% of electricity problems come from surges or spikes. The majority of problems, 87%, actually are due to a drop in power.

The universal power supply or UPS in the answer. It will maintain power through a series of batteries should you lose power. APC has the reputation of the "best UPS on the market." The key is choosing the correct unit for your needs. On their web site, APC offers assistance in calculating the correct size. The basic formula is: Volts X amps = watts X 1.4 = voltamps. The next concern is that you don't plug in more items than your unit will maintain. Remember the goal is to provide power through short significant drops in electricity and to allow time to shut down your computer safely. The common mistake is connecting your laser printer, a huge electricity user. When the power drops, such a unit can drain the batteries and therefore wipe-out your margin for safety. The suggestion is switching your laser printer to a surge protector to eliminate it's drain of power.

Surge Strips have also changed based on



Mark Getches, APC  
[www.apcc.com](http://www.apcc.com)



the market place. Consumers now are looking for more outlets, additional room between outlets as every accessory seems to come with one of those black transformer blocks, always "on" outlets, and master control switches. Mark guided the audience to look for the amount of "let-through" voltage as a guide for making a decision.



KIPCUG's new President, Fred Soward, presents Louis Gagel a "thank you" for the years he has served on the Board of Directors. Paul Ward and Bob Streever were also honored.

# The Internet, Present and Future

by Stephen Morgan, Plateau PC Users Group

The estimated number of Internet subscribers recently hit 83 million people, up 20 million in the last 6 months. The introduction of good, inexpensive computers with modems will cause 1998 and '99 to be the years that people will look back on as the start of the "connected" lifestyle.

Looking back over the last 5 years, it is mind-boggling how much has changed. Faster modem speeds, increasingly better Internet browser software, and an explosion of content available for viewing has made the Internet the biggest event of the 90's. What is going on now, and what will happen in the future? And what will be the effect on how Americans communicate and conduct their daily lives? This article tries to cover the present and point out how today's trends could influence life in the year 2005.

## Present Trends

1. Online Communities - The Internet is quickly becoming the favorite meeting place of the world. Students, Parents and business people log on for hours a day, talking to others in chat rooms and also by using the "buddy software" that lets you know when the people you want to communicate with are online and allows you to have conversations with them anytime. Before, you were limited to talking to 1 person at a time on the telephone. Now you can converse with dozens of people at a time.

2. Online gaming. - There are dozens of online area's to play games against others, the amazing

thing is that several of them average over 100,000 users at one time! Whatever kind of game you play, you can now join with others on the Web and play anytime! No worry about getting a partner, there are always thousands of other people to play. No worry about wanting to leave early or late, there is always someone willing to take your place.

3. Online shopping - It has come down to this, anything you can buy at a store, can now be bought online. Cars, computers, clothes, appliances, books, music, antiques, pharmaceuticals, travel, jewelry... the list is endless. Since the merchants offering the products do not have brick and mortar stores to maintain, often the prices are less expensive than at traditional retail stores. There are even merchants that offer prices that are below their cost just to have you come to their sites and see the advertising.

4. Online news - Almost every newspaper in the country is also being published on the Web. It is now easy to keep up on news from your hometown, even if it is located 2000 miles away. Not only can you take your pick of any or all of the major newspapers, you can arrange to have them downloaded to your computer during the night, so that you can read them that morning.

5. Online Radio - Listening to the radio on the Internet has become so popular that Microsoft's newest web browser comes with a listing of all radio stations that offer Internet broadcasting. It even comes with a "radio tuner" that you can dial and get different broadcasts just like on your radio at home. At the present time, quality is good with voice radio; a fast modem is needed to

hear true stereo music.

What can we look forward to during the next 5 years?

## Here are some predictions:

1. The number of users of the Internet will climb to 80% of the US population, or roughly 240 million individuals.

2. Pocket-sized computers with wireless Internet access will be available to everyone. This Summer IBM will introduce its new MicroDrive that fits 340 megabytes on a hard drive the size of a townhouse cracker. The next advance will be in 2001 when Optical Drives will store 20 Gigabytes in an area slightly larger than a postage stamp. Speech recognition software will become 99% accurate and will be the primary way to interface with all your computers. Combine all this with cheap access to nationwide digital cellular service and the ingredients for a truly connected society come together.

3. The Internet will be everywhere, a central part of every day. 95% of the population between 8 and 70 will have personal Internet access. Schools will become wired for the Internet and wonder how they taught without it. Homes will have computer access in several places, allowing the whole family to be connected.

4. 40% of all purchasing will be done on the Internet. During the next 5 years look for a large number of business's to close their doors because of inability to compete with web merchants. A huge benefactor

Continued on page 20

## Internet (cont.)

of Internet sales should be anyone that delivers items bought on the Internet.

5. Call me a dreamer, but I believe that with the Internet available to all, more and more issues will be debated and resolved on the Internet. The near instantaneous nature of Internet communication means that policies can be proposed, debated and voted on within weeks. Imagine what the effect would be if new laws were proposed on the web, emailed to each person, debated on bulletin boards and then each person made a decision and sent it to their elected official! I believe that this will be especially useful for local communities to find out what residents want.

I have always believed that while not all change is good, without change, things will never get better. We are looking at changes in the next 5 years that will totally transform the way everyone will work, play and manage their lives. Our challenge is to make sure that we seize this opportunity to make our lives better.

*This article is furnished by our membership in the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization to which KIPCUG belongs. Author, Stephen Morgan has been watching and participating in the advance of computers since 1976 when he got hooked by one of the first Multi User Dungeons (MUD) available through the Minnesota Educational Internet System. He is currently the program chair for the Plateau PC Users Group in Crossville, TN and the Northwest US advisor for APCUG.*

## Auraline (cont.)

do.

Some additional features included in the program that help you make terrific presentations:

- 5000+ Media Library
- Hundreds of professionally designed pre-made JAVA Animation
- PowerPoint97 pre-made Multimedia templates and Animation
- Supports BMP, GIF, PSD, TIF, TGA, PCX, WAV, MID, CD-AUDIO, AVI, AND KODAK
- Cool 3-D graphics, sound effects, animation, backgrounds, videos, photographs and more.
- Also it contains access to a specialized online service that permits the sending of messages and greeting cards.

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS:

- Pentium-base PC with 16 MB RAM
- Microsoft Windows 95 or Windows NT 4.0
- SVGA Monitor
- 15 MB of free disk space
- IE and Netscape 3.02 and above browsers

It's a great program with a lot of terrific features. It cost \$49.95 and can be obtained from their web site. Or you can try before you buy; there's a 30-day preview for download on their web site.

Web site: <http://www.auraline.com>  
Email: [info@auraline.com](mailto:info@auraline.com)

## Tech Scene (cont.)

4. A dialog box will open up called "Windows Explorer (2)", in this box SELECT the "SHORTCUT" tab. The fourth line down from the "SHORTCUT" tab is titled "Target:" and in its box it will say "C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE /n,/e, C:\".

Just add "My Documents" after the last "C:\" so it looks like the following:

```
C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE /n,/e, C:\My Documents
```

Then "click" the "Apply" button and then the "OK" button and the dialog box closes. That was simple wasn't it?

5. Last step, double whew! "right click" the new "Windows Explorer (2)" ICON, then "click" on RENAME and you can change the label on the Icon to read "Explorer (C) My Documents"

### YOU ARE DONE!

EXTRA NOTE: If your "My Documents" are on another DRIVE or (Partition), change the last "c:" to whatever DRIVE you have your "My Documents" on and it will take your straight there with only ONE DOUBLE CLICK!

With the three shortcuts outlined above, you should be able to zoom around your computer a lot faster. And if you use IE 4.0 or higher, you could even place them on the task bar too, so that you don't even have to go back to the desktop!

Enjoy,

Charley May

# Deals Guy

by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer User Group

About the only thing still good from last month's column is the DataDepot diagnostic boards, and their diagnostic software is on special this month. A friend and I tried the diagnostic board I purchased on my old computer. He upgraded that old computer with a new motherboard and it decided not to boot after a month. The new motherboard had done that before, but started working when he was checking it. Now it was dead again. The diagnostic board was unable to tell us anything because the computer wouldn't boot far enough. However, my consultant friend tried it on some computers he had laying around and told me it was a "neat" board. He said it gave him some very good information.

## **\*More Diagnostics From DataDepot**

Last month included special offers on the diagnostic boards; this month they are giving us special offers on "software" for diagnostics. "PC Clinic" sure performs a lot of tasks for checking out your computer:

- Tests entire PC, local or remote,
- Runs full system benchmark tests,
- Gives complete system and memory info,
- Shows standard interrupts and DMA usage,
- Slashes test & travel time to the bone,
- Saves and restores boot records,
- Recovers boot records & compliance,
- Built-in CMOS and file editor plus shell and user menus, and

- 600K+ on-line coaches, tips, help and POST.

It runs in 640K on PC, XT, AT, PS/2, EISA, Pentium, P6 and clones, under DOS 3.1 and higher. This software performs so many tests that I lack room to list all its features. I used a complimentary copy on my laptop (a Zenith Z Star, 486DX2/50 Intel cpu, about four years old) and I never seemed to run out of tests. Many tests were for the graphics board alone. It found no problems.

That laptop was working fine, but I wanted to see how the tests went on it because of its age, and I've never reformatted the hard drive. I spent over an hour testing, finally stopping before doing them all. Not being a hardware tech, I didn't always know what I was doing. The "remote" feature lets you run the same tests on your client's computer without even leaving your office.

Our special prices for PC Clinic are:

- PC Clinic Pro, list - \$349.00, user group \$259.00.
- Standard version, list - \$249.00, user group \$199.00.
- Power User, list \$579.00, user group \$449.00.

Visit their web site at [www.datadepo.com/clinic.htm](http://www.datadepo.com/clinic.htm).

Don't add the "t" to datadepo like I did at first. Prices are plus S&H.

They also have "Y2K Wizard," a "year 2000" test and fix software. Requires DOS 3.1 - 7.1. Features are listed as follows:

- Fully tests CMOS, RAM and Clock,

- Finds real time clock (RTC) 1 bugs,
- Verifies RTC, DOS and BIOS roll to 2000,
- Saves or restores CMOS RAM to a file to recover from virus or dead battery,
- Verifies system year 2000 compliance,
- Repairs Y2K system bug at boot time,
- Monitors RTC battery voltage,
- Verifies RTC is in synch with DOS clock,
- Verifies RTC & Y2K leap year accuracy,
- Volume and network licenses available.

Y2K Wizard found my laptop to be non-Y2K compliant and gave me the option to repair the problem. The fix quickly installed software that loads on boot up to handle the date problem. The procedure was fast.

Y2K wizard prices are as follows:

- Single user, list \$54.00 - user group, \$39.00,
- 10 user limit, list \$139.00 - user group \$99.00,
- 100 user limit, list \$599.00 - user group \$449.00.
- All are plus S&H.

## **\*No More Standing in Line at The Post Office**

Many offices use postage often and buy it from the Post Office. Others rent a postage meter and must take it in periodically. "Simply Postage" makes life easier. The software cost is \$49.99 + \$5.00 S&H. This includes a four-pound digital scale and one free roll of 100 labels. (A "label" is used to print the

# Deals Guy: (cont.)

postage). For a limited time this also includes \$50.00 free postage. Its postage stamps are approved by the US Postal Service.

There is a lease rate of \$17.95 per month for the hardware. When you need more postage, simply log on their web site and download it in minutes; without even leaving your office. When mailing a letter or package, the scale will tell the software how much postage it needs and "clicking" the proper icon prints it. Pull it off the printer and stick it on your envelope. Or set the postage and disconnect it from your computer. How much easier can it get!

The printer, or "stamp dispenser," hooks up to any serial port on your PC, and uses an AC adapter for power. Should your package weigh more than four pounds, simply use an accurate scale in your office to determine the weight and type in the proper number on the software to print the stamp.

You can print ten 33-cent stamps just by clicking on the "print 33 cent stamp" icon. When printing your postage, choose from "First Class," "Express Mail," or "Priority Mail delivery," and the system automatically prints the proper stamp. This unit won't have to be taken to the Post Office for periodic inspection either. How about that time-saver!

If this is right for your office, you can register at the Neopost Simply Postage web site <[www.simply-postage.com](http://www.simply-postage.com)>. You'll need to set up an account to pay the one-time \$49.99 set-up fee etc. You'll then receive the stamp dispenser, scale, all the necessary cables and soft-

ware, and the free \$50.00 in postage. Don't forget, you'll pay a \$17.95 monthly lease fee after that.

If you prefer a human voice, call Neopost at 1-877-397-8267. No Mac or Canadian version available so far, and this can't be used on a network, although new products are being worked on. Be aware that there is a \$8.00 processing fee when ordering postage on line and the Simply Postage meter stores a maximum of \$500.00 postage at one time. Check their web site for the cost of labels.

## **\*How About Your own Talking Pet Parrot.**

This looked like something fascinating. You can have "Talking Max," your own funny virtual talking pet. You raise this pet and watch it grow in its own house. You feed it and bond to it, and it develops its own personality. In fact, you talk to it and it talks back. Be forewarned though because you might be surprised at what Max says, but you might laugh at times. Literally speaking, you train Talking Max, as best you can.

The basic training wizard lets you train your parrot fast. Suggested conversations make it easy to instantly have hilarious dialogues with your parrot. Your video card should be capable of displaying high-color mode. This comes with a 30-day money back guarantee. I have not tried this product.

This "Talking Max" includes a free stereo headset w/microphone and a talking screen saver. You give this pet your own personal touch.

There is more description. This special offer is only good for 30 days, taking it to about the end of June. This is meant to be my July column but I know some will actually read it in June. After that, you may, or may not be able to get this offer, but you can try.

***Check out the talking parrot at KIPCUG's general meeting, July 6 (see page 3)***

If "Talking Max" seems like something you'd like, give TikSoft a call at 1-800-892-1070 to order for just \$29.95 + \$7.95 S&H. Not available outside the US, and no Mac version. Visit their web site at <[www.lhs.com](http://www.lhs.com)> and check for Talking Max. My wife already has something like that ... ME.

Except in my case, my dialog is limited to "yes dear."

That's it for this month. Join me here next month where we will discuss deals and other interesting things. This column is written to make user group members aware of special pricing, and my comments should not be construed to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products.

Bob (The Cheapskate) Click.

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Thank You for supporting  
KIPCUG

## KIPCUG Mentors - aka members helping members

The following members have volunteered to provide assistance to any current member on these topics:

**Debbie Bulleit** (dbulleit@iusmail.ius.indiana.edu)

*AskSam, ASAP, Excel*

**Danny Lee Catron** (CDMRFIX@aol.com OR 502-495-1874)

*OS/2, Windows 95, WordPerfect 4 - 6.1, Lotus 1-2-3 ver 5, Hardware*

**T.Lee Harris** (tlee@aye.net)

*Pagemaker*

**Steve Goldberg** (stevegold@aol.com OR steve.goldberg@tfd.org)

*Paradox, Quattro Pro, WordPerfect, Excel, AOL, CompuServe*

**Mike Shaikun** (mike@aye.net)

*HTML and Basic WebPage Design*

**Bob Streever** (bob.streever@tfd.org)

*Pagemaker, FoxPro*

For help with additional topics, post a message to the KIPCUG Web Forum at <http://www.kipcug.org>

We are always interested in hearing from people willing to help out their fellow KIPCUG members.

Please contact a member of the Board of Directors if you are interested in being added to this mentor list.

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**The next General Meeting will be on  
Tuesday, July 6, 1999 @ 6:30 pm**

**at Indiana University Southeast, Ogle Center**

**Subjects: L&H Speech Recognition & Internet Banking**

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