IWPCUG

HOT KEY

Summer Edition 2004
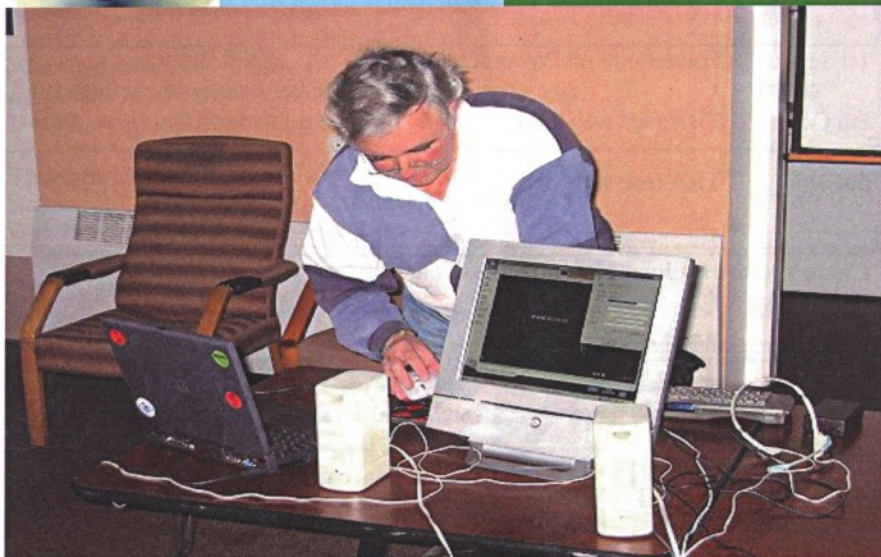
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FUTURE MEETINGS

7th July	Births, Marriages & Deaths Project (Joint meeting with Family History Society)	David Broughton
4th Aug	Various Topics	Dennis Linzmaier
18th Aug	Barbecue at Bob's place (a map is on the web site)	
1st Sept	PowerPoint on Powerpoint	Peter Burgess (Vectis Astronomical Society)
6th Oct	TBA (see web site)	
3rd Nov	TBA (see web site)	

Cover picture by John Moxon Shows John Austin preparing for his talk on Easy Office.

IWPCUG

Membership is £12 per annum

Visitors are welcome.

A charge of £1 is made per meeting which includes tea or coffee during the break.
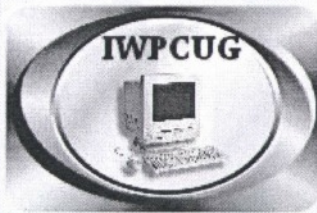
The Isle of Wight PC User Group
Welcomes all owners and users of IBM Compatible Personal Computers. It is a group which seeks to exchange ideas and new information. Our meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month at **The Riverside Centre, Newport. At 7.30 - 9.30 pm.**

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

Club's Website:-
            http://www.iwpcug.org/

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We also have an e-group discussion area :-
Yahoo iwpcusers: **iwpcusers@yahoogroups.com**
See back page for how to join
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ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP
COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Honorary President: Sir Norman Echlin

Chairman: David Broughton

Vice Chairman: David Groom

Treasurer: Bob Groom

Secretary: Vacant
  Acting Secretary: David Groom

Membership Secretary: Ray Boote

Hot Key Editor: **Vacant**
  Acting Editor Ray Boote

Committee Member: Dennis Linzmaier

Committee Member: Cliff Maidment

Committee Member: Roger Skidmore

Disability Resources Co-ordinator: Helen Edom
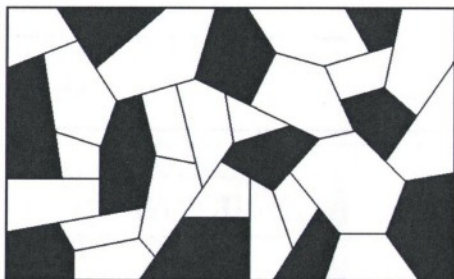
PRIZE PUZZLE CORNER
JULY 2004
By David Broughton

SOLUTION TO CRACK16 (May 2004 Puzzle)

I received four answers to the Crack 16 computer program puzzle. They were John Stafford, Gordon Stonham, Rosemary West and John Bownas. Here is one possible of many possible solutions: Remove H, FR,NU,ER,MU,HL,OU,PU,AD,BD,IR,DD,LL,CD,KL. The second letter is Up, Down, Right, Left.   Removing a corner peg or an inner peg leads to no solution. The lucky winner was John Stafford.

SOLUTION TO 11 AREAS (April 2004 Puzzle)

Seven entrants sent me correct answers. They were John Bownas, Susanne Bone, Jerry Tepper, Gordon Stonham, John Moxon, Clem Robertson and David Groom. John Moxon won the draw and a £5 book token.

Prize Puzzle for July 2004: TEN SENTENCES

Start of puzzle --------
      The number of times the digit 0 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 1 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 2 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 3 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 4 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 5 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 6 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 7 appears in this puzzle is _____.
      The number of times the digit 8 appears in this puzzle is_____.
      The number of times the digit 9 appears in this puzzle is _____.

Complete these sentences with digits until they are all true.
End of puzzle ---------
      Send your ordered sequence of ten numbers to me, David Broughton, to arrive by 4th August to be entered into the prize draw.

A Review of Hot Key Puzzle Winners

The Hot Key puzzles were started with the very first edition, back in 1992, though to start with there were no prizes. In May 1993 a prize was offered of a £5 wine token, later changed to an optional £5 book token. The first winner was Wendy Cooper.

There has been a puzzle every month since. Every 3 months, starting in March 1994, the puzzle has been in the form of a computer program. These were distributed on the cover disk which was a floppy disk originally and later became a CD. The programs were also placed on the club's web site so that it was not always necessary to rely on the issue of a cover disk. There have been over 30 such programs and nearly 100 other puzzles. I recently did a survey of the winners.

At the top of the list was Clem Robertson who has won the prize 12 times. The late Ken Cameron was also a regular solver and won the prize 11 times. Rosemary West is a more recent member but has nevertheless won the prize 10 times whilst Dennis Linzmaier is not far behind with 9 wins. It should be mentioned that Rosemary West has several times been picked as the lucky winner and declined the prize. Tying for 5th place in the list are John Bownas and Peter Wreford each with 8 wins. After that comes Peter Woollerton who has won the prize 7 times.

No one else has won the prize more than 5 times. On three occasions no one entered the competition and so no prize was given.

In November 2000 a special Show edition of Hot Key was produced with a puzzle open to the public and a £20 book token as prize but only Dennis Linzmaier sent in an entry and so received the £20 prize against no competition.

The prize has always been chosen by a random draw of names from a bag but recently we have started to use a random number generator in an Excel spreadsheet to choose the winner from the list of entrants.

Suggestions for the Hot Key prize puzzle are always welcome but they have to be: 1: Of the right standard of difficulty which is not too hard and not too easy, preferably not mathematical because this puts most members off, but requiring some effort of thought; 2: not too well known, preferably an original idea; 3: the problem can be expressed in clear and unambiguous terms in one short paragraph; 4: Problems should not require computer programming; 5: There should be only one answer (this isn't always achieved). 6: It should be fun to do! It is difficult to find a puzzle that obeys all these rules but a few have.

David Broughton.

E-MAIL DISCUSSION GROUP

My feature in the spring edition of HOTKEY produced some reaction to the E-mail discussion group. As a result I'm sure that there are a few members who would like to participate but don't feel competent enough to set up the message rule in Outlook Express that will send all e-mails from the Yahoo e-group to a folder named " iwpcuser".

Here is the guide:-

1. Start up Outlook Express.

2. Click on Tools.

3. Hover over "Message Rules..." and select "Mail". You should get a window with the title "Message Rules" and be in the "Mail Rules" section.

4. Click on "New". You should get four boxes.

5. In the first box select "Where the Subject line contains specific words".

6. In box 2 select "Move to the specified folder".

7. In box 3 click "contains specific words". This will open another box with two sections.

8. In the top box type "[iwpcusers]" and click "Add" and "OK". Do not include the double quotes but do include the square brackets.

9. Back in the original window in box 4 you should see the message: "Apply this rule after the message arrives. Where the subject line contains '[iwpcusers]' Move it to the specified folder" where the word "specified" is underlined in blue. Click on the word "specified". This will take you to a list of folders.

10. If you haven't already created a folder for these messages, click "Local Folders" at the top of the list and then "New Folder". Type the name of the new folder; for example "iwpcuser". Click OK then highlight that folder and click OK.

11. You should now be set up to apply that rule. If you wish, you can give the rule a name in box 4. If you don't it will be assigned a name like "New Mail Rule #1".

12. Click OK to exit.

Many thanks to David Broughton for providing the above instructions.

Ray Boote

<div align="center">****************</div>

6th June
Not much been happening on the e-group lately, this is only to be expected at this time of year especially as the weather has been so good. Members will want to be outside holidaying or gardening rather than sat in front of their computers. The discussion regarding the merger of the two computer groups seems to have petered out . It would appear that there is nothing to reconcile and it's up to individuals to join whichever group they like, or both.

Christine Jenkins mentions the purchase of a USB Flash Drive - Removable Hard Disk. When she has had chance to use it she will give us more information. Christine also came up with a number of suggestions, one of which has resulted in the article on putting counters on web pages (page 13) by Liam Thom.

<div align="center">**************</div>

Humour

So this computer scientist is like a real uptight guy, uncomfortable in his own skin, has a hard time relating to people, you know the type, right? So he's in a bookstore, sees a book called "How to Hug," so he thinks yes, this could really help him. So he buys it, takes it home, starts to read it, and damn if it isn't volume 8 of an encyclopedia!

.USB.2 Adapter

In the spring edition of HOTKEY I mentioned that I had purchased a USB.2 Adapter as demonstrated by **Dennis Linzmaier** at a previous meeting. **John Atkin** sent me an e-mail pointing out that it could also be used for cd drives as well and that he obtained one from Maplins in Newport. John has kindly offered to loan his to any of our members, anyone wishing to take up this offer please contact John.

Colin Boon also contacted me on this subject with the following useful advice:-

The Acting Editor reported of his purchase of a USB 2.0 IDE adapter. Along with other members I purchased one from "MrUSB" (£30.49 incl. post) at www.mrusb.co.uk and have found it a useful way of using old hard disks as backup storage. However as this is an external powered device it should be remembered that if it is plugged into the USB port/cable before boot up, and your MB supports boot up from other sources than the fixed drives, that it could halt the boot up (without an error message) if the external power supply is not switched on. Alternatively unplug the USB connection before boot up or before shut down. To plug in the USB device whilst the PC is up and running will not cause a problem. As soon as the external power to it is switched on Windows recognises the new USB device with a desktop 'pop up' and it is ready for use. The pop up may remind you that the new device is USB 2.0 and that your PC only has USB 1.1 ports (it will still work at the slower speed).

The "MrUSB" site also sells USB 2.0 adapter caddies into which you can put your own hard drive, these have been shown at a reduced price e.g. down from £67 to £37! I have made one from an instrument box from Maplins who also now sell the USB adapters.

Ed

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Humour?

What is the difference between a used-car salesman and a computer salesman?
The used-car salesman knows when he's lying to you!

**

How does one get fresh air into a Russian church?
One clicks on an icon, and a window opens!

Easy Office
Talk by John Austin

Twenty-two members attended the meeting on 5th May when John Austin gave an excellent talk and demonstration using Easy Office software. Easy Office is a full office suite software program just like Microsoft Office. But it is probably more user friendly and contains many more features.

Easy Office contains the usual word processor, database, spreadsheet, and presentation pack.

Many of the other features, not found in Microsoft Office, are easy calculator, easy zip, easy backup, easy voice read back, Adobe pdf file creator, and lots more.

Easy Office runs on Windows and is compatible with Microsoft Word and Excel files.

Easy Office is not a clone of Microsoft Office. It has over 3 million users world-wide and is considerably cheaper.

I can understand John's enthusiasm for this program. If you had the full version on your computer you probably wouldn't need much else.

The program can be obtained from *www.e-press.com*

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Unfortunately I was unable to attend the meeting on the 2nd June as I was on holiday. Denis Parkes gave a talk on some of the latest in computer hardware. He also mentioned anti-virus and firewall software. Eighteen members attended.
Ed

Members' Questionnaire

In April I decided to canvass the members for their views of the club. An online questionnaire was produced and publicized via e-mail and the club e-group. Those members for whom we did not hold a valid e-mail address were sent a printed copy of the questionnaire. Of the one hundred or so members of the club, replies were received from thirty seven.

There was a suggestion earlier in the year that club meetings should be held in Rookley Village Hall rather than the Riverside Center. Ten people said this would make them less likely to attend club meetings, whilst three said it was more likely that they would attend. Generally it was felt that travelling to Rookley was less easy than travelling to Riverside.

Almost all members had access to the internet at home, but only twenty four respondents were members of the club's E-group. The most common reasons for not joining the E-group were due to lack of information on what it was, how to join it, or how to update the details for a change of e-mail address. A number of replies indicated that they felt the E-group was too quiet, and that more members should join it, and those that had joined should post more frequently.

Half the respondents attended fewer than half the monthly meetings. Of those, only five didn't attend because they found the subjects uninteresting or hard to understand. The others were unable to attend either due to other commitments, illness, or inability to travel.

Members were asked what topics they would like to see discussed at future meetings. The number of responses was encouraging, and varied. A large number of people wanted more basic subjects suitable for beginners. On the software side, talks on the use of, and hints concerning, Internet Explorer, Outlook Express, and other popular software would be welcomed. Another theme which cropped up in the survey was that of "internet security", covering subjects such as anti virus software and its set up, the use of firewalls, and generally how to stay safe on the web. Another popular area concerned digital images, photography, picture formats, and digital video. Basic computer maintenance and how to find and fix faults were also mentioned in a number of the replies.

More visits to industry were mentioned - if anyone has relevant contacts please let a committee member know. More simple demonstrations, and informal discussions would also be welcomed.

On the whole there were a lot of positive comments about the club and how it currently operates. Some comments indicated that the social aspect of the club was welcomed, but that we still could be a little more friendly. I was encouraged by the number and detail of the responses, and it may be worthwhile to conduct "mini-polls" on a more frequent basis. Thank you to all who took part.

David Groom

Humour?

I once got an especially helpful reply to a question I asked on Microsoft's on-line tech support service. I wrote back to thank them for a complete and concise reply, and said how much I appreciated it.

The next day I had a response:

"We are looking into the problem and will contact you with a solution as soon as possible."

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A computer salesman, a hardware engineer, and a software engineer are driving in a car together. Suddenly the right rear tire blows out, and the car rolls to a stop. Our three heroes pile out to investigate.

The salesman tsk-tsks sadly. "Time to buy a new car!" he announces.

Says the hardware engineer, "Well, first let's try swapping the front and rear tyres, and see if that fixes it."

Replies the software engineer, "Naw, let's just try driving the car again, and maybe the problem will go away by itself."

Chairman's Report, May 2004

NO CHANGE OF VENUE

We meet at The Riverside Centre. We have been investigating alternatives for several reasons. Firstly, to find a meetings hall that has a telephone line for Internet access. Some meetings (not many) require this facility but although some rooms at the Riverside have a connection, we have been refused the use of any telephone line. Secondly, the recent talk of merging the club with the Wight Computer Club would require a new venue. Thirdly, many members, particularly on the Committee, find liaison with the Riverside Centre to be frustrating.

Nevertheless, we get a reasonably cheap hire charge for our meetings at The Riverside and we have learnt to live with the poor organisation there.

Following several investigations into Rookley Village Hall, Newport Parish Church Centre in Town Lane and Ventnor Botanic Gardens, we have decided to stay put for the time being.

The problem of Internet Access will be partially solved by the use of a mobile phone. This will be used for the first time at our meeting of 7th July when a demonstration will be given on researching births, marriages and deaths on the Isle of Wight for family historians.

HOT KEY

Ray Boote has once again agreed to put together the next edition that will come out in July. He would like input, please.

MERGING TWO CLUBS

The proposal to merge our club with the Wight Computer Club (WCC) has been found to be unacceptable for both clubs for several reasons. The two clubs are organised differently. The WCC work mainly through their Yahoo E-group and attend few meetings. They also pay no subscription. We also have a much-valued E-group but we organise at least one meeting each month and try to produce a magazine and cover disk from time to time. For this we charge £12 per year subscription and £1 at each meeting (which includes a cup of coffee). Each club has its own advocates and many members are members of both clubs. Some members of the WCC would resent having to pay a subscription and are quite happy as they are. There seems to be little that can be gained in merging the two clubs and considerable difficulties in organising how to do it, assuming it was desirable to everyone concerned, which is not the case.

OTHER NEWS

Membership is currently 98 full members and 21 Associate members. 46 members are on the Yahoo e-group (and hence, able to read this report).

The Questionnaire organised by David Groom has had a good response and a good set of ideas for future talks has come out of it. A summary report will be published by David soon. The Committee hopes to get Dennis Linzmaier to take up some of the topics suggested and to give the club another of his talks on current matters.

The club's web site (www.iwpcug.org) now has a site map which help visitors to find what they are looking for.

David Broughton
Chairman

> **See web site for the**
> **Chairman's Report, JUNE 2004**

Putting Counters on Web Pages

Christine Jenkins suggested that an article on putting counters on web pages would make a useful article for HOT KEY.

Liam Thom of "Island Webservices" provided the following :-
Site Meter do an idiot proof counter. Just go to http://www.sitemeter.com/default.asp?action=newaccount and follow your nose. It is probably best of all the JavaScript counters and gives important information like referring pages and shows, daily, weekly, and monthly trends. I put Site Meter on over a hundred sites before I put a statistics package on my servers. The downside is that it sits on another server so can slow a page down. You can get around this by putting it right at the bottom of the page outside any tables or divs. I use Site Meter on Island Business. (http://www.islandwebservices.fsnet.co.uk/) which is hosted by Freeserve and so I can not use my stats package on it. Click on the coloured box at the base.

A fairly good counter can be obtained from http://www.s-tracking.com/ although it is not free for over 5000 page views a month.

FrontPage 2002 does an automatic hits counter but it is only a counter. I have put a demo on http://www.iwwebhosting.co.uk/new_page_3.htm . It only works when publishing sites using the publish button on FrontPage on web servers that have FrontPage extensions enabled. You can put it on a page by clicking Insert> Web Component > Hit Counter. This will not work on sites that are published through FTP.

Beware of counters that go up every time you visit a page. A true counter should recognise a computer and just add page views but not visits. When you visit a web site with counters on each page you should generate one visit regardless of how many times you revisit that site (within a certain time limit) or how many pages are visited. "Page Views" on the counter should be incremented every time a new page is visited.
Site Meter will only increment "visits" if a site is revisited after half an hour.

Liam Thom
Island Webservices

Ten Years Ago in Hot Key

Reviewed by David Broughton

In March 1994 the cover disk contained SUPERBAR which was a program for creating and editing user configurable tool bars. This was for Windows 3.1 Applications. Another similar aid was ClySmic Icon Bar which was a vertical bar of icons for launching programs under 3.1. Sounds like a prelude to Windows 95. Also on the disk was the latest PKZIP program, version 2.04g. I still have this cover disk.

The March '94 edition had a histogram of the ages of members. The average age was 50. Dennis Linzmaier was the editor in those days. I notice that there was a £10 prize offered for the most original or unusual computer application. I don't remember anyone winning it or even sending in an entry! But I could be wrong.

In 1994, Tim Bateman was doing a regular article interviewing committee members. The April edition carries an interview with Buzz Austin.

The April edition carried an article about misleading messages on computer screens, and it still happens. Does "The Options are Correct" mean "Press Enter after you have selected the correct options" or does it mean "The options you see are correct". I still have this kind of problem in understanding messages.

The May '94 edition has an article on building a computer and how much it costs. Without any software it came to a total of £780. The hard disk was 200 Mbytes and cost £150. There was 4 Mbytes of RAM (costing £130) in this sample machine. The conclusion was that it was not a lot cheaper than buying one off the shelf.

The most popular computer game in 1994 was DOOM but it was a DOS version that needed lots of memory. However, a Windows 3.1 version was forecast to be in the pipeline that used a graphics accelerator card if you had it that made the program "whizz".

In August 1994 the club's annual Barbecue was held at the George Inn in St James Street, Newport.

It was announced in the July 1994 edition that Demon Internet was about to have a local PoP (Point of Presence). I signed up with Demon shortly afterwards, using DOS software. What "Point of Presence" meant in those days was that a local telephone number could be used to save on telephone bills as all Internet traffic went through BT phone lines in those days.

More from 1994 Hot Keys in the next edition.

IW PC User Yahoo e-Group

IWPCUG is about people on the Island with an interest in computing getting in touch with each other, being sociable, looking for the things which are helpful in living with these things.

People often say computers are "nerdy" or isolationist things, but one contribution Bill Gates has made to social life is increasing the necessity for people to get together and help each other – the dreaded blue screen is an amazing socialising factor responsible for revitalising pub conversation and bringing whole communities together. It's one thing to chat to your next-door-neighbour about Windows crashing but to visit someone on another continent and find they have the same problem can be a major help towards world peace.

Another way of getting together (as well as via the IWPCUG) is the IWPCUG Yahoo group. I'm told we have about 100 members in the IWPCUG but I see we have only 45 members listed on the e-group. Now this article is aimed mostly at those 55 of you who aren't in the Yahoo group, or who are in it but haven't fully registered. Those of you who are good can turn the page now.

Yahoo e-groups are an extension of the email process. An e-group is a private website to which members "subscribe" (it's free, however). There are various ways to join (see later) and two levels of belonging. A simple subscription allows you to be part of the email networking system - you can send and receive group emails and be part of an online email discussion forum (and you can control your email delivery options). If you set up a Yahoo ID you can join fully and have access to the IWPCUG Yahoo website.

This is like a clubroom with a notice board and various areas where you can store and access files and photos, add your name to a members' database, look at and add useful web links and even a chat area.

The website can go further than this. It should eventually be possible to upload an interactional database of contributing members where you can search for other members who share your interests or have special skills to offer.

To join you may go to the Yahoo site http://groups.yahoo.com/group/iwpcusers/ and post a subscription request. Once subscribed you may then use the Yahoo! system to gain full access to the website. Don't forget the main IWPCUG website on www.iwpcug.org

Also, you may like to spend a little time looking at Yahoo in general (www.yahoo.com or www.yahoo.co.uk). Yahoo is an enormous resource and once you've set up your Yahoo ID you can have your own home area personally customised. I set my Internet Explorer home page to my Yahoo area from which I launch my most very frequent links.

Roger Skidmore
01983 822900
rogerskid@supanet.com

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

For Sale:

Hewlett Packard
ScanJet A4 flatbed
scanner, type 5100C.

Price £10.

Phone David Broughton

on 740421 for details.

Xircom

. 4-Port USB Hub

For
PC and Macintosh

Free

Contact Ray Boote

Have you anything for sale? If so, why not use the members'
notice board? It's free.

HOW TO JOIN THE E-GROUP

Send an e-mail to: **iwpcusers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com**

All members are urged to join this e-group (which costs nothing and is private
to club members) in order to keep in touch with events and join in discussions.

You can also keep in touch by regularly visiting **www.iwpcug.org**
particularly for the latest details of meetings.