



WASHINGTON AREA COMPUTER USERS GROUP

PC DISK OF THE MONTH



FEBRUARY 2004

As promised at the January meeting, this month's DOM includes the best freeware Federal Income Tax preparation program as well as a set of utilities to create and edit .PDF files, one to examine your system for dangerous programs, a new CD/DVD burner program, and a utility to create a bootable CD with a host of diagnostic software. All of these programs are freeware, so enjoy! -Bob Mason

TaxACT 2003 Standard Edition Freeware for Windows (All versions) from 2nd Story Software.

(www.taxact.com) Complete your federal income taxes fast & easy! TaxACT Standard is ABSOLUTELY FREE! No hidden charges, rebates, or gimmicks. You won't pay a penny to prepare & print your federal tax return. It has no limitations or missing functionality, unlike other free software products. It includes all commonly used forms and schedules and reflects all of the NEW tax laws. And.. it is fast & easy—just answer simple interview questions and your data will *automatically* be entered into the appropriate tax forms.

PDF995 Freeware for Windows (All versions) from Software995 (www.pdf995.com) Adobe Acrobat File creation, editing, conversion, and optimizing utilities. PDF995 makes it easy and affordable to create professional-quality documents in the popular PDF file format. Its easy-to-use interface helps you to create PDF files by simply selecting the "print" command from any application, creating documents which can be viewed on any computer with a PDF viewer. PDF995 supports network file saving, fast user switching on XP, Citrix/Terminal Server, custom page sizes and large format printing. PDF995 is a printer driver that works with any Postscript to PDF converter. The PDF995 printer driver and a free Converter are included on the disk. The utilities in this suite are free, fully functional, not a trial and do not expire. Some of the many features of this suite of programs are:

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| Automatic insertion of embedded links | Hierarchical Bookmarks |
| Support for Digital Signatures | Support for Triple DES encryption |
| Append and Delete PDF Pages | Batch Print from Microsoft Office |
| Asian and Cyrillic fonts | Integration with Microsoft Word toolbar |
| Combining multiple PDF's into a single PDF | Three options to bypass Save As dialog |
| Imposition of Draft/Confidential stamps | Support for large format architectural printing |
| Convert PDF to JPEG, TIFF, BMP, PCX, HTML, MS-Word, and Text formats | |
| Automatic Table of Contents generation | |
| Standard PDF Encryption (restricted printing, modifying, copying text and images) | |
| Support for Optimized PDF | Support for custom page sizes |
| Option to attach PDFs to email after creation | Automatic text summarization of PDF documents |
| Easy integration with document management and Workflow systems | |
| Automatic page numbering | Simple Programmers Interface |
| Option to automatically display PDFs after creation | Custom resizing of PDF output |
| Configurable Font embedding | |
| Support for Citrix/Terminal Server | Support for Windows 2003 Server |
| Easy PS to PDF processing | Specify PDF document properties |
| Control PDF opening mode | Can add functionality to Acrobat Distiller |
| Creates PDFs without annoying watermarks | Support for custom page sizes |
| Option to attach PDFs to email after creation | Automatic text summarization of PDF documents |
| Easy integration with document management and Workflow systems | |
| n-Up printing | Automatic page numbering |

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WinPatrol v6.5 Freeware for Windows (All versions) from BillP Studios (www.winpatrol.com). This program uses a simple yet effective method of fighting all kinds of malicious programs. It inspects several spots in the Windows system that malware is most likely to alter, including the list of programs launched at start-up, browser helper objects, scheduled tasks, services, and cookies. WinPatrol consumes few resources and doesn't slow down your PC. You can set the interval between checkups; by default, the program checks every three minutes. If something new installs on your PC, the program notifies you and asks whether you want the newcomer. This won't cure serious infections, but it will save you from annoying adware and malicious sites that hijack your browser home page. The interface could be improved by, for example, adding a context menu that allows you to execute tasks by right-clicking on an object. Also, WinPatrol's window is not resizable, which makes viewing long lists of cookies or processes unwieldy. At least you can view full reports in HTML format. Users who install a lot of new software will find the program especially useful.

DeepBurner v1.1.0.109 Freeware for Windows (All versions) from Astonsoft (<http://www.deepburner.com/>) DeepBurner is a new CD/DVD burning software that utilizes a high level of power and efficiency. With DeepBurner you can create data, bootable, and audio CDs as well as data DVDs. Friendly and intuitive user interface with drag-and-drop features helps in all aspects, starting from compilation of data and audio to be burned onto a CD/DVD until making and printing labels for the particular type of media storage.

Ultimate Boot CD v2.1 Freeware for Windows (All versions) from <http://www.softpedia.com/public/cat/13/2/13-2-141.shtml>. You need the Ultimate Boot CD if you want to Run floppy-based diagnostic tools from CDROM drives, Free yourself from the slow loading speed of the floppy drive, or consolidate as many diagnostic tools as possible into one bootable CD. New in this release is such stuff as System Speed Test 32, Bart's Network Boot Disk, Bart's CDROM Boot Disk, McAfee Antivirus Scanner, DocMem RAM Diagnostic, PC-Config, File Maven, Trinux and SMARTUDM. The folder contains a large (43Mb) .ZIP file that unpacks to a CD image file which can be written to a CD with your burner software.