

FREE



The DataBus

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Volume 28 Issue 4

www.dma.org

September 2003

Association of PC User Groups Member (APCUG)

August 23-24, 2003 at Hara Arena

Computerfest®

Make plans now to be there!

www.computerfest.com

**Our Next DMA® General Meeting is
Tuesday, August 26 - 7:30 pm, at Univ. of Dayton**

Approaches To Backing Up Your Hard Drive

Presented by Gene Barlow, User Group Relations

www.ugr.com

by George Gibbs, Co-Editor, *The DataBus*

Many DMA® members and attendees of past Computerfest® shows are familiar with the excellent hard drive utility products, PartitionMagic and Drive Image, offered by the PowerQuest Corporation. Our August General Meeting welcomes back, and will feature, Gene Barlow of User Group Relations, who will be giving us a very informative presentation on how to set up and operate a successful backup program for your computer's hard drives.

Backing up your hard drive is quite possibly the most important thing you should do with your computer, and yet I'm positive there are many of you who don't have an operational backup program in place, thinking that hard drive failures are things that only happen to other people. A few of you will be right; most of you sooner or later will find out you're wrong—the hard way. Think for a moment about what you may have on your hard drive: crucial financial information, registration serial numbers, installation copies of downloaded purchased software, business proposals and presentations, billing information databases, email documents, etc. How many other irreplaceable or extremely difficult to reobtain

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DMA®'s Sept. 30 Meeting: DMA® Elections & Volunteer Prizes

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DMA®

DMA® Info Line:

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Member Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

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Newsletter Winner:

**Best User Group Coverage / Large Newsletters,
Intergalactic 11 & 12 Conferences (1998 & 1999) in N.Y.**

Computerfest®

- - Next Computerfest®: Aug. 23-24, '03

<http://www.computerfest.com>

email info: computerfest@dma.org

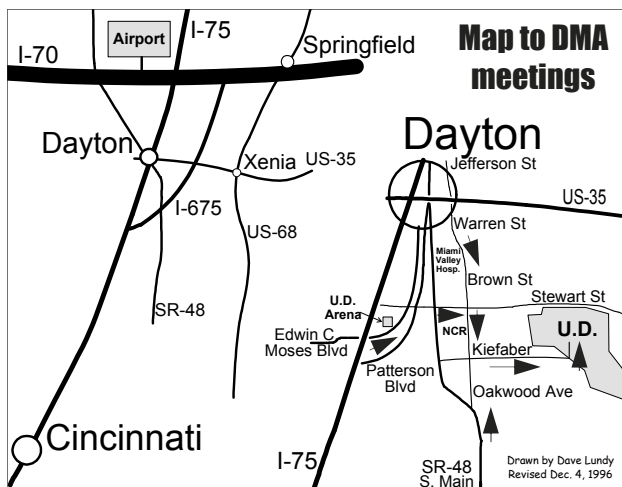
P.O. Box 2336
Dayton, Ohio 45401-2336

Computerfest® Volunteer Hot Line: 937-222-2010

Computerfest® Phone Nos: Attendee info line: 937-222-FEST (222-3378)

Vendor info line: 937-223-FEST (223-3378)

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AGENDA FOR 8/26 MEETING:

Announcements & Reports.....7:30 p.m.
(President Lisa Singh)

On tap: Backing Up Your Hard Drive.....7:45-9:00 p.m.
Presenter: Gene Barlow

Q & A, Attendee Prizes.....9:15 p.m.
(DMA® Board Member Leah Day)

Closing Statements 9:45 p.m.
(President Lisa Singh)

Meeting Adjourns10:00 p.m.
(Adjourn to Marion's for Pizza SIG @ Patterson/Schroyer)

If there is enough interest, an 'Internet Q&A' period may be held immediately prior to this Meeting, same room.

DMA®'s main meeting is held in Miriam Hall, O'Leary Auditorium, on UD's campus (add'l map p.25). The meeting starts at 7:30 p.m. Park in lot 'C' on campus (follow the map's arrows) to avoid parking tickets.

Editor's Box:

Computerfest® is just around the corner, August 23 & 24. It's not too late to help out by volunteering (www.computerfest.com). We'll see you there.

Remember: Next month is the Board of Trustees election. Your vote counts!

The DataBus

The DataBus is published monthly by the Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc. (DMA®). Technical articles, product announcements, news items and other items relating to computers, computing and/or computer users are strongly encouraged.

The deadline for submitting material is the first day of the month of publication. Please submit files to the editors (Editor@dma.org) by "attaching" them to email in one of the following formats: (in order of preference) MS Word, Wordperfect, or .TXT (with line breaks) — or simply by handing a disk to the Editors at a General Meeting or mailing it to them. The editors reserve the right to edit for clarity, length & style, and to hold or reject any portions of submitted copy. It may be better suited to a later issue. *If you have a specific topic in mind but are not sure how useful it might be to fellow DMA® members, just call an Editor and discuss it.*

Advertisements and want ads are accepted for publication. Non-commercial (for instance, to sell your used printer) credit-card size ads are free to DMA® members. For members, commercial ads of that size are \$20.00 per issue. Our present circulation, targeted specifically to computer users, technicians, & IT Managers, is 2,000 copies. For more information on advertising rates, or to obtain a Rate Card, contact an Editor. The mailing address is: *Editor - The DataBus, P.O. Box 4005, Dayton, OH 45401-4005*

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Winner:
Best User Group Coverage
- Large Newsletters,
'98 & '99 InterGalactic
Conferences in New York

The opinions expressed in any article or column are those of the individual author(s) and do not represent an official position of, or endorsement by, The Dayton Microcomputer Assn., Inc.

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DMA® MEETINGS

Email: happenings@dma.org for updates

Meetings - Guests are always welcome.

- All general DMA® membership meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., University of Dayton, the last Tuesday of each month, except December. See our Web page (www.dma.org), dmapub, or email to: happenings@dma.org for more info.

Our monthly general meeting

consists of a brief opening, SIG reports, announcements, and a 60-90 minute program by a guest speaker, followed by door prizes for members.

Board Meeting - The regular DMA® Board of Trustees meeting will be held on the first Monday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at DMA's home at 119 Valley St. Dayton, Ohio

Board meetings are open to all.
Members are always welcome to attend.

OTAP RECYCLES COMPUTERS -

The Ohio Technology Access Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. This all volunteer group of devoted people generously give of their special talents & skills.

OTAP puts donated computers into the hands of people with handicaps, limitations, challenges and special needs - and provides computers to institutions which serve the needs of these individuals.

DMA® volunteers gather computers and then teach other volunteers machine inspection, testing, diagnostics, as well as adjustment and repair techniques.

After these donated computers are put into working order, they are then provided "as is" to qualified individuals and institutions which request them. Very basic, free, computer instruction follows some computer distribution.

If you would like to learn more about OTAP, please set your browser to <http://www.otap.org> Computer donations are tax-deductible and to date, more than 2000 computers have been distributed by OTAP.

If you or your organization wish to donate or receive used equipment, or if you would like to volunteer, please call the Project Manager. Al Russell at (937) 222-2755 or email russella@dma.org.

Located at 119 Valley St., Dayton, OH

DMA®'s Special Interest Group (SIG) Meetings

Do You Have a Specific Computer-Related Interest ? —

and need an organization to support that interest? Are there others you know who would join you? DMA® can help sponsor groups of approx. 6 or more who have common software or hardware interests by providing meeting venues, AV equipment, etc. Contact vice-president@dma.org for more information.

Apple-Dayton SIG -for those who want to get the most out of their Apple computer & learn about the Apple/Mac platform. Group meets the 3rd Monday at 7 p.m. at 119 Valley Street now, but watch our website. Contact Keith Ciriegio (meeting coordinator) at 937-773-0676, email: keithc@gemair.com

Certification SIG - Purpose: to assist you in passing various Certification exams. Meets 2nd Tues. and 4th Wed. of each month. Contact George Ewing, ewingg@dma.org or Larry Ford, lford@woh.rr.com or call 937-361-8917. **Networking SIG** meetings have been combined with this group which now covers both areas.

Classic Computer SIG - the keeper of the Dayton Computer Museum. Classes in older computer hardware and software are taught by the Curator, Gary Ganger; 1st & 3rd Sat. of ea. mo. 3 to 5 p.m. at the Sugar Grove Church, Email gangerg@dma.org or call Gary at (937) 849-1483 for directions.

Digital Photography SIG meets 1st Thursday of each month. Interested? Email millard@millard.net or call (937) 879-5419. Covering all aspects of digital photography in a friendly small group atmosphere.

Digital Textiles SIG - The place to indulge your interest in computerized machine embroidery, cross stitch, knitting, quilting and sewing. Meetings will start at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at 119 Valley St. Explore what's new in the world of textiles and share your projects and experiences with others who share your passions. Contact Lou Childs for details at 888-276-3578 or lou@downhomedreams.com.

Gaming SIG - Now meeting online. Please contact SIG leader Bill Myers at gamingisig@technomutt.com or call him at (937) 275-3583 for further details, & see <http://www.dma.org/sigs.html> for the latest time/date/program information.

Northern SIG - one of DMA®'s newest SIGs, is for those interested in open source software who live near or north of I-70. For more details, see <http://www.dma.org/northernsig/> or contact Robert Ruby III- aprinciple@hotmail.com

Software Development SIG - The former Greater Dayton Delphi Group meets 2nd Thurs. each month at 6:30 p.m. at 119 Valley St.. Focusing on all aspects of software development including design, implementation and testing, we are language and platform independent. For more info, call Bill Gross at 937-602-3946 or email him at pss@woh.rr.com.

UNIX/LINUX SIG - Meets the 3rd Thurs. of each month at 7:00 p.m. in Wright State's Russ Engineering Center. Call Tony Snyder at 275-7913 for info. www.dma.org/linuxsig/

Venture Scouts - No fixed meeting time currently. Any new members are welcomed. For more information, please contact Ron Schwartz at: (937) 434-2144 or email to: schwartr@gemair.com

Pizza SIG

The unofficial snack or meal of the computer enthusiast is enjoyed following each DMA® General Mtg. at



Marion's Piazza on the corner of Patterson and Shroyer roads. **Use the FINAL coupon on page 26, or at the Mtg., to help raise funds for the Club!** Open to all, it is the "Pizza SIG".

Club Purpose and Membership

The Dayton Microcomputer Assn., Inc. (DMA®) is an Ohio non-profit organization dedicated to the education of, and providing information to, microcomputer users and the general public. DMA® members use and own a wide variety of computers and possess various levels of computer experience.

Annual dues are \$25 for regular members, which includes a subscription to *The DataBus* newsletter, and \$12.50 for associate members living at the same address. Associate memberships must run concurrently with a regular membership.

For other user groups with DMA®, see page 27.

- Approaches To Backing Up Your Hard Drive (Cont.) -

(Continued from page 1)

files are there? Now stop and consider what could happen to you or your business should all those files suddenly become permanently unavailable to you due to a hard drive failure. It's quite a sobering thought, isn't it?

Gene represents, but is not employed by, PowerQuest and for the last eight years has been telling people about the many ways PowerQuest products can help them. He is an expert on hard drives and operating systems. At this month's meeting, he'll be focusing in particular on two recently announced products, PowerQuest's Drive Image 7 and V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2.0, how they each fit into a successful backup plan, and which one is right for your needs.

These and other PowerQuest and UGR products will be available after the meeting for immediate purchase at Special User Group prices.

It should be a great presentation and one you certainly should not miss, especially if you're not running backups currently. If you already have a working backup plan in place, congratulations! Then consider bringing along a friend who would benefit from knowing what Gene will tell us.

Edited from a recent UGR email announcement from Gene Barlow:

In June, PowerQuest announced two almost identical products. Their Drive Image v7 product (\$69.95 list) is intended for end-users and can be found in most retail stores that sell utility software. Their V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 product (\$79.95 list) is intended for enterprise customers and can be ordered directly from PowerQuest. Normally, PowerQuest sells their enterprise products in multiple licenses that would only appeal to the enterprise customer. However, to accommodate those end-users that

are interested in the additional features of V2i Protector, they are letting end-users purchase this new product in single quantities.

How are these two products similar? As I said earlier, Drive Image v7 and V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 are almost the same product. I will explain their differences shortly, but first let's consider the many new functions these products have in common over earlier versions of Drive Image. First, these two products only run on Win 2000/XP operating systems. They don't run on older Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating systems, but can easily backup these older systems if you run multiple operating systems on your computer and have Win2000 or WinXP installed. As I have said in my presentations for the past couple of years, time is running out on these older operating systems and everyone should be considering a move to Win2000 or WinXP.

Second, both of these products run 100% of the time using a Windows operating system. They never boot to DOS like older versions of Drive Image or competitive products do. This is a significant step forward for backup utility software. DOS is a very limited operating system and does not support the new external USB or Firewire hard drives that are fully supported under Windows. The DOS device drivers for CD or DVD burners are not as powerful or complete as the Windows device drivers for these burners. Hence, creating backups to CDs or DVDs under Windows is much more likely to succeed than under DOS. Also, gaining access to a networked hard drive across a LAN is much more difficult under DOS than under Windows.

Besides the much larger range of good Windows device support, having to shut down all of your applications and boot into DOS to do your backups is slow and disruptive for the end user. From an ease of use standpoint, using

a well-designed Windows interface is much easier to do than having to work with an old DOS interface. Let's face it; DOS is a 20-year-old solution whose days are numbered. These are just a few of the many new features in these outstanding new products. They are the best backup utilities on the market today and one of them should be on your Win2000 or XP system.

How are these two products different? As I said earlier, these two products are almost identical. They share 95% of the same code if not more. There are only a couple of differences between the two products. Let's first consider how the Drive Image v7 product is different from the V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 product. All of the function contained in the Drive Image product is included in the V2i Protector product. The only difference is the packaging of Drive Image v7. Included with Drive Image v7 is another CD containing the earlier Drive Image 2002 product that was introduced last year. This earlier product runs on Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating systems, so if you are currently using one of these older operating systems with a plan to move to Win2000 or WinXP in the future, then you can start to backup your system using Drive Image 2002 until you make the change in operating systems. Just be aware that the older Drive Image 2002 does not contain the new functions found in Drive Image v7 and that the Drive Image 2002 CD is not included with the V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 product.

What does V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 have that is not included in Drive Image v7? V2i Protector has the ability to do incremental image backups that Drive Image cannot do. This feature alone is so exciting that it is a must have function in my backup plans. Here's how this feature works. On a monthly basis, I do a complete image backup of my entire system using V2i Protector. I store these

(Continued on page 6)

- Smashing Spyware -

By Jerry Wonderly, regular contributor to *The DataBus*. A native Daytonian, Jerry has been involved with computers since the mid-80's. "I cut my teeth on CP/M Plus." He says that 'computing' can be very expensive but doesn't have to be. "Ask questions. Think cheap. Shop around. And don't assume your computer needs to be traded in. I'd rather put my money in my 401(k) than spend it on a complete new system and software."



In this day and age, we are constantly bombarded with spam, telemarketing calls, and Internet snooping. Luckily, we are not defenseless. Here's a great site to get off some of those spam lists: http://www.dmaconsumers.org/optoutform_emps.shtml. Also, the federal government has set up a website to opt out of (some) telephone solicitations for free. It's fast and easy and can be found at www.donotcall.gov. There are good, free programs available to stop internet snooping of your activity, programs to prevent your browser from being hijacked, and tools to remove spyware from your computer. So, without further adieu, let's take these one at a time.

First we'll tackle those scumbags that hijack browsers and change their homepages. Go to <http://www.wilderssecurity.net/bhblaster.html> and download Browser Hijack Blaster. The program is small and runs in the background. It will prevent your browser from being hijacked and your Internet Explorer settings from being changed.

Next, we'll take a look at those snoops out there that track our activity while online. They like to target advertising to us based on our browsing habits. Sometimes the ads take the form of pop-up ads. Here's a nifty little tool to send that tracking information to dead ends. The program is called Silencer 1.0, it's free, and can be found at: <http://www.spychecker.com/program/silencer.html>. By the way, if you aren't already using a pop-up preventing program, I suggest you download the free program called NoAds. It can be found at: <http://www.southbaypc.com/NoAds/>. I haven't tried it but it appears to be OK. Pop-Up Stopper is what I use but its latest version is not free, unfortunately.

Spyware is all over the web. And, lots of it may be on your computer tracking you and "phoning home" occasionally. To thoroughly scan your PC and trash the snooping software, I suggest using Spybot Search & Destroy. Again, it's free and can be found at <http://security.kolla.de/>. It's a very comprehensive program so read its directions.

Used in conjunction with Spybot, Spyware Blaster prevents spyware from ever being installed. It is a super program that works hard to protect your system. You can find this free program at: <http://www.wilderssecurity.net/spywareblaster.html>.

There is also an excellent support forum/bulletin board at a site called SpywareInfo. They have postings on a wide variety of topics for all kinds of spyware-related problems and solutions. I have found they are very knowledgeable and helpful. The SpywareInfo forum page can be found at: <http://www.spywareinfo.com/forums/>.

Lastly, a note about email. Please be careful of what you say in email. We never know who will read it because it is not secure and who knows how long it floats around out there in cyberspace.

Well, that's it for this month. Next time, I'll try to write about something more pleasant. Take care, all!

- Approaches To Backing Up Your Hard Drive (Cont.) -

(Continued from page 5)

large image files on a backup partition on one of my hard drives or my external hard drive or a network drive. Since these image files contain everything on my computer systems, they are quite large and do take a few minutes to create. Then, a week after taking this image backup of my entire system, I run V2i Protector and make an incremental backup image of my system. This time, instead of backing up all of my hard drive, I only back up those sectors on my hard drives that have changed since the last backup. Because it is only creating an image of the changed sectors, these image files are relatively small and are completed very quickly. Then at the end of each

week in the month, I again make an incremental backup image of my system. If anything goes wrong with my system, I can restore it to the last incremental backup point, which may be just a couple of days ago. I could also restore my system to any backup point before that if I needed to. V2i Protector does this smoothly and efficiently. This is a powerful new feature in backup utilities that you will certainly want.

So, which software product should you choose for your computer? If you currently use a Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating system and already have Drive Image 2002, then you can use that excellent backup utility until you

move to Win2000 or WinXP. If you currently use a Win95/98/Me/NT4 operating system and are using an older version of Drive Image or a competitive backup utility, then you should order Drive Image v7 from us at the user group discount price, use the Drive Image 2002 product until you move to Win 2000 or WinXP, and then you can use Drive Image v7 on your new system. Finally, if you currently use a Win2000 or WinXP operating system, then you should order V2i Protector Desktop Edition v2 from us at the user group discount price and take advantage of the exciting new incremental image backup feature. One of these three options should fit you perfectly.

- Linux: The Elusive Command Prompt -

by Nancy J. Christolear, DMA® member

In 2000, I took a class in Unix at Sinclair. We signed into the Unix system through a telnet application using a Windows desktop. I noticed that many of my fellow students were having the same problem -- dealing with the command prompt.

The Macintosh came out with its point-and-click interface in the mid 1980s. Windows developed into a viable interface shortly after that. It is not unheard of for students entering college today to have never seen the command prompt.

I am pretty unique among my peers. I began to work with home computers when my father purchased his Z-80 CP/M system. My father taught me how to deal with the command prompt. The years of working with Z-DOS and MS-DOS further honed my skills. As a result, when I sat down to the screen in the Unix class, the prompt was not a problem.

What did my fellow students run into? Well, they had to change a mindset. It was hard for them to realize that the entire screen was not the computer they were working on. The biggest problem was the desire to scroll the screen back, click on the screen and begin working in a previous task. After this experience, many of the students were so intimidated by the command prompt, that they never wanted to see Unix again.

Which brings us to Linux. You may have taken advantage of one of our Installfests, or perhaps you just downloaded and decided to try it. You may be working with the GUI tools but eventually you will need help. Most of the folks who can help you will direct you to the command prompt and some simple commands. So a level of comfort with the command prompt is essential.

First of all, how do you get to the command prompt? You can open a terminal window in the GUI. These windows might be on your panel, or they would have a name like kterm, xterm, eterm, etc. Just open it up and you will see something like

```
[user@localhost user]$
```

This is the command prompt. You can also get to the command prompt by logging into one of the text based terminals in Linux. Just hit Control-Alt-F1 to get to the first terminal. There are 6 available to you in most Linux installations. You can toggle between them by hitting Control-F1, Control-F2, all the way up to Control-F6. Control-F7 will return you to the GUI interface.

Next you will want to know how to get help. Linux, like Unix, comes with built-in help. It's the "man" command. Just type "man" followed by the command and you will get a screen full of all kinds of information, from syntax to descriptions of

how the command works. To get help with man, just type "man man". Then you will get pages full of information on "man".

After that, you may want to experiment with some simple commands. Consider "ls" to get a listing of the files in the current directory. "cd" will change directories, roughly equivalent to folders. "cp" copies files. "mv" changes the name of files. "mkdir" will make a new directory in the current one. Perhaps you could issue a "man ls" command and see what information the help page gives you.

Most commands follow the same syntax. First you type the command, then the option(s) you desire (usually this would be a dash followed by a letter or a sequence of letters), and then the file or directory name you are operating on. For instance, to see a long listing of the current directory, you would type "ls -l". Use the "man" command to see the various options and the particular syntax for each command.

There are many more commands that you can investigate. Almost all of the GUI tools will have a command line equivalent. You can get summaries of the various commands by doing a Google search on "Unix Commands". Have fun investigating the command prompt and the added flexibility it gives you.

- Have A Little Extra Time On Your Hands? -

Volunteering for Computerfest® is fun! You can join in on the fun. How does meeting new people, free food, free stuff and a free pass to get into the show sound??

Volunteers enjoy free admission to the pizza party on Saturday night for volunteering one shift, just 2 hours of

their time. Plus it's all the pizza you can eat! In addition, the ones who volunteer for two or more shifts will receive a coupon redeemable for Computerfest® merchandise, t-shirts, coffee mugs, or other interesting gifts.

We are always looking for new faces to become Computerfest® volunteers.

If you are interested, you can get more information by checking out the website www.computerfest.com and clicking on "Volunteers". Please join us!

Jennifer Bodey
Co-Volunteer Coordinator

UH - OH !

These Memberships have expired, or are about to expire soon!

Remember to send your check & the completed application form (in the center of this newsletter) marked "DMA® Dues" to P.O. Box 340402, Beavercreek, OH 45434-0402. Or if you give them to Carol Ewing at the next General Meeting, please have the form filled out in advance and have correct change or a check. We do not have change at the meeting.

Expired in July 2003

Anderson	Mark
Bacher	James A.
Bennett	Barbara
Chiang	T. Derek
Cook	Jason
DeWaters	Ernie
DeWaters	Irma C. (a)
Elworth	Donald T.
Feigleson	Mark
Ford	Larry
Jones	David H.
Kouse	Penny C.
Lackermann Jr.	William
Milano	Jack
Petersen	Steve
Rotman	David
Stuart	James
Young, Th.D.	Barbara
Zarecky	Mark D.

Expires in August 2003

Anders	Larry
Anderson	Miles
Ball	Gary L.
Barfield	Arthur
Biawitz	Stephen A.
Boedeker	Harold F
Brodowski	Thomas C.
Browne	Michael J.
Buechly	Harold
Cahill	Timothy
Clemmons	Dean
Cox	Bruce
Coy	Benjamin
Coy	Jonathan
Davis II	William N.
Edwards	Robert L.
Esch	Carol
Fitzmartin	Susan
Forrai	David
Foward Sr.	Alphonsa
Garringer	John

Gavin	Joe
Georges	Mark
Green	Ina (a)
Green	Ray
Harris	Robert L.
Heeg	James E.
Heinz	Patrick
Hepner	John
Horn	Charles
Horton	Jerry A.
Hostens	William
Houser	Dennis W.
Humphreys	Edward N.
Kelley	Dayna L.
Klein	Kenneth
Leach	Jane (a)
Leach	Robert
Leach	William
Lindsey	Charles R.
Lohnes	Ernest
Long	Carol A.
Lynch	F. William
Mahfouz	George
Massengil Jr.	Fred
McCoy	James L.
Mullins	C. Fred
Myers II	William A.
Odle	Royce
Omiattek	Joshua D.
Ormbrek	Nathaniel
Preis	William
Priess	Joseph
Reibert	Gary
Roth	Thomas
Ruckman	Robert
Sage	Sarah
Smith	Frank
Smith	Karen (a)
Smith	Lee
Spreen	Arthur
Taylor	Billie
Taylor	Elisabeth C. (a)
Troutman	Shawn

van Alden	Jon
Walton	Jeff
Welsh	Joseph C.
Wilkin	Olivia
Williamitis	Ron
Zimmerman	Harold

Expires in September 2003

Baltes	Dick
Brodowski	Eleanor
Brookhart	Marjorie
Childs	G. Dale
Clemmons	Jeffrey (a)
Detweiler	Philip
DeVol	Stephen
Fosnaugh	Frances Y.
Gaulden	Henry C.
Gill	Joseph G.
Glidewell	Kay
Gunton	Ken
Halliwell	Bernard J.
Jones	Edward K.
Kettering	Ross
Klenke	Thomas
Lee	Darla A. (a)
Lindsley	David
Lotspaih	Mark
Luneke	Kenneth C.
Melke	Harry B.
Miller	Samuel J.
Moulder	Patricia A.
Nielson	Dean
Nies	Jim
Nieves	Erik H.
Pasha MD	Jaseem
Peirano	Mary E
Rhude	L. Roger
Stine	Gregory L.
Thorstenson	Carl E.
Waldo	Where's
Winfree, S.M.	Donald J.
Wurstner	Vija

- Review - Palm Zire M150 Handheld -

by Dan Woodard, DMA® member, DataBus Software Reviewer



Dan Woodard: *At the tender age of 9, Dan got his start enjoying computer games on his TI-99/4a home computer, and he's been at it ever since. He graduated in 1996 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. Dan has been a DMA® member since 1993 and enjoys playing Othello, other strategy and role playing games, backpacking, fishing and gardening. He also dabbles in computer repair and upgrades. Dan is a regular software reviewer in the pages of The DataBus. He can be reached by emailing him at dgw@dmapun.dma.org.*

For those of you who are not familiar with the Palm, here is a short bit of history. Originally known as the Palm Pilot and marketed by 3Com, the Palm started out as a handheld computer that focused on long battery life. It had a touch sensitive screen, a proprietary operating system, and greyscale graphics. A plastic stylus was used to interact with the GUI. Because it was also too small for a keyboard, the Palm got around this problem by offering handwriting recognition. 3Com eventually licensed the technology out to other vendors, and now there are a number of Palm computers made by Visor, Sony and other companies. While most of the basic features have stayed the same, some newer high-end models have color screens, and even an MP3 player/recorder. This is not the case with the Palm Zire M150, which is an entry level model Palm has introduced to compete with some of the nicer electronic organizers, which you have probably seen at stores for about \$50-\$60. The Zire offers all of their features and more, such as the open-ended ability to download programs from the Internet, and even the ability to write your own custom applications.

Let's start off with some of the positive aspects of the Zire. Battery life was excellent, probably the best of any handheld computer I've seen. I had the unit on for over 30 hours and only then did I finally start to see the power level indicator start to drop. Plus, this unit has a built-in rechargeable battery, which means users don't have to mess with changing batteries, ever. The unit can charge from the USB cable or from a wall adapter. Another aspect that is definitely a draw is the fact that there are hundreds, perhaps thousands, of Palm applications out there on the Internet. Many of these are freeware or

shareware. A typical application is perhaps 30 KB in size, so even with only 2 MB of RAM, the Zire can hold dozens of different programs at the same time.

"The most aggravating 'feature' on the Zire was Palm's decision to do away with two of the hardware buttons that have been standard since the earliest models."

Despite all the things there were to like, the Zire also had some annoyances. The screen size was a bit small, 2.75", compared to 3.5" on the Palm M130, and 4" on the Palm Vx. Resolution is also 160x160, compared to twice that on most of the new models. Although most applications are compact, the 2 MB memory could be a limiting factor for some of the newer applications. Most new models ship with 8 MB, or even 16 MB of memory. The Zire also doesn't have a backlight like most other models do. This means that if you are in a dark area, you won't be able to use the Zire at all unless you also have a flashlight.



The most aggravating 'feature' on the Zire was Palm's decision to do away with two of the hardware buttons that have been standard since the earliest models. Palm says they did this to simplify the machine and provide easy access to the functions used most often. In practice, this means that perhaps 40% of the games written for the Palm platform will not run properly on the Zire, since they use these buttons as controls. I consider this a design flaw, because it is such a drastic change, and the system locks up completely when you try to run some of these applications. Palm has marketed the Zire as an entry-level model, so perhaps this is an incentive to upgrade to one of their higher end offerings.

Summary: Great if you don't want to have to change batteries, and if you mostly are using productivity software. Completely aggravating if you have used another Palm in the past, and want to play your favorite game on this one. Palm's decision to leave out standard hardware buttons on this machine causes system lockups and unresponsive programs, and by itself is what caused this rating to be a 6.5 rather than a 9.

Rating: 6.5 out of 10

System Requirements: Windows 98+ or Mac OS 9.x+ and one available USB port

Reviewed: P4 1.4 GHz, 128 MB RAM, 32 MB Video, 50x CD, Win ME, DirectX 9, 20 GB HD

Best Price: \$48 including shipping at www.overstock.com (as of 8-1-2003), and usually <\$60 on Ebay

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- Technology.talk — Those Little Silver Disks -

By Patrick J. Suarez—Regular Contributor to *The DataBus* - pjsuarez@gemair.com



Patrick J. Suarez is a nationally recognized Internet writer, trainer, speaker and consultant. He has appeared on numerous radio and TV programs across the United States. He is the Internet speaker at the annual Computerfest® trade show in Dayton, OH each spring. Mr. Suarez published a tutorial software program called “The Beginner’s Guide to the Internet” in 1993, and a book by the same title followed in 1995. In addition, Mr. Suarez has been published by Que. Mr. Suarez operates a Web site supporting people who have just learned that they have a tumor. Pat is an independent writer and trainer and shares his computing time between Linux and Windows.

Tape and film are dead. Long live their...memory.

Digital is here for good and it has finally conquered the last bastion of analog technology: still photos and movies made by home users.

For a reasonable price, amateurs have at their disposal still cameras that print stunning photos up to 8x10s, although most users share 4x6s. Also in their armament is intuitive software that fine-tunes the images to maximum crispness and brilliance. If you figure about \$100 per megapixel, you can purchase a 3.2-megapixel point-and-shoot camera that offers infinitely more convenience than a comparably priced 35mm film camera and creates photos (using ink jet printers and glossy photo paper) indistinguishable from those made with Kodak ASA 100 print film.

When you factor in the cost of raw film and its developing and printing, you no longer have a fair fight. For a little more than \$200, you get a 1 gigabyte CF chip that holds more than one thousand high-density shots. I don’t want to think about how much developing and printing a thousand film photos would cost, not to mention the gas and time to drop off the film and pick up the prints.

Don’t like a shot? No waste with digital: just erase the file. Empty the chip to a PC, and then off you go again for another thousand photos. Vacation shutterbugs never had it so good. Thirty rolls of 36-exposure film? Nah.

More serious photographers employ the services of 5-, 6- and even 13-

megapixel single lens reflex cameras with interchangeable lenses and dedicated flashes. Most of them would never return to film.

But this is old news. The real news is in home movie technology where advances and archiving possibilities are nothing short of paradigm-bending.

My father loved taking old 8mm silent color films of us when I was a kid. We have hours of family memories archived to VHS. I wish Dad could see what today’s young and middle aged dads have at their disposal: little silver disks.

2003 is notable for something other than Ohio’s birthday and the centenary of powered flight. It is the 20th anniversary of the compact disk. 20 years!

But the trusty old CD begat something more extraordinary: the DVD. If you thought DVDs were only for watching Hollywood treasures (and stinkers), think again. In its seventh year in our lives, DVDs are now the new home movie medium.

Starting at about \$400, young parents can buy their own digital movie camera, the so-called miniDV. These little miracles record 520 lines of resolution, more than twice their predecessor’s. The result is razor sharp images with high quality digital stereo. These cameras also pack lots of special effect features, augmented by PC software that turns even rank amateurs into skilled film editors able to interweave fades and fancy text into the final product. The cake’s frosting is the DVD burner.

The whole process is so easy. Shoot your movie with your miniDV camcorder. Plug the camcorder into a USB 2.0 or IEEE1394 (Firewire) slot in the PC. Download the movie image to the PC. Open the resulting file with friendly film editing software on the PC, and then burn the final result to a DVD. Voila! Your very own high quality, digital, stereo home movie you can share with anyone. And, you can digitize to DVD all your old VHS tapes. Yessss!

Where does one begin?

First, forget about using any PC more than about six to twelve months old. You need power for this job. I suggest at least a 2.6 GB CPU, 1 GB of state-of-the-art RAM, a 128 MB video card and a verrrry large hard drive, at least 120 GB, on a fast motherboard bus. Use anything less and you’ll experience enormous frustration. I’ll get to the DVD burner momentarily.

You need a miniDV camcorder. I have looked at several and selected the Sony line, probably a TRV33. Ignore the still photo capabilities in these cameras. They are generally dissatisfying. If you want still photos, get a digital still camera.

Next is the DVD burner. Right now, there are two competing standards, DVD + and DVD -. Home DVD players might play either. Consult the fabulous DVDR Help Web site, at www.dvdrhelp.com, for the ultimate list of all home DVD players and their +/- compatibility.

DVD + might win the standards race, but maybe it won’t. To protect your-

(Continued on page 11)

- Technology.talk — Those Little Silver Disks (Cont.) -

(Continued from page 10)

self, buy a DVD burner that features both standards. The clear winner is the Sony SRU510A. TDK and LG, among others, offer DVD +/- burners, but Sony is the king of all burners. And, yes, it does burn CDs at about 32X.

PC manufacturers now sell computers tuned to movie editing and DVD burning. The cream of the crop is the Sony Vaio, with its 510A burner and specialized movie editing and DVD burning software.

What of the Mac? Its G5 systems are incredible, but its burner is only DVD -. When it finally introduces a +/- burner, the G5 Mac will be the 'ne plus ultra' of systems. Until then, stick with Sony and Windows XP Home edition.

Lastly, where should you buy all this gear? Familiar electronic chain stores offer reasonably good prices, especially during sales.

You can beat their prices on the Web, but very careful about using many Web stores, including those that offer ridiculously low prices on these wares. You might get stuck with a gray market item, something that the manufacturer designated for non-US sales. There's no warranty with these camcorders. Or, you might get an open box. Or no box at all. Or photocopied manuals. Or no manuals. Or high-pressure sales calls relentlessly badgering you to buy more gear associated with the camcorder. Or you might not get your item for weeks. Or you might not even be able to call them. Beware glowing reviews of these Web storefronts in newsgroups. Several outfits pay for people to publish flattering reviews, an abhorrent practice.

The only Web site for which I can personally vouch is J & R Music, at www.jandr.com. But I herewith issue this disclaimer: if you use J &

R and something bad happens, I absolve myself of whatever problem you might have encountered. My son had a great experience with them, but that was one experience. And that one experience is the limit of my endorsement.

If you really want to take the plunge into shark-infested waters and buy from a deep Web discounter, do so with a credit card that offers buyer protection against fraud. American Express offers such service, but remember that, in most cases with Amex, you have to pay the whole thing off within thirty days.

Digital is here, it's reasonably priced and easy to use. The impact it will have on generations of home video is incalculable.

Tape and film are dead. Long live their...memory.

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- DMA® Board of Trustees Election In September -

Elections are held at the annual General Meeting in September. The DMA® by-laws state specific requirements to be a nominee for a Board of Trustees or Officer position. Each year, three people will be elected as Board of Trustees for a three (3) year term by the membership present at the September General Membership meeting. At the October Board meeting, the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer are nominated and then elected by The Board of Trustees for a one (1) year term.

Requirements:

- Must be a paid up individual regular or associate member of DMA® in good standing for at least the 12 months prior to election.
- Must be twenty-one (21) years of age before the date of the election.
- You are required to sign both forms and return to the **Nominating Com-**

mittee Chairman by August 31, 2003.

Any DMA® member wishing to run for a Board of Trustee position shall contact the Nomination Committee Chairman or committee members. The Committee will send you a Nomination Packet consisting of a copy of the current DMA® by-laws, an Expression of Interest and Commitment form and DMA® Code of Ethics Form.

The Nominating Committee Chairman will send every eligible nominee a certificate of acceptance notice. Every eligible nominee will be asked to send a short write up, electronic form preferred, not to exceed 500 words, and a photograph before September 1, 2003, to be printed in *The DataBus*. This write up should include a Biography and why you would like to be a DMA® Trustee.

If you know of a member of DMA® that you think would make a good Trustee, let us know and we will contact them.

Nominations will not be accepted from the floor on the evening of the election, Tuesday, September 30, 2003.

A copy of the complete DMA® By-Laws are on the website at: http://www.dma.org/DMA_BYLAWS_7_25_2000.html.

Contact your Nomination Committee today:

elections@dma.org

Bob Kwater, Chairman
kwaterrb@dma.org
Millard Mier
millard@millard.net

Computerfest® Increases Vendor Participation

by Randy Young, Computerfest® Exhibitor/Vendor Chair

While the past few Computerfest® shows have seen a decrease in computer vendors, that looks to be reversed this time as of this writing. The decrease we have seen in the past was in part due to the overall economy. Also, there were more shows in operation throughout the year in this region, thus the market for our event was diluted. Not to be discounted either is the plain fact that so many computer dealers have simply gone out of business.

With the other shows now disappearing, vendors are coming back to the ours, the one that has survived, now going on 28 years. Likewise, they see the value of being associated with an event that seeks to diversify its offerings, thereby attracting new attendees, which leads to new customers who wouldn't otherwise have gone to just a PC fair. Add to this the increase in seminars that entice consumers with directions and ideas for their purchases and you have a complete package that otherwise cannot be duplicated at other shows.

Some Local Vendors Still Showing Resistance

While our response from out of town vendors has been on the increase for this Computerfest®, the resistance shown by many of our own local vendors is somewhat troubling. What is particularly odd is that it wasn't so long ago that the local vendors were the ones voicing their strong objections to our event allowing outside vendors to come in. I suppose we've come full cycle now in this argument and will never satisfy those who must find fault externally for their own business woes. It should be made clear though that those local companies who do support Computerfest®, ergo they are supporting DMA®, should be given the full support of the members of DMA®, about 900 strong!!

With this reluctance by many of the local businesses to participate, it has been necessary for Computerfest® to give more attention to attracting businesses from outside of the local region. With this attention must also go the added effort of ensuring the quality of the vendors, many of whom have been with us over many shows, or are coming back after a short absence, and have a proven track record of excellent support and response. While there is always the possibility of a bad apple sneaking in, every effort is made to weed them out ahead of time. To further guard against the bad practices of a rare few, Computerfest® publishes, both on the website and in the show program, basic common sense rules which would apply to anyone purchasing anything anywhere. We also encourage the testing of items purchased at the show by taking them to the OTAP booth WHILE YOU'RE AT THE SHOW. These procedures and processes clearly go beyond the norm for other computer shows and are what make Computerfest® such a unique event.

Support Your Show

Computerfest® is changing, evolving, and growing. There will be new technologies exhibited and new events within the show. As a DMA® member, you can be proud of your association being the only sponsor of this major event in the Dayton community. The proceeds help support our organization, and I hope YOU support YOUR show, either by volunteering at the show or by attending.

See you there!!

Randal C. Young
Exhibitor/Vendor Chairman
Computerfest® Fall 2003



Free Pizza And Subs

Computerfest® volunteers and Exhibitors are invited to a special free pizza and sub party at the show. It is held on Saturday night, August 23, 2003 at Hara Arena from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm.

You do not have to leave the show. Please go to the speakers' room area after the show closes. We will start serving at 6:30. The pizza party volunteers will be serving pizzas, subs, snacks and drinks. We have consumed up to 100 pizzas, up to 27 ft of subs and up to 28 cases of soft drinks and water. NO ONE has ever left this party hungry.

This is a wonderful time to meet new people, volunteers and exhibitors who have the same interests as you do. COMPUTERS. Everyone is talking everything about computers. Some people even slip in a few "non-computer" conversations.

We do have a special room just for exhibitors, if they wish, to talk to the Computerfest® staff (Committee and Show Chairs). It is a casual meeting to discuss this event and listen to suggestions from both sides on how to improve future Computerfest@s for everyone.

The party is a great way for Computerfest® and DMA® to thank all of our wonderful volunteers for their dedication and hard work to help us put on this event. We could not put this together without our great volunteers.

Please plan to attend this relaxing, fun-filled evening with us. Hope to see you there. Volunteer or Exhibitor Badges are required.

Carol Ewing
Hospitality Chairman
Computerfest® Fall 2003

- Dayton LANfest -

by Dellis Hines & Warrick Mann, Dayton LANfest Committee members

Imagine a large room filled with 200 hardcore computer gamers and their favorite machines, playing some of the hottest games on a high speed, high performance, custom built network for bragging rights and prizes from some of the biggest name vendors in the business. Thanks to local game organizations RageLAN and Dayton LAN, Sinclair Community College, the Cisco Training Academy, and of course Computerfest®, it's not just a fantasy.

Coming this fall, Computerfest® is proud to present the inaugural Dayton LANfest. Designed for an initial capacity of 200 seats, not only will Dayton LANfest be the largest LAN game gathering in the Miami Valley, its network is designed to grow from there and continue offering the best computer gaming experience in the area.

By combining the talents and resources of Computerfest®, and local gaming and educational organizations, Dayton LANfest offers a gaming experience on a scale smaller LAN parties simply can't match, and on a Cisco supplied network that's better than you'll find in many corporate environments. Games being played will include America's Army, Battlefield 1942 (with MODs, which will include Desert Combat and Experience WWII), Medal of Honor: Allied Assault and Allied Assault Spearhead, Quake III Arena, Unreal Tournament 2003, CounterStrike, Return to Castle Wolfenstein - Enemy Territory, and Warcraft 3 (non dedicated), all hosted on at least eight dedicated game servers. Tournament play is also being offered, on Warcraft 3 (2 v 2 format), America's Army (5 v 5), and Unreal Tournament 2003 (free for all). Sponsor supplied prizes will be given to tournament winning players.

Speaking of sponsors and prizes, the Tom's Hardware Guide (THG) road show will be visiting Dayton LANfest. Vendors offering prizes and possibly making an appearance with THG include AMD, Abit, ATi, Aerocool, DFI, and OCZ. Other high performance-computing vendors are also official sponsors, and will be supplying prizes as well. Among the prizes, not one, but three high-end AMD Athlon XP 3000 CPU's will be given away.

The gaming network has been built with stability, scalability, and performance in mind. The network backbone will be Cisco based and use industrial strength equipment. This equipment, which is designed to run in mission-critical scenarios, will provide a robust infrastructure for the gaming environment. Our network was designed from the ground up, to provide a platform for future events. The importance of performance cannot be stressed enough. The network has to provide a solid, well working environment for games to run.

The most robust and proven network technology has been selected for the gaming network. It is based on the world-renowned Cisco Systems equipment, and is based on a Cisco 4507 switch. This switch provides a highly managed and versatile platform to build our network. To increase network performance, we will be using Layer 3 switching. In addition, a Cisco 7000 series router will be used to manage and control traffic, so we may provide an optimum gaming experience for all guests. From there, each two rows will have there own dedicated Cisco 5505 switch. This mechanism is used to ensure that one user's experience is as good as another's.

The typical LAN party is not designed with scalability in mind.

Since the beginning designs, we are building the network to be able to expand as we do. Dayton LANfest expects to grow 200-300% by our next event and has incorporated this level of growth into the design. It has been planned, right down to the seating arrangements, to be able to easily add numerous people in the near future. The selected configurations will allow network equipment to be easily added to host larger events.

Performance at a LAN party is critical. Inefficient and poorly built networks are all too common. Dayton LANfest seeks to provide an extremely low lag network. We understand the game demands and know what is required to keep a game running well. Most game servers will be running on their own dedicated server. It is essential to have reliable servers. This is why Dayton LANfest has chosen to use Windows Server 2003 to run on all of our servers. Windows Server 2003 is a robust Operating System that can easily host dedicated game servers, without the worry of Operating System failures. Dayton LANfest will have the best network in the region, utilizing over \$250,000 of network equipment. We have the expertise from certified Cisco and Microsoft individuals to support our scalable network. Everyone has pooled together to create one awesome network for gaming.

Prices for Dayton LANfest are \$18 in advance and \$20 the day of the event. Remember that this includes a ticket to Computerfest®, making it a real bargain. The easiest way to register and pay in advance is to visit the Dayton LANfest website <http://www.daytonLANfest.com>. Also remember that 200 seats sounds like a lot, but they will go quick. Order your seat now to be assured of reserving your spot.

- Get Ready For GrabTV! -

by Lincoln Berry III, Principal Developer - GrabTV, Inc.

grabtv_4@pop.bizland.com

Remember when you were a child and wished that you could reach into your television and pull anything you saw out of it? Well, now you can...

GrabTV combines Interactive Television with e-Commerce and makes shopping through your television quick, easy, and even fun!

GrabTV works transparently alongside existing cable and satellite television services. It is also fully compatible with broadband subscriber services that allow you to watch TV on your PC or Mac. All you need are a TV and a set-top box such as a digital cable or satellite receiver, a Digital Video Recorder (DVR), or other TiVo-like devices, along with a remote control that features navigational buttons.

With GrabTV, you can interact with just about anything you see on your television screen in "real-time". For example, you could be watching your favorite television show and see a product that you would like to know more about. Simply point to that product and a discreet, unobtrusive menu appears telling you more about that product, such as who the manufacturer is, the closest location where you can purchase the product, and how much it costs. Select "Buy Now" from that menu and you will be connected to the Internet instantaneously to complete the purchase.

While GrabTV isn't the first to offer Internet shopping or so-called "t-Commerce" through your television, it is certainly the most advanced when it comes to innovative design and robust features.

"We thought a lot about how people buy stuff," says Lincoln Berry III, the principal developer of GrabTV, "and wanted to include features that were more in tune with how your average shopper thinks and behaves. We thought a lot about women shoppers, for example, because they are more likely to want to touch and feel a product--you know--try it on, whereas most of the men I know read about a product first before buying. Accommodating these kinds of shopping behaviors is where our competitors have failed miserably in the past. That is why you have never heard of this sort of idea taking off before."

One such feature is GrabTV's ability to communicate with your existing home computer network.

"Many consumers are learning the benefit of setting up their own, inexpensive Local Area Network (LAN) in their homes in order to share Internet connections, files, and peripherals such as printers, and many of these home networks are even wireless." Berry continues, "With HDTV on the horizon, TVs are going digital and becoming fancier, but at the expense

of the consumer. Presumably, no one wants to surf the Internet on their new, jumbo-sized digital flat screen displays. So when you need more information about a product, GrabTV is smart enough to find your existing PC and use it as a kiosk, making it serve as an information appliance and Internet portal, so that your television viewing can go on uninterrupted."

"When we first started testing GrabTV years before the 'Dot Com crash', I insisted that we incorporate compatibility with technologies like HDTV and home networks. So in our first few attempts at seeking venture capital, we were literally laughed at to our faces for suggesting such things as affordable HDTV and home networking. Everything was about complacency, and we were devastated and heartbroken." Berry smiles, "But in a way, we have always been way ahead of the curve. So in the end, I suppose it will be GrabTV that finally has the last laugh."

* * *

Lincoln Berry III, 33, has been a resident of Dayton all of his life and currently resides in Huber Heights, Ohio. Berry will be demonstrating GrabTV for the first time publicly at Computerfest® in August 2003.

<http://www.grabtv.tv>
7085 Sandalview Drive
Huber Heights, Ohio 45424-2529
(937) 718-3159

- Making The Game -

by Lincoln Berry III, Principal Developer - GrabTV, Inc.

Ever wonder how video games are made? Many Miami Valley residents may not realize it, but for the past several years the technology and training needed to start a career in game design has existed right here in their back yard!

Technologies from CGI, which includes 3D Graphics and Animation, to

Motion Capture, which is used to map human motion onto 3D models, have all been taught and used on a regular basis right here in the greater Dayton area. Which means that you don't have to take a trip out to the West Coast to be a part of it all. Technologies that are shaping the future of Hollywood and video games are happening right now in the Midwest.

"When I did my first computer animation, it literally took six months to render," jokes Doug Robertson, Department Head of the Center for Scientific Visualization at Central State University, Wilberforce, Ohio.

"Rendering" is the process of converting mathematic formulas in a visual

(Continued on page 19)

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PLEASE ALLOW UP TO THREE WEEKS FOR APPLICATION PROCESSING AND INTERNET SET-UP

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mo. day yr.

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____ - _____

Phone: (Home) (____) _____ - _____ Phone: (Work) (____) _____ - _____ x _____

I wish to have my name and address published in the club roster: YES ☐ NO ☐ E-mail address _____

Name of DMA® member who recruited me: _____ (only new regular memberships)

Current or recent DMA® Member: Yes ☐ No ☐ Change of Address Only ☐ Today's date: ____/____/____

Membership number (from your *DataBus* mailing label) _____

Type of Membership

Application is for: New Membership ☐ Membership Renewal ☐ Associate Membership* ☐ Internet Service ☐

If applying for free student membership, please give school name and student ID number: Available **only** for students under 22 years old.

School Name: _____ Student ID#: _____

* A family associate membership is for an additional membership for a member of your immediate family that is living in the member's household. If this is a family associate membership, give name of regular member: _____

2

Dues/Fees

(Dues and Fees are subject to change without prior notice)

*Note: A \$10.00 fee will be charged
for all returned checks.*

Membership (one year - New or Renewal)	1.) <input type="checkbox"/> \$25
Family Associate Membership (must live at same address as regular member)	2.) <input type="checkbox"/> \$12.50
Free* Student Membership	3.) <input type="checkbox"/> FREE *for students under 22 years of age
Please assign me a user ID for E-mail and Usenet news access	4.) <input type="checkbox"/> \$10 one-time setup fee for new accounts.
Total - - - Lines (1 or 2) (+4 if checked)	= 5.) \$ _____

Please complete sections 1 & 2 of this form. Make your check payable to DMA®, - Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc.
then send the check and application to: ----- PO Box 340402
Beavercreek, OH 45434-0402

DMA® Use only: Membership # _____ Exp. Date: ____/____/____ Processed by: _____ REV: 02Jun2003

3

Internet Service Application

Modems at 910-0006 settings 8-N-1

Optional

The **Internet Service Application**, along with terms and conditions of use, is now available online on DMA®'s web site.

Please read, print, sign and include the Internet Service Terms and Conditions agreement from the URL

<http://www.dma.org/dmapub-user-agreement.html>

with your membership application if you are also establishing an Internet service account through DMA®.

Helpline: Computer Resource People

DMA®'s Helpline listing below lists members who are willing to accept occasional telephone calls at home to give free assistance to **other DMA® members (only)** when they have a problem with a particular software or computing concept.

Will **you** please consider signing up, like those good people below, if only on a trial basis? Call George Gibbs (937-429-9072) or Edwin Davidson (937-294-8524), or email us at Editor@dma.org. Everyone has a particular program or game, or ability with certain hardware they know pretty well. Maybe you use it all day at work, or all night at play, or recently installed a board or upgraded your PC, etc. This makes you more knowledgeable than someone who has not yet used that software or installed that hardware and you could possibly be a great help in solving a problem of another DMA® member. Or perhaps you write programs in certain languages, or are a developer, networker, webmaster, or use search tools skillfully, etc., and their questions would be easy for you. The field of possibilities is nearly unlimited.

You choose the time(s) and day(s) you can provide assistance, and the subject. We'll ask the caller to be ready to provide his/her membership number (on the back of each DataBus) to you; to respect your stated times; and to keep inquiries to a minimum.

Callers: Please be prepared to give the Helpline volunteer your membership number; DMA® membership has its privileges! Please do not ask for assistance outside of the stated times. If you reach a telephone answering machine, leave a message, as many people screen calls or otherwise prioritize their time. E-mail addresses are provided so that you can contact them if you have trouble getting in touch via telephone. (Remuneration may be appropriate when a member spends a longer than normal time providing help.)

Problem with this?	Call Member:	Times:	Phone No.	Days	Email addresses:
Apple Macintosh, FrontPage98	John Driggers	9am-2 p.m.	800-227-9597 x5870	M-F	johndriggers@sprintmail.com
PowerPoint, Internet Basics	Carol Esch	6-7:30 p.m.	339-0202	M-F	eschc@dma.org
MS Publisher	Bob Esch	4-7 p.m.	339-0202	M-F	eschb@dma.org
QuickBooks	John Friedenbach	7-9 p.m.	294-8113	M-F	jlfriedenb@aol.com
MS Word	Carol Gudorf	7-9 p.m.	606-363-0690	M-F	gudorfc@dma.org
MS Word/Excel/Access/Works	Doug Johnson	7-9 p.m.	252-7991	M-F	johnson@dma.org
Investment Clubs	Hank Pesa	7-9 p.m.	435-1146	M-F	pesa@erinet.com
MS Office, Word/Excel/PwrPt; MS Works, Internet Searching	Millie Tanner	7-9 p.m.	513-489-7273	M-W-F Sat. & Sun.	tannercm@fuse.net
Windows 98 + Internet	Gary Turner	9 am - 9 pm	253-5090	Tue.-Sat.	turnerg@dma.org
Routers, Hubs, Switches (Cisco)	Ron Wagner	before 9 p.m.	W - 264-7244 H - 698-4854	M-F	wagner@dma.org
Oracle Database (sql / pl-sql), CADD (Microstation in particular) use and application development, C/Java/C++ programming, Enterprise Integration	Jerry Walter	—	Use email.	—	gwalter1@woh.rr.com
Serial/Parallel Ports	Verne Wiese	7-9 p.m.	429-2969	M-F	vwiese@dma.org
Linux	Don Corbett	9 am - 9 pm	604-8793	M-F	Thelinuxguy@gemair.com
What is your specialty?	Your Name Here				

The Deals Guy

Bob "The Cheapskate" Click,

Greater Orlando Computer User Group



***Has This Kind of Stuff Made You Mad?**

Some time ago I noticed \$1.80 on my phone bill for incorporating the long distance charges on it. I called the Phone Company and asked to be billed separately by Sprint, my long distance provider, to save the \$1.80. No postage to pay the LD bill since I do it on the computer. Since my cell phone plan's minutes are local all over the US, I use it for all my long distance calls to the family, thus there are seldom many calls on my Sprint LD bill. This month, I had no LD calls to pay for on my LD bill, but I still owed \$2.36 in taxes and charges. It seems there's now a tax on NOTHING? In September, they say they are levying another .99 tax. HELP!

When is the last time you looked at your phone bill itself and read the many charges on it? It's disgusting since it seems to be well over 100% taxation. I only have basic service, which is \$10.80, but the final bill with no LD charges is \$23.86. I wish somebody would start a movement to stop this blatant money rip-off. TV's Dateline pointed out that some of those larger charges are not a tax, but simply more money for the Phone Company. Not only that, but my DSL bill just went up \$3.21 per month with new taxes and charges, one just for the DSL. I'll miss it, but goodbye DSL since I thought it was already overpriced at \$59.95.

***Shorter Column Format**

Many editors now tell me they no longer have room for the entire column. This month's column is about 200 words shorter in the hopes more editors can carry it. It is important to have as many readers as possible to entice vendor participation.

***Let There Be Justice**

A friend sent me a news item that Hormel is suing a company called Spam Arrest for using the term SPAM in its product name. I wondered how long it would be before something like that might happen. It's not the use of spam as a general term, but for using it in an official name. Interesting.

***Still Good**

I'm reminding you that the Sane Solution's "NetTracker" for analyzing your Web log is good until August 31, 03 with the great discount. Contact Darryl at 1-800-407-3570, ext. 122, to order. The Inkjet deal will be good until the end of the year. Go to [<http://www.inksell.com>] to order. For assistance call 1-800-255-0483, or send e-mail to [help@inksell.com]. The Executive Software Undelete and Diskeeper bundle is still good. [<http://consumer.execsoft.com/home.asp>].

***This Author Is Unusual**

I read a review by Larry Grannis in the Central Kentucky Computer Society's newsletter about a great computer book that has been given many accolades by well-known sources. Russ Walter wrote this book called "The Secret Guide To Computers." He even gives you his phone number and says to give him a call anytime. He wisely publishes the book himself, no publishing company involved. In fact, you can even read some of it right on the Web at [<http://www.secretfun.com>]. This book is good for beginner or advanced users. Russ Walter's phone number is 603-666-6644. E-mail is [Russ@secretfun.com].

I talked to Russ about a deal and he said that user groups could use the discount on a bulk order as a fund-

raiser for their group. He has been publishing a help

book since 1972 so he certainly goes further back than many of us. In fact, there are very cheap prices if you can use an older book. Standard shipping is free in the US. \$2.00 per book outside the US. Air is \$3.00 per book in the US. Check his Web site for information on quantity discounts and other shipping choices. For example, his latest edition sells for \$17.50 per copy, but buy two and they are just \$14 each.

When I received mine, the first thing I wanted to do is fix my network. Unfortunately, I was unable to find such a chapter so that project is on hold. However, looking through the book certainly shows that just about everything else is covered. While reading through it, I did indeed find a couple of chuckles in the explanations. It looks great, and after seeing it, if your question is not covered, I would be astounded. However, if it isn't, you can always call him for the answer. I have not seen another book of this type with that offer. It is an 8 1/2" x 11" book with 639 pages.

***Let The Gaming Begin!**

I picked up a copy of Utah Computer Society's "Monthly Report" at the Comdex/APCUG activities and found a glowing review for "A Computerized One Armed Bandit," a game by Masque Publishing. [<http://www.masque.com>] There is much information on their Web site, including games for PDAs. Right now only "Slots From Bally Gaming" (ordering URL below) is on special. They have new releases for PC/Macintosh. The special would have ended in August, but since this is the Sept. column, they

(Continued on page 19)

The Deals Guy — (Cont.)

(Continued from page 18)

agreed to extend it until the end of October.

Slots From Bally Gaming with over 40 slot machines can be purchased for \$19.95, regularly \$24.95, by going to [<http://www.masque.com/SfBGsp.htm>] to order. Shipping is \$5.00 in the US or \$10.00 to Canada. Best part is making bets (5 cents, 25 cents, \$1.00 to \$5.00), but not in real money. Think of it this way; look at the money you'll save by not having to go to Las Vegas to play those slots. You're already ahead of the game.

I just received my evaluation copy and I am enjoying it. The installation was faultless and it runs with

no problem on my 900 MHz Athlon running Windows 98/SE. Had I known you need the CD to run it, I might have tried installing it differently. While I'm not ahead so far, the sound effects are very real and one slot has all of my favorite cartoon characters; Popeye, Blondie, Dagwood, Wimpy, etc. A couple of times when I won it became very entertaining, and led to more fun. I can't give that away, but I think you'll like it. It takes a few minutes to learn the games. Right now my wife is learning so I'm not sure when I'll be able to tell you more.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of

special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound.

Bob (The Cheapskate) Click
Bobclick@mindspring.com.

Please visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. I have also been busy putting up some interesting new articles on my Web site, so take a look. My thanks to the authors I was able to reach. However, they don't all answer their e-mail so I often must give up on many good articles for lack of response.

- Making The Game (Cont.) -

(Continued from page 14)

way that we can see--a process that is characterized by its laboriousness. "Back then, if something went wrong, you wouldn't know until it was all done." Robertson explains, "We just had to cross our fingers and hope that something didn't happen to the power (in the lab). Today, I can render that same animation in about ten minutes."

Motion Capture is the technology of recording the movements of actors to make 3D characters look and behave even more realistic. You see it in movies such as the Gollum character in "The Lord Of The Rings - The Two Towers", and in just about any video games that involve sports.

"The video games of today will be the personal training VR of tomorrow," boasts Jose Connors, "Imagine taking self-defense classes thousands of miles away from your sensei without ever having to take a fall or get hurt".

Connors is a martial arts expert and the sensei of Aegis Progressive Martial Arts in Huber Heights, Ohio

(<http://www.aegispro.com>). Connors choreographs the physical movement to be motion captured. "The (Mechanical) Motion Capture Suit is like a joystick for your entire body. It's technology right out of Star Trek. But it's delicate and very expensive. The guys keep telling me to take it easy. I've already broken it twice just doing some basic kicks."

Down the street from the Dayton Art Institute, a Motion Capture Studio resides at 22 McDaniel St. in Dayton's McPherson Town district. The facilities there use two mechanical motion capture suits that can both interact with one another in "real-time".

"When we first got our Motion Capture Suits, we were the only other company in the entire world with two of them," states Claude Kennedy, the owner of Video Post & Graphics (<http://www.vpng.com>). "The only other company to have more than one suit was somewhere in Japan. At that time, most of what Motion Capture was used for was sports analysis. The guy who created the suits wanted to

analyze his golf swing." "The future is Optical Motion Tracking," assures Robertson, who received a grant from Boeing to help them develop the next generation of tactical tracking systems to be used in future combat fighter jets using Optical Motion Tracking technology.

Aegis will be demonstrating martial arts used in video games and movies along with a live "motion capture session" complete with a 3D "virtual host" provided by Video Post & Graphics at Computerfest® 2003 in August in the North Hall of the Hara Arena complex. By attending events like Computerfest®, these pioneers are hoping to encourage the youth in their community to get an early start in making games instead of just playing them.

* * *

Lincoln Berry III can be contacted at:
grabtv_4@pop.bizland.com
7085 Sandalview Drive
Huber Heights, Ohio 45424-2529
(937) 718-3159
<http://www.grabtv.tv>

- More Benefits of Being a DMA® Member -

Just look at the many money-saving member benefits listed below! If you manage or own a company or store, or know of one that would like to join in attracting DMA® customers, please contact Carol Ewing, ewingc@dma.org or 937-667-3259. As a Board Member, Carol is always listed on page 2 of The DataBus. Discounts are printed in The DataBus every month. They are also on the web site, www.dma.org

For more information on any of these discounts, call the store or email Carol Ewing - ewingc@dma.org..

Members MUST show their current membership card* to receive any discounts. Please check The DataBus each month for new and even more exciting discounts for our members. NOTE: Discounts are subject to change without prior notice.

- **Books & Co.** 350 E. Stroop Rd.
937-298-6540 Kettering, OH 45429
www.booksandco.com

20% off computer books ONLY. This discount does not apply to any other books, any magazines, or any other items in the store. Please take computer book purchases to the regular cash registers, not Special Orders Desk.

- **Borders Books Music & Cafe**
2040 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd., Dayton, OH 45459
937-434-3800
Discount of **20%** on computer books (except NET books). Please remind them DMA® is on their "Corporate Listing"

- **Dayton's Original Pizza Factory**
1101 Wayne Avenue, Dayton, OH
937-224-4477
Discount is **10% off** any pizza order, and
Discount of **20% off** any pizza order over \$50.00
Not valid with any other discount coupon or offer.

- **Dorothy Lane Market** www.dorothylane.com
Oakwood Washington Square Springboro
2710 Far Hills Ave. 6177 Far Hills Ave. 740 N. Main St.
Dayton, OH 45419 Dayton, OH 45459 Springboro, OH 45066
937-299-3561 937-434-1294 937-748-6800

Go to the DMA® web site for information on how to sign up. You will be mailed a free Club DLM card to receive store discounts. Use your Club DLM card with EVERY purchase to receive special offers. The Club DLM card is also honored at other participating retailers. DMA® can get up to a 1% rebate on your purchases. DMA® Charity # 518.

- **Fairborn Camera & Video**
14 E Main St Fairborn, OH 45324
937-878-4392 faircam@erinet.com
10% off digital camera accessories when purchased with any digital camera or digital camcorder. Valid through 5-31-2004.

- **GEMAIR, Inc. (See ad on page 15.)**
2555 S. Dixie Hwy, Suite 102, Kettering, OH 45419-1532
937-913-0083 or 877-443-6247 (toll free)
www.gemair.com **Special DMA® member rate** \$149.95 annually (equivalent to \$12.50 / month).

- **Microsoft Press Books**
20% off, all DMA® members:
a) Visit <http://mspress.microsoft.com> b) Select a book.
c) Call 1-800-MSPRESS d) Give them the code MCPC
(indicating you are a User Group member).

- **PC Club Ohio** - www.pcclub.com
291 N. Springboro Pike 2602 Colonel Glenn Highway
Miamisburg, OH 45342 Fairborn, OH 45324
937-434-3888 937-427-8808

5% off any regular priced product. Expires 5-1-04.

- **CompUSA** www.compusabusiness.com
221 N. Springboro Pike, Dayton, OH 45449
937-436-7239 Valid thru 9-30-03
Call Marty White or stop at Corporate Desk, M-F 8-6.
Order pickup other hours at the Customer Service Desk.
Computers - Lower of: **10% over cost** or shelf price
Software - Lower of: **15% over cost** or shelf price
Accessories - Lower of: **10% under retail** or shelf price
Training - **\$149.00** (reg. \$199) course voucher

- **The Mac Depot**
2025 E. Dorothy Lane, Kettering, OH 45420
937-643-2667
Save **25%** off Macintosh Computer Repair.
Discount applies to labor charges only; excludes parts.
- Maximum discount is \$25.00 Valid through 31 Dec. 2003

- **Ohio Custom Computer**
1866 S. Maple Ave. Fairborn, OH 45324
937-879-9650 www.ohiocomputer.com
5% off regular priced items - valid through 12-2003.

- **Sam's Club** **Sam's Club**
6955 Miller Lane 1111 Miamisburg-Centerville Rd.
Dayton, OH 45414 Dayton, OH 45459
937-454-6200 937-436-0299
www.samsclub.com

DMA® membership card qualifies you to receive an Advantage Membership for \$35.00. This is for you & anyone in your household. *But they must live at the same address as the DMA® member.* Call Sam's Club, identifying yourself as a DMA® member, for information on their specials of the current month.

- **Nuclear Computers**
6333 N. Dixie Dr.
Dayton, OH 45414 nuclearcomputers@hotmail.com
937-264-8260
10% off labor bill over one (1) hour in Shop.

If you have a question or problem with a Benefit Discount Store, contact Carol Ewing.

DO NOT HASSLE THE STORE !

Be sure to mention you learned about these discounts in *The DataBus*.

*For membership card, send a SASE to: DMA® Membership, PO Box 4005, Dayton, OH 45401-4005

- DMA® Member Benefits - Page 2! -

*It was just a matter of time before we had to start **Page 2!** Check out these newest additions to your member benefits.*

If you manage or own a company or store, or know of one that would like to join in attracting DMA® customers, please contact Carol Ewing, ewingc@dma.org or 937-667-3259. As a Board Member, Carol is always listed on page 2 of The DataBus. Discounts are printed in The DataBus every month. They are also on the web site, www.dma.org.

For more information on any of these discounts, call the store or email Carol Ewing - ewingc@dma.org..

Members MUST show their current membership card to receive any discounts. Please check The DataBus each month for new and even more exciting discounts for our members. NOTE: Discounts are subject to change without prior notice.

• Click Camera & Video

Nine area locations - see www.clickcamera.com

10% off digital camera accessories with purchase of any digital camera or digital camcorder.

10% off prints from digital cameras.

Not valid with any other coupons or offers.

Valid through 12-31-2003.

• O'Reilly & Associates - www.oreilly.com

Members get 20%* off any O'Reilly book they purchase directly from O'Reilly. Just use code DSUG when ordering.

*Group purchases with better discounts are available

• Down Home Dreams - www.dhd-emb.com

433 Troy St.

www.embroiderydreamers.com

Dayton, OH 45404

937-224-4586

10% off all regular priced items to DMA® members.

25% off all regular priced items to DMA® members who are also members of the Digital Textiles SIG.

May not be combined with other offers.

• Another great member discount will be coming to this space soon.

*** Watch for it! ***



GEMAIR^{INC}
... making the Internet work for you



Green Eyed Monster Advanced Intergalactic Relay

For more information
Call (937) 913-0083 Locally

Welcome to our newest DMA® members

May your association with DMA® bring you many new friends, be enjoyable, informative & entertaining. Introduce yourselves to those around you when you attend our meetings. Any questions?

Since the August 2003 issue of *The DataBus*

Last Name	First Name	City	Last Name	First Name	City
Cooper	Ted M.	Dayton	Koogle	Karl	Dayton
Fisher	Dale T.	Waynesville			

(Sometimes there are additional new members, one this month, who indicated they do not want their names published and are not listed.)

If you would like to automatically receive occasional mailings describing the upcoming meeting topic and other timely DMA® news, simply place "subscribe dma-announce" (without the quotes) in an email message area and send that message to:
majordomo@dma.org

DMA® In Pictures

- Recent Events -

Photos by Millard Mier III



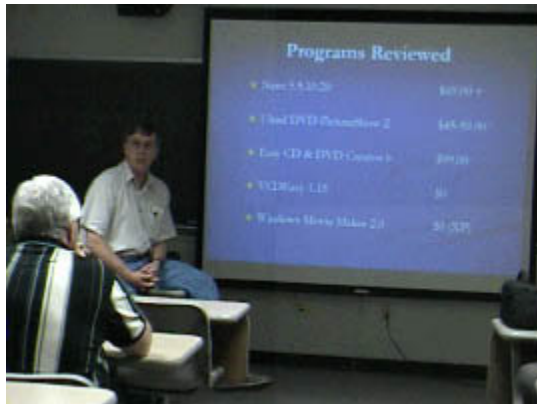
(Left) At the July meeting of the Digital Textiles SIG at 119 Valley Street, Members brought their sewing machines and learned how to make an appliqué.

(Right) WMUB's "Help Desk" Radio Program broadcasting live from the July General Membership meeting at the University of Dayton.



(Left) At the July Linux Installfest at Wright State University, participants installed and tweaked the Linux operating system.

(Right) Joe Solch explains to attendees of the Digital Photography SIG, at their June meeting, how they can make VCD slideshows from their photographs.



Did you take a photo at a recent DMA® event? Would you like to share it? Email millard@millard.net and we will try to make more photo pages like this one!

- DMA® Board Minutes - July 7, 2003 -

by Carol Ewing DMA® Board Secretary

DMA® Board of Trustees Meeting

Call to Order by Lisa Singh 7:00 pm

Trustees and Officers present: Gary Mullins, Carolann Lemen, Leah Day, Carol Ewing, Millard Mier, Gary Turner, Don Corbet, John Friedenbach.

Absent: Bill Jacobs.

Visitors present: George Ewing, Randy Young, Peter Hess, Dave Lundy, Susan Kendall.

Officer Reports:

President - Lisa Singh. She talked to National Management Association. They are willing to facilitate planning on a rate of an eight-hour day or \$500.00. This is negotiable. They expect three to four of two to three hour sessions. She talked to two accountants that recommend strong strategic planning and how effective an employee would be at this time. She said based on conversations with members, she recommends (within next three months) to set guidelines for GEMAIR, encourage OTAP to be self sufficient and find a donated space, let 119 Valley building go and find a cheaper office, Publications Committee consider The DataBus budget and recommend serious cuts, cut Science Fair expenses and seriously consider other streams of revenue. A copy of report was given to the secretary.

Vice-President - Gary Mullins. No report.

Secretary - Carol Ewing. As was warned, we started using the "housekeeping rules". Anyone or committee chair who did not send in a report to the board by Friday noon before board meeting was not put on agenda. This will continue. Motion by Carolann Lemen to pass 6-8-03 minutes, Leah Day 2nd. Passed Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0.

Treasurer - John Friedenbach. Sent financial report. No one received report, but received GEMAIR report. John will send DMA financial report to board. There was a discussion of paying for email service for a newsletter monthly article writer. Don Corbet, Publications Committee, will look into it. This is tabled until next month. Lisa asked about the financial review process. Gary Turner will work on the review process. Carol Ewing said insurance rates have increased. D&O up \$168 per year and EPLI up \$19.00 per year. Carol gave John the letter and form (must be returned by Aug 18.) to fill out and return. Payment is due Sept 18.

Committee Reports:

GEMAIR, INC. - John Friedenbach. Sent financial report. Lisa Singh said we need "guidelines". After a discussion Millard Mier said he understood the purpose of GEMAIR/DMA® board committee is to establish performance matrix.

Membership - Carol Ewing. She sent report to board. Had 94 members at last general meeting. Membership is now 845. Don Corbet said we need to call his Saturday On-Technology radio show to promote DMA® and all of its parts. Lisa Singh said Lillian Rudolph has made a membership questionnaire.

OTAP - Randy Young. 550 computers in inventory. Hope to have four or five large orders in the fall. Columbus company will get most of monitors from storage locker #8 and move the rest to locker #7. They are talking about Computerfest® setup, they will have two booths, one regular testing and one to sell spare parts. He sent email answers to Lisa Singh's email questionnaire. Lisa Singh asked about Joe Wade, City of Dayton, to help with OTAP for a new home. This has been put on hold; someone should start this up again. Randy

Young said OTAP needs another director with business background that has time to put these projects together. Lisa will talk to Randy about possible major projects. Peter Hess said the APCUG Jerry Awards applications are now being accepted; we are eligible to enter again this year. Peter said we need to do a write-up for APCUG on what we have done with the \$1500 winning award we won last year. Carol Ewing will research the board approved increase for Al Russell.

Old Business:

Certification SIG - George Ewing. George sent report. He is getting 30-40 per meeting, two meetings a month. He found a cabinet that needs work. He is working with CompTia.

Amateur Radio - George Ewing. Sent report. He is looking for a new SIG leader.

Nominations Committee - George Ewing. George resigned as Committee Chairman. Lisa Singh regretfully accepted his resignation. Gary Turner will chair, Millard Mier and Susan Kendall will be on committee. George will send committee all the information he has.

Volunteer of the Month - Lisa Singh. Tabled this until later in the meeting.

Millard Mier made a motion to add agenda item of a DMA® Board census. Gary Mullins 2nd. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0. He will get two minutes. He took a phone poll with most of the board. The board's purpose is to make sure DMA® survives. The poll questions were the purpose and future of Computerfest®, changes for OTAP, keep 119 Valley, future of GEMAIR and dmapub. Lisa Singh said we now need an official proposal. Lisa emailed a questionnaire to board, very few responded to her. Lisa thanked Millard for all of his work.

(Continued on page 24)

- Minutes of July 7, 2003 (Cont.) -

(Continued from page 23)

Linux Playground - Don Corbet. Lisa Singh added this as agenda item. Don said there are some issues with the show and Linux volunteers and wanted the board to be informed. The show cut a lot of "free" things for playground volunteers. Spring show staff decided all SIG's were given two free badges per booth, not free badges for every volunteer unless they worked a two-hour shift for show. Prior shows the SIGS were given free badges for every volunteer - up to 40 badges for Linux Playground. Millard Mier asked if it is Computerfest® or Board issue. John Friedenbach said Linux gets more free floor space than any other segment of DMA®. Lisa said it should be taken to Computerfest® staff.

Peter Hess. Center for Non-Profit Resources is offering seminar on "How to make your special events great" on July 29 from 1-4 PM. Cost is \$54 for members.

New Business:

Computerfest® Exhibitor Proposal

- Lisa Singh. She sent report. Carolann Lemen said we need a job description. Gary Mullins said we talked about this at retreat about Executive Director/paid employee. He proposes a new active committee called "paid employee" committee. Lisa said she had an email meeting with no agreement, but board needs to decide if it will be an E.D. or exhibi-

tor coordinator first. Don Corbet said the original committee could not decide and is concerned what it will take to make a decision. Gary Turner said we need an employee/employment contract and we must protect DMA®/Computerfest® interests. Lisa said we have to have job expectations, not job description. Millard Mier said we need a working reporting structure. Carolann Lemen made a motion to set a process in motion to compensate a vendor coordinator. Don Corbet 2nd. Yes-6, No-0, Abstain-1. The new committee is Carolann Lemen as Chair, Gary Turner, John Friedenbach, Gary Mullins and Lisa. They will work on expectations, responsibilities and guidelines.

Break 8:45 to 8:55 pm

APCUG - Leah Day. Leah is going to APCUG at her own expense. She would like to report APCUG activities to the board. The deadline for the \$75 registration is July 31. APCUG is Nov 14 -19 at Stardust Hotel. Lisa Singh said we have to consider the budget and anyone can register but no one is guaranteed any compensation.

Budget Committee - Lisa Singh.

Formed a budget committee of John Friedenbach, Gary Mullins, Carolann Lemen and Lisa. John will send copy of this year's budget. John will email open dates for meeting.

Volunteer of the Month - Lisa Singh.

We tabled this earlier. Due to his extra efforts during the Intel meeting to

replace the burned out overhead projector light bulb, we agreed to award it to Dave Smith.

Gary Turner asked if the new locks were in place yet. Carol Ewing said Dave Smith emailed her that he had some problems with the locks and would finish after his vacation.

Dave Lundy - He sent email to board to check out two bulletin boards and give their opinions. No board member has signed up. www.dma.org/phpBB2/ www.dma.org/invboard/ www.dma.org/w-agera/. He wants the board to visit these and sign up.

Good of the Order:

Don Corbet - great meeting, good timing

Carol Ewing - please email all reports per housekeeping rules

John Friedenbach - apologized for not sending DMA® financials

Gary Turner - check out GEMAIR referral program, also 100 days for 100 pennies per day offer now.

Anyone interested in the exhibitor coordinator position or knowing someone who would be interested, please contact Carolann Lemen.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn by Millard Mier, Carolann Lemen 2nd. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm.

Carol Ewing

DMA® Secretary

- Important Booths @ Computerfest® -

Please visit the DMA® booth while at Computerfest®. Membership cards will be available at the show for any current member who has not picked up the card at a monthly meeting. John Hargreaves and his friendly and helpful staff will check the status of your membership. This is a great time to renew your membership. Bring a friend to join as a new member and you get two month's credit on your current membership. While at the booth, check out the growing list of Membership Benefit Discounts, several newly formed SIGs and

other interesting topics. Also, check to see if you are eligible to enter a \$50.00 Gift Certificate Drawing.

Don't forget to visit the Computerfest® booth just around the corner from the DMA® booth.. They have branded merchandise for sale and Computerfest® volunteers can pick up their shift rewards. While there be sure to check the hourly prize drawing winner list; you could be one of our hourly winners.

OTAP will again offer a very unique service to all DMA® members. For a small donation they will test the products you have purchased at the show. The OTAP booth is very close to the DMA® booth. This is a great service for you!

Come and enjoy Computerfest®. You will always go home a winner in a variety of ways.

Carol Ewing
Membership Chairman, DMA®

- Volunteers Needed -

Volunteer Coordinator.— Someone who will help coordinate volunteers for Computerfest®, Heartland Regional conference and other groups and events DMA® puts together over the year.

Program Director — Do you like the monthly meetings? Have you ever thought “I wish we would get these people in to give a demonstration of some software.”? If you like talking on the phone and getting more information about your favorite software, this could be the position for you.

Board members — for GEMAIR Inc. Your club-owned local ISP and web hosting green-eyed monster is in need of guidance as we move into competition with high speed Internet, low cost dial-up, and other Internet realities. Do you have ideas to help guide the direction GEMAIR, Inc. needs to take to meet the needs of the club ?

President of GEMAIR Inc.— John Friedenbach is stepping down and would like to get someone who can take over the responsibilities of making executive decisions for GEMAIR. You should be able to handle the fiscal responsibilities of payroll and other logical duties as needed.

Fundraising Committee Members — Are you good at raising money? Would you like to try? We are looking to find other ways to fund our yearly expenses. Computerfest® is no longer keeping up with our expenses. We need people who can help the club raise new funding.

Write to us here at *The DataBus* if you are interested in any of these DMA® positions, to Editor@dma.org, or write to a board member that you know, as they are listed on page two. You can also come to the monthly meetings, or possibly the board meeting. See Calendar on page 28 for other events.

- Member News -

This month we have received word of the recent wedding of DMA® member Ron Williamitis to Deb Oluaghin. The wedding took place on June 14, 2003.

Following the ceremony, Ron and Deb enjoyed their honeymoon aboard a cruise from San Juan, Puerto Rico. Upon their return, the happy couple has taken up residence in Oakwood.

We want to sincerely congratulate Ron and Deb on their recent nuptials and send a wish for every happiness that marriage can bring to their lives.

* * * *

Do you have news of interest about any of our members? Send it to Carol Ewing, Membership Committee, at ewingc@dma.org, or email it directly to *The DataBus* editors at Editor@dma.org.

Map courtesy of Millard Mier III, DMA®

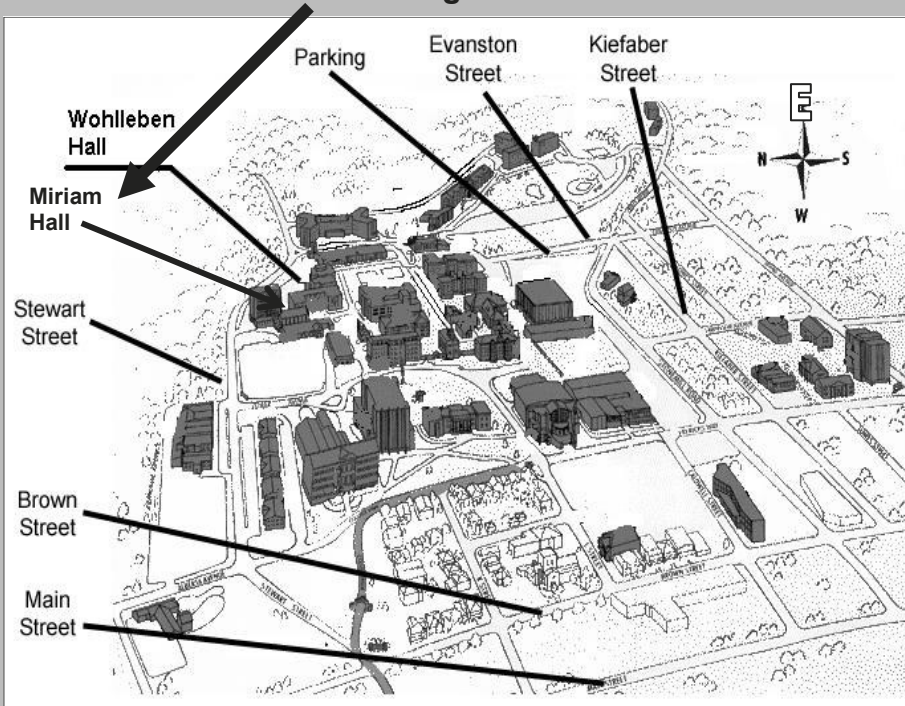
Location Change!

We're back at U.D.'s Miriam Hall, again in O'Leary Auditorium,and still the last Tuesday of each month.

However, you should know that Gary Mullins and others are looking into alternate locations (due to the fact that it appears we may outgrow O'Leary Auditorium in the near future.)

Add'l directions online at: <http://www.dma.org/to-us.html>

Note the change in DMA®'s monthly General Meeting location!



- Digital Textiles SIG -	Digital Photography SIG
<i>by Lou Childs, Digital Textiles SIG leader</i>	<i>by Millard Mier, Digital Photography SIG leader</i>
<p>The August meeting of the Digital Textiles SIG will be the first of a two-part series on making a quilted pillow top using your digital embroidery machine. Bring your machine, ¼ yard (or a fat quarter) of two different fabrics, thread, and standard sewing accessories (scissors, etc.) and be prepared to learn. Scrap fabric will be available. The meeting will be held at 119 Valley Street at 7:00 pm on Thursday, August 21st. Come and learn hands-on how to use your machine!</p> <p>The September meeting will be the hand quilting of the finished pieces begun in August. You will not need your machine, but bring your work from August, and basic sewing accessories (scissors, etc.). We will assemble and finish the quilted pillow top.</p> <p>For more information about the Digital Textiles SIG, contact Lou Childs at lou@downhomedreams.com. We hope to see you there!</p>	<p>The September meeting of the Digital Photography SIG will feature “Show and Tell for Photographers!” This largely unstructured meeting will be a place for you to share the items you are proudest of with a group of peers. Bring your best photos, printed out or on disk, and show them off to others. Or share why you brought that new digital toy! This will be a fun meeting and will be a great place to learn from others! The meeting will be held at 206 Fawcett Hall at Wright State University at 7:00 pm on Thursday September 4, 2003. Come and show off what you have done!</p> <p>The October 2, 2003 meeting of the Digital Photography SIG will feature a presentation by Steve Hayden on creating slideshows with your photos. He will show us how to assemble photos into a slideshow, synchronize them to music and add captions, sound bytes and graphics. You can then burn the slideshow to CD as a self-running program for your computer, or even make a VCD or DVD from it for playback on a standard DVD player. This is one great idea and promises to be our best meeting yet! Please note that we will have a new meeting room in October. Watch for an announcement in the next issue of <i>The DataBus</i>!</p> <p>Our August meeting topic was file formats for photographs. We learned about the different compression levels in JPEG files, the advantages of other file formats like TIFF and BMP, and had a discussion on archiving strategies. It was a good meeting and had a lot of good information!</p> <p>Parking for all meetings is available in the visitors lot at WSU (just follow the signs on campus). After parking, cross the street one crosswalk to the west of the entrance to the visitors parking, keep going straight (north) and you will pass between Allyn and Rike Halls. Jog slightly to your left, to pass Oelman Hall, and keep going east across the quad. Fawcett Hall will be straight ahead of you at the end of the quad. Feel free to contact us at digiphot-contact@dma.org, or phone Millard Mier III at (937) 879-5419.</p>

Final Coupon for Pizza SIG

Marion's

Piazza

Pizza Party
Sponsored by
Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc.
Tuesday, August 26, 2003
Marion's Piazza
711 Shroyer Road
(937) 293-6991

Ticket good ONLY
August 26, 2003
From 8:30 pm – Closing
Pizzas, Sandwiches &
Spaghetti ONLY
Eat In or Carry Out
**Please present this Ticket
when Ordering**

As many of you know, DMA®'s Pizza SIG meets after every General Membership meeting. We will continue to meet at the Marion's Piazza located at 711 Shroyer Road in Oakwood. However, due to a rule change, **this will be the last month DMA® will be able to offer a fundraising coupon** where, if you purchase pizzas, sandwiches or spaghetti AND use the SPECIAL Coupon (at left) when ordering, DMA® will receive up to 20% of the amount of your purchase.

We know some of you don't get a chance to come to the meeting but still like to join us at the SIG meeting. We can NOT distribute these coupons at the restaurant so be sure to bring this one. We will also have coupons available at the meeting for those of you who are able to attend. **Please join us this month for one last fundraising opportunity!!!**

Congrats

Dave Smith,

August '03

**“Volunteer
of the
Month”**

Additional Area User Groups

This list is provided as a service to anyone looking for a group supporting a particular computer, operating system, etc.

These user groups are not directly associated with DMA®. See page 4 for a list of DMA®'s Special Interest (SIG) Groups & their meeting times.

If you know of a user group which would like to have their meeting schedule listed here, send details or a current newsletter to:

EDITOR, DMA®'s *The DataBus*

DAYTON MICROCOMPUTER ASSOC.
119 Valley St.
Dayton, OH 45401-4005

ACM - Association for Computing Machinery holds monthly dinner meetings, dinner 6:30 PM, 7:30 p.m. speaker. Contact Marie Hreha (937) 435-7822

AITP - Association of Information Technology Professionals (formerly DPMA) meets the 2nd Thursday each month. Holds dinner meetings at the Antioch Shrine Temple at 107 E. First St, Dayton [1st & Jefferson]. Contact Jim Stryker (937) 865-6800x2599 for details.

AMITECH AMIGA USERS GROUP - (AMIGA-DAYTON has merged with this group.) Meets the third Saturday of the month at 1:30 PM at the Huber Heights Library. A Programming SIG will meet after the general meeting. Soft drinks/snacks will be provided. Contact Ron Schwartz, (937) 434-2144.

BDPA - The Black Data Processing Associates is made up of data processing entrepreneurs, managers, and employees. Their objective is to accumulate d.p. knowledge and business experience to strengthen the expertise and broaden the data processing knowledge of the minority data processing community as a whole. Contact Denia Byndon 937-455-0373.

CCCC - Cincinnati Commodore Computer Club meets the third Sunday of the month at 2:00 PM at the School of the Nativity, Norwood, OH. For more info call Ed Gase at (513) 829-0942.

CCS - Columbus Computer Society holds two meetings per month: the second Monday (at Chemical Abstracts) and the Wednesday nine days later (OCLC). 6:30 p.m. - New member orientation; 7pm General meeting. For further information, contact their Information line at (614) 447-0227.

CINTUG - Cincinnati TriState Users Group meets the 2nd Saturday at Messiah Lutheran Church. Go South from Forest Fair Mall on Winton Road and turn left on Lakeview Dr. (on the north side of Winton Lake) then left on Bossi Lane. Contact Terry Ferguson at (937) 825-2505 for more information.

CPCUG - Cincinnati Personal Computer Users Group meets the second Monday of the month at 7pm in the auditorium of the Cincinnati State College - Evendale Branch at 10100 Reading Road. For more information call (513)333-6777 or www.cincypcug.org on the web.

DACUG - Dayton Area Computer Users Group meets the second Saturday of each month at 3:00 P.M. at the Moraine Civic Center in Moraine. Contact Mona Spurgeon at (937)298-6743.

DAYTON.PM - A group for programmers of all levels who use Perl. Meetings: 2nd Wed. of each month. Website at ????????.pm.org or contact: eric.smith@b2.wpaafb.af.mil

DACW - Dayton Advocates for Computing Women, meets the 4th Mon. of ea. mo. Oct-May, (except Dec.) at the Stockyards Inn. Networking is at 5:30, 6 PM dinner, 7 PM speaker. Contact Chris Zurbuchen 227-9500x303(days), 767-1043(evenings) or dacwweb@yahoo.com

DECUS - the Digital Equipment Computer Users Society is the world's largest volunteer-run computer users organization focused on a single vendor. The Greater Dayton Local Users Group Chapter meets the last Tuesday of every month.

Contact: Jim Poltrone (937) 438-0140

IEEE - The Computer Society of IEEE meets third Thursday of each month from 11:30- 12:30 during lunch (can vary). Bring own lunch. Meetings are held at TASC, across from Wright State University.

Contact Bret Givens at (937) 255-8635.

NASAC (Xenia PC users group) - meets 7pm on 2nd Thursdays in at Library, 76 E. Market St., (1/2 block E. of Detroit St / RT.68), behind Police Dept, downtown. Visit our website at www.nasac.org for details.

TMG/ The MAC Group - is an Apple Corp. authorized Macintosh User Group. Meets: 2nd Saturday of each month at Kettering Arts Building 2900 Acosta St., Kettering. from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM. More information? Call (937) 293-6980.

Mailing Label Explanation:

If this issue was mailed to you, you will see your membership number (left) and your membership expiration date (right) are on the line above your name.

If it wasn't mailed to you, it only costs \$25.00 per year to be kept up-to-date with DMA® news and with our next speaker/presentation.

To become a member, simply fill out the application at the center of this issue and mail it to the address on the back cover.

DMA® Events for August 17 - September 27, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Aug 17</i>	<i>Aug 18</i> Apple SIG 7:00 PM 119 Valley 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Aug 19</i> Gaming SIG 7:00 PM on-line	<i>Aug 20</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Aug 21</i> Digital Textiles 7:00 PM 119 Valley Linux / Unix 7:00 PM Rm 150 Russ Engr Ctr, WSU	<i>Aug 22</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Aug 23</i> Computerfest® 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM 12 PM "On Technology"
<i>Aug 24</i> Computerfest® 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM	<i>Aug 25</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Dave Lundy's 60th birthday	<i>Aug 26</i> Main Meeting 7:30 PM O'Leary Auditorium, Miriam Hall	<i>Aug 27</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Certification 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Aug 28</i>	<i>Aug 29</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Aug 30</i> 12 PM "On Technology" 12 PM Northern SIG Edison College, Piqua
<i>Aug 31</i> <small>The DataBus deadline is the 1st day of each month.</small>	<i>Sep 1</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Labor Day	<i>Sep 2</i> Board of Directors 7:00 PM Loc. TBD Amateur Radio 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Sep 3</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 4</i> Digital Photography 7:00 PM 206 Fawcett Hall, WSU	<i>Sep 5</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 6</i> 8:30 AM OTAP 12 PM "On Technology" 3:00 PM Classic Computers
<i>Sep 7</i>	<i>Sep 8</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 9</i> Network & Certification 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Sep 10</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Perl Mongers 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Sep 11</i> Software Development 6:30 PM 119 Valley	<i>Sep 12</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 13</i> 8:30 AM OTAP 12 PM "On Technology"
<i>Sep 14</i>	<i>Sep 15</i> Apple SIG 7:00 PM 119 Valley 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 16</i> Gaming SIG 7:00 PM on-line	<i>Sep 17</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 18</i> Digital Textiles 7:00 PM 119 Valley Linux / Unix 7:00 PM Rm 150 Russ Engr Ctr, WSU	<i>Sep 19</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 20</i> 8:30 AM OTAP 12 PM "On Technology" 2:00 PM OTAP Board 3:00 PM Classic Computers
<i>Sep 21</i> <small>The DataBus deadline is the 1st day of each month.</small>	<i>Sep 22</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 23</i>	<i>Sep 24</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Certification 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Sep 25</i>	<i>Sep 26</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Sep 27</i> 12 PM "On Technology" 12 PM Northern SIG Edison College, Piqua

Remember:



TM

- Computerfest® is Aug. 23, 9:00am-6:00pm, and August 24, 10:00am-4:00pm
- DMA® General Meeting is August 26 in O'Leary Auditorium, Miriam Hall
- Send membership applications & renewals to PO Box 340402, Beavercreek, OH

Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc.
PO Box 340402
Beavercreek OH 45434-0402



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