

January Meetings

Thursday, February 10th WestWorld 's DSL

Wednesday, February 23rd GallantWEB

Simi Valley Computer User Group

Website:

www.svcug.org

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svcug@wgn.net



VolUme XVI, Issue II

"The "All Types of Computers" Club

February, 2000

Inside

Local Computer User Groups	2
Need Help?	3
Why was NT 5 renamed Windows 2000?	4
Windows Explorer Annoyance	4
Millennium Pie	6
Listing toward Win2k	9
Using Your Calculator	9
ICQ Helpful Hints	10
Any Excel Tricks Up Your Sleeve?	10
SVCUG Q&A Forum	10
Printer Paper, What's the Difference	11
Proxim's Wireless LAN	12
ISPs that pass in the night!	13
PrintStation	15
Nominations	15

Diary of a Hack Attack

We go behind the scenes as a hacker for hire tests an e-business's security perimeter.

By DEBORAH RADCLIFF

Network World, 01/10/00

On a crisp, sunny November day in the nation's capital, in the sparsely furnished second-floor office of Para-Protect, "Bob the hacker" hunches over his monitor and fires off Unix command lines in short, machine gun blasts.

Bob is testing the perimeter defenses of a certified Internet mail delivery company, which is paying for the privilege.

The start-up e-business doesn't have the budget to pay for a full-blown assault on its network, which would involve Bob actually taking down the company's servers. And besides, it can't afford to have its e-business servers down for any length of time. But it has hired Para-Protect, an information security consulting company in Alexandria, Va., to conduct a scouting expedition.

And they've agreed to allow me to tag along on the mission, code-named Alabama, as long as I keep Bob's identity and the name of the e-business secret.

These paid-for front-line assaults are a good starting point for network protection because the tests (often referred to as "red teaming" or "penetration tests") can offer a baseline for information security policies and practices, industry professionals say.

With networked systems under attack from every direction - the Internet, modems and even disgruntled employees - the need for such services is on the rise. By 2003, the security consulting services market will likely reach \$14.83 billion, according to market research firm International Data Corp.

(continued on page 6)

Thursday, 2/10/2000

Westworld's Digital Consumer

Subscriber Line (DSL) Demo

Features dynamic IP assignment, 10 minute idle, 8 hour maximum session before renegotiation.

Setup fees:

-wiring and termination to D-marc, \$100.00

-5250 DSL modem, \$100.00

384k/128k ADSL - \$49.95 per month

768k/384k ADSL - \$89.95 per month

(continued inside back cover)

Warp Zone

After a very long time, we voted at the board meeting to discontinue our BBS "The Warp Zone". Lee Barton, our SYSOP has volunteered his time for at least ten years. He turned it into a BBS to be proud of, offering help to new members, keeping up the huge number of files which were available to members, and setting up the mail packet forwarding. Lee will distribute a list of current files available.

Local Computer User Groups

Appleholics Anonymous

Chuck Baca 805-650-7503
Tony Pizza 805-482-3453
2nd Sat 9:30 am
3169 Telegraph Road. Ventura

Conejo Valley Genealogical Society

Albert Richardson, Chairman (NEW)
(805) 492-2029
bf140@gte.net

CVMUG (Mac club)

Susie Herrera 805-484-2259
sherrera@vcnet.com
General Meeting: 1st Thursday, 7 pm
Novice SIG: 4th Monday
Internet SIG: Quarterly
Westminster Presbyterian Church, Camarillo

Commodore 64/128 Users

Loyd Couch: 805-483-9200
BBS: 805-382-1125
General Meetings: 1st Sat., 10 am
Cal Fed Bank, 430 Arneill Road, Camarillo
Tech Meeting: 2nd Sat, 10 am
Boys-Girls Club, 126 E. 7th Street, Oxnard

Channel Islands PC Group

Toby Scott, 805-981-1212
Website: www.cipcug.org
General Meeting: 1st Sat, 9 am Camarillo Airport
OS/2 Corner: 2nd Sat, 9:30 am

Gold Coast CUE of Ventura County

Tim Rainville, 805-525-3873 rainvilt@vcss.k12.ca.us
Days vary, 4 pm
Camarillo area or local school

Leisure Village Club

Neil Iven, 805-383-0016 lniven1@juno.com
1st Friday, 10am Camarillo
1st Monday, MAC group
2nd Friday, Communications
3rd Wednesday, Novice

Simi Conejo Linux User Group

Website: Valleywww.psilord.com/sclug
Meets every other Saturday at 6 pm at
Nortel, 4100 Guardian Street, Simi

MacValley Users Group

Daphne Gruberman (818) 998-7025
1st Wednesday
Wilkinson Senior Center
8956 Vanalden Street, Northridge

Simi Valley Computer User Group

Barbara Cott 805-581-2495 bobbie@wgn.net
Website: www.svcug.org
Main meeting: 2nd Thurs 7:30 pm
Hardware/Software Meeting: 4th Wed, 7:30 pm
Simi Valley Library

Thousand Oaks

Personal Computer Club

Harry Isaman 805-405-8323
Website: www.vcnet.com/topcc
4th Thurs: 6:30pm Jan-Oct
3rd Thurs: 6:30 Nov-Dec
Goebbel Sr Ctr or T.O. Library

TUGNET

Website: www.tugnet.org
meets every Tues, 7pm
Granada Pavilion
11128 Balboa. Granada Hills.

Ventura Beginners PC Users' Group

Howard Wilson 805-647-0360
3rd Sat, 10 am
Club House, Bena Ventura Mobile Home Estate
11407 Darling Road

Ventura

Windows Publisher User Group

Bob Tracy 482-7092
bobtracy@vcnet.com
3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm
Cal Fed Bank Bldg, 430 Arneill Road, Camarillo

Need Help?

Dennis Atherton

hardware - any, networking , WIN95 setups
dennis_atherton@yahoo.com 7-11 evenings

Steve Carter

OS/2 - scarter@vcnet.com 805-598-8455 til 9 pm

Barbara Cott desktop publishing, Excel, Photoshop, web pages
bobbie@wgn.net 805-581-2495 weekends

Howard Engel

Word 6, programming in PASCAL or ADA
engelh@gte.net 805-523-7602 9 am - 10 pm

Will Fiske

Win95/3.11/3.1, DOS 6.2 and down to 5
wfsike@juno.com after 6 pm

Roger Freeman

online researching
update1@ez2.net 805-579-8426 before 10

Spencer Hartman Digital Research DOS 6, Novell DOS 7.0
WordPerfect 6.1 for DOS, batch files
805-522-7212 if no answer, lv msg 10 am - 10 pm

Gordon Huff modems, Telix, FDISK
wa6fmx@worldnet.att.net 805-499-3494

Lucy Lediae Basic Windows & Office, Basic HTML & graphics concepts
lucyl@cnmnetwork.com evenings 6-9:30 pm & wknds

David Ringwood

hardware - jolyon@mail.westworld.com

Oliver Stockton

MS Word , Wndows 95, Beginners
SimiClown@aol.com 805-581-2991 24 hours / 7 days

Robert Sully

Hardware Questions, OS's (Win95 and OS/2)
BASIC Programming, Beginning Visual Basic
rcs@malibyte.com

Dee Tillman

Office 97 Word & Excel, WordPerfect, Commodore, Apple II
dtillman@juno.com 805-526-1395, after 4

Gaylord Trubey

DOS internet, WIN 3.x, WIN 95, software hardware
gaylordt@juno.com 805-526-2077

Dick Uhlman

XTree (1-3), Windows, DOS Excel
computerwizard@juno.com
805-583-2174 & 805-583-2804 5pm - 8pm

Karleen Volz

BASIC questions, DOS WIN 3.11, WIN 95 WIN NT, basic hardware questions
kvolz@juno.com 7pm - 9:30pm & weekends

Simi Valley Computer User Group is a non-profit special interest group for the benefit of anyone interested in learning more about computers and how to use them. Meetings are held twice a month. The General Meeting meets at 7:30 pm on the second Thursday of each month, the Hardware / Software Meeting is held at the same time on the fourth Wednesday of each month. The meetings are held at the Simi Valley Public Library, in the Community Room.

If you need further information about the meetings, call Barbara Cott at 805-581-2495. Further information can be found at www.svcug.org or send email to info@svcug.org. Visitors are welcome to come and see what our group is all about without obligation to join. However, if you find our meetings to be beneficial to you, we hope you will join and support our group. Dues are \$24 per year or \$13 for 6 months.

It has to say this: Simi Valley Computer User Group (SVCUG), consisting of its officers and membership, is not affiliated with any computer hardware or software manufacturers. Articles contained in this publication may not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of SVCUG. SVCUG makes no warranty of the suitability or inability to use any product or service.

Ad Rates

Small member ads are free.
(business card size)

1/4 page - \$25/mo

1/2 page - \$50/month

full page - \$100/month.

Send your camera ready art to Editor at
bobbie@wgn.net.

Membership Rates

\$24/year or \$13/6 months.

Includes user group pricing, expert computer Q&A, newsletter (mailed/online), BBS, email address, raffle.

For membership information,
email Howard Engel, Treasurer
engelh@gte.net

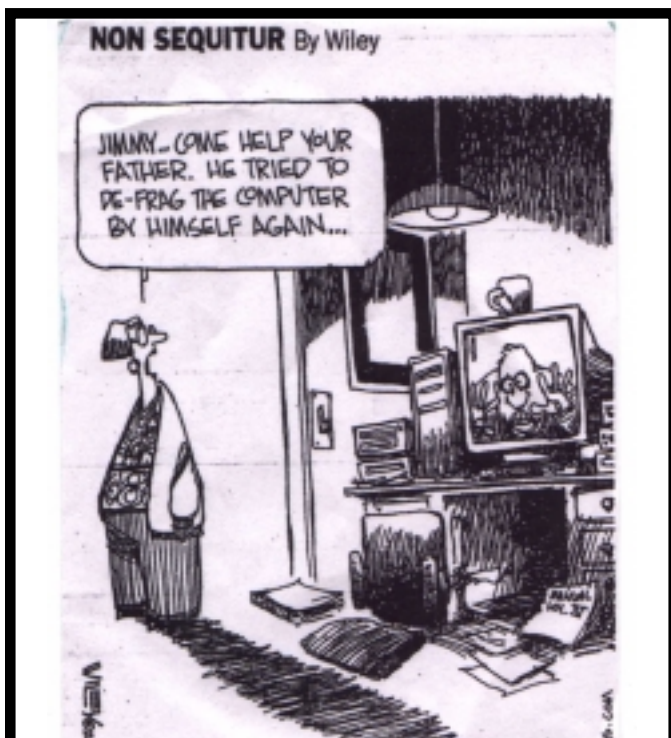
Why was NT 5.0 renamed Windows 2000?

submitted by Dennis Atherton

Here's a list that got some laughs at the recent Microsoft Developer Days '99 in Long Beach, Calif. And get this: The list is the brainchild of Nickolas Landry, vice president, technologies, at Camera e-Motion Inc. in Montreal, and a regional director for the Microsoft Developer Network. Who knew they had a sense of humor up there?

10. Because Windows 00 would be a millennium bug.
9. Microsoft figured it could extend the wait by making people think it's a new product.
8. It's a hint as to the number of megabytes required to install the thing.
7. Everyone's forgotten what "NT" actually stands for.
6. That's how many service packs they're going to have.
5. They tried calling it Windows 2001, but the system kept saying: "I'm sorry Dave, but I'm afraid I can't do that."
4. It's hard to convince first-time users that Windows NT 5 is more advanced than Windows 98.
3. People are afraid of Version 1.0 products; Redmond figured 2000 would be reassuring enough.
2. "Win2k" sounds cooler than "Win0.005K."
1. Because that's the best the name-search team and its \$23 million budget could come up with.

<http://www.idg.net/go.cgi?id=221001>



Windows Explorer

For years I have been annoyed by Windows Explorer.

submitted by Howard Engel

The hard drive I usually use has three partitions — C, D and E — and my CD-drive is S. Drive C has my commercial software and those associated data files that I could not move to drive D. Drive D has the software I have written, data files for the commercial software, and data files for my software. Drive E is small and is used only for scratch files. This way, I back up drive D frequently, drive C infrequently, and drive E never. Drives C and D have many, many folders.

As installed, when Explorer is opened the left frame shows an expanded view of the folders of drive C. I, however, want to look at drive D or S more frequently than drive C. Getting to drive D or S takes a number of mouse clicks or key strokes, which has been a constant annoyance.

About a year ago I learned how to cause Windows Explorer to open with drive D expanded, rather than drive C, which was a great improvement, but was still inconvenient when I wanted to look at drives C or S. I could not find anyone who could tell me how to open Explorer with no drive expanded.

The article starting on page 93 of the February 22, 2000 issue of PC Magazine has the magic formula. Open Windows Explorer to the entry for explorer.exe. It is in c:\windows. Drag this entry to the desktop, resulting in an icon labeled Shortcut to Explorer.exe. Close Windows Explorer. Right click on the new icon, click on properties, and click on the tab labeled Shortcut. Replace the content of the field labeled Target with "C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE(space)e,/select.c:", where (space) denotes a blank space, and the quotation marks are to be omitted. Click on Apply, and OK.

You may wish to change the caption on the icon. If so, click on the caption twice (not a double click!!) and you can edit the caption. When done, click elsewhere on the desktop.

If, instead, you wish to have Explorer open with some disk other than C expanded, you should type "C:\WINDOWS\EXPLORER.EXE(space)e,/d:\", where (space) denotes a blank space, and the quotation marks are to be omitted.

Other alternatives exist. For those you are referred to the original article.

Millennium Pie

(with apologies to Don McLean)

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submitted by Dennis Atherton

A long, long time ago... I can still remember how
Computers used to make me smile.
And I knew if I had my chance,
That I could make electrons dance,
And maybe I'd be happy for a while.
But January made me shiver,
it chilled me deep down in my liver,
Bad news I'd collected...
I couldn't get connected.
I can't remember back that day
When I first knew the Y2K
But something touched me anyway,
The day computers died.
So, ...Bye, bye to the next digit of Pi
Ran my PC on some DC but the voltage was dry
And good ol' boys were sending e-mail replies
Saying this will be the day I retire
this will be the day I retire
Can you write in C plus plus?
And do you have faith in your local bus
If the driver tells you so?
Do you believe in Compaq's goals
Can software save your mortal soul
And can you teach me how to type real slow?
Well I thought that you were prepared
'Cause your memo said you weren't impaired
Your stationery's swell
But you can go to hell
I was a lonely teenage Unix hack
With an incantation and a modem jack
but I knew the cat had left the sack
The day computers died
I started singin' ...
(Chorus)
Now for 10 years we've ignored the threat
And we haven't solved the problem yet
But that's not how it used to be
When the Luddites read for the king and queen
with a light they filled with kerosene
And some manuals they stole from you and me
And while Bill Gates was looking pleased
Time stole his monopolies
The courtroom was adjourned
No verdict was returned

While Apple tried a color scheme
The engineers returned to steam
And we had purges of their dreams
The day computers died
We were singin'
(Chorus)
Intel inside in an iron smelter
The food leftover from my fallout shelter
Twinkies old and aging fast
I'd rather eat the grass
Q and A tried for a system crash
With the tester on the sidelines in a cast
Now the timeshare net was running Doom
While mainframes played a marching tune
We all tried to log in
Oh, but we never could begin
'Cause Cobol tried to take the field,
And Hollerith refused to yield.
Do you recall what was revealed,
The day computers died?
We started singing
(Chorus)
There we were all in a state
A generation really late
With no time left to start again
So come on mouse be nimble, mouse be quick
Don't let my spreadsheet data stick
'Cause data is the devil's only friend.
As I watched him on my screen
My hands and face were drenched in steam
No angel born in hell
Could run that stupid shell
And as the ball climbed high into the night
To call the sacrificial night
I saw Dick Clark laughing with delight
the day computers died.
We started singing
(Chorus)
I met a girl with a cell phone
And I asked her for a dial tone
But she just smiled and turned away
I went down to the software store
Where I'd seen computers years before
But the man there said the games there wouldn't play
And in the streets the children screamed
The lovers cried and the poets dreamed
their interface was spoken
The Internet was broken
And the three things I connect to most
The Website, Lan and the Network host
Every single one was toast
The day computers died
They were singin'
(Chorus)

Venture-funded e-business start-ups such as Para-Protect's client are especially vulnerable to attack. Because of the intense pressure to get to market quickly, these start-ups are often building their infrastructures too fast to give security the thought it deserves, information security practitioners say.

"We have worked with companies that don't have a firewall. Most often, they are small start-ups that just got their venture money and have hired 50 people. Then they get hacked, and they realize they're suddenly more of a target than they used to be," says Ian Poynter, founding president of security consulting firm Jerboa in Cambridge, Mass.

In our case, the e-business start-up's only line of defense is a Cisco 8000 router. If the router can deflect our probes, the company can use the supporting documentation from our report to show its customers that its public-key infrastructure (PKI)-based application is secure.

But the folks at Para-Protect are skeptical. "We disagree that the company doesn't need a firewall. You don't protect your perimeter using just a router even if they are smarter [than they used to be]. Firewalls offer more filtering methods, and you need multitier security levels," says Robert Perholtz, enterprise account manager at Para-Protect.

The battle lines drawn, the attack begins.

08:00

The bargain-basement desks and folding tables are a dead giveaway that Para-Protect's second-floor lab has been tossed together in a hurry. A fidgety Bob is already on his second Pepsi of the day. With his dark brown hair slung back in a long, messy ponytail and his beard growing to his waist, Bob fits the physical profile of the stereotypical subversive hacker.

But don't let his looks fool you. Bob is a former U.S. Army sergeant and computer analyst for the Army, the Pentagon, and the Defense-Wide Information Systems Agency, which supports all of the U.S. Department of Defense. His last assignment was with the Defense Department's Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT). To hear Perholtz tell it, hacker Bob got out of the Defense Department and hasn't cut his hair or beard since.

Bob tells me that the first order of business is to learn more about our target. We start by paying a visit to the victim's Web page, replete with information about its ethics, partners and history.

"During discovery, we're looking for partner affiliates to find corporate links to the network," Perholtz says. "Often, fringe organizations aren't as secure as the main network."

We find nothing that stands out. So we go to the InterNIC and ARIN registrars (services that assign and record domain information) and key in a "whois" command. It spits out the domain name of our client and verifies the IP addresses we're about to attack.

Not only do these services give us the IP addresses of the target's three servers, they also give away other strategic information, such as company nicknames, and even the names and phone numbers of those administering the machines.

With the information provided by these services, we can get an overall picture of our target's network configuration, Bob says. At this point, we're only looking to verify the domain information of our intended target. It would be a real bummer if we hit the wrong victim.

09:36

The next step is to run traceroute against our three target IP addresses. Traceroute is a utility within Unix and Windows NT used by administrators to trace packets traveling between a source and destination. In our case, traceroute shows us that the router is blocking our packets, so we deduce that the router is doing its job.

But we were able to trace outgoing traffic to a specific port number, which our victim uses to connect to its ISP, UUNET. Bob makes note of this in his log.

It's time to grab some hacker tools. Although Para-Protect keeps a database full of its favorite tools, Perholtz runs a Web search on "hacker tools" to show just how available these are to anyone. Our search turns up 2,070 hits, including tools such as the Shadow Advantis Administrator tool set, which sends timed pings to a specified range of ports. The pings are slow enough and small enough to fall beneath the radar of intrusion-detection software.

Hacker Bob prefers network mapping (nmap), which does much the same thing. Nmap, also available from the Web, is an IP network discovery tool developed by a hacker named Fyodor. But really, it's a port scanner on steroids. In addition to finding open ports, it can change the characteristics of outgoing packets to get past the router's IP filtering list.

Throughout the day, Bob will run several types of nmap scans: (For more technical detail, visit www.insecure.org/nmap)

- SYN, used to establish a TCP session. When the target responds back, we know the host is active. When it doesn't respond to ping, we know the host is blocked.
- FIN, which uses a bare packet as the probe to determine if a port is open or closed. From this we could guess what well-known services may be running based on what the open ports are

generally used for. Even if the port is closed, it's required to respond with a reset packet (RST). If a RST bounces back, the port is closed. If nothing is returned, it means the port is open.

- Fragmentation scanning. When a packet reaches a host, the target has to reassemble the packet in order to make sense of it. Fragmented packets confuse these machines and can potentially bypass access controls.

Our first nmap scan in SYN is terminated because Bob misconfigures the command line, which he discovers later in the day. Bob gets another Pepsi from the fridge down the hall.

Then he pays a visit to UUNET and uses the subcommand "nslookup" to ask UUNET's Domain Name System (DNS) to tell us which machines it knows from our target network. UUNET gives us three domain names that come from our victim: "mail," "www" and another name Bob doesn't want mentioned because it would give away our target.

There are probably a number of other machines connected to the network, but Bob says they're outside the scope of our investigation. However, the DNS server does point out which of our IP addresses is our target Web server. We already know which machine is the router. So we make an educated guess that our third IP address is our target's PKI/proxy server.

We've now diagrammed the network. A router sits as sentry to a Web server, a proxy server and another server, likely the mail server. It's time to find out what services are running on those servers. Attackers often look for services with known vulnerabilities and exploit those first.

Veiling his identity through a local ISP, Bob telnets to Port 80. We knew Port 80 would be open 99% of the time because network administrators leave Port 80 open for Web traffic. Telnetting into Port 80 shows us what is running on the HTTP server: Microsoft's Internet Information Server 4.0, which is a dead giveaway that the operating system is NT.

Then the phone rings. The client is getting access control list warning messages on its router from Bob's and his ISP's IP addresses. The administrators just want to make sure it's us and not some other hacker. Bob assures them it is.

Now that the victim knows we're rattling its doors, Bob forgoes the low and slow port scanning method, which would have taken days. Instead he launches a second nmap FIN scan against the entire range of ports (1 through 65534).

"This makes a lot of noise," Bob says as he swigs his Pepsi. "But normally it would take days to do this beneath the radar of intrusion detection. We have a two-day time constraint, so we have to do everything now."

The scan turns up nothing special. Only the ordinary services, such as FTP and HTTP, are running, meaning

we're looking at a plain vanilla box. However, if configured wrong, FTP (or any standard service) could be exploited by hackers.

12:30

It's time for a break, so we head next door to the Vietnamese grill for a bite to eat. Bob's telling me how his next step would be to find vulnerabilities in the network, the operating systems and the applications running on the servers. But that's outside the scope of this job.

Once discovery is completed, you'd be surprised just how easy it is to break into an NT or Unix machine.

At an extreme hacking course at Ernst and Young in Houston that I attended over the summer, the class broke into NT and Unix machines with reckless abandon. For example, we started in on an NT machine by establishing a null session. Null is a Microsoft utility that allows services to communicate with one another without user passwords or identification. By logging on as null, we were able to see everything we wanted: password files, user accounts and network services that we could exploit. And none of this was logged.

In null, we couldn't touch anything, but that didn't stop us from copying down user names. Then we logged back on under the user name "backup" and a guessed password "backup." At this point, we grabbed the password hashes (encoded passwords) and submitted them to l0phtcrack and John the Ripper, both of which are password-cracking tools freely available on the Web.

It only took 15 minutes to crack 70% of the passwords, log on as a super user and gain root access. Then, for the final slap in the face, we hid our bag of hacker tools behind a readme.txt file on the victim's server to use again.

NT passwords are the easiest to crack, according to my Ernst and Young instructor, Eric Shultz. That's because Microsoft's LAN Manager splits passwords into seven-character halves and uses a known constant to encrypt each half. Cracking tools are programmed for this and can thus decrypt the passwords very quickly. And the only way administrators can catch our bag of hacker tools hidden on the network is to set the log files to alert them when disk space changes significantly.

Although we used different command lines and Unix-based tools, gaining root on Unix during the class was also pretty easy. In fact, we leapfrogged through four networked Unix machines in a game of capture the flag. We also had a little fun corrupting the DNS server to reroute traffic to a phony IP address. Then we installed Trojan horses such as Back Orifice so the machine would do our bidding and punched open back doors so we could telnet back in without the need for IDs or passwords.

The Para-Protect folks do a fair amount of these kinds of full-blown attacks on a network, as well. And

Houston that I attended over the summer, the class broke into NT and Unix machines with reckless abandon. For example, we started in on an NT machine by establishing a null session. Null is a Microsoft utility that allows services to communicate with one another without user passwords or identification. By logging on as null, we were able to see everything we wanted: password files, user accounts and network services that we could exploit. And none of this was logged.

Judging from his body language, Bob the hacker would really like to conduct further investigation into the vulnerabilities of his target. But he's fighting some internal networking problems of his own well into the day.

Day 2

In fact, the next morning we run fragmentation scanning against the target host. Bob finds a number of open ports vulnerable to packet fragment attacks. It would also be possible to modify an attack tool to get past the router, Bob says.

Thus, Bob's report recommends the client buy a firewall. The client would also be wise to do further testing on its entire network infrastructure. Of course, any more work depends partially on the client's ability to justify the expense.

But the client shouldn't count on Para-Protect's report to scare funding out of executive management. Rather, it should sell information security to management in a way that shows the added security brings value to the business, says Gregory White, chief technology officer of San Antonio, Texas-based Secure Logix, while speaking at a November Computer Security Institute conference in Washington, DC.

"If you're going to try and justify expenses based on risk analysis alone, you're going to have an uphill battle," White explained. "You need to sell security as a business enabler."

Related links

Radcliff is a freelance writer in northern California. She can be reached at derad@aol.com.

Insecure.Org

Offers a variety of security tools, including nmap.

L0phtcrack

John the Ripper

[Buyer's guide and review: Intrusion-detection software](#)

We tell you what to look for, recommend one app and provide a detailed vendor-spec database. Network World, 10/4/99.

[Hacker alert](#)

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[Defending against cyberattack](#)

Network World, 8/23/99.

[Security Alert](#)

Daily bulletins from the security front.

Radcliff is a freelance writer in northern California. She can be reached at derad@aol.com.

Insecure.Org

Offers a variety of security tools, including nmap.

L0phtcrack

John the Ripper

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[Defending against cyberattack](#)

Network World, 8/23/99.

[Security Alert](#)

Daily bulletins from the security front.

Nominations:

Listing toward Win2k

By Frank Hayes 02/08/2000

What's left to say about Win2k? After truckloads of hype and counterhype, after years of vendor tests and customer trials, after countless articles explaining what will be there and endless exposes of what will be missing - is there anything worth saying still unsaid about Windows 2000? Could be. But while we're waiting for any sign of it, the crack research team at Frankly Speaking Labs hasn't lost sight of what IT professionals really need: wisecracks that will make the long, hoopla-filled wait a little more bearable. So this time, we do lists. And we don't count backwards from 10, either. . . .

Ten Things to Love About Windows 2000:

No more software compatibility questions - because nothing's compatible.

In continuous daily testing since mid-1997, so you know it's - old.

Blue Screen of Death now a lovely teal.

No long lines at CompUSA this time.

Since Active Directory was announced, lots of users have managed to get the flavor of its innovative "domain name" feature thanks to some obscure knockoff called "the Internet."

Two words: Solitaire 2000.

Lots of extra free software for registered users - in fact, the first two security patches are already available.

Still in the marketing plan: The first 1,000 buyers get a pair of tickets to the 1998 Super Bowl.

No truth to rumors that all major warning messages now display Janet Reno's face.

Bill Gates was so impressed he resigned before the official launch.

Using Your Calculator

by Candy Baker

President and Program chair,

Colony Computer User Group in California

Windows comes with a calculator that can do both regular and scientific calculations. To bring up the calculator, click on Start, Programs, Accessories and then Calculator. Click on View and select Scientific to use the scientific calculator.

Right-click on any of the buttons and click on "What's This?" for an explanation of what a particular button does and the key strokes you can use instead of clicking on the button with your mouse.

When you have completed a calculation and want to use the result in another calculation, store the results of the first calculation in memory by clicking the MS (Memory Store) button. You'll see an M in the gray box above all the "M" buttons when something is stored in memory. When you are ready to insert the result of your last calculation into a new one, click on the MR (Memory Retrieve) button. Clicking the M+ (Memory Plus) button and then on the MR button will add the currently displayed value to the value stored in memory. The MC (Memory Clear) button clears anything stored in memory, and clicking on the MS button overwrites anything stored in memory. To create a Desktop shortcut to the calculator, right-click on the Desktop, select New and click on Shortcut. In the "Command Line" box type "CALC.EXE" (without the quotes) and click on Next. Type "Calc" (without the quotes) and click on Finish. You can drag the Calc shortcut onto the Quick Launch bar just to the right of the Start button.

When you have more than one icon displayed on the task bar, switching between them is easy. Just press the Alt key, and while holding it down, press the Esc key. Each time you press the Esc key, a different item will appear highlighted on the task bar. When you let go of both keys, the task bar item you highlighted appears. Pressing and holding the Alt key, and then pressing the Tab key, will also let you rotate between open applications. Releasing both buttons will open the application displayed on the screen.

ICQ Helpful Hints

<http://www.help.com/cat/3/314/318/ht/2.html>

Restore Your Contacts

When you need to reinstall or install ICQ on a second computer, forget ICQ's address book import/export utility. You're much better off if you save a copy of the ICQ database (usually found in C:\Program Files\ICQ\NewDB). After you reinstall ICQ and enter your user ID number, just copy the NewDB backup over the new directory, and you'll get back your old address book plus your message logs.

Search the Web With ICQ

Use ICQ 99 as a Web-searching tool with the WebSearch option. To access WebSearch, first make sure you're in Advanced Mode. Next, roll your mouse over the WebSearch button until it turns into a text box. Type your search word or phrase into the box, click the arrow on the right side of the box, and choose where you'd like to search. You can search using any of the major search engines, translate your word or phrase into a number of languages, search for software, and more. Once you've chosen from the search menu, your default Web browser will appear with the results of your search.

Send a Link With ICQ

To send a Web link to another ICQ user, click that person's name in your list, and select Web Page Address (URL). By default, ICQ sends the URL that is live in your browser. You can also send a URL in your browser's history by clicking the drop-down box labeled Select/Enter URL, or you can simply enter the URL you'd like in the box provided.

Stay Secure: Hide Your IP Address

To keep your system reasonably safe from hackers, make sure you set your ICQ preferences to hide your IP address. Malicious hackers can use your IP address to crash your ICQ client or even "spoof" your ICQ ID, allowing them to send messages that appear to be from you. To do this, they need your IP address, so it's best not to advertise. To turn it off, select Security & Privacy from the ICQ menu, and check the box labeled "Do not publish IP address," found under the Security tab.

Use ICQ as a Pager

Let people page you from your Web site. If you place a simple HTML form on your Web site, people can page you through your ICQ client. For complete instructions, here's the official ICQ Web-Pager Panel page. <http://www.icq.com/panels/webpanel/>



Use the Web to Send a Message

If you're burning to send someone an ICQ message but you're not at your own computer, you can still contact him or her using the ICQ Web site. www.icq.com Just go to the white pages to locate any ICQ user by name, address, or interests. From there, you can reach each user's Message Center page, where you can send instant messages even if you're not on ICQ at the moment.

ANY EXCEL TRICKS UP YOUR SLEEVE?

Howdy! I hope this is an easy one for you! I'm using OFF97 Excel. I'm keeping info on dynamic entities. Each entity requires 3 rows x 6 columns of info, and I have 50 entities. I often need to swap the order of entities without losing border formatting. Lotus preserves cell borders, Excel seems destructive. The 3 rows have single vertical borders, and a thick outline border around the 3 rows. The problem is: How can I cut and paste a 3-row range of info without removing the border formatting? When I highlight an entity's 3 row range to move the info to a different 3 row range, and then cut the range, the border formatting is removed from the original range. I just want to move the data around while keeping my border formatting static. I've read several books, but none address this type of problem. *Jon. Bakersfield*

SVCUG Q&A Forum

Take a look at the following, as a way for us to do on-line q&a. <http://network54.com/Create/>. This would allow us to link to there, and have all members post questions, that could be answered by anyone in the club. We could put a link on the web page, and redirect people over to here. The FRY's forum is run on this system. All people can post onto this, and the answers will be preserved for anyone to see.

Printer Paper

What's the Difference?

You've finally got a great color printer with 600 to 1200 dpi (Dots per Inch) capability for text and graphics and you can't wait to start printing. According to the manufacturer it should be able to print photo quality graphics and crisp text files. However, when you actually print something, it seems the print quality is no better than with your old printer. Eventually, you look with envy at your friend's printouts and sigh "Someday I'll be able to afford a high quality printer like theirs." But wait, maybe the problem isn't the printer... perhaps it's the paper.

Let's take a look at the basics of different printers: An impact printer uses a mechanical hammering device to produce each character by forcing a metal or plastic form against an inked ribbon to produce an image on paper. The characters may be on a moving bar, a rapidly rotating chain, a rotatable ball, or even a spoked wheel. A dot matrix printer uses a matrix of tiny pins that, when struck, impart a set of dots to form a wide variety of characters. Graphics may be created by using different dot combinations. Bubble-jet printers (or ink-jet printers) squirt heated ink through a matrix of holes to form characters. These small ink droplets are electrostatically sprayed from a nozzle onto the paper. Laser printers form an image of the output on a selenium-coated drum, using laser light according to data from the computer. The image is then transferred to the output from the drum using photocopying techniques. Thermal-wax-transfer printers and dye-sublimation printers use heat to transfer color pigment from a ribbon to a special paper to produce photographic-quality color images.

Inkjet (bubblejet) printers are very affordable for home use. In the store the printouts may look incredible but when you get home, somehow the printer just doesn't seem to have the same print quality. Most of the time the problem is not the printer, it's the paper. Most people try out several different kinds of photocopy, laser printer, or inexpensive inkjet papers. When an inkjet printer sprays onto these papers, the ink is wicked by the fibers causing an effect known as bleeding. Some inks spread to the sides or the back of the paper making the image less sharp. When the ink bleeds, it isn't all on top of the paper, some has soaked in. This is easy to check by turning the sheet over. If the ink is starting to come through or the front appears lighter, grayed-out, or feathered, as though you were printing with diluted ink, you probably have the wrong paper.

To get good quality printouts with an inkjet printer you need to use coated paper stock. A single coated paper is not

enough, as it is formulated to keep the ink from getting into the paper fiber but doesn't have the best ink adhesion or reflectivity. Quality printouts need a second coating on top of the ink barrier coating. The second coating optimizes viewing by reflecting light back to set off the colors. The second coat also provides a base to adhere the ink. To put it more simply you need a primer coat and a finish coat to generate a quality printout.

Two options controlled by most inkjet printers are configuration for the "Media Type" and "Print Quality". "Media Type" controls the amount of ink set down on the media. It DOES NOT control or affect the resolution. "Print Quality" controls the "Resolution" of the images printed.

Now you know what type of paper to use, lets see what some of the other manufacturing terms mean!

Basis Weight - the weight of a ream of paper in the Basic Size for that grade (e.g. 500 sheets of Sub. 20 Bond paper in its basic size, 17x22 in., would weigh 20 lb.)

Bond Paper - paper manufactured usually for stationery, letterheads or forms. Distinguishable in the more popular grades by a watermark and excellent writing surface.

Brightness- the measurement of a paper's light-reflective qualities that affect contrast and halftone reproduction.

Coated Paper - paper with a coated surface that gives the paper a smooth finish.

Finish - the special characteristics of a paper's surface, which differ from grade to grade. High,

low and textured finishes, for example, exhibit varying degrees of smoothness, ink receptivity and printability.

Ink Holdout - the ability of the paper to keep ink on its surface rather than absorb it into the sheet (e.g., paper with good ink holdout would require less ink and exhibit less "feathering" than a highly absorbent paper).

Ink Receptivity - the degree to which a paper resists or accepts ink penetration based on variations in its size and coating.

Laser Papers - papers suited for optimum performance on heat fused, high-resolution, laser printers used in desktop publishing. (Not recommended for inkjets)

Ream - 500 sheets of paper, regardless of size.

What are some of the specialty papers available for inkjet printers?

HIGH RESOLUTION: Coated 24lb paper provides distinct crisp details and colors for graphics, text and photographic images. This paper has a non-resin coating and provides exceptional results at an economical cost.

ULTRA RESOLUTION: Coated 27lb paper provides a sturdier platform for intense graphics and color applications which would saturate lighter papers. It provides a thicker media while maintaining an economical cost.

PHOTO GLOSSY: Photographic coated paper provides a heavy surface for “true” photo applications. Gives images a glossy photographic appearance. This paper may also be obtained with an extra coating that bonds with the ink to provide a waterproof image.

OPAQUE WHITE GLOSSY FILM: Synthetic film providing a durable media for Photo applications. A thin polyester material provides stability for hostile environments and also provides for exceptional color and detail.

CLEAR TRANSPARENCY FILM: A clear polyester base coated with a specifically formulated quick dry emulsion for optimum performance. Produces bright colorful overlays and presentation foils.

T-SHIRT TRANSFER: An iron on product that utilizes a “cool-release” process to maximize image detail and color transfer. Look for an easy to use product with easy peel backings and machine washability.

ULTRA-VIOLET T-SHIRT TRANSFER: This product provides a unique transfer. In addition to color transfers, the Ultra-Violet transfer actually changes color when exposed to sunlight! When sunlight is removed the image returns to the natural state.

SILVER REFLECTIVE FILM: A polyester based silver film. The metalized film is excellent for monochrome as well as color graphics

CANVAS: An artist grade canvas that is pre-stretched and gives an elegant look to portraits and artist renderings. Provides excellent color reproduction.

POLY-SILK FABRIC, (ADHESIVE BACKED): A woven polyester base that looks, feels and gives the appearance of real silk. An adhesive backing provides for transfer to fabric or textiles.

WATERCOLOR PAPER: An artist grade paper that provides the feel and appearance of watercolor texture. Provides excellent format for reproduction of renderings and other artistic applications.

BACKLIT REVERSE PRINTING FILM: A UV resistant polyester film designed for most light box applications. Produces bright vibrant colors with a superb light diffusion quality. Reverse printing or viewing through the base allows for single sided lamination.

WINDOW DECAL FILM: Polyester based transparent film with self-adhesive backing to allow mounting directly to windows or other substrates.

Some of these specialty papers are difficult to locate and prices vary considerably. For economy, print your images on inexpensive 20-24 LB paper until you are satisfied with the composition, then switch to the more expensive media. Try printing the same image on several types of media, you’ll be amazed at how different they look.

To acquire various types of specialty papers go to the web sites of paper manufactures and distributors such as Hammermill, Mead, Hewlett-Packard, or Kodak and request sample packets.

Most of all, have fun and experiment with different paper media, you’ll be amazed at what your inkjet printer can do for you!

FREE All Day Technical Training on Proxim's Wireless LAN products , Los Angeles 3/9

On Thursday March 9th a Proxim Sales Engineer will lead a FREE all day technical seminar on Proxim's Wireless LAN products in the Los Angeles area. Be sure to sign up ASAP as this class is filling up quickly. To register for the class just click go to this link or click on it and fill out the form:
<http://www.proxim.com/support/classes/> .

ISPs that pass in the night!

by Gordon Huff

I changed ISPs recently and the process was intricate enough that I wanted to share it with everyone.

I've been a customer at Internet Access of Ventura County (vcnet.com) for several years and I've been very happy with them. I usually connect at 44K-46K with either my Motorola or Hayes modems, I've received only three busy signals, ever, and only once has the system been down when I wanted to log-on. When I call - 383-3500 - I talk to Jon or Jessica (the owners) and everybody is friendly and cooperative. On top of that, I'm grandfathered into their old rate schedule and got a great price that I paid six months at a time. I still recommend vcnet to anyone who asks.

Why did I leave vcnet? I'm a contract engineer and I travel. Vcnet is a local ISP and difficult to use from Texas or Kansas. A national ISP would be convenient. Vcnet would allow me to suspend my account at no charge or I could get e-mail from vcnet using some other dial-up at full price. I thought this price without dial-up access was too steep. I had a similar complaint with the long distance telephone carrier. I don't make many long distance calls from my home phone when I'm working in Texas or Alabama. When my long distance carrier imposed a \$5 a month minimum charge, I was not pleased. This explains my state of mind when I found an AT&T combination internet and residential long distance (the 7-cent deal) for \$9.95 a month! (Now, if they offer a similar deal with cell-phone service, I'm cookin')

I made the decision to change ISPs (and long distance carrier) and started moving through the hoops. I upgraded my membership level at Sam's Club to "Elite" or "haut - chic" level on a Friday. I allowed a few days for my new status to percolate through WalMart, Incorporated. I called the special AT&T affinity group telephone number on Monday and asked for "the deal." They said I'd get the internet software in a few days and everything else would go through in about 10 days. They'd pay the GTE change-over charge, too.

I called GTE to inform them of the long distance carrier change. Years ago, I had asked GTE to set up my account so that a change to long distance carriers occurs only after I talk to GTE directly - this is known as an anti-slamming precaution. GTE said they could do the change that day - or by 8am the following morning in any case. There's a fee. Done.

A month passed. My vcnet account expired. AT&T was on my GTE bill as my long distance carrier. No internet stuff. So I called AT&T again. I thought I wanted to register a log-in name and a password, get a few dotted quads and be done with it. There were football game ads reminding me that the software you need for AT&T internet service is on the Windows 98 distribution disks. Hahh! I have to have their install software or else! In the space of a few hours, I called four 800 numbers, went through voice mail hell, and talked to about 8 people. Eventually, I got to someone who said "let's do this over from the beginning" and later, "the software should arrive in a few days..Good luck!" Two days later, I had "the software." Whew!

Software in hand, I begin the installation. Many reports of this kind describe anxiety, trepidation and even fear experienced when installing a paid service. I did not. Yet. Following my own advice - read the book and do what it says - I inserted the AT&T CD into my CD-ROM changer and selected "View the start-up guide." The opening minute reminded me of advertising-man jokes - awful sound and a lot about how great it's going to be - and then nothing happens.

The start-up guide is 18 screens in some kind of presentation software. Presentation software means everything is a non-Windows friendly graphic and I can't cut and paste from the start-up guide to Word97 for this article. Bummer. The first draft of this article described this start-up guide in detail so that I could point out the installation steps that didn't happen. For example, the guide said I'd need the registration code from the software package - and I didn't. The guide said I'd get a choice to save my account information to a floppy disk - and I didn't. There's some silly stuff too - the screen entitled "Price Plans and Billing" says "AT&T Worldnet Service price plan information can easily be found during online registration." In other words, the price plan screen has no price information on it!

I looked through the start-up guide and make sure I had all the things they asked for. "Is your computer ready?" Yes. Registration code from the package, social security number, date of birth, drivers license number and state of residence. No wine list. Local phone book to make sure the dial-up telephone numbers are local to me. My name, address, and registration code from the software package. My e-mail name, my e-mail password, my security word and my preferred billing plan. Do I want to backup my account information to a floppy? Yes.

I returned to the top screen and selected "Install Software." About a third of the things I expected from the start-up guide didn't happen. One or two stray error messages. My log-in is ok - "wa6fmx" but my password "donut" is too short. My security password "ford" is also too short. I fix. The installation dials an 800 number to get an account and get local telephone numbers. The connection takes place at 48K bps. I am relieved - it is a 56K connection. The local numbers are 777-1600 and 777-8986. The phone book verifies these are Thousand Oaks numbers. I'm unhappy with the error messages but I'm pleased that the install program reports "Installation Successful!"

Would I like to log on now? YES! I click on the yes button ... the connection manager starts. Lights flash on the modem. I hear the far end answer. I hear the modems exchange beeps boops and BLATT. Good stuff! After 40 seconds, the modem hangs up - "the remote computer is not answering." Not good! Why did it work with the 800 number?

I try to log on a few times. No change. I look at everything. How did my account change to "65536patooty?" Why is my password "haut-chic?" (Oooahh - I like that one.) I reinstall the AT&T software on top of the current install. No change. I remove the AT&T software with the "Uninstall" demon. Run Norton Optimize. Reinstall. No change. Bummer. Still works with the 800 number. Still hangs up the local number after 40 seconds. Time to call tech support.

I'll take a moment here to talk about modems. I think that buying a cheap modem from someone you've never heard of is a false economy. If it breaks how do you get it fixed? If you need help where do you go? Can you get an upgrade? Buy your modem from a reliable established manufacturer. My last few modems have been from Hayes and Motorola. (Motorola no longer makes consumer modems and Hayes has gone bankrupt. What a great choice this was!)

I call tech support and after some voice mail nuisance I talk to a person. I describe what's wrong. He says, "Thanks for the wonderful description of the problem!" This was worthy of a snappy come-back but I wasn't ready. The first thing he has me do is look for a specific Win98 CAB file with Windows Explorer. It's not there. I do have my Win98 CD. He sends me to Network Properties. He has me remove Microsoft Family Client and install Microsoft Net-

work Client. (This causes removal and reinstall of Dial-up Networking and TCP/IP stack.) I think he had me remove and reinstall the modem in Windows. He has me stop the WinFax software. He verified the dotted quads, the login and password. We looked at the AT&T connection manager and verified the modem choice and telephone numbers. I reboot everything.

I log on to AT&T... the connection manager starts, lights flash ... and after 40 seconds it hangs up. No change. Tech support advises me to go to the connection manager ... select the telephone number and add four commas. I ask what the 12 second delay does - he says it stops the V.90 negotiation. (Glimmer of recognition ...) I log on to AT&T and IT CONNECTS (at 14.4) Tech support says great ... all I need is the correct init string and life will be wonderful... what modem do I have? I have a Motorola VoiceSurfr 56K external, model 3456, date code 2198. It's a V.90. Tech support says his documentation has three possible inits. Start, Settings, Control Panel, Modems, Properties, Connection, Advanced, ExtraSettings. Add AT\Q0 to this box. Whoa, I said, are you sure? This modem has a Rockwell chipset. Let's try it. I start the connection manager ... and get an error message "Hardware Failure." I return to the ExtraSettings box and it's blank. I can't take away the \Q0. This will take awhile and I don't want to hang on the cellphone while I do this. I thank Tech Support and hang up. To get the \Q0 out of the modem I uninstall and reinstall the modem in Windows.

Since I can get on the web (at 14.4) I search for the latest Motorola modem firmware and download it. The info command says I have firmware version 2.083. I flash my modem. The info command says I have firmware version 2.083. I reinstall the latest drivers. I log on to AT&T. No change. Time to punt. I uninstall the AT&T software and reinstall with the Hayes modem. The connection to the AT&T 800 number is at 28.8. When I log on the connection is at 28.8. This is tolerable. I get on the web and search for the latest modem firmware for the Hayes. The info command says I have firmware version 7.00. The flash software says I am installing a file named "mdm700n701". The flash software reports "success." The info command says I have firmware version 7.00. The readme file says I should search the \Windows\Inf file for every file containing the modem identifier "HAYES5362" and delete them. (There are two of them -modem and voice drivers.) Reinstall the modem with the INF in the flash archive.

I log on to AT&T. It connects at 45667. Whew! I wonder how long this article will be when Barbara prints it.

Regards, Gordon

(continued)

Business DSL

Single static IP included, no time limits.

Setup fees:

-wiring and termination to D-marc, \$250.00

-ADSL or SDSL router, \$480.00

(unless otherwise noted below)

144k/144k IDSL - \$139.95 per month
(IDSL Router, \$410.00)

192k/192k SDSL - \$139.95 per month

384k/384k SDSL - \$219.95 per month

768k/768k SDSL - \$279.95 per month

1.1M/1.1M SDSL - \$319.95 per month

1.5M/384k ADSL - \$299.95 per month

Nominations:

We are going to try to hold the nominations on Thursday, February 10th. There is still time to nominate or volunteer by email or at the meeting. If you would like to help run the club, let us know. You are also welcome to be on our Board of Directors with less commitment. These are the elected positions we will be talking about on Thursday.

Vice President

Roger Freeman (nomination accepted)

Rod Grimes (nomination accepted??)

Gaylord Trubey (incumbent)

Treasurer

Howard Engel (incumbent)

Secretary

Will Fiske (nomination accepted??)

Lucy Lediaev (nomination accepted)

Marika Panczel (nomination accepted??)

Gerry Scott has been our Secretary for four years and since retiring from his career has become active in his golf club, so he is stepping down. He will still be coming out to Simi to attend the meetings.

This job is so important to us. A lot of people don't know there is a computer club in Simi Valley. Our Secretary would set up the press releases and announcements, take care of the advertising.

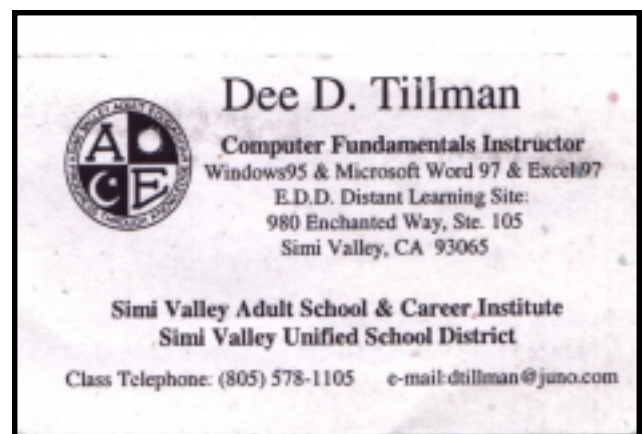
See you at the meeting. Barbara

MGI Software and PictureVision's PrintStation for Kodak PhotoNet(tm) online Application Adopted by Wolf Camera

MGI Software Corp., a leader in E-commerce imaging and digital video, announced that Wolf Camera, the nation's premier photography store, will employ the PrintStation for Kodak PhotoNet online developed by MGI using PhotoSuite and PictureVision technologies. The application will provide Wolf's digital camera customers a convenient and inexpensive way to receive the same high-quality prints they have grown accustomed to receiving when trusting Wolf with their traditional photography needs. The application is available now for download at www.wolftcamera.com.

PrintStation can be quickly downloaded and installed with a few clicks of the mouse. The application has bright, clean interface that houses a comprehensively easy workflow that leads the user step by step through the ordering and uploading process. The online print service application is client-based software, which offers many advantages over other print services on the market today that reside on the server; namely, speed and efficiency. Users gather their photos and organize their print order prior to connecting and uploading, which minimizes issues such as connection speed. In fact, users can simply walk away from the computer once they select "check out" to begin the upload of their photographs. If a connection is lost, the user does not have to reorganize their print order.

You can learn more about Wolf Camera and wolfXpress.com by visiting the respective web sites at www.wolftcamera.com and www.wolfXpress.com.



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1/4 pg - \$25/mo 1/2 pg - \$50/month full pg - \$100/month

Send camera ready art to Editor by mail /email or call 805-581-2495.

Should be in ASCII. Deadline is near the end of the month.



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February Meetings

Thursday, 2/10/2000

*Elections &
Westworld's DSL*

Wednesday, 2/23/2000

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