



SCUG REPORT

Published for the Sarnia Computer Users' Group
Award Winning Newsletter & Website

www.scug.ca



Volume 21, Issue 9

\$1.00 Per Issue - Yearly Membership \$35

June 2004

IN THIS ISSUE

Club Information	2
Secretary's Notes	3
Compuprize Winners	4
Shareware Report	4
SIG Reports	5
Financial Statement	6
TID BITS	7
SCUG Demonstration	8
Rid Spyware & Popups	9
Computer Power	10
Hobbyfest and Comdex	12
Use Run Command	13
Photography & Printing	15
History of @	16
Your Photos on www.scug ...	17
SCUG Schedule and Ads.....	18

Sarnia Computer Users' Group
718 Cathcart Blvd.
Sarnia, Ontario
N7V 2N5

Email: info@scug.ca
Internet Site: www.scug.ca

Please submit articles for the June SCUG Newsletter before Sept. 16th. to: **editor@scug.ca**.

Member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG)
www.apcug.org

SCUG MEETING

St. Bartholomew's Church
718 Cathcart Blvd.
Sarnia, Ont.

Last Wednesday of the month
7:00 p.m. social time
7:30 p.m. call to order

Next Meeting
September 29, 2004



PRESIDENT'S PERSPECTIVE

by Pierre Houle

"A Sneak SCUG Preview for the Fall Meetings"

...Please drop by at Hobbyfest on July 18th.

It's the end of another SCUG season. I hope you have found the various meetings worthwhile. The executive have worked hard throughout the year to run the club in an efficient manner, and to give the membership their money's worth. Here are a few topics we are working on for next year: A demonstration of Photoshop CS, Ebtech will give a talk, someone will demonstrate the making of a Video CD.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you for your help, because each of you has helped in some way, however small. Remember, this is your club, and it's up to each of you to guide SCUG. We have had record numbers out to meetings, so we must be doing something right!

That said, it's always disappointing to see no participation in the executive elections. Several of you will have to step forward, as there should be a regular influx of new blood every year or so. Otherwise, we will stagnate. Something to think about.

Tonight, Scott Elliott will start a discussion on the pros and cons of computer repair. He will be asking for your experiences, and what to ask before you hand your PC over to a stranger, or let them into your home.

Have a happy and safe summer. Remember to practice safe computing! Please remember to visit us at the Hobbyfest July 18th at Centennial Park. We are still looking for volunteers!

Please do not forget Hobbyfest July 18th.
Please come out and support your club.

**Sarnia Computer Users' Group Est. 1982
2004 Club Officers**

President	Pierre Houle	president@scug.ca
Vice President	Iain Smy	vicepresident@scug.ca
Treasurer	Dorothy Alexander	treasurer@scug.ca
Recording Secretary	Tom Deeprise	secretary@scug.ca
Membership Secretary	Val Conway	membership@scug.ca
Shareware Librarian	Dan Bilger	library@scug.ca
Editor - SCUG Report	Greg West	editor@scug.ca
Public Relations	Norm Lamoureux	pr@scug.ca
Program Coordinator	Bill Colotelo	coordinator@scug.ca

VISIT US ONLINE www.scug.ca

(SIG) Special Interest Group Leaders

Genealogy Group	- Kathy Witheridge	- genealogy@scug.ca
Digital Photography	- Ian Campbell	- digital@scug.ca
Windows Group	- Pierre Houle	- windows@scug.ca

SCUG Advertising Rates

Full Page	1x - \$30.00	3x - \$25.00	6x+ - \$20.00
Half Page	1x - \$20.00	3x - \$15.00	6x+ - \$10.00
Business card	\$10.00 per year		

*One year = 9 issues, September to June
Full and half page rates are per insertion*

Disk Prices

CD Only	Members	Non-Members
Monthly Disk	Free	\$2.00
Utilities	\$1.00	\$2.00
Additional Disks	\$1.00	\$2.00

NOTE: Some of these programs are Shareware which must be registered and paid for if you like them and decide to keep them on your machine. This is your responsibility!

Please Visit US: www.scug.ca

*The SCUG accepts no responsibility for errors or omissions in the newsletter.
Advertisements are paid for and should not be considered as endorsements by SCUG.*



Your Secretary's Notes

by Tom Deeprise
secretary@scug.ca

SCUG Executive Meeting, May 31st/04 at St. James' Church, 140 Lansdowne Rd. North. Pierre, Dorothy, and Bill sent regrets. Vice President Iain chaired the Meeting.

1. Membership Report. Val reported that, as of today, membership stood at 89 Members and 44 Associates, with three Member renewals, one new Member and one lapsed Member. Attendance at the last meeting was 47, markedly lower than usual, probably an artefact of the improved weather. Newsletters - it was decided that 100 would be sufficient for the last meeting of the season.

2. Vice President's Input: Iain - plans to put out a tantalizing e-mail "Meet Your New Executive!" to encourage attendance and participation in our election meeting.

3. Secretary's Input. Tom - A very late developing computer problem at our new printer necessitated an emergency and expensive alternate jobber for the Newsletter.

4. Treasurer's Report. Dorothy's current financial statement was accepted on the understanding that a formula glitch in the new software be corrected. A post meeting issue confirmed this.

5. Software Library Report. Dan reported that the low turnout led to only 38 CDs being exchanged plus one utility CD. Disk of the Month for June will be "Three Games Suitable For a Leisurely Summer". The CD for this season will now be closed and we will open a new one in September.

6. Meeting Program. The feedback on Erik's presentation was generally positive as it was felt that it exposed our members to yet one more facet of computer technology. Confirmed for June - Scott Elliott on 'What to look out for with Home Computer Repair'. Copies of last month's Newsletters were given to Digital Friends. In the pipeline - Inkjet island - Avolution Multimedia - Computer Animation? Photoshop CS Demonstration - Jim Greenshields - Sept - EBtech - - Nerds?

7. Newsletter Editor: Greg said, regarding the new printer, that we had been happy with the first two months

product and that despite the current glitch we would be going back to them for June's Newsletter after getting their assurance that their problem was fixed.

8. Webpage progress. Iain reported the continuing problem of many international hits but a low local count. We will be swapping and establishing more links on our site in the near future.

9. Program Co-coordinator Bill wrote that ten reviews have been completed and published to date with one review (MailWasher) Pro 4.0) to be completed and published in the June Newsletter. Two other reviews were initiated but abandoned because of a lack of support from the software company. No other reviews are being carried out at this time. On accommodations, the status quo seems to be holding.

10. Promotions. Norm listed what is left of our compuprizes.

1 OPP Hat, 4 packs of paper, MS Works 7.0 M.I.A. 2 game, 25 blank CDs, Brother Food Labeller, 2 Organizers, 20 Top Ten Games, MS keyboard, Briefcase, MS Mouse. It was decided to decrease the inventory of ageing type prizes and keep back only the continuingly useful such as the CDs and paper for next season.

Prizes for the June meeting,

1. MS Keyboard and MS Mouse
2. OPP Hat, Labeller, and Organizer
3. Organizer and MS Works 7.0
4. It was further decided to hand out the 20 games disks to the first twenty members to pick up their Newsletters (Tom to handle)

11. New Business. Cupboard inventory to be arranged for after season end. Pierre and Norm will ask for volunteer help from the exec. It was decided that the Aug 30 meeting would suffice to start the new season and that an extra Exec Meeting was not needed and an end of year statement from Dorothy at June end, to be e-mailed to the Exec. would be sufficient. Pierre or delegate will appeal for volunteers for Hobbyfest July 18. Start up crew 9-10 am and 2-hour shifts from 10 -4 pm. We could also troll the members for ideas on how to make it more attractive for passers-by to stop. I.e. a draw for the MIA Game or some other gimmick.

12. Old Business. Buying equipment kit for SIGs. To be left to the new season's budget.

EMAIL ADDRESS CHANGE?

If you have a new Email address please forward it to Val (membership@scug.ca) This is the only way to receive prompt SCUG reports and news.

RECORD NUMBERS FOR SCUG

MEMBERSHIP REPORT Stats as of April 30, 2004

89 Members + 44 Associates = 133 Members
New Members.....1 Members + 0 Associates
Renewals....3 Members + 0 Associates
Lapsed Memberships.....1 Members + Associates
Guests.....1 Guests

Total Meeting Attendance..... 47

Welcome Back Renewals:

**Dawn & Eric Shepherd,
John & Barbara McIntyre,
Phillip & Lucille Burness,
Vic Sterry,
Gary Shrigley, and Ginny Massey.**



Compuprize Winners

Here are the winners of the May Draw



Winners are Ginny Massey won the CD's, paper and Virus Checker from Microsoft. Herb Schwartz for Wireless Card from Ian S. and OPP Hat.



SHAREWARE CD

**SCUG Librarian
Dan Bilger
library@scug.ca**

This month, on the CD, you will find: Several games to while away thos rainy days when you would love to be out mowing your lawn or tending our garden.

PAST PROGRAMS ON YOUR CD

May: SpeeDefrag (for defragging your Hard Drive) and Google Toolbar.

April: Rainbow Folders (RF) is an easy program to change color of folders.

March: "Juke" an audio and video player for Windows that supports .mid, mp3, .wav, and more.

February: "PIXresizer" isa photo resizing program and the game "Sokoban".

January: "GIMP" This is a GNU Image Manipulation Program from the GNU/Linux world.

November: "Christmas 2003" some Christmas fun stuff.

October: "CD Roller" a powerful, easy to use, and lowcost toolset for CD data recovery.

September: "Open Office" a complete office suite program that is freeware.

Next month bring the CD back with you and exchange it for another CD with a new program loaded on it. Repeat this procedure each month. If you forget to bring your CD back next month you can get another CD for the nominal price of \$1.00.

Please Note: Ta-Da, you keep the CD that you get at this meeting it's June. This CD will contain the entire year of the SCUG SHAREWARE LIBRARY programs.

Non-members can purchase a CD for only \$2.00, however, when you do become a SCUG member you will then receive the full CD included with the price of your membership. Utility Disks - \$1.00 each diskette
Spotlight on Shareware

There is a link on SCUG's www.scug.ca where you can download any of the programs that were listed in the Spotlight on Shareware in past issues of this News-letter.

Go to the SCUG website under:
"Other Areas -DOWNLOADS"

SIG REPORTS



Genealogy SIG

Kathy Witheridge
genealogy@scug.ca

Kathy will be back in September!!!

ing presentations. This has worked fairly well, but Ian indicated he doesn't have time to lead the group, or be moderator. He will stay on if no one else is found. Pierre indicated he is too busy with other SCUG functions to run every meeting.

No one else volunteered to be leader, so it was left as is. It was indicated that some members or past guests may be interested in leading, and this will be pursued during the summer. Val indicated that the group could continue if members volunteer to do topics, which they are familiar with. Rich Dolby volunteered to do one meeting on making digital slide shows. Hopefully others will come forward.

The next meeting will be **September 1st**. Reminders will sent out.



Digital Photography SIG

Ian Campbell
digitalsig@scug.ca

Seventeen people attended the June Digital Photography SIG. Pierre started the meeting by finishing the talk from last month on Camera Exposure. The notes are posted on the website.

In the second portion of the meeting, members asked questions pertaining to digital imaging. Thanks to everyone that participated. It is apparent that some members know a great deal about photography, and are willing to share their expertise.

There was then a discussion concerning future topics. It was agreed that we would all like to see each others photographs, and Iain Smy has generously agreed to set up a portion of the website for posting and viewing member's digital creations. Some rules were suggested, and these will be posted on the site. Some members wanted a monthly contest, and we agreed to discuss this at future meetings.

As is customary, at the last SIG meeting of the season, the group chooses a leader for the following season. This group doesn't have a leader per se. This past season, Ian Campbell had agreed to be "moderator" for the group, and it was hoped that enough members or guests would step forward to share in the meet-



Windows SIG

Pierre Houle
windows@scug.ca

Thirty-Four people attended the June Windows SIG, including one Grace member. The program was left as an open discussion. Pierre started with a few Windows XP tips, one of which concerned the "Last Know Good" option, and how to use it. This was followed by quite a few questions, with most of the group contributing. For a more complete listing of the various topics discussed, please refer to the club website under "Topics/Windows SIG" and "Topics/Windows SIG Notes".

A cheque was donated to the Grace janitor to show the club's appreciation. Ted West accepted the \$25 check on his behalf. Thanks again to Ted who has been there every month to unlock the church, and make sure we have everything we need.

Leadership of the group was discussed. Pierre offered to continue as leader, and was accepted. He has been Windows group leader since joining the club in 1996/97, and enjoys helping people understand computers.

The next Windows meeting will be September 16th, 7:00 P.M., at Grace United Church. The topic will be announced by e-mail and the website over the summer.



**SARNIA COMPUTER USERS' GROUP
FINANCIAL SUMMARY
as of May 31, 2004**

Sorry, this section is for members of SCUG only.

Many Reasons to be a SCUG Member

- * Special Interest Groups
- * S.C.U.G. REPORT
- * Want Ad
- * Paid Advertising
- * Disk of the Month
- * Utility Disks (Set of 2 Disks)
- * Members Only Web Pages
- * Meeting Cancellation Notification
- * Local Discounts
- * Earn 1 Month Free Membership
- * Join in on Software Reviws
- * Executive Postions
- * E-mail Reminders
- * Special E-Mails

FOR FULL INFORMATION ON SCUG BENEFITS SEE www.scug.ca

SCUG MEMBERS SAVE - UP TO \$60 AT EBTech

EBTech offers up to \$5/month discount to SCUG Members!

- * Contact Val Conway (membership@scug.ca) to be on the EBTech Discount List.
- * With your next EBTech renewal, simply identify yourself as a SCUG Member
- * Val notifies EBTech of eligible members so no further proof of identification is required.

10 hours per month - \$10 per month (\$2.00 per additional hour)
SCUG members save on 6 & 12 month packages

100 hours per month - \$20 per month (\$1.00 per additional hour)
SCUG members save \$5 per month

- * Upgrade your existing account and you can apply the discount immediately!

TID BITS

Collected by
Greg West - SCUG Editor



SCUG is a member of Association of Personal Computer User Groups, and one of the benefits we get from APCUG; members of other groups and APCUG executive members write articles. Judy Taylor is an executive member of APCUG and is the one who sends out monthly articles for printing in club newsletters. Judy is also the President, Editor, Santa Clarita Valley PC Group. This month something new is now offered from the editorial pages...APCUG has sent out various Tid Bits from members of other computer clubs. So this month SCUG would like to present these bits of information and hope that you enjoy this new forum. We look forward to Letters to the Editor, regarding these Tid Bits...and of course, if you have any yourself that you may have been hoarding, well this is the place to share them. Please email your Tid Bits, or interesting web sites to: editor@scug.ca

Say "No More Bills" to Ma Bell!!!

"You often don't have to type "www." to call up a Web site. For instance, try just "amazon.com" instead of "www.amazon.com"." PC World Contributing Editor James A. Martin.

Beware of Norton Internet Security 2004 products because according to PC World there is a glitch in the program "that could let an attacker take over your PC." For a and update patch go to (<http://service1.symantec.com/SUPPORT/sharedtech.nsf/docid/1999121613163206>)

Have an aunt or uncle, parents or children who live outside of your calling area that you are paying a fortune for long distant telephone calls? Why? Now you can call for free and talk as long as the hydro stays on. And of course both parties have a computer and the internet. Now it is fast and simple. Just go to (www.skype.com)

to download the program in a matter of minutes. Skype has been featured in this month's PC World. The company says that "The technology is extremely advanced – but super simple to use... You'll be making free phone calls to your friends in no time!" PC World says that Skype's "audio quality at dial-up speeds is impressive, and it's even better when you're talking over a high-speed connection."

Features of Skype:

- Free unlimited worldwide phone calls to other Skype users
- Superior sound quality – better than your regular phone
- Works with all firewall, NAT and routers – nothing to configure!
- Friends list shows you when your Skype friends are online and ready to talk or chat
- Super-simple and easy to use and your calls are encrypted "end-to-end" for superior privacy.

Digital Photography and More

Along with that new digital camera you are going to buy this summer, if you have any cash left over, you may just want to jump into the world of lap-topping to work with those pictures while camping. Even if you don't, you will always find the world of shortcuts interesting and most helpful. I for one have been working on demousing myself from that little rodent which is useless while using a laptop during a field trip, or while in a canoe LOL. Here are some excellent sites to check out to help you demouse from PC World's Contributing Editor Lincoln Spector:

<http://www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,109712,tk,mcx,00.asp>

* **For Internet Explorer**, see Microsoft's "Keyboard Shortcuts for Internet Explorer 6": <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboard/keyboardresults.asp?Product=26>

* **For Word**, see "Keyboard Shortcuts for Word 2002": <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboard/keyboardresults.asp?Product=23>

* **For Outlook**, see "Keyboard Shortcuts for Outlook 2002": <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboard/keyboardresults.asp?Product=24>

* **For Excel**, see "Keyboard Shortcuts for Excel 2002": <http://www.microsoft.com/enable/products/keyboard/keyboardresults.asp?Product=25>

* **For other Windows shortcuts**, go to "Keyboard Shortcuts for Windows": <http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;q126449>

Erik Burggraaf
SCUG Member
 by Greg West

In this very fast-paced society we utilize the Internet with relative ease, collect our emails from home and at wireless ports throughout the world. All of this is done with a desktop, laptop, or a Palm Pilot, and of course many now are getting their emails and stock prices directly from their digital cell phones. But this is not the case for Erik Burggraaf, a SCUG member – a member who is visually impaired. No, for Erik the world of computers is one that most of us will never fully understand or come to appreciate, as we don't have to take the dark journeys through the world of computers; certainly not the road Erik takes each day.

Erik as well as technology, have come a long way since he first began tinkering with computers. Erik says, "My first real computer exposure was the apple 2E with doss 3.3 back in 1987 or there about [and] I graduated to the PC in 1994." Erik didn't stop there as he "moved to windows in 1999, and was able to get a laptop system." Erik, a college graduate, obtained a diploma in Computer Systems Technician at Lambton College also has many other computer-related achievements and "took courses in web design, Cisco networking, Windows 2000 server, object oriented and procedural programming, lotus notes and visual basic, Novel administration, math and technical business English, as well as some other minor courses not directly computer related."

For those like Erik the computer world has opened up with new technology to assist him to utilize his computer to send and receive emails, communicate with MS Messenger, and even Erik can now design web pages. Last month SCUG had the rare opportunity to get a small glimpse of what it is like to not see what is on your computer screen and successfully operate many of its programs. Erik was kind enough to return once again and give SCUG members demonstration of what it is like to be blind and operate a computer. Erik demonstrated some of his programs that he must have, such as:

Window-Eyes Screen Access

The Internet has put the entire world into the hands of anyone with a computer and a modem. Window-Eyes gives you total control over what you hear and how you hear it.



Some of the equipment Erik demonstrated.

Support for over 50 speech synthesizers and 40 Braille displays. Greater PDF support. Other features include: Breakthrough support for Macromedia Flash
 Full command prompt support for Windows 2000 and XP, Enhanced Internet support including instantaneous web page loading and support for Microsoft Internet Explorer 6 (For more see: <http://www.accessingenuity.com/Product%20Pages/Windoweyes.htm>)

Accent SA Hardware Synthesizer

Accent is a text-to-speech synthesizer with unlimited vocabulary capability and many features in five models. All models employ the standard Accent text-processor which speaks in two modes; text and spell. Speech rate is from 60 to 850 words per minute. The IBM Screen Reader supports Accent-SA, Laptop, MC, PC; check with the vendor for installation and technical support.
 (For more see: <http://polio.dyndns.org/chip/vss.html>)

Braille Lite M20 personal digital assistant

Braille and speech notetaker. Braille Lite M20 includes a 56K modem, email capabilities, word processing and quick one key-commands. Switch instantly from the Braille display to your PC without losing your place. The M20 comes with an adjustable speech synthesizer and boasts virtually unlimited storage capacity with a SanDisk CompactFlash card. With the addition of our exclusive Whiz Wheel, you can rapidly scroll through documents with ease.
 (For more see: <http://www.visuaide.com/blm20.html>)

Kurzweil 1000

Kurzweil 1000 is scanning and reading software that makes printed or electronic text accessible to people who are blind or have limited vision. It is the direct descendent of the first reading machine for the blind invented by Ray Kurzweil in 1976. Using Optical Character Recognition and Text to Speech technology combined with a unique audible user interface, Kurzweil 1000 converts the printed word into speech. Users can scan in books, articles, bills, and advertisements - almost anything that fits on a scanner.
 (for more see: http://www.kurzweiledu.com/products_k1000.asp)

Erik explains SAPI and further problems: "Microsoft speech API is a text to speech library used by programs like window-eyes and K1000. SAPI is the basis for all of the best software speech engines which use a sound card to produce speech output, and it can make all of the best hardware synthesizers virtually plug and play. Of course, should it crash, the link between your screen reader and your synth goes cablooy. As you can see from the demonstration, the systems are complex and there are lots of places where things can go a miss."

Previous article see February's SCUG Report p.14.



Get Rid of Spyware and Popups

By Ira Wilsker

APCUG Board of Advisors (2nd term); Past President, Past Vice President Golden Triangle PC Club Presenter on CyberCrime at Spring and Fall APCUG events; Host, computer call in show KLVI; Faculty Senate, Lamar Institute of Technology

Next to spam mail and viruses, one of the most irritating facets of web surfing is the annoying popup ads that so many of us receive. What many may not be aware of is that about 80% of the popups that we get while online, and many that may also appear if we are offline, are generated by spyware that is unknowingly installed on our computers.

Spyware are software programs that typically install without our knowledge or informed consent, and may also be a part of a program that we purposely installed. Spyware, as its name connotes, is software that often gathers information on our surfing habits and may send that information to third parties. At its worst, spyware may also be used to gather personal information from our computers, including passwords, user names, and other information, and send it to persons unknown who may illicitly use that information to empty our bank accounts, charge goods in our name, and commit other various forms of identity theft.

Spyware can get on our computers by visiting some unethical websites, or by installing some downloaded or commercial software. Several forms of spyware can infect our computers via viruses and Trojans. Among the most notorious sources of spyware are popular file sharing utilities such as Morpheus and KaZaA. Some of the "cookies" or small text files placed on our computers by some websites can also be used to create personal profiles on us, and distribute that information to third parties. It should be noted that some software titles will no longer function if their attached spyware is deleted, as the spyware is intended to provide a continuing revenue stream for the software publisher.

Fortunately, it is generally easy to detect and kill spyware, or otherwise render it inert. It should be understood at this point that as a general rule, even the best antivirus programs, while effective at detecting and preventing virus and Trojan infestations, are generally ineffective at dealing with spyware. Firewalls, if properly installed and configured, can prevent many spyware types from send-

ing information from the computer, but many spyware programs utilize known security weaknesses, and other vulnerabilities in our operating systems. Contemporary thought is that we all need a good anti-spyware program properly installed, configured, and updated, every bit as much as we need updated antivirus software and a firewall on our computers.

One of the top rated anti-spyware programs is the recently updated "Spybot Search and Destroy", version 1.3, available for free (donations encouraged) at www.safer-networking.org and other major download sites. Spybot can detect and destroy over 13,000 spyware products, and immunize our computers from future infection by almost 1800 types of spyware. Spybot can also prevent some pesky websites from changing our "home" or browser startup pages, and make it difficult for spyware to write itself into our Windows registry. An integral utility makes it easy for Spybot to check for, and install the periodic updates necessary to detect and kill the latest types of spyware.

Another popular anti-spyware utility is "Ad-Aware", available for download at www.lavasoftusa.com. The free version of Ad-Aware, the "Standard Edition", is possibly the most widely used anti-spyware program, with over 42 million copies downloaded since July, 2003. Ad-Aware comes in several versions ranging from the "free for personal use" Standard Edition, the \$27 "Plus" edition, and the \$40 "Pro" version. Ad-Aware frequently releases updated "reference files" which contain lists of newly created or revised spyware information.

A popular commercial program, which is a "Swiss army knife" type of program comprising many different utilities, including an excellent spyware (parasite) detector and killer is the "SpyHunter" included with System Mechanic, version 4. System mechanic is available locally at retail (about \$49), and for download at www.iolo.com. A fully functional 30 day free trial version is available for download. As does its free standing competitors, System Mechanic's SpyHunter also checks for updated spyware listings, and installs them seamlessly. SpyHunter has been proven to be an effective spyware detector and killer, and the other utilities included in System mechanic make this a most useful program.

While not directly marketed as an anti-spyware product, "STOPzilla" is a very effective spyware remover that specializes in those spyware products that produce about 80% of the annoying popup ads that we may get while surfing the web. A recent update to STOPzilla also includes an integral utility that can detect and kill

Con't...page 10

Con't...from page 9 - Spyware

most other forms of spyware, including tracking cookies. With almost daily automated updates, and excellent 24/7 free tech support, including toll-free numbers, STOPzilla is available for \$30 at www.stopzilla.com.

One of the most comprehensive spyware detecting and killing programs on the market is PestPatrol (\$40), available at www.pestpatrol.com. This is an excellent program that can both detect spyware, and block many types of infection. PestPatrol has an integrated utility that enables all parts of PestPatrol to be updated on a regular basis in order to maximize the detection and removal functions. PestPatrol offers a free online scan that will detect, but not eliminate, almost all known forms of spyware.

While there are several other decent anti-spyware programs available, one caveat is appropriate here. There are some unethical purveyors of some anti-spyware programs that use spam emails, popup ads, and deceptive sales practices, including telling you that your computer is infested with spyware, and charging a fee to remove it.

Any of the titles referenced above will do a reasonable job of reducing popups, and securing your computer from spyware, provided they are frequently updated and run.

Computer Power Protection

By Ira Wilsker

Now that summer is upon us, and our air conditioners seem to cycle on and off endlessly, we may have noticed our computer screens flicker or shrink ever-so-slightly for a moment when the AC compressor powers on. With our intermittent yet common summer thunderstorms, we may have noticed our lights flicker, occasionally accompanied by a power outage of varying lengths. While these and similar effects may be an emotional strain upon us personally, they may also be an indication that we may need to protect our computers from unseen electrical damage. The most basic form of electrical protection for our computers, which should be considered as mandatory for all computers, including notebook computers used away from the home or office, is a surge suppressor. Power surges, also referred to as spikes, are short term increases in voltage, often occurring when major electrical equipment, such as air conditioners or freezers are turned off. These surges and spikes can damage sensitive electronic devices such as computers, TVs, microwave ovens, and other devices. Surge suppressors to minimize the risk

of damage are readily available in a variety of forms and prices, ranging from an inexpensive suppressor in the form of a power strip, to large box shaped devices that provide surge protection with line conditioning and a battery backup function. A recent review of the selection available locally at the office supply, electronics, and discount stores indicated a vast array of power strip type surge suppressors, ranging in price from about \$3 to almost \$100. One caveat is appropriate here; many users have a standard power strip connecting their computers to the wall plug. While almost all power strips offer some form of overload protection, typically with a circuit breaker, standard power strips offer no other protection for power related problems, and need to be replaced with a decent quality power strip that has a surge suppression function with a UL 1449 rating. The ability of a surge suppressor to dissipate the surge or spike is measured in joules, with a higher joules rating indicating a greater ability to absorb and dissipate the excess voltage from the surge. Almost all surge suppressors have a limited life expectancy, and may wear out. Many of the better ones have an LED or other device indicating the proper functioning of the surge protection. It is a good practice to frequently inspect your surge suppressor, and to immediately replace it if there is even a hint or suspicion of malfunction. Power surges are one of the major killers of computers and other electronic devices. In my house, each of my major electronic devices, including TVs, microwaves, stereos, cordless phones, and of course computers, is connected to a functional surge suppressor. I also carry a good quality surge suppressor power strip in my notebook computer case which is always used whenever my notebook is plugged in. While the primary function of a surge suppressor is to protect plugged-in electrical devices from surge related damage, many of the suppressors on the market also provide additional functionality. Common in most better suppressors is an electronic noise filter, which reduces the electrical noise, often referred to as RFI or EMI interference, carried through the power lines. This electronic noise may be thought of as a type of static, and commonly comes from a variety of transmitters, welding devices, printers, lightning, or other sources. This type of line noise can cause errors in computer programs and data files, and possibly also damage some hardware components. In purchasing a surge suppressor, I recommend that one be purchased that includes electronic noise filtering. I have repaired countless computers where the modem was fried, or destroyed by a power surge. It is widely known in professional circles that power surges and spikes can also come through a phone line, as well as a coax cable, network cable, or other form of data connection. Many surge suppressors also include one or more protected lines explicitly for a phone or fax cable, TV or satellite cable,

Con't...page 11

Con't. from page 10 - Power Protection or other types of network cable. For those of us that still use dialup connections to the internet, or use fax machines, a surge suppressor that has a phone jack should also be a necessity. The phone plug from the wall connects to the jack in the suppressor, and another cable is used to connect the suppressor to the modem or fax machine. Generally, there is no significant degradation of signal while connected to a fax machine, but some 56K modems may suffer a slight degradation of signal or speed. This slight performance is a small price to pay for the added protection provided by the suppressor. All of my phone lines and cable TV coax is connected to the same surge suppressor that protects the device they are connected to. As an added benefit, many models of surge suppressors also carry some form of insurance coverage to repair or replace devices connected to them from covered perils, often including lightning. The amount of coverage provided is often high, but is sometimes used as a marketing gimmick. As with all types of guarantees and insurance, be sure to read the fine print, and follow explicitly the directions for filing a claim. Better safe than sorry.

**Congratulations to Pierre,
SCUG's President**

For the past several months Pierre has been studying hard at Lambton College and has now earned a diploma in Computer Repair. We are glad to have such a qualified leader in our club. The following is a sample of what Pierre has been qualified for:

CompTIA A+ P.C. repair technician.

The A+ exams test the following areas of knowledge:

- Installation, configuring and upgrading
- Diagnosis and troubleshooting
- Preventive maintenance
- Motherboard, processors and memory
- Printers
- Basic networking
- OS fundamentals
- Networks

Anyone who may be interested in finding out more on this please go to:
<http://www.comptia.org/certification/A/objectives.asp>

Also, please see Pierre's paid ad on page 14.

**Come On Out and Support
Your Club at
Hobbyfest July 18**

Hobbyfest is a time where computer lovers can share ideas and help one another. But also, it is a time where SCUG can demonstrate who and what we are to the general public. In order to continue to have this club exist we need members and Hobbyfest is a good place to introduce new people to our club. Please come out and support your club on July 18 - even if you just pop in and say hi.

The following are a few pictures from past Hobbyfest events from SCUG archives.



Pierre and Paul setting up



Answering questions from a prospective member



Norm and Paul demonstrating the finer aspects of a computer to an exotic bird?

Comdex Computer Show Cancelled

The APCUG board has already started discussions on alternatives, possibly CES.

"Computer trade show Comdex, once the biggest event on the tech calendar, has been canceled this year, a victim of the growing interest in shows emphasizing consumer electronics and specialist IT gear. Comdex has mirrored the up-and-down fortunes of the computing industry for nearly 25 years. Casino owner Sheldon Adelson launched the Computer Dealers Exposition at the dawn of the PC era, with the first event in 1979 attracting about 150 exhibitors and 4,000 attendees, mostly mesmerized by new Apple Computer products. The show grew to 83,000 attendees in 1983, when Microsoft Chairman Gates delivered his first keynote speech, showing off the company's snazzy new DOS 2.0 operating system with a slide show that featured actual slides." David Becker CNT News.com (For more on this: (http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1103_2-5244406.html))

"We firmly believe the \$915 billion information technology industry needs an event where the leading technology companies can speak to their global customers on neutral ground, buyers can compare all their options at one time, and thought leaders can discuss and debate the industry's future," Eric Faurot, vice president and general manager for Comdex, said in a statement.

www.entmag.com/news/article.asp?EditorialsID=6283

HUGE TURNOUT AT WINDOWS SIG

Considering that the weather finally turned to the nicer side and the SCUG season is coming to an end for the summertime, there was a huge crowd of computer enthusiasts that came out to this meeting. Pierre asked for a show of hands to see how many of the members in attendance had Windows XP and more than half had their hands in the air. The best part of this meeting was the continuous questions and answers - the sharing of information, which is what makes a SIG a success. Pierre is re-elected for another year.



Dawn (far right) is busy taking notes for Pierre, An email is sent to all SIG members after each meeting giving an overview of what was discussed.



Hobbyfest

Come out and support the Club
Just drop by and say hello!

"Join us at the Park on Sunday for the 15th Annual HOBBYFEST. Over 45 Community Groups come together to display and demonstrate a wide variety of hobby & leisure activities for the Community to experience and enjoy!

<http://www.city.sarnia.on.ca/visit.asp?sectionid=265>



Picture compliments of Linda Perdeaux, Summer Waterfront Activities Coordinator

Location: Dow People Place

Organization: City of Sarnia - Community Services

Begin Date: 7/18/04

Time: 10 A.M.-4:00 P.M., Sunday

Description:

Over 4 community groups converge on the Park to demonstrate and display their leisure interests. Event for the whole family to enjoy!

<http://community.sarnia.com/events/moreinfo.asp?eventid=2072>

Use Run commands for fast access to almost everything

by Linda Gonse

Editor, Orange County PC Users' Group, California

Did you know that the Run command is the Swiss Army knife of Windows' built-in apps? Using it can make your computing time move along more quickly and smoothly. Available since Windows 3.1, the Run command is often overlooked by users except as an option for installing programs, although techies use it frequently to access various system diagnostics and information.

But, the average computer user should take a closer look at Run for its versatility to start programs and utilities, to open files and folders, to open web sites (when connected to the Internet), and as an alternative to placing shortcuts on the desktop. To use Run, left click on the Start button. Click on Run. If you hate to take your fingers off the keyboard to access Run, you can avoid using the mouse by pressing the Windows key on your keyboard and the letter "r". Commands are typed into the open box. For example: In the open Run box, type msconfig to give you quick access to the Startup Configuration tab. Click on the StartUp tab, and check or uncheck boxes of programs you want to run on Startup. (You will be prompted to restart your computer. If you want your custom startup to take effect immediately, click OK.) Msconfig is one of the Run commands you will probably use often.

Following are other Run commands for you to try out. (If you get hooked on Run, you can search Google for "run commands" to find others. There are lots of them! Many will include "switches," familiar to DOS users, that will allow some of the commands to be customized.)
 calc (opens calculator utility) cdplayer (opens cd player)
 charmap (opens character map utility) clipbrd (opens clipboard utility) command (opens DOS window at command line) defrag (opens defrag utility) drvspace (opens drive space utility to compress drives, etc.) dxdiag (for DirectX, sound, input devices-joysticks, etc. info)
 freecell (opens freecell game) mplayer2 (opens Windows Media Player 6.4) msconfig (accesses programs that run on startup) mshearts (opens hearts game) msinfo32 (accesses system resources info) notepad (opens program) regedit (accesses command to edit the registry) rsrcmtr (loads resource meter utility in system tray) scandisk (accesses scan disk utility) scanregw (registry scan) sndrec32 (opens sound recorder) sndvol32 (opens sound volume utility) sol (opens a solitaire game) sysedit (accesses the System Configuration Utility) sysmon (opens system monitor utility) win.ini (accesses file that loads some Windows components)

winiicfg (displays Internet connection/adaptor info)
 winver (displays the Windows version installed on the computer) wmpplayer (opens Windows Media Player)
 wordpad (opens program) wupdmgr (connects to Windows update)

Using the Run box can also give you a jump start on addressing your email messages. Go to Run and type in mailto:<desired email address> and press OK. (Example--mailto:editor@orcopug.org.) Your e-mail application will open to display a blank new message that already has the email address you typed in the 'To:' field! You can even check websites by typing in a web address in Run. (Example-http://www.orcopug.org.) When connected to the Internet, you will be whisked to wherever you want to go.

Among the switches you can type in the Run box to customize tasks are attrib, move, and xcopy. DOS command and switches, and instructions on how to use them in conjunction with Windows Run, are at http://www.Techiwarehouse.com/DOS/XP_DOS_Tutorial.html, and <http://www.computerhope.com/msdos.htm#02>

As you type commands in the Run box, a list of your Most Recently Used (MRU) commands--a history of the commands you've used--accumulate. The growing list can come in handy, because you can just click on any command to activate it without retyping it.

On the other hand, you may not want to wade through a long list, or you may not want others to have access to the visible commands. In these cases, you need to clear the MRU commands. Here are two ways you can do that.

1. Right click the start button and go to properties. Click on the radio button next to Start Menu and click on the Customize... button. Then, click on the Advanced tab. Locate the Run box and check the box on the left. Then, click on clear history.

2. You can navigate to HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Explorer\RunMRU. This is where you will find all the commands in the Run history. Delete the ones you don't want. But, backup the registry first!

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

Don't Be a Victim of Health Scare Stories

By Alicia King Padgett Alicia-
apcug@comcast.net
APCUG Advisor for Region 9

Health scare artists are utilizing the Internet as a medium for terrorizing the public, and unfortunately many adults are taking the stories seriously. These tall tales are often written citing evidence and research that sounds legitimate. Frequently an e-mail is sent to you from a reliable friend who had received it from another acquaintance who had "personal knowledge or personal experience" with the alleged dangerous item. The health scare messages are always the same-whatever it is will make you sick or even cause death.

If you try to research accurate health information about the topic sent, you may literally become caught in the Web, where health hoaxes and urban medical myths run rampant. Many of these Websites appear to have valid researched data.

Before you decide to believe or, worse forward e-mail with serious health claims, do a little checking. Start on the Web with www.urbanlegends.com or www.snopes.com that catalogue the more persistent rumors. These two sites also detail persistent legends on other topics in addition to health scare stories.

Then go to reliable health sites, like:

www.mayohealth.org for general health
www.medhelp.org especially good for cardiology
www.oncolink.org for cancer www.cancer.gov for cancer
www.navigator.tufts.edu for nutrition www.fda.gov for latest updates on food/drugs as well as extensive archives

So keep yourself informed and don't become one of the individuals caught in a web of confusion by believing the stories and passing them on to others.

Many of us have been victim of health-related frauds, myths, and fallacies. We have to make many decisions about our health and care and want to make them will informed. This site will keep you up-to-date on the latest findings on health care frauds.

Quack Watch is an informative site that deals with such issues like growth hormone scams, coral calcium, and acupuncture. It has a section on allergies and alternative medicine. You might want to start with Tips for Navigating our Web Sites. In the "Quackery" section

you will find the following sections: Seven Warning Signs of Bogus Science, Ten Ways to Avoid Being Quacked, Signs of a "Quacky" web site.

Always seek a second opinion, but please peruse www.quackwatch.org

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

**Advertise in this space
for only \$10
Your ad will appear for a full season in
SCUG Report.
Also, your ad will reach out to the world
as this newsletter is posted live on
www.scug.ca every month!**

**Slide and Film Scanning 35 mm
High Resolution**

Call Pierre for a free quote

Phone: 344-1379
Email: pahoule@sympatico.ca

ISLAND INK-JET



RON AND KAREN RUPERT
OWNER/OPERATORS

Lambton Mall
1380 London Road
Sarnia, ON, N7S 1P8
Tel: 519.542.0184
Fax 519.542.5917
lambtonmail@islandinkjet.com
www.islandinkjet.com

The Refill Guys!

**Systems
Success**

*343 Bright Street,
Sarnia, Ont.,
(519) 336 9272
ssuccess@ebtech.net*

Paul Witheridge

*Personal Computer Consultation
Set-up * Software Training
System Optimization * Professional Remote Backup Service
Member Sarnia-Lambton Chamber of Commerce*

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY AND PRINTING

by Charlotte Semple
President & Editor,
Los Angeles Computer Society California, and
by Charles Mahan
Wi-Fi SIG Leader, Los Angeles Computer
Society, California

SCUG Editor's Note: *This article is longer than the usual ones posted in SCUG Report, however with the summer holidays before us and the many, many people who are getting into digital photography, I thought that this highly informative article will be useful, not only to the beginner, but to the advanced photographer as well. I hope you enjoy your summer and if you get any interesting pictures please forward them to editor@scug and/or webmaster@scug.ca as we are looking to upload member's pictures to www.scug.ca and this paper.*

Lee Otsubo is best known as The Digital Photo Guy. He has become a familiar figure to many user groups as he shares his knowledge and experiences in digital photography. He emphasizes two basic topics in his presentation:

- 1) How to get the most out of a digital camera (or how to buy one) and,
- 2) How to share and display great digital Photos.

Megapixels Mega comes from Greek, meaning, great. In technological terms, it's a prefix for millions. A 3.5-inch floppy holds 1.44 mega bytes, which is 1.4 million bytes of data. A megapixel is 1 million pixels.

So, "What the heck is a pixel?" A pixel is a made up tech term for "picture element." Pixels are square. If you look closely at a newspaper photo, using a magnifying glass, you will see hundreds of tiny dots, some dark, some light and some in between. As you move the photo away from yourself, setting aside the glass, you will not be able to discern the dots any more, instead you will see the whole photo. Digital cameras work the same way. They use millions of pixels, (mega pixels, or MP), to make a photo. i.e. a 2 MP camera uses 2 million pixels. A mega pixel is a measure of the camera's capability to capture detail, which is resolution.

You need to be aware of what kind of photography you are interesting in doing and what you are going to do with the photos in order to make the best use of the finite number of pixels you have.

CCD The CCD (Charge Coupled Device) is the central processing unit of the digital camera. It is somewhat like the CPU in a computer, but unlike the CPU, the CCD has only one function. It takes images and munches and crunches them. The CCD of a 2 mega pixel camera contains 2 million light sensors. Each light sensor produces 1 pixel. Each pixel represents 1 of 16.7 million different colors. Each pixel has a red, green and blue component of color. Each component is a byte (of data). Each pixel has three bytes of data. A 2 MP camera produces 6 million bytes of data. Enough data to fill five 3.5-inch floppies!

Cycle Time The time needed for the CCD to munch and crunch data and get it out of the way in time for the camera to be ready to take another photo.

Lag Time The time a digital camera needs to look at a subject and fire enough electrical charge to be ready so that when the shutter button is pressed, the camera will capture the image of the subject.

Munching and Crunching After the CCD captures the image it has to compress it. A 2 MP camera uses (munches) 6 million bytes of data for each picture at high resolution. This has to be compressed (crunched) down to 1 mega byte of data. Many cameras have different settings for resolution. Lee recommended that you keeps your camera on the highest setting and leave it there. If you change it for a lower resolution shot and forget to re-set it to the higher level, and you use the camera again, thinking you are taking high-resolution shots, you will be disappointed in the results. You can always throw away extraneous detail, but you cannot put it in if you didn't capture it in the first place.

Input -The Lens This is the first and last place where there is any real resemblance between the digital and film camera. The usual focal length of a 35mm point and shoot camera is anywhere from 35mm to 105mm zoom. Most digital cameras have 3 X zoom, which goes down to the equivalent of 35mm, for a moderate wide-angle shot, out to the equivalent of 105mm for a telephoto shot.

There are two types of Zoom: Optical, which is "real" zoom, and Digital, which is electronic trickery. When you activate the zoom function on a 35 mm point and shoot film camera, you can hear the lens moving in and out, increasing or decreasing the size of the image to be captured. This is "real" zoom. When the electronic zoom on a digital camera is activated, the zoom plays a trick on the image. The lens captures the center section of the image and stretches the pixels out to fill the frame. But

Con't...page 16

Con't. from page 15 - Digital Photography
one loses some resolution and the photo will not be as clear.

Using a photo imaging tool on your PC, and enlarging a photo large enough so that straight edges are no longer straight, you can see the points of individual pixels. In tech terms, this is called "Jaggies." Under the same conditions when looking at a photo of a person, you can see individual square pixels. In tech terms, this is called "Pixulation".

When buying a camera be aware of what component of the camera is optical zoom and what is digital zoom. Some "smart" marketers might advertise their camera as having 6X zoom capability, where they have multiplied the 3X Optical by the 2Xdigital. A 3X Optical camera is a 3X Optical camera. Another way marketers might advertise a 6X Optical camera is where they have taken a cheap 2X optical zoom and bumped up the digital zoom to 3X, calling their product 6X Zoom. You must be really careful to read the fine print. Don't always go by the advertising printed on the box.

About Zoom If you are taking photos at a back yard BBQ, and you are able to fill the camera frame with subjects, you probably will not need a zoom. If you are going to be taking outdoor photos with subjects 20 to 30 feet away, a 3X Optical zoom camera is probably all you would need. If you are in the "nose bleed" section of a sports arena, and your subjects seem to be 6-inches tall, you will probably need anywhere from a 6, 8, 10 to 12Xm zoom. You should be aware of the kind of photography you want to do so that the right type of zoom lens can be obtained.

Output-USB Most modern digital cameras will have a USB (universal serial bus) port connection. If a camera does not have this don't even consider it. A slow serial connection will drive you crazy. Simply plug the USB cord that comes with the camera into the computer and leave the camera end in a convenient place for ready use. A card reader makes an easy job of uploading the data from your camera into the computer. A universal Card Reader accommodates up to 6 different memory cards. Simply insert the memory card into the reader and it will look to a Windows machine, almost like a disk drive, and you can drag and drop photo files from the memory card.

Memory Cards These are compact flash memory cards. The particular type of memory card that came with your camera is the type you should use. Not all memory cards are universal. The real advantage of memory cards is that they are removable and are fairly robust. Not like ordinary film. Lee recommends that you should carry at

least two memory cards of a moderate range. These are all electronic devices and sooner or later you will corrupt data on a memory card. If you were gullible enough to buy only one very large range memory card, and go on vacation, and the card becomes corrupted, you are up the proverbial tree. You have two choices. Erase all the accumulated data from the card and reformat the card, loosing all your photos, or not take any more photos. Neither choice is desirable. If you had two memory cards, the corrupted card can be removed and stored away safely and the second card can be inserted into the camera and you can continue taking photos. When you get home, the corrupted card can be inserted into the card reader, and a rescue software (Photo Rescue, <http://www.photorecue.com>) can be fired up and most of the photos can be saved.

LCD Instant gratification! You can see in an instant the photo just shot (but wait for the Cycle Time). It is not recommended that you waste time trying to decide which shots to keep and which shots to discard while taking the shots. Wait until the photos are transferred to your PC, and then make these decisions. Each time you turn on the LCD the power consumption increases by 2 -3 fold, and precious battery life is wasted. Also, when you buy a digital camera, make sure it has an optical viewfinder, and use it for much better shots.

Power Most digital cameras use standard rechargeable batteries. If you use regular alkaline batteries a digital camera will just eat them up in no time. The most popular batteries are Nickel Metal Hydride (NiMH). Some people might use Proprietary Lithium Ion batteries, proprietary meaning expensive. The lithium ion batteries are very powerful and long lasting, lasting 3-4 times longer than the nickel metal hydride batteries. A warning about these batteries-be very careful how and where you store them. Don't carry them loose in a pocket with anything containing metal. You could start a fire. These batteries should be stored safely in some sort of plastic containers.

Now, what do you do with all these great photos? Print them! In order to get the best quality prints, there are 4 components that impact the quality of the prints:

1. The printer Use a good quality photo ink-jet printer. Epson, Hewlett Packard, and Canon are the most well known and written up in most photo magazines. They also do have a range of good quality inexpensive printers.
2. Paper Use good quality paper. This might be somewhat of a surprise, but Epson produces the best quality prints on expensive Epson paper (about \$1.00 per an 8.5 X 11 sheet). The same goes for Hewlett Packard and Cannon. Keep in mind that there are certain com-

Con't. from page 16 - Digital Photography combinations of paper and printer that will never work. It is not advisable to use Epson paper with a Hewlett Packard printer, or HP paper with a Canon printer. etc. . If you only print about 20 to 30 photos per month, live a little and buy the expensive paper. If you print hundreds of photos per month, look around for deals, but try a few sheets of the paper first before buying a ream or you might be stuck with a ream of unusable cheap paper.

3. Image As Lee mentioned before, keep your cameras set at the highest resolution and you will get high quality prints. There are two exceptions: a) the use of "raw" or "tiff" mode is mostly for when one needs the highest quality possible. e. g., taking wedding photos where everything is set up, people are standing quietly, the lighting is just right, and the camera is on a tripod. Raw, or Tiff, captures every single pixel and does not compress, creating huge files. b) Taking photos for the Internet, such as for eBay. Use a low resolution that does not require compression and reduces the time between taking the shots and uploading them to eBay. If you keep your cameras at the highest resolution you will have the least compression.

4. Software The software is the most critically important component in producing good prints. Remember when Lee talked about those square pixels where just 1pixel represented 1 of 16.7 million different colors in a RGB color scheme? Well, printers print round dots, each with a color spectrum of between 5 to 10 thousand different colors in a CMYK (Cyan, Magenta, Yellow and Black) color scheme. For a printer to make the transition from square pixels to round dots, it needs the support of good high quality software that is specifically written to do that job. (Someone actually figured out how to insert a square peg into a round hole!)

CDs The most important reason for copying digital photos onto CDs is, digital photos have no negatives. If you transfer you photo to your computer, and if you computer fails (and it will by Murphy's law) and you have not copied them to CDs, you are out there up the proverbial creek. Your photos are history. The CD is you "negative".

The format used by digital cameras for compression is JPEG (Joint Photographic Experts Group), a powerful technology and an excellent compression log rhythm. There is, however, an insidious idiosyncrasy you must be aware of with JPEG images. After you have downloaded your photos into you PC. and you pick out a photo to examine and admire, do something with it and save it, it is re-compressed. If you open it again and save it, it is re-compressed again. Each time you open a photo and save it after viewing it, it is re-compressed. Each time it loses a little more detail, eventu-

ally becoming one ugly photo. When this happens, and you have a pristine copy of the photo on a CD, re-copy it to the PC and you will have a fresh photo to work on. The best advice is not to save it each time you look at it. You can work with a photo, changing its composition and print it without saving the changes. CDs, when used regularly, also degrade. So make 2 CDs of your photos, keeping one in a safe place.

There is no restriction against any non-profit group using this article as long as it is kept in context with proper credit given the author. The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

An Important Message
From Iain Smy, SCUG's Webmaster

NEW - SCUG Online "Digital SIG Photos"

www.scug.ca

Ok, I have finally finished the software upgrades that were necessary for the Digital Photography SIG to display their photos on the web site. If you are a member of the SIG and wish to have your photos displayed please submit them using the following instructions:


1. image to be formatted to 640x480
2. image to be .jpg format
3. image to be no larger than 500K
4. email to webmaster@scug.ca with the subject Digital Photo SIG Photo
5. include in the email your name, a title for your photo and a description. This description can include where the photo was taken, any notes about how you took it (fstop, shutter speed etc), and anything else you think would be of interest to the SIG

Once photos have been submitted you can view them by clicking on the "Digital SIG Photos" link in the left hand menu.

If you have any questions, please drop me a note.
webmaster@scug.ca

SCUG MEETINGS
2004
GUESTS Welcomed - Bring a friend...
www.scug.ca

	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Executive	30th	4th	1st/29th		
Digital		1st	6th	3rd	1st
Genealogy		13th	11th?	8th	13th
Windows		16th	21st	18th	16th
General		29th	27th	24th	



* Exec and Digital meetings at St James Church-140 Lansdowne North (corner of Lansdown and Athlone)
 * Genealogy meetings are held at Ebtech 559 Exmouth
 * Windows meeting are held at Grace United Church, 990 Cathcart
 * General Meetings are held at St. Bartholmew,s Church, 718 Cathcart Blvd.

**SCUG Members can
 ADVERTISE
 here for
 FREE**

FOR SALE

- Sony Corless Headphones -
- Creative MP3 External Sound Card (USB)
- 4 speed CD recorder - Lexmark color printer
- 8.5 x 14 inch paper

Norm - 542-5757
 pr@scug.ca

Have a great summer and see you in the fall!!!



Don't forget Hobbyfest July 18th.