



Christine Jenkins, Maureen Whitakker, Ingrid Grice and Rosemary West at a recent meeting

**D**ennis Linzmaier gave an informative teaching on Windows Me recently, which outlined the various features of this latest operating system from Microsoft.. Clearly this version of Windows is more stable and quicker in booting up and has some interesting facets, particularly the System Restore. Windows Me does have a backup system but this has to be installed separately from the add-ons folder on the Me disc. The Windows Help & Support feature is comprehensive and informative and boots up automatically when you are in Safe Mode to assist you with any problem that you may be experiencing. In addition to the latest Internet Explorer 5.5, which has the Print Preview facility, and the Windows Media Player 7.0, there is Windows Movie Maker for budding video specialists who want to produce their own home movies. Incidentally there is an update to the Media Player in the form of Media Player 8 beta, which is available for download at:-

[www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/en/compare/quality.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia/en/compare/quality.asp)

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# FUTURE MEETINGS

<b>7th February</b>	<b>A.G.M . followed by Questions and Answers</b> on hardware and software	Dennis Linzmaier
<b>21st February</b>	Introduction to Internet Usage	Tim Bateman & others
<b>7th March</b>	Spreadsheets	David Broughton
<b>21st March</b>	Workshop - Hardware Upgrades	Dennis Linzmaier
<b>4th April</b>	Microsoft Power Point	Doug Rankine
<b>18th April</b>	Latest Computer Products	To be advised
<b>2nd May</b>	Website Design	Alan Anthony
<b>16th May</b>	Developments in Computer Graphics	Bob Groom
<b>6th June</b>	Webcams & other specialist equipment	To be advised
<b>20th June</b>	Back to Basics	To be advised



Doug, Bill Hughes and David pictured at the "Backup Meeting"

Doug and David gave talks on how to back up folders and files to various hardware. Doug showed how to backup onto a CDRW disc and how to reduce the size of folders by using WinZip, whilst David used the DOS method of backing up to an LS 120 drive. David's tutorial may be found on his personal website at:- <http://www.ddina.demon.co.uk>

Our thanks, once again, must go to Bill Hughes for the supply of the delicious fruit cake, which was enjoyed by all those members that were present at the "Backup Talk" the Riverside Centre.

**ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP- COMMITTEE MEMBERS****Honorary President:**

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**Committee Member:**

Cliff Maidment

**Disability Resources Co-ordinator:**

Helen Edom



Subject: Letter to the Editor  
Date: 15 January 2001 15:37

To: The Editor, Hot Key

Dear Sir,

Thank you for publishing the article on the program TELLME in the January edition of Hot Key. Readers may like to know that the program now has extra facilities that allow the user to prune the FTP log file. Also, file names are now output in alphabetical order, a much-needed improvement. The program is available free from the Downloadable Binaries section of the club's web page.

David Broughton.

According to the latest reports from the recent Comdex Show in the States, the new fast USB 2.0 will be with us soon. USB 2.0 is rated at 480Mbits/sec., which is 40 times faster than the current USB 1.0. This means that the USB 2.0 will be the equivalent of the current FireWire (aka 1394). USB 2.0 is sure to go on motherboards as standard this year and the various USB 2.0 hardware devices should be available next year.

I have recently installed a USB plate to the USB 8-pin header, on my Abit KA7-100 motherboard, as I ran out of connections on my 4way USB Hub. This USB plate, which comes with two USB sockets and which uses a 10-pin header was immediately recognised by Windows Me and is now working fine with my Logitech Webcam and USB mouse. Unfortunately the USB mouse does not work in Safe Mode, so I have to use my keyboard as a workaround.

Recommended Websites:- <http://www.usbman.com>  
<http://www.putergeek.com>

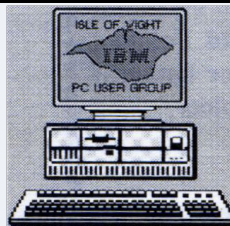
## **The Isle of Wight PC User Group**

welcomes all owners and users of IBM Compatible Personal Computers.

It is a group which seeks to exchange ideas and seek new information.

Our meetings are informal on the **first and third Wednesdays of each month at The Riverside Centre, Newport, 7.30-9.30 pm.**

The first Wednesday has usually a formal talk whilst the third Wednesday is more informal, geared to the new user and aims to help out members with specific problems.



**Membership is £12 per year.**

**Visitors are welcome.**

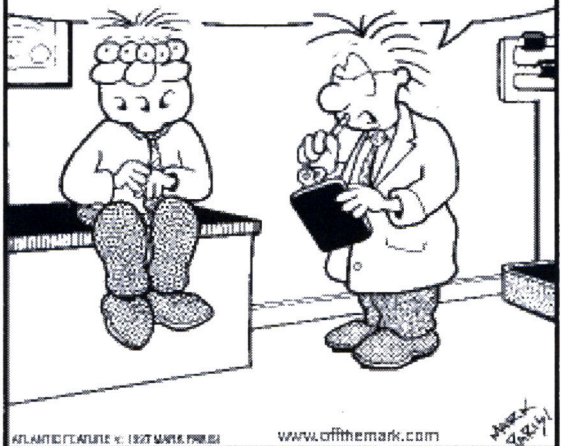
This journal, "**HOTKEY**", is produced every month.

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

H  
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**off the mark** by Mark Parisi  
www.offthemark.com

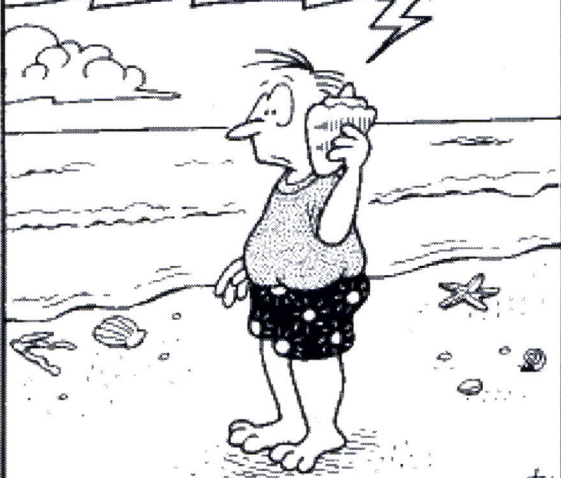
WELL, MR. HARKINS, IT APPEARS YOU HAVE A MYSTERIOUS CONDITION THAT'S CAUSING YOU TO GROW EXTRA FACIAL FEATURES... EITHER THAT OR YOU'RE JUST LOOKING AROUND REALLY FAST...



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WE'RE SORRY, BUT DUE TO A COURT RULING WE CAN NO LONGER FREELY DISTRIBUTE AUDIO WAVE FILES...



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## PRINTER PORT MODES

Your parallel port may be operating at a fraction of its potential speed. Somewhere in the BIOS setup screens you should find a setting for the printer port mode.

### SPP or Normal

SPP stands for Standard Parallel Port. This was the mode of operation of the printer ports on the very first PCs over 20 years ago. It is slow and has very limited provision for the connected device to talk back to the computer. Avoid it if possible.

### Bi-di

An upgraded standard first used on the IBM PS/2 computer. Still slow, but bi-directional communication enables better integration between printer and computer and makes it feasible to connect other types of peripheral such as drives and scanners.

### EPP

The Enhanced Parallel Port is considerably faster. Two versions may be available (v1.7 and v1.9) because some PC manufacturers adopted the port before the standard had been ratified. Version 1.9 is the full, rubber-stamped EPP mode.

### ECP

Potentially faster still than EPP, the Extended Capabilities Port is best suited to extended data flow in one direction, such as with a scanner or printer. EPP is better suited to rapid changes in direction of data flow, as with storage devices. Some peripherals won't work satisfactorily with ECP but may work with EPP. Only use Normal/SPP/Bi-di if you can't make ECP or EPP work. The very first edition of Windows 95 didn't support ECP but this was added in subsequent versions and by a service pack.

*Our thanks to PC Plus for this info.*



## How to print Full Bleed by TMorris\*\*\*@\*\*\*.com

(Editor's Note: In the UK we use A4 paper - 8.3" x 11.7")

Here's a how-to on "printing full bleed to the bottom of those expensive glossy photo sheets". Later you can use this approach for full bleed to all corners; just use a 2 sided removable tape and a larger feeder paper.

You have to allow for the % inch margin at the bottom as a feeder length to the printer. By taping on a peel off paper feeder you can now print right to the edge! This really works and it is simple to do. All I do is to extend the length of paper by taping on at least a 3 inch long feeder paper.

I usually just use a full size piece of 8% by 11 sheet. Make sure that you go to the print set-up menu and reset the paper size to a longer length than the 8% x 11 setting or this will not work!



### **Step 1**

Place the glossy sheet glossy side down on a clean surface.

### **Step 2**

Tape a paper sheet full size (8% x 11) or at least 3 inches long to the bottom edge (non-glossy surface). I use the 3M removable tape, which is available at office supply stores. Carefully tape across the entire length.

### **Step 3**

It is very important to get a smooth edge so trim off any tape or paper that hangs over the edges (across the 8% inches or width of the paper).

### **Step 4**

In loading the paper, I have found that glossy paper tends to slip when using the auto feeder, which can ruin the print as it takes away printable area. The manual feed is much better at taking glossy stock. On both the Epson 600 and 880 printers you can open the cover to see if the manual feed took the paper to the right position before you print.

### **Step 5**

Make sure you set-up the length of paper to at least 13 (for an 11 inch length - hey it worked for me).

### **Step 6**

PRINT IT! The printer will print right to the edge and in some cases just a bit over on to the feeder paper.

### **Step 7**

After printing, carefully peel off the feeder paper as you can use it a couple of times.

This same approach can be used for full bleed to all edges; you just need to use a suitable feeder strip and double sided removable tape.

<http://come.to/digitaldarkroom>

## **Help Stories from Tech. Support**

★ A Dell technician advised his customer to put his troubled floppy back in the drive and close the door. The customer asked the tech to hold on and was heard putting the phone down, getting up, crossing the room to close the door to his room.

★ Another Dell customer called to say he couldn't get his computer to fax anything. After 40 minutes of trouble-shooting, the technician discovered the man was trying to fax a piece of paper by holding it in front of the monitor screen and hitting the "send" key.

★ Another customer called Compaq tech support to say her brand-new computer wouldn't work. She said she unpacked the unit, plugged it in and sat there for 20 minutes waiting for something to happen. When asked what happened when she pressed the power switch, she asked "what power switch?"

## Rave 2



**Rave 2**-Talk to all your pals on ICQ with this small, sweet utility!

**Rave 2** partners with ICQ to deliver the cheapest and most secure form of telephone communication. Some of its features include: Optional call screening, encrypted connection, optional auto pop-up on incoming calls, excellent performance over slow networks, and requires absolutely no set up of any kind! The only requirements: a PC with sound card and microphone. This program is cool! Easy to use and easy to set up!

**Rave 2** is a partner application for ICQ that makes it possible to actually talk to ICQ users rather than having to type messages back and forth. With **Rave 2** you can carry on two-way voice conversations with anyone on the ICQ network that also uses **Rave 2**. Simplicity is the name of the game here -- all you need to do in order to talk to someone is click on their ICQ contact name and then click the **Rave 2** button. Assuming the other user has **Rave 2** installed and running, in a matter of seconds you'll be talking to them over the Internet as you would on a standard telephone. The prime advantage to this is, of course, that the calls are free. Regardless of whether the other user is in a different city, state, or even country, there is no charge beyond that of the cost of your Internet connection. This even applies to international calls -- so if you have relatives in Thailand or a business associate in Moscow and want to save money, the **ICQ/Rave 2** combination will come in quite handy.

Features in **Rave 2** include a call



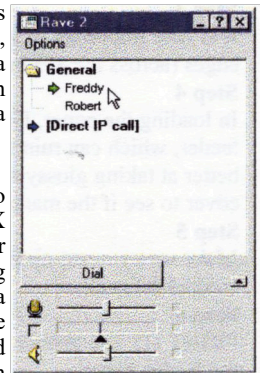
screening option that will display the ICQ information for the person calling you before you pick up the call, a pop up option that will automatically notify you of an incoming call, an auto-answer option, options for docking with and tracking the state of ICQ. As far as requirements go, all you need in order to use **Rave 2** is a 32-bit Windows operating (95/98, NT, or 2000), a sound card in your PC, and a microphone.

**Rave 2** also offers VOX settings for conserving Internet bandwidth. Activated Transmission Level Control (VOX) ensures that **Rave 2** calls transmit only essential speech information. In other words, only your spoken words will be transmitted over the 'net, with silence and background noise being ignored. For the best performance of **Rave 2** -- and to help the overall performance of the Internet in general -- you'll need to make sure that you're using the optimal VOX settings before making calls.

**Rave 2** even offers an encryption mode. The **Rave 2** encryption scheme uses Russian Federation National encryption standards (GOST 28147-89, Digital signature 34.10-94, 34.11-94) which are extremely secure -- so secure that they are used by all Russian government agencies, including the Central Bank of Russia.

For further info:-

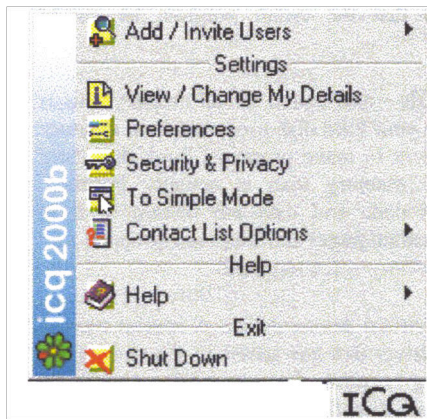
<http://www.rave2.com/>





**ICQ 2000b - What's New in 2000b?**

- ICQ Integration for Outlook
- ICQ Homepages Notification
- Invite Old Friends
- Wireless Pager Messages
- ICQ phone
- ICQ SMS
- Non ICQ Contacts
- Request for Authorization Follow-up Service



**ICQphone**

This feature incorporates IP telephony functions into the ICQ program. ICQphone now makes it possible for users to initiate and participate in PC-to-PC and PC-to-Phone calls. This is in addition to the Phone-to-Phone calls that are already available when you have an ICQ phone account.

**ICQ SMS**

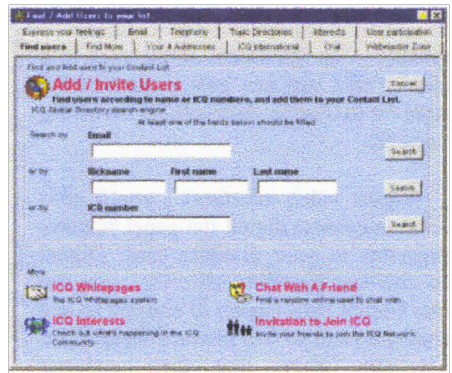
This feature integrates the SMS (Short Messaging Service) technology with the ICQ

program. ICQ users can now send SMS messages to any cellular phone with SMS capabilities and receive reply SMS messages from these cellular users to their ICQ program.

**Note:** The SMS feature works with GSM cellular phone technology only.

**Non ICQ Contacts**

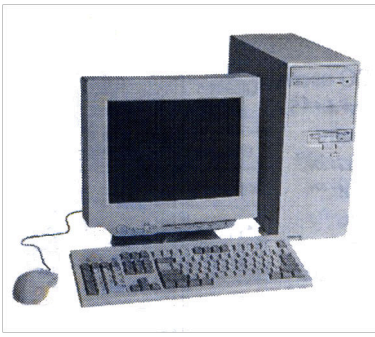
ICQ users are now able to add people to their Contact List (who are not necessarily ICQ users) for the purpose of sending Pager and SMS messages and, communicating via ICQphone etc. The contact name will appear under the "Non ICQ Contacts" separator on the Contact List.



**ICQ Integration for Outlook**

This feature enables ICQ users to send attachments, forward and reply with ICQ messages and chat directly from the Microsoft Outlook 2000 program.

For more information go to:-  
<http://www.icq.com>



## GLOSSARY

**Cache** - a temporary storage area used to speed up different processes. A web browser keeps recently used web pages on hard disk cache, so it doesn't have to download the same page again. A processor stores recent or frequently used instruction in small chunks of very fast memory called level 1 and 2 caches.

**DMA** - direct memory access. A process for data retrieval from a device such as a hard disk that writes it into memory without involving the processor, thus freeing it up for other tasks.

**Bus master** - an intelligent device such as a PCI adapter card that can gain control of the bus and use it to transfer data without involving the processor.

**DVI** - (digital video interface) - you'll need this socket to connect digital flat-panel displays and projectors to your graphics card. Digital devices can communicate directly with the computer (rather than having to convert to and from analogue) and so will produce sharper and more realistic images than their analogue counterparts.

**RAMDAC** - the piece of electronic wizardry that translates analogue signals (from non-digital monitors) to digital and back. The higher the speed, the less loss of detail there should be. You should specify 350MHz.

**Fatal exception** - this is a Windows error message generated by the processor when it detects invalid code, invalid data or illegal instructions being accessed by a program. It frequently results in the infamous "blue screen". Generally requires restarting your PC to clear it.

**GPF** - general protection fault. Most PC users will have come across this at some time. It is caused by a program trying to access an area of memory being used by another program or the operating system. If it were allowed to write to this area it would overwrite another program's data or instructions, so Windows stops it and requests that the errant program be closed down.

**Swap file** - also called virtual memory; this is a file on your hard disk used as a main memory supplement to make programs think that there is more memory than is actually installed. Program code and data are written to it in chunks called pages and these are swapped into main memory when required.

**VxD** - virtual device driver. A special type of device driver that has access to the core of the operating system for supervising hardware operations directly. A mouse, serial port and parallel port use VxDs.

*Our thanks to PC Advisor for this info.*

## CDR/CDRW Frequently Asked Questions

### **How can I prevent Buffer Underruns from happening?**

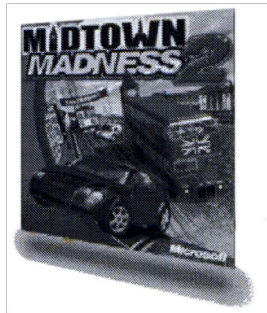
- Make sure that "Auto Insert Notification" is turned off in the CD Rewriteable section of device manager.
- Close programs that are running in the background with "End it All" or Ctrl/Alt/Delete.
- Disable schedulers, virus software, system sounds and screensaver.
- Defragment your hard drive and delete files in your Windows temp directory.
- Disable Power Management in Control Panel.
- Reduce the record speed to say 2x

# TOP SOFTWARE



Midtown Madness 2 features two locations, driving 9 urban roadsters through the streets of London and San Francisco. This software also features new single-player Crash Course mission mode where budding drivers can learn and master the tricks of Madness, racing as a Hollywood Stunt Driver on location at a San Francisco movie set or as a Cabbie Trainee at the East End Cab Company School of Driving in London!

Available at [www.jungle.com](http://www.jungle.com) - £22.98 (incl. Vat)



## Also recommended:-



### Microsoft Works Suite 2001

This is the lighter version of Microsoft Office, offering all you'll ever need for the home. This package is crammed with Money 2001, AutoRoute 2001, World Atlas 2001 and Picture It 2001! But the bonus in this package is the full version of Word 2000 integrated into Works itself..

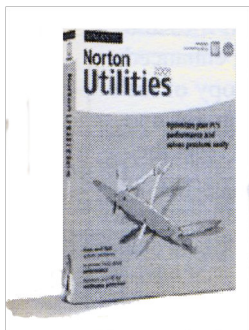
(Available for £75 plus VAT)



### Encarta 2001 DVD

This encyclopaedia is packed with libraries of photos, video footage, illustrations and web links on a single DVD for ease of use or 6 CD's. There is, in addition to the Encyclopaedia, World English Dictionary and Interactive World Atlas. You can also update this edition with regular downloads of hundreds of new articles from [www.encycarta.com](http://www.encycarta.com)

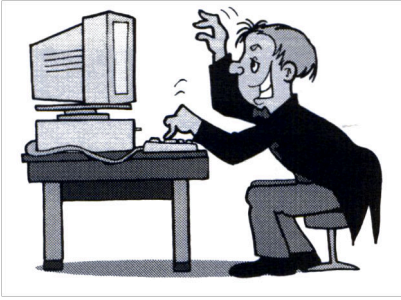
(Available for £57.95)



### Norton Utilities 2001

An integrated suite of programs that can help you find and fix computer problems, improve your computer's performance, perform preventative maintenance tasks and troubleshoot your system. This software will keep your Computer in good condition and warn you of potential problems before they become apparent. It also minimizes your down time when something goes wrong, helps you to recover lost data and provides information you need when installing new hardware or software. A 30 day trial is available on the cover disks of PC magazines or can be purchased from MicroWorld at:-

[www.microworld.co.uk](http://www.microworld.co.uk) for only £19.95 (incl. vat & carriage).



## A Short Article on DOS,

by David Broughton

DOS = Disk Operating System.

But almost all operating systems have at least one disk so almost all operating systems could be called a disk operating system, including all versions of Windows. But "DOS" today does not mean that.

It started out when IBM introduced the IBM-PC back in 1980. There was no hard disk then. The computer had one or two 5.25" floppy disks (of 180 kilobytes capacity!) so the disk operating system was really a name for the software that kept track of where the data files resided on the floppy disk. To provide an interface to the computer user, a command language was designed based on a previous command language called CP/M. This language was interpreted by a program called COMMAND.COM and is still in use today, though with greatly enhanced facilities. The word DOS is now identified with this command language rather than with the software that controls the disk system.

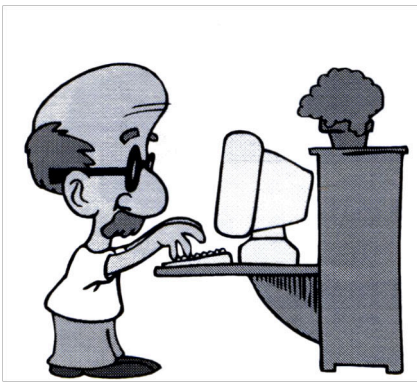
A command language consists of a set of command words such as COPY and MOVE or abbreviations like DIR for directory. These are typed by the user at

a command prompt with optional parameters on the same line followed by the Enter key. The Enter key is the executive word of command, i.e. the computer then does what it has been told to do. Unlike a Windows user, a D O S user is in complete control of what is done and what is not done on the computer and feels more in charge which is why DOS is still the preferred operating system of many people.

In addition to the predefined DOS command words one can type the name of a program and COMMAND.COM will load that program and run it (overwriting itself in the process).

A particularly useful feature of DOS is the Batch file system that allows the user to batch many DOS commands into one command like macros. Batch files can also be made to carry out commands conditionally, which makes the batch language similar in some respects to a full programming language. Windows does not have a batch facility except in so far as it can use DOS facilities. Windows 95 and 98 have DOS facilities so remains the DOS user's preferred Windows operating system. Later versions of Windows have only limited facilities for operating DOS programs.

The MS-DOS prompt icon in Windows is the gateway into DOS usage if one is forced into using the Windows operating system. Here you can run batch files and perform all the operations that enhanced DOS provides. By making a copy of the desktop MS-DOS icon you can rename it, change the icon graphic, and reset the properties to run any DOS program or batch file (or both) either minimised, maximised or full screen.



DOS programs look like any other program when listed in a Windows directory (folder) of files. They have a file extension (file type) of either EXE or COM and batch files have the extension BAT. If you double click a DOS program it will behave as it would if invoked from a DOS prompt except that there would be no facility for command line parameters. However, there is one feature of Windows that allows one file name to be passed as a parameter. That is when you drag a file name over the program name and release the mouse key. This causes Windows to run the program with the dragged file name as a parameter as if placed on the command line. This is useful for DOS programs that just require one file name as a parameter, such as an editor or file conversion program. For example, if one had a DOS encryption program called ENCRYPT.EXE and a file called FRED.TXT containing confidential information, by dragging the file named FRED.TXT over the program

ENCRYPT (in a folder or on the desktop), the program ENCRYPT would be run with the file name FRED.TXT as parameter and this would encrypt the FRED.TXT file.

Windows likes to store information about DOS programs in a file with the extension PIF (Program Information File) and will make such a file if you run a DOS program from the Windows operating system. The PIF file contains information that you can edit from the program's Properties box (right click the program name to get the Properties).

To a DOS programmer, the Disk Operating System is much more than a command language: it is the means by which many of the computer's facilities are made available to the programmer through standardised program interfaces. These are published software definitions of how to operate and control the disks, text display, graphics display, printers, clock, etc.

## CONCLUSIONS

DOS refers mainly to an historic, and some would say archaic, command language operating system that, despite its dependence on the keyboard, still offers facilities (especially its batch file facility) for operating the IBM-PC Compatible computer that Windows users cannot easily perform.

### DMA (Direct Memory Access)

DMA is located in the Device Manager in the CD ROM section. Highlight your device and click on properties and then the settings tab; this should indicate to you if you have DMA on your computer. Usually it is best to place a tick in the DMA box to increase the speed of various drives. But if you're going to try to modify the DMA settings on your system, be sure to read:- <http://www.winmag.com/columns/explorer/2001/02.htm>  
<http://www.winmag.com/columns/explorer/1999/1206.htm>



**PRIZE PUZZLE CORNER**  
by David Broughton



## PRIZE PUZZLE FOR FEBRUARY 2001

We take a giant leap this month into the world of computer programming. I'm going to introduce a very simple programming exercise.

Like most programs, this one has input data and output data. In this case the input data is a single number in the range 0 to 9; that is, a single decimal digit. The output data is a seven- segment display as found on some electronic calculators.

Diagram 1 shows all possible results from the program for each of the ten possible input data numbers.

The seven segments are numbered as in diagram 2. Your job is to write a computer program that switches on or off the seven segments appropriately, depending on the input data number.

The computer language is very simple, consisting of just four kinds of instruction. They are: ONn where n is one of the segment numbers, 1 to 7 and OFFn to switch them off. IFd (where d is a decimal digit number in the range 0 to 9) is true or false depending on the input data number. For example, IF3 will be true when the input data is 3 and false for any other input data. The true condition lasts to the end of the line; the false condition will cause further instructions on the line to be ignored. Finally, the instruct X, which stands for "exit" means that the program stops executing at that point.

All seven segments of the display must be defined ON or OFF for each possible input data number: you must not assume they are off at the start.

Instructions are written on lines separated by commas or spaces.

The winner is the person who writes a correct program and has the minimum number of switch ON and OFF operations in the program text.

All should be clear with the following example of part of a program:

```
ON1, ON2, ON3, ON4, ON5, ON6, ON7
IF8. X
OFF5, IF9, X
IF6, OFF3, ON5, X
```

The first line switches on all the seven segments which might be a good way to start because all segments must be properly defined ON or OFF at some stage and this is one of the numerals, namely 8.

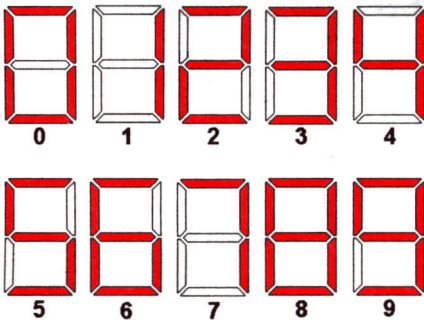


Diagram 1

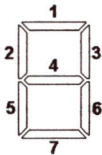


Diagram 2

The second line is saying "If the input data requires the number 8 to be displayed then exit". The X instruction is obeyed conditionally on the input data being 8. For other input data cases the instructions following IF8 would be ignored and the program would proceed to the next line.

The third line is saying "on the other hand, if the input data was not 8, switch off segment 5 and if the input data is 9 then exit" -- because by switching off segment 5 the display will show the numeral 9.

The fourth line is an example where the condition IF6 is followed by two operations before the exit at the end of the line. Segment 3 is switched off and segment 5 is switched

back on to form the numeral 6. It is important to note that if the input data was not 6, then segment 5 would be off at the end of this section of program because it was switched on conditionally on the fourth line. If, however, the fourth line had been

ONS, IF6, OFF3, X

the program would still be correct to display the numeral 6 but if the input data was not 6, segment 5 would be on at the start of the next line.

The total number of ON and OFF instructions in this small section of program is 10. You have to minimise this total in the complete program.

To help you (and me!) to check your program I have written a simulator that you can download from the web site. It is called PUZSIM.EXE and requires a plain text file of the program as input data. Another file called PUZSIM.TXT contains further information about running the simulator. But you don't need the simulator to write the program -- it just makes it easier to check. Send your completed program to me, David Broughton, to arrive by Wednesday 7th March (or earlier if hand written, as I shall have to type it into the computer).

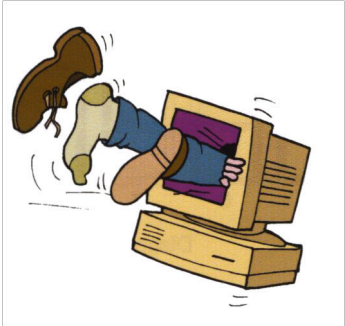
To get the simulator, go to:-  
<http://www.ddina.demon.co.uk/iwpcug/> and click on "More...", then "Downloadable Binaries" and read the instructions for downloading.

## Solution to the December Problem.

This was a matrix of letters where you had to cross out various words to leave the name of a person. That person was LINZMAIER. Our Chairman, Dennis Linzmaier, did the puzzle but did not submit the answer. I received correct solutions from Michael Hodge (who, incidentally, gave his answer on the evening the problem was published), Peter Woollerton, Geoff Hughes, Molly Mills, Rosemary West, Colin Boon and Ken Cameron. Molly Mills won the draw and a £5 book token. Well done all, and congratulations to Molly.

# MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

This Board is FREE to members  
Please use it!



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by Mark Parisi

[www.offthemark.com](http://www.offthemark.com)



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