



The DataBus


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Volume 28 Issue 6

www.dma.org

November 2003

Association of PC User Groups Member (APCUG)




Our Next DMA® General Meeting is
 Tuesday, October 28 - 7:30 pm, at Univ. of Dayton

Microsoft Office 2003

“Sneak Peek”

(BRING A FIEND)



The new Microsoft Office System is coming, and Microsoft is offering special previews to selected individuals, business associations, and user groups such as our own Dayton Microcomputer Association. Microsoft representatives are planning a number of major preview presentations across the country. DMA® is very fortunate to be one of the few User Groups scheduled on the fall Mindshare tour.

At our October 25th General Meeting, DMA® is pleased to be hosting a **sneak peek** at the new Microsoft Office 2003 suite. User Group members and guests will be given a firsthand look at the new features, functionality, and applications that make up the Office 2003 suite: Word,

Excel, PowerPoint, Outlook, Access, Project, Publisher, OneNote, InfoPath, Visio, and FrontPage. This firsthand look will provide you with the opportunity to see how you can maximize your productivity at home and at the office; reduce spam; customize your email; create greeting cards, invitations, websites and newsletters; send photos to friends and family, and much more with new Microsoft Office technologies. You'll experience all the new features that can help you be more productive and take full advantage of today's digital lifestyle.

The presentation will include:

- **In-depth information** on how to maximize your productivity at home

and at the office, reduce spam, make sure you never lose another document, customize your email, create newsletters in a flash and much more with Office 2003 applications.

- **Real life examples and live demonstrations** of the new productivity, communication and security features of Office 2003 for both PCs and peripherals.
- **A feedback forum** so Mindshare members can provide Microsoft with feedback on what would be of value to them in future products.
- **Exciting prizes** will be raffled off for meeting attendees such as either an Xbox Video Game System or portable MP3 music player, and more.

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DMA®'s November 25 Meeting: Setting up a Home Network

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C- Board Member	Carolann Lemen	937-322-5291	Cal333_2000@yahoo.com
C- Board Member	Lisa Singh	937-320-1108	singh@dnaco.net

A=Trustee 3 yrs from 9/03 • B=Trustee 3 yrs from 9/02 • C=Trustee 3 yrs from 9/01

DMA® Committee Chairs:



OTAP Acting Director	Randy Young	937-298-5530	houserus@dma.org (& otap@dma.org)
Spring (Mar.13/14)	John Daniel		chairman@ computerfest.com
Computerfest® '04			
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Acting Program Dir.	Edwin Davidson	937-294-8524	winswim@msn.com
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DMA®

DMA® Info Line:
937-222-4DMA (4362)



Member Dayton Area Chamber of Commerce

DMA® WEBPAGE: <http://www.dma.org>

email: info@dma.org

DMA® Data Line: 937-910-0006

DMA®'s general Post Office Box: P.O. Box 4005, Dayton, OH 45401-4005

Newsletter Winner:

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

Computerfest®

-- Next Computerfest®: Mar. 13-14, '04

<http://www.computerfest.com>

email info: computerfest@dma.org

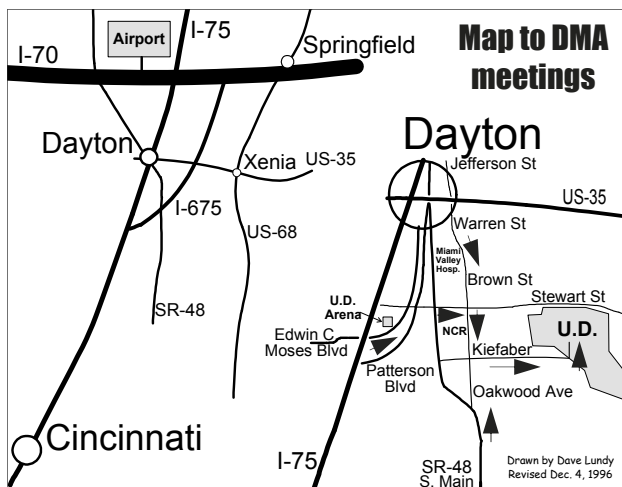
P.O. Box 2336
Dayton, Ohio 45401-2336

Computerfest® Volunteer Hot Line: 937-222-2010

Computerfest® Phone Nos: Attendee info line: 937-22C-FEST (222-3378)

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

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AGENDA FOR OUR 10/28 MEETING:

Announcements & Reports.....7:30 p.m.
(President Gary Mullins)

On tap: Microsoft Office 2003 Sneak Peek.....7:45-9:00 p.m.

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

Closing Statements 9:45 p.m.
(President Gary Mullins)

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: **Congratulations to each of the newly-elected Board Trustees and Officers !!**

Dave Lundy writes: "The PowerPoint presentation Lisa (*Singh*) showed at the annual DMA® meeting has been uploaded to the Files directory of the members-only area < www.dma.org/members-only/ >. As soon as I receive the spreadsheet(s) from John (*Friedenbach*), I'll upload it/them to the same place."

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 or email 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 1,000 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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This newsletter was composed using Microsoft Publisher 2002 for Windows®, with additional help from a talking horse named "Ed". DMA® nameplate created by Bob Kwater, all rights reserved, Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc.

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 501c(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. Open to all, it is the "Pizza SIG". Come join us!

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 not affiliated with DMA®, see page 27.

- A Final Presidential Letter from Lisa -

I believe this will be my last letter as President of DMA®. I don't plan on asking the Board for one more year. In fact, in my professional timeline of events, this was just one step toward a bigger goal. I will be serving as President-Elect of the ASTD in January, as well as serving in leadership positions in two other newly established, nonprofit organizations that I helped to create.

Those of you who were present at the September General Meeting know that I have concerns about DMA®. We are facing difficult times with the economy and with changes in the computing world. These are not insurmountable obstacles, but can be overcome by hard work and the bravery to make difficult decisions. In the past year there has been a lot of resistance on the part of the Board to face the changes that need to be made.

There have been some on the Board who are reluctant to take responsibility and who chose not to participate by following through on commitments. Some let their personal egos rule above the greater good of the organization. In the next year, though, it will be the Board's job to meet difficult challenges and to be ready to make necessary changes. They must set their personal agendas aside and be ready to act for the good of the organization.

Recently, I was listening to Major General John Barry who was on the committee established to investigate the Challenger disaster. Aside from the technical problems with the Challenger, he cited organizational problems as a cause. The organizational culture was one of command and control. Outside "groups", acting like cliques within the organization, met and made decisions that others were not

privileged to know. Information was not shared and decision-making was not inclusive. Creativity was not valued. Because of this, the government has realized the need for a facilitative management style. Many managers who use facilitative, inclusive styles of management also understand the increase in productivity once the stage of resistance has been overcome.

Greiner's model of organizational growth indicates that organizations in the growth phase use creativity, coordination, and collaboration as management strategies. When they move into crisis phase, this often dissolves into autonomy, control, and psychological stress. I have observed this process-taking place within our organization. There is a tendency for our Board members to look to the leadership to provide direction rather than rely on collaboration to problem solve and find creative solutions. There is also a tendency for some leaders to promote an autonomous, controlling leadership role.

There is evidence that we are in a declining mode. The five stages of organizational decline are:

1. **Members are blinded.** They don't see what is happening to the organization.
2. **No action is taken.** Members hesitate to take necessary actions, like downsizing or cutting programs and spending.
3. **Faulty action is taken.** Decisions are made hurriedly and without gathering necessary information.
4. **Crisis situation develops.** Things have gone too far.
5. **Dissolution or death.**

I believe we are in stage two and that recognizing this process now will save the organization from moving into the next three stages.

Good management practices to help organizations in crisis are developing long-term strategies that recognize organizational strengths and weaknesses. This is why long-range planning is so important. Long-range planning is a key to preventing the downward spiral and to providing a roadmap toward a successful future. Long-range planning, however, must include all stakeholders in an organization to be effective.

My greatest strength this past year was that I successfully increased participation of some Board members who were silent in years past. I found that many members have taken a much more active role. The few who have not, however, created roadblocks towards long range planning. And, this is my biggest regret – that long-range planning is not in place.

Overall, I have been privileged to be President of DMA®. I believe in this organization and the users who are such wonderful members. I have been blessed by finding friendships that will last a lifetime and by the support of so many.

I want to personally recognize Leah Day. She has been an extremely valuable member of DMA® and has devoted many years. We are sorry that her time as a Board member is over. She was also instrumental in providing us with many excellent door prizes.

I would also like to extend a special "Thank you" to Carol Ewing and John Friedenbach who both have worked tirelessly for the organization in so many roles.

And I especially want to thank you, our membership, for being the reason to work so hard and the reason for the existence of this organization.

- Internet Comparison Shopping -

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."



Whether we're ready or not, the Christmas season is fast approaching. We will soon be caught up in the rush of going from mall to mall and store to store in search of that unique gift. However, many Americans now do much of their shopping online and the savvy shopper uses comparison-shopping websites. After some research, I think I've come up with some sites that will be helpful as you begin to Christmas shop online too. I'm admittedly no expert so please consider the following as my own personal opinions.

In preparing for this article, a list was compiled of six possible gifts from six different categories because some comparison shopping sites are more comprehensive than others. The six theoretical gifts include: a highly rated Canon Powershot A70 3.2 megapixel digital camera; a best-selling book called "Founding Brothers – The Revolutionary Generation" by Joseph J. Ellis; a top 10 PC game called "Rise Of Nations" by Microsoft; a bottle of Estee Lauder perfume called "Pleasures" in a 1.7 ounce size; a board game called "Harry Potter: Heir Of Slytherin;" and a popular golfing putter called the "Titleist Scotty Cameron Studio Design 1.5."

Next, a list of comparison-shopping websites was put together. As with last year, some of the popular sites have been swallowed up by their competition. Deal Time, for example, is now Shopping.com and Epinions is now run by Shopping.com while Lycos Shopping uses the Bizrate search engine. Strangely though, affiliated sites don't always return the same merchant results and even the price results can vary. At any rate, the following comparison shopping sites were used in my research:

BizRate www.bizrate.com,
Price Grabber www.pricegrabber.com,
Shopping.com www.shopping.com,
Epinions www.epinions.com,
My Simon www.mysimon.com,
Yahoo <http://shopping.yahoo.com>,
Value Find www.valuefind.com,
Shop Best www.shopbest.com,
NexTag www.nextag.com, and
Price Scan www.pricescan.com.

An improvement over last year is that most of the comparison-shopping sites now have merchant reviews, and automatically compute tax and shipping to get an accurate display of true pricing. These include Lycos, BizRate, Price Grabber, Shopping.com, Epinions, Yahoo, and NexTag. My Simon and Price Scan don't compute tax but do for shipping and also have merchant reviews. Shop Best and Value Find have unusual sites in that the results usually took me to only one vendor to choose from. Shop Best had a very slow search engine and Value Page's frames are cumbersome and wouldn't react properly when clicking links. However, overall, most of the sites worked extremely fast, were laid out well, and offered several categories and stores to choose from.

Many online merchants are listed on multiple comparison-shopping websites. Their prices often vary from site to site though so it pays to search more than one comparison engine. Many sellers offer free shipping. As with brick-and-mortar stores, use good judgement when deciding which vendor to buy from. Don't be hesitant about getting seller information from the Better Business Bureau at <http://www.bbb.org/>. Also, consider looking for coupons and discount codes from websites like Amazing Bargains www.amazingbargains.com, Deal Catcher www.dealcatcher.com and Deal Of Day www.dealofday.com.

Here are the results of my make-believe shopping trip:

On the camera, NexTag had the lowest price from a merchant called Dbargains at \$240 plus tax and shipping. Unfortunately, you don't know what the tax and shipping are until after you've completed all of the online purchase orders. The next lowest price on the camera came from a Yahoo vendor called Rush4Digital. They are selling it for a total price of \$264.80. However, Rush4Digital is an unrated merchant at the time of this writing. My Simon's vendor, Beach Camera, offers the camera for \$269.00 plus tax if any. Beach Camera www.beachcamera.com appears on many of the comparison search sites.

[Editor's Note: Whenever purchasing electronics over the Internet, be sure to ask the vendor if the item you want to purchase comes with a valid U.S. warranty. Sometimes the very lowest prices found in searches are for "gray market" goods that were intended by the manufacturer to be sold overseas and thus do not carry a U.S. warranty (and, infrequently, may not even have an owners manual written in English). The lack of a manufacturer's U.S. warranty should only be a problem if you need warranty service so every buyer must decide for himself whether to assume the lack-of-warranty risk with some gray market merchandise in exchange for a potentially lower price. See what the New York Better Business Bureau has to say about gray market merchandise at <http://snurl.com/2ncq>.]

For the book, Lycos and Bizrate bested the competition with identical deals of \$9.19 with tax and shipping included from Overstock www.overstock.com. I've bought from Overstock before and have had good experiences.

(Continued on page 7)

- Internet Comparison Shopping (cont.) -

(Continued from page 6)

As far as the PC game, Yahoo had the lowest price at \$37.95 total from a company called Purplus based in California. They have a high merchant rating on Yahoo.

Shopping for the perfume led me to the lowest price at Price Grabber's LuxNY.com based in New Jersey. They offered it for a total price of \$34.94. The drawback is that LuxNY is an unrated merchant. Shopping in the fragrance category on all of the comparison shopping sites was a bit unusual. None of them formulated tax and shipping for some reason.

Next, I looked for the Harry Potter board game. Most of the search sites came up with nothing. Only Lycos,

BizRate and Yahoo had listings. The lowest price was found on Lycos and BizRate at a merchant called TovBid.com. They sell the board game for \$8.99 with free shipping. There's no mention of sales tax.

Lastly, the Titleist putter was kind of hit or miss. Five of the sites either didn't have a category of Sports or just didn't list this putter. Of those that do have merchants selling this putter, Price Scan has a store called Golfalltheway who lists it for \$219.99 plus tax and shipping. Yahoo's Need2Golf.com sells the putter for a grass blade less at \$219.00 plus tax and shipping.

In conclusion, I was pleased overall with the improvement of the Internet comparison-shopping experience

over last year. There are several good competitors out there with many reputable stores in their listings. It is pretty easy to navigate their sites and most of them allow you to sort the results by total price. This year we can be spared some of the aggravation of running from mall to mall and store to store in search of that perfect gift by doing at least some of our shopping online. But, you want to know something? Even if I do find all of my gifts online, I think I'll still venture out into the madness of the store crowds just to get that Christmas feeling.

Then again, I might just stay home and watch that Charlie's Angels Christmas Special...

Happy Holidays, everyone.

- Microsoft Office 2003 Sneak Peek (cont.) -

(Continued from page 1)

Door prizes and other "extras" will be provided. Additional prizes may be available but are in no way guaranteed. If offered, they may include Microsoft software (when released) including but not limited to the following: Microsoft Office Professional Edition 2003, Visio 2003, Publisher 2003, Access 2003, and FrontPage 2003. Winners will be selected instantly at the end of the presentation and must be present at the time of drawing to win.

Come early, get a good seat and enjoy what promises to be a very special and informative program. Please bring along a friend or co-worker to this meeting and learn why Microsoft believes Office 2003 belongs on your home and business computers. You can also introduce them to what you and 800+ other members of DMA® already know --

the many benefits of DMA® membership. More information about DMA®, including a downloadable membership application, can be found on our web site at < www.dma.org >.

See you at the meeting!

* * * * *

Microsoft's presentation to DMA® is just one part of a larger series of interactive pre-launch events and activities that demonstrate how the latest Microsoft Office System is loaded with all-new features that make it better than ever. If you are unable to join us for this presentation, you can also see a preview of the Office 2003 suite at other presentations offered to the general public in Cincinnati and Columbus, among other locations.

For those of you unable to attend ours or any other of the live

presentations, Microsoft is also offering the opportunity to attend an interactive webcast this Fall. Webcast presentations are taking place between September and November. Microsoft Office experts will provide an overview of the new Microsoft Office System, demonstrate exciting new features, and host a live Q&A session for participants. For more information about the webcasts, a list of dates and times, and to sign up, visit the webcast registration page at < www.OfficeLaunch.com/webcasts >.

To sign up for any of the many interactive demos, webcasts, workshops, or special events planned nationwide, visit the main events registration page at < www.officesystem2003events.com/ >.

george_dma@gibbsmail.net

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 bring correct change or a check. We do not have change at the meeting.

Expired in September 2003

Clemmons	Jeffrey (a)
DeVol	Stephen
Garcia	Dr. Oscar N.
Gaulden	Henry C.
Glidewell	Kay
Klenke	Thomas
Lotspaih	Mark
Luneke	Kenneth C.
Nies	Jim
Nieves	Erik H.
Peirano	Mary E
Rhude	L. Roger
Thorstenson	Carl E.

Expires in October 2003

Baltes	Doug
Bowen	Paul
Burris	Keith W.
Buttermore	Jack
Carrigan	Dan
Falkner	Laura
Fuchs	Shirley
Gray	Richard B.
Grover	Don G.
Heidorn	Don
Kamphaus Jr	August (Gus)

Lingo Sr.	William J. (Bill)
Linton	Kathleen
Lundy	Bruce
McLefresh	Thomas G.
Montgomery	Richard A.
Moore	Jerry
O'Quinn	David
Pamatat	Albert
Perkins	Chet
Prater	James W.
Shine	Bob
Smith	Dara S.
The Dayton Foundation	
	c/o Marilyn A. Campbell
Walton	Ronnie G.
Watt	Brian
Wick	Gary H.
Zulauf	Michael H.

Expires in November 2003

Bergman	Frederick Allen
Bindner	Ken (a)
Bindner	Mike
Bower	Stephen
Bowersock	Stephen L.
Buttermore	Stephen M.
Coy	Steven S.

Cummins	Jeff
Cunningham	Philip L.
Davidson	Edwin
Duffy	John
Erikson	Arvo H.
Haller	Paul C.
Hartley	Tim
Hays	Fred W.
Henderson	Jordan
Honious	Russell J.
Houser	David W.
Miller	Dean
Miller	Kenneth
Opt	Preston C.
Paulus	Peter R.
Rowley	Blair A.
Ruggles	Rick
Rutan	Joan M.
Schwartzkopf	Kenneth
Stough	Charles
Unger	Gil
Warren	Gilda
Wassenich	Steve
Weaver	Tyler
Wells	Simon
Worthington	Bill
Young	Randal C. (a)

Start Here To Customize The Windows Start Menu

by Steve Bass, Pasadena IBM Users Group

I was sitting on the back deck, a Sierra Nevada Pale Ale in hand, and leafing through Microsoft's Windows XP Reviewer's Guide.

I was describing to my wife how XP made better use of the Start button than Win 98, when she casually said she hated it. "I never use the thing," she went on, not realizing I was under a

moral obligation to make sure she was using the Start Button correctly. "I can get to all the programs I regularly use," she continued, "by clicking an icon on my desktop." Oy vey, I thought, the 293 icons-on-the-desktop syndrome. I had my work cut out for me. (Needless to say, she's never seen my collection of 70 Desktop icons, but that's another story altogether.)

"I'm a computing professional," I said empathically, hoping she wouldn't challenge me, "so tell me all about it."

"Besides," she was on a roll and there was no stopping her, "when I open the menu and click Programs, another menu slides out, then another, and half of them aren't even programs I have

(Continued on page 14)

- Game Review - Patrician II -

by Dan Woodard, DMA® member, DataBus Software Reviewer



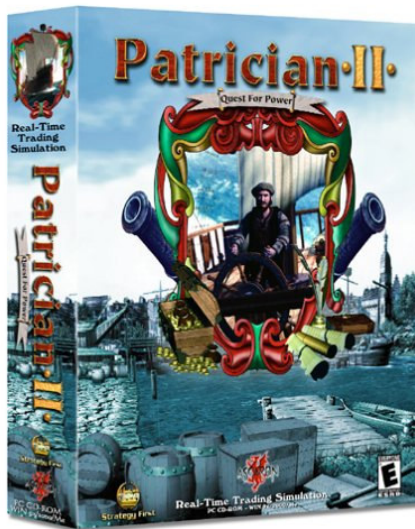
Dan Woodard: *At the tender age of 9, Dan got his start enjoying computer games on his TI-99/4a home computer, and he's been at it ever since. He graduated in 1996 with a B.S. in Environmental Studies. Dan has been a DMA® member since 1993 and enjoys playing Othello, other strategy and role playing games, 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@dmagub.dma.org.*

Back in the 1300s, aspiring traders in Northern Europe helped to move goods from city to city, not only providing a service but also often acquiring great wealth in the process. Most of these traders were based in the Holy Roman (German) Empire, though they had offices from Scotland to Russia. At the time, there were no strong kings in these areas and so the towns agreed to look out for each other's trading interests. Thus the Hanseatic League was born, a group of towns that agreed to support each other through trade and in times of need. Patrician II, by Ascaron Software, does an admirable job of attempting to let players journey back through the halls of time and try walking in the shoes of a young merchant.

The game includes a 100-page manual as well as an in-game tutorial, both of which went a long way (at first) in convincing me that answers would be provided for any questions players might have. The game is rather complex, and while it embraces aspects of city building and ship to ship combat, the primary focus is on trade. Players start out with a certain amount of money depending on the difficulty setting, and try to parlay this into a much larger amount in the course of the game through profitable trades. At the time in question, water routes were by far the cheapest and fastest for trade and travel. Because of this, players also start out the game with a small cargo ship that they can use to transport goods to and from distant cities.

The trading model used in the game is very complex and reflects the fact that each city's economy was very localized and isolated from other communities. Commodities such as grain, wine, salt,

lumber and other daily necessities are bought, sold and used by the citizenry in each city. A city might come under siege, embargo, or even have an outbreak of the plague, all of which can alter prices considerably. However, by looking at the production and consumption of various goods, traders can get a good idea of what prices will average over time.



When I became a comparatively wealthy trader, marriage brokers began to approach me with offers to marry the daughters of various citizens. Evidently this was a common way for a young bachelor to meet his future wife at the time. The game even lets players take on the role of a pirate if they so wish. When one of your ships gets out to sea by itself, you can hoist the Jolly Roger and then try to terrorize one of your competitors. However, if you are found out, you can face hefty fines and your reputation suffers.

Unfortunately, Patrician II suffers from several problems. First of all, the man-

ual tends to cover the problems you already can figure out the answers to, but not those that are difficult. The in-game tutorial leaves out a lot of details, and like the manual, it often just hints at what you can do rather than showing players in detail how to do it. The game itself also seemed to offer so many possibilities that it seemed to suffer from a lack of focus. Although I gave this game some extra time to figure out the peccadillos that kept getting me stuck, I kept finding myself in a rut and often felt more like I was studying a textbook on how to play the game than enjoying the gameplay itself. In short, I found it to be a bit lacking as far as addictiveness.

Summary: Patrician II is a very detailed, realistic trading game that would probably have been fun if it had not been for a poorly designed tutorial and badly written manual. If the company had taken the time to polish up both of these elements before releasing the game, it would surely have earned a much higher review.

Rating: 6 out of 10

Requirements: 233 MHz CPU, 32 MB RAM, 4 MB Video, 380 MB HDD, CD-ROM

Reviewed: P4 1.4 GHz, 128 MB RAM, 32 MB Video, 40x CD, Win ME, DirectX 8

Best Price: \$13 at www.overstock.com (also includes full Waterloo game)

Demo version available from: www.strategyfirst.com/en/downloads

- Technology.talk — Well Done, Undercooked.... -

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.

This month, let's survey a few bits of technology that you should consider and avoid.

Shogun

Before the zillion cable movie channels, satellite technology and DVDs took over, the major networks treated us/inflicted on us the miniseries. Most weren't worth the effort, but a few were and "Shogun" was one of the best.

The well-written story was captivating, filled with colorful characters and, for the most part, fine acting. The VHS tapes that presented this 1980 gem were awful, plagued with a fuzzy, streak-filled transfer and muffled sound.

However, Paramount righted many wrongs by releasing a magnificent DVD set, complete with Dolby Digital 5.1 sound and a brilliant, flawless transfer. Hai!

Geeks and Wristwatches

You've seen them. I know you have. Those Casio digital watches with the tiny number pads. The Casio that told time (in many time zones) and sported an alarm, telephone book, calculator, scheduler, timer and other goodies. The problem was that it screamed GEEK and was as completely inappropriate as a business clothing accessory as it was functional. What's a geek to do? Buy the Citizen Eco-Drive Skyhawk. Inexpensive, it isn't, starting at \$395. But it's a dazzler in appearance and (the geeks will drool) you can set it to the second with its digital side coordinating with its analog-hands side. Oh boy! True geeks can even fine-tune the hands so that they hit their little dial marks squarely. It's extremely accurate, but you can reset it whenever the mood strikes by getting the exact time at www.time.gov.

The Skyhawk has alarms, multiple time zones, timers and a calendar. While the Skyhawk doesn't have the complete arsenal that the Casio had, whatever it doesn't have, most cell phones do have. And the Skyhawk is very professional looking in those circles. See the Skyhawk in person at Beaver Creek Jewelers, located in the same strip shopping center as PCUpgraders, near the southwest corner of Dayton-Xenia and Fairfield Roads. Check it out online at www.citizenwatch.com.

Tubular

I am claustrophobic. I hate MRI tubes, especially the standard eight-foot coffin model used in most hospitals. Many physicians don't care for the less-than-ideal images that "open" MRIs produce. But, Siemens came to the rescue of the tightly confined with its high-power, "short bore" model whose tube is but four feet deep. If your doctor doesn't need a head or neck scan, you can exist very nicely while your head is outside the tunnel and the rest of you is buried inside of it. You can find one at the Mayfield Clinic (www.mayfieldclinic.com/mic/mic.htm) in Northern Kentucky, across the street from Thomas More College. The Web site even features a Flash movie tour of the facility. Yes, it's a long drive, but the staff is courteous and speedy. An MRI exam that used to consume an hour took just half of that at Mayfield. No frayed nerves, just great images. It was worth every mile that I drove.

I-670

Finally, after three decades, the final 1.7-mile stretch of I-670, with its maze of bridges, tunnels and over/underpasses, is open, winding

and looping its way across the north side of downtown Columbus. Speeders beware: It won't be the Columbus police that will get you; it will be the sudden curves and swoops. Hello, wall!

Can You Hear Me Now? Sort of...

Bespeckled Paul Marcelli might tramp through swamps and jump from seat to seat in an empty stadium, but the nation's newest two-way walkie-talkie service has some work to do. Nextel invented and mastered this technology, but its coverage was spotty and unpredictable. When Nextel's mobile-to-mobile patent expired, Verizon Wireless took the two-way plunge, introducing its service via almost-ready-for-prime-time Motorola V60g phones. Although VW's coverage is among the best of all the cell phone companies, there's still a lot of "what?" and "did you hear me?" exchanges between M-2-M participants. That's not to say you shouldn't investigate it.

The M-2-M minutes are separate from the peak talking call minutes, and the service is easy to use. But be patient. Hold the button down until you hear a beep, and then wait a second, then start talking. If you're on the receiving end, don't press the transmit button until you hear the other person beep off. The best part of all of this? VW, at long last, has a cell phone with a pumped-up speakerphone module that you can actually hear clearly in a noisy environment. That makes the whole deal worthwhile, for me. Great for hands-free talking when behind the wheel. Also, a-ha, if you own a Nextel Motorola i85 or i90 phone, the V60g accepts those batteries and charging units. Bonus!

(Continued on page 11)

- Technology.talk — Well Done, Undercooked.... (cont.) -

(Continued from page 10)

Life Among the Bizarre IT Fringe

An employer that shall remain nameless has configured the world's most insane Web browsing environment. First, employees can only use Internet Explorer. There's no pop-up blocking, so the user must waste time clearing out a plague of new windows when visiting news sites. Every time the user visits a site programmed with ActiveX (and most of the commercial ones have this nuttiness), he/she must manually click Yes to two, count 'em, two alert boxes for each ActiveX ad or block on each page! Users must sometimes click ten times just to see the page they visited. The stupidity here, under the guise of "security", is that clicking Yes launches the ActiveX script! What kind of security is that? What kind of efficiency is that? Stupid stupid stupid. And arrogant arrogant arrogant. When approached about this, the propellerheads responsible replied that they know what they're doing and that nothing will change. Now you know why some networks are easy prey for vandals.

Hark, Is that the King Approaching?

Psst! Want to hear a good book? Visit www.recordedbooks.com and rent "The Memory of Running" by Rhode Island native Ron McLarty. Want to read it? You'll have to wait. McLarty finished this masterpiece of the American spirit in 1995 and no publisher would touch it. The New York publishing elite considered "Memory" to be too cerebral, without a sympathetic main character. In stepped none other than Stephen King, who listened to it courtesy of the president of Recorded Books. King, recognizing the story's genius, wrote a sizzling op-ed piece in "Entertainment Weekly", properly savaging the fickle publishing wonks. Within a week, every major publishing house called McLarty, who eventually signed with Viking Press for more than one million dollars. "Memory" is a rich stew

of "Fried Green Tomatoes", "A Confederacy of Dunces" and "The Odyssey". The main character, a self-deprecating loner named Smithy Ide, is Forrest Gump, but with an IQ of about 95. Using an impressive variety of voices, McLarty himself reads the story aloud, allowing you to clearly understand the meaning of the characters' words. You'll laugh; you'll cry; you'll gasp; you'll be thankful you met such extraordinary characters (who will haunt your subconscious for a very long time) in such a timeless story. P.S.: Do not try to send your manuscript to Stephen King. This was a one-shot deal.

eBay and PayPal

I took the plunge and auctioned some old photography gear at eBay. I was very impressed by the seamlessness of the transaction process, including accepting payment at PayPal, now a part of eBay, legally and technically. You have to use it to understand what a triumph of technology this synergy represents. Small wonder that eBay is one tech stock whose value ascends relentlessly. And, there's welcome news for small vendors who want to accept credit card payments but don't want to put up with the miles of red tape and hassles from mainstream banks - PayPal offers credit card services, for a very reasonable sum, from PayPal account holders in good standing. Now, you can offer your wares on your own Web site and not have to worry about Verisign security and all the other technical claptrap that attends e-commerce sites. See the details at www.paypal.com.

Widescreen, in the Palm of Your Hand

Sony (www.sonystyle.com) has released its \$699 UX50, a 480X320 pixel Palm OS PDA with lots of useful features. Palm (www.palmone.com) responded with its \$399, 480X320 pixel Tungsten T3. The widescreen feature is preferable for viewing Web sites, whose layout is usually horizontal, not square. Palm's WiFi flagship

PDA is the Tungsten C, a now out-dated 320X320 model. So, welcome to the conundrum. You want WiFi for Web and e-mail service, but the Sony PDA costs \$300 more than the T3 and \$200 more than the C. You want 480X320 (believe me, once you see it, having it will eat at your inner core until you finally spring for it), but the UX50 is the only 480X320 machine with WiFi and it's expensive. The T3 offers Internet connectivity via Bluetooth, a compromise, and the C is square, not rectangular. The WiFi receiving capabilities of the Palm C are variable. You can sit fifty feet from the WiFi transmitter and get your e-mail, but forget any Web browsing unless you are within about ten feet of the transmitter. The UX50 has its own set of downsides, not the least of which is overpriced, second generation Memory Stick storage. And, of course, Sony's proprietary storage technology precludes the use of such generic storage formats as SD or CF. I suggest waiting until Palm puts WiFi into the T3. Then, you'll really have something special.

***Congrats to
George Gibbs,
October '03
"Volunteer of
the Month"!***

- DMA® Election Results and New Officers -

The results of the election to the Board of Trustees of DMA® for the year 2003-2004 are as follows:

New members elected: **Dale Childs**, **Gary Turner** and **Ron Williamitis**.

Congratulations to the new members and “thank you” to the other nominees. While you may not be voting members

of the Board of Trustees, I urge you to participate in the committees that assist the Board in governing DMA®.

Bob Kwater
Nominations Committee

* * * * *

At the October 6th, 2003, Board of Trustees meeting, the following people

were selected to be DMA® officers for 2003-2004:

President - Gary Mullins
Vice-President - Gary Turner
Secretary - Carol Ewing
Treasurer (Pro tem.) - Susan Kendall
Carol Ewing
DMA® Board Secretary

- WinXP Tip: When Windows Explorer Forgets View Settings -

by George Gibbs, Acting Co-Editor - The DataBus

Do you have a lot of folders on your Windows XP system? Have you ever gone into one, or created a new one, and found that it's not displaying your files using the view (Thumbnails, Tiles, Icons, List or Details) you expected? Would you like to be able to fix that problem but don't know where or how to start? Read on....

By default in XP, Windows Explorer will only remember your view setting preferences for the first 400 folder views. (A significant quantity but easily exceeded over time.) After that, it's the luck of the dice. To reset and increase Windows' view “memory” to 1000 views, just follow the few short steps below.

(Warning: This tip involves editing your Registry settings. Although I provide you below with detailed step-by-step instructions, if you are still not comfortable with this idea, do not attempt the following. Backing up your registry before making these or any changes is always an extremely good idea.)

Still with me? Ok, let's go!

1. Using Start>Run, enter “regedit” (without the quotes) and then click “OK”.
2. Navigate to, and delete, the following two keys:
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\ShellNoRoam\BagMRU and,
HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\ShellNoRoam\Bags
3. Go to **HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\Shell**, create a new DWORD named **BagMRU Size** and give it a value of **000003e8**. To do this, highlight the **Shell** folder in the left pane, select Edit>New>DWORD Value and name it **BagMRU Size**. Click adjacent to the new name to apply the name selection, then right-click on the new name “BagMRU Size” and select “Modify”. In the resulting “Edit DWORD Value” pop-up box, enter either a value of **3e8** and select the “Hexadecimal” radio button or a value of **1000** and select the Decimal radio button, then select “OK”.
4. Then go to **HKEY_CURRENT_USER\Software\Microsoft\Windows\ShellNoRoam** and, just like in step 3, create a new DWORD named **BagMRU Size** and give it a value of **000003e8**. To do this, highlight the **ShellNoRoam** folder in the left pane, select Edit>New>DWORD Value and name it **BagMRU Size**. Click adjacent to the new name to apply the name selection, then right-click on the new name “BagMRU Size” and select “Modify”. In the resulting “Edit DWORD Value” pop-up box, enter either a value of **3e8** and select the “Hexadecimal” radio button or a value of **1000** and select the Decimal radio button, then select “OK”.
5. Now close the Registry Editor and exhale. You're done! Windows Explorer will now retain your view preferences for up to 1000 folders instead of the default 400. You may select a higher or lower value than 1000 views if you choose. Unless you're a technogeek who loves working with hex values, I suggest using the Decimal radio buttons when selecting any alternate values for the two new “BagMRU Size” DWORDs and entering the much more familiar decimal value of your choice into the boxes.

Note: This tip was written with Windows XP systems in mind. I cannot speak for its effectiveness when attempted in a non-XP system. If you choose to do so, it is at your own risk.

- Stay Alert With Security Alerts -

by Ira Wilsker, APCUG Board of Advisors

Article reprinted courtesy of The Examiner, Beaumont, TX

Recently I received a critical security alert from Microsoft. This alert, "MS03-039: Security Update for Windows", warned about a potentially dangerous security hole in many current Microsoft products, and the availability of a patch to secure that hole. As has happened a number of times in the past, it is likely that some evil doer will launch a new virus or worm that can take advantage of the millions of unpatched machines. Despite the fact that Microsoft heavily publicized the release of this patch, and other previous critical alerts, not every effected Windows user keeps his operating system up-to-date. A perfect example of this was the July 16 announcement and release of the "DCOM" patch; users who downloaded and installed the patch were effectively immune from that attack of the Blaster worm, and its cousins. Still, today, there are likely millions of unpatched computers infected with Blaster, and vulnerable to many other viruses and worms that will happily take advantage of that unnecessary vulnerability.

Now, as I type this, over a month after the appearance of Blaster, and two months after the release of the patch which would have stopped it, I am still getting calls and emails from users whose computers are infected with the worm. As has been stated several times in this column in the past, it is imperative that Windows users periodically go to windowsupdate.microsoft.com and check for critical updates. Even though many users utilize the integral Windows update function built into many operating systems, it is still necessary to manually check for updates on a regular and frequent basis. Microsoft offers a free email service that will notify subscribers of updates as soon as they become available. A link to the "Microsoft Security Update" email notification, as well as other security and virus alerts, is available on the Microsoft security website at www.microsoft.com/security.

As we have also seen, viruses and worms can appear and spread endemically in a matter of minutes. There have been published estimates that Blaster, Sobig-F, and other recent malware infected millions of computers during their first hours in circulation. Many users, in blissful ignorance, do not update their antivirus software as frequently as necessary, leaving themselves exceptionally vulnerable to the rapid spread of newly appearing viruses and worms. In addition to the need to update antivirus software on at least a daily basis, if not more frequently, users need to be informed as new threats appear. Most of the antivirus software publishers offer a free email alert service with information on newly appearing viruses and worms. In my experience, it is often the smaller, less known companies that are the first to alert about new threats. Panda Antivirus, a Spanish company with US offices, offers both a free "Virus Alert" service, and a daily threat bulletin, "Oxygen3". These free subscriptions are available on their website at www.pandasoftware.com. Trend Micro, publisher of the popular "Housecall" free online virus scan, has a free alert and "Weekly Virus Report" available on its site, www.trend.com under the "Security Info" tab on its page. Sophos, another excellent but small antivirus publisher, offers an email notification about the latest virus threats and computing emergencies on its site, www.sophos.com, under the heading "Free Virus Info". The Moscow-based Kaspersky Labs, a well-respected publisher of antivirus software, spam killing software, and other security products offers a pair of free email alerts for viruses, and other threats. Signup for the Kaspersky alerts is on its site at www.kaspersky.com/subscribeNOW.html. McAfee, the popular antivirus, firewall, and security software publisher, has a free alert service,

"McAfee Dispatch" available at dispatch.mcafee.com. Industry leader Symantec (Norton) has a newsletter service at securityresponse.symantec.com/avcenter/newsletter.html. This Symantec newsletter "SARC-L" includes virus outbreak warnings, and notifications of special releases of its virus definitions.

Many of the online specialty publications offer free news alerts via email. CNET, which started life as a 30-minute geek-centric cable TV show, is now one of the most respected online computer news and information sources. A variety of security and non-security related newsletters are available from CNET at nl.com.com. Since many of these newsletters are published on a daily basis, they often contain very current information about relevant threats. PCWORLD, a real pulp magazine, also offers several free daily newsletters via email from its site at www.pcwORLD.com/news. I subscribe to the PCWORLD "Daily Computer News", published six days a week, and use it as a source of current and reliable information.

There are many other fine newsletter and alert services available. Referring to the cliché "Knowledge is Power", being informed of potential threats in a timely fashion, and reacting appropriately, is an effective way of minimizing the impact of new threats. I subscribe to all of the resources listed above, and am not inundated with useless information, but provided with much useful information. Having subscriptions to these services is not necessarily redundant, because there is typically one that is hours ahead of the others, but unfortunately there is no one resource that is consistently first with critical information and warnings.

I like being informed, and not living in blissful ignorance. You can be in-

- Start Here To Customize The Windows Start Menu (cont.) -

(Continued from page 8)

anymore. To get to the program I want takes, I dunno, 20 minutes."

Was that in real or computer time, I wondered, grabbing my beer, trying to decide if I should start the barbecue or plunge deeper into the abyss.

"The Start Menu," I said, easing back into the conversation, "is fully customizable. Give me ten minutes and I can show you how to make it look, feel, and act just the way you want it to."

Step into my wife's office and I'll show you what I did to her PC. I'm basing my tips on Windows 98 so while some will work in Win95 (and certainly in Win ME), you'll need to do some fiddling on your own.

STARTing to Understand

The first thing to be aware of is that the Start Menu is built upon directories (folders, if you're new to this sport) and shortcuts. If you'd like to make a sub-menu, just add a new folder. Don't forget, a shortcut simply points to the program and can be safely renamed, moved, or even deleted.

You might also think of your old program groups (hello? Win 3.1?) as the folders on the Programs menu.

The Structure of Start

When you click on the Start Button and the menu pops open, you'll see three sections. Depending on your PC, the lowermost part has Shut Down and Log Off. The middle section includes Run, Help, Find, Programs, and other entries.

Folder Fodder

The top section is the most troublesome and may have tons of stuff.

What happens when you install a new application is that the program, in collusion with Windows, adds a folder either to the top portion, the Programs area (again, just a folder), or worse, both spots. In my case, at least before I made the Start Menu my own, I had 12

entries (and few that I used often) because of the proprietary way these arbitrary, capricious, and dumb programs install themselves.

Making the Change

To reorganize items on the Start menu, just keep in mind they're all menus or shortcuts, and all your moves can be unmoved.

If you're a novice and want to experiment, try this: Close all your applications so you're at the Desktop. Open the Start Menu and slide any item from the upper portion onto the Desktop.

Don't like it there? Two remedies to try: Right mouse click on the Desktop and select and click Undo Move. Or just slide the entry back onto the Start Menu by dragging it to the Start Button, waiting for the menu to appear, and dropping it where you want to see it. Cool (and easy), eh?

Now open Start, Select programs, wait for the menu to pop out to the side, and try the same thing. Move, delete, and rename items by dragging and dropping, or using the right mouse button to copy and paste.

Win Explorer Meets Start

If you want to be a power user (or pretend to be one), open Windows Explorer and head for \Windows\Start Menu. Both of those files are shortcuts and correspond to the upper portion of your Start Menu. Try this: Rename any item (press F2, a shortcut). Then open the Start Menu. The change is effective immediately.

Now click on the Programs folder and take a few minutes examining the contents. Each folder matches what's in your Start Menu, right? Begin rearranging items in a logical way. For example, I created a folder named "tools" and moved every system tool, utility, and applet into it. Another folder? Multimedia for all of my music programs. Ditto for security, photos, and games.

Now move programs you use often to the upper portion of the start menu.

Here's a trick: I take frequently used programs, ones I use daily—PowerDesk, Eudora, IE, Word's Open Doc, Snagit (a screen capture tool)—and stick a shortcut for each one in the Quick Launch part of my taskbar. Do it by right clicking on an empty area on your taskbar, click Toolbars, and make sure that Quick Launch is selected.

Then from Win Explorer or PowerDesk (or even your Desktop), drag a program onto the Quick Launch bar. It will add a shortcut (that's done automatically) and you can slide it along the Quick Launch area to suit your needs.

A Clean Start

As you poke around the Start Menu, my guess is you'll find more than a few dead links, programs that you've uninstalled but are still in the Start menu. Instead of hassling with it, use Start Menu Cleaner, a freeware utility which cleans the start menu by removing unneeded shortcuts and folders. It's available at < www.mithril.d.se >.

If you want to fiddle with other settings on your PC besides the Start Menu, say, changing icons or editing the Add/Remove Programs list, grab a copy of More Properties 2.0. It's free to try and a dollar if you continue using it.

< www.imaginary.co.za/archive.htm >

Hey, I've gotta go. My wife's wondering if I can show her how to modify Word's Toolbar.

Steve Bass is a Contributing Editor with PC World and runs the Pasadena IBM Users Group. Write to him at steve_bass@pcworld.com. Check PCW's current edition at <http://www.pcworld.com/resource/toc/index.asp> and sign up for the Steve Bass online newsletter at www.pcworld.com/bass_letter.

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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
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 Corbet	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



I believe an ongoing technical problem with my computer has finally come to a head. For some time I've had a problem turning on my computer at times. It was plugged into my UPS and by changing the power cord to another plug on it the computer would start. At one point I changed plugs and finally tried plugging it directly into the wall plug with no luck. A new power cord brought it to life again so I thought that was the problem I had been blaming on the UPS. The problem still persisted from time to time and finally when a power outage occurred I unplugged it until after the power was restored. When I plugged the computer back in, my power supply sounded like firecrackers and became badly toasted. Looks like it was the power supply acting up all the time because it starts fine now. New technology sure has deceptive symptoms.

I saw an ad the other day in the Office Depot flyer for a HP LaserJet printer for \$99.00 and mine has been acting up. It's 8 years old so perhaps it's time for a new one. It so happens that I had a coupon from an Office Depot competitor for \$30 off on a \$100 purchase "on line." I asked the cashier if they honored coupons from competitors and they took it after I bought another \$2 of merchandise, even though it said "order on line" in large letters. I've always had good luck dealing with the Office Depot people, in fact that's where my last laser-jet came from via a deal matching process. This new HP LaserJet works so well that I'm sorry I didn't make this purchase sooner. It has a very peculiar printer cable with a USB plug on one end and their own "Pod" plug on the other end that I need to take good care of. The main thing is, it works very well and the price was right, but I guess a cheap

price means no power switch to turn off.

***I assume Dave Whittle's special offers** are still good so check last month's column again and if you have not ordered yet, get it done. "You can e-mail your order to [orders@webworkingservices.com] or mail it with a check to Webworking Services Corporation, 653 N 600 E, Springville, UT 84663, or fax it to (801) 489-0609."

***Let Freedom Ring, On My Computer, That Is! (Should have used this in July)**

I don't have to tell you that patriotism has become first and foremost in most people's eyes since the 9/11 disaster. How many now fly the flag at your home or have one on your car? What would you think about having your nation's flag on your computer? I'm referring to a screensaver flag. A year ago Tim Hoke of Alamo PC Users Group wrote about several great screensavers and the American Flag screensavers caught my eye in the August '02 edition of PC Alamode. I checked [<http://www.zdnet.com>] at that time and found plenty. Unfortunately I kept this item until I had room and things have now changed on ZDNet. When I first considered this, searches on the ZDNet site found 22 items for American Flag Screensavers. A few were for historical landmarks and I also found a screensaver commemorating the Twin Towers. Most were free and some were shareware. It was interesting that some had uninstallers and others didn't. At this point I'm leaving for a cruise so I can only include what my proofreader said; "A search for 'flag screensaver' (without the quotes) and then clicking the 'More Freeware' link, produced 25 hits of which a several appeared to be

US flag screensavers." Since this item was merely a

suggestion, I'll leave the searching to my readers, but I would think there are some good flag screensavers kicking around someplace.

A search for Canadian Flag screensavers on ZDNet didn't find any, but a simple search (that's the only kind I know) on Google found them along with some other interesting Canadian items for you folks to the north. Paul Witheridge of Sarnia (Ontario) PC Users Group told me he likes Flag3D found at [<http://www.improbable.ukgateway.net/flag3d/flag3d.htm>] and it comes with at least a dozen three-dimensional Canadian flags. You can adjust size, movement, spin and wind speed. Choose a flag or let them appear randomly. The 3D effects are spectacular! Oh, and it's FREE.

I'm not into screensavers and don't use one, but I just thought I'd throw this topic out for my readers to think about. Some friends had major problems using screensavers in the past, so I leave them alone.

***Free Software That Is Also Popular**

Many people use Serif products. In fact, they are very affordable and I have been getting some incredible special offers (as a customer) from Serif lately. I read in the Macon Users Group newsletter about being able to download some absolutely free fully functional older versions of their software right from their Web site. Check it all out at:

[<http://www.freerisefoftware.com>] where you will find PagePlus 5, DrawPlus 4, PhotoPlus 5.5, 3Dplus 2

(Continued on page 19)

The Deals Guy — (cont.)

(Continued from page 18)

(on linked pages) and WebPlus 6 almost beckoning for you to download them to try. If you prefer, you can get the free software sent to you on a CD for just \$2.95 shipping.

But how about this; Serif sent out flyers recently saying they would send you PagePlus 5, DrawPlus 3, GraphicsPlus, PhotoPlus5, 3Dplus (a \$250 value) and also a free wheel mouse for nothing more than \$3.95 shipping and handling. Is that a deal, or not? Simply call 1-800-55-SERIF to order. They asked me for some codes when I ordered so I hope I have them right. Customer reference number is X00486045. The Quote Code is FFF512.

I called for permission to print this offer and they said to use the same codes. I feel this is an incredible deal. They will offer you manuals for three of the programs for \$27 if you wish. Since I am a person who needs a manual, I bought them. Wouldn't hurt to mention you read this in the

DealsGuy column if you call.

The thinking is that if you like the free products, you'll want to upgrade to their latest versions with more capabilities, and of course, will tell your friends. Makes sense to me! At a recent FACUG DTP roundtable, the attendees were asked what desktop publishing software they used and some editors said they used Serif PagePlus.

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]. 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.

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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.

- Microsoft Issues Cumulative Patch For Internet Explorer -

On October 3rd, Microsoft published a cumulative patch, MS03-040, for versions 5.01, 5.5 and 6.0 of Internet Explorer. It includes all previously released patches and solves two new critical security flaws which are, according to Microsoft's web site:

- "A vulnerability that occurs because Internet Explorer does not properly determine an object type returned from a Web server in a popup window. It could be possible for an attacker who exploited this vulnerability to run arbitrary code on a user's system. If a user visited an attacker's Web site, it

could be possible for the attacker to exploit this vulnerability without any other user action. An attacker could also craft an HTML-based e-mail that would attempt to exploit this vulnerability."

- "A vulnerability that occurs because Internet Explorer does not properly determine an object type returned from a Web server during XML data binding. It could be possible for an attacker who exploited this vulnerability to run arbitrary code on a user's system. If a user visited an attacker's Web site, it could be possible for the

attacker to exploit this vulnerability without any other user action. An attacker could also craft an HTML-based e-mail that would attempt to exploit this vulnerability."

Microsoft has classified both vulnerabilities as 'Critical' due to the dangers involved in malicious users exploiting them. If you're not current on your patches, this is an easy and important way to easily get them. Head over to read Microsoft's end-user Security Bulletin MS03-040 at <http://snurl.com/2knh> and download this patch today!

- 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 9-30-04
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 October 2003 issue of *The DataBus*

Last Name	First Name	City	Last Name	First Name	City
Coe	James B.	Beavercreek	Underwood	Harold	Centerville
Horton	James (Jim)	Dayton			

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

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

Microsoft Tip - Configuring Windows XP Themes

In Windows XP, you can use the Windows Classic look as your theme, switch desktop themes, or modify elements of existing themes to create new themes and customize your desktop with the appearance that you want.

A desktop theme is a predefined set of window elements that help you personalize your computer to give it a distinctive look and feel. Themes affect the overall appearance of your desktop, including the background, screen saver, icons, fonts, colors, windows, mouse pointers, and sounds.

Select a Different Desktop Theme

To select a different desktop theme, follow these steps:

Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, click **Appearance and Themes**, and then click **Display**. Or, right-click an empty area of the desktop, and then click **Properties**.

Click the **Themes** tab, and then select a new theme in the **Theme** list. A preview of the theme is displayed in the **Sample** box.

Select the theme that you want, and then click **OK**. The desktop theme is applied to your computer.

Create Your Own Desktop Theme

When you modify any element of a theme, it is recommended that you always save your changes with a new theme name. If you select a different theme before you save your changes, the changes that you made to the theme are lost.

To create your own desktop theme, follow these steps:

Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, click **Appearance and Themes**, and then click **Display**. Or, right-click an empty area of the desktop, and then click **Properties**.

Click the **Themes** tab, and then click the theme that you want to modify in the **Theme** list.

Make your intended changes to the elements of the theme that you want to modify. The following list consists of individual desktop theme elements and the appropriate **Display Properties** dialog box tab, or the Control Panel location in which it is located:

To change the background design, color, or the position of the background design on your screen, click the **Desktop** tab in the **Display Properties** dialog box.

To change the icons on your desktop, click the **Desktop** tab in the **Display Properties** dialog box, and then click **Customize Desktop**.

To change the screen saver, click the **Screen Saver** tab in the **Display Properties** dialog box.

To change the color scheme, window and button styles, or font size, click the **Appearance** tab in the **Display Properties** dialog box.

To change the color, size, and font settings of individual window elements, click the **Appearance** tab in the **Display Properties** dialog box, and then click **Advanced**.

To change your mouse pointer scheme or the appearance of individual pointers, click the **Pointers** tab in the **Mouse Properties** dialog box. (Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, click **Printers and Other Hardware**, and then click **Mouse**.)

To change a sound scheme or to apply a sound to individual program events, click the **Sounds** tab in the **Sounds and Audio Devices Properties** dialog box. (Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, click **Sounds, Speech, and Audio Devices**, and then click **Sounds and Audio Devices**.)

When you finish making the changes that you want, click the **Themes** tab in the **Display Properties** dialog box, and then click **Apply**. The changes that you make to the theme are saved as **Previous theme name (Modified)**. This name is displayed in the **Theme** list, and it is the default name of the theme when you modify it but before you save it with a new name.

Click **Save As**. In the **Save As** dialog box, type a name for your new theme (for example, **MyNewTheme**), and then click **Save**.

Click **OK**. Your new theme is displayed in the **Theme** list and is applied to your desktop.

New themes are saved in the My Documents folder, with the .theme file extension -- for example, **MyNewTheme.theme**. To open the My Documents folder, click **Start**, and then click **My Documents**.

Delete a Desktop Theme

You can delete any theme that you create, install from a CD-ROM, or download from the Internet. You cannot delete the themes that are included with Windows XP, such as the Windows XP and Windows Classic themes.

To delete a desktop theme, follow these steps:

Click **Start**, click **Control Panel**, click **Appearance and Themes**, and then click **Display**. Or, right-click an empty area of the desktop, and then click **Properties**.

Click the **Themes** tab, and then click the theme that you want to delete in the **Theme** list. A preview of the theme is displayed in the **Sample** box.

Click **Delete**. The desktop theme that you selected is deleted from your hard disk.

§

*** For Sale - PC Collection Must Go ***

The PChalloffame Collections (5 in all)

- 1) PDP 11/73 Collection (hardware, Software & spares = RT, RSTS, RSX11M, RL02 RX07, RX02, BASIC, MUBASIC)
- 2) HP Calculator Collection (35, 65, 41, 11, 16, 48, 200LX)
- 3) HP Calculator Software Collection (every 65 program, 200+ 41c Programs, 48 Engineering card, 100+ 200LX programs and the connectivity pac)
- 4) PC Computer Collection (Altair 8800, Altair 680b, 286, 386, 486, Pentium II 200mHz, AMD 500mHz, P3 800mHz)
- 5) PC Computer Software Collection (DOS 1.0 thru DOS 6.2, Windows 1.0, 3.1, 95, 98, NT4, 2000, ME...O/Ss) (every Basic 4k, 8k, 12k, Disk Basic, Quick Basic, Basic 7 compiler, Visual Basic 1.0 thru 5, VS6) (most of the popular program titles since 1980 to present including all MS Office versions)

For more information, contact:

DEAN LAMPMAN pchalloffame@ameritech.net

Wanted – Color Monitor

I am looking for a color monitor that can do at least 1024x768 resolution. If anyone has a used one available at a good price (~\$30-\$40), I can pick it up in the Dayton area, and pay cash.

Contact: Dan Woodard
dgw@dmapub.dma.org

- DMA® Board Minutes - September 2, 2003 -

by Carol Ewing DMA® Board Secretary

DMA® Board of Trustees Meeting September 2, 2003

This meeting was rescheduled from Sept 1, 2003 to September 2, 2003 due to the Labor Day Holiday. This reschedule notice was sent to all Board of Trustees members, stated in the agenda email reminder sent one week prior to meeting to all board members and Randy Young, and also sent to Dave Smith, Building Manager, and Dave Lundy, Web site Host. This reschedule was put on the DMA® September, 2003 web site calendar.

Call to Order by Gary Mullins, Vice President, at 7:00 p.m.

Trustees and Officers present: Gary Mullins, Gary Turner, Leah Day, Carol Ewing, Don Corbet, Carolann Lemen, Millard Mier, John Friedenbach. Lisa Singh arrived a few minutes late.

Visitors present: Terry Drill, Bob Ruby, Dale Childs, Bob Kwater, Dave Lundy, John Ferneding.

Guest Presenter: Mr. John Ferneding of John C. Ferneding and Associates Insurance discussed issues of insurance coverage. Issues we need to research are cyber coverage, rental equipment, off site SIG meetings, storage units, point of sale. We need a complete list of all assets in case of a loss. We need to have legal check up on By-laws, Article of Incorporation, Resolutions, etc. Anyone taking personal equipment to off site locations is responsible for any losses. Mr. Ferneding will contact John Friedenbach with more information.

Guest Presentation: Robin Claspill. Robin did not attend but wants us to have an ink cartridge recycle project. We will talk to OTAP. All SIGS can help also. Carolann Lemen made a motion, Millard Mier 2nd, to take it on as a DMA® project. Yes-6, No-0, Abstain-1 (Mullins). Motion passed.

Officer Reports::

President - Lisa Singh. No report.

Vice-President - Gary Mullins. No report.

Secretary - Carol Ewing. Carol only got three reports from the Board. Per Trustee-approved housekeeping rules, important issues are not on agenda because no one bothers to abide by the rules and send their report. She sends out an agenda reminder one week before ALL board meetings with a list of what reports are due and needed. She still is not getting reports.

Carol did not receive any copies of all contracts, agreements, etc. she asked for last month to put on Treasurer office for official secretary record and references. She has one insurance policy, Lisa still has the other policy.

Leah Day made a motion, Millard Mier 2nd, to accept the July 20 & 21, 2003 special board meeting minutes. Yes-6, No-0 Abstain-1 (Mullins). Millard Mier made a motion, Don Corbet 2nd, to accept the 7-22-03 Executive Session board meeting minutes. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0.

Millard Mier made motion, Gary Mullins 2nd, to accept the regular, committee of one and executive session 8-4-03 Board meeting minutes. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0.

Carol read the 8-26-03 special board meeting minutes. Millard Mier made a motion, Carolann Lemen 2nd, to accept the 8-26-03 special board-meeting minutes. Yes-5, No-0, Abstain-2. Motions to accept all listed meeting minutes passed.

We received a resignation letter from John Friedenbach as President of GE-MAIR, Inc. and also GEMAIR, Inc. board member effective 12-31-03.

We received a letter from John Friedenbach stating he will not seek or accept another term as DMA®

Treasurer. His term expires at the October, 2003 board meeting. Carol said we owe John a huge thank you for all he has done for DMA®.

Carol sent a "To Do" list to the Board. She reviewed all board meetings and retreats from Oct. 2002 to Sept. 2003. She listed issues not completed and summarized the board meeting actions.

Treasurer - John Friedenbach. We still owe Hara and PON ad agency. Millard Mier made a motion, Gary Turner 2nd, to transfer \$25,000 from Smith Barney to cover expenses for the next few months. Yes-6, No-0, Abstain-1 (Corbet). Motion passed.

John said he would help the new Treasurer to get familiar with the accounting system.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Carol Ewing. August general meeting had 85 people. Membership is full 720, associates 41, student 30, Life 2 for total of 793. Her Membership Committee meeting report had two issues. If DMA® should pay the difference for printing a larger Computerfest® show program for more DMA® information. Carolann Lemen made a motion, Don Corbet 2nd, DMA® will be given the option to purchase pages of the Computerfest® program for DMA® advertising. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion passed.

Student membership is free and currently includes a mailed copy of newsletter. Carol presented a proposal that all free student memberships get an on-line version only. The Publications Committee was to find options to reduce the newsletter expense. The proposal was tabled until next month. Carol will find out if students want on-line or mailed versions. She plans to have another committee meeting late Sept. or early Oct.

(Continued on page 24)

- Minutes of September 2, 2003 (cont.) -

(Continued from page 23)

Break 8:45 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Old Business:

Skills DataBase - Lisa Singh. She did not email the Board the agreement yet. This was tabled until next month.

Fundraising - Lisa Singh. The ink cartridge project was covered under Guest presenters. The Board of Trustees MUST approve all fundraising projects. Lisa said the Board does not have the culture of thinking of other ways of fundraising, asked for a fundraising committee but had no one volunteer. In five years she raised over \$500,000.00 for other organizations. She raised \$1,500 for DMA®. She said we need an audit and OTAP needs to get things together before grants can be written.

Nominations Committee - Bob Kwater. We have 7 eligible people running for 3 Board of Trustee positions. Bob thanked Millard Mier and Susan Kendall for their help. This process should be started earlier. We need to work on development of Trustees and Officers under Membership. We need to set policies and procedure changes, maybe By-laws changes and make a policy manual. Lisa said several members have questioned conflict of interest issues, especially anyone involved in forming a paid position and plans to take that position. Lisa formed an Ad Hoc policy committee with Bob Kwater, Bob Ruby, Millard Mier, Susan Kendall on committee to pursue forming a standing committee. Lisa recommended Lillian Rudolph.

Yellow Pages - Lisa Singh. Lisa did not get any response. Gary Mullins said we have to do something or we will get the same ads at the higher prices. Lisa will contact them again and email the Board all information.

Volunteer of the Month - Lisa Singh. Lisa nominated George Gibbs, Acting Co-Editor of The DataBus. Approved.

New Business:

Trademark - Lisa Singh. The cost to renew the DMA® registration for the trademark is \$500-600 every three years. Gary Mullins made a motion, Leah Day 2nd, to renew the trademark. Yes-7, No-0, abstain-0. Motion Passed.

ASC - Lisa Singh. Lisa asked Bob Kwater to contact ASC and recruit volunteers for the ASC joint meeting. Carol said Membership Chairman should be there and ASC requests giveaways.

Paid Person for books - Lisa Singh. Lisa said accounting services will do the books. Gary Mullins will get quotes. Gary Turner has an appointment with CPA on Wed. a.m. for audit process. Millard Mier made a motion, Don Corbet 2nd, to table this until next month. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion Passed.

StreaminGiant (SG) Contract - Lisa Singh. Lisa said we need a special board meeting before the Sept 15 date of destroying the tapes from F02 and S03 Computerfest® shows. Don Corbet said there is an obligation to speakers who signed SG taping agreement that the tapes will be available on-line.

Executive Session 9:40 to 10:30 p.m.

Lisa Singh thanked Leah Day and Gary Turner for their last three years on the Board of Trustee. Lisa also thanked John Friedenbach for being GEMAIR, Inc. President, Board member and DMA® Treasurer.

Good of the Order:

Don Corbet - it was a good meeting, very productive.
Millard Mier - was one heck of a year.

Carol Ewing - please get reports to secretary per housekeeping rules.
Leah Day - it has been real.
Carolann Lemen - I made it one year.
Gary Turner - thanked the folks leaving the Board. He will talk to UD about Holiday dinner, needs some volunteers to help.
John Friedenbach - annual meeting in Sept. He'll give a full financial report.

Adjournment:

Motion made by Millard Mier, Don Corbet 2nd, to adjourn. Yes-7, No-0, Abstain-0. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 10.37 p.m.

Carol Ewing
Secretary, DMA®

- Free Software! -

WinRoll easily manages the height of windows. Right click the title bar of a window to minimize its height, leaving only the title bar visible.



Rolled-up windows using WinRoll.

Another right click to the same area restores the original height. The same effect can be obtained by right clicking either the minimize or the maximize button. Right clicking and pressing the Alt key changes all windows. Left click and press the Alt key to minimize, maximize or close all windows. Middle click the title bar to apply/remove transparency (Windows 2000 or above). You may also choose to "rollup" or "unroll" all visible windows from the tray icon application which is written in 100% pure assembly language. Best of all ... it's FREEWARE! ... with source code. Enjoy!

< www.palma.com.au/winroll/ >

- 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're passing along news of two recent weddings involving members of our DMA® family.

First, we have a wedding announcement about a member of the Young family. DMA® members Randy and Gail Young's daughter, Bethany, married Eric Crease on Sept. 13th at Pollen Farm in Kettering.

A little more recently, there was another wedding announcement within the DMA® family. Jamie (Jim) Rowe, DMA® member, married Jody Swan on Sept. 27th, also at Pollen Farm. They are residing in Centerville, OH.

We want to congratulate both couples and wish each of them long and happy lives together!!

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®

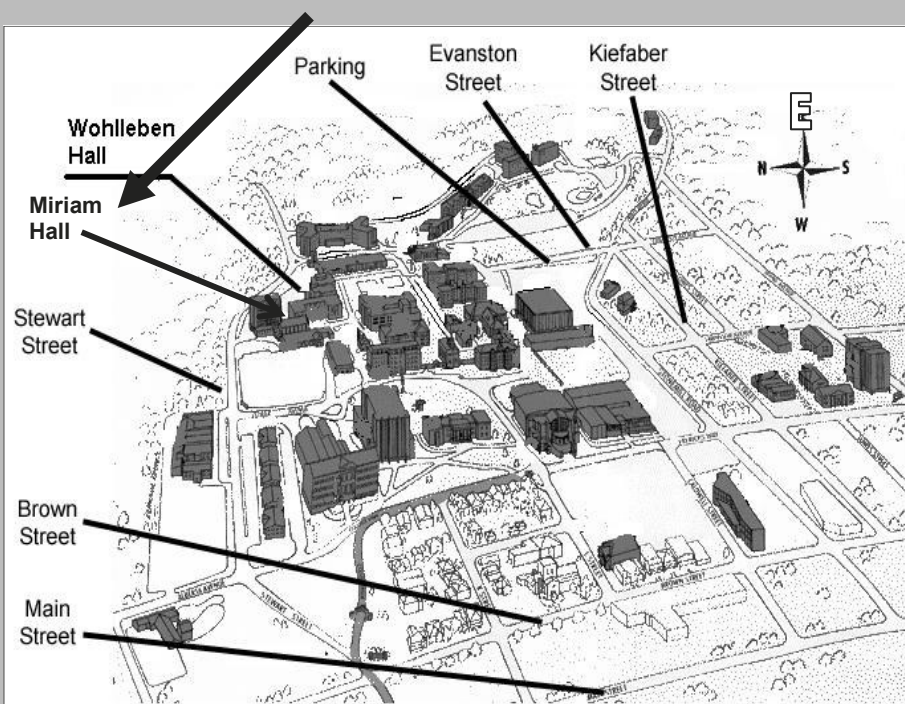
Our Monthly Meeting Location

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

However, you should know that Gary Mullins and others continue to look into alternate locations (due to the fact that it appears we may out-grow O'Leary Auditorium).

Any changes to our meeting location will appear on the DMA® web site and also in *The DataBus*.

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



Free Download: Windows Memory Diagnostic Utility

<http://oca.microsoft.com/en/winddiag.asp>

The Windows Memory Diagnostic tests the Random Access Memory (RAM) on your computer for errors. The diagnostic includes a comprehensive set of memory tests. If you are experiencing problems while running Windows, you can use the diagnostic to determine whether the problems are caused by failing hardware, such as RAM or the memory system of your motherboard. Windows Memory Diagnostic is designed to be easy and fast. On most configurations, you can download the diagnostic, read the documentation, run the test and complete the first test pass in less than 30 minutes.

Digital Photography SIG

by Millard Mier, SIG leader

The October meeting of the Digital Photography SIG was easily our best yet. 37 members were present as Steve Hayden demonstrated "MySlideshow version 2.14". With this software users can create self-running slideshows of their favorite digital photos set to music with captions, sound bytes, or even narration. Joe Solch continued his series on digital darkroom techniques by showing us how to use luminance and gradient masks in layers to rescue our less than perfect photos, and Dave Lundy showed us how create photo galleries on the DMA® website.

Our next meeting will be at 7:00 pm on November 6th. At this meeting we will have a demonstration of the digital video process. We will learn about capturing video both analog and digital via IEEE 1394 Firewire, editing the video using a variety of tools and programs, and then cut our final product to DVD. This meeting should be a good warm-up for people planning a digital video camera purchase for the holidays. Please note our new meeting place in room 072, Rike Hall.

The December 4, 2003 meeting will be on scrapbooking on the computer. A guest speaker from Creative Memories will show us how to add captions, borders and highlights to our photographs and discuss archival strategies to ensure that the pictures do not degrade over time.

The January meeting will be a "Show and Tell" session. With all the new Christmas toys we hope to have, it promises to be even more exciting than the September meeting! The meeting date has been changed to Wednesday, January 7th to avoid conflict with the holiday. Please check your copy of *The DataBus* or the website for the location of the January meeting.

Our meetings are held at Wright State University in room 072, Rike Hall, at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month (Note change for January). Parking is available in the Visitor lot at WSU (just follow the signs on campus). Across from the parking lot you will see three buildings that butt against the main road. Rike Hall will be the center building. You can contact us at digiphot-contact@dma.org, visit the website at www.dma.org (and select Special Interest Groups on the menu), or phone Millard Mier III at (937) 879-5419.

- Other Ways to "Opt Out" -

by Bob Esch, Editor Emeritus - The DataBus

I found some good information to use to stop even more telemarketing calls (and junk mail and e-mail spam) besides the recently-implemented Federal Do-Not-Call Registry that by now I'm sure you already know of. That one slowed down the number of telemarketer phone calls early registrants would have received beginning in October 2003. It won't stop every obtrusive marketer from invading your privacy though. Political parties and non-profit organizations, among others, are exempt from this Federal ban.

Another option, the "DMA Telephone Preference Service" (see form at < <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offtelephonedave#optoutform> >), will go to the 5,000+ members of the Direct Marketing Association (a completely unrelated "DMA"), and should stop most non-profit organizations from calling as well.

Their other form, the "DMA Mail Preference Service" < <http://www.dmaconsumers.org/cgi/offmailinglistdave#regform> >, also goes to the same 5,000+ members of the Direct Marketing Association and should also stop most non-profit organizations from sending you postal junk mail.

To help slow down at least some email spammers, use another web form at < http://www.dmaconsumers.org/consumers/optoutform_emps.shtml#optoutform >.

There is also a way to stop credit card pre-approval applications from clogging your physical mailbox. Call the credit bureaus' common opt-out number (1-888-567-8688) to stop these credit card pre-approval applications too.

These are all free services. Don't sign up for any programs that charge a fee to stop solicitors. They will simply enroll you in the free programs mentioned above and charge you a healthy fee for the "convenience".

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.wpa.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 October 19 - November 29, 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Oct 19</i>	<i>Oct 20</i> Apple SIG 7:00 PM 119 Valley 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Oct 21</i> Gaming SIG 7:00 PM on-line	<i>Oct 22</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Certification 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Oct 23</i>	<i>Oct 24</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Oct 25</i> 10 AM Northern SIG Edison College, Piqua 12 PM "On Technology"
<i>Oct 26</i> Daylight Savings ends - set back 1 hr. 	<i>Oct 27</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Oct 28</i> Main Meeting 7:30 PM O'Leary Auditorium, Miriam Hall	<i>Oct 29</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Oct 30</i>	<i>Oct 31</i> 12:30 PM Brad Kuhn: FSF 171F Fred White Center 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 1</i> 8:30 AM OTAP 12 PM "On Technology" 3:00 PM Classic Computers
<i>Nov 2</i> The DataBus deadline is the 1st day of each month.	<i>Nov 3</i> Board of Directors 7:00 PM 119 Valley 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 4</i> Amateur Radio 7:00 PM 119 Valley Primary Elections	<i>Nov 5</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 6</i> Digital Photography 7:00 PM 206 Fawcett Hall, WSU	<i>Nov 7</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 8</i> 8:30 AM OTAP 12 PM "On Technology"
<i>Nov 9</i>	<i>Nov 10</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 11</i> Network & Certification 7:00 PM 119 Valley Veterans Day	<i>Nov 12</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Perl Mongers 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Nov 13</i> Software Development 6:30 PM 119 Valley	<i>Nov 14</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 15</i> 8:30 AM OTAP 12 PM "On Technology" 2:00 PM OTAP Board 3:00 PM Classic Computers
<i>Nov 16</i>	<i>Nov 17</i> Apple SIG 7:00 PM 119 Valley 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 18</i> Gaming SIG 7:00 PM on-line	<i>Nov 19</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 20</i> Digital Textiles 7:00 PM 119 Valley Linux / Unix 7:00 PM Rm 150 Russ Eng Ctr, WSU	<i>Nov 21</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 22</i> 12 PM "On Technology"
<i>Nov 23</i> The DataBus deadline is the 1st day of each month.	<i>Nov 24</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 25</i> Main Meeting 7:30 PM O'Leary Auditorium, Miriam Hall	<i>Nov 26</i> 2:00 PM OTAP Certification 7:00 PM 119 Valley	<i>Nov 27</i> Thanksgiving 	<i>Nov 28</i> 2:00 PM OTAP	<i>Nov 29</i> 10 AM Northern SIG Edison College, Piqua 12 PM "On Technology"

Remember: • DMA® General Meeting is October 28 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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