

Mother Board

Volume 19, Issue 5

May 2, 2001

This Month at NOPCC:

PC Maintenance "101"

Speakers:

Ed Jatho
Ray Paternostro

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Message from the Vice President

Well, the dog days of summer are on us, hope everyone's managing to stay cool. Remember to perform the necessary maintenance on your air conditioners and vehicles to keep your operating costs down. Our presentation for the June general meeting will refer to doing the same for your computer system.

Our president Zeke Zimmerman is still receiving treatments and we hope that he has a speedy recovery. Get well soon Zeke, we miss you!

In club news, I hope to see as many of you as possible at the upcoming Microsoft events in June. There is eXtreme on the 2nd and the Office XP launch on the 15th. eXtreme is held on an average of every 6 months to showcase Microsoft's latest product offerings and they enlist the assistance of the local PC user group in each city that they utilize. This event is new to the New Orleans area and NOPC was

picked to help out with the presentation. In addition to assisting the attendees with checking in and handing out Microsoft product literature, our volunteers (myself included) will be giving the club as much promotion as possible. Be sure to get your raffle ticket; there's no telling what kind of goodies Microsoft will be giving away (and since they're promoting Office XP.....)

I also want to let everyone know that our SIGs are in pretty good shape. Our new club computer is working great and I am working on a solution to allow the entire cart to be placed off to the side so that everyone can get a clear view of the projected screen as well as the monitor. Our Digital Imaging SIG is off to a great start and we hope that all of our SIGs can have the kind of activity that our first few meetings have shown.

Ray Paternostro

A Message from the Sick Puppy

Hi everyone, how are things out there in wonderfully hot New Orleans. Things are warming up in the "Fix Zeke" arena". They finally qualified me for a vaccine that may fight this problem I have. I have to fly back and forth to Washington DC every Tuesday to get an injection, and that really takes the gas out of my tanks. Yep that's right a one day round trip to Washington to receive a 30 second injection. They have to specially make it for me when I am on premise. So I am praying that it is working, too soon to physically tell. Will keep yall posted.

I am getting great reports on how great my good buddy Ray is performing in my absence. Maybe I'll take an early retirement. Ray I really appreciate you riding the Presidential horse during my setback, it is nice having friends you can count on.

This weekend the NOPC officers and a few other volunteers have been invited to help the Microsoft team in their X-Treme event on Saturday June 2nd. We will

assist in checking people in at the door, and registration. In trade the club will get free advertisement as well as two free copies of the new Office XE. I hope I feel good enough to attend. I will be looking forward to it. They always put on a first class show and our club computer can always use the software upgrades.

Lastly I know everyone has been wondering where Lanny Goldfinch has been. Well he was spotted entertaining the ladies at the Greek Festival. He was actually seen doing the Greek Cha-Cha under the big top. He is definitely alive and well!

I will be unable to make this months meeting. I will be in Texas visiting my granddaughter, son and daughter in law. One has to take advantage of these opportunities (you know what I mean) I miss yall very much and am looking forward to the opportunity of standing in front of the meeting and taking the reigns again, I cant think of much that has been more rewarding to me....**See Yall Soon**

Charlie "Zeke" Zimmerman

Pixie Dust

Scientists occasionally get silly. Particularly when they're trying to describe innovations to the public. You can't really blame them. Even reclusive research scientists enjoy seeing their names in the newspaper, and you don't get your name in the news with dry, technical terms. You need something catchy. You don't talk about "antiferromagnetically coupled media," you talk about pixie dust. That's your hook. That's the headline that gets a reader's attention.

The problem isn't just that most of us start to doze off whenever we hear terms like "superparamagnetic effect," it is also that most of us just assume that advancements like this one will happen. IBM's pixie dust will allow for bigger hard drives over the next few years. To which most computer users would reply, "Yeah, and..?"

Breakthroughs don't impress us, because we have come to expect them. Hard drives have been doubling in capacity every year lately, so we assume that they'll continue to do so. What's more, hard drives are sort of like closets. No matter how big they get, you always seem to run out of space. Not only that, but the bigger they get, the harder it seems to become to find what you're looking for.

Even if we don't appreciate it much, IBM's breakthrough is rather impressive. It relates to the maximum amount of data you can store in a given region of magnetic real estate. Hard drives store information magnetically. This means the hard drive has to create billions of tiny magnetically polarized spots on the surface of a disk, and those spots have to stay polarized afterward.

The problem is that magnetism is not entirely docile. The smaller those polarized spots become, the more likely they are to change or lose their polarity. You can combat the problem by using a material that holds its polarity more strongly, but such materials are also harder to polarize in the first place. In other words, you become stuck with two unpleasant choices: Use a material that is easy to magnetize and face the prospect of losing data, or use a material that is hard to magnetize and face the prospect of not being able to store the data quickly enough.

This is where IBM's pixie dust steps in. The dust is actually a three-atom thick layer of ruthenium, sandwiched between two magnetic layers. Ruthenium is a precious metal similar to platinum, and when used in this way it demonstrates rather odd characteristics. Namely, it forces the two magnetic layers to have opposite magnetic polarities. Which means that if you polarize a spot on the top magnetic layer, the bottom magnetic layer will also become polarized, thereby helping to maintain the stability of the bit of data that was written to the drive.

You can think of it as being somewhat like writing with carbon paper. You write it once, but end up with two copies, making it more difficult for what you wrote to get lost. You could also think of it as being sort of like having two guys in a missile silo, responsible for launching a missile should the need arise. They help to keep each other honest,

making it less likely that the missile will get launched when it isn't supposed to. It's just easier to corrupt an individual than corrupt a pair.

IBM's development allows added depth without added width. It's really a rather neat way of doing things, once you get past the technical jargon. Materials and forces behave strangely once you get down to a small enough scale, and their behavior is fascinating even if you don't fully understand it. Little surprise then that a term like "pixie dust" would come into play. As our technologies advance, and our tools become smaller, they also become a bit more magical.

Magical or not, this is what we've come to expect. Computers are the everyday miracle. If we comment on the rate with which they improve, it's likely to come in the form of a complaint about how this month's cutting edge is next month's paperweight. After all, it's great that there will be 400-gigabyte hard drives on the market in a few years. But it won't make the machine I've already got any faster. Progress is fun when it brings you forward, but mostly it just leaves you behind.

By JARED KENDALL
Special to The Advocate Online

Passed along by Chuck Poehl to Tom Watkins and NOPC

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A Sign of the Times



Digital Imaging SIG

The first meeting of the NOPC Digital Imaging SIG got off to a great start on Wednesday April the 25th. Ray and Zeke (when he gets well) will be moderating. The SIG's focus will be on all aspects of digital imaging, from getting an image into the computer, manipulating it, and outputting to either a printer or to a web page.

During the first meeting, Ray utilized the HP scanner to showcase scanning some photographs that Ashton had brought. Members in attendance got to see how to manipulate the scanner driver to adjust for different types of images and how to edit a picture in the popular program Photosuite 4 (courtesy of MGI software). Some of Photosuite's more popular features include the ability to remove scratches, blemishes, and other debris that take away from a photograph's artistic value. Also demonstrated to great effect was the Cloning tool, which can copy parts of an image directly over other parts. This feature works wonders when the blemish or the scratch remover tools can't adequately clean a particular area. Different file formats were explained, as was

some general settings for printers when the user goes to print an image.

During our second meeting, Ray demonstrated printing photographs on the club's HP Deskjet printer. He covered how to adjust the printer driver for optimum print quality and what happens when the wrong setting is applied to different types of paper. Don also brought some photographs that were printed on HP photographic paper and the outstanding print quality was clearly evident. Also covered were ways to economize printing costs by purchasing refurbished print cartridges and third party photo paper.

In future meetings we will talk about and practice importing pictures from both digital cameras and web pages, and practice manipulating them in not only Photosuite but in other photo editing programs. We will also demonstrate how to create CD-ROM discs using our CD-RW drive.

All NOPC members are welcome to any of the SIGs held throughout each month.

Ray Paternostro

The MS Office XP Launch - A Preview of Windows XP

WHEN:

06/14/2001 09:30 AM - 06/14/2001 03:00 PM
Language: English-American

WHERE:

Pontchartrain Ctr. 4545 Williams Blvd.
Kenner LA 70065 United States

Who:

Recommended Audience: Enterprise Businesses,
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WHY:

Microsoft® Office XP delivers a smarter work experience for individuals, teams and organizations. Task Panes and Smart Tags unlock tools and information once hidden or hard to find and put them right at your fingertips- in seconds- saving you time and headaches. Document Review innova-

tions and SharePoint Team Services allow groups to work together easily and quickly, by streamlining the way people Collaborate on documents. This enables teams to share information and manage activities in one place on the Web. Microsoft Office XP is the Office experience you've asked us to deliver - easier, smarter, and more reliable. This event is our chance to show you we've been listening.

We'll also share the best new features in Visio® 2002 and a sneak preview of Windows XP. Attendees will receive \$100 rebate on Office XP Special Edition, Visio® 2002, SharePoint Portal Server, a coupon book filled w/ special offers & an Office XP t-shirt! You'll have a chance to win great software and be entered into the Grand Prize drawing for a Home Office!

Call 1-877-MSEVENT to register today!

From the Microsoft Website

USIIA Bulletin News Items

House Judiciary Committee Amends Spam Bill

The House Commerce Committee and the Judiciary Committee have both now passed H.R. 718, the Wilson-Green Anti-Spam Bill. The problem is that each committee has passed a different version, and the House Rules Committee will have to sort out the differences and determine whether the bill will go to the House floor for a vote.

The Judiciary version of the bill takes away many of the draconian aspects of the original bill and eliminates a "private right of action" that would allow individual consumers to recover damages from Spammers. It would also eliminate frivolous lawsuits against companies trying to communicate with their customers.

The Judiciary version also more closely resembles the Burns/Wyden anti-Spam bill in the Senate, which is expected to pass later this summer. USIIA has testified in favor of the Senate version, which strengthens ISP acceptable use policies and bans fraudulent email.

USIIA Issues Update On HR 1542

USIIA this week issued a revised alert regarding HR 1542, the "Tauzin-Dingell Bill." USIIA had initially opposed the bill due to its lack of clarity in protections for ISPs.

However, the version of the bill that emerged from the House Energy and Commerce Committee was substantially different than the initial bill, and the ISP protections now built into the bill warrant further consideration.

It is the belief of USIIA that the changes in the legislation warrant close attention, and that ISPs will want to support passage of the protections embodied in the legislation.

To that end, we have sent all members a copy of the most current form of the legislation and asked them to consider its impact on their businesses and customers. A copy of the alert may be found at

<http://www.usiia.org>.

The FTC Vs Spammers

The Federal Trade Commission is gearing up to tackle online fraud through Spam as soon as the Congress passes anti-Spam legislation. The agency, which collects and analyzes Spam as part of its efforts to protect consumers, estimates it will receive as many as half a billion messages this year if the legislation passes.

E-Commerce Champion Identified

The e-Commerce champion of the world is the US Government, which racked up \$3.6 billion in online sales in 2001. The government sells everything from horses and jewelry to land and seized sports cars through its sites.

Broadband Internet Growing Exponentially

The number of U.S. households with broadband Internet hookups nearly doubled in six months, while homes using telephone lines to access the Web fell, according to The Home Technology Monitor, an ongoing study by Statistical Research Inc. (SRI). Homes with high-speed Internet connections via digital subscriber lines (DSL), cable modems, and DirecTV satellites rose to 9.4 million this month from 5.2 million last November.

News of Interest gathered by John Souvestre

Suites 2000 SIG News

We had a good meeting for May. There were a number of questions to answer and help to provide those present. A misunderstanding was corrected for three functions type over, overstrike, and strike through. How to do a word count in a document, how to fit information that goes slightly over the page onto a single page (within a page length) and basic set up for a large document was all covered in this session. Large documents, what are they, how are they defined, who uses them, what composes their makeup were also discussed.

There was some confusion with three similar functions and we went over them in detail. These functions were type over, overstrike, and overtyping. Each word processor has a slightly different way of handling all three functions. In type over any character typed will replace a character to the right of the insertion point. Overstrike is where you print two or more characters in the same position. Strike through is a character or word that has been stricken through with a horizontal line.

Type over in Microsoft Word, Corel WordPerfect, and Lotus WordPro is simple to do with the INS key. With the key activated the "OVR" indicator on the indicator bar (menu like bar on the bottom of the page) will be turned off. Any character type will push any previous character in the same paragraph to the right of the insertion point. With the INS key not activated than you will see the "OVR" indicator highlighted. Any characters typed will type over any character to the right of the insertion point.

Strike through in Word, WordPerfect, and WordPro is the same for all three and very simple. Highlight the word or words you want stricken through and the Format Button on the Menu Bar. Select the Font option and then the strike through option. This will place a horizontal line through all characters highlighted. This feature is usually used for correcting documents that were written by someone else.

Overstrike is a feature not available in Word but is available in WordPerfect and WordPro. In WordPro highlight the character you wish to overstrike. Click on the Advanced Options button on the Miscellaneous Tab of the Tools Button on the Menu Bar to display the Advanced Options dialog box. Enter the desired overstrike character to use in the Overstrike Character text box. You can adjust the spacing between letters (called kerning) for the characters selected. You can also adjust the vertical alignment of the overstrike character.

In Corel's WordPerfect place the insertion point where you want the characters to appear. Select Overstrike for the Format Typsetting menu on the Menu Bar. A dialog box will appear. Type the characters that you want to superimpose. To change the style or relative size of the characters, click on the left-pointing triangle at the end of the text box to select a style or size from the list. Click on OK to see the characters in your document.

In our June SIG meeting we will continue our discussion of advance functions. We will work primary documentation, secondary documentation, research related word processing functions and how best to use them. Usages of

justification, indenting, bulleting, lists, text spacing, line spacing, paragraph spacing and when not to use them will be presented. Line numbering, page numeration and identification, special insertions (dates, time, registration, propriety marks, and others) will get a detail review. Creating master documents, tables of contents, indexing, and other large document functions will get a detail treatment.

For those who may not know, we are covering all three major suites (Microsoft Office 2000, Corel WordPerfect Office 2000, and Lotus SmartSuite Millennium) in this sig. At present we are covering word processing. Depending on how much time it takes to finish we will later cover databases, spreadsheets, presentations programs, or organizers.

The e-mail for this SIG will be suites2000@nopc.org. Any communications outside of SIG meeting time is accomplished by e-mail or through phone calls (Ashton C. Mouton, Jr. at 246-7759). There will be samples of work, problem solving, and a question and answer session at each meeting. Hope to see you there.

Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.

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New NOPC Web Site

Have you had a chance lately to visit our web site? If not, now is a good time! Manny Dennis has outdone himself with a new spiffy design and professional looking place on the web for NOPC. Check it out!

<http://www.nopc.org>

In the News

MY FELLOW ISPs...THIS MEANS WAR!

Last week Representative Billy "Kingfish" Tauzin (R-LA) openly declared war on ISPs across the country. This declaration of war followed renewed questions by New Networks Institute (an independent Bell watchdog) regarding Tauzin's ability to ethically sponsor telecom legislation given his extremely close ties to the Bell telephone companies (RBOCs). Rather than answer these questions for the ISP industry, Tauzin's office responded with "IF THEY WANT A WAR -- THEY GOT IT!"

As you read this Tauzin is putting the finishing touches on his first round of attacks in his RBOC backed war against Internet Service Providers. His weapon of choice is the the "Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment act of 2001". Let me tell you, the only ones getting "freedom" from this thing are the Bells themselves. If you are currently deploying DSL or are thinking about doing so, you already know the hurdles the Bells have put in place to shut ISPs out of the marketplace. Tauzin's Bill will finish the job. It is veritable DDT for DSL and will kill ISPs DEAD!

This Bill... A). Removes *ALL* requirements that the RBOCs provide DSL to ISPs. B). Says only the Bells are truly capable of deploying DSL and broadband and only by removing their "shackles". C). Removes *ALL* State and Federal regulations and safeguards concerning the Bells' deployment of DSL and broadband. D). Forgets that the RBOCs were/are/continue to be MONOPOLIES and that they will leverage that power in other markets. E). Effectively shuts out ISPs from participating in the broadband access market. F). Turns over the remaining 25% of the DSL market to the Bells. G). KILLS ISPs DEAD!

What you must do... 1) I encourage you to contact your U.S. Representative immediately and voice opposition to this piece of legislation. The main switchboard is available at (202) 225-3121 you can lookup your Representative via zipcode at :

<http://www.house.gov/house/MemberWWW.html>

Tell them this legislation will cause serious harm to your business and urge them to vote *NO* on the Internet Freedom and Broadband Deployment Act of 2001. 2) Notify as many of your customers as possible, through email, home-page announcements, or phone calls, etc. and urge them to do the same. Sample letters and messages will be available shortly at:

<http://war.iglou.com>

that you can use as a template. 3) Contact your local press and make them aware of this legislation and the harm it will have on your company and the Internet industry in general.

HURRY! We must act fast to stop this legislation before it stops us! If its a war Tauzin wants...HE'S GOT IT!

If you have any questions regarding this legislation or how you can help to defeat it, please do not hesitate to contact me. I will also be posting updated information about the Bill and related information at the following address..

<http://war.iglou.com>

Dannie J. Gregoire
Co-founder
IgLou Internet Services

Email: dannie@iglou.com
Voice: (502) 966-3848 ext. 1123
(800) 436-4456
Passed along by John Souvestre

THE NEW ATTACHED TEMPLATE SECURITY EXPOSURE

I've just received word from Microsoft that they've discovered a new variation on this old security problem: if the document attached to that malicious template is in RTF format, the security sequences do NOT fire. Word opens RTF files without a hiccup. You may know that RTF files can't contain macros, and you might therefore ass/u/me that opening an RTF file can't run a macro - and you'd be wrong. Using this little trick, opening an RTF file can run a macro, and you wouldn't even know about it.

There's more. Since RTF format files frequently appear with .doc file name extensions, that means it's possible for you to open a .doc file and have it run a malicious macro, bypassing all internal security.

It's a serious security exposure, and if you use Word 97 or Word 2000, you should download and apply the patch immediately. (Word 2002 isn't involved; its anti-virus features fire properly.) Full details, download and installation instructions are at <http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/bulletin/ms01-028.asp>.

As usual, this security breach hasn't been used to our knowledge - there aren't any viruses out and about that take advantage of the vulnerability. Yet. Now that Microsoft has made it public, some cretin will no doubt try to employ the technique to infect your computer.

You can forestall problems by telling Word to confirm file format conversions every time it opens a file (Tools | Options | General, check the box marked "Confirm conversions at Open"). And of course you should install, update, and religiously use one of the major commercial antivirus products.

Microsoft should've caught the problem and fixed it a year ago, along with the original security exposure. Unfortunately, they didn't think to look for RTF files with attached templates. (Truth be told, I didn't think of it, either.) The problem apparently cropped up during an internal review. In this instance, the 'Softies deserve credit for their excellent sleuthing, full disclosure, and quick fix. They also deserve a Bronx cheer for missing the problem in the first (and second) place.

The hole was plugged in Office XP before it shipped; for obvious reasons, the existence of the exposure has been kept under wraps until today, when a fully tested patch for Office 97 and 2000 was ready for rollout.

Ben Conner ben@webworldinc.com
Web World, Inc. (888) 206-6486 voice
PO Box 6548-107, Orange, Ca 92863

Article passed along by John Souvestre

NOPCC Directory

Elected Officers

President	Zeke Zimmerman	president@nopcc.org	456-2991
Vice President	Ray Paternostro	vp@nopcc.org	737-9099
Secretary	Curtis Duhe'	secretary@nopcc.org	
Treasurer	Don Herrmann	treasurer@nopcc.org	831-1284
Director At Large	Ed Jatho	director1@nopcc.org	834-4386
Director At Large	Bob Gordon	director2@nopcc.org	469-4686
Director At Large	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	director3@nopcc.org	241-2172

Standing Committees

BBS SysOp	Lanny Goldfinch	sysop@nopcc.org	482-5066
Newsletter Editor	Ed Jatho	editor@nopcc.org	834-4386
Public Relations	Jeannie Okamoto	pr@nopcc.org	455-0977
Publicity	Jackie Elliott	publicity@nopcc.org	455-6203
Webmaster	Manuel Dennis III	webmaster@nopcc.org	835-7656

Special Interest Groups

Genealogy	Bob Gordon	gene-m@nopcc.org	469-4686
Internet	Ray Paternostro	internet-m@nopcc.org	737-9099
N O C K	Albert Fox	albertnm@bellsouth.net	861-1630
New Users	Zeke Zimmerman	new-user-m@nopcc.org	456-2991
Suites 2000	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	suites2000@nopcc.org	246-7759
VBLG	Manuel Dennis III	vblg-owner@listbot.com	835-7656
WADSIG	Manuel Dennis III	wadsig-owner@listbot.com	835-7656

Other Important Numbers / Addresses

Club Hotline	Recorded messages. Meeting Information. Open 24 Hours	454-6166
NOPCC BBS	Bulletin Board System for members. The original way to PC communicate.	486-7261
NOPCC Web Site	On the World Wide Web. Our own home page and club information.	www.nopcc.org

MS HIRES LINUX MASCOT TO REPLACE "CLIPPY"

REDMOND, WA (DPI) - Bill Gates announced today that Microsoft has hired the Linux Penguin as the helpful assistant in their upcoming Office XP software suite. Only last month, "Clippy," Microsoft Office's talking paperclip, retired in disgrace. Microsoft hired him in 1995 after seeing him in local office-supply store ads. "It was a good time for cutesy mascots," recalls software analyst Robert X. Cringely. "They were making money hand over fist. The pets.com sock puppet had as much heroin and hookers as he could take." But Clippy started hanging out with unsavory characters like Pizza Hut's "Bad Andy," and his downward spiral into drugs and alcohol was inevitable.

Finally, Clippy showed up to work on April 20, 1999 inebriated and under the influence of illegal drugs. Microsoft Word users expecting helpful tips instead received long, slurred tirades about "how the justice department should mind its business" and "what the *real* problem with women is." Clippy then fled the screen, shouting that he was covered with spiders.

While the Linux Penguin has enjoyed his fame, he has always worked in a nonprofit field until now. "He

watched businessmen cashing in on IPOs right and left, but *he* was getting paid in fish," said Cringely. "I think he got greedy." Linux advocates were incensed. Said free-software maven Richard Stallman, "Our avian comrade's behavior is not in keeping with the 'GNU World Order.'" "Pengy" will appear in all copies of Office, whether users want him or not. Gates showed a sneak preview of Pengy's screen test, in which the Penguin cheerfully says, "You're using a non-Microsoft browser. This will make you die of cancer. Continue?"

Copyright 2001 by Chris White, info@dailyprobe.com

Passed along by Carole Rike



June 2001

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2 MS eXtreme Radison Hotel New Orleans 10:00 AM
3	4 VBLG SIG McCann's 6:30	5 Geneology SIG McCann's 6:30	4 NOPCC General Meet- ing	7	8	9 Living with Home Electron- ics 690 AM 10am—11am
10	11 VBLG SIG McCann's 6:30	12	13 Board of Director's Mtg McCann's 6:30	14 Office XP Launch 9:00AM New User's SIG McCann's 6:30	15	16 Living with Home Electron- ics 690 AM 10am—11am
17	18 VBLG SIG McCann's 6:30	19	20 Suites 2000 SIG McCann's 6:00	21	22	23 Living with Home Electron- ics 690 AM 10am—11am
24	25 VBLG SIG McCann's 6:30	26	27 Digital Imaging SIG McCann's 6:30	28 Lick 'N Stick & Internet SIG McCann's 6:30	29	30 Living with Home Electron- ics 690 AM 10am—11am

The New Orleans Personal Computer Club (NOPCC) is a private non-profit organization chartered under the State of Louisiana. Its purpose is to provide an open forum for discussion and education of the membership in the use and application of PCs, peripheral equipment and software. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author (s) and do not necessarily reflect those of the NOPCC, its members or its officers. The club does not verify for accuracy the articles in this newsletter and leaves verification of accuracy to its readers. Articles in this newsletter may be duplicated as long as credit is given to the author (s) and the NOPCC. Annual Dues Schedule: Regular Member, \$40/yr.; Family Membership, \$60/yr.; and Students (under 21), \$20/yr. Meetings are held at 6:30 on the 1st Wednesday of each month at J.D. Meisler Jr. High School on Cleary Avenue in Metairie, Louisiana.

New Orleans Personal Computer Club
P. O. Box 8364
Metairie, Louisiana 70011