



read.me

Featuring articles by computer club members

Getting more out of your computer!

Networking at Home

Guest writer Jay Zorzi, Independent Consultant

If you have two (or possibly more) computers, it makes sense to create a network so that data can be shared between the computers. This is especially good if the computers are on different floors or are in different areas of your home. You might think that networking is very difficult, something that highly paid network engineers do. But a simple home network structure is not difficult to setup.

In this article we'll provide a brief overview on setting up a small home network for the average computer user. We'll focus on connecting two computers together and onto the Internet.

The things you will to purchase:

A) An ADSL/Cable router. A recommendation is a D-link router. It is inexpensive and has decent functionality. Ask your local computer shop for information on other vendor products. D-link routers come with good instructions on how to set up the router itself. The D link router is good because it has a

built-in firewall, which provides protection from Internet intruders and hackers. It has a DHCP server in it, which takes care of all your Internet settings for your computers. ADSL/Cable router may also be referred to as a router/switch. A switch is the better product and the price will reflect this, but is not needed for the average home computer system. Your internet connection would connect to the WAN (Wide Area Network) port on the router.

B) You will also need to a network card for each computer. A network card may also be known as an ethernet card or a network adaptor.

C) To connect your computers together you'll need CAT5 cables, which will also hook the computer to the D-link router. Ensure that they are straight through cable, not crossover; ask when you purchase to make sure. The computers connect to the Internal or LAN ports of the router.

Continue on pg 4...

COMPUTER FEST - Spring 2003 SHOW

Hall 6, International Centre, 6900 Airport Road, Mississauga

April 11 - 13, 2003

Friday 10am-9pm, Saturday & Sunday 10am-6pm

Super deals can be found at the Spring 2003 Computer Fest - Computer Super Sale - Blow-out Prices! This season's show features over 100 Exhibitors, free seminars by Noted Authorities, Free Advice Table, PC Games by Ultinet Computers, Home Electronics Super Sale. Come see what hidden treasures you will find and while your here, drop by and say hello at the PCCT booth.

FREE PC Software to the first 400 visitors to the Computer Fest show on Saturday and Sunday. For a chance to win the Door Prize, a **XP 2200 Computer System, complete with CD burner and 17" monitor**, just fill out a ballot inside the front entrance of the show.

\$9 Individual, \$12 Weekend, \$21 Family, \$5 Senior, Children 10 and under are admitted free.

For more information and to get a coupon worth up to \$3 off admission visit <http://www.computerfest.ca>

Special Offer from Adobe for PCCT Members Only!

That's right! One of the advantages being a PCCT member is the special offers given to User Groups from well known companies in the Computing Industry. Read on for details on Adobe's "Work Smart. Save Big." rebate promotion.

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It's an unprecedented event in Adobe history. Now through April 30, 2003, we're offering rebates of up to \$150USD on Adobe's most popular creative tools and software upgrades. Just buy two or more of these eligible products at Adobe's online store, purchase by calling 1-800-833-6687, or buy from you favorite Adobe reseller.

Offer valid only for those PCCT members in good standing. You will need to have your PCCT membership number handy. To have the complete and detailed special offer from Adobe emailed to you, contact the editor (editor@pcct.org) or the Vice President (vp@pcct.org).

PCCT members, remember to visit <http://www.pcct.org> to find out who will be presenting at the next monthly general meeting and SIG's (Special Interest Groups).



<http://www.pcct.org>

Apr 2003

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Free Guest Coupon on back page!

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The Personal Computer Club of



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<http://www.pcct.org>

Daytime SIG

Leader: David Higgins davidmhiggins@rogers.com

Daytime SIG is so popular it meets twice a month, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month in the daytime. Having problems with your computer? Bought new software, can't install it? Not sure where you can purchase an item? You're a new member and want to meet your fellow club members, then come on out to the Daytime SIG. You get to hear all the latest news in computing hardware and software, hear all the club announcements and there is a demonstration every meeting on how to use a particular utility, office and shareware programs for Windows. Visit the Events Calendar on our website.

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. We can give you tips on improving your projects, so please bring samples of your work with you. Valuable Software and Magazines will be awarded along with some new prizes. Visit the Events Calendar on our website. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. See you Wednesday!

Internet SIG

Leader: Murray Dobbs moedobbs@sympatico.ca

This SIG concentrates on how to access and utilize the various resources of the Internet. If you are having difficulties using the Internet or wish to learn more about its various features and related issues, then this is the SIG for you. The first 15 minutes of the SIG are used to answer participants' specific questions. Visit the Events Calendar on our Website. We meet on the 4th Thursday of the month. Love to see you there!

Investment SIG

Leader: Ken Morgan (416) 491-1932

If you're interested in learning how to invest your money and see it grow, (who isn't) this is the SIG for you. The 1st Wednesday of every month, Ken Morgan leads the Investment SIG. He facilitates discussions on how to make certain investments, and looks at fundamental and technical analysis of data programs. Once in a while he changes pace by bringing in a speaker. If you are interested in some very interesting discussion, then you'll want to attend this SIG. Visit the Events Calendar on our website.

MS Office SIG

Leader: Lloyd Lindsay lloyd.l@sympatico.ca

Learn how to use the Microsoft Office 2000/97, suite of programs: Word, Excel, PowerPoint and Access, and Outlook. A SIG geared to helping small businesses make effective use of this software (and also helpful to home users). Bring your questions. Answers or helpful hints, useful shortcuts, etc. are also most welcome. We meet once a month, on the 3rd Thursday of the month. Visit the Events Calendar on our website.

Windows SIG

Leader: Frank Latchford barley@the-wire.com

Here is where you can learn how to get and use the maximum from MS Windows. You will learn how to use all the Windows tools, and make Windows run more efficiently on your machine. By participating in these monthly sessions (1st Tuesday), you can become an expert user in a year or less. You will learn tips and tricks that will save you hours, meet many power users, see the latest Windows products and perhaps win a valuable door prize.

So come and join our other Windows users and learn more about Windows Operating Systems. This is the only Free and Live support for Windows that you can find around the Greater Toronto Area. Visit the Events Calendar on our website. Bring your questions and see you there!

Hewlett-Packard Rebate Offer!

If you are contemplating purchasing or having just purchased a Hewlett-Packard printer, camera, projector or scanner, you might look at the entire list of fifty "Color It Now" promotions. **These rebates end on April 30, 2003.**

For the complete listing visit:

www.hp.com/sbso.special/colorit_claim.html

Do you know of a special rebate offer, discount, out of this world deal? Does your company have a special offer for PCCT members only? Email the details, including a web address/link to PCCT president at president@pcct.org or the Editor at editor@pcct.org. We will make sure our members are informed and we will try to print your tip in the next issue of read.me.

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Meets each month on the first Monday at the home of one of the Board members

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The Personal Computer Club of Toronto

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 5 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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The Personal Computer Club of Toronto is also a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG)



Member of
The Association of
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Blast from the past! Compliments of Otto Lang, PCCT

10
years
ago

April 1993 Newsletter

Reviewing the club's newsletter can sometimes bring the passage of time into such a focus that it becomes scary. Ten years ago Desert Storm had already come and gone, and yet the Read.Me of the day was mainly occupied with two technological advances: MS-DOS 6.0 by Microsoft and OS/2 by IBM.

Being the April edition, the front-page article was a spoof borrowed from the *Ryersonian* titled *Ryerson Computer Staff Nominated for Nobel Peace Prize*, resurrected by alumnus Jim Roe. It dealt with a technology dream: The trinary computer I almost said "as old as the perpetuum mobile". (I had heard about that back in my IBM 1401 days in 1964 or thereabouts. It was the Russians then that had "invented" it. The story then was that Russia had two renowned inventors, Pipiv and Popov. Pipiv had invented steam, electricity, the submarine, the helicopter etc. and finally the trinary computer. "And what did Popov invent?" "Well he invented Pipiv!" or so the story went.)

But back to the Blast from the Past. Ten years ago after the Patriot missile failure, according to W5 a major concern for computer owners were still two prime issues, apart from price. They were capacity and speed. That's why Mr. William R. Gates III in his address via satellite link to User Groups at the Harbour Castle Westin on March 30th, 1993 boosted DBLSPACE, Microsoft's answer to STACKER. At the exit, each visitor got a complimentary copy of DOS 6.0. It was billed as the largest PCCT meeting in its history.

Letters to the editor reported on Trevelyan Beard's trip to India as CESO representative, and kudos to the editor, Joan Latchford by another editor, Al Black, working for many years on the IBM retirees newsletter. Hugh Kunkel made an ardent appeal for the need of a 'business plan' and for transparency in club administration, something more than half a dozen Boards have failed to come up with since. Well worth reading again!

Bernard Nottage, chairing the Software Library, did his usually superb review of software offerings, and Joan Latchford reported from the April Executive meeting that the capital expenditure for the new LCD panel for projection did not negatively impact the financial situation compared to a year ago. The BBS had compatibility problems and was looking for help (I recall that it was the time when we were trying to change to the PC BOARD software. We used that until the World Wide Web put an end to the BBS era.) The report by Jim McIntosh on the March General meeting indicated a busy program.

April 1988 Newsletter

15
years
ago

It was this month 15 years ago that then president Henry Crane could boast in the President's Bulletin. Talking about Canadian Content in the club's software library, said he: "There is very little that originates from our club. This is rather peculiar, since we have one of the largest clubs on the continent". Articles by club members that month featured **DJ:Disk Jockey**, Andrew Hagan, a collection of DOS utilities by Revolution Software Inc. (They are still in business as MICROSOFT Certified Partners www.revolutionsoftware.com and IBM PartnerWorld for Developers, among other partnerships.)

Andy also wrote about **LOTUS 1-2-3 Printer Spooler Conflict**, and Tom Koschate provided a book review about **Expert Advisor: WordPerfect**. Once again there was a full-page Ad (\$200) by the very supportive CRS, Canada's largest BBS selling software disks at \$9-\$11 each.

Then this reviewer got a shock: On page 8 I read the ominous heading - **Starting at Ground Zero**. The author, of all people, had to be a Walter D'Ull, NYPC. (As sometimes happens, our editor Joanne Gumaer had reprinted an article from another computer club. Since it was the April edition I thought perhaps that the *nom de plume* was un 'poisson', a French April Fool's joke, but it wasn't! It was clearly a space filler article and truly dull). After 9/11 what appears to be a New Yorker expression of long standing gave me quite a startle!

Tom Koschate, mostly a C programmer, wanted to make a liar out of Henry, by writing and distributing to CRS and the PCCT club's BBS, a utility that would display the structure of dBASE files from DOS. The story expanded to an example of "open source" code, as the utility found further improvements by C programmers extending Tom's original idea. After the usual progress reports for SIGs and the Software Library, the April edition closed by reporting that COMPAQ were presenting their new DeskPro 386/20 and the Portable 386 at the March 15, 1988 monthly meeting. OL

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Contact the editor for details: editor@pcct.org

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General Meetings Manager, Facilities & Venues - Arranges room for general meetings, setup is correct, adequate facilities. Required hardware is setup and functional.

Programs Manager - Arranges guest speakers for General Meetings.

SIG Coordinator - Liaison between all SIG Leaders to ensure the facilities are adequate, the room is setup correctly. Required hardware is setup and functional. Maintains SIG Leader's Handbook up-to-date.

Special Events Manager - Coordinates volunteers for computer shows and arranges other special events (ie: annual picnic).

Interested but not yet a PCCT member? Take advantage of the "FREE" admission coupon on the back page and join us at the next General meeting. Experience what PCCT can offer you!

For further details please contact the PCCT president, Ron Caine - president@pcct.org.



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PCCT gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the **Ontario Trillium Foundation**, an agency of the Ministry of Culture. The Foundation receives annually \$100 million in government funding generated through Ontario's charity casino initiative.

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for us?**

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Contact the editor at: editor@pcct.org

...Continued from pg 1 (Networking at Home)

Most newer computers come with a network adaptor. Check the back of the computer to see if there's spot like a phone-like jack connection but a bit larger. If there isn't one you have to purchase a network adaptor.

In order to set up each computer, you need to think of a name for the workgroup and a unique name for each computer to distinguish them.

The workgroup will be the name of the group of computers being joined together. Each computer has to have a unique name. (apartment analogy)

Decide on Internet type connection, ADSL is preferable, cable is comparable as well. Shop around for best deal.

Terms to be aware of:

1. 10/100 is the speed of the router/network card/ cable.
2. Network Card/Network Adapter/NIC/EthernetAdapter all refer to the same hardware, this is the card that connects your computers to one another and to the internet.
3. DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) responsible for setting up the internet connection information on your computer.
4. Firewall software with a set of rules to stop internet intruders (hackers) from harming your system.

Following these instructions and the easy to read instructions from the ADSL/Cable router you will be able to have a home network in a couple of hours and for low cost. So get ready to share files, play games together and surf the internet without fighting over the computer.

Digital Imaging SIG report

We had the fifth year anniversary of the Digital Imaging SIG last month. In the these five years the changes that we have seen have been nothing short of amazing. Digital cameras are now outselling film cameras. The entry level digital camera will soon be a 3 megapixel model. They will be selling for starting at around \$300. Digital cameras of this resolution were not available for any price five years ago.

I have encouraged the group to bring their own work each month for feedback. About 1/3 of the group, show us their digital photo projects on a regular basis. Those who participate have been able to enjoy some bonus give away items.

In the second half of the meeting we took a look at some digital video items. We looked at the much improved Microsoft Movie Maker 2 software available to Windows XP users at no additional cost. The program now is actually usable for your video editing and enhancing needs. We put together a video involving editing, titles and special effects in only minutes.

Ron Caine, SIG Leader

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TECHNOLOGY TIMELINE

In the cavemen days, stones or sticks were used to count. Egyptians painted pictures on walls to mark events to be remembered. As mankind advanced, information was recorded in books and stored in files for future use. The first computer I used was a Commodore 64. I thought it was fast. Then came the x86 line of processors which led to the now popular Intel Pentium processors. So what's next? Here are a few predictions of the possible inventions in Processing, Memory and Storage.

| | |
|---|------|
| Solid State replacement for CD | 2005 |
| 10GHz chips | 2006 |
| Optical neuro-computers | 2007 |
| Quantum computer | 2007 |
| Supercomputer as fast as human brain | 2010 |
| DNA storage device | 2010 |
| AI technology imitating thinking process of the brain | 2018 |
| National Library of Congress available in sugar cube sized device | 2030 |

Source: BTexact Technologies, British Telecommunications plc., 2002

Internet Guide

By Sheila Sisson, PCCT Editor

Looking for information? Don't know where to start? The days when we used an actual telephone book or directory are almost gone. You can find almost anything online. There are many Canadian search engines available on the web. Cyberatlas.com (U.S.) provides a list of more than 160 Web sites organized into 16 channels to assist individuals in the searching process (www.internet.com/...). These are just a drop in the bucket but you many find the following very useful at some point. Happy hunting!

Canadian Search Engines

internet.com (from cyberatlas.com)

<http://www.searchcanada.ca>

<http://www.yahoo.ca>

<http://www.earthweb.com>

<http://internet.com/downloads>

<http://www.google.ca>

<http://www.altavista.ca>

<http://internet.com/marketing>

<http://internet.com/international>

<http://www.canlinks.net>

<http://www.toutmontreal.com>

<http://internet.com/webdev>

<http://internet.com/news>

<http://www.fouillez-tout.com>

<http://www.catagories.ca>

<http://intenet.com/win>

<http://internet.com/stocks>

<http://www1.sympatico.ca>

<http://www.canadopedia.com>

<http://internet.com/linux>

<http://internet.com/sb>

<http://www.clickheretofind.com>

<http://www.worldwebindex.com>

<http://internet.com/resources>

<http://internet.com/wireless>

<http://www.toile.qc.ca>

<http://www.cybermoose.ca>

<http://internet.com/xsp>

<http://internet.com/careers>

<http://www.google.ca>

<http://www.searchqueen.com>

<http://internet.com/lists>

<http://internet.com/it>

Microsoft Online Assistance Support Shines

By Otto Lang, PCCT

Have you ever needed help from your software vendor for the product you bought from them? I have heard from club members who tried to get problems solved by phoning a vendor's tech support team and were hanging on the line at long distance rates until their ears fell off. Instead of getting satisfaction, the caller's frustration level added to the inability to fully explain the problem at hand and use the appropriate terminology. Apart from the fact that such one-on-one consultation is time-consuming, hence neither economical for the provider nor inexpensive to the user, it rarely leaves a feeling of pleasant human contact and accomplishment.

Recently I had a multi-layered problem with my Microsoft Office 2000 Premium product. By 'multi-layered' I mean a problem, which like an onion turns out, eventually, to be a problem hiding another problem, which hides ... etc., well you know what I mean!

After describing my Excel problem, a run time error in a macro, at a Special Interest Group meeting to my fellow members, I used several analytical attempts to flush out the culprit by a process of elimination. The day arrived when I had tried everything I knew, and was facing the 'last' resort: FDISK and reinstall all applications and tools.

Then I took a step back and thought "I'll try one more approach Start|Help..." and I am so glad I did! It led me through one of the most enjoyable experiences with a competent Microsoft service, which is free to boot (forgive the pun): MS Online Assistance Support!

To come right to the bottom line: After a secure internet exchange, in five working days, of alternating questions, replies, suggestions and reporting results, between myself and two Microsoft Certified Professionals, MCPs, I was able to report that my problem was fixed and that the case could be closed. Mind you, I could reopen it anytime, as they wrote, "We want our customers to be completely satisfied with our support".

The only condition to avail oneself of this service is that you have a Hotmail, or an MSN account, or the latest- a .Net passport. In other words, another account ID & password. This is necessary to protect your privacy (and, no doubt, to offer Microsoft another opportunity to allow third party vendors and 'partners' of their choosing to provide you with additional services and offerings according to your profile *if you so indicate*).

So what was so difficult to resolve? I had purchased Microsoft Office 2000 Premium; a 4-CD set, at the end of 2000, but only installed a customized subset of the suite instead of the whole "enchilada". I figured I wanted the usual home user's applications like Access, Excel, Word, FrontPage, and PowerPoint. Forget about MS Publisher, Small Business Tools, Shared Clip Art, MS Photo Draw, and MS Office Server Extensions who needs them.

Of course we all know that we use about 5% of all our home applications' features, and I had developed some pretty neat formulas in some financial spreadsheets that served me well, but as a retired programmer / analyst I had an occasional urge to "play in an old sandbox again", meaning some high level command scripting. So when I discovered an entry-level tutorial for Excel macro writing by Helen Bradley in The Computer Paper, March 2003 I was interested. I followed the instructions meticulously, only to wind up with a 'Run Time Error "424" object required' message. Naturally, I figured I had made a typo in the VBA code, and checked it thoroughly three times. (Beginners listen! Never trust yourself to check your own data entry! That's why they had 'keypunch operators' and 'key verifiers' in the olden days.)

- I thought, "Surely there must be a typo in the newspaper article. It happens!" and I sent off an email to the author to ascertain that possibility. No answer. Then I tried VBA Help in Excel. "Help files are missing. Install from Disk 1"

- OK, well, since I had chosen custom installation way back when, maybe I should reinstall Excel from the original CD. It turned out that Disk 1 could not be opened, and when I forced it <right click, OPEN>, I got another error message "This patch package could not be opened. Contact the application vendor to verify that this is a valid Windows Installer patch package". Excuse Me?

- It turned out that some of my most recent application downloads (probably RealOne), or Windows Updates, insisted on having Windows Installer 2.0 as a prerequisite. So I had complied and installed Windows Installer 2.0, (on top of MSI 1.1, mind you).

- Microsoft Knowledge Base article 295823 confirmed that "This error message can occur if the Windows registry contains Windows Installer information from an earlier Office installation". Darn Tootin', you're right!

- The article explained that "To resolve this issue run the Microsoft Windows Installer CleanUp utility to remove the Windows Installer registry settings associated with your Microsoft Office installation".

- In unmistakable Microsoft fashion the article described in detail how to do that, followed by the **Important** note: "The msicu.exe ... (Windows Installer CleanUp) utility ... (is) **not supported** on systems where Microsoft Installer 2.0 or later is installed..." but, but isn't this a catch-22 situation?

- Now I had a different idea: Why not try to install from that Office 2000 Disk 1 the Excel application only, on my wife's Windows 98SE laptop, and repeat the tutorial about the macro writing there. (I carefully read the EULA, the end user agreement (don't we all?) and found it's alright to have a copy on your laptop if Office is installed on your desktop. Obviously, my wife who only plays Hearts and Solitaire, would not need it and after this test, I would uninstall it again).

- I implemented the test, et voilà, not only did the Office application load, but the macro ran just fine, thank you! That proved two points: 1) there was no typo in the computer paper article, and 2) there was nothing wrong with the Disk 1 nor with whatever Office SetUp needed on a Win 98SE machine. So I went back to ponder about what could be the problem on my Windows Millennium, Windows Installer 2.0 desktop machine.

- That's when I clicked Start|Help|Assisted Support|Microsoft Corporation|Ask a Microsoft Support Professional (Requires Passport). So I got myself a .Net id&pwd and started to explain my predicament as best I could, and then submitted it to whomever. It was Saturday, March 15, 1:40A.M.

- By 9:40 PM that same Saturday (!) I had a reply. (The way this works is that you get an e-mail in your Inbox, which contains a link to the Microsoft Online Assisted Support web site pointing to a case number. This is an https://... site, which presents a login page first. Then you get to the "Incident(s)" page where you can read the most recent reply only, or the entire correspondence trail. Then you have an opportunity to print any instructions or steps, do them, and then return to submit a reply. All this is done, not in your e-mail client, but entirely within the MOAS portal. After that you simply "Sign out" and wait for the next day's reply from Microsoft.

- The first reply to my request for help started

Hi Otto,

Thank you for using Microsoft Online Support. My name is Pierre and I will be working with you to resolve this issue. In you message you've indicated that you cannot setup Office 2000 after updating to installer 2.0. If I misstated the issue please let me know.

Continue on pg 6...

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SMART TECHNOLOGY TOYS

By Sheila Sisson, PCCT Editor

Technology has evolved over the years. What was once thought impossible is now possible. As inventions get smarter, we covet them in the hopes that life will be easier or just more fun. We call them our "Toys". There have been a number of new "Smart Technology Toys" to hit the market in the last year and many more to come. Curious? I thought you would be. I have compiled a limited list of these new toys and where you can find out more about them. *Ah...do you dream of the days when the passing time meant a walk in the park? Yeah Right!*

Canon EOS-10D Digital SLR Camera - <http://www.henrys.com>. Got some loose change in your pocket and serious about photography? This camera could yours. Some wonderful features are: 6.3-Megapixel CMOS Sensor * High Speed 7-Point AF * Colour Matrix (standard sRGB & the expanded Adobe RGB colour space) * Auto and manual ISO speed * JPEG or Simultaneous RAW + JPEG * Lens mount - Canon EF mount * USB Interface * 1.8" LCD Colour Monitor * 12 LCD monitor languages. Sounds perfect for you? More details at Henrys.

NextStar 114GT Computerized Telescope - <http://www.celestron.com>. This telescope has a handheld controller programmed to find almost anything in the sky. * 114 mm (4.5") Diameter Newtonian Reflector * Focal length of 1000 mm * Focal Ratio of f/9 * Compact design for mobility (15.5 lbs) * Star Pointer Finderscope * 25mm SMA (100x) Eyepiece * Pre-assembled aluminum Tripod * Fully Computerized Hand Controller. Wow! With this little dandy, "star gazing" can be a breeze.

Lg's Internet Fridge - <http://www.lg.ca>. Can't the boys away from the TV, the computer? Want them to cook dinner? Equip your kitchen with this 26 cubic foot Titanium Internet Fridge with a sleek stainless steel look. * Electronic temperature control with 6 sensors * Digital LCD display * Automatic Ice Maker, Dispenser & Water Filler * TV & DVD & Internet Connection Jacks * Touch Sensitive Screen * Ability to store recipes and keep track of food expiration dates * Message centre (keyboard, electronic pen, audio & video) * Built in Digital camera to take pictures, email direct from the fridge. With features like this, will you even get them out of the kitchen?

HARMONY All-In-One Remote Control SST-768 - <http://www.harmonyremote.com>. * Satellite Control Integration allows your TV listings to be uploaded and viewed on the small LCD screen * Configure for use with the USB plug-and-play port for easy connection to the internet through your Windows PC * Instead of assigned buttons for each function, select an activity on the LCD screen and this smart remote will send all the necessary commands to our entertainment device to make it happen (Watch TV, Play a DVD, etc.). This wonderful piece of smart technology will assign the other remote controls piled on your coffee table to the storage drawer.

Sharp LCD Ultra Thin Video Monitor LC-28HM2 LCD - <http://www.sharp.ca>. Now here is a monitor we would all love to have. Not only for your computer but for television broadcasting, production, videoconferencing, etc. * 28" HD TFT Display - Video & Wide XGA * Input Switcher w/Two S-Video/Composite Inputs/1 RGB (HD 15) * Two Component Inputs/S-Vid/ Composite In/Out * Accepts All High Def Formats: 480i/480p/1080i/720p * Multisystem: NTSC/PAL/SECAM/ * Much More

Latte Mini PC - <http://www.thinkgeek.com>. Now this is smart. All the power and features of your desktop computer and portable. This is not a laptop but a mini version of the PC. * Intel Pentium 4-2.4Ghz processor with 533MHz FSB * 512MB of DDR333 RAM * 40 Gig Hard Drive * 24x/10x/24x/8x DVD/CD-RW combo drive * SiS 651/962 chipsets * 4 USB 2.0 ports * 3 fire wire ports * VGA port * 1 each of 3.5mm Micro-phone in port, 3.5mm line out port, S-Video, AV video port, printer port, built-in 56K faxmodem Rj11 port, SPDIF port * 10/100 LAN connector * Weighs 4lbs and is only 8" x 6" x 2.5"

PCCT Remembers GLEN CHETWYND

Longtime PCCT member, Glen Chetwynd passed away on Monday, March 31, 2003 at the age of 69 years. Dear father of Kim, the late Karen, Kathy and Kevin. Beloved Poppy to Stephen, Kevin, Justin, Robyn and Matthew. Fondly remembered by his family and friends. We will miss you Glen.

FACT: In April 2001, 40% of the Canadian population used the internet between the hours of 7 pm - 12 am vs. only 21% between 10 am - 3 pm.

FACT: 52.1% of the internet audience population are female vs. Males at 47.9% and have on average 21 internet sessions/month while males have 23.

Source: *The Canadian Marketing Pocket Book 2003*, available at www.ica-ad.com

...Continued from pg 6 (Microsoft Online Assistance Support Shines)

Very professional, indeed! Restating the understanding of the problem - I liked that. After diligently explaining the steps to verify that I had, indeed, Installer 2.0, as I had claimed, Pierre suggested a System Restore first. I tried that without success, as I had installed Installer 2.0 before my oldest iteration of System Restore point. There's a lesson in there somewhere, I'm sure. Pierre then continued to explain exactly how I could reply to his reply, and how to review only the latest or all of the accumulating correspondence. He then continued:

If I don't hear back from you within 3 business days, that is, by March 19, I will assume that the issue has been resolved to your satisfaction or you don't wish to proceed at this time and I will close the case accordingly. Please be assured that you can reopen this case at any time if you need additional assistance with this case.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Well, I was impressed. Not only had Pierre set out precisely the procedure to be followed and what was expected of me, but also he closed with a warm, friendly, human touch, and he had made some reasonable first suggestion how to approach the issue. One footnote on this MOAS portal: It doesn't work well with my browser Netscape 4.77. So, when I get notified by e-mail (Netscape) that there is a reply waiting at the MOAS link, I can't just click on the URL, but must copy & paste it into my IE 6.0 browser, to login. Oh, Microsoft, what a Web we weave! ...

- As it turned out, after the second exchange, where I reported to Pierre that his latest suggestion, to uninstall Office 2000 and then run an erase2k.exe against my registry, failed on the original "patch package" complaint. I documented my results with the invaluable method of saving window page snapshots into a Word document as a graphic. This could then be attached to the reply and helps to show what happened. By now it was Tuesday, March 18.

The next day I found an email in my Inbox, indicating that a new reply had been added to the case. I logged in and read: Hi Otto, Thank you for your reply.

Pierre is out of the office..., my name is Monique and I will be working with you in his absence... I had asked Pierre to abandon the idea of uninstalling Office, and help me doctor the registry instead. Accordingly Monique described in detail how to work with regedit, after the usual warnings about the severe consequences in screwing around in the registry. After exporting a parameter value and deleting the 32-character {GUID} for Office 2000 Premium, the Disk 1 Setup worked again and I reinstalled Office Excel from the CD.

Eagerly I tried to run my macro, only to stumble, once again, over the 'runtime error 424'. I updated the case and reported to Monique that I was pleased to report that I had successfully reinstalled my Office 2000, but that I had eventually wound up with my original trouble, the VBA runtime error. Monique let me know that she was glad to hear that I got Office reinstalled. She also let me know that, although the VBA runtime situation was a bit outside of her area, she had done some searching in the knowledge base and found an article on '424' that I had not found.

So I followed her link and, true enough, there was an item about Q199211 XL2000: Runtime Error 424 Clicking Cancel on InputBox. Well, it wasn't exactly what I was looking for, since my macro used UserFrom, not InputBox but then I remembered to click on Help in VBA editor, and the Help files were still missing! I returned to my Disk 1 and installed the help files. That made my debug work.

So I had overcome the first layer, the Installer 2.0 item, with the help of Monique. I had identified the second layer, the runtime error, with the help of Monique, now I had to face the third layer myself: My code. Once again I scrutinized character by character and line by line of what I had typed from the tutorial AND FOUND A TYPO in my first "IF" statement. I couldn't believe it! Why had the macro worked on the laptop? Answer: I had not copied, but entirely retyped the macro without the mistake from my desktop, which I had overlooked three times. Hallelujah!

Oh, and if you are pleased with the Online Assisted Support, you can let them know at welisten@microsoft.com. OL

MODERN ENGLISH USAGE an Oxford paperback reference book

Review by Trevelyan Beard, P.Eng., PCCT

Out of the ten or so reference books staring me in the face on the shelf above the monitor there is one that I count my favourite, it's the Modern English Usage put out by Oxford University Press. Being a well-known un-published author (my best oxymoron at the moment), the correct use of this language of ours is vital to my health.

It's not a book you dig into when you have a problem, it's a book you start reading out of curiosity on page one and only stop when you realize that this is a reference volume, not a novel. That's all very well but in order to appreciate the scope of this book you almost have to skim through it page by page.

If you took this on the subway and opened it at Eglinton, you'd be reasonably well educated by the time Front Street came up. The book is all words (no pictures) and the words are only those about which some explanation is worthwhile. Take 'albeit' for example. This is one of those words that I constantly try to slip into my conversation. It adds tone. But it behooves us to look up the meaning to avoid sounding like a blithering idiot if we've got it wrong! There are four pages on American English. Did you know that our sidewalk is their pavement and our pavement is their roadway! And our first floor is their ground floor and their first floor is our second floor. See how important this book is? That's just to do with meaning but wait until you get into spelling and grammar! Oh boy! What a lot of fun. The bit on Yiddish words in English helped clear up a few mysteries like chutzpah, mazuma, nosh, schlep and schmuck.

Remember when Nancy Mitford wrote Noblesse Oblige giving us the lowdown on U and non-U behaviour? For example, you and I might say 'enough' but the genteel would say 'ample or sufficient'. It's all in here! I've been puzzling half my life about that phrase 'beg the

question', well, they tackle it in this book almost reasonably well (I think).

Don't you feel good when you know its dwarf and dwarfs but elf and elves? And did you know that gild the lily is a misquote from Shakespeare, he actually said paint the lily? Do you know the difference between kneel, knelt and kneeled? I do ('cos I've got the book!). That quagmire of ize and ise which plagues me constantly is cleared up for all time. And I thought I knew to perfection this business of splitting the infinitive until I opened page 547.

It was Pope who said 'A little learning is a dangerous thing' (or did he?). Regardless, or should I say irregardless, you'll hold your audience spellbound when you've polished up your language skills with this book. But if you do your homework in a sloppy manner and find yourself saying devil's advocate, fixation, leading question, parameter and protagonist in the wrong context, you'll become a leading comedian instead of a scholar!

By the way, I'm now an expert on Roman Numerals, the problem being that no one asks me about them. Now don't think I'm being simplistic when I talk about this paradigm (oh dear, that's not right). The book fails miserably in answering why the word cooperate is often printed with two little dots on top of the third letter. By the time you read this, I'll have found the answer in their encyclopedia, or lost interest so please don't write in about it.

Yes folks, this is one book up with which you cannot do without. At \$14.95 US it's not cheap but always remember that knowledge is power!!

Online PC Support Solutions

By Trevelyan Beard, P. Eng, PCCT

Getting help with your computer problem, no need to wring your hands and weep!

At the last meeting of the Toronto Computer Club (the new Saturday morning breakfast club held in The Agincourt Mall), I brought up the name of Protonic.com. This is a help group and because of the interest shown, it's worth enlarging upon and giving more information to you.

There are several help groups on the Internet and Protonic rates highly. They have several hundred volunteers spread around the country who specialize in the various aspects of computing. You pick out the category, ask a question, and then enlarge on the problem. The person who takes your

problem then communicates with you via E-mail and stays with you and your problem until you are happy. He or she does not dash off after the first message or so. The last time I used it, the woman assigned to my query went to an enormous effort to solve it and solve it she did.

Here is the address and details of the Categories; Protonic.com

Ask a Question: Choose a Category ---

- | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| * Web and E-mail | * Office Software | * Graphics |
| * Databases | * Networking | * Storage |
| * Boot | * Problems | * Hardware |
| * Web Authoring | * Programming | * Unix/Linux |
| * Mac | * WINDOWS | * XP |
| * 2000 | * ME | * 98 |
| * 95 | * NT | * OTHER |



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| Networking Purchase | Virus removal and protection |
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| Sharing high speed internet | User training |

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PCCT WEBSITE

[Http://www.pcct.org](http://www.pcct.org)

Can You Market?

We are looking for help with marketing and promoting the club. Things like:

- o help with radio service announcements
- o help with corporate sponsorship
- o newsletter distribution
- o television, print and web coverage

If you have experience, knowledge, an interest and a little bit of time please contact your Board of Directors. <http://www.pcct.org/contact/>

PCCT Membership Application form



Send to

<http://www.pcct.org>
The Personal Computer Club of Toronto
Membership Director
4936 Yonge Street, Suite 883
Toronto, Ontario M2N 6S3
 Annual Membership Fees:
 \$65.00 (for individuals or couples, incl. children to 18, at same address)

First name: _____ Last name: _____
 Street : _____ Apt #: _____
 City : _____ Prov.: _____
 Postal Code : _____ Res. Ph: (____) _____
 Bus. Ph: (____) _____ E-mail : _____
 Profession : _____ Company: _____
 Signature : _____ Date: _____

I WANT MORE INFO: By Phone By Mail
 Cheque enclosed: Amount : \$ _____ OR VISA
 VISA number: _____ Expiry Date: ___/___

PCCT

Membership Benefits

With your membership you get:

Free entrance to club meetings including the General Meeting and the Special Interest Groups (SIG's) that meet throughout the month.

Eligible to enter the monthly General Meeting doorprize draws

Demonstrations and presentations by leading software, hardware and computer columnists at the general meetings.

Special deals on Internet service, software and hardware;

Expert help from knowledgeable computer users.

Other members of your immediate family, including children to 18, at the same address are covered by your membership.

FREE ADMISSION . . The night is on us !

ADMIT ONE

Save \$ 5.00

with this coupon at all PCCT events, 1 time only

Where: The Beth Torah Synagogue
47 Glenbrook Avenue
Back Entrance, Free Parking

When: GM - 3rd Tuesday of the month
(or SIG's - see calendar below)

FREE
Guest
Pass!

One person, one month

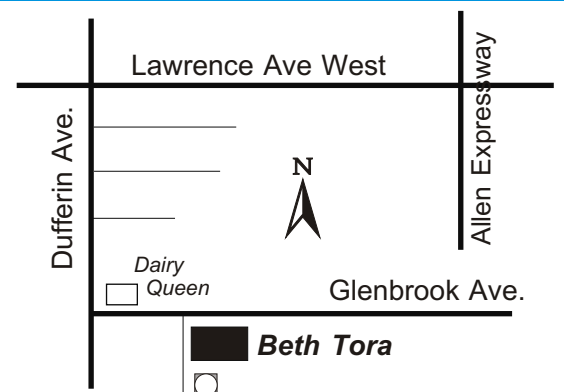
PCCT EVENT CALENDAR

| | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| A P R I L | | 1 Windows BTS 7:00 pm | 2 Investment BTS 7:00 pm | 3 | 4 |
| | 7 PCCT Board | 8 Daytime St.A 1:00 pm | 9 Digital Imaging BTS 7:30 pm | 10 | 11 Computer Fest Apr 11-13 |
| | 14 | 15 G.M. BTS 7:00 pm | 16 | 17 MS Office BTS 7:00 pm | 18 Good Friday |
| | 21 | 22 Daytime St.A 1:00 pm | 23 | 24 Internet BTS 7:00 pm | 25 |
| | 28 | 29 | 30 | 1 | 2 |
| M A Y | 5 PCCT Board | 6 Windows BTS 7:00 pm | 7 Investment BTS 7:00 pm | 8 | 9 |
| | 12 | 13 Daytime St.A 1:00 pm | 14 Digital Imaging BTS 7:30 pm | 15 MS Office BTS 7:00 pm | 16 |
| | 19 | 20 G.M. BTS 7:00 pm | 21 | 22 Internet BTS 7:00 pm | 23 |
| | 26 | 27 Daytime St.A 1:00 pm | 28 | 29 | 30 |

SETI@home
<http://www.setiathome.ssl.berkeley.edu/>
 SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) - the free screen saver download that listens for artificial radio signals coming from other stars has recently been in the news again. This three-year project has produced results that lead scientists to believe they have 150 distinct signals from space that are believed to be the source of possible transmissions from intelligent civilizations. Steps were taken to eliminate random noise. Five billion signals were analyzed by four million computers. Was one of them yours? Still skeptical? The question still remains - will we find extraterrestrial life in space? If your a Trekie like me, I believe!



Beth Tora Synagogue
 47 Glenbrook Avenue



Church of St. Andrew
 2333 Victoria Park Ave.

