

The Tyler Computer Club NewsLink

Tyler's Fastest Growing Computer Club

February 1996

Genealogy and the Internet

One question I get asked a lot at club meetings is: "What can you find about genealogy on the Internet?" The sites are never ending. I'm going to list a few of my favorite sites to get you surfing on the genealogy Internet.

1. My favorite site is Genealogy SF. This gentleman has always had a great BBS and his Home Page is also fabulous. Check out his 880 Genealogy Links List.

<http://www.sfo.com/~genealogysf/>

2. Helm's Genealogy Toolbox is a good spot to check out Genealogy Newsgroup, alphabetical surname list and other great genealogy helps.

<http://uxl.cso.uiuc.edu/~al-helm/genealogy.html>

3. Becky Booner's Home Page has Civil War resource information

<http://binger.uokhsc.edu/~rbonner/>

4. The Genealogy Home Page is a site that has everything

<http://ftp.cac.psu.edu/~saw/genealogy.html>

5. The search engine I use is The Internet Sleuth. This site has a genealogy browse category listed.

<http://www.intbc.com/sleuth/>

I need to warn everyone that this is very addicting and you will never see all there is to see about genealogy on the Internet. I will share others site as I find them. If you find any good sites please share them on the BBS or in the NewsLink.

Mr. Windows:

Dear Mr. Windows:

I have been having a great deal of trouble with the print spooler built in Windows 95. On one of my machines it tells me that it is printing, but no printout is produced. I check the status, and it says the print job is not there to be printed. On the other stand-a-lone PC it tells me that there is a system's failure when I go to print. What is wrong?

Signed, Unhappy.

Dear Unhappy:

Yes it is the print spooler all right. Go to your WIN.INI file and change the print spooler's value to "OFF." The set the DOS value to = OFF and the Win value = OFF. This will of course slow down your ability to jump from one job within the same program to another, but it will cure your problem.

It seems, for reasons unknown some programs will over a period of time will begin to fail to respond to Microsoft's spooler. By turing off the spooler, your software will then spoon feed the information to the printer as in the old DOS days. It has something to do with the fact Windows 95 thinking your stand-a-lone PC is a network server. It becomes confused and prints it to a non existing printer.

To get around this problem, a hardware print spooler is well advised. An external unit uses memory chips to hold your printed information. You can find a nice 2 meg unit in MEI/Micro Center's catalog for just under \$200.

Dear Mr. Windows:

I have been having trouble finding out how to get the Windows 95 Dial Up Adapter to log on to my Internet provider. Where can I find the information?

Signed: Wanting to use 32 bit Netscape.

Dear Wanting:

I take it your already on the internet using Trumpet Windsock, the 16 bit dialer on the Internet. Go to the following home page:

<http://www.gower.net/kimlaine>

It is the first in a selection of growing list of topics at this location. It comes complete with diagrams. Just turn your printer on, and go to the "FILES" section of Netscape. The choose, "PRINT." Most printers today will print the entire graphics display on to paper for you. It takes about 8 pages or so to print out. The information has been released to the public domain by its author.

Dear Mr. Windows:

How can I send voice mail to my sister in another country via the Internet without having to go through some expensive software and hard ware?

Signed, Long time no hear from.

Dear Long Time:

If you have a sound card in your computer, all you need is a standard microphone. Use the built in .WAV sound recorder found in Windows 3.1, 3.11, or Windows 95. Select MONO, 8 BITS, and 11,000 Hz for your settings. This will allow full voice capabilities with the smallest size .WAV file possible.

After you have recorded a minute or so of your voice, use PKzip, ARJ, LZH, or another file compression program that both of you have access to, and compress the .WAV file into a compressed file.

I like to use Eudora, a shareware mail reader (available on the Internet) to write a short note, then attach my compressed voice mail to that message. You can get around 2 minutes of talk time in a megabyte. Once you attach this file to a short message, then when your sister goes to retrieve her electronic mail, it will automatically download the voice mail file with the short message. I do it all the time. This does not clog up the Net as does real time voice communications. Its simple, easy, and fun.

At this time while our soldiers are in the Bosnia theater, it would be a welcomed, and heart felt way to send a message to our men and women in combat to receive actual voice mail from friends and family at the bases there. I will attempt to find a open Internet mail channel to the war zone if you would like to send E-Mail, and voice mail of support.

Printing Business Cards

By: Margaret Griffin.

I've just bought a program I've got to tell you about. It's called "My Professional Business Cards" for Windows. Yes, to all you Windows 95 people it is compatible. I loaded the program and in 10 minutes I was printing business cards that looked good! After trying many shareware programs and WordPerfect for DOS it was obvious this would not be an easy thing to achieve. This program proves other wise. I made my template selection, loaded my business card stock into my HP Inkjet and it was done.

You can even print colored business cards, without using the preprinted cardstock. One option found in this program is "printable background" of course you should have a color printer. The black and white options are good also.

The catalog price for this program is \$49.95. I've seen it cheaper in the stores at Tyler. You will also get 25 sample sheets of cardstock. As an extra bonus you also get a free full retail version of "Home & Business Phone Book" CD-Rom.

To run this software you need: Windows 3.1 or higher; a 386 or higher; 4 MB of Ram; 6 MB of hard disk space; a mouse; and any printer Windows supports.

I've made cards for my husband, daughter, brother-in-law, mother, dad and now for my dog Rufus. This program makes it easy!

Tyler Computer Club Now Has Internet Web Page

The Tyler Computer Club now has a Web Page on the Intenet. Our address is: <http://www.tyler.net/tcc>
Please vist us the next time you are on the Internet Surfing the Informaton Super Highway.

SHAREWARE DISK LIST

The following list of Shareware disk subjects show the varieties available.

COMPRESSION
CLIP ART
DOS GAMES

WINDOWS GAMES
GRAPHICS VIEWERS
DATABASES
ANTI-VIRUS
CHILDREN LEARNING
UTILITIES DOS
UTILITIES WINDOWS
COMMUNICATIONS
GENEALOGY
SPREADSHEETS
DESKTOP PUBLISHING

The price for most disks is \$ 3.00 per disk. All disks are labeled and virus-free. Any requests will be handled as promptly as possible. There will be others to follow as the need arises. See Kevin Calvert at the next meeting and inquire as to the latest available programs available.

New Members Contest!

That's right we are having a contest for Tyler Computer Club members in 1996. I don't know about you but I for one am going to try to win this one. Well OK I'll tell you all about it, all you have to do is be the one to sign up the most new users in 1996 and you will be the LUCKY WINNER of a \$100.00. That's right you read it right. All a person has to do is sign up the most new members between now and November 30th. and you win \$100.00, that will be given away at the December 3rd. meeting. If you expect to win then I would suggest that you get up off of your back side and start signing up new members as I for one am going to sell as many as I can.

GOOD LUCK TO ALL!

Wayne R. Cook

Get those old files!

Well I just thought that I would let everyone know that we are going to purchase two more CD drives and all new CD's. So if there are any files out on the old CD's then you need to get them ASAP as once they are pulled they will not be put back in service. We are looking for so new CD's so if you have an idea PLEASE let us know as we are still looking for some new shareware CD's.

THANK YOU!

Wayne Cook

Garage Sale!

OK here we go, and I hope that we can get this all put together without a lot of problems. I feel that with all of the participation from the club members that it will work out very well. We are putting together a garage sale for the club and we will be selling articles for members for a 10% consignment fee. We are looking for any articles that you would like to donate to the Tyler Computer Club for the garage sale or we will sell your articles for a 10% consignment fee. This garage sale will be held at Margaret Griffins

home and it will be held on the 25 Th. of May which is on a Saturday. As we get closer to the date we will have more details for everyone.

Thank You!
Wayne R. Cook

Vote?

Well we are going to amend the clubs by-laws at the March general meeting. What I want taken out is.

Article II:

Section 10: Term of elected officers shall be 1 year and not to exceed 2 consecutive years in the same office.

I personally DO NOT think that this should be kept in our by-laws as I don't think that it is in the BEST interest of the Tyler Computer Club most of the time. So just remember that if you want to vote on this issue then you will have to be present at the March meeting and if any of you want to call me about this then PLEASE do so at 581-5126.

THANK YOU!
Wayne R. Cook

Wacky Wayne's Words:

Well here we are going into February and I'm still waiting for articles for the Newslink. Listen every one if you think that I enjoy trying to come up with these articles each month you are wrong as I would rather take a beating because I'm NOT good at this sort of stuff.

I have had some people tell me that they don't think that I will carry a hat around the room and collect money for the club's new computer hardware, so I can say is just set back and watch to those members as one of my biggest objectives this year is to make more money for the club so that we can buy the hardware that we need for our SIG's.

PLEASE send in those articles for the Newslink as it is hard for just a few members to do all of the articles. THANK YOU!

Wayne R. Cook

Home Show

By: Georgia Taylor

On a chilly Saturday morning in early December what else but the promise of a computer show would find me up at 6am and on the road at 7:30 in order to be at the door promptly at 10am? The convention center in Dallas is an enormous place, with several ways to access.

My friend and I did park a little out of the way, but after trekking through an ancient cemetery and a group of runners, our goal in sight, we were enthusiastic about what lay ahead at the Home & Family

Computing Show , and we were not to be disappointed..... Talk about Mistletoe and Magic!! A computer lover's house of delights awaited us.

The demonstration that caught my attention at the very first is the use of digital imaging. With a digital camera one can capture either high resolution or snapshot images, store them on your computer, then print them on a special photo printer. No more film purchasing. I've gotta have this!! We tried it and it worked amazingly well.

Then there was a product, Magic Touch, to add to your monitor transforming it into a touch-interactive device. You can run all your mouse-driven software with a touch of a finger. It was reasonably priced and if there are children in the family, you need this....

There was hands-on software demos going on all over the place. We really didn't take advantage of this since there was so much to see. There was a lot of software for sale. For instance, I got a CD ROM with over 7000 clipart images. I'll never again find myself saying I can't find that picture of a Yorkshire Terrier that I need for a friend!

There was a wonderful paint program that produces oil-painting quality from either original drawings or scanned pictures. This software is quite expensive, but if this is your thing, it's a must...

We got hand-outs for all kinds of video training on any software you can think of. There is also a place to call 7AM to midnight 7 days a week for any kind of help you might need. There's a small charge for this service, but it's good to have this information for those times when you're at wits end trying to figure out how to install that new modem..

My original focus was to find a scanner. Boy, did I ever. HP has a scanner for under \$1000 (barely) that is incredible. I scanned a coin purse covered in sequins and the output was remarkable. I plan to own a scanner in the very near future, but I doubt if I'll be purchasing this one. There are several out there under \$500. Of course, we found the ink vendor. I wasn't aware until recently that you can purchase ink for your ink-jet printer to refill your cartridges. With the money I've saved on this method alone, I'll soon have that scanner picked out....

If you'd like more info on any area mentioned above, call 839-4582 and we'll talk! Can't wait til next year.

Windows'95 Power Tips

There are several types of Windows: Maximized, Minimized, and Floating.

Maximized: Covers the entire screen and cannot be moved.

Minimized:

Is not really considered a window, but a button (which contains the potential to be a window). When an application window is minimized it becomes a button on the Taskbar. When a document window is minimized it appears as a button at the bottom of the application window.

Floating:

A window that can be moved around on the screen. The easiest way to tell if a window is floating, is by the buttons in the upper right corner of the screen. One large window icon is Maximized. Two smaller

icons one on top of the other is floating.

Up to this point, in reality we have been discussing how applications or parent windows behave. The situation is slightly different with document or child windows. A maximized document window expands to fill up the entire size of the application window, not the entire screen. This is part of the reason that MicroSoft uses the term Maximize rather than full-screen.

Power Tip:

You can jump a window to maximized or back to being restored (switching it from one state to the other)by double-clicking on the title bar. This short-cut works on almost all types of windows.

Using the Keyboard:

Simply press [ALT]+[SpaceBar] and choose maximize or minimize. In a document or child window press [ALT]+[-] again choose maximize or minimize.

Moving a Window:

Using the Mouse place the pointer on the title bar, press and hold down the left mouse button. Now simply move the mouse (dragging the window) to the desired location on your screen. Using the Keyboard simply press [ALT]+[SpaceBar] and choose move your cursor will change to a symbol that looks like a plus sign with arrows on each end. Now using the arrow keys you can move the window around the screen. When you have the window positioned where you want it press the [ENTER] key. In a document or child window press [ALT]+[-] and follow the same procedure you used to move the parent window.

Kevin L. Calvert

The Age of the Digital Original

These are indeed wonderous times in which we live. First came the wordprocessor. Then the desktop publisher. And now, the age of the “digital original” document has finally arrived. The originator has control from concept to capture and through reproduction.

What are we talking about? The reality of “computer-to-plate” digital proofing and “direct-to-press” technology. Over the years, the printing business has choked down many technological changes, but the most significant has been the color imagesetters, stochastic screening, and faster RIPS and engines of desktop publishing.

The traditional typesetter is no longer needed with Windows based software and True Type Fonts. With software such as Microsoft Publisher 95, and Page Maker for NT & 95, the ability to burn an offset plate for the printing press is a snap.

In the old days, one would have to do color separations, which could involve as many as 20 layers of film to burn up one press plate. This is no longer the case. In fact technology is gaining one step further, from computer directly to the printing press.

The advantages of computer to printing press are obvious. It cuts overall production cost such as film, storage of bio hazardous chemicals, fluctuations in density of the film with room temperature, production time, and allows for a much faster turn around time.

With the use of a Fax Modem, going to the printer will be just one trip as you go to pick up your finished

product. Set up your documents on the DTP software at home or office, then transmit the document directly to the print shop.

The print spooler puts your job next in line for production as the printing press continues to crank out documents. When the job is done, the printer calls you, and you pick up the job. It is perfect every time because you, yourself proofed the job before you transmitted it to the printer. In the future, newsletters such as the Newslink will be faxed first to the department heads for aproval, then with corrections made, modemed to the printer. The editor never has to leave their home.

With the concern for environmental issues, the elimenation of photo chemicals, and reduced travel is fostering much growth in this area. Moving files around faster, to more people and places without forcing them to travel all over will continue to drive developments in publishing telecommunicaitons.

With the deveopment of the ISDN telephone line, and the T-3 line, the Internet will truly be the information super highway as entire magazines, books, and newspapaers will be created in one part of the country, and published at a central publishing house in another part of the country.

From 1990 to 1996, there has been well over 400 percent growth in color page design and production because of the ink jet printer alone. The home inkjet will allow proofing of the final document before modeming it to the printer for master production.

It was first thought that the computer would creat the paperless office. Instead it created a boom in the paper industry. The Internet was touted as to eliminating the need for books, magazines, or newspapers. Instead it is turning into a boon for the printing and paper industry.

If you do not have a color injet printer, you should consider one within the next year or so. Color printing never looked so good. Home publishing is destined to become the next boom industry.

Checking out the Internet Software Sites

Here are some interesting sites for software on the Internet.....

TUCOWS: <http://www.texoma.com/mirror/tucows/>

Jumbo: <http://www.jumbo.com/>