



# SEPTEMBER DISK OF THE MONTH

**The focus of this month's DOM follows Geof's presentation on wireless networking at last month's meeting. But September's DOM is focused on networking and broadband in general. As you try to learn more about networking in general and installing a network, I'll attempt to provide additional articles worthy of your review to help you learn more about networks, how to troubleshoot networking problems, and some utilities to help you manage your network and keep your connected PC secure.**

To see if broadband is available where you live, visit <http://www.dslreports.com>. This site provides lots of tools and tips for broadband users or prospective broadband customers. Several broadband providers are reviewed and rated on this site, so feel free to explore the site and information that resides therein.

If you register with the site, you may be able to test the speed of your broadband connection. See,

<http://www.dslreports.com/stest>

Do you know what your IP address is? Most Broadband ISP's today use dynamic IP addresses just like dial-up ISP's do. Why do they do that? If you have a dedicated IP address, that IP address is reserved for you, even when you are not online. But dynamic addresses are shared between all users. Users online have an IP address assigned to them for the length of their online session. Then the IP address being used is returned to a "pool" of IP addresses for the next user.

Visit the site: <http://www.ipchicken.com> to have your IP address displayed on screen.

## September web sites:

<http://navasgrp.home.att.net>

<http://www.analogx.com>

## September Files (located in the Files folder)

**AnalogX NetStat Live** - (*nsli.exe*) Freeware from AnalogX. Learn more about data throughput. Use this TCP/IP protocol monitor to see the exact throughput on both incoming and outgoing data--whether you're using a modem, a cable mode, DSL or a local area network. See how quickly data goes from your computer to another on the Internet, and discover how many other computers your data goes through to get there. This program is especially useful in identifying whether your computer or your Internet connection is causing a slowdown.

**AnalogX Port Blocker** - (*pblocki.exe*) Freeware from AnalogX. Protect your server from intrusion. When you run a server on your machine, it uses "ports" to allow other machines to connect to it. You may be running the server for internal use, yet there's always a way for someone outside to access the server.

AnalogX PortBlocker lets you block the Internet port of most servers, making them unreachable to other computers on the Internet. This is not a firewall, but works great on a local network.

**IP Watcher v1.84** - (*ipwatcher.zip*) Freeware. This utility shows you your IP address. Especially interesting since your IP address is probably created dynamically each time you log onto the Net. IP Watcher displays your IP address and host name, helping gamers and network administrators keep an eye on this information. You can also store the IP numbers that you want to remember in IP Watcher for quick reference.

**Angry IP Scanner 2.19** - (*ipscan.exe*) Freeware. Check for open ports on your Internet connected computer, scan dead machines and more

**Trace3D** - (*trace3d.exe*) Freeware. This utility allows you to analyze the connectivity between your PC and various devices and sites. It computes and graphs average and maximum trace-route performance values with interactive 3D visualization.

**SpyBlocker** - (*sb.zip*) - Freeware. Software often comes at the price of included 'spyware,' which sends information back to the software company and receives annoying banner ads. SpyBlocker monitors the activity of cookies and single-pixel Web bugs, and also keeps software from transmitting personal information. SpyBlocker is compatible with all firewall and local proxy-filtering software, and works with all browsers.

**Sygate Personal Firewall** - (*spf.exe*) Freeware. Sygate Personal Firewall provides security in a user-friendly interface, protecting your PC from hackers, Trojans, and DoS attacks. New features include full-ICS support, protocol driver level protection, enhanced logging, and more. Sygate Personal Firewall offers protection from malicious code intrusions, keeping the information on your PC safe and private. Note: Sygate Personal Firewall is free for personal/home (non-commercial) use only. For business users multiple licenses of Sygate Personal Firewall Pro are available.

**HyperTrace** - (*htraci.exe*) Freeware. Have you ever wanted to know what other computers your information packets go through on the internet? Or maybe your connection seems a little bit slow, and you'd like to know where the slowdown's happening... These and many other questions can be answered by...

AnalogX HyperTrace is a GUI version of traceroute, which shows you the route that information travels from your machine to another machine on the internet. Of course, AnalogX wasn't happy just making a GUI version, HyperTrace is also faster, and not just a little bit; an average of 20-30x faster than before! It displays each hop, machine name, machine response time, and the route TTL.

If you're a system admin, or even just an interested user, AnalogX HyperTrace is a great tool to give you both information about your connection, as well as spot problem areas in your connection!

**PC Suite - (*pcs2001.exe*)** Freeware. With the look and feel of MS Word, 602Text is the best word processor alternative on the market today. It internally used the MS Word DOC format (9x/2000/XP) and it can also open TXT, RTF and HTML files. Also includes a Spreadsheet, Photo Editor, and a Photo Album.

System Requirements: Windows 98, ME, NT, 2000 and XP. Configuration requirements, 32 MB of RAM for Win98, 64 MB RAM for Win NT, 2000 and XP, 40 MB of disk space and SVGA (800 x 600) or higher with 256 colors, standard keyboard and mouse (scroll wheel supported). IE 5.0 is required to use all functions of 602Pro PC Suite 2001.

**Optional Add-ons:** Thesaurus and Hyphenation, Mail Merge with Database support, RTF and XHTML Export, Bar Code Support, Text-to-Speech, Web Photo Album, PC Suite Plus for Business, Secure Document Server, Document to PDF Conversion, plus others.

Visit <http://www.software602.com/products/pcs/systemreq.html> for additional information.

**Online reference - *John Navas*,** head of the Navas Group, is a recognized consultant and expert on computer networking and specifically on fine-tuning Broadband connections to maximize throughput. He routinely makes guest appearances on Tech TV - The ScreenSavers, and offers numerous suggestions on hardware, network security and other topics. Please visit his web site and review his Broadband Tuning Guide and other items of interest. <http://navasgrp.home.att.net/index.htm>

### **Wireless Networking Updates and late breaking news!**

1. PC Magazine is launching [Wireless Center on PCMag.com](#) and rolling out the first of an eight-part weekly series on unwiring your life—starting with [wirelessly enabling your home](#). So if you want to go wireless at home or on the go, or you want to improve the wireless you have, don't miss this special report.
2. [Wireless Networking Starter Kit](#) is a book that's available several places. This site, however, has numerous areas of interest including a discussion forum. I highly recommend the book (mine's on order from Buy.com) and this site if you are interested in adding wireless networking to your home computer environment.