

Next CUE Meeting:

The next General CUE meeting will be on January 10, 2001 at Mercyhurst Prep High School in the LIBRARY.

Please use the entrance at the FAR WEST end of the building. The Library is straight ahead down the hallway.

Doors open at 6:00 pm, and the meeting starts at 7:00 pm.

Flickering Monitor? *by Dave Howell, Computer Users of Erie*

If your monitor flickers often, it may be due to some nearby loose connection or motor such as found in refrigerators or furnaces on the same circuit. Plug your monitor into a different wall outlet or a different surge protector. If the distance is too great, use an extension cord to a different circuit breaker of "leg" of the circuit coming into the house.

Reason: Electric "noise" carried through a circuit can cause a monitor to malfunction. If a lamp or other device on the same circuit is going bad, the monitor may flicker or display buzzing lines. The on-screen image can be distorted by a strong magnetic field nearby such as unshielded speakers, TV or another monitor.

This happened to me when I was using a central power switch con-

sole under my monitor into which all of the equipment was plugged. This console was then plugged into a surge protector. Apparently that was when the flickering began. I didn't realize at the time that the console also had a surge protector which may conflict with the second surge protector on the circuit. Removing the console solved the flickering problem.

In the final analysis, **DON'T ASSUME THE MONITOR IS THE PROBLEM!**

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Meeting Schedule Reminder

Just to remind you, below is a list of dates for the upcoming meetings for the first half of 2001.

- Jan 10th in Library
- Feb thru June is OK in the Auditorium

The times for all meetings is as usual, doors open at 6:00, meeting starts at 7 pm.

Also as a reminder, this will be the final 6 months of meetings at Mercyhurst Prep, as our liaison's last child will be graduating this spring. We are currently looking for a new meeting place for our monthly meetings. If anyone has any suggestions, please let a Board member know of the location ASAP, so we may make inquiries as to availability of the facilities.

OnCUE
Computer Users of Erie
PO Box 8941
Erie, PA 16505-0941

Officers

President Terry Lukas.....835-4270
VP Sam Fletcher.....825-4206
Secretary Tim Burkett.....459-0994
Treasurer Mark Ellis.....868-1870

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Phil Ehrman.....833-6513
Brian Little.....838-9346
Gene Meeks.....866-1580
Sherry Schnarrs.....734-8700
Bob Smith.....866-0412

Monthly Meetings

Monthly meetings are scheduled for the **SECOND WEDNESDAY** of each month except July. Check the CUEList or the website for any changes.

OnCUE Staff

Editor.....Mark Mattson
bookworm@erie.net

Contributors...

Dave Howell Don Grim
Robb Pifer Maggie Harrison
Gene Meeks Tom Kuklinski
Dave and Cathy Szymanski
Hillert Vitt

Advertising

To place an ad in *OnCUE*, please contact the editor at the above email address for current rates.

Announcements

Up-to-the-minute CUE information will always be posted on our mailing listserver. To subscribe, send an email to cuelist@szy.com, and place **SUBSCRIBE** in the subject line.

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November Meeting Minutes

Terry Lucas Presiding

Minutes Read by Sam Fletcher, vice president

Treasurer Report: Total cost of expenses for November was \$272.60, with a balance as of November 30, Of \$2157.87.

Computer training courses: January 20 Outlook Express-will be taught by Don Grim at the main library, Bayfront-9-12 noon-- January 20, 2001.

On January 23 the Adelphia Demo will take place at 6 pm at 430 Jordon Road, Erie, PA.

On January 30--Genealogy class will be in Dave Howell's home.

On February 10, 2001, Advanced Windows and Turbo Tax will be taught at the Bay front Library in room 219.

This will take place all day On 3/24/01 Networking and Security will be taught by Tim Burkett (against his will in the admiral room, main library, Bay front.

There will be two other classes on April 7 and May 5. See Terry to make suggestions. New class suggestions: (1) Antivirus (2) CMOS and BIOS (3). Kevin is happy to do a class on optimizing Win 95 through ME.

Sweatshirt and t-shirts were not ordered yet. Checking to see if need a "minimum."

Disc of the decade still available. Talk to Mark Mattson.

If you haven't had the opportunity to subscribe to CUE please take a moment and do it now.

Market Pro show--no date set yet.

If You Should Change Your E-Mail Address Please Tell Mark Mattson and E-Mail him information at bookworm@erie.net. Kevin added a box for on line membership. You must go to web page to fill out form. E-mail goes automatically to Kevin. You can add new information. Currently you will a space for name, address, e-mail, renew, info update. You can fill in info and print it as well and still mail it in with a check. Existing members can update their e-mail address.

Cue has a Bulletin board in service. New members, see Chip DeVoge. You do not need a password. All have access. Dial 456-5065.

This is the last year that the meetings are in Mercyhurst Prep School. Currently looking at several places to have our meetings. For example the Main Library At The Bay Front. The meeting could be held on the second floor meeting room #219. Another option is Tri-State on West 26 Street. They wanted people as active members. Andy recommended not putting people on Board from Tri-state because it would destroy the Club. ESC said if; you become a member it gives you a million dollars worth of insurance. Dave Howell stated the club already covered by insurance through NUAGE. If no other suggestions come up of where to have meetings the main library is in reserve. This option can be cancelled as long as it done 3 weeks before the meetings begin.

Norm moves to close the meeting Sam second the motion

Submitted, Madelyn Russakoff Acting, Secretary.

Upcoming MarketPro Shows

Jan. 6, 7 Pittsburgh Expo Mart, Monroeville, PA 9:30 am to 4 pm

No show date listed yet for Erie

See elsewhere in this issue for a coupon good for \$1 off the admission price to any MarketPro show.

Review: Smart Computing *by Hillert Vitt, Computer Users of Erie*

Mark Ellis appeared at the December meeting with an armload of magazines that he had received, apparently without warning. They were copies of a computer magazine that I had never heard of – not necessarily a surprise there. He indicated that they had been sent to him by the publisher in an effort to develop a better relationship with computer user groups.

The title, *Smart Computing*, was new to me and thus decided to thumb through it. My first impressions were quite favorable. It seemed to be laid out in a very simple yet attractive manner, was not cluttered with a number of miniscule ads, and, based on my cursory inspection, well written and meaningful. Furthermore, all articles were completed on consecutive pages and not continued on p.XX which I appreciated very much. No attempt was made to verify the accuracy of the articles, and I'm not even certain I could. What was scanned did make sense and sounded as though it would be helpful in the right set of circumstances.

The articles covered a reasonable spectrum of topics as might be expected from a general interest publication directed at a moderately unsophisticated audience. General headings were PC reviews, reviews of other hardware and software products, as well as articles under such general headings as Computing Basics, Office Computing, Beyond the Basics, Trouble Shooting, and the like. One article considers what can be done with an \$11,000 computer system. My reaction was that it would require a mortgage to acquire it and difficult for me (at least) to put to a real test.

Another article reports on a rather unusual web site, AskMe.com. It relies on a large network of "experts" in a wide variety of disciplines to field questions submitted by the site visitors. I tried it on a question concerning the manner in which the TurboTax state program handles mutual fund dividend distributions and got three different answers. One seemed to be pretty reasonable, another fluffed off the question, and the last ducked. However, all responses appeared in less than 24 hours, the credentials of all respondents were listed, and all appeared to have a sound background in tax accounting. The site requests that each response be evaluated in five categories from excellent to punk. The rankings seem to

be taken seriously since each person answering also listed the total number of requests answered as well as the total grade received on those responses. That was very interesting especially since there is no charge for the service. I have another question concerning a phonograph turntable that won't turn that will be submitted in the near future.

Since the magazine appeared in our hands in a rather unusual manner, there existed the possibility that it was a new publication with a publisher trying to break into a crowded market. A look at the cover page dispelled that notion since the September issue was listed as Number 9 of Volume 11. That would put the date of the first issue as sometime in 1990 which is a fairly respectable lifetime in the computer world.

All in all, an interesting publication for someone not a confirmed expert in computerdom.

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Why I Did It by Matthew Skala, Victoria LINUX Users Group

Many of my friends were surprised when Mattel, Inc., and their subsidiary Microsystems Software, sued me and a Swedish colleague for alleged copyright infringement. I have a reputation for helping computer beginners and setting a high ethical standard. Why would I help "break" a piece of software designed to protect children from dangerous ideas? In this article I'll try to answer that question.

My local user group, BB&C, actually deserves a good measure of credit or blame for my activities. I joined when I was 10 years old, and immediately started using the club's bulletin board system (BBS). On the BBS, nobody had to know that "Matthew Skala" was 10 years old unless I chose to tell them. Prejudiced people who would never dream of conducting a serious discussion face to face with someone my age, were perfectly willing to give me all the respect my ideas could command, in the electronic realm.

There aren't many other places where our society treats children as fully human. About the only other public place I could count on a little respect, was the public library. Naturally, I grew up with a lot of respect for the written word. Over 13 years of writing messages on a daily basis on the BB&C BBS, and Usenet when it became available, I've had a lot of practice in expressing my ideas in words. My experience on the BBS may have something to do with the high grades I've always gotten in English, and the recognition I've received for my writing in various places.

I think I'm a better person for having been able to use computer networks as a child without

any restrictions. Anyone who tried to tell me I couldn't have full access because of my age, would have been doing me a grave disservice. If I'd been limited to a "suitable for children" subset of the online universe, it would have been worthless to me.

So whenever someone suggests that we ought to limit what children can see on the Net, my fingers itch, and I reach for my keyboard. Many of my peers in the computing community had similar childhood experiences to mine. There are a lot of people who believe that it's a good thing for children to have unrestricted access to the Net.

But one of the bad things about allowing the general public onto the Net is that the general public includes some people you really wouldn't want to meet. I'm especially unhappy about the fact that we ever allowed advertisers onto the Internet, but other people have been making noises about pornography and hate literature. Everyone agrees that there are things on the Net that they don't like.

That's where "parental control" or "censorware" packages like Cyber Patrol come in. These packages are based on lists of forbidden Web sites; if you try to visit a Web site that's on the list, you're prevented from doing so. These systems promise to technologically solve the human problem of undesirable material on the Net.

This kind of claim seems to be based on the idea that ideas are things with a life of their own that can harm people's mental health in the same way that a biological virus could harm peo-

ple's physical health. That seems to be the basis for "protecting" children from the Internet. It's obvious that the computer isn't about to explode and kill your kid - but could something more insidious happen?

I'd take the biological analogy one step further. If you want to protect someone from infection, do you do it by keeping them in a sterile plastic bubble? People raised in such environments fail to develop normal immune systems. Someone in quarantine like that often dies from an infection that a normal person would have resisted. Children grow up eventually. Do you want them to grow up with functioning immune systems?

In just the same way, I believe that "protecting" children from "harmful" ideas hurts them. Much better to let them develop the critical thinking skills, the mental immune system, that can only derive from exposure to the complete range of human thought.

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Join the CUE email list.
To do so, send an email
to **cuelist@szy.com**, and
place **SUBSCRIBE** as the
subject.

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For people who disagree with my view, it may seem attractive to buy a computer program that will relieve parents from the irksome necessity of paying attention to their children. I suppose people have a right to disagree with me, and parents even have a right to use this software. But I believe I have the natural right to look critically at any idea that comes my way. I have the right to take things apart and see how they work.

It's especially interesting to take apart censorware packages. Censorware packages are a good challenge; they're usually designed to resist analysis because the manufacturers consider their lists of "harmful" Web sites to be valuable secrets. There are documented cases of censorware companies copying each others' blocking lists without permission, or hiding political agendas in their software. Anyone who wants to have an informed debate on the topic of censorware will benefit from knowing exactly what the software blocks. There is also a consumer protection angle: parents who might buy censorware have a right to know what they're getting.

Maybe it's okay for private individuals to buy censorware without knowing what they're getting. But these packages are marketed aggressively to schools and libraries. With censorware in a school or library, the software publisher is setting policy for a public institution. Because the blocking list is secret, the teacher or librarian can't even find out what policy is being enforced.

The first censorware break I remember was brought to public attention by Bennett Haselton, of Peacefire. He published a way to break the embarrassingly weak encryption used by CYBERSitter. Its list of forbidden "pornographic" sites included www.now.org, the National Organization of Women. CYBERSitter retaliated for Haselton's criticism by adding his organization to its block list. In fact, a later version of CYBERSitter would actually scan the user's browser history, and refuse to install (with a mysterious error message) if the user had recently visited the Peacefire Web site.

Last year I encountered an article called The Reversal of NetNanny, written by a programmer in Sweden named Eddy Jansson. The NetNanny essay took a tutorial approach, giving details of the steps involved in analyzing the software. Eddy's NetNanny essay drew a lot of favorable comment from people who teach computer programming; reverse engineering is an important skill for computer program-

mers. There's even a reverse engineering research group at the University I attend.

In late January of 2000, Eddy Jansson invited me to help with his project of reverse engineering Cyber Patrol. We worked together on Cyber Patrol for about six weeks, eventually finding holes in virtually all of its security features. We also found some questionable entries on the block list. We posted an essay on the Web called The Breaking of Cyber Patrol(R) 4, and the rest is history. For the complete story, please check out <http://www.islandnet.com/~mskala/cpbfaq.html>

Matthew Skala is a graduate student in Computer Science at the University of Victoria, Victoria BC Canada. He is the winner of a prestigious Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada scholarship. He is also the Systems Director of Big Blue and Cousins and the Secretary of the Victoria Linux Users Group. This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs.

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This is an abridged version of an original article first published in the Big Blue & Cousins newsletter; the original may be viewed at www.bbc.org/jun00nl/skala.htm.

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Jim Fouch

1823 West 8th Street
Erie, PA 16505-4938

Phone (814) 455-1294
Fax (814) 459-9614

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Special Interest Group News

Now that the Holidays are almost over for another few months, you may be looking for some new, interesting use for the PC you may have had, or the new one you got for Christmas.

CUE has been home for many SIGs (Special Interest Groups) over the years. As the field of personal computing has changed, the SIGs have evolved and changed over the years, also, to keep up with the ever-changing interests of our members.

The current list of SIGs may be found at the end of this article, in the sidebar in the last column. There is no added charge to join any of these groups, just an interest in the topic it covers.

As a separate 'subset' of CUE, each SIG holds its own separate meeting from the main group. This is done to allow the participants to concentrate fully on the subject at hand, and not be distracted from any project that may be going on at the meeting.

Below are some descriptions of several of the SIGs. If you're not sure of which one(s) are right for you, don't hesitate to ask questions, or to drop by a meeting to see what's going on in that group. Who knows, you may find some new interest or hobby that you never thought you'd be interested in before!!

GENEALOGY SIG- (currently active)

Explores the use of computer software and resources that assists the researcher of genealogical information. Although no genealogical knowledge or experience is necessary, everyone is welcome.

FINANCIAL SIG- (inactive)

Explores software and/or online resources for recording, tracking and performance ratings of portfolios.

BEGINNERS USERS GROUP (BUG)- (currently active)

Provides a forum to support those new to computing and those needing assistance with new hardware or software.

INTERNET/ TELECOMMUNICATIONS SIG- (currently active)

Explores the various techniques of using e-mail, web-sites and search engines including internet service providers (ISP) and access programs.

Head2Head Gaming (currently active)

Allows the participants to engage in network game playing using such games as Doom, Quake, and various other offerings available on the market. Meetings are held twice a month (normally) at differing locations, and usually attract a crowd of participants.;

Programming

(currently active)
Explores the concepts and techniques of programming applications in different languages, with the emphasis being currently on Visual BASIC.

LINUX

(reorganizing)
Tired of the constant battle with the Windows system on your PC or laptop? Maybe it's time to switch. Explore the world of LINUX, an alternative to Gates and Co.

Windows

(reorganizing)
Need help with your Windows installation? Looking for tips and tricks? Here's the place to go for them.

DOS

Even though not holding any regular meetings, Don Grim is still available to ask your DOS-related questions.

SIGs (Special Interest Groups) provide a forum for members with a common interest to meet and explore this field. Contact the SIG leader to verify the meeting schedule.

Beginner's

Tom Kuklinski
866-5396 kuklinsk@velocity.net
3rd Tuesday

Genealogy

Dave Howell
866-7308 dehowell@velocity.net
Dates announced on CUEList

Head2Head Gaming

Lou Cannarozzi
864-9554 loucann@aol.com
1st and 3rd Saturdays

Programming

Jim Fouch
455-1294 jim@fouchsoftware.com
Contact Jim for new day of meeting

LINUX

Terry Lukas
835-4270 tlukas@altavista.com
2nd Tuesday of the month

Windows

Brian Little
838-9346 brian@velocity.net
Date to be announced

DOS

Don Grim
452-4467 goforit@velocity.net
No regularly scheduled meeting

Internet/Telecommunications

Chip DeVogé
453-6394 chip_devogé@excite.com
Date to be announced

Microcontrollers

William Schmuck
864-3192 redstone@velocity.net
Date to be announced

TI SIG

Norb Sitter
838-6281 noorbsit@juno.com
No regularly scheduled meetings

Entry Level Questions Answered *by Lowell Shatraw, CUGG*

Q: WHAT IS THE TASKBAR AND THE TOOLBAR?

The TASK BAR is the area at the bottom of your WIN9x screen that shows the applications that are currently running. The active application will show differently, while the others will show the names of the applications. Clicking a non-active application will cause the application to be displayed on the screen; on top of whatever else you may have displayed.

The TASK BAR on all WINDOWS systems can be relocated to the side or to the top of your screen if desired. To move it, just click and drag on a blank area on the TASK BAR and let go when your mouse is located within about one inch from either side or at least halfway up the screen from the bottom.

The TOOL BAR is a row or column of icons that appear, typically, at the top of the application screen. The functions will vary according to the application being used. For example, the tool bar for my Internet Explorer shows the BACK and FORWARD icons, as well as the STOP, REFRESH, HOME and others. Netscape COMPOSER shows the NEW, OPEN, SAVE, PUBLISH, PREVIEW, and others

Generally, the TOOL BAR is displayed below the MENU BAR which is located in the topmost area, under the title and which contains the names like FILE, EDIT, INSERT and others.

Q: What are the shortcuts to **Windows Explorer** and to **Find**? Also, what wildcards will work with the **Find** command?

A: Here is a list of some of the methods to access **EXPLORER**

1. RIGHT click the START button
2. RIGHT click MY COMPUTER
3. Click the START button, select RUN, and then type in EXPLORER and press ENTER.

Here is a list of some of the methods to access **FIND**

1. Click the START button, scroll up to FIND and then over to FILES or FOLDERS

2. Access WINDOWS EXPLORER and then TOOLS, then FILES or FOLDERS The wildcards available are the QUESTION MARK ?, and the ASTERISK *. The question mark replaces a single character in the search string, while the asterisk replaces up to 8 or more characters in a search string. Remember that you're looking for file names or folder names.

For example, let's search for the filename EXPLORER. First type in the "NAMED" window the characters EXPLORER. Now type in the window "LOOK IN:" this drive letter and path name C:\. Be sure the check mark is in

the INCLUDE SUBFOLDERS option and now click the FIND NOW button to start the search. As you will see if you try this, many possible results will be displayed. But, we're looking for the WINDOWS EXPLORER file-name icon and it must be an icon, not a (yellow) folder. It's located in the C:\WINDOWS directory (folder) and is named EXPLORER.EXE.

If you had typed in EXPL* and searched, less results would appear and the name EXPLORER.EXE would still appear. This is because the * replaces ALL characters from the position it is placed to the 8th character of the standard DOS 8.3 format filename notation. But, if you have long file names, as allowed in WINDOWS, anything that STARTS with whatever you type in, up to the * will be found. And that can be MANY names. For example, if I had typed LOW*, then any filename or folder with LOW, in either uppercase or lowercase would be found. On my system, on just my C: drive, 1986 names were found. That's Nineteen hundred and eighty six file names and folder names. Try this one. Type ME* and see what results you get.

Q: What are the functions of the Windows key?

A: The WINDOWS key is an additional key found on certain keyboards that allows the user to select functions without having to use the normal, multiple, keystrokes to accomplish a task. The functionality of the keyboard WINDOWS key is implemented when the OS recognizes the special keyboard and installs drivers, or by manually installing the special drivers that came with the system.

Here is a list of the shortcuts assigned to the WINDOWS key.

Press the WINDOWS KEY and The START menu will be displayed
 WINDOWS KEY + PAUSE opens the SYSTEM PROPERTIES dialog (Key may be named PAUSE/BREAK)
 WINDOWS KEY + TAB toggles the selection of the applications on the TASKBAR with each press of the TAB key.
 WINDOWS KEY + E opens WINDOWS EXPLORER
 WINDOWS KEY + F1 displays the HELP screen
 WINDOWS KEY + F displays the FIND ALL screen
 WINDOWS KEY + CTRL + F opens the FIND COMPUTER dialog box
 WINDOWS KEY + M causes all applications to MINIMIZE
 WINDOWS KEY + M + SHIFT causes all MINIMIZED applications to be restored to being open on desktop (opposite of m above)

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WINDOWS KEY + R opens the RUN window

Q: Should I turn off my computer at night?

A: Only if you are not working on it! Seriously though, if you have the PC connected to the power through an UPS you can safely leave it on all the time, but be sure to turn the power off to the monitor.

WHY you ask? Well, each time you power ON the computer, which consists of electronic circuits, the surge of the electricity through the circuits in the system and the drives has the potential to cause something to burn out. I use the following analogy to help understand this when I present to my hardware troubleshooting class. When do you generally see a light bulb burn out? When you turn the switch ON of course. The electrical surge causes a temperature change as well as the filament being subjected to the electrical flow and this has the potential to burn out the filament in the bulb. (Of course this does not apply to fluorescent lamps.)

So, if you have an UPS (Uninterruptable Power Supply), and not just a SURGE Protector, you can safely leave the power ON. If the power happens to fluctuate during the night, or even go off for a short period of time, the UPS continues to power the PC. It has a battery that constantly converts the DC power to the AC power used by the PC. This battery allows the PC keep running for a time.

I ran a BBS (Bulletin Board System) for 10 years and of course the PC had to be left ON all the time so callers could connect to it. Hmmmm, did my mention of BBS happen to DATE me? These were the method of communicating with other PC users through one central PC, much like the Internet, but on a smaller scale. Anyway, I left the PC ON

downs for upgrades and maintenance.

To sum it all up, leave the PC ON but turn the monitor OFF, or at least have a screen saver running to prevent the possibility of the image being burnt into the monitor screen.

Q: What is Wallpaper? How can I change it? Can I use a picture from the Internet or a picture that I have scanned?

A: The background on your desktop is called WALLPAPER. The picture, or graphics displayed are found in the system or can be added from other sources. Mine is a space shot showing the shuttle and arm of an astronaut looking down on the Great Lakes.

To change the wallpaper, RIGHT click the desktop, select PROPERTIES and select the WALLPAPER TAB or BACKGROUND TAB as some systems name it. In the displayed window there will be a list of installed wallpaper scenes to select from. Scroll through the list, and if you have a favorite, select it. You also can have it centered in the desktop window, or tiled--multiple images of the picture or graphics used to fill the screen. I prefer CENTERED. These images can be .BMP, or JPG files; pictures of the kids, or your favorite ski trail, or whatever you desire can be used.

If you find a picture on the Internet and would like to use it as a wallpaper background, here's how to install it. Right click the image and the selections SET AS WALLPAPER, or SAVE PICTURE AS are available. I prefer to save the picture and then access the desktop properties as explained above to later try it. Save the picture in the C:\WINDOWS folder and you are all ready to change it when you want a different wallpaper setting.

Scanned pictures can be used in the same way that Internet images are stored and used.

we need them? Can I download screensavers from the Internet and run them on my PC? How?

A: The image on a monitor has the potential to burn itself into the inside surface if kept there for a long period of time. (Newer monitors are much less likely than the monitors of 5 - 10 years ago.) Electrons exciting the phosphor on the inside of the display glass create the monitor image. The persistence of the phosphor (the ability to 'light it up', and keep it light so it can be seen), is much less with today's monitors than with those of yesteryears. With this persistence being lower, the chance of the phosphor actually being burned is much less also.

Screensavers today are more of a personal choice of what you want to see when you are not using the PC, but still want to keep the monitor turned on. They are used more for cosmetic, than for protection against burning the screen. Swimming fish, the Frank & Louie Budweiser scene and others are solely for your enjoyment.

There are many **FREEWARE** and **SHAREWARE** (Continued on page 9)



New Members Wanted

Existing CUE members, for each new PAID member you get to join CUE, you will receive \$5 off your renewal for the following year.

Thus, if you get 5 new members to join, your renewal for the next year is FREE!!

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SHAREWARE screensavers available nowadays. With an Internet Connection, users can quickly download a new ones, with seemingly unlimited choices! To see which ones you currently have, use the FIND command to search the C:\WINDOWS folder for *.SCR files. SCR is a screensaver type file. When downloading new ones, place them directly in the WINDOWS folder so your DISPLAY PROPERTIES can see them when you want to change the one you have running to a different one. (If they are not in their SCR format, you may want to download them to a different location, extract them from whatever format they were in--ZIP or EXE--and then place them in the C:\WINDOWS folder. Some others yet will require 'installing' them if they are of the type that include special features--like the Frank & Louie Budweiser frog one.)

Q Can I change the words under my Desktop Icons? How about the color behind the words? Also, can I make the words bigger so I can read them?

A Yes you can change the wording. One way is to RIGHT click the icon and select RENAME. Another is to LEFT click the name twice, in slow succession--at least two seconds between each click-- or you'll launch the program associated with the icon. The name will change to a box showing the entire name and be highlighted in BLUE. Use the ARROW keys to, position the cursor where you want to insert new text and start typing. While the text is BLUE, pressing the BACKSPACE key will remove all the current text. Then just type new text, keeping in mind there is a limited amount of characters that will display when your finish, and press the ENTER key.

To make the color behind the words different, do this. In the CONTROL PANEL access the DISPLAY and double click it. Select APPEARANCE. Look in the lower half of the open DISPLAY PROPERTIES window for the ITEM: and the word DESKTOP should be there. If not, select it. Then off to the right is the COLOR: selection. The current color shown is what you see as the color behind the desktop words; change the color to suit your desire.

To make the desktop icons text bigger, while still in the DISPLAY PROPERTIES window, select ICON in the ITEM: window. Notice just below is the FONT: setting window? Select a larger font than the default SIZE 8, click APPLY and see if it's the size you want. If not, change it until it is.

Q: What is a Folder? Can I create new folders with my own titles? How do I move files in and out of folders? Can I get rid of folders I don't need?

A: A folder is much like the manila folder you may use for storing your monthly receipts and bills. Each folder contains different information in your file cabinet. Each folder in your computer also has different information that has been placed there. NOTE: A computer folder may contain the same information that exists in other folders--if the information has been COPIED there. Each system has some folders that are named the same--like WINDOWS, PROGRAM FILES, etc. just as some homes have the same folders found in everyone's file cabinet--i.e. PUBLIC SERVICE, GREELEY GAS, TELEPHONE. Folders contain program files, data files and files used to support a program--like WORD is a program file that has DLL and COM files to support the WORD program when it is executed.

Folders can be created with whatever title the user wants. For example, to create a folder names TEST on the C: drive, several methods can be utilized to accomplish this. Right click MY COMPUTER and select EXPLORE when the drop-down menu appears. Now click ONCE on the C: drive ICON. Now, go up to the menu bar and select FILE | NEW | FOLDER. A new folder ICON is created and now you can just type the name you want. When the name of the folder is BLUE and highlighted, just typing text causes the name to change to the newly typed text.

To remove a folder, click it once to highlight it, then press the DEL key on the keyboard. You have just deleted the folder and ALL THE CONTENTS of the folder. So, be sure what is in the folder, if anything is there, is not wanted. Once you have deleted the folder, all the files and folders within that folder go away as well.

This article is brought to you by the Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an International organization to which this user group belongs. Lowell Shatraw is Secretary to the Computer User Group of Greeley, in Greeley Colorado. Lowell has worked in computer support call centers supporting Macintosh and PC environments; has developed and taught computer troubleshooting and repair; and is currently a UNIX system Administrator who also works with WINDOWS 9x, NT and WINDOWS 2000.

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P.C.'s 4-U

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CUE Events

January 2001

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------|
| | 1 New Year's Day | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 H2H SIG |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 General CUE Meeting | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 BUG Meeting at Tom Kuklinski's 7 pm | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 CUE Classes, H2H SIG |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Adelphia Tour | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 Genealogy SIG, Dave Howell's | 31 | | | |

Upcoming Special Events:

There will be a tour of the Adelphia Cable facilities on January 23rd starting at 6 pm at their Jordan Rd. head-end facility. If you're interested to see the inner workings of a cable TV company, this is your chance. For directions, contact Mark Ellis at the CUEList, or the January meeting.

The next series of CUE Classes are starting again in January, at the Erie Co. Library (Blasco Memorial Library), located along the Bayfront Parkway. This class will be an advanced look at Outlook (and Outlook Express), and runs from 9am to noon. Instructor will NOT be Don Grim, as announced before, due to confusion in scheduling. Watch the CUEList for further details.

The demo at the January meeting will be a 'Fixit' type session. If you have a problem with your system, you are invited to bring it to the meeting, where we can take a look at it and do some troubleshooting. Just bring the CPU box itself...there will be a monitor, mouse and keyboard there.

Items for Sale:

If you have any items you'd like to sell, list them here for free.

Please get your listings to me by the date of the next CUE meeting for inclusion in the following issue. Send to bookworm@erie.net

Newsletter Submissions

CUE members are welcome to submit articles, reviews, or any other item related to computers, computing, or CUE activities for inclusion in this newsletter. Please send all submissions to the Editor via email to bookworm@erie.net or via disk at any general CUE meeting.

Plain text format is preferred, although Microsoft Word can also be used to prepare your original item. Please include your name on all submissions.

Deadline for submissions is the day of the general CUE meeting for inclusion in the following month's issue (i.e., the 2nd Wednesday in June for the July issue).

Author and submission guidelines may be requested by sending an email to bookworm@erie.net

Editor's Notebook *by Mark Mattson, Editor, OnCUE*

Another year has passed, and the new year has started. The previous 12 months saw a great many changes in the computing industry; it should be interesting to see what happens this year.

The Microsoft Presentation on Windows Me, which was held in December, was a successful venture. As new products are introduced from both Microsoft as well as other vendors, the possibility of future demos will be explored.

There's a suite of products I am currently installing and using on my personal systems at home, known as Object Desktop. It is a suite of apps that allow you to totally change the way Windows looks and 'feels'. As I learn more about this suite and how to implement it, I shall do a series of articles on it.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

I am slowly getting a supply of articles back in reserve for the newsletter, but it is ABOUT enough for 1 issue. Usually I like to have at least 2 issues-worth of material on reserve. If you have any items you'd like to get in the newsletter, get them to me ASAP, as I will be working on the December issue shortly after the November meeting.

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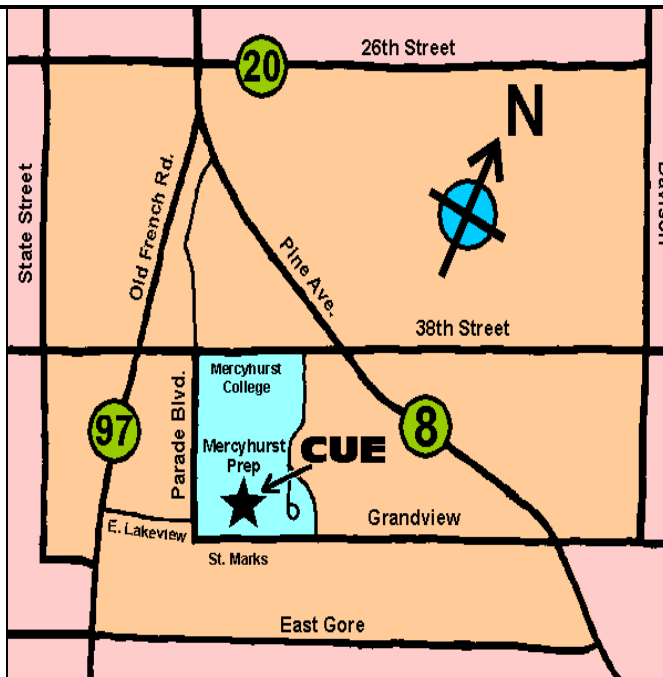
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*Next meeting is Wednesday, **January 10th**, 2001 at
 Mercyhurst Prep High School. Doors open at 6 pm
 and the meeting starts at 7 pm.*

Mercyhurst Prep High School is located on East Grandview Blvd. between Parade Blvd. and Pine Avenue. The building is located on the north side of East Grandview across the street from the Catholic Diocese. If you are standing in front of the High School the entrance you want to use is on the furthest East (right) building. The meeting is held on the lower level in the auditorium and is handicap accessible.

Please note that the building and grounds are smoke-free.



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