



OTTAWA

PC NEWS

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ARTICLE

Accessing The PUB (part 4) by Chris Taylor

The last time I wrote an *Accessing The PUB* article was way back in December 2003. The PUB is the OPCUG's on-line presence. Although the service has not fundamentally changed, there is one feature of The PUB that I did not cover in the previous articles – using a POP3 email program to send and receive email through The PUB.

One of the benefits of a membership in the OPCUG is that you can get an account on the OPCUG server; The PUB. And once you have an account, you automatically get an email account. One of the nice features of this email account is the multitude of ways in which you can access your mail; web, a special *Wildcat Navigator* client, Telnet, and as described in this article, any POP3 mail client, such as Outlook Express, Eudora, Thunderbird, Windows Mail, or Evolution.

If you are a member in good standing, you can set up an account on The PUB by going to <http://opcug.ca>. Click on *The PUB* in the left frame and then *New User* in the right pane. Follow the prompts to create a new account. Once you have created the account, send an email to sysop@opcug.ca. Once your membership has been verified, your account will be upgraded to *Member* status and you will be able to send and receive email. If you need more details about creating an account, see the October 2003 newsletter at <http://opcug.ca/public/Articles/0310.pdf>.

Before beginning to use a POP3 mail program with your PUB account, there is one configuration change you should do on The PUB. Browse to opcug.ca and log in using the *Log Web* link in the left bar. Then select the option *Personal Properties*. Click the *Messaging* button and set the *Incoming Email Storage Mode* to *Raw Mime Format*. Click the *Save Changes* button at the bottom.

Accounts on The PUB take the form of a two-part name; first name followed by a space followed by the last name. Most account-type identifiers on Internet do not permit spaces and email addresses are no exception. Email addresses on The PUB are in the form `first_name.last_name@opcug.ca`, as in `sam.spade@opcug.ca`

Instructions follow for setting up a PUB email account in Outlook Express, Thunderbird, Windows Mail (in Vista) and Evolution (in Linux). In all cases, I will use an example of setting up for an individual called Sam Spade. If you are familiar with setting up an account in your mail program, here is all the information you need.

Email address: `sam.spade@opcug.ca`
Incoming (POP3) Server: `opcug.ca`
Incoming server port: 110 (this is the default port)
Outgoing (SMTP) Server: `opcug.ca`
Outgoing server port: 587 (note: this is **not** the default but **is** required)
Outbound authentication: required (Sam would enter `sam.spade` with his password)

Setting up a PUB account in Thunderbird

From within Thunderbird, click on *Tools | Account Settings*. Click the *Add Account* button, leave it set to *Email account* and click *Next*. Enter *Sam Spade* in the *Your Name* field and `sam.spade@opcug.ca` in the *Email Address* field. Click *Next*. Leave *incoming server* type set to *POP* and enter `opcug.ca` in the *Incoming Server* field. Choose whether you want email for this account to use your global inbox or not in the lower section of the dialog box. Click *Next*. In the *Incoming User Name* box, enter `sam.spade`. Click *Next*. Enter *OPCUG Mail* for the account name and click *Next*, then *Finish*.

Next you have to configure the server for outbound email. In the *Account Settings* dialog box, at the bottom of the list on the left, click on *Outgoing*

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Next Meeting: **FIRST WEDNESDAY, September 3rd, 2008**

Coming Up...

September 3, 2008
(FIRST Wednesday in September)

Speaker: Gordon Graham, Director of Marketing, Wrapped Apps Corporation (<http://www.wrappedapps.com>)

Topic: Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) and the "ElastX" initiative

Abstract:

The Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) model for software delivery has helped enterprise software vendors reach a wider market of small and medium sized businesses with offerings that are flexible and cost-effective.

For MicroISVs (very small independent software vendors) and shareware authors, the SaaS model can enable them to provide applications on-demand to occasional users or users unable or unwilling to install desktop software, and do it in a manner that eliminates the cost and complexity associated with license key management and processing purchase transactions. Wrapped Apps has launched an initiative called "ElastX" which provides a SaaS-enablement and a SaaS marketplace for MicroISVs.

Gord Graham will describe the lessons learned at Wrapped Apps from five years of SaaS-enabling applications for enterprise ISVs, and how these lessons are being applied in the new ElastX initiative from Wrapped Apps.



Bio:

Gord Graham leads the marketing group at Wrapped Apps, a Kanata-based company that specializes in technology for SaaS-enabling software applications. In previous assignments, Gord managed the sales and marketing departments for an ERP software vendor, a security software vendor, a software reseller, and a company that provided electronic distribution of applications for Microsoft, Adobe, Autodesk and other major ISVs through a network of over 3500 web stores.

With a software development background and over 25 years in the software business, Gord has experienced the recurring trends in software many times, which, he says, has caused him to lose all his hair. He is a graduate of McGill University and the University of Western Ontario.

November 12, 2008

Speaker: Doug Gray, Co-ordinator of the Computer Genealogy SIG of Ontario Genealogical Society (Ottawa Branch)

Topic: computer based tools for the popular hobby of genealogy.

2008 CALENDAR

Meetings	Date	Time and Venue
OPCUG General Meeting	Wednesday, September 3 rd	7:30 p.m. Auditorium of the Canada Museum of Science and Technology , 1867 St. Laurent Blvd. http://www.science-tech.nmstc.ca/english/index.cfm
Beginners' SIG	Wednesday, September 3 rd	Immediately following the OPCUG General Meeting.
IT-Pro SIG	(non-active)	
Linux SIG	Wednesday, September 3 rd	Immediately following the OPCUG General Meeting.
PIG SIG (Wing SIG West)	Wednesday, September 3 rd	10:00 p.m. (after all other SIGs) at Chances "R" restaurant, Baseline Rd. at Woodroffe Ave. (College Square Shopping Centre)
Beer BOF (Wing SIG East)	Wednesday, September 3 rd	10:00 p.m. (after all other SIGs) at Liam Maguire's, St. Laurent Blvd. at Innes Rd.

Please note that unless otherwise noted, SIGs meet at 9:00 p.m. (immediately following the OPCUG General Meeting).

Ottawa Public Library Presentations

by Chris Taylor

As was announced last spring, rather than our traditional fall workshop, we are now giving presentations through the Ottawa Public Library. Last spring Alan German gave one on "Linux 101". I gave presentations on computer security and how to buy a digital camera. All were well attended and the audiences were appreciative.

We hope this will continue to be a win-win situation, where we get to introduce people to the OPCUG and the library gets access to skilled presenters.

This fall, we have another series of presentations scheduled. In all cases, you should register with the library if you would like to attend. There is no fee.

September 25, 7:00 PM, North Gloucester Branch. I will be presenting "How to Secure a Home Wireless Network." Most wireless routers do not default to the most secure configuration. Make sure you are not the "low hanging fruit" that a cracker will decide to attack. It is surprisingly easy to make sure your network is secure.

October 23, 7:00 PM, North Gloucester Branch. Alan German will be presenting "HTML 101." Would you like to be able to create your own web pages? Alan will take you through the basics and get you up to speed.

November 20, 7:00 PM, North Gloucester Branch. Alan German will answer the question "Vista - Is It a Good Thing?" If you have not yet made the leap to Vista, you might be wondering what it offers that another option such as Windows XP or Linux doesn't.

November 24, 6:45 PM, Carlingwood Branch. I will give my "How to Buy a Digital Camera" presentation. With the huge number of choices out there, I will help sort out what features to look for. This will be the same presentation I gave in the spring at the North Gloucester Branch.

For more information about these presentations, you can check the Ottawa Public Library web site at www.bibliottawalibrary.ca/events/todayevent_e.cfm



June Prize Winners

Our door prize winners each took home a copy of the McAfee Internet Security Suite. These were **Gabriel Laszlo, Maurice Duchene, Jacques Jubinville, Alberto Lobato and Mark Stanton.**

The raffle prize copy of Corel Paintshop Pro X2 went home with **Roger Wainright.**

Congratulations to the winners and thanks to the companies for donating the prizes.

CLUB LIFE

Members' Night – May, 2008 *by Alan German*

The club's May meeting featured a series of presentations by members focusing on disk backup and recovery, keyboard short cuts, and a character-based text editor. Chris Taylor kicked off the evening by showcasing TrueImage (<http://www.acronis.com/>), a disk imaging utility program. Chris discussed the importance of backing up data files, more so than files associated with the operating system and applications programs. One can always reload software packages, but our data files are generally irreplaceable. However, reloading the operating system, and reinstalling all the applications, can be very time consuming, so there are good reasons for having an easily retrievable backup of the entire system. This is the beauty of disk imaging. The imaging utility captures everything on the disk partition, and the entire disk can be recovered in one step. There's no need to dig out the original CD's and find all the associated material. The program makes backup and recovery very simple - and relatively fast.

Chris went through a live demonstration of using the backup wizard in TrueImage, from selecting the partition to be imaged, through choosing the storage location for the resulting image file and the available options for the backup process, to reviewing the summary of actions prior to commencing the backup. He then showed how to mount an existing image file, and how to browse through the associated directory structure to recover any particular file, should this be preferred over a full partition recovery.

Chris provided his recommendations for a comprehensive backup system - using two external disks in rotation for image file storage - and keeping one of these disks off site as a further safety precaution against data loss (e.g. fire or theft). He suggested making a full backup of the entire system each month, followed by incremental daily

backups. His final words? "No excuse! Back it up!"

Alan German was next up with some Linux-based solutions that also had some application to Windows' users. He noted that the file synchronization program, Rsync, was available for both Linux (<http://rsync.samba.org/>) and Windows (<http://www.itefix.no>). He showed a typical command line, and discussed the options that could be used to mirror a disk directory to a second storage location (e.g. a USBkey).



Alan then provided information on Partimage, an open-source disk imaging program for Linux. While the interface is not as sophisticated as that used by TrueImage, and the compression algorithm doesn't seem to be as efficient, Partimage is serviceable in producing image files of hard drive partitions. And, because it's open-source - it's free!

The final package mentioned by Alan was SystemRescueCd (<http://www.sysrescd.org>) and, in particular, the utility program Gparted - the Gnome Partition Editor. The bootable CD uses a version of Linux to provide a recovery system should your computer's operating system fail to boot normally. But, the CD can also be used to access the Gparted program (<http://gparted.sourceforge.net>) in order to modify the structure of your hard disk's partitions. In essence, the program works along the lines of the better known Partition Magic, allowing disk partitions to be created, deleted and resized.



The final speaker of the evening was Don Chiasson who told us that "The keyboard is your friend!" Don indicated that, when word processing, it was generally quicker to use a keyboard short cut than to switch from the keyboard to the mouse and back again. He provided examples from a list of well-known commands, such as Ctrl-B for bold faced text, Ctrl-I for italic, and Ctrl-U for underlining. But, who knew that Ctrl-Z was equivalent to undo, or that Ctrl-F brought up a search (find) dialogue?

Don also told us that a lot of short cuts were easy to remember, such as Ctrl-C for copy and Ctrl-P for print. His tips also included thinking of Ctrl-X (cut) as a pair of scissors, and the fact that Ctrl-V (paste) originated as a text editor's symbol, where text to be inserted was written above an existing line, with a "V" notation to indicate the precise insertion point.

If you ever have trouble highlighting a specific portion of text to be copied and pasted using a mouse, consider holding down the shift key and using the arrow keys. You can then make your selection extremely accurately.

Firefox users having trouble reading the text on a web page might consider using Ctrl+ to increase the font size in the display, and perhaps pressing F11 to toggle between a window and full screen. And Outlook Express users, did you know that Ctrl-N will create a new message, while Ctrl-D will delete the current one?

Finally, Don discussed his use of the GNU Emacs text editor (<http://www.gnu.org/software/emacs/>). Emacs was originally created by Richard Stallman, also known for his work on GNU Linux, the General Public License (GPL), and the Open Software Foundation. The program has since been ported to many platforms, including the PC.

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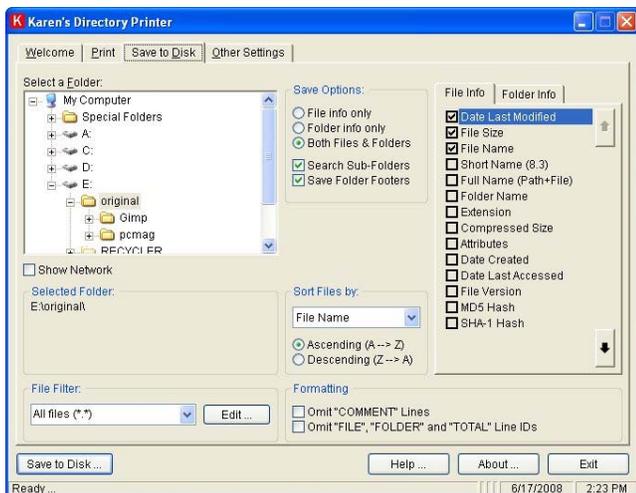
PRODUCT REVIEW

Directory Listings Made Easy *by Alan German*

Have you ever wanted to print out a list of files in a Windows' directory, or needed to save such a list to a file for importing into a spreadsheet? If so, you may have found this to be a difficult task, since Windows doesn't provide a utility program to do the job. Sure, just like in the good old days of DOS, you could go to a command line and use a pipe to route the output of a directory command to the printer or to a file, but who remembers how to do this?

For non-geeks, the simpler answer might be to use Directory Printer, one of Karen Kenworthy's Power Tools (<http://www.karenware.com/powertools/ptdirprn.asp>). This little utility program is tailor made for creating directory listings. And, it's free!

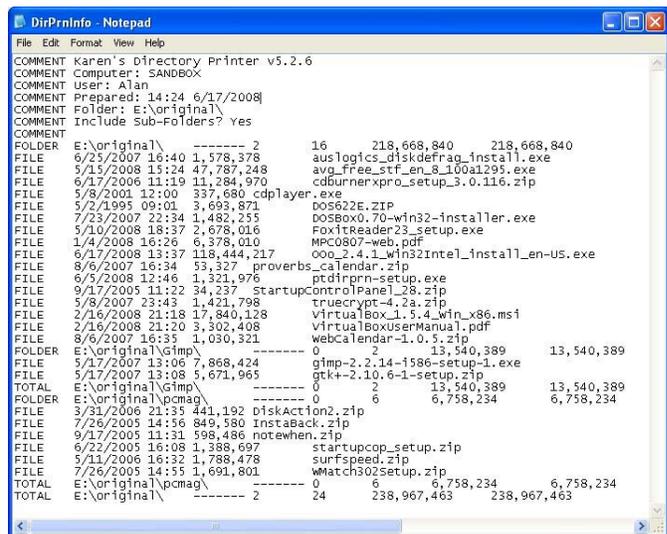
The main program window provides tabs for either creating a printed list (Print) or producing the list as a file (Save to Disk). Each of these tabs offers many options for controlling the format of the output for lists of both files, and sub-folders contained in the directory to be processed. For example, by checking certain optional boxes, as shown in the screenshot, the file listings can be restricted to just the date on which each file was last modified, the file's name and size.



To further customize the listings, a drop-down menu allows for sorting by file name, extension, size, or date. The listing may also be filtered for common image or sound file formats, documents, executable files, HTML or web files. Better yet, you can add your own custom filters, such as an entry for "Text Files" to filter for *.txt.

By default, the program's output includes a number of lines of comments, documenting the source of the listing and providing explanations of the columnar listings. By checking the formatting boxes, the listing may be customized to eliminate some or all of these comments.

A sample report produced by the program is shown in the next screenshot. The list may not be all that pretty, but it's serviceable. And, it's easy to pull a disk file version into a word processor to modify the text - bold-facing items of particular interest - or reducing the font size to make a printout that can be cut to a suitable size, and folded, for insertion into the jewel case or paper sleeve of a CD-ROM.



The "Other Settings" tab allows further customization of the program's operations. By default, right clicking the mouse on a drive or folder icon will provide an option to "Print with DirPrn". This will allow you to print a file listing directly, without running the program. However, the setting for this menu option can be disabled. You can also choose to have the program retain the settings for parameters selected on the Print and Save to Disk tabs, and select the features that will be displayed as choices for customizing file listings on these tabs.

The program is very intuitive to use but, in doubt, you will find a context-sensitive menu system that provides clear explanations of all the functions, together with associated screenshots, a glossary of terms, and links to additional information on the Web. A neat feature of this help system is that the graphics are interactive. Click on an area of one of the screenshots and an associated help screen is displayed.

Karen's Directory Printer is highly customizable but, "straight out of the box", the program produces useful file listings very easily. Thanks Karen!

Bottom Line

Karen's Directory Printer Version 5.2.6 (Freeware)
 Karen Kenworthy, Karen's Power Tools
<http://www.karenware.com/powertools/>

The Pub *(Continued from page 1)*

Server (SMTP) and then click the *Add* button on the right side. Enter *The PUB* for description, *opcug.ca* for server name and *587* for *Port:*. Leave a check mark in the *Use name and password* box and enter *sam.spade* in the *user name:* box. Change *Use secure connection:* to *No*. Click on *OK*.

To tell Thunderbird to use this server for outbound email, in the left pane of the *Account Settings* dialog box, click on *OPCUG Mail*. In the right pane, choose the drop-down list for *Outgoing Server (SMTP):* and choose *The PUB – opcug.ca* from the list of available servers. You can browse the other options for your new account and set them how you like them. Click on *OK* when you are done and you are ready to use the new account.

If you set up the new account to use your *global inbox*, when you start a new email, you can choose the drop-down pick list beside *From:* and choose the entry ending in *OPCUG Mail* to send a new email from your OPCUG account. Incoming email will automatically come into your global inbox. If you reply to an email sent to your *sam.spade@opcug.ca* account, it will automatically choose the right account for the reply.

If you set up the new account to not use the global inbox, the easiest way to send an email using your *opcug.ca* email address is to click in the left pane on any entry in the *OPCUG Mail* hierarchy and click *Write*. The new email will be set to use the OPCUG Email account settings. All email addressed to your *sam.spade@opcug.ca* account will be delivered to the Inbox within the *OPCUG Email* section.

Setting up a PUB account in Windows Mail (Vista)

From within Windows Mail, click on *Tools | Accounts* and click on *Add*. Choose *E-mail Account* and click *Next*. Enter *Sam Spade* for *Display name:* and click *Next*. Enter *sam.spade@opcug.ca* for *E-mail address:* and click *Next*. Leave *Incoming server type* set to *POP3*. Enter *opcug.ca* for both *incoming* and *Outgo-*

ing server names. Put a check mark in *Outgoing server requires authentication* and click *Next*. Enter *sam.spade* for *E-mail username:* and, optionally, enter your password. Click *Finish*. In the *Mail* section of the *Internet Accounts* dialog box, double-click on *opcug.ca* to open the *Properties*. Change the mail account name to *OPCUG Mail*. Click the *Advanced* tab and change the *Server Port Number* for *Outgoing mail (SMTP)* to *587*. Click on *OK* and *Close*.

When sending a new email, you can choose to use the OPCUG account by clicking the drop-down list beside *From:* and selecting the entry ending in (*OPCUG Mail*). When you reply to incoming email sent to *sam.spade@opcug.ca*, it will automatically use the correct account.

Setting up a PUB account in Outlook Express

From within Outlook Express, click on *Tools | Accounts* and click on *Add*. Choose *Mail* from the flyout menu. Enter *Sam Spade* for *Display name:* and click *Next*. Enter *sam.spade@opcug.ca* for *E-mail address:* and click *Next*. Leave *Incoming server type* set to *POP3*. Enter *opcug.ca* for both *incoming* and *Outgoing* server names and click *Next*. Enter *sam.spade* for *E-mail username:* and, optionally, enter your password. Click *Next*, then *Finish*. In the *Internet Accounts* dialog box, double-click on *opcug.ca* to open the *Properties*. Change the mail account name to *OPCUG Mail*. Click the *Servers* tab and put a check mark in the *My server requires authentication* box in the *Outgoing Mail Server* section. Click the *Advanced* tab and change the *Server Port Number* for *Outgoing mail (SMTP)* to *587*. Click on *OK* and *Close*.

When sending a new email, you can choose to use the OPCUG account by clicking the drop-down list beside *From:* and selecting the entry ending in (*OPCUG Mail*). When you reply to incoming email sent to *sam.spade@opcug.ca*, it will automatically use the correct account.

Setting up a PUB account in Evolution

From Evolution's main menu bar, select *Edit | Preferences*. On the *Mail Accounts* tab click *Add*. Evolution's Mail Configuration Assistant will open. Click on *Forward* to begin.

Enter *Sam Spade* in the *Full Name:* box and *sam.spade@opcug.ca* in the *Email Address:* box. In the *Optional Information* section, check the *Make this my default account* box if you wish your OPCUG Email account to be your main account. Enter *sam.spade@opcug.ca* in the *Reply-To:* box, and any text of your choice in the *Organization:* box. Once you have completed sufficient entries, the *Forward* button will no longer be greyed-out. Click on this button to continue and bring up the *Receiving Email* panel.

For *Server Type:*, use the drop-down menu to select *POP*. This will open up the *Configuration, Security and Authentication Type* sections of the panel. Enter *opcug.ca* for *Server:* and *sam.spade* for *Username:*. Leave *Use Secure Connection* and *Authentication Type* set to the default entries of *No encryption* and *Password* respectively. Check the *Remember password* box. Click on the *Forward* button to continue.

On the *Receiving Options* screen, check any of the options that you wish to have in place and click the *Forward* button to continue to the *Sending Email* panel.

Leave the *Server Type:* at its default setting of *SMTP*. In the *Server Configuration* section, type *opcug.ca:587* in the *Server:* box. (Note that this sets the output port, as required, to *587*.) Check the box marked *Server requires authentication*. In the *Security* section, leave *Use Secure Connection* set as *No encryption*. For *Authentication*, set the *Type:* to *Login*, *Username:* to *sam.spade*, and check the *Remember password* box. Click on the *Forward* button to continue.

In the *Account Management* panel enter *OPCUG Mail* as the *Name:*. Click *Forward* to continue to the *Done* panel,

(Continued on page 7)

PRODUCT REVIEW

Pretty please, Samsung, may I use the manual? by Chris Taylor

I recently bought a digital photo frame. I have been looking at these for a couple of years and I finally found one that was big enough (10"), had a high enough resolution (1024x600), had all the features I was looking for, and came in at a price I was willing to pay (\$200 on sale, regular \$230); a brand new model from Samsung – the SPF-105P.

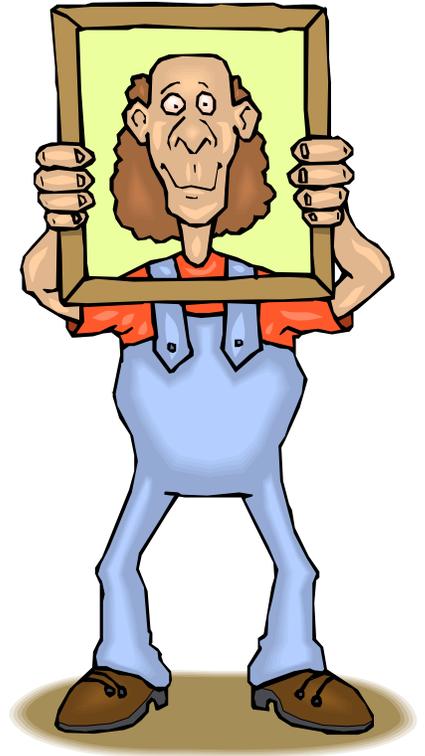
It is a great photo frame! It can accept most digital storage cards directly, including the popular SD and Compact Flash cards. It can also accept USB memory sticks and can be plugged into your computer's USB port, where it will show up as a disk drive. It can play MP3 music files, has tons of slide show features and 1 GB of on-board memory. When copying files to the frame, they can be stored in the frame's native resolution (1024x600), so you can store over 5,000 photos on the frame. It even has a Kensington® lock slot, so I can

use it at my office without worrying about it being stolen.

But one thing puzzled me. As seems to be the case far too often these days, the 26-page manual is a PDF file on an included CD. As I browsed the manual, I came across the following;

Using, copying or reproducing the whole or part of this manual without written permission from Samsung Electronics is prohibited.

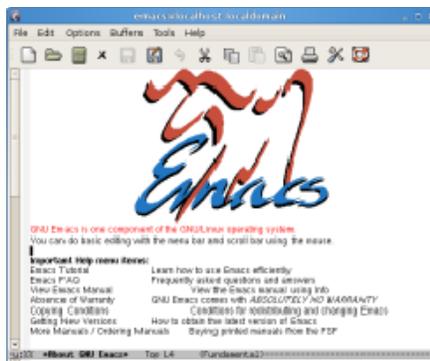
I don't claim to be an expert, Samsung, but I bet your support costs will go down if you let your customers use the manual. I have emailed Samsung asking for written permission to use and print the manual. No word yet. Please don't tell them – I peeked already.



Members' Night (Continued from page 4)

An interesting feature is that the entire program is made up of commands. So, typing the letter "a" is actually a macro command that says: insert the character a at the current location within the document. Even better (if you are so inclined) is that you have the ability to write your own macros - a facility that makes Emacs incredibly powerful - and potentially incredibly destructive - when you are editing a text file!

Don indicated that there is a steep learning curve for the command structure used by Emacs, largely resulting from the fact that this is essentially a legacy program that has evolved over many years. In consequence, there are some conflicts between prior "standards" and more modern conventions. For example, in Emacs, Ctrl-F means move one character forward rather than find. A somewhat obscure feature, that Don insisted is quite useful, is the use of Ctrl-T to transpose two characters. Thus, if you had typed "teh", instead of "the", you could use Ctrl-T to reverse the "eh" combination to spell the word correctly.



The Pub (Continued from page 6)

and click *Apply* to complete the wizard.

The Mail Accounts tab will now include an entry to show that an account for *sam.spade@opcug.ca*, using the pop protocol, has been enabled.

Mail to your PUB Email address will now be delivered to your Evolution Inbox. To send mail from Evolution, using your OPCUG mail account, click on the *New (Mail Message)* icon, and use the drop-down list on the right side of the *From:* box to select the *Sam Spade <sam.spade@opcug.ca>* account.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at *chris.taylor@opcug.ca*. I would like to extend my thanks to Alan German for the instructions on setting up Evolution to handle email from The PUB.



OTTAWA PC NEWS

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July and August. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members.

Member participation is encouraged. If you would like to contribute an article to Ottawa PC News, please submit it to the newsletter editor (contact info below). Deadline for submissions is three Sundays before the next General Meeting.

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets on the second Wednesday in the month, except July and August, at the Canada Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa. Meetings are 7:30–9:00 p.m. and Special Interest Groups go until 10 p.m.

Fees:	OPCUG membership:	\$25 per year
Mailing Address:	3 Thatcher St., Nepean, Ontario, K2G 1S6	
Web address:	http://opcug.ca	
Bulletin board — PUB II (BBS)	http://opcug.ca/default.htm	
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Treasurer		
Alan German	alan.german@opcug.ca	
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Privacy Director		
Wayne Houston	privacy@opcug.ca	
Director without Portfolio		
Don Chiasson		
Beginners' SIG		
Chris Taylor	chris.taylor@opcug.ca	613-727-5453
IT-Pro SIG		
Vacant		
Linux / Open-Source Software SIG		
Don Chiasson		
Special Events Coordinator		
Don Chiasson		

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subscribe newslettertxt
(to get the plain text version).

or:

subscribe newsletterpdf
(to get the Adobe Acrobat PDF version).

And if you decide you do not need the printed version mailed to you anymore, simply let Mark Cayer (membership chairman) know. He can be reached at general meetings, as well as by e-mail at Mark.Cayer@opcug.ca. You might want to wait until you have successfully received at least one issue electronically before opting out from the printed version.

To subscribe to the Announcements List, e-mail listserv@opcug.ca. Leave the subject blank and in the body of the message, type:

subscribe announcements

Within a couple of minutes you will receive a confirmation message from the listserver.

“Announcements” is a low volume list that the Board of Directors uses to get in touch with the membership. Subscribers can expect at least one message per month – the meeting reminder that goes out a few days in advance of the general meeting. Other than that, the only time it is used is when the Board feels there is some important news that should be brought to the attention of all members.