IWPCUG

HOT KEY

WINTER 2009

Dennis Linzmaier was showing us

How to record sound files using

AUDACITY

The Isle of Wight Personal computer User Group

IWPCUG

The Isle of Wight PC User GROUP

Welcomes all owners and users of IBM compatible Personal Computers.
It is a group which seeks to exchange ideas and new information.
Our meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each
month at **The Riverside Centre, Newport** from 7.30 to 9.30 pm
Visitors are welcome. **Membership is £6 per annum**
**A charge of £1 is made per meeting, which includes tea or
coffee during the break.**

**If you would like to know more about us, you are most welcome to
come along to one of our meetings, or you can contact one of our
Committee Members listed on page 3.**

The Club Website address is **www.iwpcug.org**
We also have an e-group discussion area
Yahoo iwpcusers: **iwpcusers@yahoogroups.com**
See page 13 for how to join

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Date	Subject	Speaker
7 January	Corel Draw	Ian Capon
4 February	AGM+ Mobile Broadband	David Groom
4 March	Skype and VOIP etc	Johnathon Thornton
1 April	Google Docs	David Groom

See our Website for more information as it becomes available

Chairman: David Groom

Vice-Chairman: Cliff Maidment

Treasurer: Bob Groom

Secretary: Susanne Bone

Membership & Database Secretary: Ray Boote

Committee Member: David Broughton

Committee Member: Roger Skidmore

HotKey Editor: Bob Groom (as above)

Contact details removed prior to publishing on internet

Suggestions for new events, topics or speakers for talks are always welcome.
Please contact any committee member with your ideas.
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If necessary we may be able to find a speaker for your subject.

NOTICE OF AGM

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Isle of Wight PC User Group will be held on Wednesday 4 February 2009 at 7:30 PM at The Riverside Centre, Newport.

Nominations are requested for the positions of: Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, and up to eight other committee members.

Please send your nominations to the Secretary, Su Bone. Seconders are not necessary at this stage.

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AGENDA

1. Approve the minutes of the previous AGM, held on 6th February 2008, (copies at www.iwpcug.org/secure/agmmin08.htm)
2. Matters arising from the minutes.
3. Receive reports:
   3.1 Chairman
   3.2 Treasurer, including approval of the Club Accounts
   3.3 Secretary
   3.4 Membership Secretary
   3.5 Other activities: Computability, HotKey, Library, Cover Disk, Website, Egroup, Marketing, Riverside Liaison

4. Elect a new Chairperson, Treasurer, Secretary, and Membership Secretary.
5. Elect other new Committee members (up to a maximum of eight persons).
6. Set the Annual Subscription.
7. Appoint an Independent Examiner
8. Any Other Business

COVER DISK

As well as the usual mix of utilities and security software this month you will find the following on the Cover Disk:

Audacity
Audacity is a free, easy-to-use audio editor and recorder.
It is the program Denny Linzmaier demonstrated during his talk in December 2008.
You can use Audacity to record live audio, convert tapes and records into digital recordings or CDs; edit Ogg Vorbis, MP3, WAV or AIFF sound files; cut, copy, splice or mix sounds together; change the speed or pitch of a recording; and much more.

Open Office 3 - Major new release
Cosmetically there is a new start centre, and new icons to make this release fresher looking. There are new import filters for Microsoft Office 2007, and support for the OpenDocumentFormat. The spreadsheet application can now handle up to 1024 columns (previously limited to 256). Many more improvements to this full office suite.

Picasa
Picasa is a software download from Google that helps you organise, edit, and share your photos. It's free, and easy to use.

Adobe Photoshop Starter Edition
Discover the basics of photo editing and sharing with Adobe® Photoshop® Album Starter Edition software, the free software that makes it easier than ever to view, find, fix, and share your photo memories.

Gosmore
This is a routing a navigation program for OpenStreetMap data, see page 6 for more details.

Faststone
Faststone Image Viewer and Faststone Image Resizer, see page 14.

Navigation using OpenStreetMap & Gosmore– by David Groom

As mentioned in the last HotKey, I recently had a holiday in Malta and because I could find no commercial equivalent I was planning to use OpenStreetMap data to help me navigate the island whilst I was there.

Prior to my departure I noted that Malta seemed quite well covered on OpenStreetMap ("OSM"). A look on the OSM wiki showed a number of possible solutions for helping me navigate, but the one which seemed to fit my requirements was a program called Gosmore. Versions of this program gave been written for Linux, Windows, and most importantly for me, Windows CE (all versions are free). The program uses OSM data to produce routes between two points, in much the same way that commercial devices like TomTom and Garmin do. The Windows CE version would run on my HP Ipaq PDA which I was intending to take with me. In the end I ran the program on a Navigon GPS unit (more details on page 10)

Although the OSM coverage on Malta is quite comprehensive, there were some obvious errors in the data which I spotted prior to my departure. So before I left I spent a little time "tidying" up the OSM data in Malta using Yahoo aerial imagery as my source.

So what of my experience of using Gosmore on Malta? I have to say I was very impressed with it. I'd never visited Malta before, but generally driving over there is fairly easy - they drive on the left, and road signs are predominantly in English, and road maps exist showing the major roads on the Island. However when you get down to what I might call "close quarters navigation", either being in the middle of a large town and wanting to know the way out, or in the middle of the countryside and wanting to get back to a major road, it was a different matter. Imagine for a moment you were unfamiliar with the IOW, and had ended up in the back streets of Newport and wanted to get out to Bembridge, or were traveling though the countryside, ended up at Five Houses and wanted to get back to a main road. Having a GPS unit which showed which road you were on, and the quickest way out would be a Godsend, and this was similar to the position we found ourselves in on a number of occasions in Malta.

As far as Gosmore went, once I had got used to its user interface I had no real problems. It calculated routes almost instantaneously, and nearly always seemed to pick what I would call the most obvious route. One particularly useful feature was the ability to search for particular points of interest, such as "fuel" and then to be shown a list of all petrol stations (ordered by which was closest to my location). The one problem I did have, and it is specific to the Windows CE version, is that the colour used to mark the chosen route was the very close to the colour used for

primary roads, which on occasions led to confusion (but this has now been fixed).

There were a few instances of errors in the underlying OSM data needing correction, primarily this was where either streets were one way, or were dual carriageways, neither of which were able to be detected in advance from the Yahoo imagery. But I have now corrected these, so future users of the data will have less problems.

Another interesting feature in Gosmore is that you can set your mode of transport. The default is "motorcar", but if you like you can change this to "foot" or "horse", and the routing calculations will now take into account footpaths and bridleways as appropriate (and ban you from access to motorways!)

My use of the Malta OSM data may go some way to answering the question that some people often have of "why bother with OpenStreetMap?" The view of these people is that TomTom and Google have pretty much got world mapping sewn up, so why is there a need for an "open" user created source of world mapping data. As I have said, TomTom doesn't cover Malta, and Google's maps are not really a portable solution.

I have included the Windows version of Gosmore on the cover disk, so you can play with it. But its real use only really becomes apparent when connected to a GPS receiver.

The image above shows Gosmore displaying data for the north east Isle of Wight.
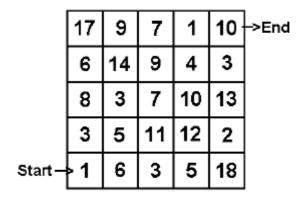
DAVID'S PRIZE PUZZLE -- HYMNS

The Rev. Rundown of the Church of Diminishing Returns had a book of hymns numbered from 1 to 9999 called Hymns Ancient and Archaic. His reducing congregation was only prepared to sing one hymn each Sunday but even this was restricted because the Reverend had lost some of those white plastic tiles with numerals that slide into a wooden tablet to show which hymns are on the agenda.

The only tiles the Reverend could find had the numbers 1, 4, 6, & 7 which rather restricted the number of hymns that could be chosen for the singular hymn each Sunday. However, he noticed that if the '6' tile were turned upside down, he could use it as the digit '9'.

Hymn numbers could have from 1 to 4 digits. How many hymn numbers could be shown?

Send your answer to me, David Broughton (see page 3 for addresses). Closing date: 4th February 2009.

SOLUTION TO OCTOBER PUZZLE
The UPRIGHT PUZZLE

The puzzle in October was to trace a route through the above 5 x 5 matrix, starting in the bottom left corner with a value of 1 and ending at the top right. You can only move right or up one square.

When you move right you ADD the value of the new square to your total. When you move up you MULTIPLY by the new square value. The object is to maximise your final score.

There were four winners with a total of 72,030 with John Stafford the lucky winner of the draw. Richard Birkhill, Alan Ash and Clem Robertson also reached that total. John Moxon and Barry Cant also sent in high scores but not high enough. Well done all who took part.

The maximum score can be achieved with the following route (R=Right, U=Up):

R(7), R(10), R(15), U(180), U(1800), U(7200), R(7203), U(72030).

Chairmans Report

I hope that you all had a happy and peaceful Christmas, and that 2009 is a good year for you.

I'm pleased to report that 2008 was a successful year for the Club, with a meeting every month with topics which catered for beginner level through to the more advanced.

I think that in each year I have been Chairman I have made a plea for new members to join the committee. The Club Constitution provides for up to twelve committee members, and currently we only have seven, and it may be that some of these seven will wish to step down at the AGM. Please do consider if you can join the committee, the time commitment is not onerous.

Many of you will know the frustrations we have had in trying to obtain a reliable internet connection at the Riverside Centre. Initially nothing was available, then two years ago we were provided with access to the Riversides own network, but have found that operating through their firewall and proxy proved troublesome to say the least. I recently purchased on behalf of the Club a "mobile broadband USB stick". This should allow us to connect at speeds of 2Mb/s, and be completely independent of the Riversides connection. I plan to demonstrate this at the February meeting after the business of the AGM is completed.

HACKING A NAVIGON GPS UNIT

If you have read my article on Navigating using Gosmore (see page 6) you will know that I intended to run Gosmore on my IPAQ PDA which has Windows CE as its operating system. On reflection I decided this was not the best piece of hardware to use, partly because it cost me a reasonable amount of money and I didn't want to leave it in a car, partly because it needed an external GPS antenna which meant trailing cables, and partly because I wanted another piece of kit to play with.

The solution came in the form of a Navigon Transonic 6000T GPS unit purchased off Ebay for £30. This is a standalone GPS unit with its own maps, internal GPS antenna and receiver, and its own dedicated software to use those maps, and SD card slot. However for my purposes it had one important other feature – though you would never realise it in normal usage, its base operating system is Windows CE.

Normally when you start the Navigon it boots straight to its own routing software and you never get to see the underlying operating system. A quick trawl through the internet found that by pressing the right key combinations at powerup you could bypass the Navigon software, and be left with a Windows desktop! See the two pictures on the back page.

In that state it is not much use however, as there are not many programs installed, though there is a MP3 player which can play tracks back either through the crummy loudspeaker, or through the headphone socket.

I can install Gosmore which is what I really want to do, but it will be interesting to play around and see what other programs I can install and sensibly use. The biggest drawback is that the version of Windows CE is an early one, and there doesn't seem to be much software available, but who knows what I may dig up.

It would be interesting to know what other consumer electronic devices run versions of Windows, and whether any of them can be "hacked" in a similar way to provide a basic computer capable of running Windows software.

David Groom

WOOTTONBRIDGE HISTORICAL WEBSITE

www.wottonbridgeiow.co.uk

Some time ago a member of the club who was aware of this project, asked would I be willing to give a presentation to the club. Never having done a presentation before, the question I had to ask myself who would be interested in local history. However the decision was made easier by the terms of reference that were suggested "tell us the reason why the project was started and what problems have been encountered". The lecture was presented at Novembers meeting.

The original concept behind the work was to collect both historical and photographic records of Wootton Bridge for future generations. This in principle seemed an easy task; just ask people in the village for information and it would come flooding in, we would then be able to collate all the data. However this was not the case, much to our surprise we found that a lot of people were not interested in providing information, my colleague and I have had to carry out almost all the historical research.

So when did we first decide to produce a village web site, the answer is 5 years ago. At that time neither my colleague nor I had any idea of how to produce a web site or what we were getting ourselves into.

The first question to we had to ask ourselves was what kind of layout did we want; many hours were spent on the computer looking at other web sites. The first thing that struck us was that a lot of existing web sites followed the similar pattern with the index down the left hand and did not inspire one to browse, yes, some of the professional sites were very good but we did not have an expense account. It was then that we developed the idea of a cascading layout that you see today, we have slightly modified and improved our original ideas but not the concept. Having formulated our basic design we had to choose a suitable name for the site, at that time in our price bracket there was not much available, however we managed to find one.

We now had a domain name and considerable amount of historical information had been gathered from both the County Press and County Record office. To ensure we were not infringing copyright a lot of that information had to be rewritten and permission to publish obtained. We still did not have any idea how we were going to load the data onto a web site, it was at this stage a knight in shining armour came along and said for a fee he would load the data onto a web site called "Joomla" and provide training, the offer was to good to miss. The data was loaded onto the web using a server recommended by him, everything seemed to be going fine. It then transpired it was his personal server and he had financial difficulties, within a very short time the server was closed down and we lost all data and our money.

So we were back to square one, records gone and so had an amount of our own money, what do we do next. We approached many software business for help with what we considered a community project only to be greeted with a request for £70 per hour or a £1,000 plus to write some software, as I often said its out of our pockets. Rural Action were approached, they thought the project was worth supporting until they found out we two private individuals and not a group, sorry we cannot give you a grant, goodbye.

We than approached the IT. section in County Hall for help, only to be told they cannot help groups outside the council. Chamber of Trade were next approached though interested in what we were doing, they offered nothing, only a list of their members specialising in computers.

It was then suggested that we approach the Technical College, this seemed a good idea. A meeting was set up and a college tutor thought it was an ideal project for a bright student to write a programme to incorporate our information, it seemed that all our problems were solved. Discussions took place with the tutor and the student and we outlined our overall aims and how we would like to see the site develop.

Both the tutor and the student were happy and the only condition placed on us was that we had to allow the student his own creativity, we assumed no problems having explained our aims. We received the first draft presentation from the student and found that our concept had been completely ignored and he had gone back to a bog standard web layout. We had a further meeting with the student and explained why we wanted to retain our basic concept, away he went, and back came his next offering which was worse than the first one. I sent an e-mail asking why our discussions had been ignored and was meet with silence for several weeks. I tried to contact the tutor, but without success, a visit was made to the college and I was told that the student had reported back to the tutor we did not known what we were doing!!. Another tutor who thought the project was worth supporting offered another student, this time we made sure that the student knew exactly what we wanted. Again weeks when by without any feedback, so an e-mail was sent asking for a progress update, a reply was received that he was too busy. Six months gone and no progress.

It was at this stage my colleague Roy Richardson came into contact with a person who had some knowledge of Microsoft Front Page and offered to load all our data onto the web and this he did.

So what have we learned in five years of had work, it is essential that anyone attempting to undertake a project of this size has knowledge of programming or has

access to someone who has. If you have your own ideas how you want things displayed ensure you get what you want.

So how has the site preformed, in the period July 2007 until June 2008 we had over 12,200 people visit the site and a 135,000 pictures looked at, these figures were provided by Island Web Services. Due to having to change web server our counter is not linked fully into all sections of the site and is not giving the data we want.

So what of the future, the picture gallery is to be revamped to become more user friendly and some of the duplicated pictures will be removed. There are a number of new interesting written articles to be added in the next few weeks. We are looking to possibly change Front Page to Dreamweaver, any if anyone is interested in helping with the project or has historical information about the Wootton area please let me know.

Roy Murphy

The two Roys are to be commended on the amount on information they have collected and published on the internet. I would encourage all our readers to visit the web site and see for themselves. It goes to show how much can be found out about the locality in which you live, it would be great if it inspired others to go out and do similar for their areas.

David Groom

HOW TO JOIN THE E-GROUP

Send a blank e-mail to**: iwpusers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

All members are encouraged to join this e-group (which costs nothing and is private to all club members) in order to keep in touch with events and join in with discussions.
You can also keep in touch by regularly visiting **www.iwpcug.org.**

HotKey Favourite Software Spot

This is a "favourite software" item (originally tipped by Kate Russell of BBC Click programme), unashamedly lifted from the FastStone website, but presented here because FastStone viewer is everything it says on the tin (and it's free):

FastStone Image Viewer is a fast, stable, user-friendly image browser, converter and editor. It has a nice array of features that include image viewing, management, comparison, red-eye removal, emailing, resizing, cropping and colour adjustments. Its innovative but intuitive full-screen mode provides quick access to EXIF information, thumbnail browser and major functionalities via hidden toolbars that pop up when your mouse touches the four edges of the screen. See screen shot on back page.

Other features include a high quality magnifier and a musical slideshow with 150+ transitional effects, as well as lossless JPEG transitions, drop shadow effects, image annotation, scanner support, histogram and much more. It supports all major graphic formats (BMP, JPEG, JPEG 2000, animated GIF, PNG, PCX, TIFF, WMF, ICO and TGA) and popular digital camera RAW formats (CRW, CR2, NEF, PEF, RAF, MRW, ORF, SRF and DNG).

See www.faststone.org for downloads, etc. It is also on this months Cover Disk.

I don't do photo-editing and titivating but sometimes you've got to do something, and this program is just about right.

<div align="right">Roger Skidmore</div>

Hard Disk Backup Experiences

I never quite to know quite what to back up with my hard disk, so my preferred technique is to back up or "clone" the whole hard disk from time to time, and in addition copy or "synchronise" my data with a USB drive of some sort.

So when disaster strikes I can replace the main hard drive with one I prepared earlier, and if necessary, restore the data from my USB device. So - clone hard disk every two weeks; copy/synchronise data as often as necessary (this latter task being relatively easy-peasy).

On my main computer I have a caddy for the backup hard drive so at backup time I insert the drawer then switch on and run Acronis utility. On my laptop I use a USB hard drive of sufficient capacity and run Paragon Drive Backup (from Serif special offer). For data backup I use SynchBackSE (free from www.2brightsparks.com) .

Fuller details on my website (www.rogerskid.org.uk) but hope there is enough here to start you on the path to enhanced security.

<div align="right">Roger Skidmore</div>

QUANTUM COMPUTERS

First, a <u>grossly</u> over-simplified bit about "Quantum Engineering".

In the "good old days" we only had what is known as "Newtonian" or "classical" physics. This is the physics that deals with "Real world" things in "Real World" situations, and which follows normal common-sense laws.

Unfortunately we now also have "Quantum Physics" which deals with atomic and sub-atomic happenings and is more or less incomprehensible. One of the great quantum physicists is reported to have told one of his colleages that "Anyone who says he understands quantum theory, simply does not understand quantum theory"

In 1806 Thomas Young performed his famous "2 slit" experiment. This proved <u>conclusively</u> that light travelled as waves. Unfortunately, 40 years later, another clever chap, Max Planck, conducted a different sort of experiment which proved <u>conclusively</u> that light travelled as particles, (which he called "quanta").

For many years this "wave/particle duallity" remained a mystery which defied any common sense explanation and there are many other weird quantum effects that are beyond human intelligence. Countless theories have been put forward, some more outrageous than others, but gradually opinions seemed to have developed like this:-

In quantum engineering , particles have no <u>real</u> existence before they are "amplified" by measurement or observation. Before this, they are in a state of "superposition" and can be in any position and in any of quite a few different states of spin, polarisation, momentum, etc.

In our "normal" digital computers, there are millions of electronic "gates" which can be set into one of two states, ON(=1) or OFF (=0) and the processing of information is performed by programs which control these on/off gates.

In a " quantum computer each particle "gate" can have a number of "states" simultaneously and so can process a number of data streams in parallel. Quite how these particles are switched between the on/ off states for their various data streams is not clear,magnetic or laser control is possible, but I understand that other methods are being investigated. Again, as I understand, only extremely simple systems have so far been assembled,with tens of particles, but the processing speeds have been phenomenal.

One major problem, which I have not read of as being solved, is this strange situation where, as soon as a quantum state is "observed" or "measured" all the other possible states disappear. It seems to mean that as soon as the result of one computation is somehow "indicated" , the whole system immediately freezes and almost has to be re-built from scratch ! I probably have not been reading the right papers.

If a complete computer system is ever built and operates as expected and achieves the processing speeds anticipated, I can't help feeling that it will be kept a closely guarded secret. The applications in military, defence, cryptography and similar fields is potentially very significant, and I think it will be some time befeore there is a Windows OS for it !!

These weird quantum effects apparently have some possible application in the search for a controlable "fusion" (as opposed to "fission") reaction for power generation.

<div align="right">Bob Groom</div>

This is a screenshot taken from the monitor when using FastStone

When switched on the Transonic GPS unit boots straight into its own software, here displaying part of Ryde with the Solent at the top of the screen. See page 10 for more details.

However if you know the right keys to press when switching on you can bypass the navigation software and boot into a Windows CE desktop.