

# Abort, Retry, Ignore...



## Computers Are Easy User Group

February 2003

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Volume XIV

Issue 2



### Review of Jargonary by John Spizzirri

Teng Chou Ming of the Jargonary Development Team sent a review copy to me a while back. Jargonary is a nineteen dollar shareware dictionary of computer jargon. According to the Jargonary program, shareware means 'Freeware for which the author requests some payment, usually in the accompanying documentation files or in an announcement made by the software itself. Such payment may buy additional support, documentation or functionality'. Jargonary system requirements are a Pentium 200 or better, 13 MB hard drive space, and Windows 9x, ME, NT, 2K, or XP. Teng told me of their plans to add a filename extension and country domain databases. The extension database is useful to determine what file type is associated with a particular application. The location of a domain can be checked in the country domain database.

You can download it at <http://www.Jargonary.com> (3.3MB). It will also be on the February CD of the month.

I examined the review copy and found it quite useful. It has the appearance of a browser. You type in the word(s) you want to look up in a search box. As you type in your word, an alphabetical listing that matches your letters appears in the right side window. After you press enter, the definition appears in the left side window. If your word does not match anything in the dictionary, the left side window displays a message stating '<your word> is not found on the database'. Below that a 'closest match' word appears while the right side window goes blank. The phraseology used in some messages and definitions indicate to me that the people who worked on this program are not familiar with American English.

Some definitions and references are not quite right. For instance, the Fortran entry has a hyperlink for TC. The TC appears after the words 'FORTRAN Technical

(con't on page 4)

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

REVIEW OF JARGONARY BY JOHN SPIZZIRRI.....	1
HELPLINE.....	3
MINUTES OF CAEUG MEETING JANUARY 27, 2003 BY AL SKWARA.....	5
BUYING A DVD RECORDER BY BOB ELGINES.....	6
THE LAMP POST - NUMBER 37 BY JOHN SPIZZIRRI.....	7

Calendar  
of  
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!  
Meeting dates for  
2003

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

February 22  
Kathy Long  
from  
Epson

SEE YOU  
THERE!!

COD Dates  
2003 dates  
Feb 23  
Mar 30  
April 27  
May 18  
June 29  
July 27  
August 24  
September 28  
October 26  
November 23  
December 21



**Great Midwest  
Computer Show ©**

Next show date  
**SUNDAY, Feb 23**  
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 ©  
2003 dates

Feb 23	June 29	Oct 26
Mar 30	July 27	Nov 23
Apr 27	Aug 24	Dec 21
May 18	Sept 28	

**For Sale**

Compaq Armada 1530DM Laptop  
Pentium 133, 32MB RAM, 1.2MB HD,  
floppy, CD-ROM, Sound, Win 98  
Battery does not hold charge more than  
20 minutes  
Runs fine plugged in - \$200

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



The definition is essentially correct but note that it does not mention John T. Draper (AKA Captain Crunch) or his current Web site (<http://www.webcrunchers.com/crunch/>). It also does not mention that those 'free' phone calls were stolen.

Older and newer definitions are not included. Web log and blog are not in the dictionary, nor are Word Star and Visi-Calc. Interestingly, Visi-Calc is hperlinked under the term spreadsheet, but the hyperlink returns a 'visi-calc is not found on the databse' message with the closest match being the letter v.

On a technical basis Jargonary is fast. When called it always locates itself in the lower right part of the screen with a protion of the browser extending off the right side of the screen. This necesitates repositioning the browser every time you start it. A wheel mouse does not work for scrolling in any window. It cannot be resized. It has a history of words that have been looked up, but it erases itself each time you exit the program.

Teng told me via e-mail that the program definitions would be updated periodically. I have not seen any updates, yet. Overall, I would say that Jargonary is not a good value as it is. If the product is improved, on content and technical basis, it would be worthwhile.

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## Minutes of CAEUG Meeting January 25, 2003

John Spizzirri called the meeting to order at 9:52 am.

There were 36 in members in attendance and 2 visitors.

The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

The Financial Report showed a starting balance

of \$3,350.75, income of \$147.50 and expenses of \$146.93 for a balance of \$3,351.32.

### Old Business:

There was some discussion about the Library's consideration of charging more in fees for the use of the meeting room. A motion was made and passed to wait on looking for a new site for the meeting location until the Library actually made a change in the rental fee.

### New Business:

There was a motion made and passed to plan a CAEUG picnic for the 4th Saturday in August at the same location as last year.

There were three volunteers for the Nominating Committee: Al Cicora, Dick Major and Bert Orszula. The election is scheduled for the April Meeting according to our by laws.

Kathy Groce volunteered to take over the coffee preparation for February and March.

John Spizzirri reported that we have a presentation set up for the February Meeting with openings after that.

The formal meeting was then adjourned.

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

We then had our traditional break with coffee and doughnuts, bagels, and muffins.

There was a CD of the month with many kilobytes of programs.

Raffle items included Links 2003, Word Perfect Desk top Companion, Startrek Hidden Evil, Startrek The Next Generation, "A Final Unity".

The presentation was made by Al Buchholz, a consultant working with Alphasoftware. More information is available at [www.alphasoftware.com](http://www.alphasoftware.com).

Respectfully submitted,  
Al Skwara

## !!! CAEUG Election !!!

That time of year again - election of the club officers, the nominating committee is  
Alex Ciciora  
ajcicy@yahoo.com  
Dick Major  
major540@earthlink.net  
Bert Orszula  
bertlcc@mediaone.net

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### Buying a DVD recorder By Bob Elgines elginesz@rraz.net

Well the prices are coming down, now under \$300 and as low as \$220, for a DVD recorder. The blank disks are now under \$2.50 each in lots of ten or more. But beware, the great decision as to which format is still under debate, DVD-R or DVD+R! If you just wish to make videos either one should work in most DVD players made after the year 2000, but not all. Cheaper DVDR disks and players will not work.

Support out there is very weak to almost NONE! Much time is needed to be invested like 4 to 10 hours to make a 2 hour video DVD, of which several programs require you to sit in front of your computer.

Most of the software is over priced and does not work without many problems and no support like "Video Studio 6" by Cyber. The best so far has been "MyDVD" by Sonic. Some of the suggestions listed below came from them.

The best input devices are: "USB Instant DVD" by ADS (\$160), "Bungee DVD" by Pinnacle (\$150), "DCS 100" (\$170) and "DCS 200" by Dazzle (\$230). They all come with software that have individual problems, and advertise "Fast, Easy & Fun", boy that is a huge JOKE! It's Slow, Hard, & Will drive you nuts .

If you can not provide all of the suggestions (really necessary evils) below then don't get involved. I became one of their guinea pig and I am about to

throw it all in the circle file and call it a lost.

My ASUS computer is an Intel P3 @ 866MHz, 256MB RAM @ 133MHz, 60GB Hard Drive @ 7200rpm ATA100, ATI Radeon 32MB video card, with the "USB Instant DVD" input device (I tried out the DAZZLE equipment, but it had big noise problems and they had NO support at all), VIVASTAR (LF311) DVD-R recorder. I have tried two operating systems such as Win '98SE and Win'ME and saw no difference, went back to Win'98SE.

For Windows '98 'XP users start off with these suggestions on getting ready to record a DVD:

- \*Install at least 256 MB of RAM
- \*Disable the Screen Saver
- \*Disable the Turn off Hard Disks option
- \*Disable the Hibernation option
- \*Disable the Network Time Server (Win'XP)
- \*Disable Text to Speech (Win'XP)
- \*Disable any scheduled tasks (for example, virus scan)
- \*Do not increase Virtual Memory beyond Windows' recommended setting
- \*Close any other running applications
- \*Do not copy any large files while capturing
- \*Do not allow any remote activities, such as PC Anywhere or Timbuktu connections
- \*Your hard drives are formatted to NTFS (which as no files size limitations Win'XP)
- \*You have at least 21 gigs available on a single drive
- \*You have the latest drivers for the following: DVD Rom, burner, CD-ROM and burner.
- \*Your hard drives have been defragmented.
- \*In particular, while capturing video, do not use your PC for any other activity. Video capture requires all your PC's processing power, and any action such as inserting a disc or receiving e-mail may cause errors in the captured video files.
- \*Your monitor resolution must be set to 1024x768 16 or 32 bit color
- \*You are running ASPI driver 4.6. No higher, no lower. If you are unsure, you can go here to find out and/or download the appropriate driver: <http://aspi.radified.com>
- \*You are not running you machine/session of a network/RAID configuration
- \*Make sure you have the latest version DirectX (a must), WMP (a must):

(cont on page 9)

The Lamp Post  
Number 37  
by John Spizzirri  
February 10, 2003



Happy St. Patrick's Day! Here are some sites that can help make the celebration more enjoyable. <http://www.marvelicious.com/stpatrick.html> has history, poetry, and sundries. <http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/stpatty/fun.htm> has fun things for kids. Another history site is at <http://wilstar.com/holidays/patrick.htm> . If you are planning to go to Ireland, check this festival of Ireland site at <http://www.stpatricksday.ie/cms/> .

As of the day of this writing the Homeland Security Advisory System was elevated to High. For the details of what the High (orange) condition means check the site at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2002/03/20020312-5.html> . It was elevated because our intelligence agencies have detected excess 'chatter' between the Middle East and individuals living in the United States. Also, the Hajj begins this week. Attacking us during the Hajj would have symbolic meaning to those who wish us harm. The Hajj is a trip to Mecca (Makkah) required of all Muslims at least once in their lifetime. USA Today has a story about the Hajj this year explaining the security measures taken by the Saudi government. One measure is that no non-Muslims will be allowed in the city. The story is at [http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-02-07-saudi-hajj\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/world/2003-02-07-saudi-hajj_x.htm) . The story of the Hajj and how to carry out this rite of Islam is at <http://islamicity.com/mosque/jlthajj/LifeTimeJourney.shtml> . The Islamic press seems to be mum on the U.S. security response at <http://aljazeera.org.uk/> .

At the same news conference, Tom Ridge, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS <http://www.dhs.gov/dhspublic/> ) recommended that that each individual and family should be prepared in the event of an attack. What to do in that event is covered at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2003/02/20030207-10.html> . How to protect yourself is at [http://www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Protect\\_Yourself.shtml](http://www.firstgov.gov/Topics/Protect_Yourself.shtml) and at <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/> . If you know something (such as who will commit an attack or when an attack will occur), you can earn a reward for spilling the beans at <http://www.dssrewards.net/index.htm> .

The State of Illinois has its own Homeland Security Director, Matthew Bettenhausen, who was appointed by the governor and is available at 312-814-2166.

I'm sure we are all troubled by the crash of the Columbia space shuttle. To keep up with the investigation check <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/shuttle/> . If you are interested in the video details of the last flight of Columbia, this site has pre, in and post flight videos <http://science.ksc.nasa.gov/shuttle/missions/sts-107/movies/movies.html> . Be prepared, this last site's videos are quite large (2 to 120 megabytes).

The primary and general elections for are coming. Our local members can check the DuPage Board of Elections calendar at <http://www.dupageelections.com/calendar.asp> for dates and locations.

The Register reports that Project Gutenberg has been hijacked. The story at <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/6/29165.html> explains that going to Project Gutenberg site at <http://www.projectgutenberg.org> will re-direct you to the Iraqi Mission to the United Nations

(con't on page 8)

( <http://iraqi-mission.org/> ). You can still get to Project Gutenberg by way of this site <http://promo.net/pg/> . There is no mention of this on the United Nations Web site ( <http://www.un.org/> ). Project Gutenberg has been around since 1971. Michael Hart started it. The project is to put all 'important' books that are out of copyright protection into electronic form.

In January, Alan Buchholz, presented the Alpha 5 database program. I found it on sale at Global Computers in Naperville for \$299. For full details check the Web site at [http://www.globalcomputer.com/products/product\\_details.jsp?PRODUCT%3C%3Eprd\\_id=3569799](http://www.globalcomputer.com/products/product_details.jsp?PRODUCT%3C%3Eprd_id=3569799) .

The March issue of Wired Magazine ( <http://www.wired.com/> ) is out. It has a reality article about the Segway Human Transporter. The reality is that very few sales are being made to large (corporate and governmental) customers. The Segway went on sale to individuals last December at Amazon ( <http://www.amazon.com/segway/> ). The price is \$4950 which is about \$1000 higher than the pre-release price quoted last year. There are a number of naysayers who point out all the Segway's faults and none of its benefits. The Northeast Advanced Vehicle Consortium ( <http://www.navc.org/> ) and Transportation Alternatives ( <http://www.transalt.org/> ) both have their own axes to grind. The Wired article correctly points out that the Segway went to market in the middle of our current recession which accounts for much of the poor sales performance. I do not see much consumer demand at that price even in good times. The March issue will be on the Web site toward the end of this month.

The Senate passed the Senate Amendment No. 59 proposed by Senators Wyden and Feinstein. The amendment stops the funding of the Department of Defense's (DOD) "Total Information Awareness" (TIA) program with the exceptions being made for lawful military operations or a lawful foreign intelligence activities (a loop hole if I ever saw one, but better than nothing). The exceptions would stop its use against U. S. citizens. The appropriations bill is now in the conference committee that works out the difference between the House and Senate bills. You may recall that I wrote about the TIA in the Lamp Post #35. The TIA allows the DOD to collect computerized information about all citizens and integrate it into one huge database. Computerized information includes personal data such as credit card transactions, medical records, and travel records. The DOD in cooperation with the FBI, CIA, and NSA would review these records for 'suspicious' activity. The question arises, what is suspicious? When all data is tied together, what prevents its misuse? You can let your congressman know if you want to be spied on or if you think the TIA is too much power in the anonymous hands of government. The site <http://action.eff.org/action/index.asp?step=2&item=2449> has a sample letter for Congress against the TIA. For more information about the TIA and its implications go to <http://www.eff.org/Privacy/TIA/> .

Microsoft (MS <http://www.microsoft.com> ) wants more money. Paul Thurrott, a columnist for WinNet Magazine ( <http://www.winnetmag.com> ), revealed that MS Office 11 will be released later this year as will new versions of Visio and Project. It will soon be upgrade time, again. These new products work better on Windows XP and, in a network setting, on Windows Server 2003. The marketing campaign is called iWave. The i is for what MS calls the information worker. These products will have "integrated functionality of its total solutions". I think 'integrated functionality' was what the anti-trust action against MS was all about.

MS admits in a SEC (Securities and Exchange Commission) filing that open source software (OSS) is a threat to the company's long term success. The exact quote is, "The popularization of the open source movement continues to pose a significant challenge to the company's business model...". MS further admits that if OSS continues to catch on as is already has that they will have to 'lower prices to compete'. They have admitted as much to the press previously but this is the first time they have done so in writing in an official document.

Desktop Linux Consortium (DLC <http://www.desktoplinuxconsortium.com/> ) is a group of Linux

(con't on page 9)

companies that have banded together to simplify the Linux GUI (graphical user interface) so as to be more competitive with MS. The companies include ArkLinux, CodeWeavers, Debian, DesktopLinux.com, KDE, Linux Professional Institute, Lycoris, The Linux Terminal Server Project, MandrakeSoft, NeTraverse, OpenOffice.org, Questnet, Samba.org, theKompany, SuSE, TransGaming Technologies, TrustCommerce, Xandros, and Ximian. Please note that not among them is Red Hat (<http://www.redhat.com/>). I think that Red Hat should be encouraged to join the DLC because it has the largest share of the Linux market. If you think the same way, go to the Web site and click 'Contact Red Hat' then click 'Product Suggestions' and drop them a note.

Steve Bass, a free lance computer columnist and officer in the Pasadena IBM Users Group (<http://www.pibmug.com>), recently came across a ploy used by some to get personal information about you. This ploy is a number of years old but still works. Here is the ploy. An official looking e-mail comes to you claiming that AOL (or whatever ISP (Internet Service Provider) you are using) needs to correct your billing information. Sometimes they ask you to send an e-mail containing your credit card number and mother's maiden name. Other times there is a hyperlink that takes you to an official looking site requesting the same information. A copy of that site is located here <http://www.pibmug.com/files/aolcreditcard.jpg>. DO NOT BE FOOLED! NEVER give this information (mother's maiden name, Social Security Number, Driver's License Number, password(s)) out via e-mail or over the Internet. AOL denies sending e-mails or having a site that asks these questions. No reputable ISP or retailer will ever do this. If you receive an e-mail like this and you are an AOL subscriber, report it to AOL at [TOSReports@aol.com](mailto:TOSReports@aol.com) or call 888/265-8004.

MSN (MS Network <http://www.msn.com>) trys to make the Opera (<http://www.opera.com>) browser look bad. There is some controversy as to whether MSN has done this intentionally or not. Opera's explanation at [http://deb.opera.com/howcome/2003/2/msn/takes the obvious stance \(MS and MSN are bad guys\)](http://deb.opera.com/howcome/2003/2/msn/takes%20the%20obvious%20stance%20(MS%20and%20MSN%20are%20bad%20guys).). WinNet Magazine claims that Opera is not configured properly to work with MSN. If you use Opera (as I do), you probably never go to the MSN site (problem solved).

The Electric News reports that floppy disk drives will no longer be installed in Dell PCs. This could make the floppy drive an option instead of a standard piece of equipment. The story is at <http://www.electricnews.net/news.html?code=9345873>.

There was an interesting anti-war protest in New South Wales state of Australia was reported in the Daily Telegraph. About 1000 women took off their clothes and, with their bodies, formed a heart encircling the words 'NO WAR'. Aerial photos were taken to send to their president. The protest took place on private property so no arrests were made. The story sans photos is at [http://www.dailytelegraph.news.com.au/common/story\\_page/0,5936,5955039%255E1702,00.html](http://www.dailytelegraph.news.com.au/common/story_page/0,5936,5955039%255E1702,00.html).

\*If your "Input digital device" is on USB, then remove all other USB external equipment.

\*You may also find it beneficial to enable DMA for all your drives.

There are DVD-RAM and DVD+RAM which allows you to save up to 9.6GB of Data, but hard drives are much cheaper, like 20GB for \$69.00 or lower. It is just not FAST and EASY as they have stated in their advertising!



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

## FIRST CLASS MAIL

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### 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 February 22, 2003

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 2003:  
February 22, \*\*March 29, April 26, May 24, June 28, July 26

All these dates are for the 4th Saturday except one -  
\*\*March 29th, 2003, is the 5th Saturday of March.

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

-> Our next meeting will be - February 22, the presenter will be  
Kathy Long from Epson

Hope to see you there.