

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group

August 2002

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XVII Issue 8



Calendar
of
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting dates for
2002

See page 10
for all confirmed
dates. Time and
Place remain the
same.

Upcoming
CAEUG PICNIC
Saturday, Aug 24,
2002

COMING IN OCTOBER
Scott Mueller Author
of 'Upgrading &
Repairing PC's'

SEE YOU
THERE!!

COD Dates
2002 dates

August 25

Microsoft Makes An Offer You Can't Refuse

Richard F. Forno

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Article #2002-09

30 June 2002

<http://www.infowarrior.org/> or <http://www.infowarrior.org/articles/2002-09.html>

This week, Microsoft released a much-needed security patch to fix critical vulnerabilities in the Windows Media Player (WMP). Thanks to some enterprising geeks taking the time to read the End-User License Agreement (EULA) accompanying the fix, it became known that the patch did far more than simply remedy the latest Microsoft security problem. In essence, the WMP security 'fix' contains a Trojan Horse that few know about, since people seldom read software licenses - but ultimately become bound by them by installing and using the software.

Instead of users being in-charge of their computers and information, the software giant wants to reverse that paradigm, using terms like 'Secure Content' and 'Trustworthy Computing' as feel-good pseudonyms for 'enslavement' and 'indentured servitude.'

As this Register article notes, users desiring to close this latest security holes in WMP must also agree to allow Microsoft to install Digital Rights Management software (copy prevention controls) on their computers, and agree that Microsoft may update such features from time to time or even disable other software on their computers at some point. (That last point is rather vague, and could mean disabling anything from viruses to software from Microsoft competitors.)

It's like Ford issuing the recall for the Firestone tires shipped on its vehicles, and maintaining a policy that any vehicle owner getting their tires replaced (thus increasing their safety) must agree to use Ford-brand gasoline and allow Ford to approve where, when, and on what roads they may drive their vehicle. Otherwise, they are free to drive anywhere they like on Firestone tires, but are on their own if something bad happens. The only kicker is, this isn't conveyed to Ford customers in an easily-noticed and understandable fashion before the work gets done....so owners are bound by the new policy by unwitting default.

Remember that Microsoft has a history of re-writing the English language to suit its own purposes and agenda. Once again, we are witnessing Microsoft as the ultimate social engineer, this time crafting an elaborate and potentially-criminal Catch-22 for its customers,

(con't on page 9)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MICROSOFT MAKES AN OFFER YOU CAN'T REFUSE BY RICHARD F. FORNO.....	1
HELPLINE.....	3
CAEUG PICNIC DIRECTIONS AND MAPS.....	5
THE LAMP POST - NUMBER 33 BY JOHN SPIZZIRRI.....	6
MEETING OF CAEUG MEETING JULY 27TH BY AL SKWARA.....	9

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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

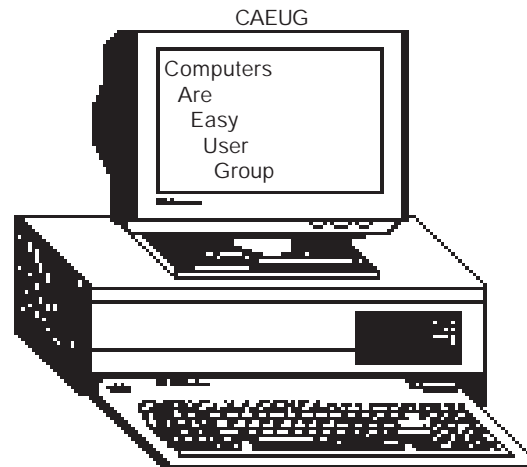
ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER:

This printed version of our newsletter was laid out using Adobe's Pagemaker Version 7.0 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.



**Great Midwest
Computer Show ©**

Next show date
SUNDAY, August 25
College of Dupage
9:30 A.M. to 3:00 P.M.

The Midwest's oldest and largest
Multi Vendor PC show and sale for
Home & Business

COLLEGE OF DUPAGE
Main Arena of Physical Education Building
Corner of Park Blvd & College Road
Glen Ellyn, IL
FREE PARKING
Admission - \$7.00
(With this coupon admission \$6.00)
www.CODSHOW.COM
E-mail address:
info@codshow.com

Great Midwest Computer Show ©

2002 dates

August 25
September 29
October 27
November 24

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 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 9x, NT, 2K & Linux.....John Spizzirri

Membership Costs.....

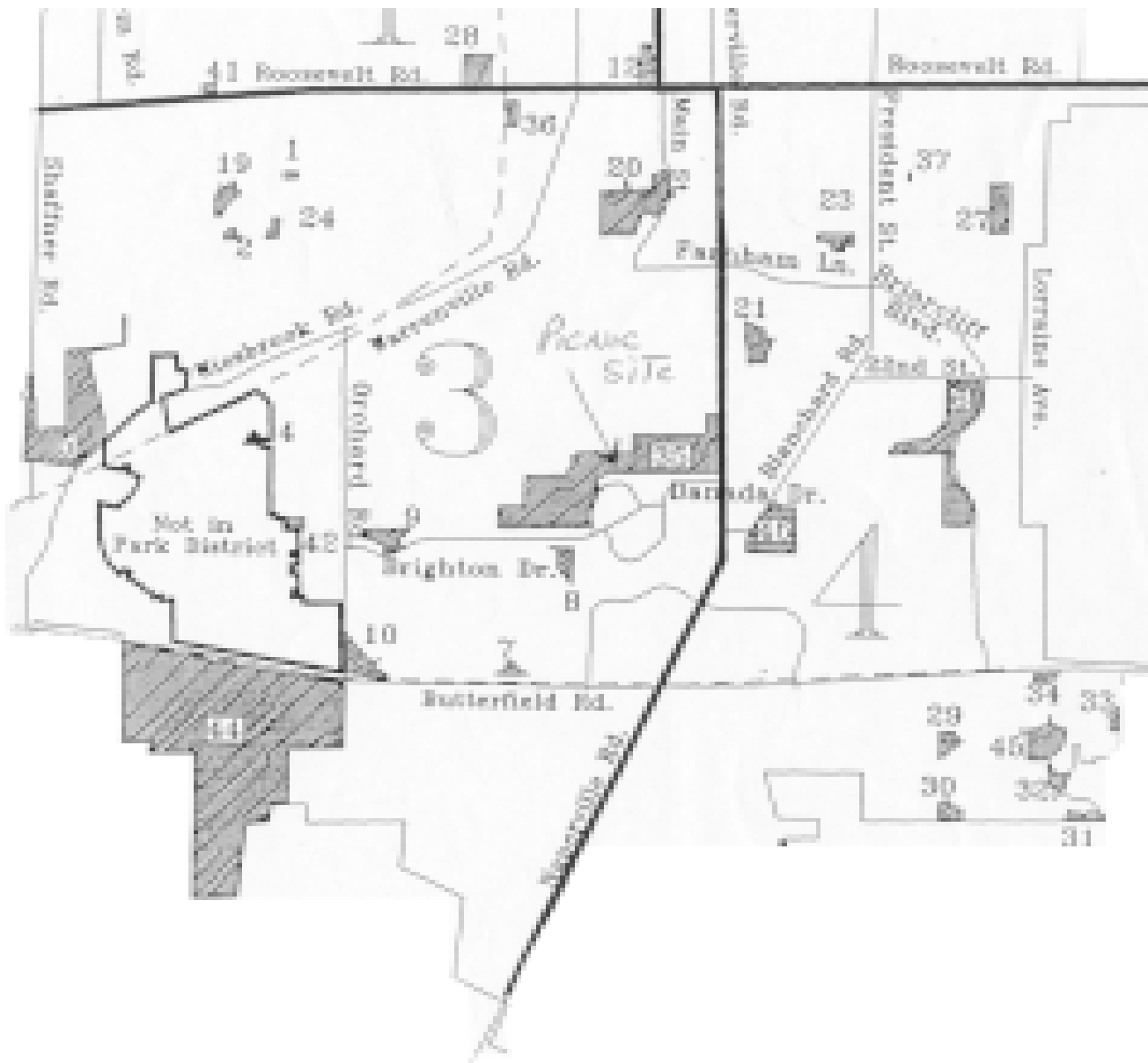
	First Yr.	Renewal
Individual	\$25.00	\$20.00
Family	\$30.00	\$25.00
Corporate	\$30.00	\$25.00
Associate	\$20.00	\$15.00

Beginner's SIG

Ask questions and discuss computer
experiences with this group.
Such as:

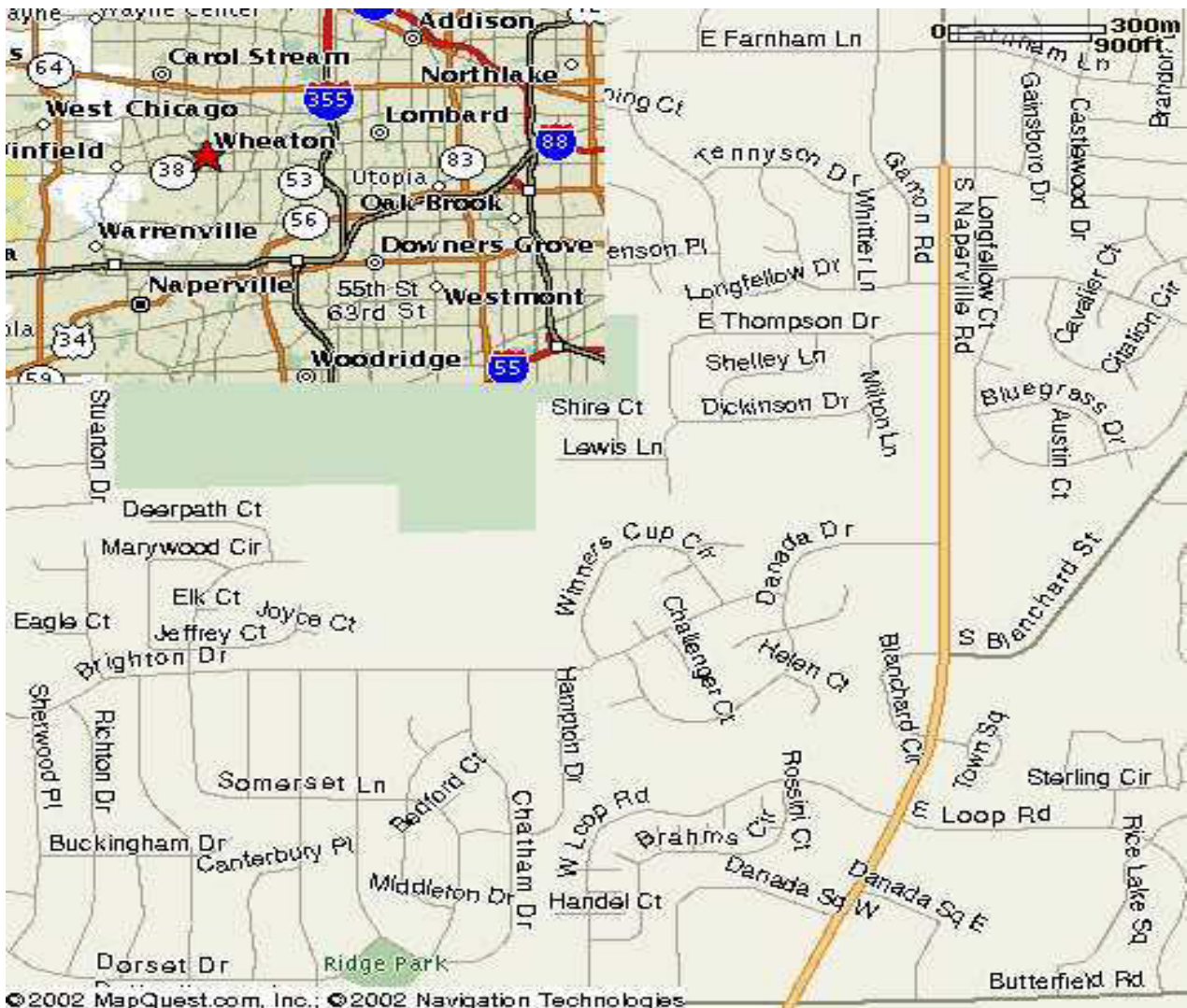
1. New to Computers? (basic topics)
2. How to use the Web or download information
3. How to install hardware/software
4. Discuss how to troubleshoot hardware conflicts, learn boot up emergency tricks
5. What do you want to know??

Meets before regular meeting from
9:05 to 9:45



CAEUG Picnic Directions

Directions to CAEUG Picnic at Seven Gables Park:
 From Naperville and Butterfield Roads head NORTH on Naperville Road 0.8 mi.
 Turn left (WEST) on Danada Road.
 Follow Danada for 0.2 mi. to the stop sign at Brighton Road.
 Turn right (WEST) on Brighton Road.
 Stay on Brighton Road for 0.2 mi.
 Turn right (NORTH) onto Winner's Cup.
 Follow Winner's Cup 0.2 mi. to the entrance to Seven Gables Park . Entrance is on the left.
 A short distance into the park is a stop sign, At the stop sign turn right. That road will take you past the football field. We will be at the EAST end of the football field in an area that looks like a refreshment stand. □



Picnic Raffle items information

Anyone having access to any software or hardware that might be appropriate for raffle items at the picnic should bring them to the picnic and let the picnic Chairperson know.

Roger Kinzie (randnk@worldnet.att.net)

or

Michael Golberg (MikeGold60137@Yahoo.com)

The Lamp Post Number 32 by John Spizzirri
 August 12, 2002



I would like to clarify some items I talked about at the last meeting. Lindows (<http://www.lindows.com/>), the Linux based graphical operating system, does not require a broadband (cable or DSL) Internet connection. In order to take advantage of the Click-n-Run (http://www.lindows.com/lindows_products_categories.php) feature (subscription) you will need an Internet connection. Star Office v6 is free to download on Click-n-run but is over 150MB in size so if you do not have broadband it will take a long time. The main problem I see with Lindows is that it costs \$99US. The annual subscription to Click-n-Run is \$99US. Loading Linux software without using the Click-n-Run feature is more difficult than with standard Linux distributions such as Red Hat (<http://www.redhat.com/>) and SuSe (<http://www.suse.com/>). Red Hat and SuSe distributions are significantly cheaper in a range of \$35 to \$80US. Some of the lesser-known distributions can be had for much less. You can get a copy of Red Hat from the club for \$10.

The Business Software Alliance (BSA) is the organization that periodically runs small business intimidation advertising. They threaten legal action if a small business' software is not "legal". The BSA has come out with a survey of Information Technology (IT) professionals that claims terrorists will launch a cyber attack and the government is not prepared. It's at <http://www.bsa.org/security/resources/2002-06-25.131.pdf> . Being an IT professional myself, I wonder if their opinions are any more valid than anyone else's.

If you use Internet Explorer as your browser, you should check the PivX site detailing the un-patched security holes at <http://pivx.com/larholm/unpatched/> . At the time of this writing there were nineteen. There were also recommendations on how to protect yourself from hacking. The Hurwitz Group did a survey of IT professionals asking about security holes in software and software companies not wanting to report holes when they are found. The Hurwitz Group wants to sell the report but you can get the gist of it at http://www.hurwitz.com/press/pressrelease_fulldisclosure.htm .

In past articles I have written about digital rights management (DRM) and Palladium, Microsoft's (MS <http://www.microsoft.com>) new method of controlling your computer. Perhaps, one of the best ways to get my point across about how these controls interfere with your rights as a consumer is for you to read what the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA <http://www.mpaa.org/home.htm>) considers piracy. Go to the MPAA Web site and click on piracy. Read the whole document. It's an eye opener. One of the highlights I found is that if you, as a consumer, lend or trade a video or DVD with a friend, the MPAA considers you a felon. If you make a copy of a videotape for any purpose, including your own personal use, the MPAA considers you a felon. If you have a favorite videotape, you know that they deteriorate over time and number of viewings. Making a copy for backup purposes of software and videotape is something that is only prudent to protect your investment. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA <http://www.riaa.org/index.cfm>) has the same anti-piracy message as the MPAA, although it is harder to find on their Web site. I copy CD music and use the copies in my car. The car is a terrible environment for CDs and audiotape because of summer heat and natural abrasives that can warp and scratch the media. I must be a felon by their definition. If you have ever taped audio or video from the radio or television, you are a felon by their definition. MS is working with the MPAA and the RIAA to make your computer unable to play or copy any audio or video media. The new audio encryption on CDs causes Macintosh's to crash, sometimes harming the machine. The Mac virtually never crashes unlike Windows. Using DeCSS

decryption is the ONLY way to view a DVD using the Linux OS. DeCSS was created by Jon Johnson, a sixteen year old Norwegian. The MPAA is still prosecuting the young man even though he took the code off his Web site within days of being threatened by the MPAA with prosecution. The case is set to go to court in December. We as consumers must use our dollars to let these content 'masters' know we do not like their policies. These organizations who claim they are going broke due to piracy are spending hundreds of thousands of dollars trying to 'persuade' congressmen to pass laws that enrich the media makers (NOT the artists) at the expense of consumers. InfoWarrior has the latest MPAA and RIAA assault on our rights at <http://www.infowarrior.org/articles/2002-10.html> .

What should you know about Digital Versatile Disk (DVD), also known as Digital Video Disk? Homer and Lisa Simpson have all the DVD information you need on the United Kingdom Fox Web site at <http://www.fox.co.uk/thesimpsons/> . Click on DVD Q & A. The site has DVD's of The Simpsons for sale. DON'T BUY ANY. Any DVD you buy outside North America has a Regional Encoding Enhancement (RCE) on it that can cause your DVD player to stop working. Here is a map of the RCE areas <http://zonefreedvd.com/codefreedvd/regionaldvdmap.html> . The RCE is explained at <http://www.dvdtalk.com/rce.html> . For a much more complete question and answer about DVDs try DVD Demystified at <http://www.dvddemystified.com/dvdfaq.html> . The MPAA has 'worked with' the hardware makers to make sure you can't play DVDs from other areas. The Apex DVD player was run off the market by the MPAA. The story is in Wired Magazine at <http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,35365,00.html> . The Apex allowed the consumer to play any DVD they chose.

A German news publisher is suing the NewsClub Web site for copyright infringement. The Web site contains links to other sites that publish news. <http://www.newsclub.de/> is being sued by the publisher on the claim that the Web site is a 'database' which is illegal under German and EU regulations. There are other similar lawsuits in Europe against searching engines, <http://www.newsbooster.com/> , <http://www.Paperboy.de> and <http://www.Net-Clipping.de> . The sites that end in .de are written in the German language with no on site translation.

The Google (<http://www.google.com/>) search engine has a feature that you may have overlooked. It's called the Google Tool Bar. A link to it is on the home page. When you load the tool bar, it places an extra tool bar on Internet Explorer (IE). With it you can Google search the net from any Web site, search groups and images, search the Web site you are on, get Google's ranking of the page you are on, get page information about the site, highlight your search terms on the page, and find words on the page. The requirements are IE 5 or higher running on any Windows version 95 and up. Now for the bad news, the tool bar has been cracked. An Israeli security company, GreyMagic Software (GMS <http://sec.greymagic.com>) found the crack. The exploit uses the way the tool bar interacts with the URLs and IE to modify IE. An attacker can clear your tool bar history or uninstall the Google tool bar in a mild attack. A determined attacker can record keyboard input, re-route searches, or execute programs in My Computer. GMS has links to harmless demonstrations at <http://sec.greymagic.com/adv/gm001-mc/> . Now for the good news, Google quickly produced a fix (version 1.1.59/1.1.60). If you already use Google tool bar, the auto-update feature will update your bar automatically. Check the version number just to be sure.

According to The Register US (<http://www.theregus.com/content/4/25843.html>), MS is in for some rough times. The story says that the MGM Mirage (<http://www.themirage.com>) which operates 26 hotels in the U.S. will convert many of its thousands of desktop computers to run Linux with Ximian's Desktop (<http://www.ximian.com/>). It further states that Burlington Coat Factory (<http://www.coat.com/index.shtml>) will convert the 500 PCs at their home office to Star Office 6 or Open Office 1 from MS Office 97. By my estimate, this is a saving of about \$118,000 just at the home office. Burlington has already converted their 315 stores. Why did this happen? The MS corporate licensing scheme that was introduced last year but postponed due to the terrorist attacks until this year went into effect on August 1st. The licensing 'agreement' forces corporations to pay for Windows and Office upgrades whether they use them or not. It is a guaranteed income for MS and takes the pressure off MS to come out with 'upgraded' products on a timetable. Unfortunately, MS is alienating

many of its largest customers. I think MS pressed for this arrangement before any brand of Linux was ready for an easy to install, easy to maintain desktop. Some Linux brands have been scrambling to get an easy desktop version on the retailer's shelves. Some of the industry magazines are claiming that up to 40 percent of MS's corporate customers have not signed on to this new agreement. If that number is correct, MS is not showing any discomfort. Steve "Monkey Boy" Ballmer, MS's CEO, told industry wags that some of their customers just don't understand the benefits of the contract.

If you have nothing to do, check out this site <http://www.waitallday.com/>. It does absolutely nothing.

If you are interested in Web page design, check <http://www.webpagesthatsuck.com/>. It has links to many examples of bad Web design with the reasons why they are bad.

Here is the kickoff list of candidate site for this election cycle. As I find more, I will update the list. These are in alphabetical order in each category.

Governor

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

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

<http://www.skinnerforgovernor.org/>

Senator

<http://www.burgauer2002.com>

<http://www.durkinforsenate.org>

Attorney General

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

<http://www.lisamadigan.org/>

The parties

<http://www.ildems.org/>

<http://www.ilgop.org/>

<http://www.il.lp.org/index.php>

Representative

<http://www.henryhyde.org>

Between you, me, and the LampPost - that's all this month.

Secretary of State

<http://www.15orfree.com/>

capitalizing on its own product and business shortcomings and heralded by its proprietary interpretations of modern industry buzzwords like 'security', 'trustworthiness,' and 'secure content.'

Users should expect their software to be secure and robust at the time of purchase, and for vendors to take responsibility for effectively fixing problems as they are discovered, without attaching strings or legal conditions or surreptitiously-modifying things. Unfortunately, as of this week, for Windows users to receive this expected level of service, they must begin relinquishing positive control of their computers and information, and potentially submit to third-party restrictions on how they may legally use their systems in the form of Digital Rights Management functionality. (Richard Stallman's short essay "The Right To Read" comes to mind here.)

After all, just last week the entertainment industry was in support of proposed legislation providing them legal protection while they disrupt and attack (e.g., "hack and crack") anyone they deem is violating their copyrights on peer-to-peer environments under an innocuous-sounding term of 'technical self-help.' Collusion with - or the support of - Microsoft would make that quite convenient. You can forget privacy and security as well; your needs and desires are subordinate to those of the faceless industry cartels and the re-election interests of various officials in Congress.

Consider similar 'protection' initiatives in neighborhoods controlled by organized crime syndicates. Residents and shop owners are 'strongly encouraged' to pay a recurring tribute to powerful people who in-turn insure that homes and shops are 'safe' from crime. Those refusing or failing to pay such tribute soon find themselves victims of increased criminal activity in the neighborhood — but strangely, upon paying their tribute, the crime stops!

The same can be said of Microsoft in the early days of Windows. Remember how early versions Microsoft Windows tricked users of competing DR-DOS into switching to MS-DOS by intentionally generating fake error messages and random crashes when it ran on anything but MS-DOS? Ironically, upon running Windows on MS-DOS after dumping DR-DOS, these particular problems vanished immediately.

Given this latest tidbit, coupled with the "Palladium" concept from last week and various legislative proposals, one wonders if Microsoft isn't purposely manufacturing problems (or capitalizing on their legacy of exploit-prone software) to help facilitate such Draconian controls over users and their information to protect its market and defacto technical dominance, not to mention the ability of Hollywood cartels to influence society by enacting an techno-legal dictatorship over all electronic content, media, and devices?

A friend recently suggested that Microsoft is a prime example of 'capitalism gone bad' - noting that the company embodies every manipulative, avaricious, socially-indifferent negative stereotype of capitalism that Marx and Engels, in what until now has been widely regarded as their paranoid schizophrenia, envisioned over a hundred years ago. Come to think of it, Microsoft seems to have as its eventual goal the reversal of every advance in consumer rights and fair trade philosophy that has been so laboriously won during the last century and a half of true innovation, seeking to partner with whoever is willing to join in its exploitative efforts.

Want your Windows system to have protection from hackers, crackers, and crashes? Better fork over your tribute and sacrifice your independence to Redmond - otherwise you stand an increased chance of experiencing 'problems' of one sort or other, either from external cyber-criminals or Microsoft, acting alone or on behalf of its partners in the entertainment industry. Such actions might be what the legal community calls racketeering, or at the very least, conspiracy to commit extortion.

Are we witnessing the rebirth of Microsoft as a 'family-oriented business' — with Steve Ballmer serving as both President and Capo de Tutti Capi?

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting
July 27, 2002

John Spizzirri called the meeting to order at 9:45 am.

There were 36 in attendance.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 24, 2002 and it will be our annual picnic.

The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter with the correction that the last meeting was on the 27th not the 22nd.

The Financial Report for May showed a starting balance of \$3,045.51, income of \$261.30 and expenses of \$75.60 for an ending balance of \$3,231.21. The Financial Report for June showed a starting balance of \$3,231.21, income of \$176.25 and expenses of \$42.64 for an ending balance of \$3,364.82.

There was a picnic sign up sheet circulated. The date of this year's picnic is, Saturday, August 24, 2002, at Seven Gables Park starting at 11 am with lunch at Noon. All members and their families are welcome to attend the picnic. Members are eligible to bring one guest to the picnic.

Anyone having access to any software or hardware that might be appropriate for raffle items at the picnic should

bring them to the picnic and let Roger Kinzie (randnk@worldnet.att.net) or Michael Golberg (MikeGold60137@Yahoo.com) know.

There was a request for a volunteer to take over as Membership and Circulation chairperson. As membership Chairperson they would keep the database and notify members when their dues are due. As Circulation Chairperson they would be responsible for taking the original of the newsletter to have it copied - 100 copies, get it folded, have labels and postage attached and see that it got mailed. Peter Nicchia volunteered.

Members' Forum addressed several problems that members were having with both hardware and software.

We then had our traditional break with coffee and pastry.

The presentation was made by John Spizzirri on Windows a new operating system.

Raffle items included 6 books, some of them were sets. PC Upgrade and Maintenance Guide, Windows 98 resources Kit, Windows98 MCSE, Turbo Library, and Turbo Assembler.

There was no CD of the Month.

Respectfully submitted,
Al Skwara

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

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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 Picnic August 24, 2002

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 Rick Scalzo at .
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, Rick
Scalzo at , at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made
for them.

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2002:
August 24 CAEUG Picnic, (maps & directions in this issue page 4 & 5)
Sept 28, Oct 26, Nov/Dec meeting December 7

CD OF THE MONTH: Available at the meeting or by ordering previous CD's via the CAEUG website.

Our next get together on Saturday, Aug 24 will be a picnic

Hope to see you there.

COMING ~ OCTOBER 26 ~ CAEUG ~ meeting presenter will be
Scott Mueller, Renowned Author of 'Upgrading & Repairing PC's'