

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group

May 2001

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XIV

Issue 5



!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Meeting dates for
2001

See page 10
for all
confirmed
dates.

Time and Place
remain the same.

Upcoming
CAEUG meeting
Saturday,
May 26
2001
9:45-12 noon

Did You Know?

By Bob Elgines, CRCC Editor

Audio or sound problems?

Double click on the little Speaker Icon located on the right Task-Bar! Up pops an Audio Mixer allowing you to set all level inputs and the volume output. Make sure they are set between mid and full range. Some programs will set the Wave level to zero and all of sudden your sound doesn't work. Also you can go to Options, then Properties and select record. Here you can adjust record levels and what to record from such as CD, Mike, etc., by selecting which one is active.

How much Memory or RAM (Random Access Memory) is needed? This depends on your OS (Operating System). See Chart below:

OS vs MEMORY CHART

<u>OS</u>	<u>RECOMMENDED MIN MEMORY</u>	<u>YEAR INTRODUCED</u>
MS DOS	640 K to 1 MB	1980
WIN 2.0	2 M to 4 MB	1990 ?
WIN 3.1	4 M to 8 MB	1992
WIN 3.11	8 M to 16 MB	1993
WIN 95 a	8 M to 16 MB	1995
WIN 95 b & c	16 M to 32 MB	1996 & 97
WIN 98	32 M to 64 MB	1998
WIN 98SE	64 M to 128 MB	1999
WIN ME	128 M to 256 MB	2000
WIN 2000	256 M and up!	2000

Is there something wrong with this picture. Yes, the new OS can do more, but less of the old routines. Also programmers have gotten very sloppy, and of course that is why more errors are generated. Their feelings are properly, "Well Memory is cheap, who cares!".

(con't on page 4)

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CAEUG LIST OF SUPPORTING RETAILERS

The retailers listed below have in one way or another supported CAEUG and we thank them.

COMPUTER MAINTENANCE, INC.
 1433 W. Fullerton Avenue, Suite M
 Addison, IL 60101
 630/953-1555

AMERICAN COMPUTER
 330 S. Naperville Road, Suite 310
 Wheaton, IL 60187
 630/260-4020

BOOKS & BYTES, INC.
 Retail store is closed
 630/416-0102
<http://www.bytes.com/>

SOFTWARE EMPORIUM
 123 E. Front St.
 Wheaton, IL 60187
 630/653-0085

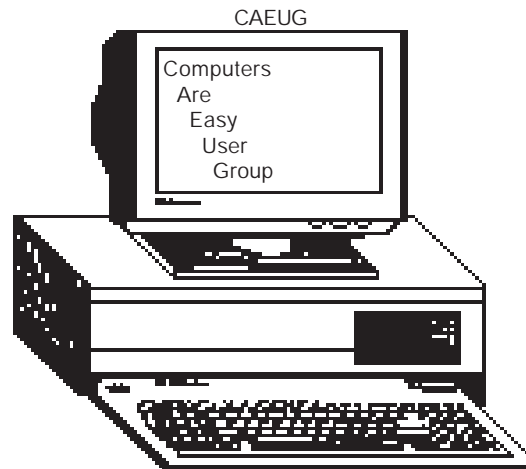
ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

This printed version of our newsletter was laid out using Adobe's Pagemaker Version 6.5 for Windows and was printed on a EPSON EPL-7000. Our group's membership database is maintained using MSWorks and address labels are printed using PostalSoft Desktop Mailer software. Our checking account records are kept in Quicken software.

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The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.



Computer Central

Next show date
SUNDAY, May27
 College of Dupage
 9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.
 Chicagoland's Oldest and Largest
 Multi-Vendor PC Show & Sale for
 Home and Business

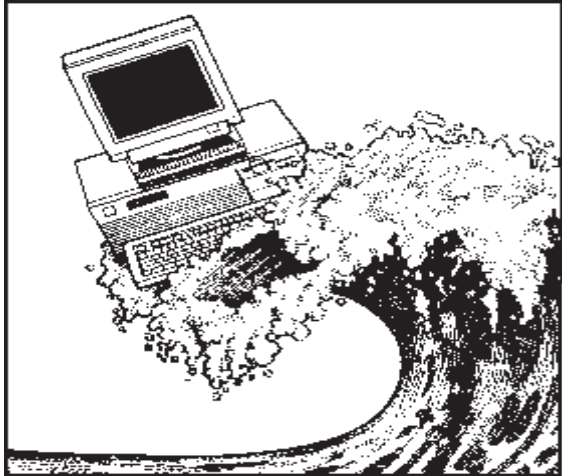
COLLEGE OF DUPAGE
 Main Arena of Physical Education Building
 Corner of Park Blvd & College Road
 Glen Ellyn, IL
 FREE PARKING
 Admission - \$6.00
 (With this coupon admission \$5.00)
 www.computercentralshows.com
 E-mail address:
 compcent@megsinet.net

COMPUTERCENTRAL
 2001 dates
 May 27, June 24, July 29, August 26
 September 30
 COD

PICTURE YOUR AD HERE!
FREE !!

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF CAEUG THIS SPACE
 COULD SELL ANY COMPUTER
 RELATED ITEM FREE OF CHARGE.

JUST CONTACT ANY CLUB OFFICERS
 OR THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR AD IN
 THE NEWSLETTER.



In order to have your article or item for sale appear in ARI they must be received by the 10th of the month prior to publication.

MEMBERS HELPLINE

Any member with a specific expertise can volunteer to be on the Members Helpline. Contact Carl Schow.

Beginners Helpline.....Billy Douglas

Beginner hardware problems.....Dick Fergus

QuickBooks, Turbo Tax, IBM Lotus, MS Excel, Corel's Quattro Pro....Terry Moye

Win 9x, NT, 2K.....Rick Scalzo
 e-mail.....mitsufan@webcentrix.net

Hardware problems & WIN NT4.....John Spizzirri

Start UP Discussion Group

Ask questions and discuss computer experiences with the Start UP group.
 Such as:

1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

Meets before regular meeting from
 9:15 to 9:45

What speed CD-ROM should I buy?

Well this is a good question since most CD disks operate lower than 16X (1X is the original speed of an Audio CD of 150 bits/sec of data transfer, therefore a 2X is 300 bits/sec, etc.). The biggest problem today is the delay in the Start Time in reading data from a CD. If you time it, most take 8 to 9 seconds to start, if it is longer than 10 seconds problems will occur with programs and windows trying to transfer data. It can destroy a CD-R disk while you are recording by letting your CD-R (Recorder) Read Buffer go dry (or empty), because with an empty buffer your CD-R will quit writing and then you just produced a coaster (bad CD). So anything above a 16X doesn't mean much, just a sales thing, but you need a Multi-Read CD-ROM or DVD that will read all types of CDs, CD-Rs, CD-RWs (Read/Write CD-Rs).

How do you read what version of DirectX that is installed in your system, and how much memory is on your video (or display) card used to drive your monitor?

These are some questions asked when installing certain types of programs. For Windows '98, go to Start/Run and type in DXDIAG, then click on OK. Here you can find out all kinds of information. Don't you wish you knew this before you purchased your machine. The latest DirectX Driver is version 7 (seven). Click on the DISPLAY tab and read your Video Card memory. You should have at least 2 MB, some new programs require 4 MB minimum. Of course you can have more and what this means is larger blocks of video can be transferred with out interrupts giving you better looking video output and larger screen operation.

How do I get rid of those icons on the right task bar? Most of these icons have a little program running in the back ground and use up valuable memory resources. The Speaker & Monitor icon do not use up any memory resources, but most of the others do. To get rid of them temporarily do a right mouse click

and select Close, but to get rid of them for good in Windows '98 go to Start then Run. Type in MSCONFIG and click on OK. Now go to the tab on top and click on Start-Up. This brings up a list of all those icons plus. Do not uncheck the following four items: Taskbar Display Controls, ScanRegistry, SystemTray, and LoadPowerProfile. After un-checking the ones you don't want to come up on startup, click on Apply, then OK. You can restart windows now or wait until later. If you use a CD-R this is very important. Also if you are going to defrag your hard drive these items should be turn off (or closed) or the Defrag Program will keep starting over and over and never complete the job.

Author is Bob Elgines of the Colorado River Computer Club user group located in Lake Havasu City, Arizona.

Is Your Win98 CD Worn Out? Don't Fret!

COMPUTER GURU ROD REAM
COMES TO THE RESCUE

by Rod Ream
Pasadena IBM Users Group

"Hey Rod," the e-mail started, "have you any suggestions how to get the original Windows 98 CD replaced? The darn thing no longer will install because of an `error' caused by corrupted CAB file."

"I've had to reinstall Win98 too many times to count in the last year," the e-mail continued, "and the CD seems to have a scratch or fault on it. I tried to clean it with a little rubbing alcohol. I would try Old Crow but I have consumed all that in the endless struggles (in lieu of pulling my hair out—cause there ain't any left anyhow...). Thanks."

Rod's reply is the sort of thing you need to cut

con't on page 5

out and paste on the side of your monitor. It has vital information you'll need if you bump into the same dilemma.

What's the CD Problem?

The message about corrupted CAB files can have several meanings; none of them mean the files are corrupted.

* The CD is damaged. Not likely unless it's badly scratched, cracked or someone wrote on the face with a ballpoint pen.

* A timing issue. Some CD players may be too fast and the data is being corrupted as it's unpacked. You can work around this in a couple ways: From the DOS prompt type setup /?. You'll see an option to run Setup without using SmartDrive. Turning this off prevents file caching for the CD and although considerably slower, may provide a more reliable file transfer. Disabling L2 and perhaps even L1 caching in the BIOS will slow things down even more.

* AntiVirus software running. Turn it off! If you are using McAfee, you may have to uninstall it to kill it.

* An out of balance CD. Just like a new tire. Rotate it 1/4 and put back into the drive. You'll hear or feel the vibration if this is the case.

The Cab Folder

If the original installation of Windows 98 (or any other version of windows) was performed by a manufacturer, you should already have the CAB files on the hard drive. The usual location would be \windows\options\cabs. If these files exist, you can run setup from that folder, either from Windows or by booting to the command prompt and changing to that folder.

If the contents of the CD\WIN98 folder are not on the hard drive, I'd certainly want to put them there. Aside from not having to hunt for

the CD at times like this, Windows will automatically look there whenever it needs a file and will stop asking you to insert the CD.

The best way to copy the files is to boot to the DOS prompt and then use XCOPY, because it has the ability to "retry" difficult files. In your Windows folder, create another folder names CAB. Copy all the files (not the subfolders) from the CD from within the Win98 folder.

Here's How

Since the normal DOS prompt doesn't access the CDROM, you'll have to either re-enable the CD drivers in both config.sys and autoexec.bat or use the W98 boot disk.

Here's the process if you use the boot disk - C: is assumed to be the drive where W98 is installed and we'll assume that the folder named above does not exist: Use the boot disk and select "with CD support." Note the drive letter that's assigned (I'll use "E" here) E:

DIR WIN98 (This checks to see if the CD is readable C:)

```
CD WINDOWS
MDOPTIONS
CDOPTIONS
MD CABS
CD \WINDOWS\COMMAND
XCOPY E:\WIN98\*. *C:\WINDOWS
\OPTIONS\CABS /S /E /V
```

When the file copy process is finished, remove the boot disk and CD, then reboot to the command prompt again. You can then run the SETUP from the cabs folder. If you still receive "corrupted" messages, it may be due to bus mastering and you'll need to slow the machine down with one or more of the steps above.

Rod Ream is senior tech support for PIBMUG and president of PC Consulting



The Lamp Post

Number 18 by John Spizzirri
May 10, 2001



What's new on the Widows XP front? Internet Explorer 6 will be integrated in the operating system. It will have better cookie control and security/privacy settings than its predecessor (which is not saying much). Integrated? Wasn't that one of the reasons for the anti-trust action? Even though the final beta test version was released 3 weeks later than expected, Microsoft announced a ship date on XP of October 25. With a drop dead ship date, the product will be released whether the bugs are fixed or not. Another reason to avoid XP?

First they say they won't and then they will, next they say they don't and then they do. Last month I reported that MS would not support USB version 2. They changed their mind. MS will support USB v2 but not in the initial release of XP. It will be supported in the first (or second?) service pack (bug fix). The story is at <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/18922.html>. The corporate licensing scheme has changed, too. In addition to the current licensing plans a new plan will be introduced on October 1. The plan is part of the .NET software as a service which charges users for software use on a per use basis. This is similar to the telephone company's pricing plan where you pay for individual phone calls or uses. MS is not springing this on consumers, yet. If corporations buy into this plan, we will be next. There are plenty of positive and negative incentives for corporations to get into this plan. The positives are that the businesses will get upgrades and fixes for 'free'. The negatives are that if they don't opt into the plan this year or next the costs escalate significantly. MS had planned to scrap the current licensing plans in favor of this new one but changed their minds (perhaps from negative corporate feedback). Incidentally, the new plan covers licensing for XP, even though XP won't be introduced until 24 days later.

To find the latest stories about XP go to <http://www.mswinxp.net>. To get the MS company-line on XP go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/>.

By the time you are reading this Opera 5.0 for Linux will be available. The site for the download will be <http://www.opera.com/linux>. Opera is the 'other' browser. It comes in ad supported freeware and a no ad \$40 versions. In addition, IBM has selected Opera for use on its Internet appliances using the QNX operating system. This will ensure that Opera will be around for quite a while, perhaps giving IE some real competition.

Compaq (<http://www.compaq.com>) will no longer produce its Armada and Deskpro product names as well as several other brands. Look for price cuts on these items that are left in the stores. They will be announcing a new brand aimed at the business market this week. They will re-brand all product lines within the next year. They will be changing the color from light tan to black just as Dell (<http://www.dell.com>) changed from light gray to black. Do you see a trend here?

Did you ever wonder where the Internet ends? Where is that last site? Larry Bothe stumbled across it and emailed me the address. It is at www.shibumi.org/eoti.htm.

Microsoft <http://www.microsoft.com> announced the availability of an upgrade for its Windows Media Player 7 (WMP7) product that lets Win 98, ME & 2k users encode (rip) music using the company's latest media technologies. WMP7.1 upgrades WMP7 with support for Windows Media Audio 8 (WMA8) and Windows Media Video 8 (WMV8), adding the ability to rip audio CDs using WMA 8. MS is calling this a major upgrade. If this upgrade acts anything like Windows Media Player 8, I won't get it. Last month I related WMP8's incompatibilities. Since then I have read a number of stories that say WMP8 does not do a very good job of ripping CD's. What it does do is ruin blank CD's. If you use WMP8, better lay in a good supply of blank CD's. It does do an excellent job of reporting that you do not have a 'license' to music ripped from your CD and placed on your hard disk. Could this foreshadow things to come or am I just paranoid? (Ruined CD's can be used for drink coasters, mini Frisbees, and windshield ice scrappers.)

Ripping CD's means placing tracks of music off a CD on to a hard drive in another format such as MP3 or WMA. The resultant files can be placed on another CD or an MP3 player or used to make a custom mix for your own enjoyment. If you want to know how to do this, bring it up at our meeting in the member's forum or just ask around at break time.

There has been a lot of talk in the press about the People's Republic of China's (PRC) missile launch capability or lack thereof. I came across a site that will help you understand that capability at <http://www.geocities.com/CapeCanaveral/Launchpad/1921/>. They have about an 80% successful launch rate. There is a schedule of upcoming launches as well as the data, dates, and launch pictures of previous launches. The best part of the site is that it is written almost entirely in English.

Two months ago I wrote about sites that can assist you in the purchase of a car. The Kelly Blue Book (<http://www.kbb.com/>) and Edmunds.com (<http://www.edmunds.com/>) are very useful. I recently came across two other sites that can be even more useful. Cars Direct has tools for price comparisons and financing at <http://www.carsdirect.com/home>. Car Info is a plain site (not many graphics) with inside information on dealer practices, auctions, car repairs, and leasing. It is at <http://www.carinfo.com>.

Sometimes, adding sound to Linux can be difficult. The how to site for a Sound Blaster driver installation on Linux is at <http://www4.ncsu.edu/~distclai/sblive-howto.html>.

Maxtor (<http://www.maxtor.com/Maxtorhome.htm>) announced that it will drop BSD and Linux from its Network Attached Storage (NAS) product in favor of Win 2k. The NAS products are drives with 160G and up.

Vice president of Linux strategy, Steve Solazzo, of IBM (<http://www.ibm.com/>) expects a consolidation in the Linux distribution business. There are about 150 Linux distributors with about 6 taking the bulk of the business. IBM wants to work with 4 preferred partners, SuSe

(<http://www.suse.com/>), TurboLinux (<http://www.turbolinux.com/>), Red Hat (<http://www.redhat.com/>), and Caldera (<http://www.caldera.com/>). They may also work with MandrakeSoft (<http://www.linux-mandrake.com/en/>) because Mandrake is well entrenched in the French market.

Dizzy City is a fun site that is a portal wannabe with a twist. It has maps, history and 360 degree pictures of various places in New York City. Find it at <http://www.dizzycity.com/>.

Easel (<http://www.eazel.com/>), the company that was started to produce a Linux GUI, released its Nautilus file manager product then promptly went out of business. From the reports that I've read, Nautilus is a good product. Development of Nautilus is continuing. It may yet be released again if someone buys the company.

Billionaire, Warren Buffett, released his annual letter to shareholders of Berkshire Hathaway last month. If you have had bad fortune in the stock market, you should probably read this letter at <http://www.berkshirehathaway.com/2000ar/2000letter.html>. He has made some mistakes in the past but over the long haul his investment strategy works. Berkshire Hathaway stock issues BRK.A and BRK.B are the two highest priced stocks on the market.

Do you ever get email loaded with greater than symbols (>)? There is a utility called Email Stripper that removes these annoyances so that forwarded mail is clean and readable. The utility is available from Paper Cut at <http://www.printcharger.com/emailstripper.htm>. Do your email buddies a favor. Get it. Use it.

The Free Forum Network (<http://www.freeforum.com/>) is just what its name indicates. Get free stuff. Make-up, magazines, business cards, greeting cards, and catalogs plus a lot more all for free. Give it a try.

Quack Watch (<http://www.quackwatch.com/>) is a site that reports on medical quackery. The reports are not about specific doctors but health scams and how to recognize a quack or a scam.

Has your Win 9x or ME just refused to shut down? It just sits there on the last graphical screen telling you to wait while Windows shuts down. There is a fix. Follow these steps so it does not happen. Right click on the desktop. Click new. Click shortcut. Click the browse button and find C:\windows\rundll32.exe (note: this file may be in the system folder under Windows). Click open. Press the End key then press the space bar once and type ExitWindows. Click next. Give the shortcut a name (like End this Madness). Click finish.

Here is a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) from the Microsoft Web site: "Has Product Activation got anything to do with Microsoft.NET?" Here is the Answer: "Anti-piracy technologies, such as Microsoft Product Activation, balance both the needs of consumers in acquiring the content they want, and the rights of content owners to protect the distribution of their works. In a .NET environment, where digital content and services are accessed on a variety of devices that communicate with each other, the protection of digital content must accompany the facilitation of Internet services. Such a seamless interaction is at the heart of the Microsoft .NET intellectual property protection vision." If this is part of your vision, keep buying Microsoft software.

Between you, me and The Lamp Post that's all this month.

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting
April 28, 2001
by Al Skwara

Carl Schow called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

Carl welcomed two visitors and invited them to sign in.

There were 40 in attendance.

The next meeting is scheduled for May 26, 2001.

Raffle items included: Casino, Where in the USA is Carmon Sandiego, Procom Plus, Excel for Windows, Mechwarrior 2, Frankenstein, Chess master, Jack the Ripper, Phantasmagoria, Mantis, and Star Ranger.

Volunteers for the COD show were discussed. Anyone willing to represent the club at the show can get a free admission. The show lets two members in free and the club will reimburse two other members who work at our table. The reimbursement does not happen until the next monthly meeting.

The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

The Financial Report showed a starting balance of \$4,596.00, income of \$328.85 and expenses of \$156.71 for an ending balance of \$4,768.14.

OLD BUSINESS

A motion was made and passed to proceed with the purchase of a new projector for up to \$2,450 and then sell the current projector. The Nominating Committee reported that Carl has declined to run for re-election. Rick Scalzo has volunteered to serve as president and all

other officers are willing to serve another term in their offices. There were no other nominations. The slate of officers was elected by voice vote.



Top row: Lynn Johnson, Al Skwara, John Spizzirri, past president Carl Schow
Front row: Rick Scalzo, Kathy Groce

This month's disk of the month is the BE OS.

New Business

The next meeting will feature LINUX. Anyone wanting to get this operating installed on a system should bring his or her hardware including a monitor to the next meeting. The suggested configuration is at least a 1 gig hard drive and 32 Meg of memory.

There was a question about badges. The Board is continuing to work on this issue.

Next month a 2001 picnic chairperson will be requested. The club picnic has been scheduled for Seven Gables Park from 11am to 3pm on August 25, 2001

There was an auction of a computer case and motherboard with a 200-megahertz Pentium processor and a Brother Laser Fax

Rick Scalzo made the presentation on computer gaming.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Skwara

FIRST CLASS MAIL

CAEUG
P. O. Box 2727
Glen Ellyn, IL 60138

Meeting place and date information:

The next REGULAR meeting will be held at the Glen Ellyn Library in Glen Ellyn at 9:45 am on
Saturday, May 26, 2001

The library is located 1 block west of Citibank at the corner of Prospect & Duane FREE PARKING
Directions: Park to Duane; go west on Duane to Prospect Street. Please park at the West end of the
lot, away from the building. Thank you.

The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to Carl Schow . Individuals
with disabilities who plan to attend this program and who require certain accommodations in order to
observe and/or participate in the program are requested to contact CAEUG president,
Carl Schow , at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be
made for them.

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2001:	May 26, June 23, July 28 August CAEUG annual picnic Saturday, August 25, September 22, October 27, November (no meeting), December 1 (Nov/Dec meeting),
Confirmed Meeting dates for 2002:	January 26

Program for May 26:

An install of Red Hat 7.0 on a pc will be given by John Spizzirri. If you would like Red
Hat 7.0 installed on your pc, you will need to bring the cpu, monitor and contact John
at spizman@iwon.com so he can be prepared. The suggested configuration is at least a
1 gig hard drive and 32 Meg of memory.