



OnCUE

The Official Journal of the Computer Users of Erie

Volume 23, Number 2

February 2004

CUE Tries a New Approach

At the February General Meeting, CUE will be inaugurating a new approach to our General Meetings, to be featured every so often.



What is happening is that , at the conclusion of our regular business portion of the meeting, we will feature the normal monthly SIG meeting of the Beginner's User Group (BUG). For the regular attendees of this SIG, please note that this will be the only meeting held this month....there will NOT be one at Tom's home on the normal meeting night.

The BUG SIG might seem a bit misleading in its name....not only do we have the novice, first-time computer users included in our group, but we also have several experienced users, also...who may be starting out in a new computing interest (i.e., a beginner in that area). So, the 'Beginner' can actually be anyone, of any level of experience, that is starting out at any point, in any topic related to computing.

As always, in addition to the topic of focus for the SIG meeting, if any member has a hardware or software problem they'd like worked on, please feel free to bring your system with you, and we will be glad to give a hand.

Remember, there will be NO meeting at Tom's this month...this is the February BUG meeting.

Editor's Notebook

CUE Classes are underway. The next class will again deal with Microsoft Access. The date for this session will be February 21. As usual, it will be held at the Blasco Memorial Library, in the Admiral Room, from Noon to 4:30 PM.

We also have the schedule for the 2004 year. It is as follows:

February 21, 2004
 March 13, 2004
 April 3, 2004
 May 15, 2004
 Sept. 11, 2004
 October 9, 2004
 Nov. 13, 2004
 Dec. 11, 2004

It is once again time for me to put out a call for articles. I have very few in reserve right now, and these are all from our APCUG sources (i.e., other user groups).

As Dave Howell will be out of town for the next 2 months, that source will also be unavailable. Dave usually comes through in a pinch for me with quick articles. However, to be fair to Dave, we have 50+ other members in the group...how about some of you helping out by writing an article or two for me, and take some of the load off of Dave?

It's only fair.....

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This Month's Meeting

The February CUE meeting will be a combined meeting with the BUG SIG. We will have our usual business portion, but then the BUG group will have their February gathering as our feature of the month.

Visit the CUE Website: www.cuerie.com

Computer Users of Erie

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Special Interest Groups

<u>Beginner's</u> Tom Kuklinski 897-1375 tomkuklinski@mac.com	3rd Tuesday of the month 3699 Dogleg Trail 7 pm
<u>Genealogy</u> Dave Howell 866-7308 dehowell@velocity.net	1st Tuesday of the month 3904 Myrtle 7 pm
<u>Macintosh SIG</u> Lou Cioccio 868-1320 lcioccio@mac.com	2nd Saturday of the month 1012 E. 28th (park behind school) 9 am
<u>Advanced Windows</u> Brian Little (Crawford County) 814-337-6724 blittle@zoominternet.net	<i>No regularly scheduled meeting for Crawford County</i>
Terry Lukas (Erie County) 835-4270 Terry_Lukas@hotmail.com	2nd Wednesday of the month 1406 Sumner Dr. 7 pm
<u>DOS</u> Don Grim goforit@velocity.net	<i>No regularly scheduled meeting</i>
<u>Internet/Telecommunications</u>	<i>No regularly scheduled meetings</i>
<i>Looking for a coordinator</i>	
<u>TI SIG</u> Norb Sitter 838-6281 norbsit@juno.com	<i>No regularly scheduled meetings</i>
<u>Microcontroller</u>	<i>No regularly scheduled meetings</i>
<i>Looking for a coordinator</i>	
<u>Programming</u>	<i>No regularly scheduled meetings</i>
<i>Looking for a coordinator</i>	
<u>LINUX</u>	<i>No regularly scheduled meetings</i>
<i>Looking for a coordinator</i>	

OnCUE

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Correspondence: General correspondence to CUE may be sent via US Mail to:

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Pop-Up Stoppers

By Dave Howell, Computer Users of Erie

Quite often, a CUE member has a question or problem that he/she poses on the CUElist. And often, there are some viable answers that are of interest to other members of CUE. This just happened when I asked what could be done to stop "pop-ups", especially when a spam or pop-up succeeds in filling the entire screen with no title bar or other place with which to delete or otherwise dispose of it.

Thanks to CUE members Kevin Brocki, Mark Mattson, Tom Kuklinski, Jim Szymanowski, Louis Cioccio, Bonny Kuba, and Terry C., we have the following answers:

To eliminate screen-wide images created by pop-ups, etc. - Press Alt - F4 keys simultaneously.

Websites for "pop-up stoppers:"

www.panicware.com/product_downloads.html

This program is small (456Kb), free, stops 99% of pop-ups. Right-click on the white "hand" to check for signature updates.

If you get pop-ups without having the browser open, you need something to clean up "spyware." Check these out:

Ad-aware:

<http://www.lavasoftusa.com>

Spybot Search & Destroy:

<http://www.safer-networking.org>

If you install the above applications, be sure to check for updates because they have signature files just like virus software.

Another solution - install a new toolbar. This one has what is considered the best popup blocker and is the least intrusive on your system and it's FREE:

<http://toolbar.google.com/>

but uninstall your current toolbar first!

Still another solution - don't use Internet Explorer as your browser. Switch to another one like the:

Mozilla's Firebird:

<http://mozilla.org/products/firebird/>

This browser is faster than IE, has all the features, is FREE, and will convert your bookmarks from Explorer.

OPERA:

<http://download.com.com/3150-2356-0.html?tag=dir>

Another full-featured browser worth trying. They will want you to buy it but will let you use it for FREE.

There is also Netscape. It uses Mozilla technology and also has a full-featured browser plus a mail program, web editor and more.

If you are going to upgrade to WinXP, be patient for a few more months.....

Just read an article that states that the Windows XP Service Pack 2, which will be released in mid-2004, will include an update to Internet Explorer to block pop-ups. With this built-in ability, it should drastically cut down on the pop-up problem.

There is a beta release of the Service Pack out right now which is set to be part of the update package eventually.

Another way to possibly prevent pop-ups is to purchase an application that has this capability. McAfee has one, as well as Symantec (Norton). Also, if you use ZoneAlarm as a firewall, there is (at least in the Pro version), a pop-up stopper capability...which does work well. A freeware version may be found at www.zonelabs.com.

At the January General Meeting, it was brought out that ZoneAlarm Pro has a "pop-up blocker. But one caveat about it was that McAfee uses a pop-up to announce it's updates for its virus signatures, so if you activate the pop-up blocker, you may not get those update pop-ups!

On another but related note, the spam blocker "Mailwasher," is proving to be a very useful addition to a computer's arsenal to combat invasion of unwanted material, in this case, spam. If spam is a "pain in the butt" for you, you are invited to download the program and follow the installation instructions carefully. This program allows you to "view" each message in your ISP account "inbox" before downloading them and "bounce" each undesired message back to its sender. It is free! [Www.mailwasher.net](http://www.mailwasher.net) is the address.

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Need More Speed?
Visit www.stargate.net/iwantdsl
to see if your home is DSL-ready!

STARGATE
What Internet Service Should Be.

COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE General Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2004

1. Called to order by Sam Fletcher, president, at 7:00 pm
2. General announcements were made by the president. It was noted that Secretary Hillert Vitt could not attend tonight's meeting, and Minutes would be taken by Mark Mattson.
3. Motion was made to accept the December meeting minutes as published in the newsletter. Made by Dave Howell, second by Jim Szymanowski.
4. Treasurer's Report read by Treasurer Bonny Kubia.
5. The president noted that the current CUE Class is dealing with Microsoft Access. He also thanked Lou Cannarozzi for substituting for Jim Fouch as instructor at the January session. There will be a second Access class held in February.
6. SIG Reports were given:
 - A) Genealogy SIG meeting for January was cancelled due to inclement weather. The Feb. meeting is as scheduled at Dave Howell's home.
 - B) Mac SIG in January was on upgrading Kevin Brocki's iMac system.
 - C) BUG SIG will be held the week after the General meeting
 - D) Windows SIG, only one attendee showed up, so the night was spent experimenting with some microcontrollers.It was again requested that SIG members RSVP the coordinator of the SIG on their attendance, especially during the bad weather months.
7. President then made mention of the upcoming CUE elections, to take place in April, and discussed several ways of promoting the club as a whole.
8. Tom Kuklinski mentioned he has much of his old computer collection to get rid of, asked if anyone wanted to take any of it.
9. Q&A session from those present, on hardware and software issues.
10. Motion made by Dave Howell to accept the Treasurer's report as read; second by Terry Lukas.
11. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Mark Mattson
For Hillert Vitt, Secretary

Winner of the 50/50, to benefit the Projector fund, was our visitor for the evening, Carl Zawitowski. Congratulations!!

The rest of the evening was our 'Show and Tell' session, and some more Q&A from those present.

COMPUTER USERS OF ERIE FINANCIAL REPORT

January 30, 2004

Balances for December 2003

CUE checking account:	\$2015.50
Projector Fund:	\$ 294.00
Petty Cash:	\$ 15.62

Deposit made for January 2004 Meeting:

Renewals:	\$ 135.00
New membership:	\$ 25.00
50-50:	\$ 9.50

Total deposit: \$ 169.50

Expenses for January 2004:

Newsletter/Office Supplies:	\$ 28.39
PO Box 1 yr. renewal:	\$ 38.00
Board Mtg dinner, Oakwood Cafe:	\$ 74.00

Total expenses: \$ 140.39

From petty cash: \$ 0.00

New Balances for February 2004:

CUE checking account:	\$2044.61
Projector Fund:	\$ 303.50
Petty Cash:	\$ 15.62

During the month of January we had 5 membership renewals: Robert DeCecco, Geza Gruenwald, Robert Huber, Walter Modlin, and Ralph Walter. We also had 1 new member: Kenneth Fosco. Welcome back, welcome aboard and thank you so much for your support.

Due for Renewal??

Please be sure to check the mailing label on the outside of this issue for your renewal date. It is printed in **RED** to the right of your name.

Prompt payment of your renewal will ensure uninterrupted benefits of your CUE membership!

SIG News

Genealogy SIG

The attendance at the February meeting was enhanced by a record crowd of seven people including a new face. In addition to Bill E., Vivian D., Ron S., Dave H., E.L. T., and Norma S., we welcomed Jackie K. It was a delight to have so much talent and discuss among us.

After briefly explaining the history and purpose of the SIG within CUE, we proceeded to hear various members tell of the progress they are making in the pursuit of their own family histories.

We moved on to Legacy's new version 5.0. Dave downloaded it but didn't install it. So he proceeded to install it but failed. (That night he learned that he was using the wrong "first" name and the wrong Customer ID#. That's par for his plate!) Bill discussed virtues of Legacy 5.0 and the upgraded "Add-on" charting programs for Legacy such as Genelines, Tree Draw, Charting Companion, World Place Advisor, GEDmark, and others from Progeny Software.

Copies of our latest Genealogy Website list of over 50 websites we have determined as viable sources for genealogical data. We spent time perusing a new site designed to locate existing individuals throughout the country much like an online "telephone directory." It is called www.whowhere.com brought to our attention by Norma in her talk at last week's Erie Society for Genealogical Research. This site performed similarly to another on our list www.searchsystems.net. Some of us were found not to exist according to [whowhere.com](http://www.whowhere.com)!

Next meeting: 7 PM, Tuesday, March 2nd at Bill Ellis' home, 1502 Winslow Drive near the corner of Kuntz Road and Washington Ave. The April meeting is tentatively set for 7 PM, Tuesday, April 6th - the place to be disclosed at a later date. The May meeting will take place 7 PM, Tuesday, May 4th at Dave's house.

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Mac SIG

Well there were only 3 of us but we had fun. Lou, Terry and myself, Bob Huber stopped in for a few minutes too. I learned how to change an HD in an iMac. We installed an 80gb disk in mine. Then we installed Yellow Dog Linux. It went very well except for a small problem with sound. The GUI interface will need a lot of tweaking to get it to my liking.

We installed the boot manager and saved about 50gb of space on the drive when we partitioned it in hopes of installing another OS along side it, maybe Panther at the next meeting. :-)

Then we did a little troubleshooting on Lou's LAN at the church and solved a small mystery regarding the accessing of his router configuration pages.

We also discussed Knoppix, Linux on a CD. This is something that anyone can use. If you feared installing Linux on your PC but have always wanted to try it then this is for you. Knoppix is a totally self contained boot CD that will load the Linux OS in the GUI mode without any installation headaches. It will access your existing file systems on the HD in your PC so you can access your data files. If you don't like it just shutdown, eject the CD and boot your PC just the way it was before you started.

Maybe I can show this at the next meeting on my laptop to anyone who is interested in seeing it.

Kevin

Ed. Note: Thanks to Kevin Brocki for this report from the February Mac SIG meeting!!

Internet SIG

A recent posting by Dave Howell on the CUE list was inquiring as to the viability of starting a new SIG that would deal with finding and sharing interesting, useful websites with our members.

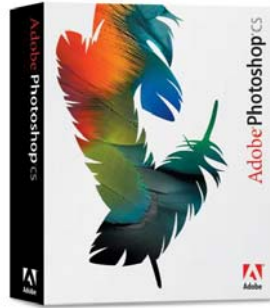
CUE has had an Internet SIG for several years now, but, with the departure of Chip DeVoge, has been made inactive for want of a coordinator. If there is enough interest in this topic, the old Internet SIG could be reactivated, and its focus shifted to that suggested by Dave. Perhaps even a change of SIG name, to something more identifiable with its purpose...like Surfer SIG, or something similar.

Let's have further discussion of this on the CUE list, and see how others like this idea.....

Software Review

By Mark Mattson, Computer Users of Erie

Digital photography is becoming the hottest segment of imaging since the invention of film. But, whether digital- or film-based imaging, some sort of manipulation of the image is either desired, or necessary, to improve the overall look, feel, and even the impact of the original photo. This is the role that image manipulation software plays in the modern world.



First introduced to the world 14 years ago this month (February, 1990), Adobe® Photoshop® has grown and evolved over the years from its humble beginnings as a collection of routines written for home 'digital darkroom' use, to the industry-leading application it is today. And now, it has been re-issued in its newest version, Adobe Photoshop CS, part of the Creative Suite of applications offered by Adobe.

Photoshop allows the user to manipulate any image that can be opened by the application, whether from an analog source (i.e., film), or from a digital source (digital camera). Naturally, to get a film-based image into the computer, one will need a scanner. But, once inside the application, the magic begins. What once would take sometimes many hours of trial and error in a darkroom, can now be accomplished in a much shorter period of time, right on your desktop, and with a much finer degree of control over the results.

System Requirements

Image manipulation is, next to digital video editing, one of the most demanding tasks one can ask of a personal computer (PC or Mac). The following specifications are the bare minimum required for acceptable performance; the more muscle you can put behind it, the better:

1. Intel Pentium III or 4 CPU
2. Windows 2000 with SP3, or Windows XP
3. Minimum of 192Mb RAM, with 256Mb recommended
4. 280Mb of free hard drive space
5. Color monitor capable of 1024x768 resolution
6. Graphics card that supports 16-bit color (64k colors)
7. CD-Rom drive
8. Internet connection (dial-up or broadband) for activation of the product.

Setup is straight-forward, similar to any other Windows application installation. Insert the CD, and choose your menu option when it appears. For the average user, the setup defaults will be perfectly fine.

As I mentioned above, the more horsepower you have under the hood of your machine, the better. The system I have Photoshop CS installed on is an AMD-based system, running at 1.3GHz, with 1Gb of RAM, and an 80Gb 'working' partition, used for image and video manipulation. Depending on some of the files you may be working with, the stored image files can be quite large. An example of this was a collage I was working on a year or so ago, which measured 48x60 inches in finished size. Even saved as a low-res (72dpi) TIFF file, there was so much information in it, that the file required over 300Mb of disk space for storage. A normal home user may never work with an image project of this size, but it IS a possibility if you are in a commercial environment. So, the more the better, as far as your hardware goes.

Features, Old and New

As with all previous versions of Photoshop, CS gives you the same basic functionality and array of tools for manipulating your photos. Images can be files you may already have on your system, those you receive from others on any type of media able to be read by your machine, or via its built-in TWAIN scanner interface.

The array of tools that have been included with all releases as they were developed, are still available for use. These include selection tools, brushes, dodging and burning tools, and many others. All tools are available from the Tools palette, which is visible on the default user interface.

Other manipulation features are available from the various menus built into the application, allowing you to control color balance, contrast, brightness, sizing, resolution

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Membership News

Current active CUE members: 48

Renewal received: Robert DeCecco Geza Gruenwald
Walter Modlin Bob Huber Ralph Walter

Renewals Due Bob & Pat Raydo Laura Willson
Norb Sitter Tom Kennedy Doris Snell
Tom Kuklinski Andrew Yeargain Jim Fouch

New Members: Ken Fosco

Remember, a CUE Membership makes a nice present!!

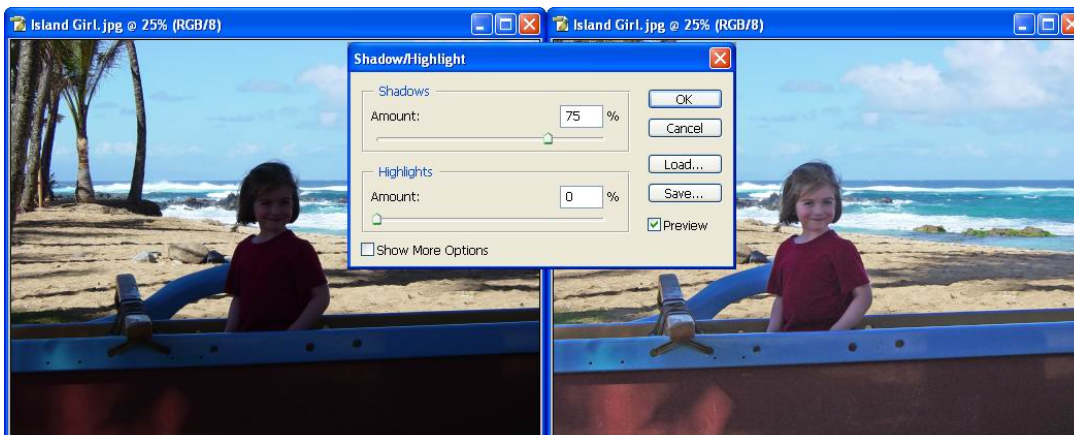
(Continued from page 6)
(dpi), and many others.

One of the most useful features of Photoshop CS is the ability to use Filters and plug-ins, available from Adobe and many other vendors. These allow you to expand the versatility of the basic Photoshop application, allowing a wider range of image manipulations to be performed.

Being the latest version, however, Photoshop CS offers many new features, adding to the already wide range of operational choices. Some of the new features include:

1. Customize the keyboard shortcuts. You can now modify the shortcut keys for the functions you use most, to fit your needs, and also print a list of them for quick reference.
2. Improved file browser. Allows you more flexibility in organizing your images, no matter where on your system they reside.
3. Enhanced text features. Allows you to add text that follows a path through your image, or to fit text within a shape. A major improvement over the text features found in earlier versions.
4. 16-bit color support in many functions allows for more precise editing and manipulation of portions of your image. Matching of colors during retouching is easier and more accurate than before.
5. Photoshop can now work directly with the raw data files produced by many of the most popular digital cameras on the market. This gives you more accurate image source for your projects.
6. How many times have you taken a photo, only to find out later that the subject is hidden in deep shadow, or the highlights are excessive? This version allows you greater control over these problem areas, and may even save an irreplaceable photo for you (see example below).

Sample image showing shadow correction



(Continued on page 8)

There are many other features and enhancements since version 7, but many are cosmetic, or related to functionality. One other new feature that will appeal mostly to web designers, is the ability to (with the aid of the bundled ImageReady® CS software) create Macromedia Flash animations.

Expandability

As mentioned previously, you have many available filters already incorporated into the application itself. But there are times when you need a specialized effect. As with past versions, Photoshop CS allows the use of third-party filters and plug-ins, to enhance and expand upon the basic features of the software. A search of the Internet will turn up many locations where such filters and plug-ins may be obtained. Some of these are free for the downloading, while others are commercial products, requiring purchase. But, for that perfect effect you need for your image project, there is most likely a way to achieve it with a filter or plug-in.

As a bonus to users, there is now a Filter Gallery included, which allows you to preview the effects of various filters, to help your ideas flow.

Product Activation

Yes, this has become somewhat of a sore point for many people, since Microsoft introduced it a short time back, and other vendors jumped on the bandwagon. With the release of Photoshop CS, Adobe is now using a product activation routine to prevent piracy of the application (however, at this time, it is ONLY on the Windows-based version). However, the process is quick and painless...I had my copy installed and activated in under 10 minutes.

Reactivation is no problem, either, if you need to reinstall the product on the same machine. Just reinstall, and you are all set, as your activation information is stored

separately from the actual application itself. If, however, you buy a new computer, you will need to go through the activation procedure, just as you did the first time you installed the product.

Press any key to continue or any other key to quit...

(Continued from page 7)

If you choose NOT to activate the software, you will only have use of it for 30 days from installation.

Pricing and Availability

As this is a professional editing package, Photoshop CS is not for the average hobbyist digital image enthusiast; rather, it is aimed at the high-end user, mainly those in the commercial environment. Consequently, it is priced accordingly.

Current prices listed at the Adobe Store for the full retail version of Photoshop CS is \$649.00. However, if you are a licensed owner of a previous version, you may purchase the upgrade package for \$169.00. If purchased direct from the Adobe Store, you have the choice of either a boxed delivery, or a download-only version for the same prices. Be aware, though, that shipping charges most likely will increase the price of the boxed set somewhat.

If you would like to Try before you Buy, there is a downloadable trial version available on Adobe's website (www.adobe.com) However, be warned: the download for the Windows version is about 152Mb, which will tie up a dialup connection for quite some time.

Overall Evaluation

I have been involved with both photography and printing for many years, and are familiar with many of the required processes, including black-and-white and color darkroom work. While it will never replace the fun of the chemical-based darkroom, Photoshop makes it much easier and even MORE fun, to achieve your results.

This month marks the 14th anniversary of the initial release of Photoshop to the public. With the release of Photoshop CS, it appears to be headed for many more. True, it is not a quick and easy program to master, but, if you need it's power and flexibility, you can't go wrong.

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From the DealsGuy

By Bob Click, Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

*This Is No Hoax

This may sound like a broken record, but I find this stuff interesting. In the 12/22/03 issue of InfoWorld, columnist Ephraim Schwartz wrote an article about exploding batteries in cell phones and laptops. It concerns the change from nickel metal hydride to lithium-ion batteries. Seems the new technology can lead to "thermal runaway." He says it is not a frequent problem for a battery to explode, but it is certainly a distinct possibility and has happened, although he did not mention anything about gas stations. <G> His article should be posted at

http://www.infoworld.com/article/03/12/19/50OPreality_1.html

Two of my readers told me that gas stations in their area have signs posted forbidding cell phone use while pumping gas. I'm not the only one who wants to be careful. I've also had messages explaining to me that Hydrogen power is NOT any safer than gas.

In other news of note, one of our favorite vendors is being bought. It was reported that VPN and firewall vendor "Check Point Software Technologies Ltd." acquired desktop firewall maker Zone Labs Inc. for \$205 million. It was said that Check Point must integrate more security into the desktop and that they plan to do that. I hope the free version of Zone Alarm remains free for home use.

You might be interested in knowing that Microsoft is reconfiguring the jobs of the managers in charge of operating system development. It is supposed to improve the product quality and a lot of other things. Haven't we heard that one before? I hope it works. I imagine it does become a big problem when you sell the most prolific operating system in the entire world and all the hackers lay awake nights trying to exploit it, and often succeed before it is even officially released.

In the category of old business, I've received only a couple of messages with comments about my possible plans for the monthly column. After doing it for over nine years each month without a miss, I have established an excellent network to many user groups and would hate to see it come tumbling down. I still have a little material so we'll see where it goes. Since I have tons of announcements for new products, I may start posting some of them on my Web site for the time being although so far

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I have heard little interest in these mostly unknown products.

*Why Pay For Income Tax Preparation!!

If you have a simple income tax to make out, don't pay for the tax return prep because you just might qualify for the IRS's very own FREE File Service. Check further for that at [<http://www.irs.gov>] and if you feel its really not that simple, or you are a klutz with the computer, call 1-800-829-1040 to find the closest Volunteer Income Tax Assistance location. That free service is meant for the elderly, low-income people, disabled folks, or people with problems speaking English. My wife says I seem to qualify in all those ways when she has a honey-do job. Don't forget the free income tax service for uncomplicated tax returns by AARP volunteers, most of whom are actually specialists donating their time. Call your local AARP chapter for more information.

*How's Your Credit These Days?

With identity theft so rampant today, people should do themselves a favor and occasionally check their own credit. You can't be too careful and a simple way to get the most information is to check with Equifax where you can get reports from all three credit-reporting agencies (Equifax, Experian and TransUnion) for just \$29.95. Yes, I know they are working on a law for you to get your credit report at no cost, but don't hold your breath for that right now, even though it's in the works. Most people don't know that if you have a low score (around 600) for your credit rating, your interest rate will be higher than if your credit rating was near 800. That could mean thousands extra for a mortgage.

*Free Phone Calls - Yup, All Over The Globe

My thanks to JB Hillard of Chautauqua Cyber Club who sent me this item for the DealsGuy column. Check out [http://ui.skype.com/help_faqs.html] where you can set up an account to make free phone calls all over the globe. It uses peer-to-peer technology and is presently available only to Windows XP and 2000 operating systems. They say it may work with ME or Win98, but that is not promised. The download is free and right now you would be a beta tester. However, later when they are further along with the development, there may be a sub-

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*This One Does it Better

I received a message the other day from Colleen Toumayan of Executive Software telling me they are offering Diskeeper Professional Edition 8.0 bundled with Undelete Home Edition for just \$49.95. [<http://consumer.execsoft.com/home.asp>] (Diskeeper will not install on Microsoft Windows Server Operating systems, although they do have a version that will for more money.) Colleen was kind enough to send me the software because I had never used it before. After trying it out, I became convinced. I am used to starting the defrag in Windows and leaving the room to do something else while it works, but Executive Software's Diskeeper has shown me there was a better way.

Undelete does what it says and can sure be handy in some cases. I often delete things by holding the shift key so it will bypass the Recycle Bin. Once in a while I regret doing that and Undelete helps with that problem. I'm not sure how long this special offer will last. By the way, if you delete something from a floppy or external drive, they don't normally end up in the Recycle Bin either.

It's interesting that Undelete replaces the Recycle Bin with a "Recovery Bin." What is the difference --- too much for me to explain here, but it catches much more than the Windows Recycle Bin does, such as items I just described. Go to [<http://consumer.execsoft.com/home.asp>] for more information and to order this bundle at the special price.

*Get Out Of Here You #@&% Spies!


Most of you know about spyware that sometimes finds its way on your computer, and some freeware to get rid of it such as AdAware and SpyBot. Here is something called Spyware Blaster that is said to prevent spyware from even being installed on your machine. I read about it in a users group newsletter, but neglected to make a note so I could credit the person who recommended it, but the concept sounds interesting. [<http://www.wilderssecurity.net/spywareblaster.html>] is the place to take a look and see what you think. Since it is free, trying it is cheap. However, the developer does ask for a small donation if you like it. Remember that sometimes trying to remove trial software can be a problem. I have not tried this product so I cannot speak from experience. Try it at your own risk. If you read through the material on the Web site, it is said to also do other tasks.

That's it for this month. Meet me here again next month if your editor permits. This column is written to make user group members aware of special offers or freebies I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of any products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [Bobclick@mindspring.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns and many interesting articles I have taken from various users group newsletters.

Calendar of Events

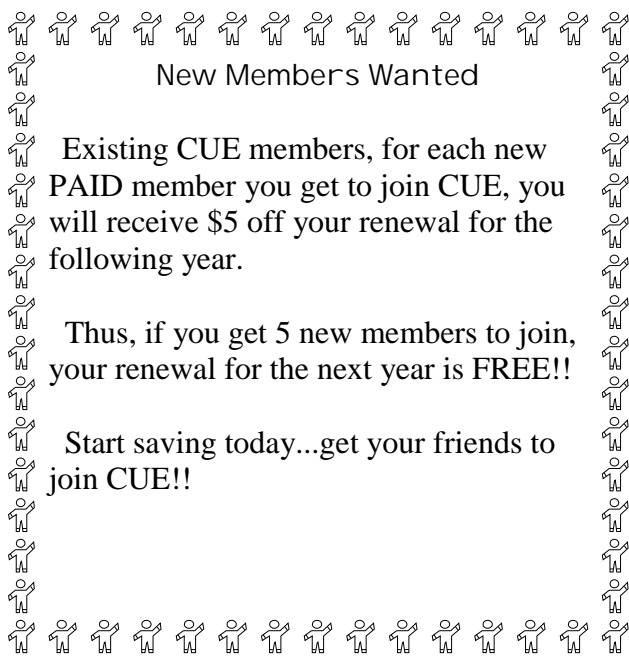
Note: Unforeseen circumstances may change a scheduled event. For up-to-the-minute news, please check the CUE List for details.

▶ February 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3 Genealogy SIG	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Advanced Windows SIG	12	13	14 Macintosh SIG 
15	16	17	18	19 CUE General Meeting/ BUG SIG	20	21 CUE Class
22	23	24	25	26 CUE Board Meeting	27	28
29						

▶ March 2004

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2 Genealogy SIG at Bill Ellis' home	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Advanced Windows SIG	11	12	13 Macintosh SIG CUE Class
14	15	16 Beginner's SIG	17 	18 CUE General Meeting	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 CUE Board Meeting	26	27
28	29	30	31			



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

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CUE operates as a non-profit organization, providing educational and other programs to our members and the community.

Join CUE today, and share in the fun and excitement that the ever-changing world of computers and computing present.

Membership dues: \$25 /yr standard membership
\$15/yr for qualifying students
(must have student ID)

Students are anyone age 25 or under who attend an educational facility full-time.

Please add \$5 to dues if you elect the USMail newsletter.

To join, fill out the form to the right, and either drop it off at our monthly meeting, or mail to:

Computer Users of Erie
PO Box 8941
Erie, PA 16505-0941
Attn: Membership

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E-mail Address _____
(required, as newsletters are sent via electronic delivery to your email)

Option: Check to have your newsletter delivered via US Mail
(Add \$5 to membership fee)

Sponsoring member name _____

Membership type: Regular Member
 Student (MUST provide valid student ID)



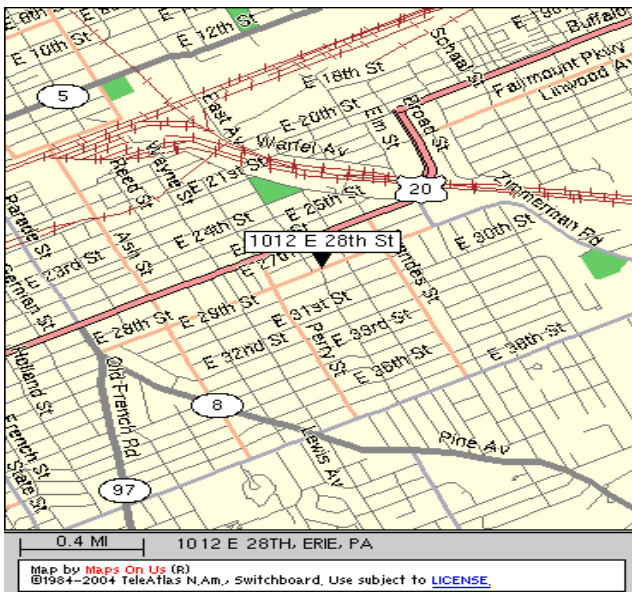
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*The next CUE General meeting will be on **February 19, 2004**, at Holy Rosary School, 1012 E. 28th St. The doors will open at 6:30 pm, and the meeting will start at 7 pm.*

Join **CUE** or Renew Your Membership Today!

Computer Users of Erie is an organization founded as a friendly and informal group for the purpose of helping each other to better understand the ever changing world of computers and computing.

Membership in CUE costs \$25.00 per year. Your membership includes our monthly newsletter via our web site, the ability to take part in all club activities and SIGs, benefit from club discounts and take part in any other special club activities or offers that come along. Most of all, you'll have fun learning from a great group of people!

To join CUE or to renew your membership, please fill out the application/renewal form found on page 11 of this newsletter, and either mail it (along with your dues) to the address shown at the bottom of the form, or bring it to one of our monthly meetings.