



# NACC

NEW AGE COMPUTER CLUB

*Bits and Bytes*

*Newsletter*

*Online*

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*Editor*  
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# HOLIDAY EDITION

# NACC

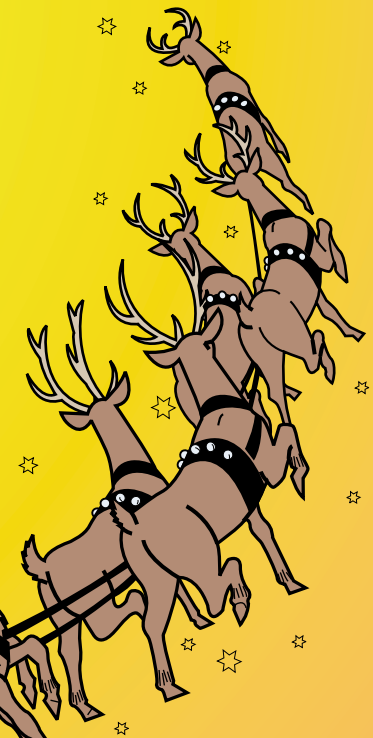


*Hannukkah*

## New Age Computer Club

## December 2001

# Bits-and-Bytes Newsletter



Volume 1, Number 6, NACC 2001

## NACC On The Internet :

**Website:** <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit>

**Newsletter (PDF) Online:** <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit/NewAge6.pdf>

**Internet SIG Website:** <http://come.to/lvcg>

**Newsletter Totally Created In CorelDraw9**





# It's A New Age

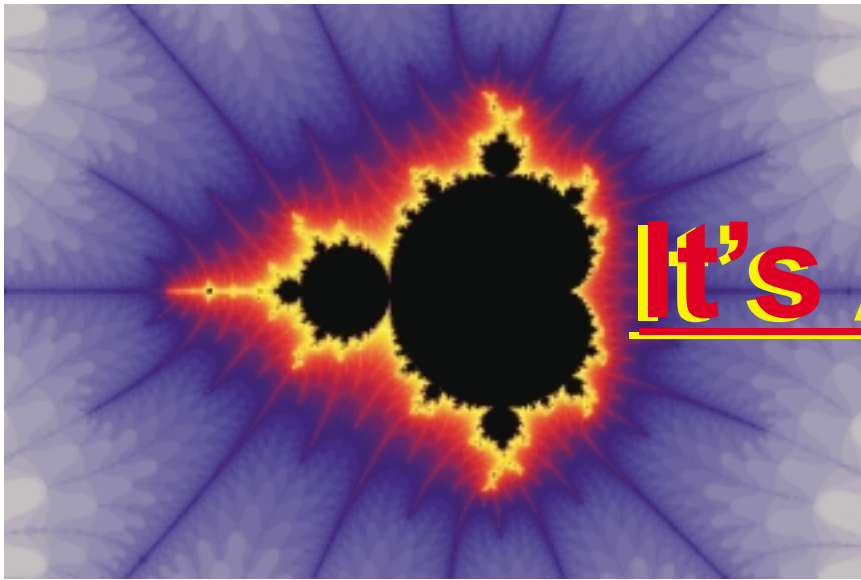
## Why The New Age Computer Club (NACC) Is Free by Val Scarcia, Editor [mrval@rcn.com](mailto:mrval@rcn.com)

I have been editor of many newsletters, and I am glad to be affiliated with the NACC and its openness. Since we can offer everyone a FREE newsletter, we do not require dues. Dues originated with most clubs to pay for the costs of newsletters. However, with the advent of the Internet, this has all changed. We offer our members a FREE color newsletter monthly that is easily downloaded from our website in standard PDF (Portable Document Format). Many senior citizens on fixed incomes who are retired today are not looking for additional annual expenses such as dues. We have not created appointed officers and treasurers to collect and justify dues. We do not try to remind our members how much we are doing for them, since we are all equal.



The NACC has FREE access to many professional meeting places which include libraries, churches, schools, etc. All our members have individual talents. Many are professional college graduates who are certified in scientific areas and teaching. Many have taken post graduate college courses and hold advanced degrees as well. Some are hobbyists, many are successful businessmen, many are past successful officers of other clubs and groups. We do not believe the meeting place is the most important thing for our club. The most important ingredient is the content of the material, and how it is approached and explained. We are not trying to build grandiose temples or shrines around us. Good meetings begin anywhere.

In addition to our successful diner meetings, I have obtained the Whitehall Library for us starting on September 19, 2001, which also includes the first Wednesday of the month for the rest of this year. This area lends itself to demonstrations and input. Please send us articles of interest of your choice for publication in our color electronic NACC newsletter. We look forward to hearing from you.



# It's A New Age

The New Age Computer Club has been a natural formation for those who have given many thousands of hours of their time to other nonprofit groups and clubs

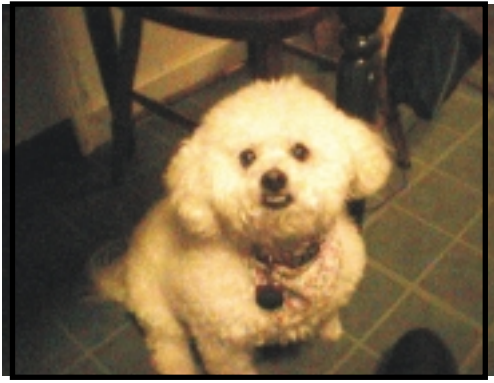
in the area, and find themselves without a place to be. Some of these people were founders of groups they are not part of today. The changing technologies and constant change in our society is producing people who believe "newer" is always better, and change for the sake of change is always the answer. It is becoming a world without history, a country without tradition, and limited insight. As computer hardware and software change by the minute, as new cars roll-off the assembly lines with new models annually, a subconscious vision is created that everything should change. The people changing everything don't even understand why they are doing it. It has become a national mantra. People keep changing everything just for the sake of change. Constant change will eventually bring a collapse, and scattering of efforts. Never forget, a nuclear bomb also works on the principle of a high rate of change!

The New Age Computer Club is a small group of friends getting together socially to have fun, and share ideas. We are not in competition with anyone else or any of the other fine clubs in the area. We do not require any dues or membership fees. We do not have any officers in our club, and hope we never will. We are not going out of our way to solicit members, and everyone is welcome. Growing to any specific number of members is not our purpose. All of us are equal, and we look to run the group as democratically as possible. This club will create the individual free-space needed for creative expression. We want different members to chair our monthly informal meetings creating an equanimity among all of us. We feel in this Information Age we can easily supply our group's needs without any monetary charges. We have our webpage up at <http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit> which is FREE.

We look forward to listening to everyone's views and interests. We will float in "free-space" for awhile before we get a full grasp of each other. We will have on-the-fly monthly meetings, and every member will get notified via e-mail. If you have interest, make sure you are on our e-mail list. We will strive to keep our outlooks high and provide the intellectual stimulation that is necessary in understanding science and computing today. But most of all, we need to understand and be respectful of each other, and realize we are all the result of all the past efforts of many others, better known as tradition and history.

Bill Pryor,  
[bill@sos-prod.com](mailto:bill@sos-prod.com)





## BREAKING NEWS



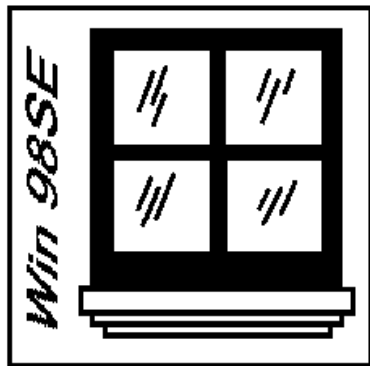
# A View From The Top

The NACC has formed a new relationship with the Computer Educational Society of Philadelphia (CESOP). They were impressed with our members, newsletter articles, as well as our website, and want to share resources with us. They have over a 100 members, nice website at (<http://www.cesop.org>); they issue a monthly published newsletter as well as a PDF online one; they just purchased a \$4,500 dollar projector for meetings. They have been a longtime advocate and supporter of the yearly Trenton Computer Festival. They are APCUG members. They do not charge membership dues either. They are completely 501C, and want to help us in anyway possible. Since the NACC is only months old, we are flattered having a fine established club to help us. They are expanding membership, and many of their members enjoy us, and want to work with us. This could be an advantage for the NACC too, since their members could attend our meetings also! We are welcome to share their resources and attend their meetings and workshops! A special thanks to everyone for support of our new NACC club!

Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

# New Age Computer Club

## NACC



# WINDOWS

## Thru the Window Pain !! by John Scott

Windows XP 🖱️ AMD continues to kick Intel's butt. Cheap computers! Dream Machine

**PC** World benchmark tests show that Windows XP is the slowest version of Windows yet.

Also if you do want to improve performance you can go to Intel's web site and download drivers for most of your hardware components. Also, reports from ask Sam and other newgroups indicate incompatibilities and have received requests for fixes. Who needs it?

**AMD** continues to kick Intel's butt. Their 1800 processor operating at 1.53 GHz slightly edges out Intels 2 GHz chip. AMD's 1800 performance designation indicates the chip is equivalent to an 1.8 GHz chip speed. AMD chips are significantly cheaper and use the cheaper SDRAM at 200 MHz bus speed.

**T**wo years ago I bought a new Dell 550 MHz system without a monitor for \$2200. Today you can get a monster system with a monitor for about half that! For example, Circuit City (I probably wouldn't buy a computer there) has a Compaq system (I probably wouldn't buy a Compaq) with the following: AMD Athlon XP Processor 1800, with 1.0 GB SDRAM, 100 GB UltraDMA Hard Drive, network card, CDR drive, DVD drive, 17" Flat Screen Monitor, and an Injet printer. The price \$1700. A similar system from MicronPC is \$2700. The \$1000 difference anybody's guess. Some of it is probably mostly integrated motherboard on the Compaq. That means the video in on the mother board and probably uses or shares the main memory. The sound, modem and other functions may also be on the mother board. The only problem I have with that is separate cards usually have much better performance.

**W**ant a Dream Machine? Have money to burn? Try this DELL system:

Dell Dimension 8200 Pentium® 4 Processor at 1.9 GHz; 1GB PC800 RDRAM; 80GB Ultra ATA/100 Hard Drive; 16X Max Variable DVD-Rom Drive; 24x/10x/40x CD-RW Drive with Roxio's Easy CD Creator®; 64MB DDR NVIDIA GeForce3 Ti 200 Graphics Card with DVI; 17 in (16.0 in viewable, .26DP) M781s Monitor; Turtle Beach Santa Cruz DSP Sound Card; 10/100 PCI Fast Ethernet NIC; 56K Telephony Modem for Windows® XP; APC SURGESTATION PRO8T2; Premium Dell Movie Studio Bundle for Windows XP; 3Yr Ltd. Warranty- 3Yrs At-Home Service + Lifetime Phone Support. PRICE: **\$2,915.00**



# Dying Support for Microsoft Operating Systems

Florian and Dr. Sue Janoski,  
fjanlis@ptd.net

bill@sos-prod.com  
SubjectFYISupport for Win9x  
Cc: fjanlis@ptd.net



<http://www.gameboomers.com/ubboard/Forum2/HTML/006473.html>

The following was posted in the alt.msos newsgroup recently, though it affects Win 95 users as well as DOS users. And it shows what's coming in 6 months for Win 98 and ME too. And in 3 years, you probably won't be able to reinstall XP anymore, since installation needs the OK from Microsoft.

(excerpted from the most recent LangaList)

## 1) Don't Shoot The Messenger!

A number of readers have been dismayed at the amount of our recent XP coverage, even though I tried to explain in <http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2001/2001-10-29.htm#1> that ...the release of XP is momentous not only because it's a new version of Windows, but because it also represents the end of the line for Windows 9x....

That's not a figurative "end of the line" Starting \*NEXT MONTH,\* Microsoft will begin pulling the plug on support for Win9x. Support, you see, is an expense for Microsoft. It can maximize its profits by shutting down support for older products and pushing everyone towards buying newer, supported Microsoft products.

We've covered this momentous change earlier in the newsletter--- indeed, it's one of the main reasons underlying our XP coverage--- but I guess it slipped by many readers. So let me be as clear as possible Next month (December 2001) Microsoft will cease to provide support for MS DOS, Windows 3.xx, and Windows NT 3.5x; and support will become limited for Win95, Win95 OSR1 and Win95 OSR2.

Seven months from now, in June 2002, Microsoft will cease to provide full support for Win98, Win98SE, and WinNT4.x. That's right Starting next month and ending next June, the overwhelming majority of current Windows users will find themselves operating OS versions that the vendor -- Microsoft--- either doesn't support, or only partially supports!

As we discussed in this newsletter as far back as last August, Microsoft has moved to a standard 3-year product lifecycle now That's all you can expect to get by way of formal support from Microsoft for \*all\* their products. (There's also a limited "extended support" available for one year after after the mainstream support shuts down; this looks as if it will be mainly "paid support" on a per-call basis.)

As the first part of moving to this new support model, Microsoft is playing "catch up" with a bunch of older products, phasing out their support almost all at once By Microsoft's decision, Win98, 95 and 3.x, plus NT 3 and 4, and DOS, have all more or less simultaneously reached the end of their support lifetimes.

This has enormous implications for the entire computer industry, and indeed for every user of Microsoft products. For one thing, it means that users of these products need to get their systems in good order and fully backed up SOON so that these systems can become more or less self-contained as official Microsoft support dries up.

If you use Ghost or Drive Image or a similar tool and make a copy of your system when it's as lean, clean, patched, and optimized as you can get it, you'll always be able to get back to that perfect setup whenever you need to in the future.

But if you don't want to make disk images, then it might be a good idea to download all the various patches, service packs and updates that are available for your OS, and keep these downloads handy so you can reinstall them from your hard drive or a backup CD or tape, as needed, in the future.

Next month (December 2001) Microsoft will cease to provide support for MS DOS, Windows 3.xx, and...

That means all support pages, downloads, knowledge base articles, etc will soon be gone. So if you need stuff like MSCLIENT, updates, patches, supplemental utilities or anything else, the time is NOW. Get it while you still can.

# BINARY CODE

by Bill Pryor

December 1, 2001



I hope everyone realizes that PCs all currently run on binary code, that is, strings of ones and zeros, with on and off switching. Releasing a new Windows operating system by Microsoft every hour, does not change this basic fact. All Windows versions since Windows 3x have GUI or graphical interfaces (pictures) running code underneath, ultimately binary code.

The CPU (central processing unit), the brains of the PC, runs on binary code or machine language. Any program or operating system has to be converted to binary code for the computer to run, and the operating system to function. Windows, DOS, CPM run over the binary code or machine language.

Just running Windows and clicking on a lot of pictures and icons does not lead to the understanding of the operation of the computer. It just places you under the control of a Microsoft mantra that would like you to forget what is really happening, so they can then sell you another operating system tomorrow! If you learn everything in a Windows program, you are learning a proprietary structure-format, and nothing more. Every new Windows operating system Microsoft has is newer and better than ever. Slowly, the operating system incorporates the independent and original work of others like sound files and browsers, however, now with Microsoft names and versions. To a great extent, the newer operating systems really just have a few more utilities.

Operating systems and software are written by programmers using programming language. Programmers do not use machine code to write Windows. They use a "higher" level language (C++) that includes words, letters and command symbols. Languages are developed because the human mind can not deal directly with numbers, and numbers only, like binary, when programming. The finished program is called source code which is not directly binary. The source code is then compiled into object code or machine language which is completely binary. Even assembler language is not completely binary, it contains letter commands. Most programmers never touch the binary or machine code language, since it's all numbers, ones and zeros. It's the machine code that is doing the real operation of the computer system, and NOT the operating system which is many layers above the binary or machine code.

Believe it or not, the majority of programmers using the "higher language" most often know nothing about the machine or binary codes running the computer!

My brother-in-law used fortran and assembler language in the mid 1970s on projects that had no operating system. He wrote the programs on punch cards; there were no keyboards or monitors, and what you saw was a printed final result. The binary or machine language had to match the processor, which in those days were only IBM CPUs. He had a map of the registries in the processor and wrote the code directly into the processor using assembler language. Each program run was dynamic and individual, every time a program was finished it was released and vanquished from the entire system. The punch cards were the data, and were saved in a IBM file cabinet in a paper folder (today, it would be on a hard drive). This was before DOS, and the IBM XT. Too many basics are hidden in Windows which make users beholden to Microsoft forever.

Many individuals pride themselves in learning Windows machinations which are very proprietary and induces them to continually purchase the latest operating system which is entirely graphical. Microsoft continually threatens not to support the older Windows versions, including DOS. I still have three older computers at work running on Windows 3.1 using programs such as WordPerfect 5.0 and 6.1, Lotus, CorelDraw 3.0, and WinFax Pro, for the last eight years; they are on everyday, and I do not remember them hardly crashing--if Microsoft does not support this, so what!

There are many advantages to a Windows operating system that we all benefit by whether the versions are new or old, however, the commonality of binary makes them all very much alike!





Val Scarcia  
mrval@rcn.com



# Microsoft Wants Your Children

November 29, 2001

Apparently, Apple isn't happy with Microsoft's proposal to give \$1 billion in software, training and support to pre-high-schools as a settlement in private antitrust suits against Microsoft. Well, holy cow, what a huge surprise! Stop the presses; kiss your loved ones goodbye. Lucifer is turning up the thermostat -- as if we all couldn't have predicted this reaction.

Sarcasm aside, it's quite understandable why Apple isn't thrilled with this proposal. Youth education (K-8th grade) is still one of the company's strongest sellers. Unfortunately for Apple, school districts do not have a tremendous amount of capital to spend, nor do they tend to overlook free gifts. So if Microsoft gives away a ton of products, schools are going to be quite willing to accept them -- and that means replacing Macs with Windows PCs. This benevolence extends Microsoft's monopolistic practices, just without any technological advantage. And, it may end up costing schools even more money over the years, once you factor in the costs of support and additional hardware and software upgrades. Think about it. Every time a new version of Office comes out, it seems to cost customers a mint.

Microsoft's punishment in the antitrust case would end up strengthening it in the education and home markets. The company's lawyers and executives who came up with this proposal clearly had to be aware of this effect. Let's not kid ourselves here, Microsoft's proposal is literally spitting on the legal system. Apple has always had a strong presence in education. While not as large today as it was back in the early 1990s, the company is still strong. I got started on the Mac platform in school, and it influenced my decision to buy a Mac for my home. This trickle down effect has helped Apple get more sales in the home market.

I know what some people are going to say "Macs don't teach you how to use computers and the major corporate operating systems, so we're putting kids at a disadvantage." Let's look at this for a moment. First off, I'm sick of people claiming that Windows teaches you how a computer really works. That's just plain bull. The operating system doesn't teach you anything. You learn no more about computers using Linux than you do using a TI-82. It all depends on how much research and happy hacking you want to do. How about offering a class in computer architecture? That would teach kids of all ages what they need to know.

I'm of the opinion that computers are being greatly misused in classrooms; they seem to have been added as an after-thought to the lesson plans. I've also seen teachers use PowerPoint for lectures, where a blackboard would have worked better.

Secondly, many people -- including children -- find it easy to switch to a Windows interface after getting some exposure to a different GUI. Once you learn the basics of GUI themes (directories, point and click, menus and so forth), it's easier to transition to Windows than it is to learn Windows from scratch, head-on full blast. A number of school districts use Macs in elementary and secondary schools, only to switch students to Windows in high schools. Windows tends to be more widely used at the college level, too. Microsoft's proposal would spell Windows everywhere. Yep, that's a great idea. Here's a better one. Give schools \$1 billion to purchase Macs (or, to be fair, Linux), some of which may be spent on Office for Mac (which, in my opinion, is one of Microsoft's decent products).

You don't punish thieves by giving them money; you shouldn't punish Microsoft by helping it get inroads in an area where other players are succeeding. If Apple loses education, the company may lose its specialized markets like art, video production and desktop publishing. What happens in 10 years if someone has only been exposed to one system for all of his or her youth? Think this only affects Apple? Nope. What about the other alternate OSes like Linux and FreeBSD? Exposure to different systems expands perspectives. Nice try Microsoft, now why don't you give us a \*REAL\* proposal that doesn't enhance your monopoly.

Reality Check Despite the negative tone toward Microsoft in this Buzz Cut, it has no effect on our comparative reviews. In reviews, it is critical for a reviewer to put aside personal opinions and judge on whose technology is the best. Just because I don't like Microsoft's business practices, does not mean I will skew a review to cause the company to lose. I've seen journalists with agendas spin stories and reviews for their own agendas (and not just in the computer industry, but mainstream press, too). We don't do that at Network Computing, and any publication or writer who does should be put out of the media for good.

**Internet Meeting December 10, 2001, 730 PM**  
**Christmas Party, FREE Food and Drinks, Software Raffles and T-shirts**  
**by Bill Pryor**



**Evening Program:**

**Internet SIG Meeting Browsers, E-Mail, PDF, and Artificial Intelligence (AI)**  
**December 10, 2001 at Lanta Public Meeting Room, 730PM**

For those of you new to computers and the Internet who are attending our meetings, I want to go over again Eudora E-Mail (attachments and HTML), Browsers Netscape and Internet Explorer. And touch on webpage creation for those of you that have expressed interest in this area. In the beginning, I always like to keep things as simple and powerful as I can. I may be naive, but I have always viewed webpage creation as easy, especially with what is available for all of us to use today.

*I believe in all art and design that layout is the most important aspect.* Whether you are using CorelPhoto Paint, Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Paint Shop Pro, Micrografx Designer, CorelDraw, Microsoft Word, the programs you are using are minor. I have run across too many people professionally and everyday, who know how to use programs correctly but turnout meager results. There are tons of ways to create webpages, newsletters, brochures, labels, banners, business cards, photographs, catalogs, etc. The programs are endless. Art of course is not something we can all agree on, but is individual in many respects. Great art is totally individual. And of course, we are aware and respectful that all people have different visions of what art is. I will never criticize anybody's art. *I am most interested in imagination and creativity.* This is what makes interesting art possible.

I have created a webpage for educational purposes embellished with all sorts of "doodads" to show technical effects with a program called Homestead at <http://www.homestead.com>. This, in my opinion, is the simplest and most powerful way to get webpages started. This program has been acclaimed by PC World, PC Magazine, The Wall Street Journal, and is listed as one of the top 100 websites by PC Magazine (none of this is really important, but is a fact). If you have time before our up and coming meeting, play around and create a webpage using Homestead, so we can have some fun at our December Meeting. We have some accomplished people in our club that have created nice webpages, and have web experience, and we welcome your input. To get started Bill Pryor style, I have created a homepage montage at the following URL address on the Internet, and it is up and running at <http://billpryor.homestead.com>

The program is amazing. I just randomly used a few of the program's features, and there are many I have not even touched on. To get started you do not have to know HTML, XML or worry about FTP uploading. The program is completely run out of your Netscape or Internet Explorer browser using JAVA applets, which means the program is downloaded automatically and your page creations are uploaded to the Homestead site as you create them, and are stored there on their server automatically! The version I used is completely FREE. Once you create your personal page, you get an automatic URL address like the one I got. The site is automatically uploaded with an Internet address, ready to go! This is "one-step" computing, and this is where all computing on the Internet is headed.

We will also go into the Adobe PDF format which I have been using to create newsletters for years.

Time permitting, I want to get us into Artificial Intelligence (AI), and how machine type computer intelligence is being transferred to human beings. I plan to do this with video tape, the Internet, and other data.

The changes in the world of computing, technology, and science have made our world more interesting and more vibrant than ever. You will be witnessing a vast expansion in the Internet SIG group topics this coming year. Since everything is Internet related, we will tackle many interesting areas we have not explored before. Look forward to seeing you at our meetings!

**Bill Pryor, Internet SIG Coordinator, K2ROH**

**<http://www.enter.net/~lvcgi>,**

**<http://come.to/lvcg>**

**<http://billpryor.homestead.com>**

**<http://www.angelfire.com/geek/bitbybit>**

**Internet Homepage**

**Internet Homepage**

**Demo Homepage**

**NACC Homepage**

## Yoda Will Attend Our First Internet SIG Christmas Party



Yoda has been using the Internet for about 500 years. Where he lives, Ion Propulsion, Quantum Computing, Holographic Storage, and Time travel have been taking place for centuries. Yoda's friends and relatives have life spans around a 1000 years. Using Light Compression Technology (LCT), Yoda is able to travel many times the speed of light. (LCT is very much like WinZip, except it is applied to photons of light). Yoda was never married, and has been the centerfold for Cosmopolitan Magazine quite a few times. He is not a full member of the LVCG, since he has never been here before, and never paid his dues. Yoda believes imagination and creativity are more important than knowledge.

Yoda of Star Wars, light years away, is traveling to make this meeting. If he finds a wormhole, and can pass into this galaxy, he will be here too.

Yoda, a Jedi master, is over 900 years old .

**May the force of the Internet be with you.**

**Join us Dec 10, 2001 at 730 PM at the LANTA Public Meeting Room for our 1st annual Internet Christmas Party with FREE refreshments and drinks. We will be raffling off FREE computer T-shirts, and new Microsoft software. Join us for a memorable evening of fun, entertainment, along with a full fledged evening program to follow.**

Bill Pryor, Internet SIG Coordinator, K2ROH

<http://www.enter.net/~lvcgi>

<http://come.to/lvcg>

<http://billpryor.homestead.com>



# Pop Up Stopper



Bill Pryor

**Tired of JAVA Pop Ups while surfing the Internet? Here is a great little Utility submitted to me by Tom Burke of CESOP. Thanks to him, I use it all the time now, and it's great!**

**For some reason, the older, non-posted version runs the best, i.e PopUpStopper 2.4**

**You can download it from our server at:**

**<http://www.enter.net/~lvcgi/PopUpStopper24.exe>**

**Walt Mossberg of The Wall Street Journal** - "Effective in stopping pop-up windows, including the X10-type pop-under windows." June 14, 2001 edition

**The Clark Howard radio show says** - "Are you annoyed by pop-up Internet ads? Stop the intrusion! Order a free software program called the Pop-up Stopper."

**Time Magazine** - "Pop-Up Stopper from Panicware is a simple pleasure." September 10, 2001 edition

**USA TODAY.com** - "A virtual godsend."

## **Pop-Up Stopper - FREE Version**

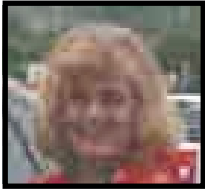
Pop-Up Stopper - FREE version is a completely FREE product that is not spyware or adware. This product runs as a system tray icon next to your system clock.

Eliminate Internet Explorer and Netscape 4.x pop-up windows without adjusting proxy settings.

- Play a sound to notify you when a pop-up has been blocked
- Stop pop-under windows, such as X10 pop-ups
- Save Bandwidth by never even loading pop-ups
- Now even easier to Install and configure, and easier to control - read our [Online Help](#) before you download!
- **Protect children** from inappropriate material in pop-ups

Supports Internet Explorer 5.x - 6.x and Netscape 4.x  
Windows 95, 98, 98SE, ME, NT or 2000

## **NutraSweet by Fran Pryor, [fran@tjburke.com](mailto:fran@tjburke.com)**



I read that the formula for NutraSweet started as a chemical to be used by the military for chemical warfare. This was in the 50's. Later, it was going to be used as bug poison (the patent for NutraSweet is currently owned by Monsanto - a company famous for its line of pesticides). It was accidentally discovered to be sweet, so the formula was diluted and mysteriously made it through the FDA at a rate of 20 times faster than it takes other products. There have been piles of

rumors and some lame confirmations on the FDA taking heaps of cash under the table in return for these "favors". The FDA director suddenly "resigned" and went to work for the NutraSweet public relations company. (Diet Pepsi, Coke, all sugar-free gums, yogurt, ice-cream, etc. have NutraSweet in them).

In the meantime, there have been scads of reports that show that NutraSweet is not fit for human consumption and continued rumors of the palms being greased at the FDA. 72% of consumer complaints at the FDA are related to aspartame (NutraSweet).

NutraSweet gives my wife terrible headaches. Here's a post I found on a low carb mailing list From Barbara Watkins

Just a note about aspartame sweetener. Everyone must make own choice of course but thought I would post story about what happened to my Aunt. She gradually became very ill. Got weaker and weaker with general fatigue and headaches. Eventually was bedfast and couldn't walk due to extreme weakness in calf muscles of legs. Went to doc after doc, none could dx what was causing trouble. Finally went to neurologist and when she described symptoms, first thing he did was to ask if she used aspartame, maybe drink lots diet sodas? She replied that she usually drank about one a day. He said stop immediately! She got well. Obviously not everyone has this reaction to aspartame but just posted this to show it can have powerful effects.

## **SubjectWinter Solstice Webcasts from Neolithic Maeshowe Site Dr. Sue Janoski, [fjanlis@ptd.net](mailto:fjanlis@ptd.net)**

Hi All!

I first became aware of this neolithic site when reading "Uriel's Machine" by Christopher Knight which discusses two possible comet strikes on the Earth around 6000 and 3000 BCE and their literary echoes in the apocalyptic writing of the Book of Enoch and the Flood stories of the Old Testament and other ancient texts.

Please forward this message to your friends who are astronomy or archaeology buffs or to young students; I think they will enjoy these webcasts which should begin late next week.  
Merry Solstice!

Sue J

\*\*\*\*\*

<http://www.maeshowe.co.uk/>

With the completion of its fourth year in January 2001 this Internet broadcast from Orkney's 5,000 year-old Neolithic chambered cairn remains unique. There are many photographs of the winter solstice event, and related reappearances of the sun behind the Hoy Hills as well as of other Neolithic monuments in Orkney on the links below.

Historic Scotland has now given official permission for the event which will be assisted by Highland Park this year. It is planned to again have three cameras broadcasting images from inside and outside of Maeshowe and the site will be regularly updated with images and information about Maeshowe and Neolithic Orkney.

Latest - This webcam site will be up and running on or before 1st December 2001 with three cameras broadcasting daily from Maeshowe. New still pictures from Maeshowe and from Orkney's winter solstice will be added as and when they are available.

When the cameras are installed images will be uploaded from 0900 to 1600 each day[GMT][300am to 1000am EST]. The links below are under construction and are here for testing purposes. Set up at Maeshowe will be during the week beginning 26th November.



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Alert! Alert! A sampler of E-Mail Alert Services offers a comprehensive library of E-Mail alerts that will keep you updated in the following subject areas: Fun, Business, Science/Health, Web Watchers, News Alerts, Government, Environment, What's New, News Services, Nonprofits, Politics, Alert Updates, Arts, Law and Computing. Design your personal current awareness program.

Amazon.com BookMatcher Amazon.com Books Eyes and Editor track every newly released book, author\_by\_author and subject\_by\_subject. This automated searcher will send you updates of new releases by a favorite author or on a specific subject.

BlackWidow BlackWidow will scan a web site and present found files in an Explorer-like window and lets you retrieve any files associated with the site. It also features resumable downloads for those hard to get files. It is compatible with both HTML and HTTPS server types. Black Widow is an off-line browser, a site scanner, a site mapping tool and a "site\_ripper".

BusinessVue BusinessVue makes it easy to integrate the Internet into your hectic business schedule. With its constant, up to the minute feed of filtered data from the Internet \_ corporate profiles, news and press announcements, SEC filings, forums postings, Web addresses and pages, and much more \_ BusinessVue provides a fast way to stay up to date on important, breaking online information.

C4U NEW C4U is an innovative software that constantly monitors your favorite websites, locates new data and present it to you highlighted.

ChangeTracker This application is an effective demonstration of WisoSoftCom's Web site monitoring. Features preset sites to track, primarily in German.

CyberAlert CyberAlert \_ Internet monitoring and alert service for market intelligence. CyberAlert(tm) is an online radar and market intelligence system to monitor the Internet \_ seeking out, tracking and managing information put on the Internet about your company and its products by others. The CyberAlert Internet monitoring system delivers daily alerts that list and hot link all new "clips" found in Web sites, News Groups, and ListServ Discussion Groups that refer to your company or its products, services, brands, and trademarks.

Do\_I\_Care Agent The Do\_I\_Care Agent (DICA) provides a solution to the resource re\_discovery problem on the Web. There is no easy way, once you've found an interesting site, to know when new and interesting material will show up. For example, you may want to know about a new and interesting paper by a colleague. Or you may want to know about airplane ticket sales. You don't want to know about minor changes you want to know when an airfare sale occurs. DICA solves this problem. It does so by periodically visiting the site \_ but it lets the user know only when something interesting has occurred. It does this through a machine learning engine, which the user can train to know what is interesting to her.

Dr\_Link Dr\_Link (Document Retrieval Linguistic Knowledge) \_ the online document retrieval and analysis service for instant and effective data mining. Use the visualization and document alerting tools for knowledge management and discovery.



# TID BITS (continued)

**eCatch** This French offline navigator allows previous day searches (bookmarks) of web sites, manages addresses, search engines, and latest updates to pages and other significant points.

**EDEM** Expectation\_Driven Event Monitoring (EDEM) provides developers with a platform for creating software agents to collect usability data and increase user involvement in the evolution of interactive systems. EDEM collects information that is currently lost regarding actual usage of applications to promote a more empirically grounded design process.

**Enfish Tracker Pro** Working like an automatic assistant, Enfish Tracker Pro continuously monitors all your information sources simultaneously and actually reads everything for you. It finds, cross\_references, prioritizes and displays all relevant emails, Web pages, and files in an organized environment where you can view them instantly including graphics and work with them effectively. Plus, it alerts you to any relevant new information you may have missed...all automatically.

**FirstFloor** FirstFloor provides a web\_based platform for the integration of documents and web pages into existing applications. Using programmable agents and off\_line browsing, FirstFloor's products address the notification and document delivery challenges facing client/server software developers today.

**FlashSite Index** Lightning Fast Off\_Line Browsing. This site offers Product Information, Tutorial, Reviewer's Guide, Feedback, Chat Area, Thunder Poll, Download Flashsite and FlashSite of the Week.

**InformationMiner4U** InformationMiner4U is designed to conduct an automatic watch on the Web in order to detect changes, appearances or disappearances of information. Everytime something happens, according to predefined parameters, it sends an email with summarized information.

**InfoTicker** InfoTicker(tm) is a simple Java personal agent which allows you to gather, parse, and monitor Internet content in real time. It polls the net with your interests at regular intervals and summarizes the results in one place. Place InfoTicker in the corner of your screen, enter what you're interested in, and glance at it every once in a while to see what's up \_ or be notified by an alert window.

**Intermind Communicator** The Intermind Communicator is a new communications system that makes it easy for you to anonymously receive just the information you want from the World Wide Web and publish customizable content from your web site with Hyperconnectors to build on\_going relationships with your subscribers.

**iTrack** iTrack watches online auction sites like OnSale, Yahoo auctions, Amazon auctions and others on a daily basis for items you specify. If it finds the items you were looking for, iTrack sends you an Email alert, free of charge. Detail exactly what you're looking for and iTrack automatically watches for those items and sends an email immediately so you can make a bid. More auction sites will be added over time. Published by Intuitive Systems.

**javElink** javElink is a complete web page change monitoring service....you simply list the web pages you want monitored and javElink reviews every page, every day. Whenever you want from work, home, or the road \_ you can log on to your private checklist. It shows which pages changed and how much. Or, see a "thumbnail" view of any page with recent changes highlighted.

**Katipo** Katipo finds any documents that have changed since the last time you viewed them. It writes a report file which you read with your Web browser that lists these documents in a format which allows you to easily visit them. Katipo uses a special feature of the Web which allows it to check for changes without loading the whole document, so it is efficient. Katipo does not download any documents, it just checks their characteristics.

**Morning Paper** Morning Paper automatically visits your favorite web sites every so often to find out what's new, and presents a summary of what's new on each page as part of a "newspaper" which it displays in your web browser. If you are like us, there are lots of web sites you like, but never remember to visit. Morning paper will keep you up to date on what's new and interesting, and provides convenient links for you to visit the pages that have changed in order to get the juicy details!



George and his Wife  
model Patti Boyd.



## George Harrison 1943-2001

George Harrison, great musician, song writer, and person. Member of the greatest rock band of the 20th Century, The Beatles. Wrote song greats: Something, My Guitar Gently Weeps, Here Comes The Sun.

Revolutionized and changed music forever. Originality at its finest. Set hairstyles and dress trends. Was real fun to live in the 1960s. The fab four from Liverpool had little formal musical training, just talent!.

The Beatles were god back then!



# AMI | PRO

by Bill Pryor



Ami Pro Word Processor  
by Bill Pryor

November 25, 2001

It was 1993 when Jeff Yockers, past LVCG President, introduced me to Ami Pro 3.0, and man, what a revolutionary program this was! In fact, I am typing this whole article out on it right now!

Imagine how backward I am, here it is almost 2002, and I am using a Word Processor version published in 1992! Ami Pro 3.0 is a powerful word processor borrowing from many of the DOS features of Word Perfect 5.0 which were then windowized into Windows 3.1. In fact, many of you might not realize, Microsoft Word is really an incarnation of Ami Pro. For history's sake, it was Samna Corporation, and cool original programmers who first knocked-out this one, then Lotus bought them, and then Microsoft, realizing how good this program was, put out a version known as Microsoft Word.

Ami Pro set the stage for all the current WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) Windows word processors. Past LVCG Newsletters were composed in Ami Pro, as you can draw, setup styles (templates), as well as import graphics and borders. Ami Pro has a wonderful array of what is called Smart Icons at the top of the program which can be tailored to each individual's use. Ami Pro makes beautiful use of all Windows TTF (True Type Fonts), and is very stable. It hardly ever crashes. The program is small, concise, and beautifully written. Ami Pro has some great FAX templates I have never seen duplicated in design---they are simple and beautiful! Ami Pro has great addressing and mail features when mailing and sorting many letters. You can create tables, check spelling and grammar, sort, use frame layouts, initiate graphic scaling, draw, use the built in Thesaurus, center, bold, italicize, underline, merge, cut, etc. Ami Pro can run on Windows 3.1, Win 95 (both versions), Win 98, and uses low-end, common hardware: 386, 486 running Windows 3x with 2 megs of RAM. No one hardly uses the program anymore, and you can get it at a show or auction probably for a dollar or less!

I like the simplicity of Ami Pro; it is great for everyday writing since it's so simple, friendly, and stable, and contains no annoying features you will never use. I hope no one believes that the more built-in features your word processing program has, the better your writing will be-- nothing could be further from the truth. Creating interesting content and style still starts with the writer.

My hats off to Ami Pro and the originality of its designers that set the standards for Windows word processing.



February 1971

# World On A Page

by Bill Pryor

Today the world is heaven  
In your hand,

The song and music of the world is  
You,

Everything has been written  
And placed,

Arranged and ordered  
Like a world on a page  
Where there is no writing,

Where the word cloud is  
The cloud itself,

The violet,  
The violet blooming,

On a page whose objects are never final,  
Transforms all into another day,  
On a never final, never ending day,

The book turns, turns its blue pages  
Into green summers, turns the fathers into grandfathers,  
Returns the once children to the rain in clouds,

And the pages disappear into eternity,  
Where each day is precisely written  
In the vast analogue of nowhere

Copyright Feb 1971  
by Bill Pryor





## The Origins of Cloning

### *Bill Pryor, Unplugged*



Ever notice how our society is in love with clones? A clone is a carbon copy, an exact reproduction of an item or object that possesses the identical traits of the original. When Henry Ford wanted to make the first inexpensive car that everyone could afford, he started a process known as mass production to manufacture Model-T Fords--he produced clones that everyone could afford, turning out identical cars off his assembly line.

When we use and manipulate the English language, we are depending on the clones of letters to make words, and the clones of words now in the dictionary, to make sentences. The repetition of letters creates words, and the words create sentences. The character sets on typewriters, printing presses, and word processors are clones of predetermined symbols, such as True Type Fonts. When the word symbols begin to include atomic and molecular structures, and applied in scientific fashion, we begin to get clones of molecules which can then be applied to chemistry, biology and genetics. We can then replicate frogs, mice, and people.

When we are using a copy or fax machine we are cloning. When we read the morning newspaper we are reading one of identically cloned newspapers all over the country saying the same thing, like USA Today. When we watch TV and the president gives an address to the nation, he is cloned on over 100,000,000 televisions. When we view a World Wide Web site on the Internet, it is a duplication of the original. When a particular text book is written, and distributed to schools and colleges on any discipline, all the cloned books are saying the same thing. When we buy an IBM Compatible PC, we call it a clone, since it operates and functions in the same manner as the original.

The above are some of the thoughts going through my mind when I am working in CORELDRAW using the program's "clone" feature. The original object is the "master", and when the original object is cloned, it produces an identical object with similar features; anytime the "master" is changed or altered, all the clones change in the same manner. It is impossible to tell the original from the clone--only the program can identify it.

Fifty million dollars for an original Van Gogh painting?

The uncanny ability to copy documents today including dollar bills, checks, and art make it extremely difficult if not impossible to tell which one was the original.

On the news tonight, all we hear is the cloning of fetuses which will shortly lead to the cloning of human beings. To understand how all cloning started, just reread this article.....

We hope you have enjoyed our Newsletter

