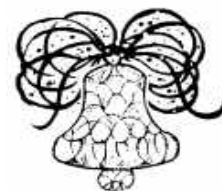


Abort,
Retry,
Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group



Happy Holidays to all!

NovDec 2001

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XIV

Issue 11



!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting dates for
2001

See page 10
for all
confirmed
dates.

Time and Place
remain the same.

Upcoming
CAEUG meeting
Saturday,
December 1
2001
9:45-12:00

Billy Douglas will
discuss
Windows Registry

SEE YOU
THERE!!

COD Dates
Nov 25
Dec 16
2002 dates
Jan 20
Feb 24
April 21

A DSL Saga by Judy Lococo

The saga begins in the year 2000, as I went in search of a broadband connection... There were three options available to me at that time, they came from a land far, far, away, and little was known about any of them... Baby Bell was the first contact, as they held all the existing telephone lines, and had to determine when my geographical area was available as DSL. Telocity (now DIRECTV DSL) was the second option, and they used the same telephone lines as Baby Bell. And then there was Insight Communications which had all the television cable lines everywhere. How fortunate was I to have three available to me, when most had none!

After trying to understand numerous other terms that were alien to me, I discovered that I was blessed in that I was close enough to a CO (Central Office) with a DSLAM (Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer) that my throughput would be blindingly fast. And, reasoning with myself that since Baby Bell owned the actual lines, if something happened to my service, they would be more eager to correct any problems, than if I was a Telocity customer, 'using' the Baby Bell lines. So I asked Baby Bell to establish DSL service to me.

It was such a new technology at that time that there were many technical difficulties. For one, Baby Bell was so rabid about not allowing any of the home users actually using more than one computer in a home environment to access their DSL, that they mandated that I had to use an internal modem (more heat inside my computer). I couldn't share the DSL connection with my old computer that I had networked with a new one. They showed no remorse for the fact that their DSL storm troopers had bugged up my two-computer LAN to the point that I now had to disable the network card to the old machine before I could even access the DSL line. And I was even using a different protocol on 'my' network as the DSL line already had a lock on TCP/IP and wouldn't allow

(con't on page 4)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

A DSL SAGA BY JUDY LOCOCO.....	1
HELPLINE.....	3
THE LAMP POST - NUMBER 24 BY JOHN SPIZZIRRI.....	6
CAEUG OCT MEETING MINUTES BY AL SKWARA.....	9

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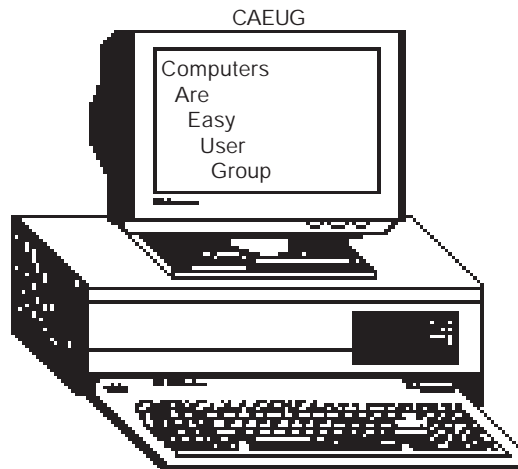
ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

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, Dec 16
 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.CODSHOW.COM
 E-mail address:
 info@codshow.com

COMPUTER CENTRAL at COD

2001 dates
 December 16
 2002 dates
 January 20
 February 24
 April 21
 May 26
 June 30
 July 28

PICTURE YOUR AD HERE!
FREE !!

IF YOU ARE A MEMBER OF CAEUG THIS SPACE
 COULD SELL ANY COMPUTER RELATED ITEM FREE OF
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 JUST CONTACT ANY CLUB OFFICERS OR THE NEWS-
 LETTER EDITOR TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE NEWSLET-
 TER.

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 Rick Scalzo.

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, Linux.....John Spizzirri

Membership Costs.....

	First Yr.	Renewal
Individual	\$25.00	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00	\$25.00
Corporate	\$30.00	\$25.00
Associate	\$20.00	\$15.00

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

the home network card to use that protocol... Needless to say, trying to print a document from the old machine to the printer attached to the new one, took some very fancy maneuvering. Of course, if I had elected to have the business DSL (\$\$) I could do all these marvelous things without any problem. For two computers, one of which started out life as a 486 machine, this did not compute.

The first problem I encountered was with the telephone line filters that are necessary if you wish to use the DSL service. Every extension in your house must have a filter on it, and unfortunately the one Baby Bell sent me for the wall phone in the kitchen was faulty. I asked for a replacement, & they couldn't replace just one, as nobody had ever done that before! So basically, I phoned & complained about their line filter for the wall phone every month for six months before they finally decided they would send me one that did work. However, what this meant was that my kitchen phone was worthless for six months.

I have always had a Hayes modem, not a Hayes-compatible modem, as I wanted top of the line error-correcting whenever I was using the phone lines. This Baby Bell internal modem was nothing but problems from the third day it was installed, and my wait on the phone to tech support was most depressing. Sometimes the device worked, and sometimes it didn't, and when it didn't, I had to re-boot my machine and try it again. I must have had to reboot my machine hundreds of times during the course of the 14 months I had the Baby Bell DSL for their modem connection alone, and then you have to add to that the times the computer itself seized up when I did something blonde. I'm surprised my "control," "alt," & "delete" keys have not been worn down to a nub...

Baby Bell tech support was generally adequate, and they do have a really nice feature on their answering messages that give you an estimated wait time. But don't expect them to bypass any of their routines simply because you say you have already done them. They are going to assume that you are an imbecile, and work upwards from there. By the time the call finally

reaches a point where they can converse in acronyms on equal footing with you, you've wasted at least a half-hour!

After fighting with the internal modem for over a year, I decided to complain even louder about their faulty equipment when I had to call in for some other problem. So the tech support people checked my line & found that my modem was an iffy component, and they would be sending me another. So I asked what it would take to get an external modem, as what they were sending me was basically not going to help my home network agonies. They asked a supervisor to bless it, and all agreed they could get me an internal modem for half-price, since I had used their service for over a year and the existing modem inside the machine was paid for. I said, "Great, let's do that!" The USB external modem arrived at one of my busier times, so it sat in the box for a couple of weeks before I even opened it. My telephone bill arrived in the meantime, so I checked it to see if the \$37.50 half-price charge was on there. Imagine my surprise when I discovered they had charged me \$18.50 for one of four installments, which basically said I was paying full price for it. Once again, Baby Bell was lying to its customers, and hiding it under an enigma of numbers.

I phoned Baby Bell & explained to all who would listen that I had been wronged. It fell on really deaf ears. Never mind that I have had outrageous monthly phone bills for thirty years, or that I have recently discovered that a directory service request for a new phone number listing is now one thin penny short of two dollars! So I told the woman on the phone that if I couldn't find any resolution to the fact that they had lied to me, then I didn't wish to deal with them any more except on a have-no-choice basis, as they are a monopoly where my local telephone service is concerned. They could take their DSL back to Never Never Land. She said there was nothing anyone could do, so I explained that I no longer wanted to use their DSL service. While I was on the phone talking to her, getting instructions on how to return this external modem, etc., they totally disconnected me from all Baby Bell DSL privileges. I did not

even have time to pull email off their server before I was denied access to it. I was not given time to notify people that Jlococo@bellsouth.net was no longer a viable email address. Basically, I was electronically guillotined! "How rude!"

I was suddenly without fast access and back to 56K dial-up speeds. This is tantamount to being mega-rich one day & a pauper the next. If you hadn't seen the promised land, you wouldn't know any better. So I put a panic call in to DIRECTV DSL, and they very candidly told me that their modems were external, cost approximately \$500, but were included in the monthly cost of their service. I did have to agree to a year's service with them, but they didn't care if I had two computers networked or not. I could only sit in front of one at a time, and the dogs have not learned how to surf... yet... However, whenever I discontinued their service, I had to return the modem to them. The biggest problem was that it could take up to three weeks for them to get the modem to me. Withdrawal pains, definitely.

However, the modem arrived just over a week after my call to DIRECTV DSL, so I figured I had a day of installation ahead of me again. I had to remove the Baby Bell internal DSL modem card, so it wouldn't conflict with the external DIRECTV DSL modem or my home network. Besides, at this point, it was just taking up space inside my PC. And, uh, geez, it also gave me a chance to visit with the dust bunnies populating the inside of my machine. Then I had to uninstall the Baby Bell software — this was not something you should try alone at home! It required the resident Alpha Geek's expertise to figure this one out, as the uninstallation itself wanted to wipe out a few "unused" files such as regedit.exe (among others) because their removal software reported that "I wasn't using it any more & really didn't need it..." I think that was the final straw when I saw that they wanted to inflict harm on my computer because I had chosen not to use their service.

Once all remnants of the Baby Bell fiasco were removed, total time to setup the new configuration was just over an hour. For the most part, the installation went smoothly with no major issues along the way. The new setup included attaching the DIRECTV DSL modem to my telephone line

and installing their software. It also included rerouting some of the ethernet cabling in the office and installing and configuring a DSL router/firewall between the modem and my computers. I did have to tweak my software firewall settings to make it all work together. At this point, I called in "Alpha Geek" for assistance with the firewall configuration.

The DIRECTV DSL modem and the DSL router are now flashing lights back at me (comforting to an external modem user...) and my home network is happy again. I can print from any machine on my home network when I wish, I can access the Net no matter which machine I am using, and I don't have to pray that I remembered to disable the network card before I powered down the last time. I don't have to threaten my friends with a visit from Luigi if they send me a huge picture attachment, and life is once again good!

For even more acronyms and information about DSL, check out <http://www.dslreports.com>.

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



**Happy
Holidays
toAll!**



F r o m
C A E U G



The Lamp Post - Number 24
by John Spizzirri
November 20, 2001



Brian Livingston (<http://www.brianlivingston.com/>) is a columnist for InfoWorld Magazine (<http://www.infoworld.com>). He is also a prolific writer of 'secrets' books about MS operating systems. In a recent column he stated that he would not be doing a 'secrets' book about XP. He recommends that most companies and individuals avoid XP because:

1. You must have a Passport (read more at www.avirubin.com/passport.html)
2. Passport EULA (End User Licensing Agreement) allows MS and its affiliates to spam you
3. The passport EULA can change just by MS changing the Passport Web site
5. 4 year old JAVA support (i.e. not the current version)
6. The lose of support for Internet Explorer plug-ins

His last paragraph sums it all up, "What all these new XP 'features' have in common is that they make Windows more convenient for Microsoft but less convenient for users. I think I'll stick with Windows 2000 for a few more years. And after that? Stay tuned."

Microsoft Security Manager, Scott Culp, gave a presentation at the Trusted Computing Forum in California last month. Culp reported that security vendors with MS 'partnerships' have agreed to withhold security hole information in MS products for 30 days. This will allegedly give MS a chance to patch the breach before crackers can exploit it. Unfortunately, crackers have their own method of information distribution. Crackers will know about any bugs or security holes within days or hours of the discovery. You, on the other hand, will be kept in the dark by these agreements. Win-XP's auto-update 'feature' will be used for behind-your-back patching. The .NET program will be the beneficiary of the false sense of security encouraged by these agreements. The vendors involved BindView (<http://www.bindview.com/>), ISS (<http://www.iss.net>), @Stake (<http://www.atstake.com>), Foundstone (<http://www.foundstone.com/>), and Guardent (<http://www.guardent.com/>) deal primarily with networks and may not be familiar names to you. They have been responsible for many of the patches to MS products that protected you in the past. Marc Slemko discovered an MS Passport defect (<http://alive.znep.com/~marcs/passport/>) that could be used to steal all a users information including credit card numbers held in their Passport. If Slemko had not made that public, would MS have shutdown the Passport service until the problem was fixed? I, for one, do not think so. I think these agreements are dangerous to all MS product users. You can read more about this in Security Focus Web site at <http://www.securityfocus.com/news/277> . Of course, these types of agreements are NOT covered in the DOJ-MS settlement.

Comdex Fall 2001 (<http://www.key3media.com/comdex/fall2001/>) is over. All the big shots were there; Meg Whitman of Ebay (<http://www.ebay.com/>), Bill Gates of MS (<http://www.microsoft.com>), Larry Ellison of Oracle (<http://www.oracle.com/>), and John Chambers of Cisco (<http://www.cisco.com/>). You can check out their speeches (you will need Real Player <http://www.real.com/>) at the Key3Media site if you did not get to Las Vegas to hear them in person. This year the show had a smaller than normal attendance. The main features at the show this year were security devices and software. In light of the September 11th attack, these things were expected. Gates was hyping 'tablet PCs'. These are, essentially, laptop PCs sans keyboards. Input is accomplished via a stylus on the screen ala Pocket PC technology. I think these will have a

limited appeal because most people can type to some degree and handwriting recognition still requires the user to make concessions to the machine.

Thomas Greene, reporter for The Register (<http://www.theregister.co.uk>), got his hands on an internal MS memo from Brian Valentine, Windows Division Vice President. He wrote, "Linux is the long-term threat against our core business. Never forget that!" He further wrote to the MS sales staff "I need you to make sure that as many of these customers as possible continue to migrate off of UNIX, but on to Windows 2000 on Intel. You should be smothering your accounts from every angle, and if you see Linux and/or IBM in there with it, then get all over it. Don't lose a single win to Linux." He went on with, "If you haven't done it at your customer sites — then do a walk-thru of their datacenters and take inventory of where you see Sun machines, IBM, etc and ask them what they [sic] running on those machines. Learn about what they do with those systems, keep that inventory in your back pocket — hell — tattoo it on your butt if you have to — and go after them. Knock them out one machine, one application, one department at a time. I cannot stress how important this is!" I think this memo speaks for itself. Linux is a force to be reckoned with.

Opera 5.x for Windows and Linux has a bug. Georgi Guninski (<http://www.guninski.com>) wrote in Security Focus (<http://www.securityfocus.com/archive/1/240468>) that he has discovered the browser might allow the execution of script code across domains. This means that a cracker could possibly get the contents of cookies. If you are a user, Opera (<http://www.opera.com>) advises disabling JavaScript execution and enabling the "use cookies to trace password protected documents" option, which addresses the most troubling aspect of the problem until they can fix the problem. This is the same problem that MS had about a month ago. Online Solutions broke that story (<http://www.solutions.fi/index.cgi/?lang=eng>). You can get the MS patch at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/downloads/critical/q312461/default.asp>.

All is not well in Deutschland. MS.de apparently shipped an unknown quantity of WinXP with the same product key. When an end user tries to activate the product using the Windows Product Activation (WPA), they cannot because the product has already been activated. If you read German try <http://www.3dwin.de/main/article.php?sid=1835> or <http://www.heise.de/newsticker/data/ps-02.11.01-001/> for the story. For you English readers, check out <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/4/22651.html>. All this trouble to stop software pirates. Perhaps, MS should have itself arrested.

If you have a Pentium III laptop and you are considering putting WinXP on it, check this article <http://www.extremetech.com/article/0,3396,s%253D201%2526a%253D17617,00.asp>. It says that laptops with the 440MX chip set may hang when using the modem. MS admits the glitch at <http://support.microsoft.com/directory/article.asp?ID=KB;EN-US;Q306580>.

The International Electrotechnical Commission, an international organization for electro-technological standardization, has proposed some new, confusing terminology for the powers of 2. The terminology is meant to clarify speech between scientific peers. I fear it will be used by marketing types to further confuse us mere mortals. Get the low down at <http://physics.nist.gov/cuu/Units/binary.html>.

In Singapore, Bell Labs has produced a transistor that is about the size of a molecule. It is allegedly cheaper to produce because it does not require the clean room precautions currently used for silicon chips. This is the first functional non-silicon transistor since Bell Labs produced the first transistor

in 1947. Get the full story at
<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/01/11/09/011109hnsupercomputer.xml?1109fram> .

InfoWorld magazine reported that IBM (<http://www.ibm.com>) is manufacturing a super computer called Blue Sky. This computer is billed as 'self aware'. It will be used by the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, CO. (<http://www.ncar.ucar.edu/ncar/>) to predict global warming and other events that may or may not be happening. The computer using eLiza technology from MIT (<http://web.mit.edu/>) will be able to repair itself without human intervention. This reminds me of the 1969 cold war movie "Colossus: The Forbin Project" (here are some stills from the film http://www.english.uiuc.edu/cybercinema/forb_vis.htm). The movie was based on the Colossus trilogy by D. F. Jones. If artificial intelligence (AI) is possible (and I don't believe it is), this could be the start of the end of the world, as we know it. You can read the full InfoWorld story at <http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/01/11/09/011109hnbluesky.xml?1109fram> .

Liberty Interactive (<http://www.libertyinteractive.com/programs/>) is a company that produces television shows. On its Web site it has some trailer for these shows available on streaming video.

Windows XP Home edition was going for \$2.75, and the Professional version was altogether pricier at \$5.50. Where was this you may ask? In Singapore, software pirates sell for ridiculously low prices. While back in the states, the Feds seized 31,000 counterfeit copies of Windows ME and Windows 2000 Professional, 4,300+ counterfeit Windows XP manuals, 93,000+ counterfeit certificate of authenticity (COA) labels for Windows Me, Windows 2000, Windows 98 and Office 2000 Professional, 25,000+ counterfeit End User License Agreements (EULAs) for various software products, thousands of jewel-case liners and packaging materials, several thousand counterfeit Windows 98 and Windows NT manuals, including cover stock, and thousands of counterfeit registration cards. All this came from Taiwan via ship. The MS counterfeits were estimated to have a value of \$60 million. Incidentally, U.S. Customs also seized two containers of counterfeit Marlboro cigarettes, estimated to be worth \$3 million. Watch what you buy and where you buy it.

Steganography is a method of encrypting data inside of other innocent looking files such as .wav, .tif, .gif, and .bmp. Some news media have picked up on this. With evil overtones, they are telling us that only bad people use this method of encryption. Nonsense! Regardless of the method of encryption, good and bad people have need of secrets. If the government gets into the encryption picture with back door 'master keys' or other methodologies, we lose our ability to keep secrets or to protect our identity. If you lose your identity to a disgruntled government worker or a criminal, the result to you is the same. Our government cannot deal with current encryption technology as seen in their inability to detect the September 11th attack. An additional layer, steganography, will make no difference. To read more about the process of steganography try these sites:

<http://www.isse.gmu.edu/~njohnson/Steganography/>

<http://www.defcon.org/html/crypto-sites.html>

<http://www.steganos.com/english/steganos/>

<http://www.stego.com/>

<http://members.tripod.com/steganography/stego/s-tools4.html>

<http://www.sevenlocks.com/SWSteganography.htm>

The coming holidays will be some of the most trying for our service men and women stationed overseas. There is a way you can encourage them or to turn a phrase, 'ease their pain'. TutorBarb (<http://www.tutorbarb.com>), an educational service company, has set up a Web site where you can email individual service people or ships. Project Homefires (from the song 'Keep the home-fires

burning') at <http://www.projecthomefires.com/homepage.asp> has all the links to keep you in touch with our fighting men and women.

Butterball turkeys has a free 2002 calendar for download at <http://www.butterball.com> . It is 12MB.

And now for some really good news, on November 15 the U.S. SENATE approved a two-year extension of a ban on new Internet taxes. The legislation, approved by the House, now goes to President Bush for his signature.

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

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting October 27, 2001

Rick Scalzo called the meeting to order at 9:44 am.

There were 44 in attendance. There were four visitors.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2001.

Raffle items included: VISIO Technical Edition V5.0, MS Word 2000, Upgrading and Repairing PC's 8th Edition, a 486DX2 33MHZ Mother Board, and Unauthorized Windows 95 Developers Resources Kit.

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 in July of \$4,987.37, income of \$126.00 and expenses of \$50.63 for an ending balance of \$5,62.74. August had expenses of \$297.75 with income of \$4.00 for a balance of \$4,768.99. September had income of \$175.00 and expenses of \$198.08 for a balance of \$4,745.91.

There was an announcement that James Davies, a member, had passed away.

OLD BUSINESS

Rick is still looking for a projector for the club. The membership voted to spend up to \$2,500 to purchase a new projector.

There was a request for ideas on software that should be included on the CD. Ideas should be emailed to Rick.

New Business

There was no CD of the Month.

The presentation was made by William L. Whited, Senior Technology Consultant with ConnecTech Solutions, 630-724-1273 on the new Microsoft Operating System.

Respectfully submitted,

Al Skwara



