The Cursor

Monthly Newsletter of the
Washington Area Computer Users Group

May meeting changed from May 15th to May 22nd

Table of Contents

Presidential Bits

By Paul Howard

May Meeting

I was cutting the grass this morning, hoping that I'd have it short enough so I could apply fertilizer with weed killer after the rain that's predicted. I've had long wet grass clog the spreader, and thus waste a day, the rain, and time. Then I realized, that aside from using the Internet to try and second guess the weather, technology sure hasn't impacted my yard chores very much. I can't plug in more memory, or upgrade to a faster processor.

I mentioned that "WeatherBug" appeared on my computer system after one of the many XP updates I've loaded onto my system, while other user group members reported not having seen this program. It burrows in and starts on boot up, insisting on dialing up to get the latest temperature, humidity, wind speed and direction, and a host of other weather statistics. It gets current real-time information from various sources close to your location - you provide your zip code. There are 25 locations within 10 miles of my house, mostly schools, but including Dulles Airport and the US Geologic Service that can be selected to feed data into the WeatherBug application.

Lots of other weather information is available, including forecasts, weather maps, camera views, and radar information. When you're on-line, Weatherbug gives a chirp and lets you know when the National Weather Service issues an alert for your area. Give it a try - there's a mode that allows you to select advertisers that run in a banner of the Weatherbug console. Those banners will nag at times about updating to the paid version, but it's not that annoying, and I've used the ad-sponsored service for months. (http://weatherbug. com/aws/index.asp)

Lu Spriggs Web Sites for May 2004

Visit the web site of the Washington Area Computer Users Group for past versions of Spriggs Web Sites w/hyperlinks.

1. http://www.mamma.com/ - The Mother of all search engines!

2. http://edonkey.com/ - The most sophisticated file sharing technology available.

3. http://www.personalmd.com/ - Your Lifeline Online. Free newsletter with your choice of medical subjects.

4. http://www.valpack.com - Visit this site to print money savings coupons in 8 categories. Updated daily.

5. http://carfax.com/ - Visit this site for information before you buy a car. If you find a good bargain, check out its past history to see if any accident repairs are listed.

6. http://merrymaids.com/ - This site will help you find help with any household chores. Not enough time in your day?

7. http://invisiblerevolution. net/ - Welcome to Doug Englebart, and his dream to solve complex problems assisted by electronic technology.

8. http://www.johnkyrk.com/ - Here is a glimpse into life's basic structure via cell biology animation.

9. http://www.i4commerce. com/ - The strategic payment option from I4 Commerce. "Bill Me Later". Includes demo.

10. http://slashdot.org/ - News for nerds; Stuff that matters. Are you a Nerd?

The Music Wars

By Wayne Steen, Q BITS contributing editor, Quad-Cities Computer Society, Bettendorf, Iowa

The music industry is at war with itself and its fans. Who ever thought that a rock and roll band would sue its own fans? Talk about the ultimate in corporate greed. The music industry is full of corporate greed.

However, fear not my loyal readers help is on the way. Steve Jobs of Apple, Bill Gates of Microsoft, and Wal-Mart are coming to our rescue. I feel better already.

Apple has already introduced iTunes and the iPod. Soon, Microsoft and Wal-Mart will come out with their own online music services.

Roxio has brought Napster back from the dead. Napster was once the largest illegal file-sharing service on the Internet. Roxio has now brought it back as a good file-sharing service that pays the record companies and artists for their music.

Real Networks has their own online music service and Music Match has their own service. My head is spinning round, round, round.

Apple

Steve Jobs and Apple are the first ones out of the gate in the online music services race. However, remember back in the 1980s when Apple was the top dog in the computer box wars? They eventually lost out to Bill Gates. Will history repeat itself or has Steve learned from his past mistakes?

iTunes is currently the world's largest online music services company. They have recently added the muscle of over 25,000,000 AOL customers to their arsenal. iTunes works on both Apple and Windows computers. You must have Windows 2000 or Windows XP on your PC in order to use iTunes.

The download is simple and without a hassle. All you have to do is go to http://www.apple. com and click on the iTunes link. All you have to do is enter your e-mail address and then download the iTunes software.

iTunes does not charge a monthly fee that all the other online music services charge. However, you can only listen to a 30-second clip from the song that you are interested in.

GNU/Linux SIG

By Geof Goodrum

Lindows Becomes Linspire

On April 14, Lindows Inc, the publisher of the LindowsOS Linux distribution, announced a name and logo change after a prolonged court battle with Microsoft over the Lindows trademark in the US and losing judgements to Microsoft in Europe. The product and support web sites and LindowsOS product line are adopting the new name, Linspire. However, remaining stock of product may still be distributed under the Lindows name. More details on the reason for the name change and the new logo are available at http: //www.linspire.com/.

Desktop Linux Summit 2004

The Desktop Linux Summit 2004, sponsored by companies including Lindows, Red Hat, Novell, AMD, Sun and Seagate, was held on April 22-23 in San Diego, CA. Topics included interface design (presented by the creator of the Apple Macintosh), international growth of desktop Linux, special purpose GNU/Linux distributions, the status of games on Linux, and adoption of Linux within business enterprises. More information and a mailing list sign-up are available at http: //desktoplinuxsummit.org/.

Mandrake Linux 10 Released

MandrakeSoft announced the release of Mandrake Linux 10 on April 14. Members of the MandrakeClub (http: //www. mandrakelinux.com/en/club/) had early access to the download images. The software is also available in boxed retail packs, described below.

* Discovery 10.0: ‘&&Your first Linux Desktop‘&& - ideal for people migrating from Windows. Features KDE 3.2 as the graphical desktop

environment plus a hand-picked assortment of applications for Office, Internet and Multimedia activities, including Kontact and OpenOffice 1.1, a Microsoft® Office-compatible office suite. Includes: Two CDs (base system + more than 1200 applications) and a Mandrakemove 9.2 Live CD – perfect for showing Linux to friends and family! ; Manual: Discovering Mandrakelinux; Support: Standard, 30 days; Bonus: 1 FREE month of Standard Level Mandrakeclub Membership plus 1 FREE month

Mandrakeonline ‘&&Personal solutions‘&& Membership. Suggested Retail Price: $49.90 USD/44.90 EUR.

* PowerPack 10.0: ‘&&The Ultimate Linux Desktop‘&&, for experienced Linux users and developers who need all the power of a full-featured Linux workstation. qFeatures KDE 3.2 and GNOME 2.4, OpenOffice 1.1, Mozilla 1.6, Kontact and Gimp 2.0 (in contribs). Includes: Six CDs (base system + more than 3900 applications); Two printed manuals: Starter Guide and Reference Manual; Support: Standard, 60 days; Bonus: 1 FREE month of Standard Level Mandrakeclub Membership plus 1 FREE month Mandrakeonline ‘&&Personal solutions‘&& Membership. Suggested Retail Price: $84.90 USD/79.90 EUR.

* PowerPack+ 10.0: ‘&&The Linux solution for Desktops and Servers‘&&, for experienced Linux users who need a powerful desktop environment as well as an extended set of server applications such as the Kolab 1.0 groupware solution, DrakPark, DrakFax, Samba 3.0, Apache 2 and much more. Features KDE 3.2 and GNOME 2.4, OpenOffice 1.1, Mozilla 1.6, Kontact and Gimp 2.0. Includes: Eight CDs + One DVD (base system + more than 7000 applications); Two printed manuals: Starter Guide and

Rebates, rebates, rebates...

When I look back at the last four or five months, I begin to think I need to find a 12 Step group for Rebate-a-holics. Here's the pile: Norton Internet Security; Audiobahn CD-Rs; Turbotax Deluxe / Quicken Deluxe; Turbotax Federal eFile; State eFile; Turbotax State; Norton AntiVirus; Nova Development's Art Explosion 600,000. These items totaled $394.69, and I'm expecting checks for $184.94 in rebates - almost 47% savings. I won't mention the other $27 I missed 'cause I didn't follow my own rules i.e., apply for rebates the same day you buy stuff! It's hard to convince me it's not worth 15 minutes to fill out the coupons, clip the proof of purchase seal or bar code strip from the box, and use the scanner to make a couple of copies.

I recently "invested" in a Toshiba laptop - it appeared in a CompUSA 20th Anniversary ad with a special series of rebates in one Friday's POST. Rebates included $100 from Toshiba, $150 from CompUSA, plus another $100 from CompUSA to price match the same computer offered by Circuit City in the Sunday ads. Then, there was the $187 in free merchandise I was able to select as part of the Anniversary Sale. That provided a Belkin Wireless Router / 4 port switch, and a wireless LAN card.

My other big weakness is restaurant discount coupons.
" My name is Paul............."

☙

Server Administration Guide; Support: Server, 90 days + 5 phone incidente (60 days); Bonus: 1 FREE month Silver Level Mandrakeclub Membership plus 3 Free months of Mandrakeonline ' && Membership. Suggested Retail Price: $299.90 USD/199.00 EUR. All Mandrakelinux 10.0 Official packs also feature a number of valuable commercial add-ons such as NVIDIA drivers, Flash® player, Acrobat Reader®, Real® player, and more. These components are provided as extended product features and do not need to be installed manually.

A comprehensive list and comparison of features is available online at: http: //www. mandrakesoft.com/products/10/

All pre-orders placed at Mandrakestore receive an immediate 15% discount: http: //www.mandrakestore.com

LG CD-ROM Drive Updates Available

LG CD-ROM drive firmware updates are available from LG support and Dell to fix the issue reported in the November Cursor article. Instructions on how to fix and restore operation of the affected drives can be found at http: //www.mandrakelinux. com/en/lgerrataphp3. The LG flaw only affected certain models of CD-ROM drives (not DVD drives) that did not follow the ATAPI specification, and was triggered by installation of Mandrake Linux 9.2 and similar GNU/Linux distributions (e.g. SystemRescueCD prior to version 0.2.6).

Red Hat Drops Official Support

As of April 30, 2004, Red Hat, Inc will no longer provide official errata and maintenance support for consumer versions of Red Hat Linux (up to and including Red Hat 9). Red Hat users should consider switching to the community supported Fedora Core 1 GNU/Linux distribution or purchasing Red Hat Enterprise Linux. Red Hat provides help in selecting the appropriate migration path at http: //www. redhat.com/solutions/business/ migration/.

Club LUG Conference

Linux User Groups (LUGs) have announced the First Annual Club LUG Conference to be held in New Orleans from May 31 through June 2. Although registration is $275 after May 1, this includes: FOUR Linux Professional Institute-US Certification Exam vouchers for the Exam Lab during the conference ($400 value); Access to all the speaker presentations and program tracks; Access to a poolside party the evening of May 31; Access to a Bourbon Street Balcony Party the night

of June 2; Club LUG T-shirt and Mardi Gras beads; Door Prizes; Special Grand Door Prize Sponsored by Hewlett-Packard of a chance to win a trip for TWO to LinuxWorld-San Francisco. Breakfast is provided each morning for Club LUG Registrants by The Chateau Sonesta. More details are available at http://www.clublug. org/.

Linux CD of the Month

In addition to the CD-R discs described below, I can provide any downloadable GNU/Linux operating system distribution (e.g. Fedora Core, Mandrake, Debian) on CD-R. **Note:** download versions of commercial distributions do not include official technical support or printed documentation.

Beginning in 2004, each disc will contain incremental monthly updates for major GNU/ Linux distributions instead of cumulative set of updates for one distribution. This will help distribute security patches quickly and, on average, leave more room for other software. If your distribution is not included, please request it.

Discs are available only to WAC members by pre-order. Contact me by phone (703-370-7649) or e-mail (*ggoodrum@bigfoot. com*) at least 48 hours before meeting day to order or for more information. Single discs cost $4

each; GNU/Linux distributions on two or three discs cost $6 per set. All executable programs are for Intel x86 compatible Linux distributions unless stated otherwise. Your requests and suggestions are always welcome!

May 2004

Ardour - v0.9beta11.2. Free GNU General Public License source code and packages for Red Hat, Debian and Fedora Core 1. Ardour is a digital audio workstation. You can use it to record, edit and mix multi-track audio. Produce your own CD's. Mix video soundtracks. Experiment with new ideas about music and sound. Generate sound installations for 12 speaker gallery shows. Have Fun. Ardour capabilities include multichannel recording, non-linear, non-destructive region based editing with unlimited undo/redo, full automation support, a mixer whose capabilities rival high end hardware consoles, lots of plugins to warp, shift and shape your music, and controllable from hardware control surfaces at the same time as it syncs to timecode. If you've been looking for a tool similar to ProTools, Nuendo, Cubase SX or Sequoia, you might have found it. Because Ardour uses JACK to handle the

hardware interface, it supports a wide range of low-end to high-end audio hardware.

Ktouch - v1.3. Free GNU General Public License source (ktouch is also included in the kdeedu packages with most distributions). KTouch is a program for learning how to touch-type. KTouch offers you an easy way to learn to type on a keyboard quickly and correctly. Every finger has its place on the keyboard with associated keys to press. Starting with only a few keys to remember you will advance through the levels of the training lecture while more and more keys are introduced. KTouch shows the keys you need to press and the finger you need to use for that key on the screen. KTouch requires QT 3.2 and KDE 3.2.1 libraries.

Train Director - v1.19. Free source code for GNU/Linux and Microsoft Windows 95 and packages for Mandrake and Red Hat Linux. Can you keep the trains running on time? Train Director is a clone of the popular Train Dispatcher simulation software. With Train Director you can simulate the work of the Centralized

See *Linux DOM* on page 6

Traffic Control by controlling the movement of trains by throwing switches and clearing signals. You can also create your own territories with the included track layout editor. Many contributed track layouts from Italy, Portugal and Russia are included.

FreeS/WAN - v2.06. Free GNU General Public License source code and packages for Red Hat and Fedora Core 1. Linux FreeS/WA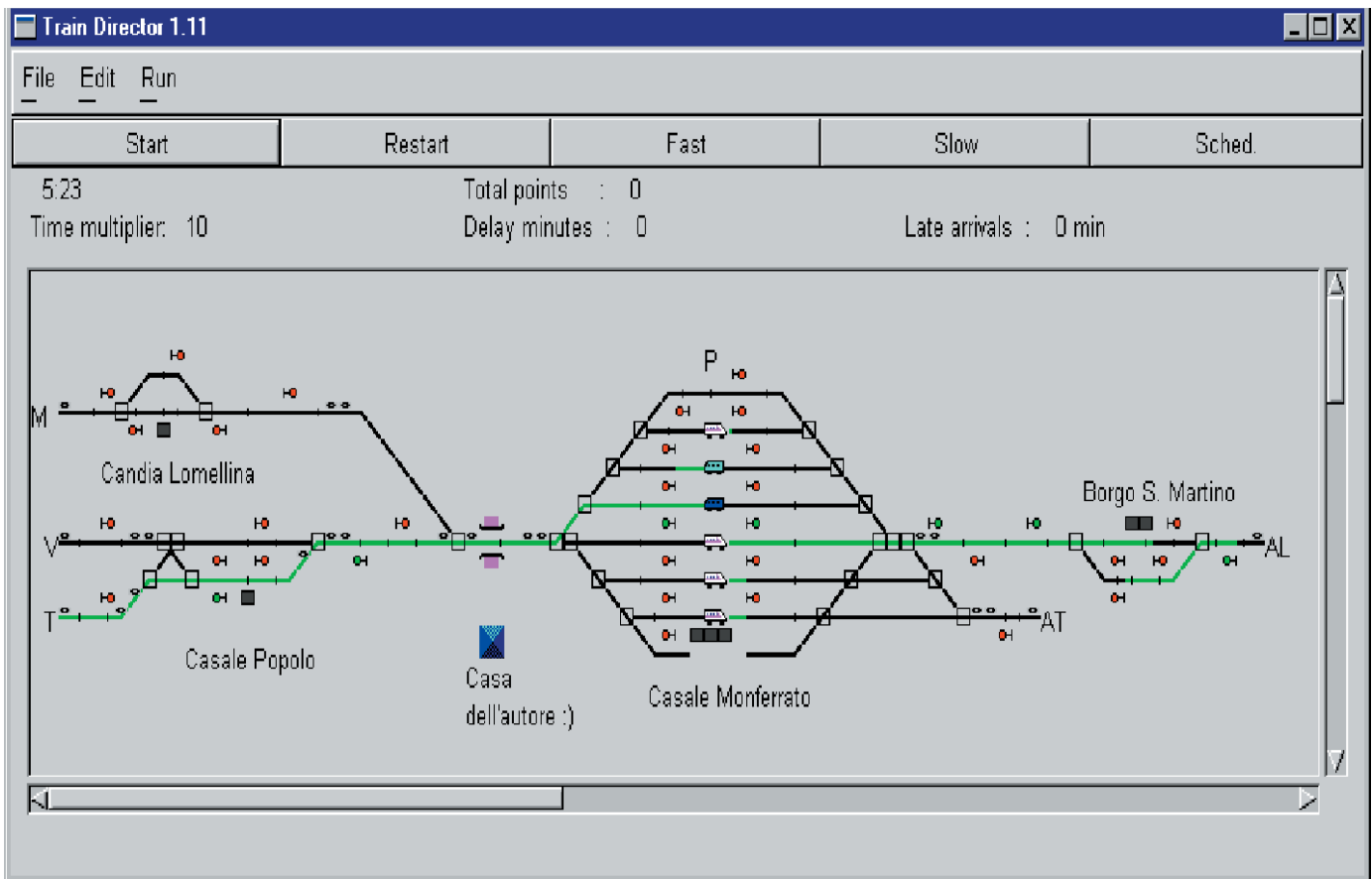N is an implementation of IPSEC & IKE for Linux. IPSEC is Internet Protocol SECurity. It uses strong cryptography to provide both authentication and encryption services. Authentication ensures that packets are from the right sender and have not been altered in transit. Encryption prevents unauthorised reading of packet contents. These services allow you to build secure tunnels through untrusted networks. Everything passing through the untrusted net is encrypted by the IPSEC gateway machine and decrypted by the gateway at the other end. The result is Virtual Private Network or VPN. This is a network which is effectively private even though it includes machines at several different sites connected by the insecure Internet. This is the final full release of FreeS/WAN.

GNU/Linux Distribution

Updates - Security and bug fix monthly updates.

Kernel Source - The latest versions of 2.4 and 2.6 kernel source code for all platforms.

Screen shot of Train Director v1.19

WAC Website is now "mirrored"

During the month of April, the organization that hosts our web site performed major surgery to update their facilities and servers. The update was supposed to take place over a weekend to minimize the amount of time our web site would be unavailable. However, if you attended last month's meeting, you saw the level of frustration shared by the entire board of directors.

The good news is that we are pleased to report that we have a new organization hosting our web site. In addition, the previous hosting organization is continuing to host the site. What? How can that be?...

Our old web site was hosted by APCUG which is the organization to which we belong as a computer user group. There are lots of benefits APCUG provides to their member user groups — one of which is hosting our web site at no cost to WAC. However, based on our experience last month, the WAC Board of Directors elected to have another hosting company host our web site for a small fee.

The only real issue is that the sites cannot have the exact same URL. That being the case, the hosting company is using our publicized URL of http://www.wacug.org/. APCUG also hosts the exact same web site information at http://wacug.apcug.org/. Note that the second hosting does *NOT* contain "www" in the URL.

So if you happen to find our usual URL (http://www.wacug.org/) not working, then try using our "mirrored" site at http://wacug.apcug.org/.

Whither the Yellow Box?

By Moe Norris, Topeka PC Users Club, Kansas

Eastman Kodak Company, an icon in the photographic industry for more than 100 years, dropped a bombshell last September when it announced that the company would shift its focus from film and film-based products to *digital* equipment and processes! And it has resolutely continued down that path. In January 2004 the company announced that by the end of this year it would no longer be selling re-loadable film based 35mm cameras, including APS models, in the U.S., Canada, and Western Europe. The "throw away" (i.e., one-time use) cameras will be the only Kodak film camera available in the west. The number of different films provided to retailers will be reduced, concentrating on just the most popular lines. Production of its Carousel film projectors was scheduled to cease the end of 2003.

Kodak said that it plans to continue providing 35mm cameras in emerging markets, such as China, India, Eastern Europe and Latin America, and will introduce six new film cameras in those markets this year. It predicts rapidly growing markets for cameras and film in those countries, in contrast to what is being seen in the west where the demand for film-related products is shrinking much more rapidly than anticipated, while purchases of digital cameras continue to grow dramatically. Kodak's array of digital cameras now extends from point and shoot consumer models to high-end professional (read very expensive) digital cameras and camera backs. It will increase its production of inkjet printing papers, and plans to introduce a new line of consumer ink jet printer models to go head-to-head with the well-established offerings from HP, Epson, Lexmark, etc.

Kodak's landmark shift in focus represents a profound change for the world's largest filmmaker, and a huge gamble. The success of the move remains uncertain. Just when Kodak needs increasing film revenues to underwrite the costs (in the billions) of this transition, film sales are dropping substantially. Since 1997 Kodak has reduced its workforce by more than 30,000 jobs. Another 15,000 jobs will be eliminated in the next two years in a further effort to reduce costs. Success is not a given. If fortune does not smile on Kodak, then not only may the Yellow Box disappear, but the company itself may go down the same path—and it won't be a Yellow Brick Road!

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

To listen to the whole song you must buy the song for 99 cents.

You can buy as many songs as you want through the Apple Music store. You will have to enter your credit card with Apple music store in order to download music from iTunes.

You can burn songs onto an unlimited number of CDs for your personal use. You can listen to your songs on an unlimited number of iPods. (I will talk about iPods in a minute.) You can play your songs on up to three Macintosh computers or Windows PCs.

You can also set up an account for your children. Kids now have a legal way to download their favorite songs with music allowance accounts. You set up the account using your credit card and then set up a monthly allotment of how many songs your kids can buy. Once they reach the monthly limit (and they will reach that monthly limit), they cannot download any more songs.

Another nice new feature from iTunes is you can now purchase audio books. At the time of this writing, Harry Potter books were not available from iTunes.

Napster

Napster is a monthly service that you pay $9.95 a month for downloading songs. You can download as many songs as you want to your computer. However, if you want to burn the songs to a CD or digital device such as

the Dell Music Jukebox then you must pay 99 cents a song.

Real Networks and Music Match also use the Napster model. I like having the ability to download as many songs as I like (or how many songs my hard drive will handle) without having to pay 99 cents a song.

If you want to burn the songs to a CD or a portable digital device then the Apple model may be more to you liking.

Problems

iTunes will only burn to CDs and Apple's own iPod. The iPod is a 15 GB device that sells for $299.00 and will carry almost 7,00 songs. Let me see, 7,000 times 99 cents equals about $7,000.00. This is a very good moneymaker for Apple.

The Dell Digital Jukebox Music Player is very similar to the Apple iPod and costs $249.00. The math is the same, about $7,000.00 for 7,000 songs.

The problem is that iPod and Dell do not play nice with each other. If you use iTunes, then you are going to want to buy the iPod. If you use Real Network, Music Match or Napster then you are going to want to use the Dell Digital Jukebox Music Player.

The biggest problem is that not all famous artists are available for download with one of the online service providers. Therefore, you may only be able to listen to a favorite artist of yours on iTunesand another favorite artist of yours may only be available on Napster.

Once again, the consumer is on the short end of the stick with all of the big boys wanting to use their own standards. They are telling us, it is their ball, and you are going to play the game by their rules. We have danced to this song before!

Conclusion

Who will win the music wars? Let us do some calculations.

I remember being able to buy KISS records on sale at Music Land for $3.99. Let us do some math. Twelve songs on a typical album divided into $3.99 equals 33 cents. Today we pay 99 centers for a song or $9.95 for the whole album.

However, that is far better than the $18.99 suggested retail price of CDs that are currently on sale in stores. Let me see, $18.99 divided by 12 equals $1.58 a song. Ouch! I do not know who will win the music wars, but I do know who has lost. The music store retailers and the consumers have lost. I am against illegal file sharing, but I am also against record companies suing 12-year-old girls.

☙

WAC PC DOM for May 2004

by Jim Brueggeman

Desk Buddy Lite — Free— Desk Buddylite.exe — 1.571 KB

This collection of tools eliminates the need for all those small utilities cluttering your desktop. It has a diary, notepad, an alarm clock and more.

Distant Suns – Screensaver— Free — ds_ss_install.exe — 2,320 KB

Grand Tour 3D Screensaver is a high-speed, full-motion, solar-system simulator using OpenGL technology and accelerated graphics. The positions and rotations of each of the planets and its moons are accurate to the current date and time (making the program a clock of sorts). As the day progresses, you can observe the great red spot of Jupiter as it wheels across the face of the giant planet. Watch the moons of Saturn in their daily dance around the majestic ringed world, and watch Earth rotate under your feet. The constantly changing scenes assure an infinite variety of interplanetary vistas.

Grand Tour 3D now comes with Phobos and Deimos, the moons of Mars, and features the Mars Rover landing sites.

DVD Profiler — Free — vdpro.zip — 3,914 KB

This can manage any size DVD collection. It provides extensive data collection information, filtering, statistics and reporting features specific to the DVD format.

This is Internet connected for sharing profiles. It connects to the online DVD database at IVS

Fresh View 2.0 — Free — Freshview.exe — 1,223 KB

This free software helps you organize and view multimedia files (images, audio, and video). It gives you the ability to watch movies, listen to music, and view graphics in a slide show. Image files in a folder can be displayed using a number of views, including a thumbnail view that lets you quickly see what your images are without having to open them. You can convert graphics from one type to another, print, and create HTML albums. This easy-to-use software supports 86 multimedia formats, including JPEG, GIF, PNG, TIFF, PSD, Photo CD, TGA, MP3, MIDI, MOD, AVI, and MPEG. The latest version features external editor program support.

IconCool — Free to Try - $19.95 to Buy — iconed4.exe — 4,337 KB

Icon Editor is an easy-to-use icon editor that has all the functions for creating and editing ICO, ANI, CUR, GIF, JPEG, WMF, EMF, TGA, and WBMP files. You can convert images in 25 formats to icons, and you can modify or replace icon images in EXE, DLL, ICL, or any other types of files directly. The program has 60 image filters, including Blurring, Sharpening, Embossing, Diffusing, and Color Balance. It has 15 image effects, including Linear Gradient, Radial Gradient, Rectangular Gradient, WAV, 3D Shadow, 3D Button, Text Gradient Effects, Noise, and Arbitrary Rotation. It has a smart image-capturing tool, which can be used to capture various-size images from desktops or from any other software. It supports Windows XP icons in 32-bit color depth with an alpha channel; now you can create semitransparent XP icons easily.

Kirby Alarm — Free — kirbyalarmsetup_v2.11.exe — 2,530 KB

Kirby Alarm is a completely free alarm and task scheduler that will pop up a note, or run a program, or play a sound, or send an email at user defined intervals. Various options are available to set alarms/programs to run every x minutes/hours/days/months/years, or the last Friday in the month, or the last day in the month plus lots more. Continues. See *PC-DOM* page 10.

Unique features to not skip missed alarms, and conditional execution of alarm based on a 'watch file'

Pardon — Free — Pardon.exe — 5,749 KB

This dictionary utility provides access to extensive dictionaries, with cross-references and text formatting. You can look up words and use "wildcards" for advanced searches. There is a vocabulary test tool and comprehensive documentation. Additional modules can be downloaded from the Internet.

Post-It Software Notes — Free — pn30lous.exe — 2,444 KB

What happens when you cross a Post-it Note with a computer? Post-it Software Notes - the classic yellow note designed for your PC! Use the software from the company that invented the Post-it Note. This digital version of 3M's famous canary yellow note is perfect for quick reminders on your computer desktop so you never miss a meeting, event, or thought. With the free Lite version of Post-it Software Notes, you can create your own notes with pictures and hyperlinks, stick notes on your computer desktop, and add alarms to your notes as reminders. You can also subscribe to receive information on a Post-it Software Note from Web sites that provide this service!

Quick2Do — Free — q2dsetup.zip — 807 KB

This application offers you a fast, simple method of recording your to-do list. Its automatic coloring feature helps you easily recognize your tasks' priorities and statuses. The program also sorts your task entries based on sub-class.

TimeCalendar — Free — TCLE163.exe — 1,270 KB

TimeCalendar offers 20 different views. See everything from a single day to an entire year. You can split your everyday planning into different layers and share them. Other features include recurrent events, a task list, and an alarm with snooze.

Window Blinds — Free to Try $20.00 to buy — windowblinds4_public.exe — 4,650 KB

Customize the look and feel of Windows 2000 or Windows XP with WindowBlinds. It can change virtually every aspect of the Windows GUI such as title bars, push buttons, the Start bar, radio buttons, scrollbars and more. WindowBlinds is what Microsoft, nVidia, ATI, Nintendo, and many other companies use to provide additional visual styles for Windows users. Try it for yourself. WindowBlinds 4.2 supports changing the toolbar icons in Internet Explorer and Explorer as well as changing the progress animations (copy, move, delete).

— Talk to us! —

The primary goal of the WAC Board Of Directors is to help our members improve their computer knowledge and skills by providing access to meaningful new technology and trends in the industry. We use our newsletter, *The Cursor,* our meetings and the web site for keeping you informed and up to date. But that's not enough.

The BOD needs your help and input to determine how we are doing with those tasks. To that end, you are encouraged to provide feedback and input to *The Cursor* by sending email to a new mailbox created for just this purpose.

Please send your suggestions and comments directly to:

cursor@wacug.org

Take the time to tell us what you think of the new format of *The Cursor* and the articles it contains.

Tell us about your great idea for a presentation or and article. What can we do "together" for all of us?

The WAC Board of Directors, SIG Leaders and other Volunteers

President:...Paul Howard, 703-860-9246, plhoward@verizon.net
Vice-President:..Jim Brueggeman, 703-450-1384, bigjimo1@aol.com
Secretary:..Jorn Dakin, 703-534-8691, ldakin@alumni.uchicago.edu
Treasurer: ....Bob Rott, blbob1@erols.com
Internet Support: ....Lu Spriggs, 703-361-0014, spriggsl@erols.com
Vendor Contact: ....Chuck Roberts, 703-876-9787, chrobe@cox.net
PC SIG Leader/Disk Librarian:............Bob Mason, 703-503-9324, Bob.Mason@remjem.com
Linux SIG Leader, Membership Chair: . Geof Goodrum, 703-370-7649, ggoodrum@bigfoot.com
Meeting Setup/APCUG Liaison: ....Bill Walsh, 703-241-8141, bill.walsh@cox.net
Web Site Team: ....Paul Howard and Chuck Roberts
Newsletter Editor:..................................Kathy Perrin, 703-369-6511, 4k4@4purple.com
Newsletter Layout:.................................Chuck Roberts
Scanning, photography:..........................Don Miller, 703-405-5916, donmiller@airbridge.net

Reprints/Article Submission

WAC encourages reprints of *Cursor* articles. Reprints must not be abridged or modified, and must identify the author, *The Cursor*, and the Washington Area Computer Users Group. Please contact the WAC Secretary about downloadable articles and article submission procedures. Products or brand names mentioned may be trademarks or registered trademarks of their respective owners.

If Your Address Changes or is Incorrect:

Call Geof Goodrum, 703-370-7649 evenings or mail change of address to:
WAC, 30 Fendall Ave, Alexandria, VA 22304-6300

2004 WAC Membership/Renewal Application

2004 Dues are for the Calendar Year and include Disk Library Discounts, and WAC's monthly newsletter, *The Cursor*, by 1st Class mail to your home.

_____
Individual/Corporate/Family Dues: $25.00

Remit payment in person at the WAC Membership table on meeting day, or by mail to:
Washington Area Computer Users Group
30 Fendall Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22304-6300
Make checks payable to WAC. Please do not send cash by mail. *Thank you for joining WAC!*
Complete if you name and address do not appear on the reverse side. Include E-mail Address
Name:
Street:
City:
State: Zip:
Phone: (   ) –

E-mail: _____

Membership Survey: Help us to help you by completing this survey. List the computer systems you own / use (in order of preference)

_____

Operating System(s): _____
Modem(s):_____
Printer(s): _____
Other Hardware: _____
Favorite Software: _____
Connection: (circle one)   Dial-up   or   Broadband

Circle Your Interests: Word Processing Databases Games
Telecommunications   Internet Access   Education Music
Graphics/Animation   Spreadsheets   Video   Finance
Programming Language(s)_____
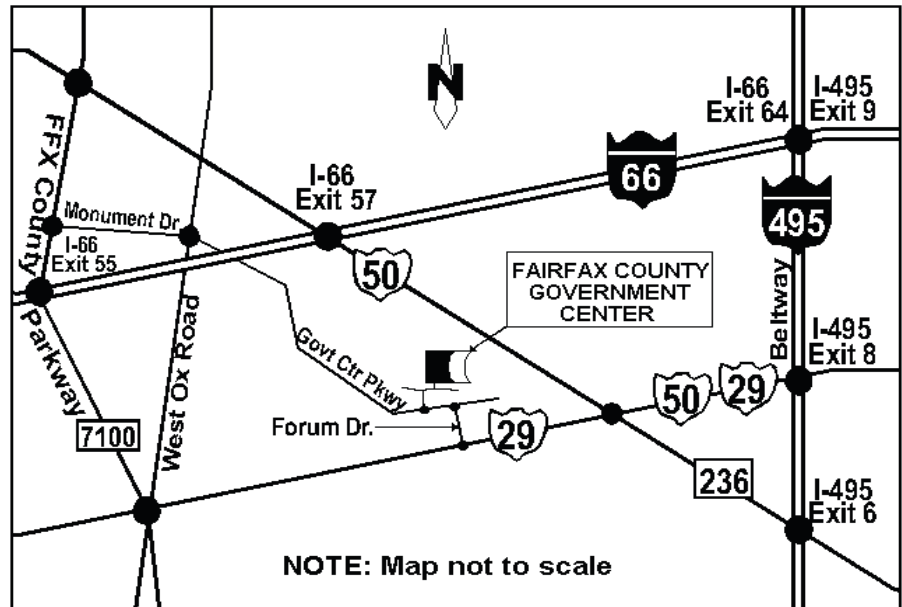Hardware Upgrades/Repair   List others below

Next WAC Meetings: • **May 22** • **June 19** • **July 10** • **August 21** • **September 21**

Call (703) 370-7649 for the latest meeting information or Visit our Web Site at:
http://www.wacug.org – mirrored at – http://wacug.apcug.org

Meetings are held at the
Fairfax County
Government Center

Through Front Entrance to
the Left Hallway, Past the
Elevators to:
Conference Room 2-3

Service Desks Open at 12:
30 Meeting Starts at 1:00
PM
FREE ADMISSION
BRING A FRIEND!

NOTE: Map not to scale

Washington Area Computer Users Group
30 Fendall Avenue
Alexandria, VA 22304-6300
ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

Stamp

FIRST-CLASS MAIL
TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL
Please Deliver By
Wednesday, May 12

Label