

# Abort, Retry, Ignore...



## Computers Are Easy User Group

March 2003

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XIV

Issue 3



Calendar  
of  
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!  
Meeting dates for  
2003  
See page 10  
for all confirmed  
dates. Time and  
Place remain the  
same.

March 29  
John Teschky  
will compare  
Dreamweaver  
and  
FrontPage

SEE YOU  
THERE!!

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

### REQUIEM FOR A MOUSE by E. M. Hazell

It had served me faithfully, that little mouse, for at least a year. And in this time and place of throwaway societies one year is considered a long long time as far as faithful service, rendered by a mechanical device is concerned. That little mouse was of the bobtail variety. It was referred to as wireless and could travel quite a distance from that desktop village of mine. Of course sometimes the cats thought of making off with it, but I usually discouraged that. That little mouse died quietly. It just left that little cursor stranded in the middle of the monitor and nothing short of crashing the computer could persuade that cursor to move. When Faye called I was just about in the middle of a temper tantrum. I hate it when mechanical devices get the best of me.

"Did you say the mouse is wireless?" Faye asked.

"Yes," I responded.

"Did you check the batteries?"

Of course I hadn't. Bright and brilliant Mensa person that I am, whatever made me think that the wireless mouse and keyboard needed some source of energy, like maybe a few batteries. I thanked Faye for that helpful assist. Then I called the Guru just in case it could be something more serious. He agreed with Faye. He did, however, remain on standby just in case something else was wrong. I had promised Faye to have my column in and in order to do that, I had to have access to my village. "How long have you had that wireless set," Clarence inquired. By now I was beginning to be sort of hesitant about giving out any more information about my latest debacle. When Clarence asks a question, a truthful answer seems to be well, shall we say mandatory? Lies, even little white lies are not the stuff that good relationships and solid friendships are made of. I value Clarence as a friend as well as a computer guru.

(con't on page 4)

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**Great Midwest  
Computer Show ©**

Next show date  
**SUNDAY, Mar 30**  
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

	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

!!! COMING in April - CAEUG Election !!!

That time of year again - election of the club officers, the nominating committee is

\*\* Alex Ciciora

\*\* Dick Major

\*\* Bert Orszula

"Since Christmas," I said.

"Since Christmas and you never once wondered where the energy for that mouse comes from?"

He didn't say anything about that Mensa thing but I could read his mind even from a distance.

"Where did you buy it?"

Actually I hadn't bought it, it had been a Christmas gift from my son; a totally unexpected Christmas gift. I hadn't been unhappy with my long\_tailed mouse. I set out the following morning to purchase batteries. The mouse wasn't the only critter at this establishment dining on batteries. Faye and Clarence had been correct about pointing out to me the importance of changing batteries. As it turned out, batteries could not resuscitate my bobtailed mouse. Something more serious was wrong in that entire wireless set up. "Where is that old keyboard and

mouse?" Clarence ask as he was about to attempt to get things straightened out again. "I think I might have accidentally sort of given it away," I replied. That was a lie; accidentally was stretching the truth a little. And now it was time for another lesson. That lesson is clearly imprinted on my mind: ALWAYS KEEP A BACKUP HANDY.

I'm writing this column on Clarence's backup device. I still have another lesson to learn, like how to purchase the kind of device most suitable for my own personal computer needs. But in the meantime I'm having to compose a proper requiem for my fallen comrade. "Whoever heard of a requiem for a mouse, and a mouse as a sidekick is laughable," Nor was it thinkable that I should get by with anything here without Grandmama putting in her penny's worth of opinion. But this time I had her. "Walt Disney died a rich man because of a mouse in his desk drawer." "I don't see you getting rich with your mouse!" "That's a different mouse!" "A mouse is a mouse is a mouse; a mouse is a varmint and the only good mouse is a dead mouse." As far as Grandmama



was concerned, that was an absolute. Mice usually ate in to the profit as far as the farmer was concerned. I conceded. Grandmama would always be right. Still, there was that brave little mouse that responded to my every click.

"Last time it was that brave little Umax. Now it's that brave little mouse. Maybe you starved it to death when you didn't provide those 'batteries.' Any plans for some demise next month?" I took a moment before I responded. "I'm thinking of having my office exorcised to keep the spirit world away." "Didn't I tell you I had myself immunized against exorcisms?" There seemed to be a gentle breeze and she was gone. I could have sworn it was a kiss on the cheek. I could never bar her from own private little kingdom. Life would be so terribly dull with out her. Of course, there was still the matter of a requiem for my bobtailed mouse. A few bars of Beethoven entered my mind. And as I hummed along I thought; Why not. I'm certain Beethoven wouldn't mind.

"The ICON" Online Newsletter, December 2002  
Interactive Computer Owners Network

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG)

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### Minutes of CAEUG Meeting February 22, 2003

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

There were 33 in members in attendance and 2 visitors.

The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

The Financial Secretary was not in attendance.

#### Old Business:

The Nominating Committee (Al Cicora, Dick Major and Bert Orszula) has a full set of candidates:

John Spizzirri    President  
Billy Douglas    Vice President

Lynn Johnson    Treasurer  
Al Skwara        Secretary.

Nominations will remain open until the April Meeting at which time the election will take place.

The site for the 2003 Picnic has been reserved.

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.

#### New Business:

We received a letter from the library notifying us that the room rate will be increasing from \$10.00 to \$40.00 per meeting plus \$10 for any phone use.

With the increased charge, we break even. We could use new revenue streams. Other ideas were: Charging members for the postage for the newsletter, raising the dues and having a membership drive. There were a majority of members in favor of raising dues.

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, Corel Word Perfect Suite 7, Britannica CD2000, and Remind Me for Windows.

The presentation was made by Kathie Long, Senior Sales Training Instructor with EPSON. She is available at Kathie\_Long@ea.apson.com. In addition to the presentation, EPSON brought a printer that was raffled off to a member.

Respectfully submitted,  
Al Skwara

The Lamp Post    Number 38  
by John Spizzirri  
March 15, 2003



Happy Easter or Passover! Here are some Easter Web sites -  
<http://www.holidays.net/easter/> ,  
<http://www.billybear4kids.com/holidays/easter/fun.htm> ,  
<http://wilstar.com/holidays/easter.htm>, <http://www.easterincyberspace.com/> ,  
and <http://www.geocities.com/Heartland/7134/Easter/> (dated).  
Here are some Passover sites - <http://www.holidays.net/passover/> ,  
<http://www.passover.net/>, <http://www.jewfaq.org/holidaya.htm> ,  
and <http://www.torah.org/learning/yomtov/pesach/> ,  
<http://www.aish.com/holidays/passover/default.asp> .

The humor Web site TheOnion published an account of a report by United Nations weapons inspectors. Blix and company found that North Dakota was harboring a nuclear missile stockpile at [http://www.theonion.com/onion3904/north\\_dakota.html](http://www.theonion.com/onion3904/north_dakota.html) . Please remember that this is a joke.

The European Union (EU) has found Microsoft (MS <http://www.microsoft.com> ) guilty of it's anti-trust laws. The punishment has yet to be disclosed as of this writing. It could involve revealing proprietary software code with competitors and making the company separate its media player from the Windows operating systems. There may be other punishments as well. The decision will be disclosed in June but may take years to implement. If the reports I have read are correct, the EU punishment goes far beyond that of the United States punishment.

MS has released a beta (beta is the second phase of software testing in which a sampling of the intended audience tries the product out) of its Office software. Not to be out done, Sun Microsystems (Sun <http://www.sun.com/> ) will introduce a beta of its StarOffice 6.1. The main changes in both products will include features that make them more "enterprise friendly". These features are not for the home user. If you have either of these products now, do not upgrade. It would be a waste of money.

Computer Business Review Online (CBR) reported that MS is cutting prices to its corporate customers. MS appears to be bleeding (losing) customers because of its arbitrary price increase last August called Licensing 6.0. MS has been very profitable the last two quarters due to that price increase. CBR reported, "Customers alienated by Licensing 6.0 are investigating rival server and desktop products from Sun Microsystems Inc, Ximian Inc, Corel Corp and Novell Inc among others." CBR did not mention Linux, which has been the OS

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that MS fears. You can catch the story at

<http://www.cbronline.com/cbr.nsf/latestnews/0084704685F0994580256CE800160D0E?OpenDocument>.

A LA-based Irishman Dermot O'Connor, at a site called IdleWorm, has created Gulf War 2, a slightly interactive strategic animation (slide show) of the upcoming war against Iraq.

The site at <http://www.idleworm.com/nws/2002/11/iraq2.shtml> is a humorous example of what might happen.

There has been a lot of talk about dirty nuclear bombs, of late. These are NOT nuclear weapons. They do not have the destructive effect (<http://www.csi.ad.jp/ABOMB/data.html>) of nuclear weapons. They are conventional explosives that are used to aerosolize radioactive material such as isotopes of iodine used in nuclear medicine. When these isotopes are contained and used correctly they are safe, but when they are blown up into the atmosphere they pose a long-term (ten or more years) health problem from low level radiation exposure. The problem posed by these weapons is that you do not know if you have been exposed to the radiation. The Internet has information that you can check right now that may help you if you have a concern that enemies of the United States may use these weapons. A FAQ (frequently asked questions) on Geiger counters is at <http://www.radmeters4u.com/>. It has information on how radiation is measured and who needs to measure it. If you want to measure it yourself, try <http://www.medcom.com/>. It has products used for radioactive measurement. You may want to check if your civil defense / fire / police departments have this equipment. The PBS series Nova will be re-broadcasting their documentary about dirty bombs (<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/dirtybomb/>) on March 25th, check listings for time. The government Web sites I mentioned last month have information specific to this problem at <http://www.ready.gov/radiation.html> and <http://www.fema.gov/areyouready/>. I will include the digital versions of the pamphlets in the March CD of the month.

Bill Frist, the Senate Majority leader, had a poll on his Web site to monitor public sentiment about going to war. Any one could vote for or against the U. S, going to war with Iraq. The site <http://frist.senate.gov/master.com/taxis/master/search+/resp/Saddam%20Hussein.html> has been taken down because too many votes were cast against going to war. The story broke in The Register at <http://www.theregister.co.uk/content/6/29713.html>. Frist's office claims a hacker, who voted many times, altered the results. The Register's comment, "Online election ballots, anyone?". I think they are right. We should NEVER have real elections on the Internet.

America On Line (AOL <http://www.aol.com>), the originator of the pop up ad, will offer a "feature" in its next version that will stop pop up ads even on its own site. I guess when you lose enough customers you start to listen to the ones you have left.

Opera users should get a security patch for versions 6.x and 7.x ASAP. Secunia, a security advisory site, has found a vulnerability that allows a Web site to run code on your machine. The explanation is at <http://www.secunia.com/advisories/8272>. Opera has provided a Windows patch at <http://www.opera.com/windows/changelogs/703/>. It is also on the March CD of the month.

(con't on page 8)



The Evergreen Aviation Museum in McMinnville, Oregon is the home of Howard Hughes flying boat called the Spruce Goose. Walter Cronkite has just finished a documentary about it at the museum. The museum has a number of famous aircraft that can be viewed on it site at

<http://www.sprucegoose.org/> . If you are considering a trip to Oregon, it might be worthwhile checking out this museum in person.

Kate Adie, a British journalist with the BBC, has filed a story at [Gulufuture.com](http://www.gulufuture.com) ( [http://www.gulufuture.com/news/kate\\_adie030310.htm](http://www.gulufuture.com/news/kate_adie030310.htm) ) where she reported that the Pentagon has warned reporters in Iraq that 'unauthorized' communications will be fired upon. These communications would include satellite telephones and video feeds. There are audio clips from news radio at the Web site (above). Adie's BBC bio is at [http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/correspondents/newsid\\_2625000/2625875.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/onthisday/hi/correspondents/newsid_2625000/2625875.stm) . Her position at the BBC is similar to Tom Brokaw at NBC or Dan Rather at CBS.

Nobuyuki Idei, CEO of Sony ( <http://www.sony.com> ), when interviewed by AlwaysOn Network said he would like to buy Palm ( <http://www.palm.com/us/> ) software unit. This interview was given at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. The site is [http://www.alwayson-network.com/comments.php?id=246\\_0\\_2\\_0\\_C](http://www.alwayson-network.com/comments.php?id=246_0_2_0_C) . He intimated that he would like to buy Apple Computer ( <http://www.apple.com/> ) as well. Sony has the money for friendly takeovers but it is unlikely that these companies would want to sell. Also, MS has a stake in Apple. Sony could use these companies's products to springboard their own products.

The Task Bar is the part of the Windows screen, usually at the bottom, where the Start Button resides. If you want to minimize all the open applications so you can see the Desktop, right click on the Task Bar and click 'Minimize all Windows' on the menu that appears.

If you want to change the applications that appear at the top of the Start Menu, right click on the Start Button and click Open. You will find a list of shortcuts that appear on the Start Menu. You can delete or add short cuts to that Window that will appear on the Start Menu.

Jon Johansen will be going back to court. He was acquitted in January of creating DeCSS DVD decoding software so he could watch DVD's he purchased on his Linux computer. CSS stands for Content Scrambling System. DeCSS is a program that unscrambles the content. The movie industry has seen fit not to allow the playing of DVD's on Linux based machines. The movie industry with the aid of a Norwegian prosecutor is appealing the acquittal of Johansen. The story is at <http://www.ipjustice.org/030303.dvd.htm> . I know I rant about this

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and other cases like it quite a bit. I think this is important to our freedom to use what we have lawfully purchased. When the VCR was introduced, the movie industry mouthpiece, MPAA (<http://www.mpa.org/>) was suing everyone in site with the same arguments. The VCR did not kill the movie industry. It created a new revenue stream. The tape recorder did not kill the recording industry, yet they claim that the Internet, CD recorders, and DVD recorders are destroying their businesses. Nonsense! Why does the recording industry allow radio stations to play their recordings so that anyone with a radio can hear them? Why do they produce music videos to be played on television so that anyone with a TV can watch them? Because it makes money for them even though they are giving away their product. As consumers, we should let them know that once we buy it, we own it. We did not rent it. The technology of today can be a two edged sword. It can be very useful to consumers or it can be used by the movie and recording industries to pick our pockets and lock us into a situation where we cannot use products we own without government or corporate permission. Is that really ownership?

I saw this headline on the Internet, " Smart Kidnapper Allegedly Wanted Wives". The oxymoron struck me as funny.

I, recently, attended a lecture at Fermi Lab (<http://www.fnal.gov/>) in Batavia about the



Sloan Digital Sky Survey (SDSS <http://www.sdss.org/>). The SDSS is a project funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and tax dollars to map the entire universe (at least the best that can be done from Earth). The SDSS uses a 2.5-meter telescope located in New Mexico. The purpose of the map is to determine how the microscopic particles expelled at the big bang coalesced into the structures (stars, planets, and galaxies) that we see today. The lecture video will be added to the Web site <http://skyserver.fnal.gov/en/> in

April. I thought it very worthwhile.

Got kids that use the Internet? The Federal Trade Commission (FTC) has recently fined Mrs. Fields Cookies and Hershey Foods Corporation for violating the privacy of children on line. Their finding at <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2003/02/hersheyfield.htm> says that the companies collected data about children illegally. The sites are at <http://www.mrsfields.com>, <http://www.pretzelttime.com>, <http://www.pretzelmaker.com>, and <http://www.hersheys.com/index.html>. Hershey has an additional 29 Web sites. You may want to monitor what information the kids are giving out to Web sites. The rules for child on line privacy are at <http://www.ftc.gov/kidzprivacy>.

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

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 March 29, 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:

\*\*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 ~ March 29, the presenter  
John Teschky will compare Dreamweaver to FrontPage

Hope to see you there.