

Review of the April Meeting

OPCUG Hackers rescue Microsoft.- Who will save IBM?

by Jackson Hibler

Microsoft knows software and marketing, but what about IBM? Why would IBM buy all those full-page advertisements touting something called "ServiceS", rather than the new, Blue, overdue OS/2. (ServiceS?) Meanwhile, Microsoft gets Windows 3.1 out a week early, complete with a targeted advertising campaign. Come on, IBM, if you want to sell your product, you have to mention it in the advertisement! The new OS/2 is ready...isn't it? Maybe IBM knows something we don't.

But look! Here comes Bob Scowcroft, hot from Microsoft's booth at the Ottawa Business Show. Windows is ready! The crowd is expectant! The Ottawa Citizen photographer is already shooting.

Let the show begin!

Bob bustles to get his gear into order. overhead projector with a 3M thin film transistor projection panel (here is the future of video monitors, televisions -wall hangings, for that matter); a Dell 486-33 with 12 Mb of RAM (or did he say 20? How much does he need?); and a massive 15" (or was it 17"?) SVGA monitor sprouting a snakes' nest of cables Bob stands back. It looks as if he's ready. Enter Chairman, Harald Freise.

There's been a slight hitch

"I'm afraid we will have to reverse the order of the meeting," Harald announces, "There seems to be a problem with the projection system"

(Uh, oh!) The First Team rushes to the rescue. Outcome the manuals. (Good place to start!) OPCUG's best techies swarm over the hardware. Lots of blinking lights, but no show. It seems the computer doesn't want to talk to the projection panel. Lots of hands on the keyboard, the buttons, the chins. Bob Scowcroft emerges from the scrum: "I'm not using my usual gear tonight ...brought this over from the EX...can't seem to get it to work. We've sent away for another setup." The First Team begins to drift away too. Heads shake. The crowd squirms ominously.

Show within the show

Meanwhile, those of us in the front row have been watching the "show", keeping an eye on what has been tried and what hasn't. Time for the pinch hitters to take the field. Some plain-language suggestions are heard above the ebbing technobabble: "Why not test one system component at a time?" (Hub?) "Do we know that the "Y" cable to tire panel and the monitor is OX.?" (No.) "Well, have we tried to disconnect them?" (Hmm...same indicator lights appear on the 3M panel whether it's hooked up or not.) "Maybe nothing's getting through to the 3M. Why not pull the monitor off the other end of the Y-cable?" (Sure, why not? Hey, the 3M's working! But say, what's that Windows NT prompt doing on the 3M screen?) "Never mind that," hastily interjects Bob, "how can I run my demo with the projection screen as my only "monitor" behind me?"

INSIDE

SIG Meeting Report
DTP Seeds: SIG takes root..... 2

Coming Up
Computer Security
Lock up your data 3

Hardware review
John MacManus on SoundBlaster
Some sound advice 4

Thank you Marc Riou 5

Batch files
Dated backup files: The story continues 6

Learning Haw

New | Cartoon by RAM backpage

OPCUG member, Keith Martinsen (earning "Meeting Hero" honours) plunges back behind the offending monitor, twiddles a few switchu, plugs it back into the Ycable...Voila! We have projection! We have monitor! "We have ...ghosts," frets Bob. Never mind. The overhead projection looks great. The crowd looks restless. Go for it Bob. He does! And by the time he is through with his show, so do we!

Continued on page 2

Let the show begin - again!

Windows 3.1 looks good. It is faster, even without the heavy horsepower plugged in at the show. How? Lots of optimized code (much of it by-passing DOS, I've heard). And a SMARTDRV.EXE disk-caching software upgrade that caches the writes to disk as well as the reads! Most of the Unrecoverable Application Error (UAE) crashes have been eliminated or isolated. The system (they call Windows an "operating system", now) is more robust. Most, but by no means all, of the user interface has been made consistent from module to module. Many of the tweaks and workarounds we needed to make 3.0 function smoothly have been rendered unnecessary in 3.1. But it is still not "plug and play" like a Mac. (A good,

if wordy, reference for the nifty-gritty of optimizing Windows can be found in Livingston's *Windows 3.1 Secrets* now available with 3 disks of utilities for \$52.95 at Prospero). And then there is TrueType, scalable screen and printer fonts included with Windows 3.1. Microsoft describes TrueType as "One of the most dramatic features in Windows 3.1..." (Beware, Adobe, this one may dominate desktop publishing on the PC like Postscript has on the Mac!) All in all, an impressive upgrade.

As good as the real thing?

Windows is still not a "real", preemptive, multitasking operating system like OS/2. But Windows 3.1 is more robust than 3.0; Microsoft has a great lead in Windows-aware applications; and Microsoft knows how to

promote its product-even when there are one or two hitches at a product demo.

Puzzling IBM upgrade policy

On the one hand we have IBM hesitantly disclosing OS/2 v.2.0 upgrades at \$80 (for the Windows to OS/2 v.2.0 upgrade: DOS or OS/2 v.1.x to OS/2 v.2.0 upgrades cost around \$150, which must irk OS/2 users slightly.) On the other, Microsoft trumpets Windows 3.1 upgrades at \$60! IBM has just blown millions advertising the company, rather than their strategic software product, while Microsoft promotes their product. If Windows continues to hold its market, it could be because of the product: it could also be because Microsoft knows marketing.

SIG Meeting Report

Desktop publishing seeds: new SIG takes root

by Julie Dustin

The desktop publishing revolution started in the mid-1980s when the original Hewlett-Packard and Apple laser printers appeared on the scene, promising freedom from the frustrations and expense of conventional newsletter typesetting and paste-up. For the first time, an entire page of text and graphics could be quickly, economically and automatically created on the computer screen." (Roger Parker, *Newsletters From the Desktop*)

Try, try again

I first tried to use Ventura during the mid-80s while I was working for a Canadian business forms company. I know how to design forms, but I knew nothing about page layout - I gave up within two days. A lot of people gave up on Ventura back then. Well, some of us are back!

It's spring

OPCUG's desktop publishing special interest group put down roots this spring when more than 30 members turned out for an inaugural meeting held on Tuesday, April 28th at Sir Robert Borden High School. A brainstorming session revealed great interest in a wide range of DTP issues.

Topics to look forward to

We hope to explore most available software including Ventura, PageMaker, Publish-It, FrameMaker, WordPerfect as well as graphics and forms packages. Other subjects slated for discussion include fonts, on-line documentation and hardware including printers, scanners and other input devices. Design and typography will receive attention because they are the methods and principles used with the software and hardware tools.

DTP tasks

To understand what DTP is all about, I quote loosely again from

Parker: "Publications don't design themselves. In fact, they must accommodate a potpourri of short and long written pieces, photographs, illustrations and other graphic elements. The entire process is [usually] under a strict deadline and must accommodate changes but adhere to a previously defined format. The designers must work with body copy, add reader cues, place and manipulate visuals and graphic accents." The SIG hopes to explore each of the elements Parker mentions over the next year.

BBS access

The desktop user group has a special area on the BBS for messages concerning DTP issues and a file area for software and information such as utilities, macros, drivers, style sheets, glossaries and anything relevant you might like to upload. Feel free to contribute your tips and tricks.

Lock up your data: Come in Victor Charlie & SnoopGuard

by Lynda Simons

Computer security is the topic of next month's general *meeting*. At 8:00 p.m. on May 26th in the auditorium of Sir Robert Borden High School, John Nash and Jim Roy will present SnoopGuard, a circuit card which provides password control to system startup, and Victor Charlie, software which provides "generic virus control".

The high cost of losing data

If you've ever lost computer data, for whatever reason, you'll be interested in this presentation and discussion. Whether it's your own work, data you've paid for, or data you're entrusted with, losing it can cause you anything from minor irritation to losing your job or client. When it's your own work, not only do you lose the time, but the reconstructed effort is simply never as good as the first pass. And it can all happen so fast, so completely and, often, so mysteriously.

Keep your advantage

Preventing data loss is not the only reason for adopting security measures: data can fall into the wrong hands causing embarrassment, or loss of earned advantage. This too can happen fast and mysteriously, even imperceptibly. Colleagues or competitors may watch admiringly while you gather data for a project, build a contact list, or design a system. I Len, one minute (it need not take that long) while you're away from your computer, save themselves the same trouble by just taking a copy of your work. It's not even stealing, really, is it? You haven't lost anything.

Mysterious disappearances

If data disappears mysteriously, it could be because of a virus. Many of

you will be familiar with the Michelangelo virus which gained international attention recently. It was expected to attack the boot sectors of millions of PC hard-disks around the world on Michelangelo's birthday (March 6). Its effects weren't as widespread as anticipated, but two people I know personally had their hard disks wiped out. One of them knew what had happened. The other did not and thought his computer had failed. Some viruses at least put on a show to amuse you in your hour of deep distress, but not Michelangelo. Neither of these people had a complete back up.

I'll think about it tomorrow

So what security *measures should* we take with our computers? We have many choices. However, every measure, whether its backing up,

applying passwords, encrypting data, installing cards, installing software, or running scans, takes precious time and effort, which is, perhaps, why, like Scarlett O'Hara, we all prefer to "think about it tomorrow."

Did you lock the door?

You can apply different levels of security to your computing, as you can with your home, from hiding money under the mattress, to locking valuables in a safe. In addition you can lock the front door, and install an alarm system. You can also put your money in the bank. Just as there are pros and cons to all of these methods, there are pros and cons to the equivalent computer security measures.

Is security a waste of time?

"There's no security we can't get round," assert the service technicians

Continued on Page 4

Calendar *(subject to change)*

General Meeting Location: Sir Robert Borden HS
131 Greenbank Road
General Meeting Time: 8 P.M. to 10 P.M.

Date and Time	Topic and Location (if not SRB)
Thursday, May 21, 7:00 p.m.	Fox SIG meeting Confederation High School
Tuesday, May 26, 7:00 p.m.	DTP SIG meeting
Tuesday, May 26 at 8:00 pm.	John Nash & Jim Roy on Snoopguard and Victor Charlie: security and virus trapping
Thursday, June 18, 7:00 p.m.	DTP SIG meeting
Thursday, June 18, 8:00 p.m.	to be announced

Some sound advice from OPCUG member

by John MacManus

Every summer I drool over the latest PCs. But after weighing the lure of a new model against the realities of my bank balance, I opt instead to distract myself with peripherals. One summer I entered the world of VGA, the next I bought a modem. Last summer, when I finally decided to go straight for the 486 . . . I bought a SoundBlaster sound card instead.

Yonge Street bargain

I bought the card in a small store off Yonge Street for what was then the amazing price of \$165. I remember opening the box, and racing in tire rain to Radio Shack to get connectors, cable and speakers. While I was there I persuaded myself I needed a microphone as well. The card installed easily and within half an hour, I heard the test parrot clearly say, "Hello there." I forgot all about the new 486 system. The silent era of personal computing was over.

Since then I have been engrossed in anything and everything to do with the SoundBlaster. I have toyed with text-to-speech, captured sound from

my CDs and tapes, tried to learn the fundamentals of music, and put sounds on the menued commands of my word processor. My wife at last smiles at the computer when it's set up as a fantastic drum machine. My son has played games till he dropped from sound enhanced excitement. I must admit to being a boring non-gamer, but I have noticed that the addition of sound certainly makes games, even Mahjongg, more addictive. I have digitally edited voices and mixed them with other sounds. I also like to do simple fractal programming in BASIC and have even made "fractal music".

Many Inexpensive options

If you are new to sound boards, you should know there are now many inexpensive sound cards available, several cost less than tire \$1651 *shelled out* last summer. The 8-bit cards costing \$100-200 are all related, and *generally have* similar capabilities. These are not as powerful as the 16-bit cards, but, unless you want to *create high* quality music, the lower cost of the 8-bit boards makes them the smart **first** choice.

word protection using hardware, or software, and/or data encryption, and you can hide your data. All of these choices can be applied at a variety of levels from the BIOS, to the boot sector of the hard-disk, to the directory and file level. Many computers also come with a lock and key which renders the keyboard unusable or the computer unbootable in some other way. Probably more important than any of these methods of data protection, is keeping up-to-date back-ups in a safe place away from your computer. Of course, you also need virus protection. Do you have all of this? No? It's a wonder you can sleep at night.

Among 8-bit cards, the Canadian AdLib card (1987) was the **first** with mass appeal with 11 voices and 2 operator FM synthesized music primarily for use with games. The SoundBlaster card (1988) is AdLib compatible but adds a digital-analog chip which allows you to use digitized sounds ranging from voice to sampled musical instruments. AdLib and SoundBlaster have set the minimum standards for all new boards. SoundBlaster also has an input jack for a microphone or other sources such as CD or tape, a volume control for the on-board 4 watt amp, and a game port for the attachment of a joystick. I have not found it necessary to place an external amp between the card and my speakers, although game players who want to rock and roll generally seem to do this.

Where to find information

At first I found it difficult to obtain information about sound. I spent many hours info-surfing on BBSs looking music files and came across the electronic newsletter SoundBlaster Digest, from Brampton ON,

Continued on page 5

Continued From page 3

I spoke to about security. It turns out this is just as well, as many clients leave machines for repair without telling them the password they need to get into the system. So does this mean that security is a waste of time? I don't think so. The lock on your front door won't deter the determined, professional thief, but most people lock their doors. Why make it easy for the intruder?

Spoiled for choice

The array of alternatives is bewildering. To protect your data from snoops and thieves, you can use pass-

A simple solution?

These choices applied at the level of governments and major corporations can involve such measures as lead shielding from electronic surveillance and off-site central data storage, deep inside mountains. However, most OPCUG members don't live in a James Bond movie, and don't need to concern themselves with such extreme precautions. For us a simple but effective hardware device like SnoopGuard might be the solution. And for virus protection, Victor Charlie might do the trick. Come to the May meeting and check

which was started in 1990 and is now at issue number 15 or 16. This on-line news provided a lot of information and recommendations for programs for use with the SoundBlaster. The Musical Chair, a BBS out of Toronto, was also invaluable, but the long distance charges were something of a drawback. This BBS produced a CD of all of its files which my favourite local BBS, Synapse in Gatineau acquired. Ibis CD turned out to be a gold mine, especially for all Ottawans interested in sound, after the Musical Chair folded recently. Synapse also carries several conferences on sound cards from different networks which have been very informative.

Sound and Windows 3.1

As a Windows user, I was keen to get sound into that environment. I downloaded from Synapse dynamic link libraries (DLLs) from Victoria (SOUND) and Seattle (SOUNDR3B) which I can use in Word BASIC macros to give me sound on entering Word for Windows and on various menu commands. These DLLs can also be used with Visual BASIC. Windows 3.1 makes the use of sound in Windows applications much simpler.

Sound editors

Since sound is relatively new to the PC most of the best software is

still shareware. My favourite program is a digital sound editor called Blaster Master. New versions of this shareware program appear regularly, and it is definitely worth registering. Although the wide variety of music editors for the SoundBlaster is of no great concern to me (I'm tone deaf), I understand that COMPOZ is the one found most useful.

What's new?

There are many new developments in sound with the advent of version 3.1 of Windows and the hype of multimedia. The Environments section of PC Magazine, by Charles Petzold, has for many months been chock-a-block with information on sound in Windows. Also, the March 31, 1992 issue of PC Magazine looked in-depth at sound, including MIDI, usable by multimedia products. New versions of the SoundBlaster card (SoundBlaster Pro) with stereo sound and MIDI interface, a long promised new AdLib Gold with 4 operator FM, and clones from ATI (Stereo F/X), Gravis (Ultra Sound), Media Visions (Thunder) and others with other bells and whistles are now available. If anyone thought the file format situation for graphic files was unruly, wait until they get interested in PC sound! It is a real mess both for music and digitized sound, but *there are* many programs around which will change one format, including those of the Mac or Amiga, to make them

playable by your favourite SoundBlaster player.

Practical applications

Beyond these relatively whimsical applications, there are more practical developments on the horizon. The January 1992 issue of Computer Graphics World carried an article on sonification (a.k.a. audification). Since the human ear can distinguish about five distinct musical instruments played simultaneously, sound can aid in perceiving information. The ear is good at spatial discrimination and at changes in timing. Data might be mapped to timbre, frequency or volume to extend visualization of complex multi-channelled information.

SoundBlaster disk in OPCUG library

Next time you need distraction, get yourself a sound card, some speakers, and dip into the SoundBlaster disk that our librarian Norm Dafoe has put together for your aural pleasure. All of this preoccupation with sound has distracted me from thoughts of upgrade. But summer is on its way and I know now that I will need something else to distract me from purchase of a 486. Any suggestions?



Thank you to Marc Riou.

... who has looked after mailing out the newsletter for the last two years. We now use the services offered by the printer to do the stuffing and sealing, but this is a fairly new arrangement. More than once we have sat around my dining-room table with Ted Havrot and folded and stuffed and splashed. It can get pretty damp and sticky, let me tell you.

Marc has handed on his rubber stamp and wet sponge to Herb Kelland. Welcome Herb. It's good to have you on the team.

Leaving Us?

We want to continue sending you newsletters: however, if your membership expires this month this will be the last newsletter you will receive ...until you renew.

Check your mailing label for your expiry date.

To renew your membership, simply fill out the form on the back of the newsletter and send it in with the fee or see Paul Green at the next meeting.

Dated backup files: The story continues

by Robert Parkinson

In the February 1992 issue of the newsletter, I presented one way of using a batch program to create sequentially-numbered backup files that use the DOS directory date as the filename itself. Shortly after, I was asked if it is possible to automatically archive, using PKZIP, all such files on the first bootup of any day. Yes, but the ZIP archive name has to be in the same date format, and have the same date, as the files it contains. Wow! There are, however, two significant problems to overcome. Firstly, and most troublesome, is to create a ZIP file today that uses yesterday's date, or rather the date on which those backup files were created. Secondly, we run afoul of PKZIP's inability to accept any wildcards in the name of the ZIP file to be created, although it will, from a batch file, accept the use of an environmental variable in the archive name. After several cups of coffee and much head-scratching, I solved the problem; at least I found one possible solution. While it may not be very elegant, it does indeed work. I'd like to hear your comments, and perhaps some alternative suggestions.

Although this was an academic exercise, it had a practical solution. I was trying for an alternative that did not require some commercial TSR-Type file compressor program such as Stacker or SuperStor.

We want to invoke the batch file automatically the first boot of the day only. That means it must either be in, or be called by, your AUTOEXEC.BAT. Further, you might want to use some utility, such as ALREADY.COM, to ensure this. While the batch file is designed so that it won't hurt to call it on every boot, it simply wastes time.

The solution breaks down into two separate, but interrelated, pieces:

The first piece is simply an extension to the backup batch program I presented in the February newsletter. Just before the ":LAST" label in that program, add the following code:

```
REM We will first check to see that some backups
REM with today's date were indeed created. If
REM not, why bother?
if not exist d:\dir\BDOSDATE9.* goto LAST
REM Then we'll create OLDDATE.BAT in preparation
REM for archiving them tomorrow.
echo set OLDDATE=6DOSDATE9d:\dir\olddate.bat
echo. » d:\dir\olddate.bat
REM Let's check that it was created.
if not exist d:\dir\olddate.bat goto ERROR4
goto LAST
:ERROR4
```

echo For some reason, OLDDATE.BAT was not
echo created.

echo Check the reason and create manually

echo if necessary.

:LAST

That's all there is to that part. You now have a file in "d:\dir\" called OLDDATE.BAT that has the fine in it, for example

```
SET OLDDATE=03-14-92
```

bearing today's date. Please note: the spaces, or lack of them, are absolutely vital in tire fine:

```
echo set OLDDATE=%DOSDATE%>d:\dir\olddate.bat
```

There can be NO SPACES before or after the ">" redirection symbol and NO TRAILING SPACES at tire end of that line. Otherwise, when the OLDDATE variable is created, it will exceed eight bytes in length and DOS will never consider it equal to an eight-byte filename. The next line

```
echo. » d:\dir\olddate.bat
```

merely adds a carriage return to OLDDATE.BAT, and extra spaces are irrelevant

The next part I'll call ARCH OLD.BAT. Pick a name that you like. I suggest you invoke it from your AUTOEXEC.BAT with a "CALL" command.

```
cls
REM If we already have OLDDATE in the environ
REM went, it means we've run the program
REM already today.
if not "%OLDDATE%"==" " goto END
REM We'd better check that we've got an
REM OLDDATE.BAT before we go any further.
if not exist d:\dir\olddate.bat goto ERROR1
call d:\dir\olddate
REM We should now have a new environmental
REM variable called OLDDATE. Let's check.
REM If we're okay, we can delete OLDDATE.BAT so
REM that we don't get confused later on.
if "%OLDDATE%"==" " goto ERROR2
if exist d:\dir\olddate.bat del d:\dir\olddate.bat
REM Now we'll do one more error check.
REM We'll check to see if there is already a
REM ZIP archive in existence with that date.
REM If so, exit with error.
if exist d:\dir%\%OLDDATE%.ZIP goto ERROR3
REM Okay, now it's safe to do our archiving.
REM We'll use PKZIP with the "-m" option, to
REM delete the originals after archiving them,
```

Continued on page 7

```

REM and the "-o" option, to datestamp the ZIP
REM with the date of the oldest file in there.
REM The next two lines are actually all on one
REM line.
if exist d:\dir\%OLDDATE%.* pkzip -m -o
    d:\dir\%OLDDATE%.ZIP d:\dir\80LDDATE6.*
if errorlevel 1 goto ERROR4
REM The preceding line just checks for a
REM PKZIP error.
goto END
:ERROR1 to ERROR4
REM I'll leave it up to you to create the
REM necessary little "echo" statements for the
REM various error conditions, remembering to
REM start each with a "cls" and ending each
REM with a "goto END".
:END

```

A few comments are in order, I think. Firstly, change the "&dir" to whatever drive and directory you are going to use to hold these backups and archives. Secondly, change the %DOSDATE% variable name to whatever variable name you use to put today's date into your DOS environment. Lastly, the first time you start this cycle, you must run the backup program before the archiving program or it won't work. This is because there won't be any OLD-DATE.BAT yet. So just run the backup program today, change your AUTOEXEC.BAT and the repetitive cycle will start just fine tomorrow when you boot up.

This program gives you one ZIP, with a dated filename, containing all your individual files, bearing that same date, that were found in "d:\dir". Without much trouble, you could adapt this to put them in a weekly ZIP or a monthly ZIP. Your choice! So how should you use them? Try using SHEZ, which is very powerful indeed. Configure SHEZ to use your favorite editor and a good file browser (e.g., LIST.COM). When you want to use one of your ZIP archives, just call up SHEZ in the directory containing the archives, then highlight the archive ZIP that you want, and press "Enter". But don't unzip the resultant files. You now have two alternatives available: 1. If you highlight an individual file and press "V", the file is brought up in your viewer. LIST.COM, for example, allows you to copy blocks of text, even from within this archived file, to anywhere. For example, if your archives were old E-Mail messages, you could copy a message, or a portion of it, to your off-line message reader/editor. You can even invoke an editor from within LIST, but since SHEZ thinks that you're only viewing the file, it won't "freshen" (update) the ZIP when you're finished. But you could edit the block of text and then copy that revised block to an external file. If you get this complicated, you'd better have a lot of RAM, as you have "shelled" out about three levels deep 2. If you highlight an individual file and press "ALT-E", that file appears in your chosen editor. All of your macros, etc., work. When you're finished, SHEZ will automatically update ("freshen") the ZIP with your newly edited file.



Learning how

Making your computer suit your needs, part 2: CONFIG.SYS

by Eric Clyde

In April, I stated that you can customize your microcomputer to suit your current needs best by creating or amending two files in your root directory: CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT. These are both text files, so they can be created or changed with any word processor that can save files in ASCII format. If you have DOS 5.0, its full screen editor is excellent.

Optimizing these files will require some experimenting on your part.

Caution: Make a bootable floppy disk and use that disk for your experiments. In that way, if you make an

error, nothing is lost. Also, if there is currently a CONFIG.SYS file on your hard disk, copy it to the bootable floppy as a starting point. Note, also, that after you have created or modified the CONFIG.SYS file, the new parameters don't take effect until the system has been rebooted.

The CONFIG.SYS file controls how your computer uses memory, and how it communicates with hardware devices, such as the keyboard, monitor, printer, mouse, etc. The most commonly used commands are **buffers**, **device** (or **devicehigh** if you have DOS 5.0 with a 386), **dos**, **files**, **last**. drive, and shell.

Buffers

When DOS starts, an area of memory is reserved for buffers, which temporarily hold information from disks. Each buffer holds parts of files waiting to be used by a program or stored on a disk (usually in 512 byte chunks). Up to a point, higher buffer settings result in faster disk performance. However, the more buffers there are, the less space there is in memory for programs and data. Suggested buffer settings, as a starting point, are 12 on an XT; 20 on an AT 20; and 40 on a 386. However, a lot

Continued on *hack* page

Ottawa PC News

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July and December.

Deadline

Deadline for submissions is the last day of the month prior to publication.

Mailing Address

3 Thatcher St.

Nepean, Ontario K2G 1S6

Telephone Answering Machine

723-1329

PUB (Bulletin Board) N, 8, 1 228-0665

PUB, for MNP5N.42 228-8550

Chairman

Harald Freise 828-3411

Past Chairman

Doug Poulter 745-8768

Treasurer

Stan McRoberts 722-0849

Secretary

Robert Parkinson 523-7299

Membership Chairman

Paul Green 747-7862

Convenor

your name could go here

Software Librarian

Norman Dafoe 723-1909

BBS Sysop

Chris Taylor 723-1329

Hardware/Sotare Broker

Terry Mahoney 225-2630

Fax 226-2615

Beginners' Comer

Eric Clyde 749-2387

Newsletter Editor

Lynda Simons 526-2179

Assistant Editors

Julie Dustin 228-0724

Susan Phillips 725-2935

Newsletter Team (current month)

Mary Blickstead Herb Kelland

Eric Clyde John MacManus

Plato Guerra Ron Marchant

Jackson Hibler Robert Parkinson

Group Meetings

OPCUG meets monthly except in July and December. Check the answering machine, the PUB and the newsletter for the date and place of each meeting. Meeting times are 8:00 p.m. to 10 p.m. Beginners' sessions are from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 P.M.

Membership fees

\$25 per year

Disk-of-the-Month \$25 for 5.25 ins. diskettes and \$35 per year for 3.5 ins. (for 10 diskettes)

Continued from previous page

depends on the speed of your system and size of your hard disk.

Files

Space is also reserved in memory for a table that contains information about the files currently open. Note that DOS alone requires that 10 files be open simultaneously, and application programs can require many more. Check the documentation of the programs you use for suggestions. Usually, between 15 and 20 is fine, but if you use Windows, 30 is recommended.

Device

DOS has a number of built-in capabilities to handle hardware, called "devices" in computer jargon. If you want to add other hardware, such as a mouse, or software which simulates hardware, such as a ramdisk (simulation of a speedy hard-disk in memory) or a disk cache, you will need the special device drivers provided by the manufacturer. Also, many software programs require a special device driver, ANSI.SYS, which enables them to control the screen and the keyboard more effectively.

For the start of your experimenting (using a bootable floppy disk), a typical CONFIG.SYS would be:

buffers=20

files=20

device=c:\dos\ansi.sys

device=c:\mouse\mouse.sys

If you have a 386, with lots of extended memory, your starting point (also using a bootable floppy disk) could be:

Device=c:\himem.sys

dos=high,umb

buffers=30

file=40

devicehigh=c:\dos\ansi.sys

devicehigh=c:\mouse\mouse.sys

devicehigh=c:\dos\ramdrive.sys

Happy experimenting!

□

At 7:00 p.m., prior to tire regular monthly OPCUG meetings, Eric Clyde holds special sessions for new users in Room 110. if you have a topic you would like Eric to discuss, or questions you would like to ask him, call Eric at 749-2387.

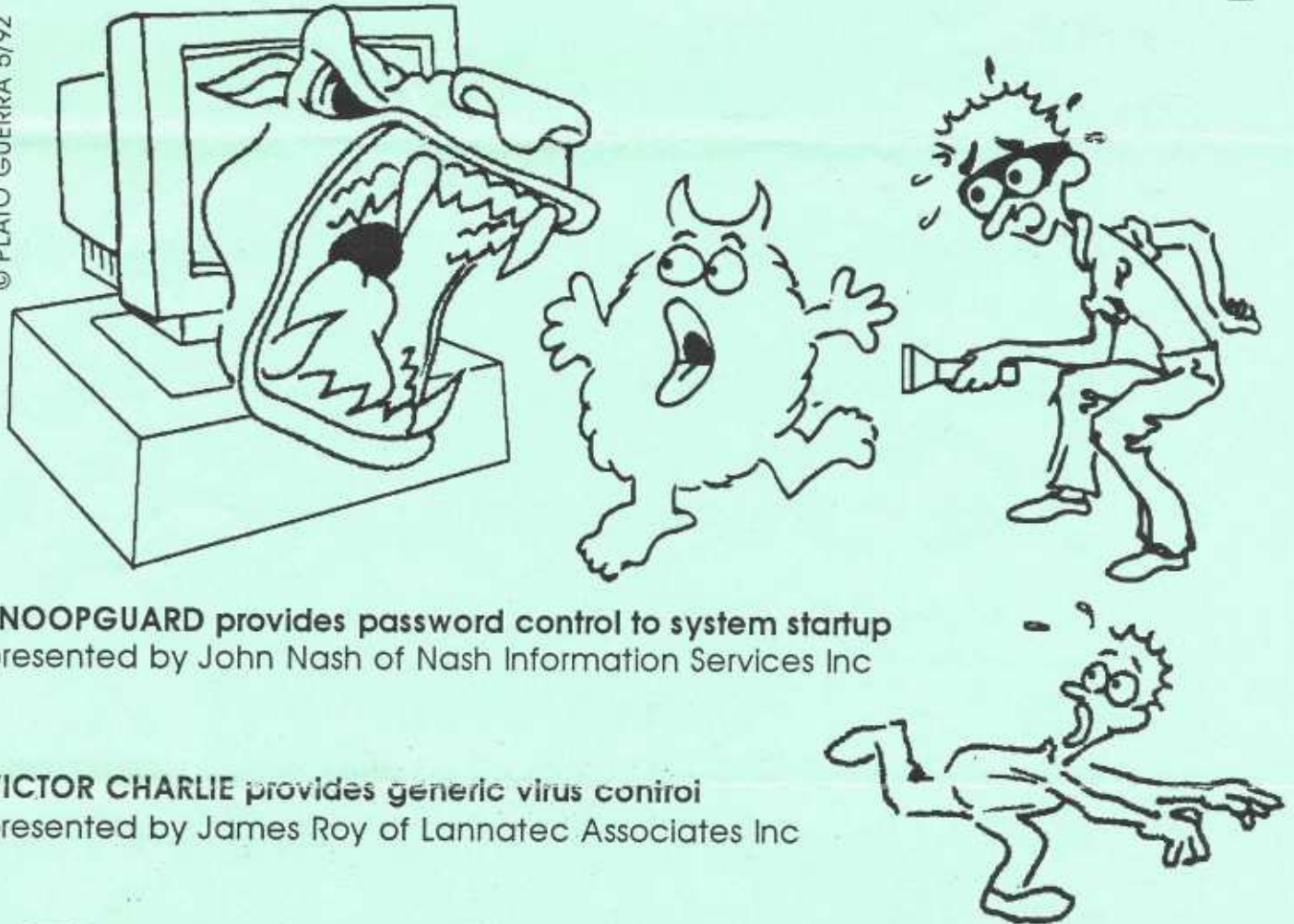


OTTAWA PC USERS' GROUP NEXT GENERAL MEETING

to discuss

computer security

© PLATO GUERRA 5/92



SNOOPGUARD provides password control to system startup
presented by John Nash of Nash Information Services Inc

VICTOR CHARLIE provides generic virus control
presented by James Roy of Lannatec Associates Inc

Tuesday May 26 '92 8pm
In the Auditorium
at Sir Robert Borden High School
131 Greenbank Road, Nepean

The Ottawa PC Users' Group

3 Thatcher Street
 Nepean, Ontario
 K2G 1S6

Membership Application

(renewal)

VOICE (613) 723-1329

BBS (N,8,1)(613) 228-0665

please Print

Last Name:		First Name:
Address:		
City:		Province:
Postal Code		Country:
Telephone:		
Home:	Office;	Fax:
Are You:		
<input type="radio"/> A New Member?	Membership LD.#	MEMBERSHIP FEE \$25.00
<input type="radio"/> Renewing your membership?		
Do you wish to subscribe to the Disk of the Month and/or Software Library disks? (10 disks per subscription regular price \$3.00 per disk)		Disk Format: <input type="radio"/> 5.25' @ \$25.00 yr. <input type="radio"/> 3.50' @ \$35.00 yr. \$
Can you help in Group Activities? Check (hose that apply.)		Total: <input type="radio"/> Cheque <input type="radio"/> Cash \$
<input type="radio"/> Programming Instruction	<input type="radio"/> Hardware Techniques	Hardware Used: Modem? <input type="radio"/> XT <input type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> AT - 286 Baud: <input type="radio"/> 386 <input type="radio"/> 300 <input type="radio"/> 486 1:1 7200 <input type="radio"/> 2400 09600
<input type="radio"/> Newsletter Input	<input type="radio"/> Meeting Locations	
<input type="radio"/> Memberships	<input type="radio"/> Agendas 8 Speakers	
<input type="radio"/> Software Library	<input type="radio"/> Advertising	
<input type="radio"/> Promotion/Publicity	<input type="radio"/> Bulletin Board	
	<input type="radio"/> n ether-	
What in particular interests you in the Group?		
Dare Recd:	db Entry	. Membership Card; 0 CASH
\$Y		0 Cheque
Notes:		No.