

Abort, Retry, Ignore...



Computers Are Easy User Group



January 2004

Suggested Retail Price \$1.95

Volume XX

Issue 1

Calendar
of
Events

!!! IMPORTANT !!!
Meeting dates for
2004
See page 10
for all confirmed
dates.
Time
remains the same.

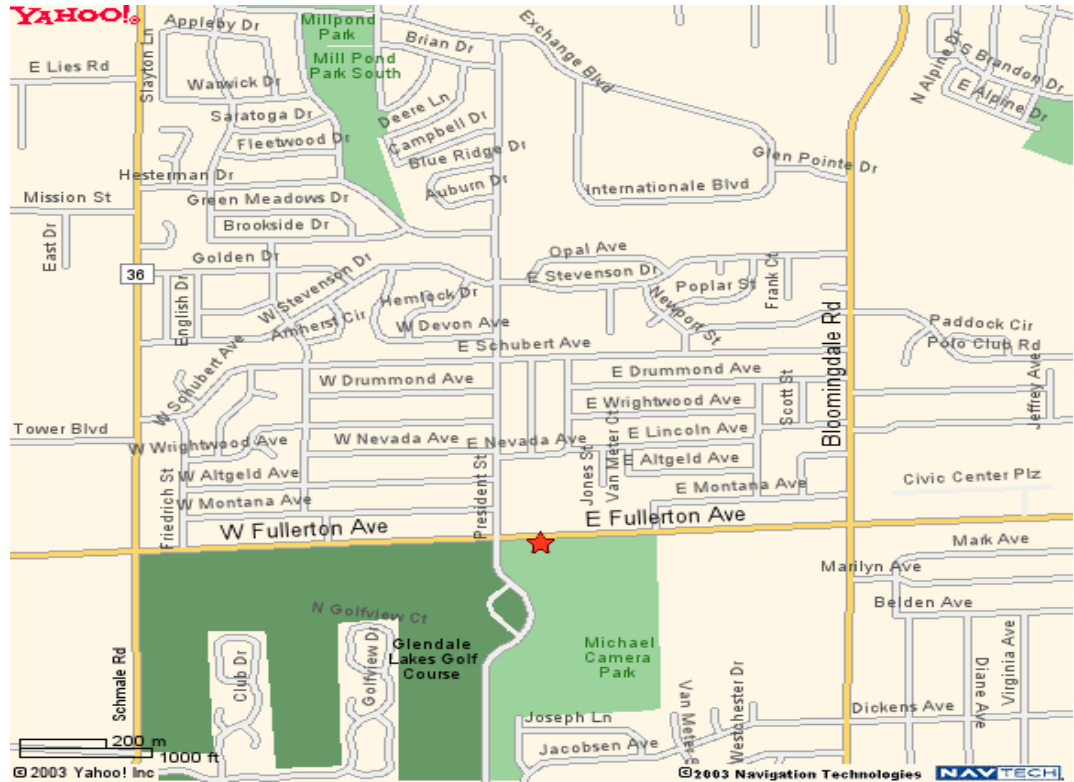
January 24
Frank Goetz
from
People's
Resource
Center

MEETING PLACE
will be the
Glenside Public
Library

SEE YOU
THERE!!

COD Dates

- February 22, 2004
- April 25, 2004
- May 23, 2004
- June 27, 2004
- July 25, 2004
- August 29, 2004



The Glenside Public Library is located at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights, Illinois. The Library is located on Fullerton between Bloomingdale Road (stop light intersection) and Schmale Road (stop light intersection) on the south side of Fullerton. Fullerton is parallel to North Avenue (Route 64) and Army Trail Road. North Ave. is south and Army Trail is north of Fullerton. Glenside Library is about 5 miles north of the Glen Ellyn Library. If you need further direction try Mapquest.com or call John Spizzirri at 630-858-6933.

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& Technical Consultant	Richard Scalzo
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	Roger Kinzie

Reminder: You'll get better, faster service if you use CAEUG in the subject of your e-mail.

CAEUG
Computers
Are
Easy
User
Group

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

BOOKS & BYTES, INC.
Retail store is closed
630/416-0102
<http://www.bytes.com/>



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 HP Laserjet III. Our group's membership database is maintained using MS Access and address labels are printed using MS Access 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 Feb 22, 2004
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

www.CODSHOW.COM
E-mail address:
info@codshow.com

Great Midwest Computer Show ©
2004 dates

February 22, 2004 at COD

March 28, 2004 at
Truman College
1145 West Wilson Avenue
Chicago, IL 60640

April 25, 2004 at COD
May 23, 2004 at COD
June 27, 2004 at COD
July 25, 2004 at COD
August 29, 2004 at COD
September 26, 2004 at COD
October 24, 2004 at COD
November 21, 2004 at COD
December 19, 2004 at COD

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

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

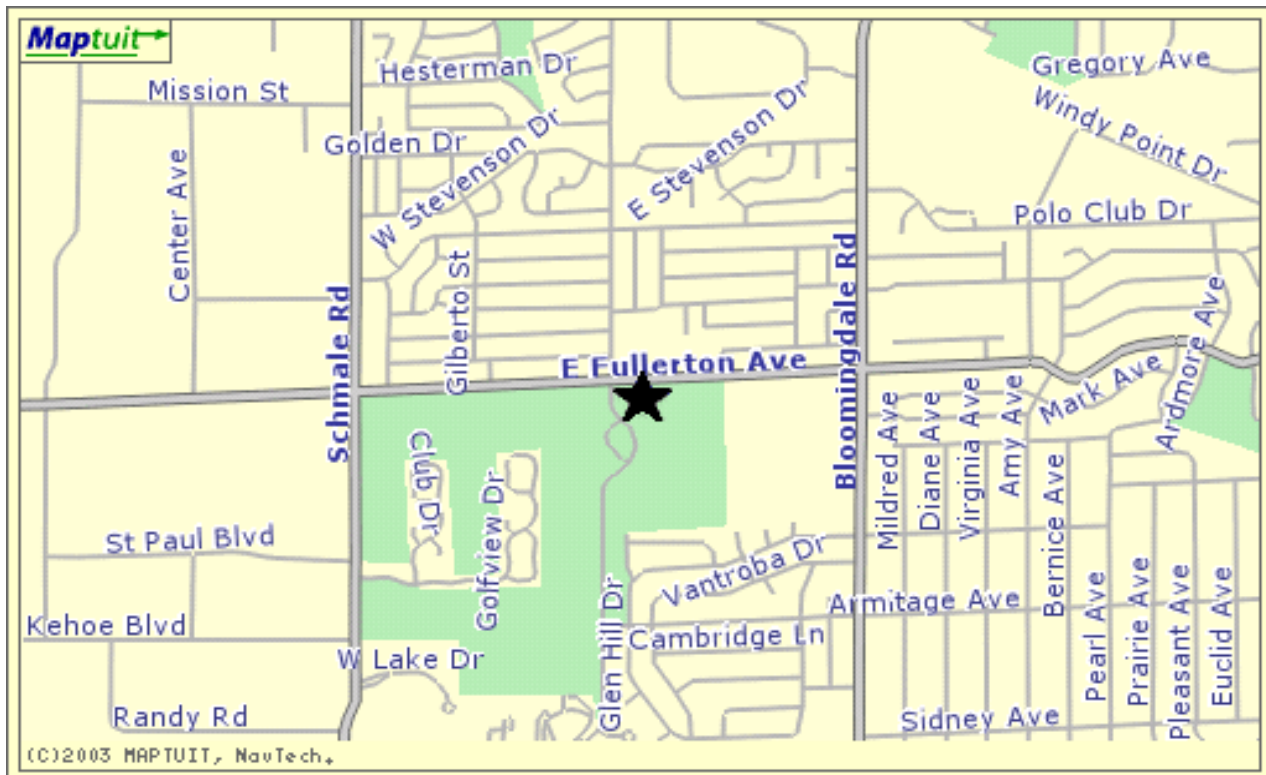
Beginner's SIG

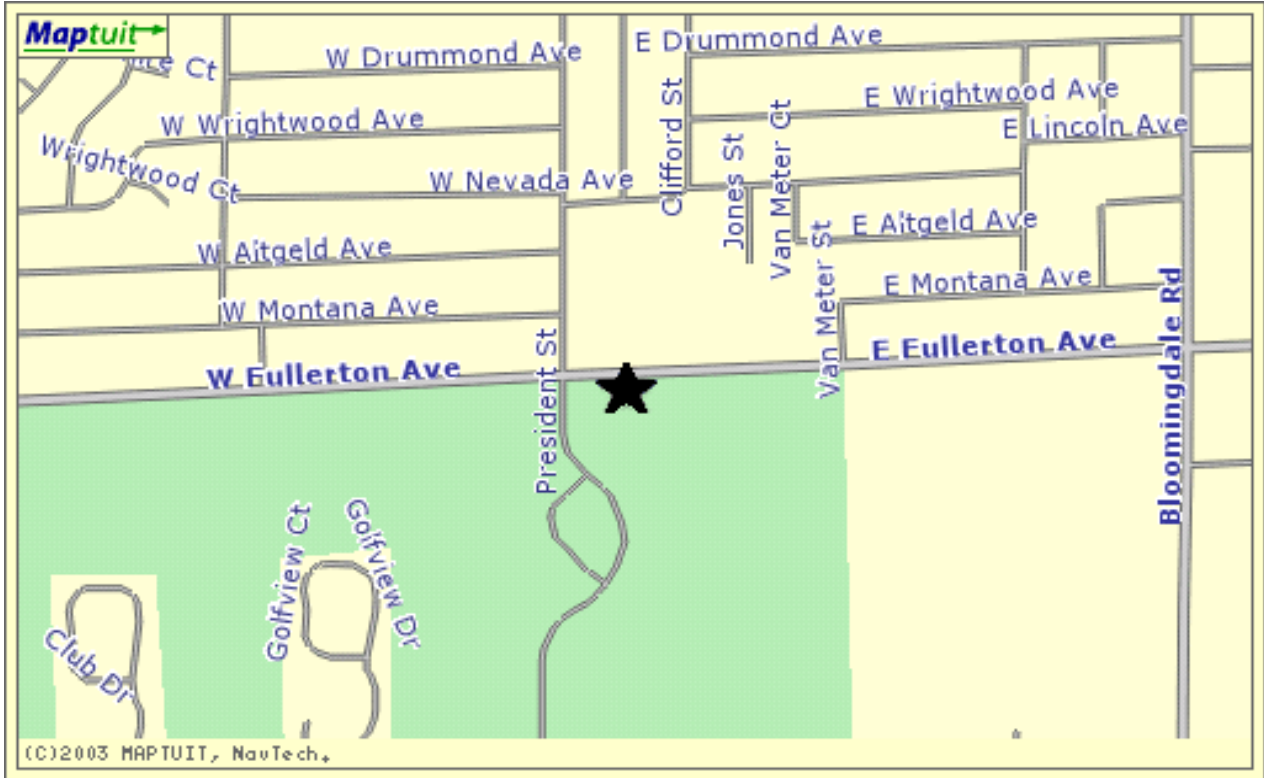
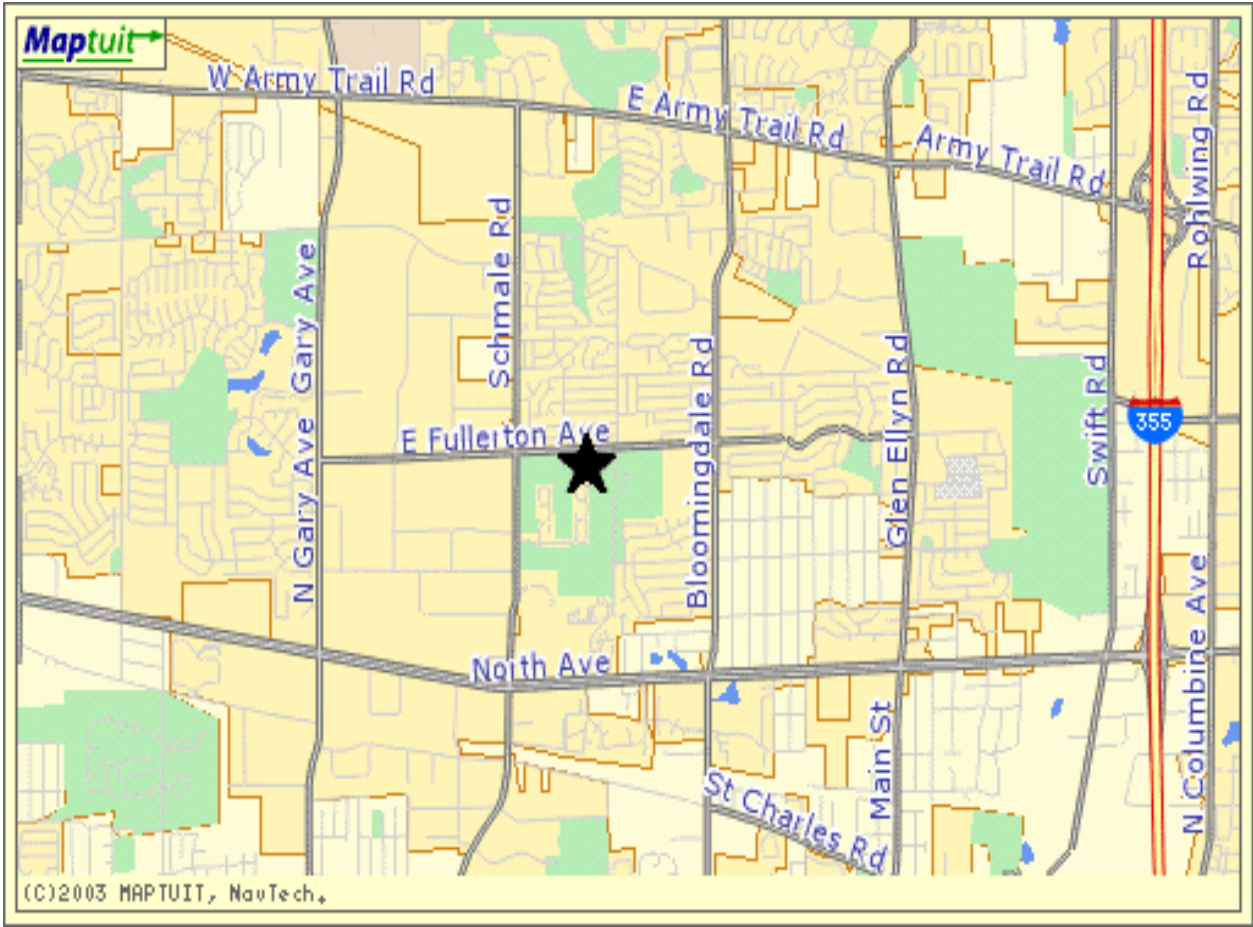
Ask questions and discuss computer experiences with this group.
Such as:

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 Glenside Public Library





The Lamp Post Number 47
by John Spizzirri
January 16, 2004



Much has happened since the last Lamp Post. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA <http://www.riaa.com>), Microsoft (MS <http://www.microsoft.com>), and SCO (<http://www.sco.com/>) have all made headlines.

The RIAA, even with its change in tactics, still does not have the good sense to check to see if the people they sue for music piracy have computers. The lack of good sense is further exemplified by the hiring of Bradley Buckles, the former head of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATF <http://www.atf.gov/>), to chase down file swappers. The BATF you may recall is responsible for the first contact with the Branch Davidians (http://www.religioustolerance.org/dc_branc.htm and <http://www.fountain.btinternet.co.uk/koresh/>) at Waco. The LA Weekly has reported the result of this appointment at <http://www.laweekly.com/ink/printme.php?eid=50096>. Here are two lines from the article, "Though no guns were brandished, the bust from a distance looked like classic LAPD, DEA or FBI work, right down to the black "raid" vests the unit members wore. The fact that their yellow stenciled lettering read "RIAA" instead of something from an official law-enforcement agency was lost on 55-year-old parking-lot attendant Ceasar Borraro." Later in the article John Langley, Western regional coordinator for the RIAA Anti-Piracy Unit, said, "First and foremost, we're professionals." From the description of this "raid" they sound like professional thugs. Don't get me wrong. Ceasar broke the law (a serious misdemeanor). It seems to me that the RIAA also broke the law by attempting to appear that they were law enforcement officers (a felony). If any of these raiders touched Ceasar, they committed battery (a felony). Some of the raiders were off duty police officers. If they wore their weapons (pistols) so that Ceasar could see them, they used the 'color of law' for a private purpose (a felony). The RIAA seems to be out of control. Because of these excesses, a number of groups have sprung up to try and put the brakes on the RIAA. Here are a few you may want to check: <http://www.downhillbattle.org/>, <http://www.riaradar.com>, and <http://www.boycott-riaa.com/>. The RIAA had a setback in court (<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/docs/common/opinions/200312/03-7015a.pdf>). The US Court of Appeals in the District of Columbia ruled that "a subpoena may be issued only to an ISP engaged in storing on its servers material that is infringing or the subject of infringing activity," The court said the RIAA's arguments were without merit. The RIAA will have to get actual evidence in order to get a subpoena in the District of Columbia. I'm not sure if this will hold up in other jurisdictions.

Personal Firewall Day (<http://www.personalfirewallday.org/>) is a site that explains why you need a firewall, anti-virus software, and updates. It tends to be neutral about what products you should use but the site does not link to a major vendor (Norton/Symantec <http://www.symantec.com/>). The site links to most of the major brands that come to mind.

In December, Microsoft announced that it would drop support (security updates and help) for Windows 98, Windows 98 Second Edition, and Windows Me on January 16, 2004. On January twelfth MS abruptly reversed that decision extending support until June of 2006. Incidentally, 20% of the world's PCs run Win98 or ME. The story is at Eweek (<http://eletters.wnn.ziffdavis.com/zd1/cts?d=75-113-1-1-33238-4906-1>).

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In a related story (in my opinion), the Israeli government broke off purchase negotiations with MS in December. Israel announced that it would seek open source solutions to its software needs. A number of cities in Western Europe and the state of Massachusetts have made similar statements. MS was attempting to force Israel to buy full MS Office Suites for each computer. Israel wanted only those products that it deemed necessary for each computer. MS reversed its position and will sell Israel only what it needs. I guess a customer has to be the size of a small country for MS to listen to it.

The Santa Cruz Operation (SCO <http://www.sco.com/>) has a one billion-dollar suit against IBM (<http://www.ibm.com/us/>) for Unix/Linux copyrights. SCO has been threatening Fortune 500 companies that use Linux with the possibility of court assessed costs if they do not pay SCO \$699 now. They want everyone that uses Linux to pay but they think that only large companies will pay. Novell (<http://www.novell.com/>), an IBM partner and new owner of SuSe Linux, and Hewlett-Packard (HP <http://www.hp.com/>) have both announced to all their customers that they should not pay SCO. If SCO wins against IBM, Novell and HP will indemnify their customers from the financial repercussions. What does this mean? It means that the IBM, Novell, and HP legal teams have examined the case against IBM and think that it is bogus. Novell and HP have obligated themselves in writing to hundreds of millions of dollars in damages if SCO wins. They would not do this unless they knew that SCO has no chance of winning.

(<http://www.cbronline.com/cbrnews/5f0b7043030d53a980256e05003b1966>
and

<http://www.cbronline.com/cbrnews/d67ebcedf9e708d680256e06003b18d6>)

SCO is also getting investor backlash. Two companies that represent a 17.5% stake in SCO, have forced an agreement from the management that states the stockholders will have the final say so in any litigation deals or payment of the lawyers. The story is at

<http://www.cbronline.com/cbrnews/8076d42eea8bdc1b80256df9001e49be> .

SCO was ordered by a Utah court to produce evidence supporting its claim against IBM. It failed to do so in the time allotted. The court will rule on this failure later this month or next.

(<http://www.cbronline.com/cbrnews/9517bc153c3cdc1e80256e1c003b108a>)

Lance Ulanoff of PC Magazine has an interesting article about AOL Instant Messaging (AIM <http://www.aol.com>). Lance complains about the same things I have been telling you about for some years now. AOL and AIM both put software and other things on a customer's PC without asking permission. If anyone else did this, they would be prosecuted as a cracker. In the AIM end user license agreement (EULA) an AIM user agrees to have AOL push software and advertisements onto their machines. The article is at

<http://eletters.wnn.ziffdavis.com/zd1/cts?d=75-114-1-1-33238-5020-1> .

AOL owns Netscape. Are they trying to get people to use it in place of Internet Explorer? Are they upgrading it to make it better than it was? The answer to these questions is a resounding NO. They are introducing a new Internet Service Provider (ISP) called Netscape Internet Service. As I recall, AOL is an ISP that costs about \$23 per month. This new service costs about \$10 per month. They are introducing a service, which undersells their other service by \$13 per month. Does this make any sense to you? Apparently, NetZero (<http://www.netzero.net/>) and Juno (<http://www.juno.com>) are taking customers away from AOL. See it at <http://www.netscape.com/> .

I saw a tee shirt the other day. It read, "My job went to India and all I got was this lousy t-shirt."

Microsoft Update is available from the MS Web site. A quick link to the site is incorporated into

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Internet Explorer (IE) from the Tools menu. The purpose of the Update is to provide Windows and IE users with the latest program bug fixes and security patches.

Early in my career as a computer professional, I would champ at the bit to install the latest fixes and patches. I found that, at least for MS, the cure (patches and fixes) was often worse than the disease (bugs and security holes). I learned to wait 4 to 6 months to apply any patches or fixes. I used third party tools (fire wall and virus scanner) to protect myself from most security problems. I would not use some MS products (IE, Windows Explorer, Outlook and Outlook Express) to protect myself from the rest. Once other people had applied patches and fixes the computer press and the Internet would report if the patches and fixes did not work. After my self imposed waiting period, no news meant that I could safely install the patches and fixes. When MS announced that there would be no more support for Win98 and WinME, I did a foolish thing. I went to MS Update and installed all the patches and fixes. That process took almost three hours using a 56K dial-up connection. Before using MS Update, I did not backup my registry, user.dat, or system.dat files. The next three days were a nightmare. The machine I updated was running Win98SE. After the update it worked well for one session. Subsequently, it would not boot in 'Normal' mode. I started troubleshooting in 'Safe mode' by running scandisk (Start > Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Scandisk) followed by defrag (Start > Programs > Accessories > System Tools > Disk Defragmenter). That did not help. The next step is to examine the bootlog.txt file. Bootlog.txt is a hidden text file stored in the root of the boot drive (usually C:). Windows records each action taken in the boot up process in that file. Looking at the last few lines of that file may help isolate which process failed. I started MetaPad to view the file, but NotePad works just as well. One of the last lines looked similar to this:

```
[0009DE97] Starting Unknown (HTREE\RESERVED\0)
```

The bracketed hexadecimal number ([0009DE97]) means that this action was taken in the registry file. The key in the registry is HTREE\RESERVED\0. Using the registry editor (Start > Run > {type in} Regedit > Ok) I found that this key has values for Capabilities and ConfigFlags.

Using another machine, I searched the MS Web site KnowledgeBase for HTREE. There are only a few references to it and all of them say that the HTREE key is reserved for future use. I then searched the Internet for HTREE. There are numerous references to it, most of which are on computer help and troubleshooting sites. None of them that I found knows what it is or what it does.

Because I had yet to determine whether this is a software or hardware problem, I decided to use the Seagate Sea Tools hardware diagnostic tools (on the January CD of the month). Sea Tools found no trouble with system RAM or the system hard drives an IBM and a Seagate. Sea Tools will check hard drives that are not made by Seagate. I now knew that hardware was not the problem.

Because I had not backed up the critical files and I do not use a third party software such as GoBack, I was condemned to use the MS tool, scanreg. WinME, Win2K and WinXP all have a restore the system to a prior state function built-in. That feature does work well when I have had the need to use it. In order to use scanreg I had to boot into a Windows DOS prompt. To get to a Windows DOS prompt I rebooted the computer. I pressed and held F8 after the Power On Self Test (POST), but before Windows starts. A menu comes up with choices of Normal, Safe Mode, Safe Mode with network, and DOS prompt. There may be other choices as well. I selected DOS prompt and soon had a C:\> prompt. I typed the following: scanreg /? that shows how to use scanreg. I used the scanreg "/restore" option. Another reboot showed that this did not help. I then opted to reinstall Win98SE. The reinstall did not help. I again used scanreg, this time using the "/fix" option. The computer appeared to hang, so I let it run overnight thinking that fix may take a long time to run. The next day the computer was still in the same state as I had left it. I rebooted and ran scanreg again with the "/restore" option. On the next reboot, the machine appeared to run normally. I immediately backed up user.dat, system.dat, and the registry files. Five more reboots showed the system to be stable. I, again, ran scandisk and defrag. I don't know if I have the bug fixes corrected or security holes patched and, frankly, I don't care. Win98 is on its last legs. I have only one

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machine that runs it, so that I can maintain knowledge of its operations. MS should stop the support for 98, but then again, MS should have made it stable in the first place.

I have run into a peculiar Web page during Internet search operations. It is very plain. It is yellow with large black type. It states that the FBI is tracking my computer and that I should click a link on the page to eliminate the problem. Subsequently, I read that similar messages are being sent via e-mail. It is a SCAM. Do NOT click on any links on these types of pages whether Web based or e-mail based. They try to get you to reveal personal information for identity theft.

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

Minutes of CAEUG Meeting
December 6,2003

The meeting order was adjusted to allow Billy Douglas to make the presentation before the formal meeting. Billy presented the contents of the October CD of the Month. It was very interesting and well received.

John Spizzirri then called the meeting to order.

There were 33 in members in attendance.

The minutes were approved as published in the Newsletter.

The Financial Report showed a starting balance of \$3,100.60, income of \$196.41 and expenses of \$186.92 for a balance of \$3,110.09.

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 is given at the next monthly meeting.

John asked for volunteers to write articles for the Newsletter. They can be sent to kgroce@iwon.com. Kathy has broken her arm and is still doing a great job.

The PostCards that were sent out with the change in meeting location were reviewed. The cost was \$18.24. Everyone agreed it was well worthwhile.

Old Business:

The People's Resource center was discussed as a meeting site. It was agreed to wait and see

what happens with the development of the site.

There was a motion to move the meeting site from Glenn Ellyn to the Glenside Public Library at 25 E Fullerton Avenue, Glendale Heights. The motion was seconded and passed.

The member area for the web site has been protected with a user name and password. Please check with a club officer to get access to the user ID and the password. We now have a link to Amazon's web site that offers us a commission on sales.

The Board will set a date at it's January meeting for the trail of charging for snail mail hard copies of ARI and emailing the ARI to all other members.

New Business:

A motion was made, seconded and passed to move the Picnic to the 4th Saturday in June.

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 in addition to a CD with the basic club files.

Raffle items included Combat Flight Simulator 3, Zoo Tycoon, and tickets to the Elmhurst Choral Union Concert – The Christmas Oratorio.

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
Glenside Public Library in Glendale Heights
see page 1, 4 and 5 for maps
at 9:45 am on
Saturday January 24, 2004

The library is located. Please park at the West side of the lot, away from the building. Thank you.
The meeting(s) are not library sponsored and all inquiries should be directed to John Spizzirri .
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, John
Spizzirri , at least five (5) days prior to the program, so that reasonable accommodation can be made
for them.

CONFIRMED Meeting dates for 2004 at Glenside Public Library:
February 28, March 27, April 24, May 22

****NEW**** CD OF THE MONTH FORMAT: Is now available in two (2) flavors. The Basic CD will be packed
with the standard items, while the CD of the Month will have NEW and updated items. Both are
available at the meeting or by ordering via the CAEUG website.

-> Our next meeting will be ~ Saturday, January 24
Frank Goetz from the People's Resource Center will be the presenter

Hope to see you there.