

OTTAWA PC NEWS

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Windows 95

Reinstalling Windows 95 *by Chris Taylor*

In my November Windows article, I talked about some of the things that can go wrong in Windows 95 and what you can do to fix them. But there is another level of problems in Windows 95 that are not so easy to fix. At the office, we recently went through the process of upgrading about 80 machines from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95. The majority of the upgrades went quite smoothly, but there were a significant number of machines that had problems after the upgrade. The exact problem varied, but in most instances the machine was just not stable and had a tendency to crash.

We finally decided that, for those machines that were having problems, we should just bite the bullet and do a complete, fresh install of Windows 95. We were amazed at how much better the machines performed afterwards. It made such a difference that we are rethinking our approach for the next round of upgrades. We may decide to just do a clean install on all machines from now on.



Reinstalling Win95? Read on...

The main down side to doing a clean install of Windows 95 is that you have to reinstall all your applications. But if it means that you have a machine that is more stable, it is a small price to pay. You may also find that you lose some or all of the customizations and tweaks you have made to your applications over time. Each person has to make their own call and it is worth repeating that *most* Windows 95 upgrades do not have major problems.

So, you did a normal upgrade to Windows 95 and you have found that things are not as stable as you would like. Or, over time, Windows 95 has started acting up on you and you would like to start over with a clean installation. What is the best way to proceed? Let me start by saying I have never done the procedure I am about to recommend. I have always had a LAN available and my approach has been to make sure required documents are copied to the LAN and then I format the drive and start from scratch. I think that the following should get you safely back up and running with a clean copy of Windows. But please don't blame me if something goes wrong!

Note: Ensure that you read the details provided later in this article, and fully understand what you are about to do before performing the reinstallation.

The process to reinstall Windows 95 is as follows:

- ◆ Do a complete backup of your system
- ◆ Make sure you have a bootable diskette
- ◆ Have the first disk from your original Windows 3.1 handy (if you are installing from a Win95 upgrade CD-ROM)
- ◆ Create a folder on your hard disk (e.g., C:\WIN95CAB) and copy the contents of the WIN95 folder on the CD-ROM to this new folder
- ◆ Make a record of your configuration
- ◆ Backup your entire Windows folder in whole or in part
- ◆ Backup your Program Files folder structure

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The digital camera's eye *by Julie Dustin*

You too can take great pictures anytime, anywhere and put them on your computer. Okay, you still may need a good photographer's eye but at least you can fix parts of the picture. Those "parts" could include the under or over-exposure of light or that strange plant growing out of your subject's head (that you didn't see when you took the picture).

Mr. Jean Simoneau, an account manager with Epson Canada Limited, will be showing us these new cameras and more at the January meeting.

"Epson offers a wide range of products besides printers. This array includes scanners, digital cameras, point-of-sale (POS) terminals, PC cards, computers and other electronic devices," Simoneau explains. "Epson is an affiliate of Seiko Epson Corporation with over 100 years of manufacturing experience."

Photo PC

Epson's first digital camera, the Photo PC, starting shipping in 1996. With this camera you can store, at a minimum, 16 high resolution pictures in the 1MB memory unit (expandable to 5 MB). High resolution pictures are 144 dpi, as compared to a regular 35mm camera which produces 200 dpi pictures. Each high resolution picture takes at least 50k of storage.

"Our main purpose for these digital cameras is to make it simple to get pictures into your computer without taking up too much memory. For example, real estate agents can use the camera for photographing a house and then print it on a colour ink-jet printer for a client." says Simoneau. "With the added free software, EasyPhoto, you can edit the picture. Change the colours or size, add distortions or flip it, add brightness, crop it or put it into a slide presentation."

Readers, now that you're thinking what a great gift this would make (as consolation for not getting everything you had on your Christmas list), take note. All this fun is not cheap. The suggested retail price (SRP) of the base model is \$699.



Epson will be demonstrating their PhotoPC digital camera at the January meeting — say cheese!

image courtesy of Epson

“Our main purpose for these digital cameras is to make it simple to get pictures into your computer without taking up too much memory.”

To print these great photos, perhaps a new colour printer is (or was) on your Christmas wish list. For \$399 (SRP), you can purchase the Stylus Color 500 ink jet printer. Simoneau explains the new technology behind the printer's quality, "Epson is using piezo electronic technology to avoid ink splatter. Piezo is an electronic pulse which forces ink through the print head. The result is cleaner dots and razor-sharp images. This is why we can produce a 720 by 720 dpi printouts."

For more information, see Jean at our next OPCUG meeting or see the company web page at <http://www.epson.com>.



Calendar

Meetings	January	February
OPCUG General Meetings	Jan. 8: Epson (see page 2)	Feb. 5
Desktop Publishing SIG	Jan. 7: Member's Show & Tell	Feb. 4: Corel*
Internet SIG	Jan. 9: Web Authoring/Mgmt	Feb. 13
Ottawa Paradox Users Group	Jan. 16	Feb. 20
FOX SIG	Jan. 14	Feb. 11

Please note: The January general meeting will be on the SECOND Wednesday of the month, due to the New Year's holiday.

* subject to change

Club news

December's winners

by Mark Cayer

Thanks to Keating Technologies for donating the following door prizes given away at the club's December 4th meeting:

- ♦ US Robotics insulated mugs were won by **Richard Bazinet, John Cocklin, Norm Dafoe, Maurice Duchene, Jim Forbes, Claude Jarry, Micheline Johnson, Kevin Kavanagh, Herb Kelland, Jeff Page, Peter Roberts, Willem Van Dijk**, and me... **Mark Cayer**.
- ♦ The grand-prize winner of a new 33.6 (upgradeable to 56 k) modem was **David Clark**.

Congratulations to one and all.



Disk of the Month program cancelled

by Chris Seal

The Disk of the Month program has been cancelled. If you are holding DOM cards that have a balance, you can redeem the outstanding value in either your choice of stock DOMs and Specialty disks (2 disks for each unused DOM unit) or a cheque for the balance.

Please bring your DOM cards to the general meeting where you can make arrangements for redemption. Please note that cheques will be mailed to you.



Correction notice

The dates of the "Windows 95" and "Kids on the Internet" seminars published in the December *Ottawa PC News* are wrong. They are as follows:

Windows 95 Saturday, January 25th, 1997
Kids on the Internet Saturday, March 22th, 1997

Please note that all fees paid for these seminars go to the National Museum of Science and Technology.



- ♦ Boot from your bootable diskette
- ♦ Delete your Windows folder
- ♦ Delete your Program Files folder
- ♦ Run SETUP and follow the instructions to complete the installation of Windows 95
- ♦ Reinstall your applications
- ♦ Delete the backup folders you made of the Windows and Program Files folders

Be prepared

First, make sure you can get back to where you started in case disaster strikes. Do a complete backup of your system. Make sure you are using a Windows 95-aware backup program or use something like DOSLFNBK.ZIP (available on The PUB) or the Long File Name Backup program Microsoft included on the Windows 95 CD-ROM (available as LFN.BE.XE on The PUB). Either of these will preserve your long file names when using a backup program that does not understand them.

Next make sure you have a bootable diskette. A DOS 6.2 bootable diskette is fine. Make sure you include on it an editor, and the DOS utilities DELTREE, FDISK, FORMAT, and SYS. You probably won't need some of these, but it is nice to have them handy just in case. Test your bootable diskette to make sure it works. Make sure you can access your CD-ROM drive. Make sure your editor works.

If you are reinstalling Windows 95 from an upgrade CD-ROM, have the first disk from your original Windows 3.1 handy. This is required when you install the Windows 95 upgrade on a disk that does not have a copy of Windows 3.1 on it.

If you installed Windows 95 from CD-ROM, create a folder on your hard disk (e.g., C:\WIN95CAB) and copy the contents of the WIN95 folder on the CD-ROM to this new folder. This step eliminates the need to have access to your CD-ROM drive to do the installation. This does require about 33 MB of disk space. Even if you do this, make sure your bootable diskette includes the drivers necessary to access your CD-ROM. If disaster strikes, you may still need to access your CD-ROM.

Go back into Windows 95 and make a record of your configuration. Right click on My Computer and choose properties. Click on the Device Manager tab and click the Print... button. Choose the radio button "All devices and system summary" and click on OK. If you use a dial-up to the Internet, you may want to record the properties of your connectoid.

Since you will be removing your entire Windows folder, you can either copy the entire structure to a backup folder or selectively go through and save those pieces that you think you need. If you don't make a copy of everything, browse carefully and think about every folder you see. For example, if you are in the habit of collecting fonts, your fonts folder may contain some fonts you would find hard to replace. And if you make it a habit to store documents on the desktop, be sure to move these files to safety. You might also want to make backup copies of all .INI files.

I would normally recommend that you also remove your Program Files folder structure, so it is not a bad idea to make a copy of this folder to a backup folder as well. In the least, this will remind you of what programs you had installed, and where they were located.

Out with the old...

Once you are sure you have saved everything of importance under your Windows and Program Files folders, boot from your bootable diskette and delete your Windows folder by using DELTREE (e.g., DELTREE C:\WINDOWS). Do the same for your Program Files folder. You will have to use it's short name (e.g., DELTREE C:\PROGRA~1)

In with the new...

Now you are ready to reinstall Windows 95. If you copied the files from the CD-ROM to your hard disk, change to the folder that contains the files. If you did not copy the files, go to the Win95 folder on the CD-ROM. If you have Windows 95 on diskettes, put disk 1 in your drive. Type SETUP and follow the instructions to complete the installation of Windows 95.

After Windows 95 has been installed, you can then reinstall all your applications. If install them to the same location they were before, you will not waste disk space.

At this point, you should be operational again. Once you are sure that everything is running properly and you are not missing anything, you can delete backup folders you made of the Windows and Program Files folders. If you are short on disk space and you copied the 33MB of files off the CD-ROM to your hard disk, you can delete this folder as well. If you do, run RegEdit and navigate to;

```
Hkey_Local_Machine
  Software
    Microsoft
      Windows
        CurrentVersion
          Setup
```

and look for a value called "SourcePath". Double-click on this and edit the Value Data to point it to your CD-ROM drive (e.g., E:\WIN95)

continued on page 5...

Other options

There are other approaches to take in reinstalling Windows 95. The shotgun approach, while more likely to lose something important is faster and easier. Once you had saved copies of all your important files, you simply reformat the hard disk and start over from scratch. I like this approach when I have a network available so I can easily shuffle files around.

If you reformat, you also have the opportunity to repartition your hard disk if you have found the current partitioning to be less than ideal. For example, if your hard disk is 1.2 GB and it was partitioned as a single drive, the cluster size is 32 kB. This wastes, on average, 16 kB per file on the hard disk. By repartitioning using FDISK prior to formatting, you could create a 1023 MB partition as drive C (which uses 16 kB clusters) and partition the remaining as drive D (which would use 4 kB clusters).

When setting up your CD-ROM under Windows 95, by default it will set itself up as the next available drive letter. This is fine until you happen to add another hard drive and then you find that your CD-ROM changes drive letters. This tends to break a lot of applications designed to run off the CD-ROM. Take advantage of the fact that you will be reinstalling everything to move your CD-ROM way down the alphabet. Right click My computer and choose Properties. Click on the Device Manager tab and drill down to your CD-ROM. Click on Properties and choose the Settings tab. In the "Reserved drive letters" section change both the start and end to the same letter — say M:

Very occasionally, you will run into a program that migrates from Windows 3.1 fine, but refuses to install under Windows 95. In such a case, if you can't do without the program, your only option is to go back and reinstall Windows 3.1, install the problem application, then upgrade your Windows 3.1 to Windows 95.



News and reviews by John Ladds

At the November meeting, **Karen Gauthier**, the new steward of Paradox, came by to tell us how excited they were at Corel about the licencing of Paradox. At the time of our meeting, they were still unwrapping the boxes from Borland. Karen will be the leader of the Paradox development team Corel is assembling to integrate Paradox into the Corel Office 7 suite. From the general discussion, Corel wants Paradox tightly integrated into the Office Suite. In the future, we feel that having the Paradox development team based in Ottawa will be good for the group and good for Corel. As a group, we were very pleased to see such enthusiasm for a software package which Borland seemed to have neglected.

December meeting

Due to printing deadlines, the review of our December meeting will be in the February newsletter. The planned topic of this meeting is error handling in ObjectPAL to create a bulletproof database applications, or How to anticipate Murphy and his laws. Also, we may have representatives from Corel talking about their support for User's Groups — with possibly some goodies ;-)

Paradox tip of the month

To create a new form, query, or report using the Project Viewer or Tool Bar, hold down the shift key while clicking the right mouse button on the preferred object. This by-passes any other questions and opens a new design window.

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at Inly Systems, 1221a Cyrville Road from 6:15–8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The next meeting is 16th January 1997.

For more up-to-date information about meeting topics, please visit our web site at: <http://magi.com/~chopla/opug.html>



The FOX SIG meets regularly in the Conference Room in the Jean Talon building at Tunney's Pasture, Holland Avenue (north of Scott Street) normally on the second Tuesday of the month at 7:30 p.m. The next three dates are January 14th, February 11th, and March 11th.



December review:

Tektronix demystifies colour printers *by Bert Schopf*

Marc *Beauchamp* of Tektronix Canada Inc. gave a lively and informative presentation on colour printer technologies at the DTP SIG December 3rd. Marc presented from a four-inch stack of overheads (printed on a Tektonics colour printer, naturally) that visually showed the mechanics behind different colour printing technologies. He also brought along many printed samples from different devices so that the audience could examine the results first-hand. Best yet was the state-of-the-art Phaser 350 colour printer which Marc made available for poking and prodding.



Phaser 350 demonstrated at the December DTP SIG

image courtesy of Tektronix



January meeting:

Member's Show & Tell *by Bert Schopf*

After the highly successful Show & Tell last spring, we are once again having our own membership show their stuff on January 7th. SIG members will give presentations on their DTP projects detailing techniques, tips, and troubleshooting they used to produce newsletters, brochures, web pages, etc.

Yes, there's still time to get your presentation in! If you have an interesting project that you did on your PC, bring it in to the meeting!

The DTP SIG meets at Lemmex Computer Training Centre, 275 Slater Street, Suite 340 at 7:30 p.m. Parking is available (free!) in the lot at the northwest corner of Slater and Kent.

For more information, contact DTP SIG coordinator Bert Schopf at 232-8427 or by email at blackbird@cyberus.ca.



January presentation:

Web authoring and Web-site management *by Jean Stalker*

This is the third in a series of annual presentations by David Curling. The first was an overview of HTML editors and the second a description of the "Curling process" for developing and maintaining a Web site. This third session will be on the analysis and preparation of a Web site. If time permits, tips for increasing search-engine hits, server standards, guidelines, and some cook-book stuff for creating better Web pages will also be discussed. David uses Nesbitt WebEdit for HTML coding, Incontext WebAnalyser for automated Web analysis, and Microsoft FrontPage for web management.

David's agenda and overhead slides are available at <http://www.synapse.net/~loday/isig.htm>. You will need an Adobe Acrobat reader (available at no charge from <http://www.Adobe.com>) to view the overhead slides, which are stored as a PDF file. David will be using direct dial-in PPP access for his presentation.

The session takes place on Thursday, January 9, 1997 from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Keefer Room of the Ottawa-Carleton Centre (RMO), 111 Lisgar Street, Ottawa. For further information about the I-SIG or about the January presentation, please contact David Curling, I-SIG Coordinator on 731-5381 or e-mail curlingd@loday.com.

The speaker

David Curling currently provides project management services as Principal Consultant of Loday Systems Project Management International Ltd to both government and industry.



David has developed and maintains the WWW Project Management Forum, a Web site dedicated to the advancement of international project management. He is the Web Master for the PMI Canada Home Page and Global Project Management Forum Web. He is an ardent "internaut" and Coordinator of the Ottawa PC Users' Group Internet SIG.



December presentation review:

VivaTexte *by Jean Stalker*

On December 12, the I-SIG was treated to a close look at VivaTexte, a hypertext authoring system which is about to appear in retail outlets. VivaTexte has already made a place for itself in many government departments and other agencies in this area, in the U.S., and in Europe. The presenters were David Skinner, who developed the product, and Tara Shaver, Marketing Director.

VivaTexte is a low-cost tool for developing and distributing training documents, reference manuals, catalogues, and so on. It is designed for busy professionals and for technically unsophisticated people, and can be quickly mastered. Files can be easily packaged for external distribution on diskettes, on CD-ROM, by e-mail or through the Web.

VivaTexte exploits WinHelp, the extremely powerful, though little known, hypertext engine which drives the Help function in Windows. It makes the power of this engine easily and intuitively available to the ordinary user.

Documents are created in a word processor, saved in *.RTF format and imported into VivaTexte, where formatting and linkages are added with simple point and click commands. Graphics, video, photos and sound can be included. If the document is to go into the Web, formatting is converted from that of a Windows hypertext file to HTML 3.2, again without any need for direct manipulation of codes. Forms and frames can be created within VivaTexte and Java applets can be imported; VivaTexte will write the Javascript.



David Skinner and Tara Shaver

The Vivatexte people are very much aware that their product functions in a rapidly changing environment, and they offer frequent on-line updates to help their clients react to new developments and new opportunities.

VivaTexte was featured in the mid-November issue of *Monitor Magazine* and the review should soon be available at <http://www.monitor.ca>. Information about the company and the product is available at <http://www.vivatexte.com>.



OTTAWA PC NEWS

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Group Meetings

OPCUG normally meets on the first Wednesday in the month, except in July and August, at the National Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd, Ottawa. Meeting times are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees

Membership: \$25 per year.

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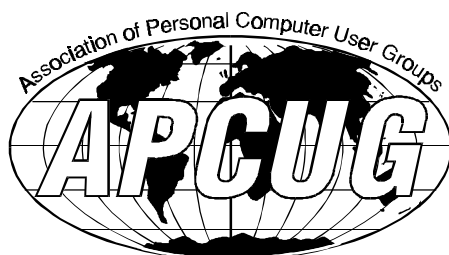
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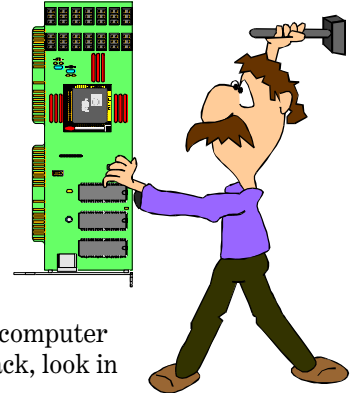


Tips and tricks

Putting on the pressure

by Chris Seal

The computer exhibited all sorts of strange and intermittent problems: it would freeze for minutes then free itself; it would display horizontal white lines; it would flash colours across the screen; it might take several tries to get it to boot. There were no errant beeps on bootup to indicate what might be wrong. And when it did boot no tests showed cause for concern. I remembered the adage about what to check when your computer fails you — look in the front, look in the back, look in your wallet!



Before making the trek to the store with box under arm, the thought occurred to me that there may be a mechanical problem like a loose board. I opened the case, and started to reseat the cards. The first one I removed was the video card, and almost as an after thought I began to check that the chips were firmly seated in their sockets and found one of them was out by almost an eighth of an inch (that's about 3 mm Canadian)! Joy! I pressed it in place and hoped I had found the problem, and I had.

In fact I had looked in the front, looked in the back, found the problem, and didn't have to look in my wallet.

