

the HUG Update

The Newsletter of the Harrisburg pc User Group

Web Site - <http://hug.paonline.com>

19th Year, Charter Member 

RAD Web Services With Borland's Kylix At March GenMem Meeting

Last month we had a peek at Rapid Application Development (RAD) for C++ programmers. Point, click, drag, drop, tweak some properties, add literally *FOUR LINES of CODE*, and in 10 minutes *Viola!* A working database, for real. Twenty-three people there nodded and said, "Yeah, I can program. It's not that hard. I think I can. I think I can." But how about the tricky world of wide 'Web Services?'

Join us on **Tuesday, March 12** for "RAD Web Services With Borland's Kylix" with Bob Grabau. Borland is well known in the development community for its C++Builder (presented last month), Delphi, and Jbuilder tools to name a few.

Besides being one of HUG's Support Members for several years, Bob Grabau has been a developer working for a contractor to the Navy base in Mechanicsburg as well as dealing with network administration. At past meetings he has wowed the membership with presentations of Linux, home networking, broadband, and astronomical digital imaging on his own handmade hardware, and software to name just a few.

All General Membership meetings are held on the **second Tuesday of each month** at 6:45 P.M. in the basement of Skyline View Brethren in Christ Church, 7733 Hillcrest Avenue. *See inside for directions.*

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March 2002



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Classified Ads in *The HUG Update* are
FREE to members.

Computer Related Ads:
Page \$30, half page \$15.
Non-Computer Ads:
Page \$50, half page \$25.

The Harrisburg PC User Group assumes *no* responsibility for anything in the Newsletter. Trademarks/names are owned by their respective companies. Articles reflect the opinions of the authors, not necessarily those of HUG.

Meeting Schedule

General Membership Meeting:

HUG for Linux, OS/2, DOS, and Windows (all) meets the *second Tuesday* of each month, at the Skyline View Church, 7733 Hillcrest Avenue, Harrisburg. See inside for directions. Next scheduled meeting: **March 12, 2002**. See inside for directions.

Visitors Welcome!

HUG Computer Workshop:

The HUG Computer Workshop (formerly known as the DOS/Windows SIG) where beginners' questions are answered and problem computers are analyzed for free, is held on the *third Sunday* from 2:00 to 4:00 P.M. (**March 17**), at the Skyline View Church, 7733 Hillcrest Avenue, Harrisburg. See inside for directions.

Visitors Welcome!

HUG Executive Board Meeting:

The Executive Board of HUG meets on the *third Thursday* of each month from 6:00 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. in Brian's Pizza, 6301 Grayson Rd., in the Swatara Square Shopping Center, near the east shore WalMart. **March 21, 2002**.

Visitors Welcome!

Other Information:

Electronic Distribution System for the HUG Update: Members who have chosen to receive their newsletter subscription electronically will be notified by Email of availability for downloading. YOU must provide a correct email address and inform us of any changes thereafter. HUG assumes no responsibility of delivery.

UPDATE ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS:

Please use ASCII text (.TXT) for submitted articles. Related images may be submitted in TIFF, PCX, GIF, or BMP formats of two to sixteen colors, but if it looks good to you in black and white, then it will most likely look great printed here.

A Reminder.

This could be your last Newsletter. If the date on your mailing label is circled in red, this is your last Newsletter. If the date is highlighted in yellow, dues are due now.

Directions to GenMem and Computer Workshop Meetings Location

- ! East on US 22 through Colonial Park
- ! Right on Fairville Avenue (look for sign, "Skyline View.")
- ! Left on Hillcrest. Church is on right. Enter through side doors. Note: Church is visible from US 22.

Show/Auction Schedule

MarketPro Computer Show & Sale

www.marketproshows.com

(see website for directions to a specific show)

Upcoming Harrisburg Shows:

State Farm Show Complex
March 9&10
April 20&21

Other Shows in greater area:

King of Prussia	March 9&10
York	March 16&17
Newark, DE	March 30
King of Prussia	April 6&7
York	April 13
Lancaster	April 14
Timonium	April 13&14
Allentown	April 20&21

Notes:

- 1) All shows are from 9:30 A.M. to 4:00 P.M..
- 2) Always check the MarketPro web site schedule for changes, just before driving to a show.

Computer Auction Schedule

Keystone State Auctioneers, Inc.

"Computer Parts and Electronics"

www.keystoneauctioneers.com

717.558.9188

5970 Derry Street, Harrisburg

(Behind the Bakery)

These auctions are usually held on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and on Saturday mornings. Weekday auctions begin at 6:20 P.M. with previews starting at 5:20 P.M.. Weekend auctions begin at 10:00 A.M. with previews starting at 9:00 A.M.

March Auctions -

CANCELED 3/2 5520 Derry St, Hbg.

3/12 Chambers Hill Fire Co.

3/26 Chambers Hill Fire Co.

Their blurb:

"Excess inventory sale. New and used IBM and Compaq computers, Pentiums, 486's, and more. 100's of accessories, cases, speakers, and monitors. Lots of 'as-is' products to be sold to the highest bidder (floppies, power supplies, logics, etc.). Inventory subject to change."

PC Parts, Inc.

"Great Parts at Great Prices"

www.pcsurplusonline.com

1.800.666.9373

1800 Paxton Street, Harrisburg

(Near Brenner Dodge)

PC Parts auctions are held sporadically, usually on a Saturday morning at 10:00 A.M. with previews beginning at 9:00 A.M.. If you're interested, check the classified column for 'Computers' in The Patriot-News. Also, look for the sign in front of their store and their web site. Note - Check PC Parts web site for auction dates.

The Computer Guy Show

A weekly LIVE computer and Internet information, help & talk show that you can listen to with your computer, featuring Guy Partin, a computer professional for the last 15 years. Wednesday evenings 8 to 10 P.M. FREE PC & Internet Help line during the show: 730-6737 or join the on-line chat room.

www.pawebcast.com

HUG's 2nd Tuesday
GenMem Meeting Notes
For February 12, 2002
~ *by Joseph Ronemus*

President Lou Samsel began HUG's General Membership Meeting at 6:53 P.M. There were about attendees 21 this evening and all the Executive Board Members, but one and both Trustees were present. Lou shared some announcements with the group. Next HUG Member Drive will be on March ninth and tenth at the next MarketPro Show at the Harrisburg Farm Show Building. Volunteers are needed. If you would like to volunteer, contact Lou or Mark Berkheimer.

Bob is a registered beta Tester for Borland C++ Builder, version 6.0.

This evening featured version 5.0 of C++ Builder from Borland. In the past a programmer had to define not only the window for an application, but also how big the window, its colors, borders, background, menus, buttons and what all these things do to the data manipulated by the program. Now with this forms-based OOP IDE it is quite easy to do the same thing.

An object is defined by a structure's properties and/or events.

Bob opened C++ Builder and it opened a standard blank form to work with. He grabbed a status bar object from Builder's toolbar and dropped it at the bottom of the blank form. Then a toolbar from Builder's toolbar onto the form. Next some button objects for the toolbar. Then he tweaked the properties of the buttons to give them names and bitmaps to give each a unique look on the toolbar. Then Bob added a little C++ language code to the buttons to give them functionality. Next Bob added drop down 3D menus to the form, like "File," "Edit," and "Help." If Bob could find how to enable the buttons and menus we would be done.

Someone asked Bob if he could make a simple "Hello

World" program. Bob typed Hello World in the center of the new form. Then added two button and labeled them Hello and Exit. Then added two lines of C++ code to display the message and to close the application. He compiled the program and ran it. The applause roared through the room.

Next, Bob started to demonstrate a new project in Builder, a database application. This time he dragged a table object to the bottom. Then he added the toolbar, buttons, statusbar and menus like before. Then he added an image field and memo field to display pictures and descriptions linked within the database. All this without adding any code!

Bob explained the difference between "design time" objects and "run time" objects within the project form.

Borland C++ Builder comes in three packages Personal (GPL for Linux), Professional, and Enterprise. With the GPL package you agree to provide free source code with your application.

Doris Balas won the door prize. The meeting closed 9:00 and about eight of us were off to the local MacDonald's restaurant for repast, libation, and confabulation.



HUG's 3rd Thursday
Executive Board Meeting
February 21, 2002
~ *by Joseph Ronemus*
& Lou Samsel

President Lou Samsel called the meeting to order at 6:20 P.M. Beside the President, those in attendance were Past President and Support Member George Eckard, as well as George's Wife, Support Member Dennis Mumma, First Vice-President Mark Berkheimer, Treasurer John Reinhardt, Second Vice-President Hazen Meek, Trustee Axel Walsen, and

Trustee Wes Samsel. Yours Truly had the wrong Thursday of that week in his mind for this meeting, and so was absent. This information was related to me by various members in attendance. What's clear is that even though I was not there, there was a quorum and the club's business got done.

Treasurer's Report

John Reinhardt reported that we started the 2001 year with \$2820.53 in the treasury. Deposits were \$1321.95 for the year, while interest paid was \$41.63. Expenditures totaled \$1835.31 for year.

Lou pointed out, "We did okay considering we spent \$2K for a data projector. Kudos to John!"

Next month we'll let John go first so he can cover all the financial stuff before he leaves for choir practice.

Announcements and Discussion Items

George Eckard has been compiling freeware to burn onto a CD-ROM for new members that join at computer shows. Back issues of the HUG Update were suggested as well as versions of Adobe's Acrobat Reader to view them from any of the OSs that HUG supports. Lou offered to obtain an HTML list of Linux sites, such as the LDP, to include, as well. Full of good ideas? Contact George – georgeeckard@comcast.net

Since January 2003 will be HUG's 20th anniversary, we could invite all past HUG Presidents, Dick Yocca, Eric Givler, George Eckard, Andy Ohrman, Joe Ronemus, etc. as well as our Founder, Jack Stahl, to a dinner at Hoss's Steak House or some other similar place. Unless a Member who is *not* already busy helping to make HUG work is willing to take over setting up a fund-raising program for such a banquet, everyone that wants to attend would buy their own meal. Interested in becoming a HUG Support Member? See Lou Samsel [*email address on Page 2*]. Perhaps we could get some newspaper coverage and attract a few new members as an additional benefit. We believe we are the oldest PC user group still functioning in south-central

PA. Anyone have evidence otherwise? Again contact Lou Samsel.

Tentative Upcoming General Membership Meeting Topics

On Tuesday, April 9 Dennis Mumma demonstrates "Spring Cleaning Your PC!" Just what files and programs are needed any more and how to get rid of them safely?

Then on Tuesday, May 12 Lou Samsel hosts "A Tour of your Motherboard," with a motherboard trouble shooting discussion.

HUG Member Drives at local Computer Shows

On Saturday, March 9 volunteers include Lou Samsel, Mark Berkheimer, Toni Donchak, George Eckard. While Sunday, March 10 John Reinhardt, Hazen Meek, Dennis Mumma, Patrick Murphy have volunteered.

We already have a few people lined up, but both Saturday, April 20 and Sunday the 21 are still open to some volunteers at this time. Hurry! Contact Lou Samsel or John Reinhardt to get into the show free and be eligible for the big prize drawing at the end of the year. The smart members are starting to realize that helping the Group helps them right away.

Motions

Mark Berkheimer is currently reworking part of the HUG web site. Mark proposed that we use PayPal so prospective members can pay online to establish and/or renew their HUG membership. For instance, in a \$15 EDS Membership PayPal will charge 2.9% + \$0.30 per transaction - that's \$0.24. That leaves \$14.26 to be paid, monthly, to HUG. The Board felt that this was a small cost to eat for the convenience to current and more importantly prospective members. More important because visitors to our site are more likely to join if we make it more convenient Mark's motion was seconded by Hazen Meek and unanimously voted in favor.

At the direction of the Board last month, Dennis Mumma has been investigating the improved ways of communicating among the Membership. He's found Yahoo listbot service as a no-cost way of maintaining a HUG Announcement mailing list. The service also provides for discussion forums for members and other services. All agreed that we (HUG) should be using a modern tool to improve services to the membership body. Mark Berkheimer motioned that the Board appoints Dennis the new Listbot Moderator/Administrator to set up the account and maintain it for the Membership. Mark's motion was again seconded by Hazen Meek and unanimously voted for by the Board.

Lou closed the meeting at about 7:30 P.M. The next HUG Executive Board meeting is slated for March 21 (or the THIRD THURSDAY of the month) at 6:00 P.M. in Brian's Pizza. Pubic welcome.



HUG's Third Sunday HUG Computer Workshop

February 17, 2002

~ by Lou Samsel lou.samsel@pa.net

HUG's Computer Workshop attendance swelled to eighteen at the last meeting.

Thanks to all who helped out at the workshop on Sunday. What a busy session we had! Seven computers were worked on.

We now have a Pentium 'I' at 75 MHz, 32 MB of RAM, 540 MB hard drive, 1 MB video, 4x CD-ROM drive, tower case computer up and running that the church can use to upgrade/replace one of its old 386 machines. Wes says that this will be the only computer in the daycare center with CD-ROM capability. Now they can run educational software that comes on CD-ROMs.

Something new, we signed up two new members:

- John Clark
- Carlos Chatman [He has no internet access, so we gave him a modem for \$2.00]

And we had three renewals, two had lapsed for a year or more. But now they are back!

Next Workshop: 3/17

We will be assembling a HUG computer that can copy CD-ROMs at the workshops. This service has been requested by members. It will enable us to make copies of Linux, and other non-copyrighted programs, for the members at Workshops and possibly general membership meetings. Additionally, we access the Internet from the workshops to fetch drivers and information -- as well as do Internet instruction.

I believe that we have a Pentium 'I' computer that, after some work, can be used for this purpose. I will bring it to the next workshop. If anyone has something better to donate, please do. The HUG inventory does have CD-ROM drives (4x) not have a CD-ROM Writer, however. To that end, does anyone have a CD-ROM Writer to donate? It need not be speedy?

Also, if anyone has a copy of Win 98 or better to donate then we can put Windows on it, in a dual-boot configuration with Linux, and use the same computer for Win&Lin demonstration purposes. If the request above request is possible, then we will need a larger hard drive. Anyone have more that a couple GB to spare, Please?

Finally, Wes needs 486 memory to upgrade daycare computers. If you have any of these items or more to donate, remember we can get you a receipt for your 2002 taxes.

As you can tell by this description of our HUG's January Workshop, we repaired a few computers and everyone had a good time. Even though you don't have a computer with a problem you can still stop by and learn some techniques of computer repair. Everyone there usually has a good time even if they just hang out. So perhaps we'll see you at the next computer workshop!

From the DealsGuy

for March, 2002

~ by Bob Click,

Greater Orlando Computer Users Group

I like Caligari software for the unique effects it offers. Last year they began sending me e-mail marketing messages for their products, often a special offer. When they came out with iSpace, I bought their introductory special. Two months later they introduced an updated version of iSpace, but if I wanted it, I had to buy it. I was upset and didn't buy it. I complained, but to no avail.

Several months later, I purchased a special they offered on version 5.1 of trueSpace with some plug-ins bundled (how soon we forget). Not even a month later, they introduced trueSpace 5.2, an updated version that I would have to pay \$99 for if I wanted it. I thought that was unfair and complained to their marketing department, saying that other vendors usually have a grace period for a free upgrade if you have just purchased their software, but it fell on deaf ears. I feel their marketing tactics are very unethical and I have now written off buying anything more from Caligari. I just thought I'd alert you to my experience.

***Lots of Feedback**

I was very surprised by the response I received from my comments about the Sept. 11 tragedy and the aftermath. My thanks to everybody who took the time to say they agreed with my comments about profiling. I was surprised at how many (or a family member) were directly affected by profiling.

***New Group Listing**

The Islander Computer User Group is using this column and is now listed on my distribution page. They are a small group located in Lake Havasu City, AZ. No URL so far though. Also, Santa Anna Valley PC Group has added their name to the list of groups carrying the Deals column on my distribution page. If your group is not

listed there please let me know, even if you do not carry my column.

***Still Good**

Word Smith for the Palm is still good. Go to [\[http://www.bluenomad.com\]](http://www.bluenomad.com) to order. The Omega Frame should still be good. To order, e-mail your request to George Johnson [jenco@pacbell.net] and mention the "DealsGuy column." By this time, I'm sure the eVest deal is dead because it was only good until supplies lasted. Unfortunately, other offers helped to deplete their inventory fast, so I'm sure most of my readers missed out. I don't understand why it was just for the present supplies, but that was the rule. He did not tell me it was a closeout, and I've not received a new offer to replace the old one under the circumstances.

Two readers had problems with PC Pinpoint. Be SURE to type DealsGuy (one word) in the password box for the discount. They tell me they are very committed to resolving your problem or your money back. Keep their techs at it until they get it fixed, if a fix is possible.

***Not A Good Month For Deals**

Vendors completely ignored me this month except for one who contacted me about an offer. What I thought were some good leads for deals from vendors I talked to at Comdex are duds so far. Four vendors I've since tried to contact have completely ignored me by not returning my phone calls or e-mail. Another marketing manager hung up on me when I was trying to explain my column to him. I guess they don't need any help.

Reminds me of a vendor I was making my pitch to at Comdex. His product was a solution called "Wipe Out" to repair scratches on CDs. He quickly interrupted to show me write-ups in several magazines saying he already has lots of exposure and the last thing he needed was more media exposure by (insults withheld). It didn't take me long to exit that vendor's booth. It was one thing to tell me he was not interested, but quite another to impugn my integrity and use those comments

in front of my wife. A friend standing near was also dumbfounded.

***Do Your Income Taxes FREE**

It seems I always forget Tax Act at this time of year, but I'm belatedly reminding you about the free income tax software from Second Story Software. There is also an upgrade version. The paid version is only \$19.95 and does offer better features. Download your choice at [\[http://www.taxact.com\]](http://www.taxact.com) and I'd say to get it done soon.

***Ink Jet Your Ink Jet**

Susie McLean of Inksell.com contacted me about offering my readers a discount on their products. I know nothing about prices for this type of product, so you are on your own here. However, the Web site seems very professional and it sounds like they offer quality products. Here is Suzie's message:

InkSell.com is a discount printing Supply Company that specializes in cartridges for all makes of ink jet and laser printers, solid ink printers, copiers, and fax machines. We sell brand names, new (not remanufactured) compatible cartridges, and refill kits. Our compatible cartridge quality is certified to match that of the manufacturer and our prices are up to 70 and 80% less. We would be happy to offer your readers a 10% discount on purchases at our online store.

A discount coupon code will be valid through April 30, 2002. To redeem the 10% discount, (not valid with any other discount or offer), simply visit our site, [\[http://www.inksell.com\]](http://www.inksell.com), place your order and continue to 'check out' where there will be a blank to enter the discount coupon code (D0302). The discount will be automatically calculated. Should anyone have questions or need assistance, phone customer service at 1-800-255-0483, or send e-mail to [\[help@inksell.com\]](mailto:help@inksell.com)."

Here are more items I found in the September issue of the Macon Users Group's newsletter.

***Free HTML Editor**

1st Page 2000 is a professional HTML Editor that you can use to create a very good Web site. I understand there are over 450 Javascripts and it supports just about all the latest Web languages. They say it has won 14 Web awards and has been rated one of the top three HTML editors of all time. It contains a novice interface along with an expert one, and, get this . . . I'm told it offers live tech support and user forums.

You'll find it at [\[http://www.evrsoft.com\]](http://www.evrsoft.com) where you can find more information and download it if you like.

***Make Annoying Popup Windows Go Away**

Popup Killer is a godsend if you hate those ads popping up all the time when you're on line. They are annoying and we can do without them. This is another one I found in the Macon Users Group newsletter. If this concept interests you, go to [\[http://software.xfx.net/utilities/popupkiller/\]](http://software.xfx.net/utilities/popupkiller/). It's freeware, but the article I read recommends you send the author \$7.00 to help keep him in beer and pretzels. I'm not sure if that would be the author of Popup Killer or the author of that article!

***Clean Up Your Mail Before Forwarding (Another From Macon Users Group newsletter)**

I'm sure you've received e-mail that has been forwarded several times and filled with all kinds of annoying marks. StripMail is just the ticket. It cleans up all those angle brackets and other marks from the e-mail before you forward it on. StripMail will also format text into paragraphs and change the right margin by indenting. You'll find StripMail at [\[http://www.dsoft.com.tr/stripmail\]](http://www.dsoft.com.tr/stripmail). It's free and only 265 KB.

***SPAM Punisher (From Macon Users Group newsletter)**

SPAM Punisher is an anti-spam tool that makes it easy for you to find out the address of a spammer's Internet

Service Provider, then generate and send complaints. If an ISP receives enough complaints generated by SPAM Punisher, he may close Internet access to a spammer. [TechTV's The ScreenSavers](#) recommended it as "a free download of the day." You can download the utility from [<http://biosolutions.hypermart.net/>].

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 I have found or arranged, and my comments should not be interpreted to encourage, or discourage, the purchase of products, no matter how enthused I might sound. Bob (The Cheapskate) Click [Bobclick@dealsguy.com]. Visit my Web site at [<http://www.dealsguy.com>] for past columns. Also, there are interesting articles from user group newsletters on my "Articles of Interest" page for viewing or downloading.



How I spent the HUG Sunday Computer Workshop ~ by Joseph Ronemus, MCP

I arrived at Skyline View Church basement well into the last half of the Workshop just after 3 P.M. I waved "Hi" to Past President George Eckard, who was hoping between working deep inside the chassis of two systems for two different HUG members. A big smile from him and a nod and George was elbow deep in the other system again, gently nudging the drives, I believe, to make them work.

Then, Treasurer John Reinhardt stopped me with a question. When any of the other Officers, Support Members, or Volunteers need my help I've learned pretty quickly that it is best to drop what I may be up to and pitch in to help them, because without them and their systems up and running the whole club may grind to a halt. Also they are the first to share whatever I can show them with the General Membership and the computing public. So, helping them first multiplies my effectiveness and it is the best way to say thanks to them

for all their efforts.

With his arm resting on the top of a full sized tower, John asked, "Hey Joe, what type of CPU do you think this is?" Still holding my tool bag, I put down the radio playing the [Kim Komando Computer Show](#) on the table where John had the cover off the system chassis and peeked inside at the 'Classic AT' motherboard. Seeing a Socket-3 ZIF holding the CPU covered by a glued-on heat sink, I said, "Hum, could be 486 to an Overdrive of the 486 to early Pentium chip. Let me pull it and check." Reinhardt bit his lower lip, I guess fearing an intense system surgical procedure. I put my tool bag down and removed no tools but a large coveted book of system integrators everywhere, [Upgrading and Repairing PCs, 12th Edition](#), by Scott Mueller, Que Books publishers. www.upgradingandrepairingpcs.com Most repair shops and competent IT departments buy at least every other edition and/or Win L. Rosch's [PC Bible](#). John looked a little surprised as I slipped my hand inside the nude box and pushed then pulled the hidden lever of the ZIF socket with my ring finger like I was playing a string instrument and the CPU ejected like CD from a drive. John grinned.

"That's the easy part, John," I said flipping the brain chip over in my hand like a fat silver dollar, while keeping the other arm in contact with the system chassis all the time to maintain a good ground. "Well, it is unlikely that it is an OverDrive, because I can tell it is a genuine Intel processor from the markings on the bottom of the chip and it leaves all the pin holes vacant on the perimeter of the socket. And the side view reveals no added retrofitting circuitry between the silicon and the affixed heat sink, like Evergreen Technologies does to squeeze newer processors onto legacy motherboards," I said, adding, "So, it is probably at least an SX-25 to a DX 4-100." Intel SX processors lack a math coprocessor, while DX CPUs have them built in. 25 and 100 refer the relative speed of the processors in megahertz (MHz). A new HUG Member, Carlos Chatman, was sitting at the table with John and asked to inspect the chip. So I passed it over to him.

"If I can find the table in this book, we can crack the

code numbers on the bottom of the processor and find out exactly what type of 486 it is as well as its lot number and production run." I started to flip through the 1628 page tome for the 100 page index, then added, "Or we could just boot the box and read the POST report of the AMI BIOS. I think that is easier and I am lazy." John shrugged and Carlos Grinned. Carlos passed the CPU back to me and then tried to slide the book across the table toward himself with one hand. It did not budge. The large man stretched out the other arm, slipping the book over to himself, and lifting it onto his lap he hefted it as if weighing some large catch of the day with a smile to himself. Carlos flipped through the pages of the manual amazed at all the charts, diagrams and instructions it included.

"How do you know that this has an AMI BIOS?" John inquired, leaning back in his chair, crossing his arms. "Well, you see that," as I stabbed a finger inside the chassis, "it is the BIOS of the system." Carlos was out of the book now, standing shoulder to shoulder with John and I to peer into the box. "Yeah, but it says Award and Mr. BIOS on it not AMI," John said grinning wider already knowing just which was the BIOS chip. "Well, both of these companies license the BIOS instructions from AMI, rather than burn their own, then customize them and package it in the EPROM chip with their own user interface. Even Dell uses the AMI BIOS, but they turn off the reporting following POST. You just learn these little trivia bits working different systems. Bottom line: after POST we should get a quick report of some of the systems contents and settings." "What is POST?" Carlos asked. "It stands for Power On Self Test. Only after it completes successfully is the system ready to boot," I explained. Carlos nodded understanding. "OK, I learned something new, but I think this thing doesn't boot," John said. "It doesn't need to boot to find out what speed CPU it may be, just POST successfully," I countered, lowering the CPU back into its socket, like a little chick into its nest.

"Well, this dog wont boot, I don't know if it finishes POST right or not," John said. "Let's see if it POSTs or not." So I connected the monitor and my own new

keyboard that John gave me a while ago after he had done some very successful dumpster diving. Then John rounded up a COM Port mouse for the classic AT. Power on, "Whoops! That's the reset. Hum, let's try this button here," I said. Then nothing, besides the whir of the fan in the power supply and some lighted LEDs on the front face plate. "OK, we know where the power switch is and your power supply is working. That's the good news . . ." I said.

"What are you doing?" John asked. "Listening . . . for error code beeps." The monitor was blank. So, we borrowed George Eckard's monitor and plugged it in to the failing system and again flipped the power on. Again nothing, the fan and the LEDs powered up and the system was silent otherwise. I asked if we could hook up the monitor that went with the failing computer to a system that we could be certain at least booted properly. Quick at hitting the Pause key when the good system POSTed, the monitor displayed what type of CPU was in it, what speed, how many IRQs were taken, what COM Ports were available, how big the hard drive was, how much memory was installed, and more. "That's what I like to see after a good POST," I said, pointing at the screen, "This means there is nothing wrong with the monitor, but with the system, for sure." I made sure the speaker wires were connected properly, but not whether the speaker worked.

"It is getting close to time to go," John reminded me. That was a fast hour. "Let me take a look at the video card," I interjected. John was concerned it would take too long. "Just one screw and a quick yank . . . and yes well it looks fine no burnt traces on this Trident. Looks like a couple megs of memory on it too. Now, I'll reseal it. I could be that this card or another is not fully inserted into its slot, halting POST. Ditto for the system's memory SIMMs or DIMMs on newer boards." Attempting power up delivered the same results. "We really got to go. Only ten minutes left," John said, "I'll bring this computer in next month to poke around at again."

I asked John if he wanted me to hang the dangling hard disk drive in the chassis like it should be, to which he

replied that he had no screws with which to do so. "Where do you get them, *Home Depot*?" I told John and Carlos you could but, you probably would end up having to cut them down to their nubby little lengths with a bolt cutter. "Next time you are at a MarketPro Computer Show, be sure to stop by say 'Salem' to Mo at the [Cables n Mor](#) vendor stand and tell him you need an assortment of machine screws and fasteners at about a buck a bag." I reached into my tool bag and pulled out my own assortment. Then, I checked to make sure the data cable of the drive was not cross inserted. I showed John and Carlos how to determine this by finding Pin 1 on the drive controller's connector and on the hard drive itself. Then to make sure that the data cable's red stripe runs from Pin 1 to Pin 1. Usually on the drive, Pin 1 faces the power supply connector, but this one was an exception to the rule and the cable supplied was unkeyed to avoid improper insertion.

"Is it worth fixing?" John asked. "Depends. Whatcha want to do with it?" I replied. John grinned having heard me say that to just about anyone else he overheard ask me that question before. "Well, if we get it to work, inexpensively, then you could install IBM's OS/2 Warp 4.0, Microsoft Windows 3.1x to 98 SE, Windows NT, or most Linux distributions. Forget Windows XP and skip Windows ME," I shot back. "What's 'inexpensive?'" John asked. I explained that to me putting more than \$35 into this old system seemed wacky, but maybe another similar system will come that doesn't quite work and the parts from one could replace burned out parts in this. We don't quite know what is wrong with this system yet, but we do know more than when we started. John and Carlos both learned a little about hardware and we had a good time.

We were making our way for the door with the various components of John's computer and my tools and radio when HUG Trustee, Axel Walsen, stopped me to ask if I could come over to his home to help him reassemble the peripherals for his own system that others were working on. "Sure thing, Axel, but I only have 15 minutes," I chimed, looking forward to working on his newer Athlon system. Axel said that would be plenty of time for me, with 10 minutes to enjoy some libation.

The Book Beat ~ by ***Jim Gaffney, SWIPCC Member***

Microsoft Office XP 8-in-1

Habreken, Joe; Que Books, Indianapolis, IN
ISBN 0-7897-2509-6, MSRP \$29.99

Well, having seen Microsoft's [Windows XP] - are you ready to run out and upgrade to the latest version of Office XP ? There are many nifty features in the suite and it certainly is attractive. SWIPCC President George Holloway was lucky enough to win a copy of the suite at the Microsoft demonstration. In talking to George, I've learned that the package comes with documentation about the size of that which came with Office 2000 - i.e., about 1/4 of an inch thick. I personally detest the "you can learn everything from the help file" philosophy, so George - I've got a solution for you.

The good folks at Que have published Joe Habreken's Microsoft Office XP 8-in-1, a thorough (921 pages), well-illustrated, and well-written tome addressing Microsoft's latest suite. As the "volumes" displayed on the cover indicate, there are sections dedicated to each of the applications included in the suite. The first section is devoted to XP innovations such as "Smart Tags" and Speech Recognition. Subsequent sections, in turn, guide the reader through a series of successive lessons designed to walk the reader through mastery of each suite's application modules. The book is suitable for both the newcomer to Microsoft Office as well as the veteran who needs to be brought up to speed on the latest advancements from Redmond, WA.

Attractively priced, "8-in-1" is a recommended addition to the library of one moving to Office XP.



For Sale

Panasonic KX-P1124 24 pin dot matrix printer - \$20

Epson Stylus Color II color ink jet printer - \$40

Ron Wike wikeron@paonline.com

What is HUG all about???

Members helping members, who are seriously dedicated to computers to enhance their lives and their work. At meetings, they enjoy the camaraderie while sharing valuable tips, seek answers to problems, view demonstrations, listen to presentations, participate in raffles, door prizes and auctions.

Next Meeting: March 12 (second Tuesday) from 6:45 to 8:45 PM, At the Skyline View Church, 7733 Hillcrest Ave, Harrisburg

HUG Computer Workshop: March 17 (third Sunday) from 2:00 to 4:30 PM, At the Skyline View Church, 7733 Hillcrest Ave, Harrisburg

HUG Executive Board: March 21 (third Thursday) from 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM, In Brian's Pizza, 6301 Grayson Rd., in the Swatara Square Shopping Center, Harrisburg

The Help Desk (Specialized and General Help on Call or by Email by Members for Members)

Ralph Corigliano, Denver, CO - VisualBASIC/VisualC/C++/.NET	(ess@attbbs.com)
Dennis Mumma, Mechanicsburg - Win 98/SE/ME/MSIE 4+/More (netwizzz@earthlink.net)	796-0955
Lou Samsel, Harrisburg - Linux SIG Founder (lou.samsel@pa.net)	564-8273
Dan Grabenstein, Harrisburg - OS/2	652-1607
Justin Zellers, Anneville, PA - Windows (all), SQL/ODBC, Networking	(j_zellers@yahoo.com)
Ed Smith, Harrisburg - GFA BASIC Programming	545-3037
Bill Chen, Harrisburg - Database / Networking (aimaim@usa.net)	540-9566

Please Note: This Could Be Your Last Newsletter, Unless Paid By The 15th Of The Month. It Is Your Responsibility To Check Your HUG Expiration Date Which Appears After Your Name On Your Address Label... Dues Can be Mailed In Or Paid At Meetings. If Date On Your label Is Circled In Red, This Is Your Last Newsletter. If Date Is Highlighted In Yellow, Dues Are Due Now.



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- HUG Info and Announcements
- Member Reviews and Columns
 - Classified Ads

AND MUCH, MUCH , MORE!!!

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