

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP

www.iwpcug.org

MONTHLY JOURNAL

Issue 137 – April 2003



Arthur Johnson, Denny Linzmaier, Rob Webb and Bob Cook during a coffee break at Riverside Centre

Denny Linzmaier although troubled by his laptop, in that he was unable to demonstrate how to change the BIOS settings when booting your computer, gave a detailed theoretical account of what the BIOS is and what it contains. Denny showed by means of a PowerPoint presentation the various settings that can be made in the BIOS in order for one's computer to operate efficiently but did emphasise that endeavouring to speed up your computer through the BIOS did not in actual fact increase the operating speed of one's computer to a big degree. The main ingredients for a computer to run faster would be the CPU (processor), the amount of memory, the speed of the hard disk and the graphics card memory.

Aspects of the different kind of memory installed in a computer was discussed including DRAM and SDRAM but the latest kind of memory is now DDRAM. Also discussed was the updating of the BIOS, called Flash Memory but this can be a tricky operation and should only be done by more proficient computer users

Questions were asked during the course of the talk, including the CPU Temperature Settings and Denny explained that information should be obtained regarding the correct temperature settings, from the relevant websites for one's own type of motherboard, such as AMD and Intel.

In This Issue

Future Meetings	2
Editorial	4
Humour	5
Using your CD-ROM	6-7
Media Player 9	8-9
Multimedia	10
TCLockEx	11
The BIOS	12
Sylvia Farley	13
Prize Puzzle	14
Q & A	15
Notice Board	16

FUTURE MEETINGS

2nd April	Video Editing	Noel Stimpson
16th April	Motherboards and Processors	To be arranged
7th May	Backing Up	Dennis Linzmaier David Broughton Roger Skidmore
21st May	My Own Use of Computers and biography	Michael Hodge and John Bownas
4th June	Networking	Mike Collins
18th June	Members talking about their use of computers	To be arranged

We also have two e-group discussion areas:-
 Yahoo iwpcusers: iwpcusers@yahoogroups.com
 and for web designers:
IWPCUG-Web-group@yahoogroups.com

Contributory Managers

Museum Curator:

John Austin

E-mail Discussion Group "iwpcusers":

Owners: Roger Skidmore and David Broughton

Moderator: Rob Webb

E-mail Discussion Group "IWPCUG-Web-group":

Owner: Rob Webb

Moderator: David Broughton



Some of the IWPCUG members at the recent meeting 'The BIOS' at the Riverside Centre

ISLE OF WIGHT PC USER GROUP - COMMITTEE MEMBERS

3

Chairman/Riverside Liaison:

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**Secretary:**

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Treasurer:

Bob Groom,

Membership Secretary/Database Manager/Hot Key Distribution:

Ray Boote

Vice Chairman/Webmaster:

David Broughton

Journal Editor/Cover Disk Producer/Librarian:

Brian Sexton

Committee Member/Computer Custodian:

Dennis Linzmaier

Committee Member/Marketing:

Derek Cox

Committee Member/Show Organiser:

Cliff Maidment

Committee Member:

George Wilson

Committee Member:

David Groom

Chairman - Computability Section

Roger Skidmore

Disability Resources Co-ordinator:

Helen Edom



Well here we are four months into the year and Spring has sprung. Where does the time go? They say that time waits for no man, so we are hoping that the remainder of the year will bring informative and interesting meetings at the Riverside Centre.

Have you ever wondered why your computer crashes? Is it due to the wrong drivers, out of date hardware or incompatible software? I have been plagued recently with a number of blue screens with different stop messages, which caused me to wonder what was triggering the problem, until I suddenly realised that my computer was unhappy with a certain piece of hardware that was connected to my computer. This was namely my Win95/98 USB hub which was not compatible with my Windows XP operating system. Since disconnecting the external USB hub from my computer, the blue screens seem to have ceased. Another reason for the blue screen stop messages was because I had inadvertently installed a Windows 98 version of PDF Factory instead of the XP version. Windows XP is particularly fussy about what drivers are installed and will quickly indicate the incompatibility when installing the software, although my onboard sound, whilst not being recognised by Windows seems to have accepted the drivers from my CD-ROM setup disk. This appears to be the only non-XP driver in my computer now but my computer is still crashing when using Microsoft Publisher 2000. It appears I need to upgrade to the 2002 version.

Whilst I agree that the use of the PowerPoint software in presentations for our various talks - and we have had a string of this type of teaching - I do believe our members would prefer a hands on presentation of how hardware and software works. The theory of a subject is important but the practical is better if one is going to learn about how to accomplish computer tasks. Videos are a good way of illustrating the how to aspects of various subjects but step by step and tips using the computer is far better in learning about the different facets of computing. I would like to suggest that our club computer be made available at our meetings in order to overcome the limitations of the laptop computer, which has been featured extensively over previous months. This was highlighted by Denny Linzmaier in his talk on the BIOS, when he was unable to demonstrate in a practical way how to change the settings in the BIOS on boot up of the computer.

Recommended download: TweakAll3 (a free utility that lets you alter various Windows settings)
www.computeractive.co.uk/download/1112715



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 bi-monthly on **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 printed 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 listed on page 3.

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

H U M O U R

off the mark

by Mark Parisi

www.offthemark.com

5



off the mark

by Mark Parisi

www.offthemark.com

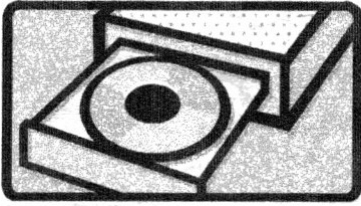


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www.offthemark.com

Use Your CD Drive More Productively

By Ira Wilsker



Almost all newer computers come with a CD-RW drive, a CD drive that can write and rewrite compatible CD discs. For older computers, with a standard CD reader (play only, not write), the addition of a CD “burner” is a very popular and fairly inexpensive upgrade. These drives are typically easy to install, and may possibly be installed in addition to the existing CD reader (good for copying CDs), or as a simple replacement. If internal installation is not desired, there are several external CD-RW drives, advertised weekly, that connect to an available USB or firewire port. The external drives, typically the USB models, are also often a good choice for older notebook computers where internal installation is difficult or impossible.

Almost all CD-RW drives, whether factory installed, or aftermarket add-on, come with some CD burning software. The most widely distributed CD software provided with the drives is from Adaptec, or Adaptec’s successor (Adaptec sold their CD writing software division), Roxio. Another common software package included with some drives is from Nero, while other drives come with a variety of lesser known software titles. As the price of blank CD discs plunges, burning (writing to) CDs has become very popular. Still, many PC users are not using their equipment to its potential: large number of users still only use their CD-RW drives in read mode to install other software, and not to burn discs.

As had been stated many times here in previous columns, the three most important words in computing are “Backup, Backup, and Backup”. Remember that “Murphy’s First law of Computing” states that “A properly backed-up hard drive will never fail: a hard drive that has not been recently backed up will always fail at the most inopportune time.” All too many users who have ready access to CD-RW drives have lost all of their important files to viruses or hard drive failures, despite the ease and low expense of copying important files to CD discs. The common blank discs hold from 660 to 700 megabytes of data, and are very inexpensive. Other than some time, there is no great investment to back up critical files at a minimum, or even better, entire hard drives.

There are a variety of excellent utilities available to backup hard drives. Some CD-RW drives come with a “lite” or “limited” version of popular backup programs. While minimally functional, these “lite” versions often lack useful functions such as compression (getting more data on a CD disc than its native capacity), or incremental backup (only backing up new files or files modified since the previous backup).

I have been using “**BackUp MyPC**” from Stomp Software (www.stompinc.com), which was formerly known as Backup Exec, by Veritas (Seagate). This program is probably one of the most full featured backup programs, and easy to use. **BackUpMyPC** can backup to almost any type of device from CD-RW drives, tape drives, Jazz and Zip drives, and other devices. Some competing products are **Roxio’s Go Back**, **Norton’s Ghost**, and **NTI’s BackUp Now** (which I have also used). Since almost all computers can utilize some form of CD writer, and blank discs are cheap, there is absolutely no reason NOT to have at least critical data files backed up. The cliché “ounce of prevention...” is most apropos here.



With over one in five PCs currently infected with at least one variety of the Klez worm, several versions of which are capable of destroying critical files on a hard drive, backups are imperative. The appearance and rapid spread of other destructive worms and viruses, such as the new “Hunch” worm which explicitly destroys the files in the Windows, My Programs, and My Documents directories, emphasizes the need for backing up hard drives.

Still, probably the most damage is done by the old-fashioned hard drive crash. Remember Murphy’s law, and always have a reasonably current backup of critical files. For long-term archival purposes, better quality CD discs are advertised as having a 100-year archival life.

There are other popular uses of CD burners. One of the most popular and most controversial uses is burning music to blank CD discs. Often in the popular MP3 format, or in native commercial music CD format, studies show that this is the most popular use of CD burners.

Provided that copyright laws are rigidly obeyed, and we all know that they always are (snicker), homemade music CDs are very widely created and used. Online music or swap services, ranging from the now defunct Napster, to the very much alive and controversial KazAa and Morpheus, as well as the legitimate commercial music sites such as Sony, are popular sources of such music.

Another popular use is copying entire CD discs. Generally, it is considered “ok” to make a single archival backup of commercial CDs, provided that the copy is only used as a backup, and properly disposed of (destroyed) when the original software is no longer needed. With some software CDs, and an increasing number of commercial music CDs, this archival backup is becoming more difficult to create as sophisticated copy protection is being utilized more commonly.

Many use their CD drive, often with rewriteable CD-RW discs, as an additional, but removable adjunct to their hard drive. This allows archival and portable storage of massive amounts of data, at minimal expense. CDs are often ideal for moving large files between computers.

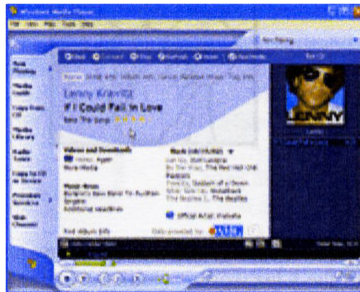
There are several other uses for the CD-RW drives now so common in our machines. Many other CD drive utilities are readily available for download, such as from:-

tu cows.exp.net/system/cdrutil95.html
or **tu cows.exp.net/mmedia.html**

Use the drives as they can be used, but make absolutely sure that critical data is frequently backed up.

Our thanks to the Kawartha Computer Club - **www.thekec.org/** for this article

WINDOWS MEDIA PLAYER 9



The latest version of Windows Media Player contains many improvements and exciting new features - you'll definitely find it a worthwhile download. It contains features such:-

- **Track Rating** - You can now assign a rating of one to five stars to each track. Media Player will guess the rating of other tracks based on your current ratings. You can override any automatically rated tracks, though.
- **Auto Playlists** - These are generated based on bit-rate, age or rating. You can call up a playlist of favourite music that you haven't heard recently. A cool feature.
- **Mini Player** - A smaller, fully functional version of the player that you can set to play on the task bar. You can watch video in its small, on top screen
- **Album Info** - Album information is automatically downloaded from the net when you copy tracks to your PC.
- **Player Colour Control** - Click this to alter the colour of the player. There are 12 shades to choose from. This offers subtler customising than the use of skins.
- Also improvements have been made to audio and video compression.

In Windows Media Player 9, you can rank audio tracks according to your taste and it will generate automatic playlists on your favourite tracks. You can even subtly speed up a recording without altering its pitch, letting you squeeze a two-hour film into an hour and forty minutes without anyone sounding like Pinky and Perky.

Microsoft's two main media codecs (compressor/decompressor) are **Windows Media Audio** (WMA) and **Windows Media Video** (WMV). These efficiently compress media data to make it more easily transported over the internet or to fit it on to small portable devices. The efficiency of WMA and WMV is unsurpassed. WMA files take up half the space of their main rival, MP3 files. Now that Microsoft has locked the bit rate of both of their codecs, hardware manufacturers are very keen to support them, safe in the knowledge that their devices won't need constant updating. This doesn't mean the codecs won't improve. In fact, WMA has been locked to two years but Microsoft has continued to make it more efficient.



Windows Media Player 9 offers you three ways to record tracks using WMA. You can use the default, most compressed 64Kbps (kilobits per second) code or vary the bit rate depending on the sounds you're recording. This compresses parts of the audio that contain little data more than the parts that contain more complex information. Finally, you can choose lossless compression; this gives the biggest file size.

Choosing lossless WMA means that you can archive all your CDs. When Microsoft next improves WMA compression you just convert the archived files, so you'll never need to re-record all your CDs again.

If this is sounding a bit on the complex side, don't worry. To record an audio CD all you need to do is put it into your CD drive, fire up Windows Media Player and select the 'Copy from CD' tab.

Streaming video has never been hugely successful over a dial-up connection because you simply can't get the required data through the bottleneck of a 56k modem. However, things change a little with Windows Media Player 9, because you can enable a feature called Video Smoothing. This recreates two out of three frames of low bit-rate video, giving a much smoother result. It's still not comparable to television, although truly stunning results can be achieved over broadband connections.

Your connection speed will dictate what type of media stream your computer can cope with best. It's not easy knowing which file to choose on the Internet, especially if your connection speed varies. Windows Media Player 9 can choose the most appropriate stream for your current connection for you, so you'll get the best media available given current conditions. This makes the player easy to set up and use.

Jargon - Lossey or Lossless?

Most audio and video codecs are lossey, which means they remove information such as inaudible sound or picture data that doesn't change from one frame to the next. Lossey compression makes media files much smaller without much noticeable reduction in quality. Lossless compression makes files a little smaller with no reduction in quality at all.

More Information: [Hints, Tips and Downloads](#)

www.microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia
www.windowsmedia.com/9series/home.asp

Our thanks to Microsoft Windows XP Magazine for this article



Andy Martch, obviously worked hard in presenting his talk to our members at the Riverside Centre recently, although some members found it beyond their comprehension. The presentation contained a Power Point production of topics such as Audio Video Enhancements, Midi Sequencers, Sound Fonts and MP3 Encoding to name a few. Andy's talk also incorporated videos of Pinnacle Studio 8 software and Adobe Premiere 6.5 software, as well as other videos on sound reproduction and software.

A copy of the power point presentation is available on our website, www.iwpcug.org but you do need to install the PowerPoint Viewer software. (See the March Cover Disk).

The Multimedia subject is too extensive for this column. A few of the topics discussed by Andy are as follows:-

What is MIDI?

MIDI Stands for Musical Instrument Digital Interface. MIDI is a digital language that was agreed upon by major manufacturers of Electronic Musical Instruments. It allows Keyboards, Synthesizers, Computers, Tape Decks and Mixers to talk to each other.

What has MIDI got to do with the average person?

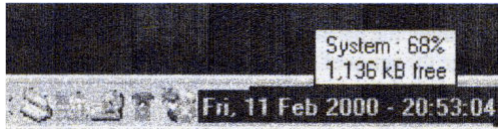
As long as you own at least a small keyboard that supports MIDI, it means that you have the choice to expand the system. The first step may be to connect the keyboard to the PC's sound card, such that the sequencing (arranging of the notes in a song) can be done in colour on a big screen instead of squinting at a small LCD panel (or blinking LED's).

MIDI sequencers get their name from their ability to record sequences of MIDI messages and play them back. They also allow you to make changes to the sequence of MIDI messages so what plays back is different than what was recorded. Since a song or tune requires lots of notes it is never a single message but is always a sequence of messages. Remember that MIDI data can't be sent in parallel like when you have several lines at the checkout stand at a grocery store. It is more like a train where one car enters the station at a time. A series of MIDI messages is called a sequence so a MIDI tune must be a sequence. That is why a MIDI tune is often called a 'sequence' but since a sequence doesn't have to make a whole song, any string of MIDI data can be called a sequence. For more info:- www.computer-music.com

MP3 Encoding

MP3 (MPEG audio layer 3) compresses to approx. 10% of original data and removes inaudible sounds without reducing the sound quality. If you have a CD/DVD player that will allow you to play MP3-CDs you can fit the equivalent of 12 albums of audio onto one CD. MP3s are widely recognized as the most popular format for storing and listening to music on the World Wide Web. Before there were MP3s, digital audio files took hours to download. But on a 56K modem, most MP3s can download in just a few minutes.

TClockEx Version 1.4.2 Taskbar Clock Enhancement



TClockEx enhances the standard Windows taskbar clock, adding the ability to display the date, time and lots of other information in any format you like. TClockEx is highly customisable, from the format to the font and colour, and even the tooltip information.

Windows XP

TClockEx works on Windows XP more or less the same as on Windows 2000. Did you know if you make the Windows XP task bar double-height, the standard clock panel also shows the date?

<http://users.iafrica.com/d/da/dalen/teget.htm>

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Question: I tried to open a file using the 'Open with' window to select the application but chose the wrong one. Now the file is associated with the program. How do I correct this?

Answer: Select the file you want to open. Hold down the Shift key and right click on the highlighted file. Select Open with from the menu. This brings up the 'Open with' dialogue box that allows you to choose which application opens the file. You can use the 'Always use this program to open this type of file' box to permanently pick an application.

Question: I use Outlook Express to download my emails. I would like to know if I can change the size of the font on received messages, as the current setting wastes a lot of paper.

Answer: To change the size of the on-screen text in Outlook Express, open an email and choose the font size menu under View. For some reason, you have to change some settings in Internet Explorer to modify the font size in printed emails. Start Internet Explorer and use the Text size menu under View to pick the font size. Choose Small to make the text in Outlook Express a smaller size.

Our thanks to Computer Active Magazine for the above

INTRODUCING THE BIOS

The BIOS is a program on a ROM or a flash memory chip on the motherboard. This program will not be lost when you turn the computer off. This program is also referred to as the boot program, it is the only channel the hardware has to communicate with the operating system. Its main function is to manage the setup of the motherboard and interface card parameters, including time, date, hard disk drive, as well as more complex parameters such as hardware synchronization, device operating mode and CPU speed. The computer will operate normally, or will operate at its best, only if all of the parameters are correctly configured through the BIOS. If possible don't change the parameters inside the BIOS unless you fully understand the meanings and consequences. Leave the settings on default unless your computer causes problems or crashes. In the event of your computer not being able to boot, you will need to discharge the CMOS. This can be a tricky operation, so call Steve France Tel. ##### or mobile 07780 #####, our specialist technician in IWPCUG, or a member who is experienced in this operation.

What is CMOS

The CMOS is the memory used to store the BIOS parameters that you have configured. This memory is passive. You can read its data and you can store data in it but this memory has to be powered by a battery in order to avoid any loss of its data when the computer is turned off. You may have to change the CMOS battery when it is out of power and if doing so, you will lose all CMOS data. Therefore, it is recommended that you write down all the parameters of your hardware or print out your settings, using Print Screen on your keyboard, before the battery fails.

When you start the computer, the BIOS program controls it. The BIOS first operates an auto-diagnostic test called POST (Power On Self Test) for all of the necessary hardware. It then configures the parameters of the hardware synchronisation and detects all the hardware. Only when these tasks are completed does it give up control of the computer to the next level, which is the operation system. Since the BIOS is the only channel for hardware and software to communicate, it is the key factor for system stability and in insuring that your system performs at its best. After the BIOS has achieved the auto-diagnostic and auto-detection operations, it will display the following message:

PRESS DEL TO ENTER SETUP (However this can vary according to your computer)

This message will be displayed for three to five seconds and if you press the Del key or relevant key for your computer setup, you will access the BIOS Setup menu. At that moment, the BIOS will display the CMOS Setup Utility with items such as SoftMenu Setup, Standard CMOS features, Advanced BIOS features, Advanced Chipset Features, Integrated Peripherals, Power Management Setup, PnP/PCI Configurations and PC Health Status. Also listed should be Load Fail-Safe Defaults, Load Optimised Defaults. Set Password, Save & Exit Setup and Exit Without Saving.

Normally, if the clock setup is wrong, you will not be able to boot your computer. In this case, turn the system off and then on again. The BIOS will automatically use its standard parameters to boot. You can then re-enter the BIOS Setup again and set the correct date and time.

More information on the BIOS is available on our website. (www.iwpcug.org/docs/bios.htm)

Profile on - SYLVIA FARLEY

IWPCUG Committee Member



I have had Multiple Sclerosis since I was 14 years old. It has not stopped me enjoying a full, adventurous and satisfying life, living and working from the Arctic to the Equator and raising a family of three. Now living alone after much-loved husband part-exed me on a younger model. Was it really seven years ago?

Amongst other things, I have worked as an information officer in a chemical company, a purchasing officer in a steel works, an executive officer for a national charity, a night club singer and provided bed, breakfast and evening meal for lorry drivers.

I had started out as a landscape gardener, but many years ago, during a severe relapse which left me able to move only two fingers, I retrained as a Psychologist with the Open University, working over the Internet and using a laptop from my bed.

As my condition deteriorated, I had to adapt to a few limitations and finally admitted that I was no longer consistently fit enough to counsel people face-to-face, so I decided to write up my theories and techniques as a book so that people could use it to help themselves but I failed to find a publisher.

When I retired from the committee of the local Multiple Sclerosis Society, it was suggested I should apply for one of their Millennium Awards to enable me to learn to build a website and make this information freely available on the Web. A year ago, my application was successful and with unstinting help from IWPCUG members, the SENS Self-Esteem Net Site:-
<http://www.youareunique.co.uk> is the result.

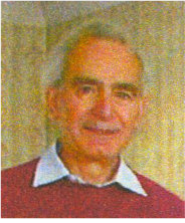
I share a tiny, very eccentric, cottage with my black cat. The doors that were not removed (to make way for my wheelchair when I need it) are all brilliantly stencilled, painted or decorated with bright collages so I don't walk into them when they are closed. My wardrobe would not fit upstairs so I have a bed in my office. Since I can get stranded either upstairs or down for days at a time, there are duplicate facilities on both floors and a jacuzzi bathroom built of wood like a cross between a bandstand and the bridge of an old sailing ship. It does not look as if it was designed for someone disabled - but it does the job most efficiently, and it is great fun.

There is no TV, video, radio or newspapers but there are hanging bells and wind-chimes, incense sticks and candles, world-music, jazz and classical as the mood takes me .

I have made the most of my new-found freedom, deep-sea sail-racing in the Caribbean, appearing on TV, writing, studying, taking off on fund-raising adventures whenever opportunity beckons. With no-one else to consider, I can happily and flamboyantly wear myself out rather than rusting out in respectable anonymity.

The garden keeps me in fresh vegetables, fruit and cut flowers all the year round. When my current project—summer-house, studio and patio are complete, you can all come for a barBQ. With my weird vision and unpredictable vertigo I can only go out if someone takes me, so it makes sense to adapt my home environment to importing my social life whenever possible.

I do still have some friends who whisk me out for a gentle amble along the beach, through the woods, round a garden centre, to a lecture or concert or for a genteel meal now and then and I still love to swim in shallow depths of the sea in the summertime.


PRIZE PUZZLE CORNER
APRIL 2003

by David Broughton



S	T	Y	*	O	*
R	C	K	L	*	Y
O	*	*	O	T	I
M	R	P	E	N	C
S	O	A	U	O	H

This array of letters and asterisks spell out a variation on a well known proverb, the asterisks representing the spaces between words (but not the start or end). The rule is to follow a knight's move as in chess to complete a route, in one sequence, of all 30 squares, no square being used more than once. (If you don't know how a knight moves in chess, see the February Hot Key.)

Please send the proverb you found to me, David Broughton (for address see page 3) to arrive by Wednesday, 7th May 2003.

Answer to the February Puzzle

This also involved knight moves where a route had to be found over a number of irregularly-spaced squares. I received four correct entries. They were from Rosemary West (who won the draw), Peter Greenhalgh, Gordon Stoneham and Leslie Burridge. Most competitors found more than one route, so it was not too difficult. Les Burridge found a circular route which allowed the knight to start in any square. This was his solution:

E-A-C-H-B-F-J-D-I-L-G-K.

Well done all.



Question: What is the difference between USB and Fire Wire?

Answer: If you're like me, you need to connect gadgets, gadgets, and more gadgets to your computer: card reader, PDA cradle, scanner, digital camera, you name it. Most of the devices can connect to your PC's Universal Serial Bus (USB) or a FireWire high-speed port, also known by the less memorable or more "tech" sounding "IEEE 1394." Instead of having many different ports (parallel, serial, mouse, and keyboard ports) on a PC, these ports would be replaced by a single standard and can be interchangeable with all devices. USB and FireWire make it easy to plug 'n play any new gadget on either Windows or Mac computers.

USB and FireWire have many similarities, but differ in key ways. Both are Plug and Play, networkable, hot pluggable or hot swappable (meaning that devices can be plugged in or unplugged without you having to turn off the computer), isochronous devices (isochronous devices support continuously-streamed, but interruptible data, such as audio speakers and network devices; examples of non-isochronous include printers, hard disks, Zip drives, and keyboards); don't require bus termination; and have a serial bus that uses twisted-pair wiring to move data around. FireWire has a higher data transfer rate - at 400 Mbps (megabits per second) - as opposed to USB 1.1's slow 12 Mbps. However, USB 2.0 blows the old one away with a transfer rate of 480 Mbps, which is about the same speed as FireWire. Don't give up on FireWire, though, because a new version is coming that will transmit data at 800Mbps. It costs more to install FireWire than USB, and FireWire works better for peripherals needing a high-speed bus, but few require it. USB can support up to 127 devices to FireWire's 63. USB devices must connect to a computer to communicate, and FireWire is "peer-to-peer," meaning two FireWire devices can connect directly to each other without a computer. The market who used Mac systems before the "I made the switch campaign" relied on their high quality of the graphic, audio, and video equipment. FireWire was developed to meet these needs. In the end, it isn't advantageous to have one or the other. (For more information on isochronous technology, check these:-

Whatis.com - http://whatis.techtarget.com/definition/0,,sid9_gci212403,00.html and
Webopedia.com - <http://www.webopedia.com/TERM/I/isochronous.html>

Our thanks to Chris Pirillo at www.lockergnome.com for this article.



Andy Martch and Johan Ambler at the "Multimedia" talk

MEMBERS NOTICE BOARD

Please use this Notice Board to benefit other members.



FOR SALE

OS Interactive ATLAS OF GREAT BRITAIN - fifth edition

Plus British Isles from the Air.
2 CD-ROM set in original packing
£19

Apply David Broughton,
Tel. #####

FOR SALE

**HP Deskjet Colour Printer 895Cxi,
£29**
**HP ScanJet flatbed scanner 5100C,
£29**
**Xerox Photocopier 5309
£29**

All three for £79. Handbooks and driver software for Windows included. Printer and scanner work through parallel port. Cables included.

Apply, David Broughton, #####

FOR SALE

**VIDEO EDITING
PINNACLE STUDIO DC10 Boxed**
Windows 98/Me
Analogue card, CD ROM with drivers
and manual
Special Price - £20

Contact: The Editor - #####

Death of Ken Cameron

It is with sadness that we announce the passing of Ken Cameron after a short illness. Ken joined the club in 1994 and has attended most meetings. Ken was an accountant and was, for many years, the club's auditor. He was also a keen solver of Hot Key puzzles, solving almost every one and occasionally winning the book token. We shall miss him.

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