

President's Message

The People of BGAMUG . . .

The people who are members of BGAMUG have enriched my life. You mean so much to me and it is fun spending time with you.

On Saturday, February 2, I headed to Barnes and Nobles to attend the seminar that was to begin at 10:30 am. Well . . . I was about 20 minutes early, so I went into TJ Max to browse. I ended up making a purchase so I arrived a little late for Mike's presentation.

When I opened the door to enter the seminar room, I was shocked to see so many of you. It was a Saturday morning . . . a beautiful, sunny Saturday morning, but about 20 BGAMUG members were there to see what Mike had to share.

Mike had some of his electronic toys with him. He demonstrated his folding keyboard that connects to his Palm Pilot which allows him to input data anywhere, his e-Book which allows him to carry many books with him at all times, and his Quick Link Scanner which allows him to scan any text and retrieve it later. He also had with him his Satellite Radio that allows him to access any satellite radio station from around the world right from his car, but the radio would not pick up any station from inside Barnes and Nobles.

I'm so glad our club has members like Mike who enjoy finding the latest techie equipment and then share it with us. I'm glad Mike has the resources to make such purchases and then is like a kid sharing his latest geek gadget!

After the seminar on Saturday, I met Betty and the Colliers at Hops for lunch. I told them that I really like to see new technology, but some days I do not want one more computerized gadget in my life. Because of my job, I have access to some of the newest technology and software, but some days I do not want my free time spent learning one more piece of technology. I know some of you know what I mean.

But, I do enjoy seeing your excitement as you learn to use the technology you already have at home. I also enjoy hearing your questions as you explore the possibilities of using your computer in new ways. I enjoy spending time with you. You are important to me and I look forward to learning more from you and with you.

Linda Todd

BGA-Bytes

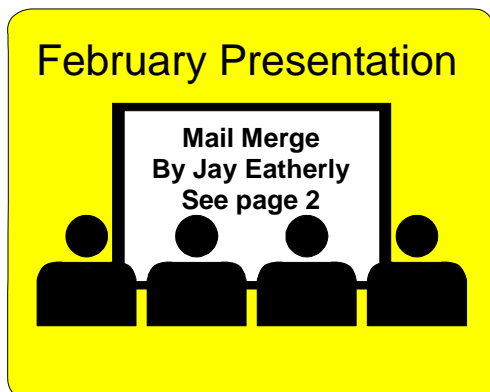
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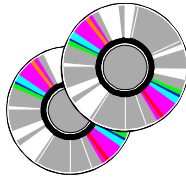
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And more....



From the Librarian

By Pat Vincent



At this time there are several titles being evaluated.

Watch this newsletter for upcoming reviews. If you are interested in reviewing any of these titles, please e-mail Pat Vincent at pat.vincent@wku.edu for further details and review guidelines.

Software Available for Review:

OmniPage Pro 11 (Scansoft, Inc.) - Optical recognition software that quickly and easily converts paper into digital documents you can edit in over 100 languages with accuracy and format retention. System Requirements--Windows 95/98/2000/ME and Windows NT 4.0; Intel Pentium processor or equivalent; 32 MB RAM (64 MB recommended); Required hard disk space: 115-170 MB depending on operating system requirements; CD ROM drive; SVGA monitor, minimum 800 x 600 (256 colors or higher).

Spell Catcher Plus (Casady & Greene, Inc.) - A universal, interactive, easy-to-use collection of writing tools you can use when typing e-mail, documents, homework and anywhere else where proper spelling is a reflection of you! Spell Catcher is a useful tool for professionals, teachers, students, parents and anyone who writes every day. System Requirements--Windows 2000, ME, 98, 95, NT, CD-ROM drive.

ATM

Do you use an ATM? When you need a little cash, do you drive through your ATM and get the funds you need to get you through a day, a week, or a month?

Well, 'ATM' has a new meaning for BGAMUG members. ATM stands for After the Meeting.

Yes, after our meetings at KATI, everyone is invited to Dairy Queen. DQ is located on Russellville Road—just two miles from KATI. So, plan to join us and get some more fun time together **After The Meeting!**

Creating Labels with Mail Merge

Jay Eatherly shows how at this month's presentation



Have you ever heard someone say that they printed their Christmas mailing labels and got all of their cards in the mail the other day? At the same time were you dreading having to address all of your cards by hand?

Well, your troubles are over. I'm going to show you click by click how to set up an address database. Then I'm going to show you how to do a mail merge and get your old ignorant computer to do all of the work and print mailing labels for you. You'll print the whole batch of them at once. Then all you have to do is peel them off the label sheet and stick them on the envelopes. Jay

Smart Computing

During the January 2002 meeting, Door prize winner Elbert Young was awarded a year's subscription to Smart Computing Magazine, thanks to their user group program. Every time someone subscribes to Smart Computing and uses the BGAMUG Source Code **8343**, it will help us earn another free subscription for another lucky winner.

During the **Q & A** session of the same meeting the question was asked;

Q: Can subscribers to Smart Computing Magazine enter the BGAMUG Source Code when subscribing online?

The answer comes direct from Smart Computing;

A: Unfortunately there is no way for Smart Computing to accept source code numbers online. All online subscriptions will be recorded under their site's own source code. To make sure BGAMUG gets credit for a subscription, subscribers need to either call the toll-free number 800-733-3809, fax their order to 402-479-2193 or mail one of the subscription cards with our group's source code.

February Door Prize



Technology Toys

By Michael Moore

Thanks to all of the folks who came out to my presentation at Barnes and Noble on Saturday February 2nd. I was truly amazed at the turnout



today - over a dozen members for a presentation on a topic that had not even been announced at our general meeting. I do apologize for getting started too early - the announced time was 10:30 and I was so excited to be able to share my toys that I got to talking too fast, too early. Our next seminar will be in the same location at 10:30am, Saturday, March 2nd. I want to do a presentation on using a Scanner at some point. We also have been trying to plan a seminar on converting between word processor formats, a problem that has recently stymied work on our Rules committee.

For those of you that missed the show, Jerry Gillette asked me to put a short article together on each of the "technology toys" I presented this morning. As far back as I can recall, this is perhaps the first presentation we've had that had nary a computer in sight, at least of the kind we are familiar with.

For most of us, it is challenging and somewhat daunting to actually put to full use the technology we buy. Many of the technology "solutions" I've purchased or had the responsibility of using over the years have ended up in a remote corner of the garage, bereft of batteries and probably destined for the next yard sale. One such product that I simply had to have back in 1994 was a computerized Rolodex - the precursor to the modern Personal Digital Assistant. It came with a remarkable serial cable that allowed it to sync its myriad addresses and phone numbers with the PC through a nifty infrared link. Real cool, but ultimately not useful. I don't remember why.

Cool technology sells, but it's whether you use it or not that determines the value of a product or service to me. Another must-have that I ended up not using was the wireless internet link on my Palm VII. For about \$27 a month, I bought the privilege of being able to e-mail from my car. What I didn't know is that there is very poor service levels in areas where I would use this feature, and it didn't work well inside of the car or office. I tired of the looks I got while holding the Palm outside the window of my car in hopes that it would just connect already and get the e-mail sent or received. Finally I cancelled it in disgust and had so much trouble getting them to cut it off, I ended up blocking the account on my credit card. That got their attention!

XM Radio

The 2001 Product of the Year is a dream come true for me. It is an entertainment product, is very easy to operate, reasonable in terms of value, and I have absolutely no problems using it! I'm talking about XM Radio. XM Radio is the next generation of broadcast entertainment over the air waves. It is as far away from FM as FM is from AM.

The product is marketed as a service, not unlike cable television. The hardware component, made by Sony, Pioneer and others, is usually purchased in the automotive audio section of your local appliance and technology store. The outfit I received as a gift was the radio itself, and two types of harnesses to install. One type is installed in the car, with the connection to existing speakers occurring via a digital cassette deck wired to the radio. The other kind of harness is designed to work in either another vehicle or in the house with a set of powered (amplified) speakers. The radio itself is a small plastic unit that simply clips into place in whichever harness you need to use. That way you can get double-duty out of the radio, inside and outside. The antenna typically requires line-of-sight since the broadcast signal comes from several satellites that are transmitting from stationary orbits. This can cause some spot outages of the signal. In major cities, the satellite signal is backed up by a traditional land based broadcast signal that seems to take over fairly well in cloudy weather and precipitation. During today's presentation, we were unable to listen to a signal, being inside, but I do hope to be able to bring the unit to our next meeting, where if there is time (and a suitable window!) I will let you listen to what it can do.

The Sony unit I bought, which is maybe \$100 more than other dash-mounted units because of its portable nature, runs \$299 at retail. The home harness was \$150 and the fee to use the service is \$10 per month for residential customers. The Logitech speakers and bass woofer unit were about \$79. This is what I chose to amplify the music indoors. Any amplified speakers would work just fine though. Each XM radio is coded to the owner in such a way that signals are descrambled based on the key. That way if the unit is reported stolen or if I don't pay my bill, they just send a signal to shut off the decoder and it becomes a hunk of high tech plastic.

XM has been around only a few months, and there is not yet a whole lot of price discounting. On the internet, the best price I could get for one of these units was \$281, but then there's shipping. This is due to the popularity of the service, driving a seller's market. Over 30,000 individuals have signed up for the service as of last month.

XM Radio provides 100 channels of largely commercial-free radio with digital quality reception and very creative, thorough DJs. Playlists and other information is available on line at www.xmradio.com, but the name of the artist and song is also displayed on the radio as the song is broadcast.

I have heard the most amazing music and news over this service. They have a knack for digging up old or obscure recordings that really rock! There are so many channels, the DJs can afford to narrowly customize their offerings, providing each station with a sort of culture that is very easy to identify with. You can tell within two or three songs which stations you are going to stick with. For ease of "surfing" through the channels, they are organized into general neighborhoods, with like music grouped together. There's at least a dozen news and talk channels, and three comedy channels. If you like music, you gotta have XM.

*There's more from Moore
(Continued on page 4)*

There are three things I dislike about the Sony radio itself. It has a blue backlit display that lacks contrast. There's a contrast adjustment, but it doesn't provide a strong, clear image even on the maximum resolution. Second, it has only five preset station settings. Lastly, I wish you could key in the number of a station and just jump to it. As it is, you have to use the remote control or the rolling dial on the top of the unit to move sequentially to the station you want. Could be Sony will come up with these improvements as time goes on. Yes, there's a remote. Seems kind of silly, but I guess it's better to use it than be looking down at the radio, trying to mess with it while driving.

Just one more thing before you go out buy one of these for your car - have it professionally installed, and give some real thought as to where it should go. There's a lot to be said for having the unit at eye level in your car, even if it looks like your driving some sort of futuristic taxi cab. Where I had mine installed, down by my right knee, seemed like a good idea at the time, but it is extremely hard to view the display down there, partly because it's mounted vertically.

Gemstar's E-book

I became interested in electronic books as a replacement for traditional print media after reading "The Diamond Age" by Neal Stephenson. The future described therein included mediatronic paper, where images formed and changed based on impulses applied -- like the very thinnest of flat screen monitors. While smart paper is currently a venture capitalist's dream, e-books are here and now.



Gemstar's entry into this market is the REB1100, manufactured by RCA. Looking like an oversize Palm Pilot, the REB1100

comes with its own internal modem for connecting to E-book central. The toll-free hookup can download a bestseller in about 5 minutes. There is also a USB connection that allows you to store e-book volumes on your PC with the included software. A charging transformer completes the picture. A PC is NOT necessary to use the E-book, however.

The black and white display is ultra-sharp, and the backlighting intensity can be adjusted for any situation. You can even comfortably read in pitch darkness. The display can be read in any orientation and the size of the type can be toggled between about 11 point and a big, bold 24 point.

The lithium ion battery is more than adequate, providing hours of reading time between charges. No mention is made in the documents of replacing the battery, nor is there any obvious access to it. The unit comes with an 8kb smart card for memory - I immediately replaced mine with a 64 meg card that would probably hold more books than I will read in the next 10 years.

Gemstar provides electronic publishers one of the best measures of copyright protection. The problem with many PC-based e-books is they are either downloaded as clear text - unencrypted and therefore probably pirated, or they are encrypted only at the source, providing an easy target for those who would break the encryption and share the work without paying for it. Each Gemstar e-book contains an internal serial number that provides part of an encryption key. When combined with the ciphering of the text before it's downloaded, a book that I purchase can be only read by my E-book. That means if I want to let someone read what I've downloaded, I have to let them borrow my e-book.

When you think about it, that's the same situation with real printed books, and that's the kind of copyright protection that publishing houses want out there. What this means is that E-books have a future - as long as publishers (and authors) can make money, they will continue to convert their works to E-books.

The cost of an E-book is highly discounted on the internet. For example, on E-bay, you can pick up a brand new REB1100 for about \$130 plus shipping. The retail price at Staples is still over \$200, and originally it hit the market at \$299. There are no service or connect fees, and you pay by the book. You can also download certain magazines and newspapers. Prices are anywhere from 20% to 40% less than retail, charged to your credit card.

All things considered, there are few negatives. If you love to read, chances are you can find anything you want in e-book format. Each month, Gemstar will send you an e-mail to let you know what's new. One caveat - there is a geek factor to consider. Usually when I read, I really don't want all the attention such a high-tech toy might tend to attract. "Future boy" is not how I want to be referred to in a dark bar in some distant city, no thanks! Also, if you lose it, you are out a lot more than if you lost a hardcover book!

There's yet more from Moore

(Continued on page 11)

CLUB LAPTOPS FOR SALE

The club has several Compaq Pentium 120 laptops for sale. They have carrying case, 32 meg. of memory and 1 gig hard drives. Hinges are cracked but if treated gently will last a long time.



You can have one for a donation of \$150. They have been "wiped" but I will install any software, including operating system you furnish. I can supply win 95 which would be best for this size unit. Note, they don't have CD drive or modem.

Contact Gene at lglehart@aol.com or 842-4570



The Kentucky Advanced Technology Institute, KATI, will be the official BGAMUG meeting location for 2002. KATI is located at 1227 Morgantown Road, just east of Veterans Boulevard. We will meet on the 2nd floor in the “Round Room”. The gavel will fall at 6:30 PM sharp so you may want to arrive early.



As KATI is closed May, June, and July we will meet at the WKU South Campus, also on the above map.

Just look for the sign



On the Road Again . . .

By Linda Todd

Spend three fun-filled days with other BGAMUGers as we travel to Dayton, Ohio to attend Computerfest[®] sponsored by the Heartland Regional User Group.

Here is what we know so far:

Who: Any BGAMUG member (This is **not** just for officers!)

What: Heartland Regional User Group Conference and Computerfest[®]

When: Friday, March 15 through Sunday, March 17

Where: Dayton, Ohio

Why: To learn a little and to have lots of fun together. Also, this would be an opportunity to visit with members of other user groups. Lots of software will be given away at this event!

How: Mike is checking on renting a large van or bus.

Cost:

- **Registration:** If postmarked before February 28 is only \$25; after February 28 is \$35. Registration fee includes full participation in the conference including banquet meals, round table seminars, and admittance to Computerfest[®].
- **Hotel:** Conference price at Best Western Executive Hotel is \$49 per night. This cost could be shared with other BGAMUG members.
- **Transportation:** The cost of the van or bus would be shared.
- **Food:** Food at the conference is included in the registration. So, the only other food cost would be on the trip to and from Dayton.

We will have more information and registration forms at our February BGAMUG meeting.

For More Information about this event:

- <http://www.apcug.org/regional/heartland> (for conference information)
- <http://www.computerfest.com> (for information about Computerfest[®])
- <http://www.dma.org> (for information about The Dayton Microcomputer Association, Inc.)



Do you have anything to Buy—Sell—Trade?

If members are interested, we can again have a classified section in the BGA-Bytes Newsletter starting next month.

Email you entry to the editor

JGKY@ACCESSKY.NET

THE 'XP' FILES / Drivers, Drivers, Drivers

By Wayne Gustafson 'Xpurt' :)

This is my first eXPerience with a brand new OS. And it has been just that 'An eXPerience'. I was loaned a brand new machine with Microsoft Windows XP Pro installed. I managed to lock Windows up on numerous occasions. Some of this I believe to be hardware related. (my hardware) I had to do a little bit of reconfiguring the BIOS Settings to get the machine to work. I didn't work with this machine long enough to insure that Windows on it was stable.

While the XP machine was in my care I acquired a copy of XP Home Edition that I installed on a remanufactured Gateway. This machine had a 20 Gigabyte hard drive with Win ME installed. I did a 'Clean Install'. I had Win XP divide my drive into 4 equal drives, format C: and install itself. XP will let you know when it has hardware that is not properly installed. It pops up balloons explaining what is not right with your system.

The one thing it didn't or couldn't detect was my speakers. I have digital speakers and they would not work until I went to the Web site and downloaded XP drivers for the sound card. The sound card would work with another set of speakers but not the digital ones.

My biggest obstacle has been Video Drivers. The drivers XP installed worked fine until I installed the game, "Return to Castle Wolfenstein". I downloaded various XP drivers and installed them one at a time and tested each. XP decided that it didn't want anything to do with any other drivers. All I managed to do was mess up XP beyond repair as far as the graphics were concerned. So I installed it again on 'D' drive. (I now had two copies of XP on my system) I tried more video drivers on the new copy. No dice. I think:) my problem is a combination of hardware and software.

To circumvent this problem I installed Win 98 and then XP now I have a dual boot system. Most of my games are installed thru Win 98. I plan to upgrade my Graphics Card in the future and eliminate Win 98 from this system. At least that's the plan.

XP is very intuitive, as it will lead you through the 'Install' with the insight of a professional installer. All you have to do is fill in the blanks and it will do all of the work. You need to know a little bit about your system, but more than likely XP will know more than you.

I learned this tip: When you install drivers for XP they will show up in your 'Add/Remove Programs' in the Control Panel. And this is where you have to uninstall them. XP will allow you to roll your drivers back to the last working version if you have had more than one driver.

(Some times this works and some times it doesn't) If you uninstall all drivers for a device, XP will load or use a standard driver to keep the machine running.

XP also has a 'System Restore'. (I was under the impression that the Home Edition did not have this feature but this copy has it.) System Restore is found in the Control Panel under Performance and Maintenance / System / System Properties.

I have a cable modem and it set up my Internet Connection automatically each and every time I installed the OS. I have had problems installing my new all-in-one printer – I also accessed its site for drivers. I have my printer installed under Win 98 and I can access it from Win XP. I have a Lexmark printer and it is using a foreign language for some of its boxes – I downloaded an English version but XP shows it in Swedish or Danish. (I think this is a bug in Lexmark's XP upgrade)

Activation and/or Registration of XP is as easy as connecting to the Internet. I have activated it twice – once for each time I installed it.

I like this OS. It has a lot of nice functions that beginners would like. If you are a do-it-yourselfer, you might not like it. It will make you work at trying to change something that it doesn't want changed.

If you decide to change the registry in XP; any changes you make, take effect immediately. There is no save button after you have edited it. It has been changed when you type the change in.

I have also installed an HP - CD-RW/DVD and a second hard drive. I am also using a cordless keyboard and mouse. These last two items did not work very well the first time I installed them. So I used them on my other system. Now they are back on the XP system and are still kind of dicey.

Requirements for Windows XP Home Edition

- ✓ A PC with 300 Mhz or higher processor clock speed is recommended: 233 Mhz is the minimum required.
- ✓ Intel Pentium/Celeron family, AMD K6/Athlon/Duron family or compatible processor recommended.
- ✓ 128 MB of RAM or higher recommend (64 MB min' supported; may limit performance and some features)
- ✓ 1.5 gigabyte of available hard disk space.
- ✓ Super VGA (800 X 600) or higher resolution video adapter and monitor
- ✓ CD-ROM or DVD drive
- ✓ Keyboard and Mouse or compatible pointing device.

MIX

(Seventeenth in a series of interviews with BGAMUG members sharing an exchange of informationby Betty Lyne, your Rovin' Reporter)

Now that we've started a New Year and have a new BGAMUG officer slate in place, I thought this would be an opportune time for us to become better acquainted with our new President. Of course, Linda Todd has been a member of BGAMUG for four years having first joined while we were meeting at KATI. Now that we have come back to our previous meeting location, it is easy to remember one night when our planned program presenter didn't show at KATI, and right "on the spot", Linda volunteered to give us a program on her laptop with the aid of the pull down screen in the KATI Round Room. This was just the beginning of "Linda's always being there for us.".....sharing her knowledge and expertise.



And are you going to be surprised to learn just how much knowledge and expertise Linda possesses! How very fortunate we are to have one of her capabilities and resources to lead us forward for the next two years. Read on.....

After graduating from Bowling Green High School in 1969, Linda entered WKU and received her Bachelor of Science degree with an Area of Concentration in Business Education in May 1976. This was followed by her Masters of Arts degree in Business Education (WKU) in August 1981 and her Master of Arts degree in Religious Education from Southwestern Theological Seminary, Fort Worth, Tx in May 1987. Her first teaching position was in Pendleton County High School, Falmouth, KY from August 1976 - June 1978, followed by being Instructor in Department of Business Education and Office Administration (Court Reporting Program) at the University of Mississippi, Oxford, Ms from August 1981 - May 1985. She was also part time instructor in Department of Office Occupations at Tarrant County Junior College, Fort Worth, Tx from January 1986 - November 1987. Making her way eastward and back toward home (Kentucky, that is!) from August 1993 - July 1994, she served as Adjunct Assistant Professor in Department of Business Education, Marketing Education and Office Management, as well as Instructor for the Division of Continuing Studies and Public Service, at Middle Tennessee State University, at Murfreesboro, Tn. And NOW Linda serves in the Bowling Green Community College at WKU as Assistant Professor in the Business and Computer Studies Division from August 1994 to present.

Can you believe that she was able to give of herself for two years as a Journeyman Secretary in the North Brazil Mission Office, Recife, Brazil from June 1978 - July 1980 and four years as Acteens Consultant and Camp Mundo Vista Director for the Women's Missionary Union, Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Cary N.C. from November

1987 - December 1991...and one year as Director of Training for MBG Management, Inc. at Raleigh, NC from April 1992 - July 1993?

Isn't that impressive? We're so proud of you, Linda, and honored that you have come our way and will shed some of your light into our BGAMUG world.

Outside of work and school, Linda takes an active part in the First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) serving as Deacon and also finds time to play the organ at the Auburn Christian Church. She loves gardening, digging and planting flowers, and considers browsing antique/junk shops as a delightful hobby. Her two babies, at home, are Buffy (4) and Jody (3), Toy Poodles!

You can see and learn more about Linda's family at her website <http://www/wku/edu/~linda.todd> . She has three sisters, all nurses: Mildred at

Vanderbilt Hospital in Pediatrics, living in Goodlettsville, Tn; Donna, a nurse practitioner in Pediatrics Practice in Waynesville, NC; and Lorene, who teaches nursing at Western Carolina University, living in Waynesville, and working on her doctorate degree in NC State. Linda is fortunate to have her mother, Mrs. Frank Todd, living in Bowling Green.

Some of her work related endeavors as Assistant Professor at BGCC since fall of 1994 include, BGCC Webmaster, teaching several Internet classes each semester -

Desktop Publishing, Word Processing, and Records and Information Management.

She teaches Desktop Publishing on Monday evenings (as she does not like football!) and does a Tuesday/Thursday day section.

Can you believe that she also makes time for other professional public service to facilitate a Desktop Design Super Saturday Semester for third and fourth graders through The Center for Gifted Studies at WKU, to facilitate seminars/workshops for The Center for Teaching and Learning at WKU, and currently is preparing "Creating and Using Images for Instructional Purposes." She is Editor of the Kentucky Business Education Association Newsletter (thank goodness, this only involves two issues a year). She serves on the Advisory Committee for The Center for Teaching and Learning at WKU and serves on the ReachU Committee for Distance Education at WKU.

For all of this she received the 1999 WKU Award for Public Service and the 2001 WKU Award for Most Online Courses Developed and Taught.

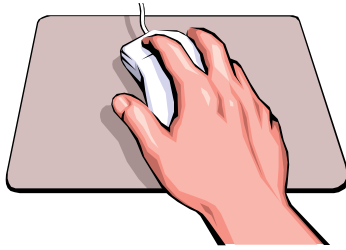
Welcome, Madam President, your subjects bow before you and pledge our loyalty and support during your tenure.....

Until next time, this is your Rovin' reporter,
Betty Lyne

JUST MOUSING AROUND

by Jay Eatherly

Well, folks, I got a Logitech cordless optical mouse for Christmas this year.



Being a sweet lovable kind of guy I can see why the wife would get it for me. Oh!, by the way, did I mention that I had asked her to get it for me?

The installation was a cinch. Just plug it in and it asked for the software. Then I was off to some smooth mousing experiences.

Gene Iglehart had mentioned to me that these things really go through some batteries, so being the intelligent individual that I am I removed the batteries after I shut the old computer down.

When I restarted the computer the next day my mouse was gone. It wouldn't work at all. I checked to make sure the batteries were installed correctly and they were. I rebooted, but still no mouse. I uninstalled the software and reinstalled it again. Still no mouse.

At this point there was nothing left to do but read the installation instructions. I scanned them over and found nothing I didn't already know. I was really stumped.

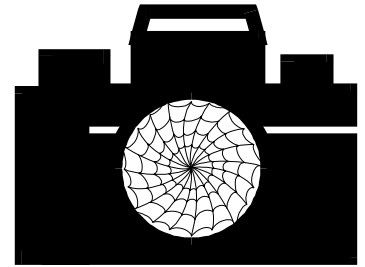
This time I read the installation instructions including the 6 point fine print and lo and behold I discovered that the receiver had a push button on/off switch on it. I immediately pushed the button with no result.

I read on. Again, in 6 point type I found that the mouse also has a push button switch on its little bottom. I looked all over the bottom of the darn thing and finally decided that the little round hole (About the size of a #2 pencil lead) was my only choice. there was a little red thing in the middle of it, recessed below the surface. The only thing that would fit inside that hole was the tip of my trusty ball point pen. So I pushed it. It clicked. My mouse had come home to roost.

Seems to me like they could have told about these two buttons in a little larger print, but I persevered, and I feel like I won this one.

I love this mouse. They are a little expensive, around \$60.00, but worth every penny of it (Especially if it's your spouse's money). There are no moving parts to clean and it works on just about any surface so you aren't tied down to a mouse pad any more. I highly recommend them.

Point your digital camera at the Web for great photo help



By Jerry Gillette

There are many helpful photo sites online. If you have America Online, use the keyword Pictures or click the "You've Got Photos" link from the main menu to access Kodak's PhotoNet, (www.photonet.com). Yahoo! Photos (<http://photos.yahoo.com>) lets you upload your digital photography and share it with others. Shutterfly (www.shutterfly.com) allows you to do more than upload images and create online albums. You can also fix red-eye problems, adjust colors and add borders.

For JPEG images, drop by the JPEG Wizard at this neat site (www.jpegwizard.com) where you can resize, rotate, flip, add text and create thumbnails directly from files on your hard drive

PhotographyTips.com (www.photographytips.com) offers help on shooting with a flash, panning, night photography and even winter photography. The "problem pictures" area is full of suggestions for improving your skills behind the lens

Once you're ready to advance, take a look at MegaPixel (www.megapixel.net). This online magazine has in-depth articles and reviews of products for beginners to professionals

Some other sites that offer tutorials on various topics of picture taking include

- ◆ ShortCourses (www.shortcourses.com)
- ◆ Digital Photography Review (www.dpreview.com)
- ◆ Kodak's Taking Pictures www.kodak.com/US/en/nav/takingPics.shtml.

Once you have your library of edited digital photos, what more can you do with them? A lot! At PhotoParade (www.photoparade.com), you can buy programs between \$12.99 and \$39.99 to make slideshows, wallpaper, screensavers and more. There are alternatives, though, that won't put a pinch on your pocketbook.

Webshots (www.webshots.com) is a free program that lets you put a new photo on your desktop and screen saver each day. Ulead also offers a no-cost alternative for viewing photos in Photo Explorer (www.ulead.com/pex/freeware.htm).

February 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Workshop 10:30 AM @ Barnes & Noble
3	4	5 Exec. Board Meeting 6:30 PM @Lone Star	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19 Newsletter Folding 6:30 @ Library	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 BGAMUG Meeting 6:30 @ KATI	27	28		

March 2002

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2 Workshop 10:00 AM @ Barnes & Noble
3	4	5 Exec. Board Meeting 6:30 PM @ Lone Star	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 Dayton, Ohio Computerfest	16 Dayton, Ohio Computerfest
17 Dayton, Ohio Computerfest	18	19 Newsletter Folding 6:30 @ Library	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 BGAMUG Meeting 6:30 @ KATI	27	28	29	30
31						



QuickLink, the personal one-line scanner.

I struggled for a metaphor for this interesting hand-held text capture device. As I was using it a couple of weeks ago, it hit me. The QuickLink Pen scanner is like your own personal Windows clipboard, that you can use with or without

the computer. I was fortunate enough to win a QuickLink scanner at a recent BGAMUG event.

Wizcom Technologies has developed the ultimate one-line, handheld scanner that you can take with you to grab and remember all the little bits of printed material we find we need to write down in order to hang on to. With me, it's usually phone numbers. I generally write them on a piece of paper and stick them in my wallet. I can never seem to train myself to also write down what the number is all about. Months later, I find the number and wonder what the heck it is! I've even resorted to calling it find out what I was thinking. Try to imagine such a phone call!

Or how about our beloved editor? Have you ever seen Jerry without a phone number written on his hand? The QuickLink could help him with this issue.

Any time you need to jot down some printed material to be able to fetch it later, the QuickLink can scan it and remember it for you. If the process stopped there, it would be of limited usefulness. But QuickLink comes with a cable and software to pull these little software "post-it notes" off the unit and into the computer. Business cards can be scanned directly into Outlook, for example. Data from itineraries, stock market quotes - anything in a table form, can be scanned directly into a spreadsheet. QuickLink can even recognize eight languages, and through an upgrade, can translate into any of 24 languages!

Optical Character recognition with a 97% accuracy rate means that the pen scanner converts the material it scans to text. Instead of an immutable image, you get plain text. That means once it's in your computer, you can spellcheck it, resize it, cast it in different font, and paste it into text-based applications, just as if you were typing it in.

After playing with this unit a little bit, I intend to use it more. It should be quite helpful!



The Palm Portable Keyboard

The last thing we looked at is not really new, but it certainly is innovative and solves a problem for many Palm users, that is, how to enter a boat-load of data or text into the unit while you are on the road. For most folks that travel with laptops, this isn't a problem. You just enter the data into the Palm application on your laptop or PC, and then sync it to the Palm

Pilot. Well my laptop has a battery problem that limits its usefulness on the road, and I've lost more of those little stylus pointers than you can imagine. I learned Palm's grafitti, what I call the chicken-scratch method, of entering info, but it's beyond me how anyone could put up with it for more than a few lines of text. Even the new PDAs out there from HandSpring with the built-in keyboards just don't do anything for me. My fingers are too big.

For the touch-typists out there, Palm introduced a Portable Keyboard that unfolds like something out of a James Bond film and provides a pull-out angled cradle to place the Palm. Lay it out on any flat surface, unfold it and expand the clips on each margin, and you're ready to type directly into your Palm. There is a small software driver that needs to be synced into the Palm before the Keyboard works. The keyboard itself is very much like a laptop keyboard, with a blue function key that controls some of the Palm-specific functions.

These units are going for \$89 to \$99 on the street still. They must be useful and selling well as there is not much discounting going on via the internet.

There are other PDA keyboards out there, but the Palm is right for me. It provides full key travel that gives the right tactile response -- much better than typing on one of the "fruit roll-up" type membrane keyboards. Look for the Palm Keyboard at better office and computer supply stores.

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The public is invited to attend our regular presentation meetings. To join, our annual membership dues are \$25 for an individual, and \$35 for a family membership.

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