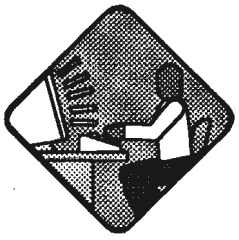
SPAUG PrintScreen



Post Office Box 3738, Stanford, CA 94309-3738
Vol. XVII No. 2 - Newsletter of the Stanford / Palo Alto Users Group for PC
A Non-Profit / Educational Organization - http://www.mediacity.com/~spaug

Jim Dinkey - Notes From the Prez

6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30 6:30
There! I said it enough! This next meeting will functionally start at 6:30 because we are providing a forum for Power Quest to have a technical tutorial Session on some of the structure of the PCs such that the ensuing product discussion will make sense. Their products are essential when upgrading or modifying the structure of your computer.

Our calendar looks like this:

February 24 6:30 Elks Lodge Special Power Quest Technical Session
7:30 Continuation: Power Quest – Survey of Products Drive Copy (Move to new disk), Partition Magic (modify the partitions length and attributes), Drive Image (Drive Copy + key backup structures), Lost & Found (restore lost data on PC). Bring your check book!

In addition, we have the following two tours going:
March 16, NUMMI

Currently only one slot is left, and we will begin a wait list in case some become vacant. I will be issuing a list of who, along with phone numbers, so that car pools can be set up. Note that they do NOT have any food facilities.

April 22 – LLNL Laurence Livermore National Laboratories. This is a professional-level tour of the fusion and laser research facilities; however, I have asked that they specifically include some of the computer facilities owing to the nature of the visitors. Last time some people were late and it cost us some of the tour when the schedule was blown. Plan to spend some additional time in the visitor's center, which has a series of

Meeting Agenda.

6:30 Technical session.

7:30 Announcements.

7:35 Guests introduction.

7:40 LECTURER

8:55 Random Access (Crosstalk)

9:05 Break

9:15 SIG Reports
Win98 - Jim Dinkey
Internet – Jim Dinkey

9:20 RAFFLE

9:30 ADJOURN

General Meeting @ Elks Lodge - Wed. Feb. 24th @ 6:30 PM
4249 El Camino Real - Palo Alto (directions on page 4)

Field Trips

NUMMI field trip.

We have booked a tour of the NUMMI (New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc.) factory in Fremont. It is at **11:30 am on March 16th,** and although almost all the 23 places are taken, there may be cancellations: contact Jim Dinkey if you are interested. Details will be provided at the next general meeting and on our web page.
The reason for our interest is the computerization of the manufacturing process, although it should be well worth the trip to see all the other aspects of making cars.

LLNL Field Trip.

We have a field trip to Lawrence Livermore National Lab, one of the sites of the most advanced computers anywhere, now using their former expertise on nuclear weapons for a range of peaceful hi-tech purposes.

It is arranged for **1:30pm 22 April**, and for security reasons, you have to sign up at least two weeks in advance (three for non-citizens): contact Jim Dinkey either at a general meeting or phone/email him.

One of the highlights is the Nova Laser Facility, which uses the world's largest laser for research and development in inertial confinement fusion. Other activities are listed below, with Web sites:

Biology & Biotechnology.
http://www-bio.llnl.gov/bbrp.homepage.html

Computation.
http://www.llnl.gov/comp/

Energy.
http://energy.llnl.gov/

Laser Programs.
http://lasers.llnl.gov/lasers

Physics and Space technology.
http://www-phys.llnl.gov/

(Continued from page 1)

fascinating exhibits on atomic structure and how it affects every-day life. We will then get onto a bus that will take us from location to location. There is no real limit on signups except the capacity of 53 on the bus – and I have 25 signed up already. We will form car pools again when the time comes. Again, no food facilities at the site.
That will keep you all busy.

Our Board of Directors has been busy too. We have the publicity mill going as best as the publications seem able to handle it with Herb Hamerslough. John Sleeman has shown how he puts together the newsletter for those who have the need for a similar effort, and is experimenting with formats for the newsletter. Walt Varner tells us that there is enough money for our needs. Kendric Smith and Stan Hutchings are trading months being webmaster as they keep our site current. Visit it at http://www.mediacity.com/~spaug.
Bev Altman has been digging away at speakers and assuring membership goes just right, and hosting the BOD meetings. Ron Nicholas has been getting the minutes out which reminds us of all the transgressions and efforts we can't weasel out of. Arlan Kertz (Legal), and Robert Mitchell (DOM) both have some time off as there are no events to cause any current efforts.

Please let these people know that you appreciate their efforts to bring you the activities you are enjoying as a member of SPAUG.

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General Meeting @
Elks Lodge
4249 El Camino Real
Palo Alto
February 24th, 6:30 PM

Power Quest will present a technical session at 6:30 followed by a survey of their products at the regular meeting at 7:30pm.

Future Meetings

February 24	6:30 Technical session: Power Quest 7:30 Power Quest survey of products
March 31	Adobe Systems
April 28	Dennis Dillon – embedded computers in Boeing Aircraft.
May 26	Steven Wilder – Microsoft Windows 2000 - rescheduled

A note from our intended speaker for January.

I'd like to personally apologize for missing the meeting of the Stanford Palo Alto User Group on Wednesday, January 27 due to a calendar oversight. Like all Microsoft employees, I take my commitments very seriously and do my best to meet them, so I truly regret overlooking the meeting. I look forward to another opportunity to address SPAUG. Windows 2000 is developing quickly and there are a lot of neat things to show and talk about. In the meantime, with my regards, I'd like to make a few giveaway software items available for your next meetings.

Steven Wilder
Windows NT Technology Specialist

Technical Session by Power Quest

February 24

User Group Relations has the following two training seminars that they present to user groups. While these topics are quite technical in nature, we will present them in an easy to understand manner without getting too involved with lots of technical details. We will also make these materials available to user groups to present to their members. They include a set of training slides and a script.

Hard Drive Training Seminar .

What makes your hard drive work? This section looks at the physical makeup of your hard drive and how it works on your computer. We'll look at the recording surface of hard drives, how read/write heads store and retrieve data from your hard drive, and where your data is recorded on the disk surfaces. We'll also look briefly at the physical addressing techniques, so that you will understand what a cylinder, head, sector address means. Finally, We'll look at the timing elements (seek time, rotational delay time, and data transfer time) of your hard drive.

What are partitions on your hard drive? Once we learn how information is physically stored on your hard drive, we can start to learn how this information is logically organized. The highest level of organization is partitions. We will learn how partitions are created, the different types of partitions that you can have, and the limitations that each of these types have. We'll also look at how these partitions are linked together by the Master Boot Record and the Partition Tables.

How are files in a partition organized? The next step in understanding your hard drives is to identify the various operating systems and the files systems that they build in each partition. We will look at the commonest file system (the FAT) and try to understand how it organizes your files. After this section, you'll have a better understanding of your directories or folders, how files are stored, and what fragmentation means. We'll also look at some of the limitations (the cylinder problem, for example) of the FAT file system how FAT32 can solve those problems.

How are partitions assigned drive letters? Finally, we will look at how the operating systems assign

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Questions and Answers

Name	*Area Of Expertise*	*Phone*	*Hours*	*e-mail*
Jim Bailey	DOS , Quick Books 6, Quicken 98	650 494 0631	9AM - 9PM	Jimby@pobox.com
Jim Dinkey	Win NT/Win 98	650 493 9307	9AM - 9PM	dinkey@ix.netcom.com
Bill Goldmacker	DOS	650 691 0911	6PM - 9PM	gold@svpal.org
Bill McElhinney	Quicken, Dazzle, Plug In, Word Express, Daytimer, Sidekick	650 325 9808	9AM - 9PM	Mcels@aol.com
Robert Mitchell	AOL, ZIP managers, Win 95/98, MS Picture it 99	650 941 5792	4:30PM-9PM	Rfmitch702@aol.com
John Sleeman	Fortran, UNIX	650 326 5603	9AM - 8PM	sleemanj@earthlink.net
Walt Varner	All PC areas: Software and Hardware incl. Win 95	408 739 3488	9AM - 9PM	walt2222@aol.com

Arlan Kertz - "SPAUG 501(c)"

This is to remind you that SPAUG is a non profit organiztion registered with the IRS under Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3). In this regard, your dues (except for $12 for the newsletter) are deductible. Also, any additional cash and or other non-business assets donated to SPAUG are also deductible.

Elks Lodge, 4249 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306-4496

The Elks Lodge is at 4249 El Camino Real on the North side of the street, between Charleston and San Antonio Road, but very close to Charleston. It is next to Ricky's Hyatt House, which is on the corner.

Park your car in the parking lot at the front of the lodge, and proceed to the center door. This is a keycarded door so we will have someone at the door to let you in. Proceed to the Lodge Room straight ahead, and to the left.

If you cannot get in the center door because you are late, press the new wireless doorbell that will be in place for each SPAUG meeting, and someone will come and let you in.

(Continued from page 2)

One further action the board took was to finally lay to rest the machinations about guests, some of whom seem to be perennial. We are happy to have you as a guest, complimentary the first time. The next visit is $5. The third visit is $35; i.e. join. This will let the Board know what our cash flow is.

Best to all.
Jim

Planning meeting Minutes

The February Planning Meeting was held on the Third at the home of Bev Altman. Attendees were Jim Dinkey, Bev Altman, John Sleeman, Stan Hutchings, Herb Hamerslough, Walt Varner and Ron Nicholas.

Walt Varner reports the Treasury has $3662 not including membership renewals recently received.

There will be no Disk of the Month (DOM) for the February 24 General Meeting. The guest Presenter is expected to exceed his time allocation.

SPECIAL NOTE: There will be a TECHNICAL TRAINING SEMINAR from 6:30 to 7:30 on Hard Drive & Backup/Recovery Training Seminar given by Gene Barlow representing Power Quest Corporation, followed by a presentation of their newest product, Lost & Found, and the latest releases of Partition Magic and Drive Image.

The sign up spaces for the industry tour are almost filled for the NUMMI Automotive Plant on Fremont on March 16, Tuesday at 11:30 AM. The tour is 90 minutes long. Any space available will be announced at the General Meeting, or perhaps at the Club's website.

The next industry tour is Lawrence Livermore Lab on April 22. Be advised there is vital data required in advance and it will be checked by LLL; citizenship, drivers license, etc. Details to follow.

Public announcements of SPAUG's Meeting time and place as appearing in the Mercury News and Computer Currents will be checked in the week before the General Meeting.

SIG News.

Internet - 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7pm: 9 February.
This is the final meeting of the present series.

Meetings are held at Jim Dinkey's home; 3380 Cork Oak Way, Palo Alto. Tel: (650) 493-9307.

dinkey@ix.netcom.com

Win95/98 - 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7 pm: 16 February.

Meetings are held at Jim Dinkey's home. This is the final meeting of the present series.

The guest/visitor fee structure came into question. The new fee structure: first time is free; second time is $5.00 and is applied to membership if

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drive letters to each partition. We'll explore how letters are assigned when multiple operating systems are involved. To conclude, we'll recommend some approaches in organizing your partitions.

Backup/Recovery Training Seminar.

What backup approaches are available for your hard drive? This section will discuss the various ways you may lose files from your hard drive and what you can do to recover from each of these losses. There are two basically different types of backup utilities on the market. We will explore the strengths and weaknesses of each and give some hints as to when and how they should be used.
We will develop a sensible backup strategy to protect your hard drive information from any number of losses.

How to recover your files from loss? Having a current backup of your hard drive is a first line of defense against permanently lost files. We'll look at what it takes to recover your system depending on what type of backup you have and how current they are. We'll also look at what new technology exists to recover your files even if you don't have a current backup to fall back on.

(Continued from page 5)
joined that night; third time is $35, i.e. join!

In an effort to help each club member spread the word of SPAUG and generate further community interest, a flyer sheet will be included in the newsletter. It may posted on company or grocery store bulletin boards. Any place to help bring new members like bicycle shops, restaurants coffee and bagel shops, etc. Help spread the benefits of SPAUG.

The website is to be updated to include a sign up form so nonmembers will be encouraged to visit our club, participate in tech sessions, field trips and become members.

All club members are encouraged to attend the Planning Meeting at 7:15 PM on the first Wednesday of each month.
The meeting adjourned at 8:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Ron Nicholas (ron1nick@juno.com)

Random Access

Summary from the January General Meeting

Q1. I had performance problems, so I reformatted my hard drive and tried to reload WIN95 from the CD ROM. The Recovery diskette will get the A: and C:\ drives but not the CD ROM drive where WIN95 is located. What now?
Feed Back 1. WIN95 in its setup for the Recovery diskette does not make a copy of the installed CD ROM driver. You have to make it a separate operation. WIN 98 does copy the CD ROM driver as well as the system files.
FB1. There is a detailed description of this procedure on the website, http://www . everythingcomputers.com.
FB1. You need the generic DOS driver for the CD ROM. It could be copied off another computer onto the Recovery diskette. Then insert it in the A drive, turn power on, and continue with the WIN95 reinstallation. The CD ROM drive should be recognized, and load WIN95.

Q2. Any one having trouble loading TurboTax for WIN98?
FB2. Two people reported having trouble loading TurboTax from the cd ROM. Another had a State problem, it did not finish loading until the very end. General consensus was the CD ROM was corrupt.
FB2. Be sure to have all other programs turned off - none running in the background.

Q3. In Word for Windows, I want to highlight a part of a paragraph near the bottom of the screen, and onto the next screen. The highlight flashes to the next several paragraphs, far beyond where I want to go. Then I have to back up and jockey while I get what i want. How to slow it down?
FB3. Super fine highlighting can be done placing the courser at the start place , hold down the SHIFT key while using the arrow keys, or page up/down keys. Furthermore, holding the SHIFT and CNTRL keys down, the highlight goes to the start of the next word.

Q4. Does the shift click work for Excel; i.e. rows/columns?
FB4. First CLICK the left mouse button where you want highlighting to start, then move to the end and hold down the SHIFT key and Click the left mouse button again. The whole area in between is now highlighted. It works with most Microsoft products.

Helpful hint; One member reports that he found WIN98 loading is more stable using the following procedure. From Start, go to Run and type MSCONFIG. Here a System Configuration Utility screen that you to load device drivers and software as you desire. It allows one to Unselect the automatic loading of certain files at Start up. It gives a menu from which you can select which files will load; i.e., config.sys, autoexec.bat, system.ini, win.ini and startup. It will reboot the computer. I now have a really clean start up, and a lot better than using the control-alt-deletes to close troublesome programs.

Paraphrased by Ron Nicholas, Recording Secretary (ron1nick@juno.com)

Thanks.

We should like to express our gratitude to the Elks Lodge for the use of their room.

Tips & Tricks

Recovering Drivers with Version Control Manager

Click on Start | Programs | Accessories | System Tools | System Information | Tools | Version Conflict Manager.
You'll have a small window that lists every file the VCM "updated" during the installation process. Just click on the files you want returned to their original states, then click on Restore Selected Files, and the chances are very good that you'll be back in business.
(John Seymour's Tips are on the zdnet.com/pcmag/insites/js981030.htm, or goto zdnet then pcmag/tips).
Thanks to Jim Bailey for this tip.

Format copying.

If there's a format in a document that you'd like to
apply in some other part of the document, don't bother with a lot of fancy manipulations. Just click on a line that contains the format you want to use and then click the Format Painter button (it looks like a paint brush) in the toolbar. Move to the text where you want to apply the format and use the mouse to 'paint' over it.
Excel or Word will reformat your text.

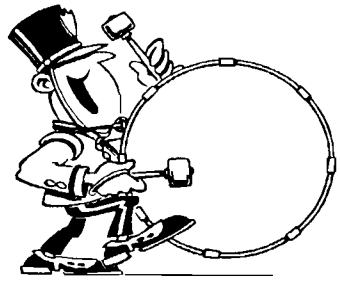
To copy paragraph formatting in Word, copy the paragraph mark from the end of the paragraph you like, go to the end of the paragraph you want to change. Make the marks visible by clicking the Show/Hide Nonprinting Characters button (it looks like a ¶) or press Ctrl-Shift-8 Show/Hide toggle. Then select the paragraph mark (another ¶) at the end of the paragraph whose formatting you want to copy, Edit-Copy, select the paragraph mark at the end of the target paragraph and Edit-Paste.
Thanks to Stan Hutchings for this tip.

Editor's Corner.

People join clubs like ours to associate with others who share their interest and learn more about it. But to learn in more depth, this area provides a great selection of classes at all levels, and price ranges. Those at Little House (senior center, Middle Avenue, Menlo Park) include a couple taught by Jim Dinkey. I have taken several at Foothill College (evenings), and I believe their selection is even wider now - they were very good, check them out. They also have extensive computer labs.

This is your newsletter. Your contributions are needed. If you know something that could be useful or interesting to the other members, please send it in – whether it be a technical article, an interesting quote, a tip, even a joke.

We hope you will post the enclosed flyer at your place of work, or club, local store, etc.



Stanford/Palo Alto Users Group for PC (SPAUG) annual membership dues are $35, payable to SPAUG, at PO Box 3738, Stanford CA 94309-3738.

Please include your name and address, and optionally an e-mail address and any special interest group (SIG) you want more information about.

Questions? Call Beverly Altman (650) 329-8252 or Jim Dinkey (650) 493-9307.

The SPAUG Web Page

available at

http://www.mediacity.com/~spaug

sponsored by

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PPP/T1/Frame Relay/ISDN

General Meeting
Feb. 24, 6:30PM
at Elks Lodge,
4249 El Camino
Palo Alto

Listserver

spaug-list@lists.ispchannel.com

Any member on the spaug-list can send messages to all other members on the list automatically by sending e-mail to this address. This list is intended for announcements of interest to all SPAUG members. Please avoid excessive or trivial announcements, since they tend to annoy some members, especially those paying for connect time. Additions or corrections can be sent to: **spaug@mediacity.com**

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