

Abort,
Retry,
Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group

May 2002

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XVII

Issue 5



Calendar
of
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!

Updated

Meeting dates for
2002

See page 10
for all

confirmed
dates.

Time and Place
remain the same.

Upcoming

CAEUG meeting

Saturday,

May 25,

2002

9:45-12:00

Our next meeting

will be a

presentation by

John Spizzirri.

SEE YOU

THERE!!

COD Dates

2002 dates

May 26

June 30

July 28

Why I am Against the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act

By Dennis Courtney

President, Capital PC User Group - Washington, DC

The Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act (IFBDA), popularly known as the Tauzin-Dingell Bill, narrowly passed the House of Representatives last month and is now headed for the Senate. [Editor note: See page 5 at the end of this article for updated information.] It faces more of a challenge in the Senate but its defeat is by no means assured. After you read this article I hope that you will join me by adding your voice to the chorus calling for the defeat of this bad piece of legislation.

A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing

IFBDA supporters claim that the bill is intended to free the Baby Bells from the burden of regulation so that they can bring broadband access to their customers. The trouble is it frees the Baby Bells from all current regulation and prohibits the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and various states from ever regulating broadband. Specifically, it frees the Baby Bells from the requirement that they resell access to their service lines to other broadband providers and prohibits anyone from regulating them. This means that they can freeze out other broadband providers, charge you whatever they wish without any service level requirements while both the state and federal governments will be prohibited from doing anything about it! Instead of making broadband access competitive, IFBDA is very clearly anti-competitive.

The bill states that "the imposition of regulations by the Federal Communications Commission and the States has impeded the rapid delivery of

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

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

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 Wheaton, IL 60187
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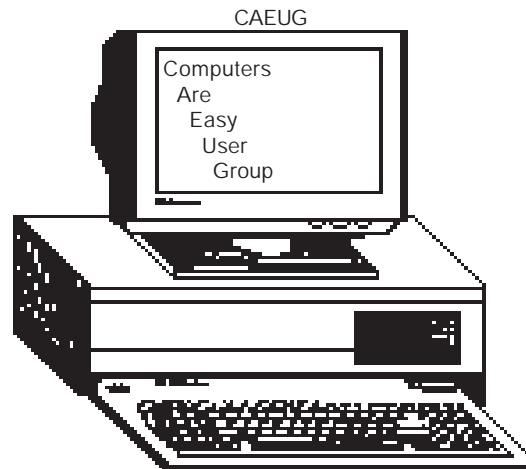
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The CAEUG newsletter is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be gratefully acknowledged in the newsletter. We have a policy of exchanging newsletters with other users groups across the nation. Several CAEUG member articles have already been picked up and reprinted.



**Great Midwest
Computer Show ©**

Next show date
SUNDAY, May 26
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
May 26
June 30
July 28
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 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

high speed internet access services and Internet backbone services to the public, thereby reducing consumer choice and welfare." Giving the Bells carte blanche to avoid competition and charge any price without ensuring a minimum quality of service does nothing to increase consumer choice or welfare.

Unfulfilled Promises

Have you ever wondered what all those different taxes listed on your phone bill are for? At least some of them were supposedly earmarked to help build a nationwide fiber-optic system. Over half of America was supposed to have fiber-optic lines to their home or office by 2000. The Bells took massive write downs to replace their copper wire infrastructure and collected over \$53 billion (with a 'b') in fees earmarked for fiber-optic. But almost none of the infrastructure they promised has been delivered.

The New Jersey Ratepayer Advocate wrote about NJ Bell Atlantic "...low income and residential customers have paid for fiber-optic lines every month but have not yet benefited. Bell Atlantic-New Jersey has over-earned, under spent and inequitably deployed advanced telecommunications technology to business customers, while largely neglecting schools and libraries, low income and residential rate payers and consumers in Urban Enterprise Zones as well as urban and rural areas".

Follow the Money

Why would the House pass a bill so obviously pro-business and anti-consumer? One has to wonder when looking at the money spread around by the Bells in support of Tauzin-Dingell. According to the non-partisan campaign contribution reporting site www.opensecrets.org the Bells gave over \$19.4 million dollars from 1999 to 2001 in

PAC, soft money and individual contributions. Opponents of Tauzin-Dingell gave just over \$8 million. Supporters of Tauzin-Dingell received more than 7 times as much money from the Bells than they did from the anti-Tauzin-Dingell groups. More than 180 House members got 10 times more money from the Bells - and they voted to approve the Bill by a 5:1 margin. Those who got equal amounts of money from both sides voted 2:1 against the Bill. Some 16 members of the House received no money from either side - they voted 13-3 against the Bill. The strong correlation between money and votes in the House make the defeat of the legislation in the Senate an uncertain conclusion. The Bells have 'deep pockets' and have shown that they are willing to invest in making sure that they have their Congressman's ear on this matter.

What Can You Do About It?

First you should educate yourself regarding the issue. This article is a good first step but there is plenty of information on the subject to be found on the Internet or through your local consumer watchdog organizations (the public utility commissions in 30 states, including Maryland, oppose the bill). Search at www.google.com and enter the key words "Tauzin" and "Dingell" to find information on the legislation.

Second, contact both of your state's Senators and tell them what you think about Tauzin-Dingell. Although we don't know yet what the bill will be called when it reaches the Senate, they'll know what you mean. Many Senators will accept Email directly or through the Senate website at <http://www.senate.gov>. Whatever you think about this legislation, let your Senator know. If it passes in the Senate you can be assured it will be signed into law and you will be living with the consequences for a long time to come.

(con't on page 5)

Dennis Courtney is the President of the Capital PC User Group in Washington, DC and can be contacted at president@cpcug.org

(MicroCenter and CompUSA) were less than cooperative in helping us.

[Editor note: dated 5/18/2002 from <http://thomas.loc.gov/cgi-bin/bdquery/z?d107:h.r.01542>: H.R.1542 Sponsor: Rep Tauzin, W. J. (Billy)(introduced 4/24/2001) Related Bills: H.RES.350 Latest Major Action: 2/28/2002 Referred to Senate committee. Latest Status: Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. Title: To deregulate the Internet and high speed data services, and for other purposes.]

Note: This was the first full meeting using the new schedule. The next meeting will use the same schedule. At the June meeting members will decide whether to keep this schedule or change it.

Meeting Schedule:
9:00 AM Library opens
9:05-9:45 AM Beginners group
9:45-10:00 AM Business meeting
10:00 AM Presentation
11:00 AM Coffee Break
11:15 AM Raffle
11:30 AM New technology report
11:45 AM Members forum

Minutes of April 27, 2002
by John Spizzirri

Rick Scalzo gave a presentation on making CD's from vinyl records or audio tape.

Rick Scalzo called the meeting to order at 9:46 AM. 27 members and 4 guests were in attendance.

Computer books and motivational tapes were raffled off.

Lynn Johnson read the treasurer's report. The membership approved it.

There was no new technology report.

Member's forum concluded the meeting.

Meeting minutes are published in the ARI... No revisions were needed.

Some reasons why
English is hard to learn

Old Business
Nominations for club offices were closed.

1. The bandage was wound around the wound.
2. The farm was used to produce produce.
3. The dump was so full it had to refuse more refuse.
4. He could lead if he would get the lead out.
5. The soldier decided to desert his dessert in the desert.
6. Since there was no time like the present, he thought it was time to present the present.
7. When shot at, the dove dove into the bushes.

A motion to unanimously accept all nominated club officers was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

New Business
Volunteers were recruited for the picnic committee. Michael Goldberg and Roger Kinzie volunteered for the picnic committee.

Rick asked members to bring in books, equipment, and software for the picnic door prizes because the local computer stores



The Lamp Post Number 29

by John Spizzirri
May 14, 2002



The Microsoft (M\$ <http://www.microsoft.com>) wheel mouse has a feature in Windows 98 that I discovered by accident. I accidentally pressed the Control Key while moving the scroll wheel on the mouse. The font size changed (larger and smaller) with each click of the wheel. This works in other M\$ applications as well. Apparently, Widows XP has a similar feature named CLEAR TYPE, which allows the user to adjust the font displayed on an LCD screen so that it appears clearer and easier to read. Find the details at:
<http://www.microsoft.com/typography/cleartype/default.htm>.

Michael Miller, Editor-in-chief of PC Magazine (<http://www.pcmag.com>), interviewed M\$'s Chris Jones, VP of Windows client team, in the June 11th issue. Jones said that the Service Pack for WinXP will be released later this year (no date). The Service Pack will have security fixes, USB 2.0 support, flat panel support (Mira), remote control device support, tablet PC support, and an update to Windows Messenger (WM). The WM update will allow the WM to be disabled without disabling other applications. More than one company has come out with USB 2.0 support for XP in the last few months. They have been threatened by MS and withdrawn that support. Jones said that the next release of Windows, code named Longhorn, will be out in "a couple of years". What does that mean? I don't know. MS crowded the last Windows release (Win2K released in Feb 2000 and WinXP released in Oct 2002) with a 20-month separation. The corporate licensing, put off last year because of customer unrest, is coming up again in July. Companies that go with the program MUST upgrade to WinXP and be charged accordingly. Then in "a couple of years" pay for another upgrade. Many companies do not like being forced to pay at MS's discretion instead of their own. Privacy is also another issue, which MS has problems with. How much do you trust MS with your personal information (credit card numbers)? Jones told Miller that these problems will be solved. I think that MS will not solve these problems easily.

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) is the identification of unique items (people) using radio waves. You can find the latest information on this technology in the RFID Journal Magazine (<http://www.rfidjournal.com/>). Some of the articles are quite technical but most are not. When you see what can be done with tagging chips, you may think twice about carrying a card with a chip on it let alone having a chip implanted in your body.

Want to quit walking? The Segway in not for sale, yet. You can sign up to buy one at their Web site <http://www.segway.com/> . They will go for \$3000+. At that price, I'd rather walk.

If driving is more your style, the Secretary of State's (SOS) site, <http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/> , may be for you. Jesse White has started offering services that make sense. You can renew your license plate and driving license online. Unfortunately, you must pay an additional fee to do so. Other vital (?) SOS services are detailed including genealogy, library, and the classic car show.

They are down to the last 100 tons of debris at ground zero. An overhead view of the site taken by the military is available at <http://www.artsnacks.com/wtc> . A survivor's story about that day is on the PBS Web site at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/wtc/above.html> . Brian Clark was one of only four people above the impact zone to survive the WTC collapse. The PBS site has the official explanation of "Why the Towers Fell".

Lindows (<http://www.lindows.com>) has won a round in the M\$ lawsuit against them. The Register USA reported (<http://www.theregus.com/content/7/24967.html>) the judge in the case quoted Microsoft's own dictionary of computing, showing that windows and windowing software are generic terms. Net2 has the complete transcript of the case and an assortment of quotes at <http://www.net2.com/lindows/> .

Fingerprint biometric devices are being hyped as a way to secure computers and as replacements for password entry. I thought since their introduction that they could be fooled. The devices are too cheap and do not check anything other than the fingerprint pattern; thus a photo of the print may be used for access. If additional methods were used in conjunction with the print, such as skin temperature and/or hand bone structure measurements, than these devices might work. A Japanese cryptographer has proved me right, using gummy bears. The Register has the full article at <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/55/25300.html> .

The global economic group of countries known as the G8 has proposed an initiative that would track your activity on the Internet. The Register USA has the details and links to G8 tracking organizations at <http://www.theregus.com/content/6/24966.html> .

Opera Software (<http://www.opera.com/>) has released a minor upgrade for both Linux and Windows users. The new version for Windows has the ability to use short messaging service to send messages to wireless devices and a button to access the users mail account. The Linux version includes a contact list to store information on friends, a cookie management editor, import/export of bookmarks, bookmark searching, new keyboard shortcuts, "hotclicking" on selected words and phrases to do searches, and a new personal bar for organizing bookmarks and searches in one place. Opera is free with an advertising banner and US\$39 without the advertising.

eWeek (<http://www.eweek.com/>) reported that Sun Microsystems (<http://www.sun.com/>) has launched what it calls 'Office wars'. Star Office Suite v6.0 will be released into the retail channel on May 21, 2002 for US\$76. Sun already has some major clients lined up to switch to Star Office from Microsoft Office. The eWeek article has the details at <http://www.eweek.com/article/0,3658,s=701&a=26974,00.asp> . MS Office costs US\$479. It is unfortunate that Star Office will no longer be free, but if Sun starts to eat into MS's customer base the MS Office price may come down. I have mentioned before that Star Office is based on Open Office (<http://www.openoffice.org/>). Open Office has just released its version 1.0.

Microsoft released a cumulative patch that fixes six new vulnerabilities in Internet Explorer. The new patch has fixes for flaws in IE 5.01, 5.5 and 6.0. You can download the patch at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/ie/downloads/critical/q316059/default.asp> . The Register USA article at <http://www.theregus.com/content/6/24974.html> says that this patch

(con't on page 8)

is inadequate as does the InfoWorld article at

<http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/02/05/16/020516hnmsspatch.xml?0516thpm>.

MS has released 'power toys' for Windows XP. For some reason MS never puts these tools on the release CD of any Windows OS. When the power toys for Windows 95 showed up on the MS Web site, I thought it was an oversight. With each succeeding release of Windows, the power toys are released later on the MS Web site. These toys are actually tools that allow the user to control the way Windows works without the problems involved in modifying the registry by hand. The XP toys are at <http://www.microsoft.com/windowsxp/pro/downloads/powertoys.asp>.

I have refrained from writing about the MS anti-trust for some time. During that time Bill Gates and other top officials of MS have testified. Nine states did not go along with the DOJ settlement and have kept the trial going in an effort to get the court to force MS to cease its monopolistic ways. MS internal e-mail was introduced as evidence. The judge admitted some e-mail and disallowed others. One disallowed e-mail was from Joachim Kempin, an OEM relation's manager. He wrote that Microsoft should "work underground with the clear understanding to promote and advantage guys with less market share without declaring that to be our strategy. I would further try to restrict source code deliveries where possible and be less gracious when interpreting agreements—again without being obvious about it." This e-mail was in reference to OEM's that delivered Linux as an alternative to MS OS's. I think that one sentence says it all. This e-mail was routed to Gates, Ballmer, Allchin, and others. MS lawyers are trying to explain away this smoking gun. InfoWorld has an article that explains this and other legal tactics with links at <http://www.infoworld.com/articles/hn/xml/02/05/15/020515hnmiclinux.xml?0516tham>. The judge is to make a ruling in the case in mid to late summer. MS has other worries from the European Union (EU). The EU wants a separate Windows product with the Windows Media Player (WMP) and one without it. The way the EU court will rule is not clear. During the US trial Ballmer said that MS would have to remove Windows from the market if it had to produce various versions with and without IE or WMP. YEAH, RIGHT!

SuSe Linux (http://www.suse.com/index_us.html) has released its version 8.0. There seems to be an emphasis on making this version a desktop OS. It has higher system requirements than previous versions. It costs US\$40 for the personal version and US\$80 for the Professional version. Statements by the CEO of Red Hat Linux (<http://www.redhat.com/>) have indicated that Red Hat has ceded the desktop to MS. SuSe included the new KDE (<http://www.kde.org/>) desktop version 3. Another Linux distribution called Lycoris (<http://www.lycoris.org/>). Lycoris is aimed at the desktop as opposed to the server market. I will review these distributions in future articles or if they are exceptional, I will do a presentation.

If you are disappointed with Linux, because it is not clear how to use it, you may be interested in a Web site called Sysob's Linux Experience (<http://sisob.dyndns.org/>). It has tutorials on how to use and install various distributions as well as how to do common tasks like burning CDs, playing DVDs, and ripping MP3s.

The Winter Palace of the Tsars in St. Petersburg is now a museum. If you can't go to Russia to see it, you can check its Web site http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/html_En/index.html.

Things seem to be getting back to normal. I found a site that makes fun of New York City at

<http://www.gorkhouse.com/newyork.html> . It may not be in good taste, but avoids any WTC references.

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

Trimming and Cutting for
Dummies Like Me
By Bruce Switalla
Coastal Area Users Group (CAUG)

Since it will be a while before I learn how to get my graphic printouts to line up correctly on pre-perforated paper, I decided to simply save money on mistakes and take matters into my own hands. So, for the Feb. graphics SIG, I briefly demonstrated how I make business cards, greeting cards, and photo prints without the perforated paper that I can't always figure out how to line up.

For now, I use Epson Matte Heavyweight paper (52-lb) for everything. It makes a thin but acceptable bus. card, and it doesn't stick to glass photo frames. As shown at the meeting, it yields rich, dark colors too. For business card software, I use Print Artist and can get it to print TWELVE cards per 8½ x11 sheet with hairline crop marks that get split in two and don't show. The pre-perforated bus. card sheets I've seen yield only ten and thus leave wasted paper.

For bus. cards, greeting cards, and photos alike, I use the following equipment. I place an 11x15 Good Cook Flexible Cutting Board (about \$2.95) from H-E-B's cooking utensils section down on my table surface. Yes, it gets cut marks in it, but that's what its for! I heard at the meeting that a fabric store has more costly cutting mats that 'heal' after you cut into them thus preventing the knife from following a previous groove. To cut, I use an Exacto knife (from Hobby Lobby) and keep it covered with its plastic cap when not in use. For the projects without crop marks like photos, I use 2 sharp pencil marks to determine where to cut. I place the knife on the mark first, then slide a cork-backed metal ruler (available cheap at Office Depot) against the knife at my first point. Then, holding the ruler down with my finger out of the

way of the cut, I place the knife-point in the other pencil mark, pivoting the ruler this time against the knife. I consistently keep the knife straight up while watching my fingers. I cut 2 or 3 times just past where I need to, so the side cuts will come apart when finished. I got a beautiful 5x7 mahogany-colored wood frame from Dollar General for \$2. And 8X10s are 3 and \$4. By the way, if you go with glossy paper, you cannot let it touch the glass, so you will need to place a spacer, like a mat, around the photo (a job for the pro's).

Advanced Advice

If you can control how large your photo prints out, you may opt for 4½x6½ or so with white borders that you leave when you cut to 5x7, since a 5x7 wood frame will cover a quarter inch on all sides, and ink is expensive. Measure the frame's inside dimensions for white border (cutting purposes) and from the front of the frame measure for printing purposes but be sure no white will show after framing. Better to think this all out and practice on Crayola-colored notebook paper than mess up a print. 'Measure twice'

One thing I didn't cover at the meeting was folding greeting cards. I place two pencil marks down the center of where I need to fold. Then I put the ruler edge over the marks and use a pizza cutter roller to crease neatly the fold I need. Care is needed to avoid rolling away from the ruler's edge. The resulting fold looks professional!

Time to Smile - Bumper stickers

Give me ambiguity or give me something else.

A flashlight is a case for holding dead batteries.

Hard work has a future payoff. Laziness pays off now.

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 meeting May 25, 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 8, at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made
for them.

Confirmed Meeting dates for 2002:
May 25, June 22, July 27, August 24 CAEUG Picnic,
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.

May 25th meeting - John Spizzirri ---Will demonstrate backup procedures using drive
imaging software.