



# READ.ME

FEATURING ARTICLES BY COMPUTER CLUB MEMBERS

"GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR COMPUTER"

## An Irony of Fate

By Joan Latchford (PCCT)

trouble-free piece of equipment.

During World War II, A. A. Milne of Christopher Robin fame, wrote some verses on the topic of the blackout with a refrain that went like this:

"We can't put on the light without the pins. We cannot find the pins without the light."

I feel I have been in just such a lose/lose situation over the past few months while I have been trying to find a new modem that would work with WinFax version 9, or else find a remaindered version of WinFax version 8, that had worked (at least the demo version did) perfectly with my US Robotics 28.8 Winmodem (software upgradable to 33.6). Since I just upgraded my system, I wanted speedier connection and download times. I settled on another Winmodem, the PCI 56K Sportster Internal Fax modem. This is one sweet, fast modem but surprise, surprise, WinFax version 9 requires a Voice Fax modem to work at all.

To kill two birds with one stone I requested a loaner of the GVC miniature Voice Fax USB modem for review. This installed like a charm, was equally fast over e-mail and Internet connections but did not offer the distinctive ring feature that I need to receive faxes via one telephone line with two separate telephone numbers. This is effected by feeding my telephone line into a small black box called an Identi-Fax-Phone which I bought from club member Victor Davis many years ago—another

After searching spec sheets at Comdex for a modem which combined Fax, Voice, and distinctive ring recognition I settled on the pricey 3Com US Robotics 56K Voice Faxmodem Pro External, because by golly, I was going to get the program to work or else!

This modem can be setup on either a serial or a USB port and after buying a cable, I installed it on the USB port. It worked fine until I installed WinFax version 9. It then immediately started logging me off and locking me out of my computer. I had to load one or two e-mail messages.

*Dr. Tips tells you how to Install Microsoft Fax and Windows Messaging in Windows 98, Windows 98SE on page 3*

Joel, at the-Wire.com was extremely patient about going into my mailbox and deleting the hanging messages but everything else we tried over a 24 hour period failed to resolve the problem—even uninstalling and reinstalling both the modem and WinFax. We knew it couldn't be their end at fault because I was able to download my mail via

my laptop. At this point Joel said "I've tried everything I can think of so it has to be your modem."

I had been logged off Keating's technical support after a sixteen minute wait (four of them in what was supposed to be a priority queue) when I remembered reading an excellent article on USB ("The Universal Serial Bus—Is It For You?") published in September's read.me. This mentioned that USB connections share your system's resources-so peripherals which make heavy demands are best installed on the more traditional serial port. My system uses approximately 77% of its rather ample system resources any time it is running so I decided I would try uninstalling the USB installation of the modem, together with WinFax (9).

As an irony of fate, the USR 56K Voice Faxmodem Pro External comes bundled with WinFax version 8. So after installing the modem on COM 2, I decided to load it instead of version 9.

Wonder of wonders, my mail arrived in my mailbox without a hitch, software downloads occurred at speeds in the 50s and WinFax 8 configured itself flawlessly to send and receive faxes from stand-alone machines and other systems running WinFax.

Will I try to install WinFax version 9? Probably in fairness I will have to buy at least for now the adage "If it ain't broke, don't fix it" applies and I think I'll just get on with my work!

The irony remains. I bought a new modem to run WinFax version 9, as I could not find a copy of version 8.

## NOVEMBER 16 MEETING IBM Aptiva and Thinkpad machines

Back in the early 1980's IBM decided it was time to get into the microcomputer market and the IBM PC was born. The rest is history including the inception of the Personal Computer Club of Toronto. Several generations of CPU or chip brains have evolved and IBM has been there to include them in successive machines. November's meeting will enable PCCT members and guests to see the latest IBM PC technology in their lines of Aptiva desktop systems and the hugely successful and popular Thinkpad laptop computers.

The informative presentation by Anthony Fajardo, National Sales Manager for Small and Medium Business Systems and his assistant will take place on Tuesday, November 16th in the regular location of the Burgundy Room, North York Memorial Community Hall beginning at 7:00 pm.

IN DECEMBER ... we will be taking a break from our regular speaker line up. The Annual General Meeting will take up part of the meeting with some seasonal revelry taking up the remainder! Don't miss the fun as well as the opportunity to choose the incoming executive.

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*When did YOU last write for read.me?*



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## General Meeting Tuesday, November 16th, 1999

Admission for non-members – \$5.00

**6:30pm: Meet and discuss**—your ideas for PCCT with some of our Board members and volunteers.

**7:00pm: General Meeting**—starts with a Question & Answer session.

### The Personal Computer Club of Toronto

# PCCT

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The Personal Computer Club Of Toronto (PCCT) is an independent, not-for-profit association for people who use PC microcomputers. Our philosophy: *Users helping Users.*

"read.me" is the newsletter of the PCCT, published 11 times a year, featuring articles by club members and members of other user groups from around the world. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and not necessarily of the PCCT.

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**Please note:** Fees, dates, and specifications are subject to change without notice.

The PCCT does not assume responsibility for damages arising from the publication or non-publication of any advertisement in this newsletter. Acceptance of advertising does not imply endorsement by the club.

## Special Interest Groups

### The Basics SIG

Leader: Frank Latchford (416) 340-0999

Learning Windows 95/98 SIG. This SIG is intended for those who are new to Windows 95/98. We will discuss how Windows works and how to use it on a daily basis. The intention of this SIG is to teach—not to entertain. We will start at the beginning and go to the end. You should have learned to use some aspect of Windows by the end of the evening.

### DayTime SIG

Leader: Bob Matheson (416) 222-4628

This is a discussion group that covers a wide range of topics relating to IBM and compatible computers. It is for novice, intermediate and advanced users.

### Digital Imaging SIG

Leader: Ron Caine ron\_caine@msn.com

Interested in scanners, photography, digital cameras and the software to run all that? Then this SIG is for you. We will go over all facets of manipulating pixels to give you the results you want.

### Investment SIG

Leader: Ken Morgan (416) 491-1932

Analytical techniques, use of spreadsheets, graphical display of investment analysis all play an important part in these meetings. Also, considerable use is made of video training tapes on investment subjects.

### Internet SIG

Leader: David Paikin (416) 225-1057

This SIG concentrates on how to access and utilize the various resources of the Internet. If you are having difficulties using the Internet or simply wish to learn more, then this SIG is for you. The first 15 minutes of the SIG are used to answer general communications issues.

### Linux SIG

Leader: Avnish (Kash) Kashyap (905) 677-8337

Linux for Beginners, How to Install, Configure, Use and set up a Graphical user interface. It is almost free, robust and reliable. Come on in and have look see.

### New Users SIG

Leader: Henry Crane (905) 884-5443

This is a group arranged specifically for novice computer users. It holds informal friendly discussions on the essentials of personal computing. You will get clear concise explanations of computer terms on your personal level of understanding, help with what to learn and how to learn it quickly and cheaply, purchasing, upgrading and problem solving advice that can save you many hours and dollars.

### Office SIG

Leader Andy Hagan ad.hagan@sympatico.ca

Learn how to use the Microsoft Office suite of programs: Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Access. A SIG geared to helping small business make effective use of this software.

### Visual Basic SIG

Trevor Pedley 416-751-2396

Learn Visual Basic, a popular programming language. This group follows a beginners' level text with a structured learning environment. Easily learn sophisticated ways to program applications in the Windows environment by attending this group.

### Windows SIG

Leader Steve Rakus src@tth.net

Here is where you can learn how to get and use the maximum from MS Windows. You will enjoy an information-packed, entertaining evening while you learn how to use all the Windows tools, and make Windows run more efficiently on your machine. You can participate in the monthly training session and become an expert user in less than a year. You will learn tips and tricks that will save you hours. You will meet many power users, see the latest Windows products and perhaps win a valuable door prize.



# Notes from the Board, October 1999

By Robin Wright, President

**YOUR ARE INVITED TO A YEAR END CELEBRATION PARTY!** To be held immediately after the Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 14 December in the Burgundy Room. As usual, this will be a social event allowing personal contact between members and discussions with the newly elected Board of Directors.

Details will be forthcoming, but certainly cake, cookies, and coffee will be on the menu.

**FINANCES:** The final financial figures are in the hands of the club's auditor, Lloyd Lindsay. They will be available to all members on request. The increased numbers of members has offset the excess of expenses over revenue of last year, putting the club in a much better financial situation.

**MONTHLY GENERAL MEETING:** The members sales table is now being coordinated by Basil Latham. This is a great place to get upgrade components at a very reasonable price. As you upgrade your system please contact Basil in time for him to let us all know what will be available at the next general meeting. We still need help with the Software Library. Just in time for the holiday season a club CD will be prepared by Arthur Robertson. Suggestions for content would be welcome. Software programs should be checked for satisfactory operation and forwarded to Arthur with a brief description of content. This can be a major source of revenue for the club it just needs someone to coordinate the collection of the software. We already have volunteers to look after the software library sales table.

**SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS:** The new location for most SIGs has proven satisfactory. The LINUX SIG will change dates to the second Tuesday of the month to oblige members who wish to attend the LINUX club monthly meetings downtown. An upgrade of the computer now being used for the Daytime SIG at the Church of St. Andrew will be completed in November. Craig Faichney our SIG Coordinator is looking for a projector that will replace the platen and overhead projector that we have been using. If any member has a source of used SVGA projectors please let Craig know.

**NEWSLETTER:** The distribution of the newsletter still needs coordination. We should be able to distribute it to many of the computer stores throughout the city. The incremental cost of increased production is low. This is our major publicity tool, apart from the website. Many members have joined after reading about our activities in *read.me*. Increased circulation will be more attractive to advertisers. We have formalized the opportunity for members to place business card advertisements in each edition. Any member wishing to take advantage of the special offer please contact Robin Wright 905-842-4696.

**ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING:** Formal Notice of the Annual General Meeting is included in this edition. This is your chance to comment on the business of the club. Any formal motions should be forwarded to the Secretary, Karl Stanley. If you wish to review the minutes of the last AGM held in December 1998 please contact the Secretary. The only change being proposed is the increase in the number of Directors from 7 to 9. This is to spread the workload of administering the different departments, which has proved time consuming in the past, and especially difficult for Directors who are expected to be available 24 X 7 by their employers.

**THE NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE** has been looking for volunteers to act as Directors for the new year. Directors quickly come to know more members because of the need to be in contact with the departments for which they are responsible. If you, or another member that you know, would like to participate and have a direct voice in the future direction of the club, please contact one of the current Directors.

**PARTICIPATION:** Get more enjoyment from your club membership, by participating even a little. Just getting the names of the prize winners at the monthly meeting is an example of a small but needed task. There are many other small jobs that would take little time or effort and would be appreciated. Please let me know what you would like to do as a member of our club. .

Robin

## Notice of Annual General Meeting

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB OF TORONTO WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 1999 AT 7:00 PM EASTERN DAYLIGHT TIME AT THE NORTH YORK MEMORIAL HALL, IN THE BURGUNDY ROOM, 5110 YONGE STREET, TORONTO (NORTH YORK) FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

1. To receive the REPORT OF THE DIRECTORS including the Financial Statements of the Corporation for the year ended August 31, 1999 together with the Report of the Auditor thereon.
2. Motion to amend the By-Laws to increase the number of directors from seven to nine.
3. To elect directors.
4. To appoint an Auditor and to authorize the directors to fix his remuneration.
5. Motion to approve the actions of the Board during the year ended August 31, 1999.
6. To transact such further and other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment thereof.

Members who are in good standing and are unable to attend the meeting in person are requested to complete, sign and date, and return the proxy form so as to ensure that the business of the club can be carried out. Only one proxy should be submitted for family memberships.

In the event of a Civic Employees strike the location may change; check the Web Site or call the Club Hotline for changes.

Dated at Toronto this 26<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1999.

By order of the Board, Karl Stanley, Secretary.

**THE COMPLETED PROXY SHOULD BE MAILED TO:**

**THE PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB OF TORONTO  
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# Error Messages

As hard to decipher as the Dead Sea Scrolls

By Ken Fermoyle

Error messages plague users today just as much as they did at the dawn of the microcomputer age two decades ago. The messages themselves change as new technologies evolve, but the enigmatic numbered horrors persist. They remain as hard for most of us to read as the Dead Sea Scrolls!

Internet error messages especially are often ambiguous or misleading. Many mean essentially the same thing: you can't get through to the site you've requested because it is too crowded right now somewhere along the way.

One of the most common of these is: "The Server does not have a DNS entry." This is infuriating as a telephone busy signal, and often means the same thing! It can also mean that you aren't connected to the Internet, that you had a typo in the URL (Universal Resource Locator, fancy name for a Website's address), or the Website doesn't exist. Usually, however, it's a Net busy signal; try again in a few minutes.

I thought it would be helpful to give you the following "plain English" definitions for common browser error messages.

**400 Bad request**—The URL (Universal Resource Locator, official name for an Internet address) you entered has something wrong with it. Perhaps the page you are looking for does not exist, or the server you are contacting does not recognize the URL. Check your typing, especially special characters, like slashes or colons, and uppercase letters.

**401 Unauthorized**—The page is password-protected or does not accept visitors from your domain. If you entered a password, you may have typed it incorrectly.

**403 Forbidden**—Same as 401 Unauthorized. You should try your password again.

**404 Not Found**—This common message means the page doesn't exist, or exists at a different URL. Try deleting everything after the first slash (following .com, .net or .org) in the URL to see if you get a page that has a link to the page you want. Check your spelling. And if the URL ends in .htm, type .html instead (and vice versa). Sometimes, however, pages are just missing.

**503 Service Unavailable**—Similar to a busy signal. Wait briefly and try the page again. It's probably there.

**Host Unknown**—Site may have moved. Try looking for it with a search engine (or, if the URL you had was long and complicated, guess how it may have been simplified). Also, check to see if you lost your Internet connection (this happens most often if you're away from the computer for a while); if you aren't connected, use your dialer to reconnect and retry the site.

**Host unavailable**—Generally, this means the host machine is down temporarily for maintenance. Wait awhile and try again.

**Unable to locate host or Unable to locate server**—Similar to Host Unknown; check to see if you may have been disconnected from the Internet. If you have, log back on and retry.

**File Contains No Data**—The page is there but for some reason it is empty. Try again later; data may have arrived by then.

**Bad file request**—This is a forms error. That usually means your browser does not support the type of form you are trying to use, or there is an error in the form.

**Too Many Connections**—Like a busy signal. Try clicking the Refresh/Reload button, or wait briefly and try again.

**Connection refused by host**—Similar to 401 and 403; the page is restricted to certain domains or password-protected. If you think you should have a working password, try entering it again.

**Failed DNS lookup**—Similar to "The Server does not have a DNS entry."

**Helper application not found**—You asked to view a kind of file that your browser does not recognize (a graphic format, multimedia, or compressed file). You may need to install a plug-in (helper application) that extends the capabilities of your browser.

I also discovered several Web sites that include definitions of other kinds of error messages.

One, at [www.sysopt.com/biosbmc.html](http://www.sysopt.com/biosbmc.html), covers definitions and solutions for AMI and Award BIOS error beeps and messages/codes. It also includes links to other sites that offer BIOS message information.

Another is [www.codemicro.com/windows.htm](http://www.codemicro.com/windows.htm), which contains basic troubleshooting steps to help resolve the following Windows 95 generated error messages: Illegal Operation, Fatal Exception Error, Windows Protection Error, and General Protection Faults.

Then there are some sites that might restore your good humor after a computer session that produced far too many real error messages.

Try [www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/5551/comperro.html](http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Acropolis/5551/comperro.html) for one. AnError Messages concluded from page 4other, with messages in the form of

[Error messages concluded on page 7 column 2.](#)

## PROXY FORM for the Annual Meeting of The Personal Computer Club of Toronto

The undersigned member of The Personal Computer Club of Toronto hereby appoints Robin Wright, President, or failing him, Karl Stanley, or in lieu of the foregoing \_\_\_\_\_ as proxy holder of the undersigned, to attend, act, and vote for and on behalf of the undersigned at the annual meeting of the members to be held on Tuesday, December 14, 1999 (including adjournments thereof) and hereby revokes all proxies previously given.

This proxy will be voted and where a choice is specified will be voted as directed. WHERE NO CHOICE IS SPECIFIED, this proxy will confer discretionary authority and will be voted in favour of the matters referred to below.

This proxy also confers discretionary authority to vote in respect of any other matter which may properly come before the meeting and in such manner as such nominee in their judgement may determine.

1. A member has a right to appoint a person to attend and act for him and on his behalf at the meeting other than the persons designated in this PROXYFORM, such right may be exercised by filling in the name in the blank space provided and striking out the names of the nominees above. A person appointed as Proxy to represent a member need not be a member.

2. To vote such proxy for the approval of the Report of the Directors containing the Financial Statements for the Year ended August 31, 1999 and the Auditors Report thereon, \_\_\_\_\_ Or—To vote such proxy against the approval of the Report of the Board of Directors containing the Financial Statement for the year ended August 31, 1999, and the Auditor's Report thereon.

3. To vote in favour of increasing the number of Directors from seven to nine OR To vote against the increasing of of the number of directors from seven to nine.

4. The said proxyholders are hereby directed to vote for the election of the following as directors

\_\_\_\_\_

5. To vote for the approval of the action of the Board of Directors for the year ended August 31, 1999.

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 1999.

Signature of Member

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD, Karl Stanley, Secretary.

If you are not attending the ANNUAL MEETING of the Personal Computer Club of Toronto, PLEASE COMPLETE AND MAIL TO:

Personal Computer Club of Toronto

P.O. Box 5429, Station A,  
Toronto, Ontario.M5W 1N6

# Pic'O The Month

By Trevelyan [Trev] Beard, PCCT

**A Web Page for your club or family—easy and free. Read on ... The answer—eBoard.com**

Every now and then a miracle is served up to computer users—this is the latest—how to have your very own Web Page. It's just perfect for a small club or a family. It's not fancy, there's no music or gimmicky visuals—it's a Plain Jane if ever there was one.

It's easy to set up, it's easy to run, and like a bulletin board, it can be written to by the readers. But best of all it's free. It's called eBoard.com and I guarantee that once you take a look, you'll rush to register your name and have your very own family web page just like that. So go on the internet, type [www.eboard.com](http://www.eboard.com) and have yourself a ball.

**At last—a cure for crashes, over written files and viruses—and it works, it works, it works! read on ...**

## GoBack

My only complaint against GoBack—it should have been around years ago. But now it's here and installed I live a perfectly relaxed life. If my machine hangs up, I use GoBack. If I get a blue screen of death, I use GoBack. If I accidentally overwrite when saving a file, I use GoBack.

From the day that you install GoBack, it starts writing a diary of events as you use your machine. Whenever you wish, you can elect to go back in time, say one minute or one hour or one day or more. When you do this, you can stay in that older time slot and carry on as if nothing else had happened. Talk about time warp!

An example if you please. You install a new program and something gets screwed up. Error messages keep popping up, crashes occur periodically. You try to get the mess uninstalled but this seems to make things worse. A hot cup of sweet tea plus cheese on toast fails to work its magic—your life is miserable. You are in trouble I hope you realize.

But, by all that's holy you'd installed GoBack a week before. You bring up the menu, pick a System Safe Point time and click on 'Revert Drive'. Immediately you are working in this new time slot, everything is behaving as it was then and you are out of trouble. It really works all the time.

Another scenario. Your PC will not boot up normally. If this happens, the GoBack screen which sits between the operating system and your hard drive, comes on, you press the space bar and GoBack performs an emergency recovery. You are then able to go back to an earlier time and do a Revert Drive operation.

Recovering mutilated files is a cinch. GoBack is able to create a virtual drive at an earlier time. You can then drag files from this drive to your normal drive and 'hey presto' your files are now in shape.

I played around all weekend with this program and it worked every time. How effective it is in removing the damage caused by viruses, I have no way of knowing but WildFile state that GoBack will in fact take you back to the time before the virus struck. ♦

*The program sells for about \$100 Canadian or less and is an absolute 'must have'.*

Trev,

I enjoyed reading this month's (October) read.me, especially your column. But I just have to comment on your comments.

"Bill" has already provided much of what you suggest he should copy. MSWorks, Publisher and even Word lets you preview fonts in real time. Word even lets you see them in whatever point size you choose. Quick View Plus does a very good job, really the most comprehensive of the lot.

I have the popular FM-View shareware which does a good job, fast. [www.wincorner.com](http://www.wincorner.com)

You can group your fonts into sub-folders if you like. I believe that only those in the main Fonts folder would be installed, but I haven't checked this out. . However, you could easily Move a TTF into the main folder at any time or remove one from it.

Cheers, Bob Mitchell

# Q & A

**PCCT members ask and respond**

**By Dave Hanson (PCCT)**

Welcome to this column! I hope it will be a regular one that all members will find useful. Most of the questions and answers you see here started out as 'real live' questions that were asked at PCCT General Meetings in the Open Forum session. This column is a way for members who are unable to attend the General Meetings to get the benefit of these important Q & As and as a reminder to those who did attend.

**Q: What is a cookie, should I turn cookies off and what should I know about them?**

A: Cookies are forms of information that Web sites use and put on your hard drive so that they (those controlling the site) can remember something about your visit at a later date, for instance the next time you log into the Web site. Although there are ways to turn cookies off it is not a particularly good idea especially when using some of the online e-mail sites, online shopping sites and some banking sites. Turning cookies off will not allow you to fully use or use at all some of the above mentioned Web sites. The information typically stored in the cookie is data that you have entered yourself whilst browsing the site and possibly answering scripted questions about you. Cookies can be viewed on your hard drive depending on the browser used. In Microsoft's IE browser each cookie is saved as a separate file in one of the Windows directories. Netscape Communicator saves cookies in the file cookies.dat. Generally speaking cookies help Web sites serve computer Internet users better by allowing them to store information between sessions and not have to continually ask for the same information over and over again. WEBSITE recommendation: [www.cookiecentral.com](http://www.cookiecentral.com)

**Q: My dedicated FAX machine recently stopped working and I am now considering purchasing a multifunction machine that I can connect to my computer. What caveats should I be aware of?**

A: If your machine already has a modem and printer installed and configured you might consider purchasing a Universal Serial Bus (USB) scanner device. The latter is so that you don't have to connect the scanner through your printer cable interface. USB devices can be very easy to configure and get around the problem of multiple device conflicts using the printer port approach. Be aware that the best USB support is in the current release of Windows98 and above. If you want to scan books make sure you don't buy a sheet feeder scanner as you will not be able to scan material without xerox copying them first. A number of manufacturers do make multifunction scanner/printer/FAX machines. Check out the Canon website, [www.canon.com](http://www.canon.com) who were one of the more recent PCCT vendor speakers.

**Q: Is there a device that I can record speech onto and then have it translated on my computer into machine readable text?**

A: Yes there is! It is manufactured by Dragon Systems and marketed by IBM however it is quite expensive. An alternative to this is to record your speech using a quality mini tape recorder and play the tape back to your computer's microphone. The speech recognition software can then interpret the output of the tape.

... and finally,

**Q: DEAR EDITOR: I HAVE A QUESTION AND WOULD LIKE IT ANSWERED BUT DON'T ATTEND MEETINGS. WHAT SHOULD I DO ?**

A: Send me your question via email, regular mail or phone and we will get them answered for you! ♦

## Advertising in read.me

By popular request the members only business card advertising will become a regular feature of each edition of Read.Me. The regular price for one time business card size advertisement is \$25.00.

Special members only price \$10.00. If you would like to pay in advance for the next 9 editions \$75.00. The next 9 editions will include 3 ComputerFest Shows and COMDEX in July.

Payment must be made to the Treasurer, cash or cheque for PCCT. You may also pay month by month. Please let me know which payment option you have chosen.

Content should be forwarded directly to the Editor. Deadline for each edition is the general meeting prior to publication.

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Robin

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# Microsoft Natural Keyboard Pro

By Joan Latchford, PCCT

The Microsoft Natural Keyboard Pro is easy and intuitive to install. The cord comes with two plugs, one for a PS1 attachment and the second for a USB connection. Since the keyboard hosts two convenient USB Ports either side of the cord on the rear, my intuition told me that both should be connected to my system at the back of the computer. My husband, who was watching me hooking up, said “No, you have to attach it to one (PS1) or the other” (USB).”

While you *can* use just the PS1 connection to activate all the features of your Microsoft Natural Keyboard Pro, any USB peripherals attached to the keyboard will only work if you have also made *both* connections to the back of your “box.”

I was particularly attracted to the advertised CD-ROM control features of the Natural Keyboard Pro since I enjoy music while I work. It is disappointing to find that while I can control the volume and mute my preferred shareware player (Quintessential CD) the pause, *Stop*, *Play/Pause*, *Previous* and *Next Track* buttons won't work with it. I'm fond of this program because it is one of many that go online, recognizes and provides a catalogue of all my disks and names each track's groups and performers as it plays. If for some reason Quintessential CD can't find an entry in the popular online CDDB database for the disk you inserted, you can enter the data yourself and upload it to benefit some other lucky person. Q-CD gives you all this in an interface that can be shrunk to fit neatly into your task bar.

While all the buttons work with the CD-Player that comes with Window 98, I'm not prepared to manually re-enter my music catalogue into an uninspired applet that can't access an online database for the sake of the new buttons. I hope that Microsoft will make the necessary information available to shareware developers so that they can incorporate these otherwise excellent features into their software.

The *Sleep* button at the extreme right of the keyboard is a toggle that instantly

blanks your screen and puts your system to sleep—and brings it speedily alive when you press it again. The calculator button is logically placed over the keypad and works with the bundled Windows 98 accessory. However, it is possible to assign this to a calculator of your choice. Surprisingly this button is not a toggle, so you must resort to clicking or pressing Alt F4 to get rid of it. Ditto with the button for “My Computer” to the left of it. Since you have to pick up your mouse to close this window down or press Alt F4 again, I feel you might just as well click on the “My Computer” icon on the desktop in the first place.

The left row of buttons are designed to make surfing the Net a breeze. A large button over the divide brings up your mail reader (in my case, Outlook). Since I log on to my ISP manually, I still have click on “Send and Receive” though I imagine anyone set up to connect automatically would not have to do so. “Home” brings up *Google* which I have set as my home site and “Find” takes me to Snap.com. Refresh, Stop, Forward and Back all work as you would expect.

Though I have used the original Microsoft Natural Keyboard for a number of years my use of the Winkeys has been spotty. I learnt Ctrl, X (cut), C, (copy) and V (paste) many years ago and use them constantly. The fact that they function in a variety of Windows applications have made them indispensable to me.

However, Microsoft has neatly marked the front of these and a number of other shortcut keys with an asterisk and a keyword as to what they will do in conjunction with the Control Key, similarly marked with an asterisk. So you have \*F, which brings up the Find and Replace dialogue, \*Z, (undo) \*Y, redo, (which will replace what you have just undone, and act also as a repeat key)—and so on.

These and other commands work in your Office 2000 programs—\*N is particularly useful as it will bring up a new e-mail dialogue for you to choose a recipient, a new task dialogue for the task list or sticky notes as needed as well as opening a new or additional document in Word.

The keyboard is smaller than its original with the divide perfectly spaced for my rather large hands. The touch is responsive but with just the right amount of resistance for you to know when you have activated a key.

The Microsoft Natural Keyboard Pro comes with Microsoft IntelliType Pro Software. This is accessed through Start/Programs/Microsoft Hardware/Keyboard. You have three choices, an animated Healthy Computing Guide, IntelliType Pro, which gives you a keyboard properties dialogue box to adjust repeat speed, languages (choices too numerous to list) Hot Keys, Options (one is a pop-up instruction on how to copy and image when you press the PrtScn Key) and Onscreen display.

Is it worth the \$104 Can to me? It would be if it gave me access to the online CDDB database and calendar. Otherwise, I guess I will have to decide that after I have sent it back. If I have it a little longer I will have a chance to memorize all the WinKey options and hope that they work with the original Microsoft Natural Keyboard. ❖

## W98 Fax installation tip

By Steve Rakus, aka Dr. Tips, PCCT

Many PCCT members are having problems installing the Microsoft Fax in Windows 98. Here is a two part setup that will make it easier you.

### Install Fax and Windows Messaging in Windows 98 and Windows 98SE

**PART 1:** Click Start, point to Settings, click Control Panel, and then double-click Add/Remove Programs. Click the Windows Setup tab, click Accessories, click Details, click to select the WordPad check box, click to select the Imaging check box, and then click OK. Insert your Windows 98 or Windows 98 Second Edition CD-ROM in the CD-ROM drive. Click Browse This CD, and then locate the following folder:

**Tools\OldWin95\Message\US**

Double-click the Wms.exe program file, follow the instructions on the screen to install Windows Messaging, remove the Windows 98 or Windows 98 Second Edition CD-ROM from the CD-ROM drive, and then restart your computer.

Click Start, point to Settings, click Control Panel, and then double-click Add/Remove Programs.

Click the Windows Setup tab, click Accessories, click Details, click to select the WordPad check box, click to select the Imaging check box, and then click OK.

Place your Windows 98 or Windows 98 Second Edition CD-ROM in the CD-ROM drive. Click Browse This CD, and then locate the following folder:

**Tools\OldWin95\Message\US**

Double-click the Awfax.exe program file, follow the instructions on the screen to install Microsoft Fax, and then restart your computer.

**PART 2—IMPORTANT DETAILS:** Type your name, area code, and fax number in the appropriate text boxes. Make sure you choose the correct country in the Country dialog box. Click the Modem tab, choose your fax modem and click the Set as Active Fax Modem button. Click the Properties button and select the Answer mode options you prefer. Most remaining options can be set to their default settings. Click the Advanced, select the Enable MR compression and select Reject pages received with errors, select high in the Tolerance list box. Do not select the Disable error correction mode check box and make sure the Use Class 2 box is not selected because Class 2 fax does not allow you to send or receive file attachments. Click OK and then click the Dialing tab in the Microsoft Fax Properties box. Type the number of retries and the time to wait in between retries. Click the Message tab and select As soon as possible radio button, or select Time in the lower rate periods. Select the Editable radio button to allow sending file attachments. Click OK in each open dialog box. Click the Close button. ❖

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# Windows 98 Secrets

By Frank Latchford

Windows 98 Secrets is a big book. It is not meant to be read like a novel. It is more like a constant companion that you can turn to whenever you need help with Windows 98. The authors, Straub and Livingston have broken it up into the following sections:

- I: Introduction, Installation, and Startup
- II: Interface to the Desktop and the Internet
- III: Internet Applications
- IV: Connectivity
- V: Plug and Play
- VI: DOS Secrets

I originally started to use Windows 95 because I found you could run DOS programs in Windows better than you could run them in DOS. Windows eliminated the memory restraints of DOS as well as making True Type Fonts available for DOS programs. Another bonus was that you could print DOS documents utilizing the Print Drivers that came with Windows. All of these features have been carried over into Windows 98. As I started using Windows I discovered that there was a great deal I didn't know. I started to look around for a good simple book and a good in depth book. The simple book was to give me an overview of Windows and an in depth book to flesh out my knowledge as I went along. The simple book is called "10 minute Guide to Windows 95" by Sue Plumley, published by Que Books and latterly up-dated to "10 minute Guide to Windows 98" by Jennifer Fulton published by SAMS. These books are made up of 34 ten minute tutorials on Windows 98. The in depth book was Windows 95 Secrets and then Windows 98 Secrets both by Straub and Livingston.

Windows 98 Secrets has an excellent Table of Contents at the beginning of the book and an exhaustive Index at the back. Between the two of them you can zero in on any subject you wish to know about in Windows 98. The Gold edition of Windows 98 contains a copy of the book on a CD-ROM. The CD is excellent for searching, but once I have found what I'm looking for, I prefer to go to the book and read it there. As the authors point out, Windows 98 is so big that no one person knows everything there is to know about Windows, themselves included. Despite their modesty they have provided an enormous amount of information about Windows 98. I have looked at a number of books on Windows 98, but this is the one I continually come back to for information.

Each chapter provides an "In This Chapter" at the beginning outlining what is covered in the chapter. This can save time in finding what you're looking for. The authors give clear and concise descriptions of each topic. At the end of each chapter there is a summary of what has been covered. What I like best about the book is the step by step approach taken by the authors. You can follow the steps and see the logical connection between each one. When you finish a section you feel you have a grasp on what

they are presenting. As you use the book pieces start to fall into place. Every section is treated in the same thorough way. If I could recommend only one in depth book on Windows 98, this would be the one. ♦

**Windows 98 Secrets**  
by Brian Livingston & David Straub  
~~AD Group~~ Fate concluded from page 1  
Price: \$69 Canadian

only to find 3Com US Robotics 56K Voice Faxmodem Pro came with the bundled WinFax version 8—with which my original modem would have operated just fine!

P.S. I finally accomplished the installation of WinFax version 9 with about an hour and a half's handholding from Symantec's excellent Canadian WinFax tech support. During the process we visited places you wouldn't even want to know about—where I found references to WinFax as far back as Delrina's version 3.

Version 9 is now installed and ready for Spam. ♦

Error Messages concluded from page 4

three-line Haiku poems, is:  
[members.nova.org/~dsaum/j-chaiku.htm](http://members.nova.org/~dsaum/j-chaiku.htm).

If you know of other sources for definitions or information on different categories of error messages, please send them to me ([kferoyle@earthlink.net](mailto:kferoyle@earthlink.net)) and I will include them in a future column. ♦

*(Author's Note: I want to give credit to Earthlink Network, [www.earthlink.net](http://www.earthlink.net), source of much of the information contained above. Its site deserves regular visits because it contains a lot of useful Web-oriented information that is updated frequently.)*

Ken Fermoyle ([kfermoyle@earthlink.net](mailto:kfermoyle@earthlink.net)) has written some 2,500 articles for publications ranging from Playboy and Popular Science to MacWeek, Microtimes & PC World. He is owner/publisher of Fermoyle Publications, which offers editorial, consulting & graphics design services. Copyright 1999, Ken Fermoyle, Fermoyle Publications.

## Robert's Rules of Computer Order

You will never have an extra blank disk.

If you do bring along a blank disk, you won't need it.

If you don't bring along a blank disk, it will be the only available opportunity to obtain a copy of a hitherto unattainable, and uniquely appropriate program.

If someone else is watching while you are doing anything on the computer, anything at all, it will screw up (that's a technical term).

The percentage chances of screwing up increase in direct proportion to the size of your audience.

No matter how simple it seems to you, your explanation will be more than they want to know.

You will amaze yourself at how much you know.

You will amaze your mother at how much you know about computers.

You will always have one disk envelope too few. Or too many.

The only pieces of data you will ever lose are the ones you were going to save just as soon as you finished typing a couple more lines.

The update of your program will use the keys for something entirely different in this version than it did when you first learned it.

You will not understand it the first time you read it in the manual.

You will understand it better the next time you read the manual. For no discernible reason.

When you are late for an interview and need a last minute copy of your resume your printer will go down. It will always go down. It doesn't care. Nowhere in your repair manual will it ever tell you what you really need to do—which is to turn the darn thing off and get yourself a cup of tea.

You will never know what a user file is.

The price of anything you buy will stay the same until the actual impact of your money on the bottom of the cash drawer, at which time it will automatically re-list itself in next Thursday's paper at 30% less.

Staring at the screen for 97 continuous minutes will not necessarily reveal to you the secret location of any colon that should have been typed in as a semi. Or vice versa.

It will always seem like your friend got a better deal.

The 800 number will be busy. ♦

## Quick Wit:

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SAVE \$5 with this coupon at a PCCT General Meeting

**WHERE:** North York Memorial Centre  
 5110 Yonge Street, one floor below  
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**TIME:** 7 p.m.

**WHEN:** Third Tuesday of the month.  
 see the calendar below.

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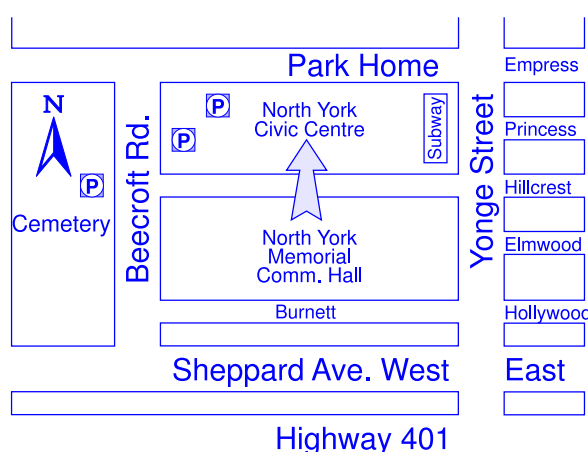
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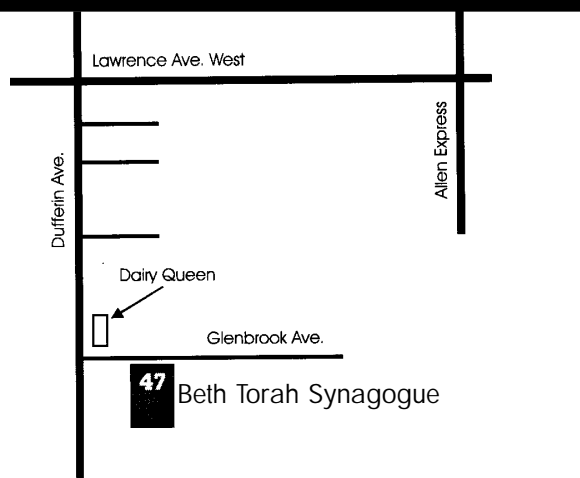
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- Access to the club BBS (for a one-time set up fee of \$20);
- Monthly issues of the club newsletter you're holding right now!

# Calendar For November & December '99

## NYC North York Memorial Comm. Hall, 5110 Yonge St.



## BTS Beth Torah Synagogue 47 Glenbrook Avenue



## St.A Church of St. Andrew 2333 Victoria Park Ave

