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MEGAPHONE

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President's Message Happy Birthday, Precious *from Mike Kerwin*

This month's article was inspired by a columnist in Newsweek of all places. He has been one of the few writers to talk about the impending 50th birthday of a form of computer technology on which all Geeks have depended for the past 20 years or so. It's a technology that still shows up in the latest gizmos. This is truly surprising as the basic technology has not changed in all those years, though the current rendition of the device could easily be lost inside the original parent. What device am I referring to? If you guessed the microprocessor you would be wrong as transistors were invented about 59 years ago and it took a while to shrink these enough to build a microprocessor -- see Intel of November 1971.

OK, here's the scoop: in early September of 1956 IBM introduced the world's first magnetic hard drive. (Do be cautious if you Google this to confirm what I am writing about as "Hard Drive" mostly elicits sports articles, especially golf.) The actual date of this introduction is variously given as either 4 or 13 September. I tend to believe the former as the latter might invoke bad omens and IBM was a good business developer and would not have intentionally jinxed their own product.

So what did the progenitor look like? The dimensions for the cabinet were 60" long, 68" tall, and 29" deep -- it was huge! By the way, the depth and height were dictated by company policy rather than any particular scientific or engineering precept. That policy mandated that all IBM equipment should fit through a standard doorway which is 29.5" wide and about 6 foot 6" tall. That was probably a good marketing decision. You can see how our current microdrives (at about the size of a quarter) could easily get lost inside this monster. Inside the case were 50, 24", dual-sided metal disks and two read/write heads on

mechanical arms. This is the same basic technology we currently use for spinning HD mechanisms, though current speeds have increased considerably from the original 1200 rpms.

What did it store and how much did it cost? Well if you had to ask the price you probably could not afford it. IBM leased the machines for about \$35K/year. Based on the storage capacity this worked out to about \$10k/mb, per year; by contrast this week's pricing for HDs shows about \$0.035/mb, and you get to keep it. It is hard to find anything else which has dropped so much in price. And the total storage, well that takes a bit of calculating. The device had a stated capacity of 5 mb of storage but the "byte" had not settled on its current definition of 8-bits/byte yet and the definition IBM used was 7-bits/byte; so in today's world it would only store about 4.4 mb. (Does anyone know the story of why we still count memory in 8-bit bytes though the processors have long since moved on to 16, 32, and even 64-bit capacity?) This seems ridiculously small but that was in the day of breadboard and machine language coding so it worked. I have seen comparisons that indicate the physical size of these devices has shrunk 50,000 times (think iPod and microdrives) and the capacity increase has greatly exceeded Moore's Law, which is "computing power will double and prices shrink by two every 18 months" (some dispute the exact time element though).

The philosophy behind this development was the same that most of us have lived through with the PC -- random access to stored memory! In the mainframe world of 1955, memory



Next General Meeting

Bob Culver of Lohnes & Culver, a communications consulting firm, will speak on digital broadcasting
Wednesday, August 16, 7:30 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

Next Windows SIG Meeting

Topic: Security Risks on Your PC You Don't Know About, Part II
Tuesday, August 22, 7:00 pm.....Florence Bain Senior Center

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consisted of core (individually wired), tape, and drums; the latter two suffer the curse of sequential access. I remember later computers which used paper memory as well. There was the classic "IBM card" method for entering programs and some used punched paper tape to load programs. I also remember the earliest PCs which used tape drives for program and data storage. What a pain if a single instruction was garbled in loading, as it required rewinding the tape and starting all over. Truly the random access of the floppy drive led to the explosion of the PC and the HD was not long behind.

This baby HD was part of the IBM 350 computer series. The storage system was titled RAMAC for Random Access Method of Accounting and Control. Remember that IBM came from International Business Machines so the accounting part was a major part of their reason for existence. So let's all send up a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday" to the invention without which we would be cursing at our PCs even more than we currently do.

On to Business

Thanks to Vic McGonegal from Computer Seniors of America who talked to us in July about their services and opportunities for sharing our knowledge about computers with other seniors.

This month we extend a welcome to Bob Culver who will regale us with stories of his adventures in digital broadcasting (both audio and video). See you Wednesday.

Digitally,
/\/ike

Upcoming Meetings

Here's is what we have planned for the next few meetings. To suggest a meeting topic (especially if you can suggest a possible speaker for the topic), please talk to me at the meeting, or via email at cdlots@yahoo.com.

- Andrew Rein

September 20: CMUG member Tom Alizio will discuss DJ work, old and new. He'll explain and briefly demonstrate the "old" way of DJing and will show us the "new" approach using PCDJ, and KJ which is a computer-based disk jockey program with a karaoke add-on.

October 18: Hank Volpe will be back with us to discuss HDTV and digital TV over the Internet.

Deals from the DealsGuy

by Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

Thanks for your feedback from my remarks last month. I had no negative responses, but I was assured that there probably were some people out there who didn't bother to write me. Probably so, but I appreciated the responses I did receive.

I read an article in Information Week about a disgruntled employee who was alleged to have planted 50 to 70 malicious lines of code, amounting to a "logic bomb," before he left the company. It disabled about 2000 servers and brought the company system to a standstill. After four years, they have still not repaired all the damage. It is titled "The Threat Within" and revealed how much damage a disgruntled employee in an organization can really cause. The accused perpetrator is in court, but that doesn't change the damages done. Try these URLs to read more about it: www.informationweek.com/security/UBStrial/ and www.informationweek.com/showArticle.jhtml;jsessionid=RQI5JLK20L2XUQSNDLPCKHSCJUNN2JVN;?articleID=188703447.



I have packed a lot into this column so be sure to check the product websites for better information. I cut a lot of description info out to shorten the items. Also, check the website's privacy statements. I have not tried any of these, so I encourage you to be careful.

Get Those Drives & Petitions Back!

DiskInternals NTFS Recovery can scan any physical drive or virtual image. It doesn't make any changes to the drive itself and can be safely used even on the system volume. While scanning the drive, its recovery wizard shows the progress with the number of found files and folders. When the scanning is over, the user can change some disk properties. You can, for instance set up a new cluster size or proceed with the existing one. The program displays all recoverable files and folders in the Explorer-like window. A search engine helps find desired files and moves them to a safe location. With DiskInternals NTFS Recovery, you can access files that the system fails to see.

DiskInternals NTFS Recovery v1.5 runs under Windows 98/ME/NT/2000/XP/2003 Server platforms. A single user license costs \$99.95. DiskInternals offers a 15% discount using the link https://www.regnow.com/softsell/nph-softsell.cgi?item=11238-8&ss_coupon=NTFS-RAJ9-PR. The coupon code is NTFS-RAJ9-PR. Registration entitles all users to free





technical support and minor upgrades. A fully functional evaluation version of the program is available for download at

[www.DiskInternals.com/ download/ NTFS_Recovery.zip](http://www.DiskInternals.com/download/NTFS_Recovery.zip).

↳ Product page link: [www.DiskInternals.com/ ntfs-recovery/](http://www.DiskInternals.com/ntfs-recovery/)

↳ Web: www.DiskInternals.com

They did not respond to my message when researching the information so I hope the discount is still good. Also, check close to see if there are any catches with the “fully functional” downloadable copy.

Monitor What The Kids View

Adult Photo Blanker guards computer users from the ubiquitous expansion of pornography and violence in our life. This program not only prevents your children from accessing unwanted websites, but also controls the content of video files and photos loaded into your computer memory from the hard disk. This smart tool monitors nearly all multimedia content. Adult Photo Blanker uses 11 special criteria to reveal objectionable films, websites, images and the like. The program combines this built-in artificial intelligence scanner with the keyword filter, which recognizes unwanted content by specified words, and it is concealed from inexperienced users. Adult Photo Blanker is protected with a password, so if you want to turn it off and watch an adult film, you must use the password you previously specified. It features Block and Safe lists to customize each user settings individually. Each family member can configure options of the program in his/her own way. By the time you read this, a newer version will be introduced.

Adult Photo Blanker runs under Windows 98 (partially) / ME (partially) / 2000 / XP and costs \$49.95. Users group members receive a 20% discount. Just enter DEAL-LSFQ-GUY where it calls for a coupon when downloading the paid version. A fully functional trial version of the program is available as a free download at www.oreware.com/download_prog.php?id_prog=25 (4 mb).

↳ Product page URL: www.oreware.com/viewprogram.php?prog=25

↳ Web: www.oreware.com

This Product Claims To Further Improve Your Windows Operation

True Launch Bar gets the best of MS Windows OS and streamlines it for greater comfort of use. Its unique system of switching toolbars and expandable menus gives instant access to files, applications, and settings from the taskbar. In addition, overlay images and skins give the system polish and slick looks. The latest update offers support to Windows Vista. You can also group shortcuts into menus that expand and collapse at a click, or float on top of other windows. The use of Drag-n-Drop helps quickly fill the menus with shortcuts for files and applications, system

settings and controls. You can customize its color scheme and add gradients and transparency effects. Its plug-ins will equip your taskbar with a newsreader and the weather forecast. You will be able to monitor resources and network activities, access the address book and control media players.

True Launch Bar v4.0 runs under Windows 98/ Me/ 2000/ XP/ 2003/ Vista platforms. A single user license costs \$19.90. The company also offers a home license for four installations priced at \$49. All registered users are entitled to free technical support and program updates. Additional plug-ins and skinning libraries are on the company web site. A fully functional evaluation version of the program is available for download at [http:// download.truelaunchbar.com/ install/tlb4.exe](http://download.truelaunchbar.com/install/tlb4.exe).

True Launch Bar V4.0 will be available at a 30% discount to user group members on these special links to the order pages:

↳ True Launch Bar Personal License: [http:// www.regsoft.net/ purchase.php3? productid= 51538&pc =7L0L7](http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=51538&pc=7L0L7)

↳ True Launch Bar Home License: [http:// www.regsoft.net/ purchase.php3? productid= 53346&pc= 7U0I4](http://www.regsoft.net/purchase.php3?productid=53346&pc=7U0I4)

↳ Product page link: www.truelaunchbar.com

Lets Improve That Password Protection!

Double Password, a new security manager, creates your security token on your flash drive (or other USB gadget, such as an MP3 player, PDA or even a USB-pluggable mobile handset). This device becomes the key to your OS. Double Password makes sure that no one can interfere



Windows SIG

August 22: Security Risks You Don't Know About - Part II

The Windows Special Interest Group (SIG) meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month. The SIG focuses on using and maintaining Windows, all platforms. We take questions, present tips and techniques, demonstrate freeware/shareware and even feature some web topics using a little trickery.

There were so many questions last month that we're continuing on the topic of “Security Risks You Don't Know About, Part II.” If you have a suggestion or a topic for a future SIG meeting, please email me at mikes_line@hotmail.com.

Remember that the meetings are now at the Florence Bain Senior Center, and begin at 7 pm. See the CMUG website at www.millkern.com/cmug for maps and directions.

Hope to see you there.

- Mike Hayes

Suddenly... Part II

A Month's Log of a "House Call" Doctor

by Charles W. Davis via APCUG

This is a continuation of my article last month. As I explained, in working to help Club members and others with their computer problems during the Thursday morning Computer Talk sessions, or more often when making "house calls," I often hear strange tales that apparently involve acts of gremlin-like creatures. Invisible gremlins, at that.

Generally the caller's comments start with "all of a sudden" or "suddenly" and end with "I didn't do anything." I can only surmise that it was one of cartoonist Bill Keane's ghostly imps, "Not Me," "Nobody"

or even "Ida Know."

I've documented some recent examples below.

A very frequent "Suddenly"

Quite frequently, I get a call and the party on the other end is complaining about the fact that suddenly there are small dashes between words accompanied with the backward "P." I kind of like this one, as I can generally "fix" it over the phone. This one is usually caused by the imp "Nobody." "Nobody" placed the pointer on the Show/Hide icon on the Office Word tool bar. Or you can use Ctrl+*, ie holding Ctrl+Shift+8 will turn them on, do it again to turn them off. Note that "shift + 8" is the *.

Naturally, in MS Office Publisher the



with the work of your computer or get access to your data. It encrypts your password, which can accompany your security token. No external spy program can intercept your password. This is attained thanks to a special "double-bottom" password, which Double Password applies to protect your computer. This means that you enter one password, but the program remembers another (it remembers it in a special encrypted way, which cannot be seen from the outside).

Double Password offers security levels in low, medium and high. "Low" means all users can get access to your computer. "Medium" means that a user can log into your OS only with the help of a special security token (total security is guaranteed as you resort to the described "double-bottom" password). "High" is similar to "Medium", however in this case you cannot even work if your security token is out.

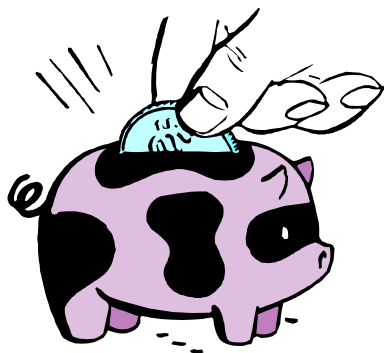
Double Password runs under Microsoft Windows NT/2000/XP. Users group members get a 20% discount using the coupon code YTR79G3 where requested. Discount prices are: Personal license, \$29.95; Family license, \$79.95 and Business license \$59.95.

Product page link: www.doublepassword.com

Web: www.refog.com

This Game Is A Blood-Chiller

From the creators of "Gunner 2" comes a new breath taker called JetJumper. The plot of the game implies that you become the pilot of an outlandish jumping machine equipped with a powerful jet engine. As soon as the jet engine sets the jumping machine into motion, you will have to jump from one platform to another. JetJumper helps you to collect a variety of



useful items, which you are sure to come across: gems, magnets, green keys and the like. All these items help you to score and eliminate some obstacles on your way and to get new lives. Magnets help you to collect more gems. Once you have grabbed a magnet, all gems on your way start sticking to you like flies to an adhesive pad. Once you have jumped aside and have fallen from a platform, the game leaves no chance for your JetJumper to survive. During a takeoff, your JetJumper's jet engine exerts a force of thousands of newtons, so only a professional pilot can handle this aircraft.

JetJumper runs under Windows 9x, Me, 2000, XP (DirectX 8.0 or higher required). The game costs \$19.95 and they offer a 10% discount to all group members by using TAB000BL code and this URL: [https:// secure.bmtmicro.com/ servlets/ Orders.ShoppingCart?CID= 949&PRODUCTID= 9490005](https://secure.bmtmicro.com/servlets/Orders.ShoppingCart?CID=949&PRODUCTID=9490005). Registered customers are entitled to unlimited game play and a multitude of unlocked levels.

Product page link: [www.warlockstudio.com/ jetjumper.html](http://www.warlockstudio.com/jetjumper.html).

Web: www.warlockstudio.com.

A trial version offering 60 minutes of game play, is available as a free download at [www.warlockstudio.com/ download/ jetjumper-setup.exe](http://www.warlockstudio.com/download/jetjumper-setup.exe)

That's it for this month

Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. Visit my Web site at www.dealsguy.com. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound.

- Bob (The CheapKate) Click

bobclick@mindspring.com





keyboard short cut is Ctrl+Shift+Y.

By the way, that backward “P” is called a pilcrow. For a complete rundown of funny dots and arrows, see: <http://word.mvps.org/FAQs/Formatting/NonPrintChars.htm>.

“Suddenly” I Can’t print!

This call came in late in the afternoon. A member had changed his printer cartridge and could no longer print. He could no longer receive email messages. To my surprise, there was no task bar visible on the desktop! He had been without a means of normal shutdown for weeks! After installing 23 critical updates to his Windows 98 SE system, the task bar was still not visible. However, the printer was now back in working condition.

Now was time to address the email problem.

He showed me an article he had clipped from the Las Vegas Review-Journal by the syndicated columnist James Coates. The article revolved around a question submitted by a customer of Comcast, an Internet Service Provider. James walked the reader through the steps to properly set up Outlook Express for the Comcast email account. Unfortunately our club member had followed the instructions completely and therefore attempted to access Comcast’s email server. “Suddenly” incoming email messages had ceased to arrive. I reset the account to the member’s Cox Communications server. Messages started arriving as desired.

Following a phone call and suggestions from another trouble shooter (“Silly,” he said, “Hit the Start key!”), the task bar was located hiding off to the right of the screen! I started to drag it to the bottom of the screen and the thing snapped up to the top of the screen. I started to drag it to the bottom, but he didn’t want it moved! Suddenly, he is back in the retiree business! “Ida Know” had clearly been involved here. The evening was warm and clear with a view of the sparkling lights of the Las Vegas Strip in the distance as my Miata carried me and the \$20 check home.

Two in One Blow

My Miata has sat in the sun with the top down for many hours each day for the past six years. One morning I made a trip to a shop to have the interior panels on both doors replaced. While I was gone, two members called and one explained to Vickie that he had four Word files that when opened immediately shut down Word. The other told Vickie that he had major computer problems and it was probably ready for burial.

In the first instance “Ida Know” was definitely involved. Big time! Norton Antivirus hadn’t been updated since 2002! I downloaded the free AVG Antivirus, uninstalled Norton Antivirus via Control

Panel’s Add/Remove function. I installed AVG, after the Roxio update as mentioned earlier, then updated AVG and scanned for viruses. None! I downloaded and installed Ad-Aware SE Personal and scanned. Ad-Aware found 335 malware programs that were removed. Still, it didn’t fix Word.

During the scans, which seem to take forever, the lady of the house was distraught over the loss of her Quicken backup data. She thought that she had backed up to a new USB Flash memory drive prior to buying her new computer. I opened the My Computer folder and double clicked on the USB drive and located the Quicken file and double clicked on it. Quicken opened and her checking balances were as expected. I renamed the USB Flash Memory drive to her name. Hoping to avoid future trips to her home, I had her practice the routine several times.

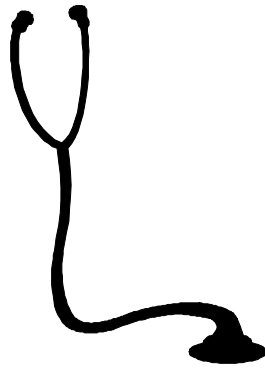
The above scans were now complete.

I returned to his computer and I chose Detect & Repair from Word’s Help drop down menu. Following this repair function, things were still the same. I finally opened one of the documents and immediately chose “Save As” from the File drop down menu. I changed the file name by one digit and closed. I reopened the newly saved document and Word remained open. I followed the same procedure on the others with success in each case! Why? “Ida Know.”

By this time, I was late to the second appointment. Earlier, I had tried to call, but got an answering machine. I left the message that I was running late and would be there soon. I had called the wrong number, and I have wondered whether the unknown party was still waiting. I collected the \$20 donation check and departed.

On arrival at the second destination, the member had meticulously written down the steps that led to his problem, and more important, the steps that he had attempted to resolve the issue. I listened to all the steps as he read from the sheet of paper. Then he explained that the screen went haywire when Windows XP booted up, and the system crashed. It seemed that the problems started with the installation of eight Windows updates that he had downloaded on a dialup connection. “Ida Know” was definitely involved here, as I have not heard of any Critical update causing this reaction. On rebooting he received several messages that indicated some drivers were back level. He couldn’t access the Internet via his Earthlink access. The Earthlink Tech Rep had told him install some drivers from the Dell CD that came with the computer. Big mistake! I looked at the CD and it was for Windows 98! This member was running Windows XP with SP2 installed.

I started the system in Safe mode and went to a System Restore point that preceded the first of the steps that he had outlined.





He was now back in business—well, as much in business as any of us retirees.

His wife wrote the \$20 check and I arrived home on a Friday evening just in time for our cocktail hour.

Desperate Housewife

A desperate housewife called and let me know that she needed some help with her computer. AOL had “Suddenly” gone berserk! What’s new? I thought. My Miata soon delivered me to her driveway in Ridgecrest Village.

AOL was unresponsive. When opening, a message would appear stating that a file was not a Windows image. OK, so what? I finally uninstalled AOL and using the installation disk re-installed it. Same message, but we did manage to open an e-mail message and print a picture taken at her first great-grandson’s first birthday.

I soon found that Norton’s subscription had expired some 14 months before! Next order of business was to uninstall Norton’s Anti-virus and then download the free AVG Antivirus. Following the start of the download, I read that it would take approximately three hours on the dial-up connection.

I asked her to install the program upon completion of the download and left. Later that day, a power glitch hit and I lost my next issue of the Anthem Compendium: There is no auto-save function in FrontPage.

Two days later the desperate one called again and said nothing had worked. Sure enough that power glitch had shut the download off. Further, it was corrupted. Once again I started the download and went home for lunch. On my return, there were still a few minutes to wait. AVG Antivirus was successfully installed.

Now, I had to address her problem with AOL, the same message as before, and it would not respond when one clicked on the mail icon. Yet the Windows Task Manager said it was running. Upon trying to close it using the Task Manager, one discovered an update being applied. Later, I would start to shut it down but, then it was downloading a program update. It had been months (years) while since the CD had been produced so there were several updates to install.

I decided a different tack was needed. I did a search for a file with a .tol file extension and found three. On a subsequent restart of AOL, I noticed the one in trouble was in a “b” version?

I then opened Windows Explorer and plowed down through the C drive folders and located the three files. There were really three different versions of AOL installed. The un-install hadn’t uninstalled a thing! That proved to be the answer, as I simply copied the .tol file from one installation to the “b” folder. All is well in AOL land once again.

She made me take a second \$20 donation to

the Club and I was soon back home writing this.

The Parking Lot Approach!

Last week, as I walked from the Computer Club classroom to the parking lot, a lady called to me. She explained that one of our other “house call” volunteers had spent hours attempting to download and install a new version of Norton antivirus at \$59.99. It appeared to him to be a bad download as it kept saying something needed to be “fixed.” After a while he assumed that the download was corrupted and they called Symantec. After several hours with Tech support, they finally ordered a box copy mailed to the house, another \$59.99. She added that she had also bought a router as recommended and that needed to be installed.

The next morning at the Computer Club’s “Computer Talk” session I asked why he had not installed the free AVG Antivirus. He explained that the member was only doing as her late husband had instructed. ‘Nuf said.

The next day, I called and made an appointment for Saturday. Since she lives only two blocks away, I walked. No one answered the bell. So I returned home and about 45 minutes later she called. I had been at the house next to hers! Another mutual time was arranged. On this day the temperature was hovering around 100 degrees, so I drove the Miata. With the top down and the air conditioner on full blast, of course.

When I started her computer, the Norton product indicated a problem with a button to “fix it.” I clicked on it and it started a system scan. After several minutes, that wasn’t going to accomplish anything, so I stopped the scan and re-booted. Same routine! This time though, I decided that the programmers at Symantec, thought the lack of a scan meant something needed “fixing” and Tech support didn’t pick up on the lack of clarity in their message! Sure enough, when the scan was completed, the need for a fix went away.

I easily installed the router and then went online to the URL that Symantec had provided on the receipt and applied for a return of the boxed versions that had been mailed. No problem!

“Suddenly” or “not so suddenly” all of the incidents reported here are of a real concern to the Club members that called for assistance.

When you have a problem, contact your Computer Club’s President.

This article comes to us from APCUG, the Association of PC User Groups, of which CMUG is a member. Charles Davis is the newsletter editor and webmaster of the Sun City Anthem Computer Club, in Henderson, Nevada (www.myscacc.org). He can be reached at chas@anthemwebs.com. This article was originally published in Bits, PCs & Macs, the SCACC newsletter.



Controlling Windows Explorer

Open the Folders You Want

by Mike Hayes

When you want to work with files, how many times have you clicked on the My Computer icon, then the drive, then the folder, and continued to drill down from there? Or, if you've placed a short cut in the Quick Launch Toolbar, does it open to the drive or folder you want? If you stick with the Windows defaults, the answer is likely no.

At the Windows SIG, I've covered how to use Explorer switches to take you to folders you use frequently. I thought a short overview would be a good topic here in the newsletter; I've gone into more depth at the WinSIG meetings.

You can easily change the drive or folder Explorer opens to by creating a new shortcut. Note here that you normally don't want to alter the original Explorer shortcut, although it is safe to do so.

Let's use the example that you have a second drive (physical or logical) and you store your data and downloads on it for safety reasons (these sort of reasons were also covered at a Windows SIG). If you use My Computer to access those folders it will take you 3 clicks just to get to the drive. If you use an Explorer shortcut it will also take 3 or 4 clicks depending on several factors. If you do that enough times you could save a number of clicks and seconds by creating a shortcut to the specific folder. If you have a number of folders you frequent, I would recommend that you create a new toolbar and work from there. For this article, we will assume you frequently use D:\Downloads as your target. I am also assuming that you have the Quick Launch toolbar activated (also covered at a SIG meeting).

The first step is to drag an Explorer icon to the Quick Launch toolbar. Click on the Start button and navigate to the Explorer shortcut. The steps for this are dependent on the version of Windows. Next, right-click and hold on the icon and drag it to the Quick Launch Bar and release it. Select "copy here." Using the right-click is critical so you don't "move" the short cut permanently which removes it from your Start/Programs area.

Tip: Depending on your video resolution, you may not be able to see the Quick Launch bar, or you may see so little of it you can't drag and drop properly. If this is your situation, start with no

window sessions open (or minimize all) so you can see the desktop. Perform the above steps but drag the icon to the desktop first. Then, right-mouse drag the icon to the Quick Launch bar and select "copy here."

Here are the basic switch options. EXPLORER [/n,] [/e,] [/root,] [/select,] [path and/or folder]. Note the "," comma after the switch. This is important. The "n" opens a new window and the "e" opens the window expanded. The Root opens to the root of the selected drive. Select does other things. More on that later. To edit these switches, right-click on the just created icon and choose Properties. In the target line will be "%SystemRoot%\explorer.exe" Plant your cursor after the "exe" and add the switch(s) and parameters you want.

Here are some examples with explanations:

↳ **explorer.exe D:\Download** will open up a single pane with the contents of the D:\Downloads folder showing.

↳ **explorer.exe /e,**

D:\Downloads open a two-pane Explorer window with the 'downloads' folder on the D: drive selected in the left pane

Win98 is a bit quirkier. You'll probably have to use the "/n," switch so a new window w/o a tree pane on the left opens each time. Win98 remembers stuff!

↳ **explorer.exe /e,/select,d:\download\My Picture.jpg**

This works but I'm hard pressed to know when I'd use it. It opens a two-pane Explorer window and selects the indicated file.

↳ **explorer.exe /e,/root,** will

open up a two-pane window with My Documents, My Computer, Floppy A, all local drives, optical drives, Shared Documents and Network Places

There are many combinations you can use here. Experiment a little to see what effects using /e, /root, and /select, does for your version of Windows. You can't break anything.

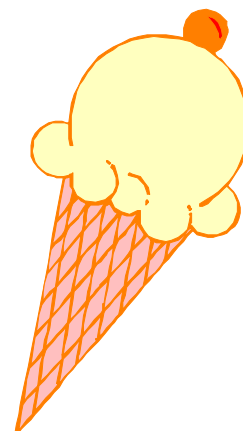
After you discover the switches you like, you can drag additional Explorer icons to the Quick Launch Bar. You will be prompted to replace the one already on the bar since Windows uses the same name. To create multiple icons to different paths, simply rename the icon. Right-click on the icon, select Rename and give it a short name. While there you can also associate a different icon with it. Now you can have a different icon for each of your special folders.

If I get enough inquiries on this, I may cover it again at a SIG meeting.



CMUG MEGAPHONE

George Coffin
8652 Open Meadow Way
Columbia, MD 21045



Meeting:
Wednesday, August 16, 7:30 pm
Topic: Bob Culver will speak on digital
broadcasting, both audio and video.

CENTRAL MARYLAND USER GROUP

Membership and Change of Address

Send renewals and address changes to:
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art.silverglate@gmail.com

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Use any of these formats: ASCII (text),
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General meetings are held the third Wednesday of every month at 7:30 pm at the Florence Bain Senior Center, near the Harpers Choice Village Center in Columbia MD. The number there is 410-313-7213.

Membership in the user group is currently \$30 (cheap!). Membership includes a monthly subscription to the CMUG Megaphone, a membership directory, full access privileges to the Website, and drawings for free and review software at meetings.

www.milkern.com/cmug

