

MotherBoard

Volume 20, Issue 1

January 2, 2002

***This Month at
NOPC
An Open Forum
on how
Computers have
been used to
Enhance our
lives.***

***Lead by Ray Pater-
nostro and Ashton
C. Mouton, Jr.***

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Happy New Year!

President's Message

Hello to you all and on behalf of the NOPC Board wish you a happy new year!

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the holiday season and spend some quality time with family members. In addition, I hope that all of you who managed to obtain new computer toys are actually enjoying the toys instead of hanging on the phone (or email) for tech support.

Looking back, I'd say that we had an excellent Christmas party. I hope that everyone enjoyed the food that was painstakingly prepared by Ms. Barbara Patenotte (Big Ed's sister), as well as the donated items by the Kierans and myself. We also gave away a ton of goodies; congratulations to all the winners. There's one more reason to join up with NOPC and encourage family members to do so as well. Additionally, it was great to see our former president Zeke getting around and about. Hang in there Zeke, we praying for you.

There seems to be a high level of interest in learning the hardware

side of PCs so for this month only, we will conduct the Hardware SIG instead of the New User SIG. If you've ever wanted to know exactly what is under the hood of your PC, this is a great way to learn.

In other news, Microsoft has had their hands full in patching up a pretty serious security hole in Windows XP and in some cases 98 and ME. Please read the descriptions at techtv.com, zdnet.com, and pcworld.com. The news magazines aimed at corporate users such as Computerworld and Infoworld will also have descriptions as well. If that's not enough to deal with, there are still more viruses in the wild that need to be stopped, the latest being an attachment called "Christmas.exe" (dug). Please, please, please save yourself lost time, productivity, and money by updating your virus scanner often and if you don't have a firewall installed on your system, get one! (Broadband users should consider upgrading to an Ethernet-based cable/DSL modem and utilizing a router, which has a hardware firewall built in.)

That's all for now, see you l8r....

Ray Peternostro

ATTENTION NEW-BEES and NEW COMPUTER USERS

by Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.

The New Users SIG (Special Interest Group) will start meeting again on the third Thursday in January. We will start our sessions at 6:30 pm and end sometime about 9:00 pm. If you are new to computers, want a very basic, introductory, harmless way for learning how to use your computer and its operating system, this SIG is for you. Mr. Ashton C. Mouton, Jr. will moderate this SIG starting in January and will use books, CD's, and other means to help and assist the new or beginning user in becoming acquainted with their computer and its various applications. As much as possible we will incorporate hands on usage for those in attendance. This SIG, like all SIG's run by the NOPCC, is for members only and is given to the members at no added cost. If a non-member wishes to attend it will only cost them the price of one membership (just joining the club) to enjoy the information presented at each SIG meeting.

This SIG is geared to the beginning or just starting computer user. It does not matter if you are young or old. We will start everyone from the very beginning and show as much as possible all you need to know about using your computer, its operating system, and some basic aspects of application programs. We will cover definitions, we will give examples, we will work out examples, and we will answer questions about using the computer more efficiently.

Because books are helpful, this SIG's moderator will try to find a good beginning book for all to use in this SIG so that we can all work on the helpful instructions at home after each SIG meeting ends. Next month's article will provide attendees with all the needed information about what will be used in SIG meetings and what each person will need to help them learn what is taught

in the meeting. Each meeting is keep simple, with easy to follow instructions using a step-by-step process for learning each lesson given. Assistance will be given to all those needing help by letting as many people as possible receive hands-on instructions so that it will be easier to learn. As many concepts as possible are covered about the computer, computer applications, and utility programs that a new user will need to know in order to become better acquainted with their computer and its operation.

If you have any suggestions on what you would like to see covered in each SIG meeting please contact the moderator, Mr. Ashton C. Mouton, Jr. and he will try to incorporate it in one of the SIG meetings. All meetings will be geared towards helping the new or beginning user become familiar with their computer, gain confidence in using their computer, and understand how to make use of their computer to do things they may not have thought possible. A computer is more than just a toy or a dust collector and it is the intention of the moderator that all those in attendance get the most use out of their computer. The only way this can happen is if the user works at the various functions that can be performed by the computer and tries many different things.

This SIG will operate a little different from the other SIG's because it will be setup and run similar to a classroom setting. There will be hands-on work for attendees with lectures, and step-by-step instruction given on how to do the various functions involving the computer. Examples are given and discussed, people will be given a chance to put some information presented into action or real use, reviews of information will also be covered, various concepts are used to help make the ideas and information covered easier to learn and remember. Questions are answered and some examples are shown to explain what is being said and to help make it easier

(Continued on page 4)

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Suites 2000 SIG

by Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.

Hope everyone is having a very merry and happy holiday season and had lots of joy blessings to be thankful for in their lives. The Suites 2000 SIG moderator wants to thank all of the 2001 attendees at our word processing session. Starting in January 2002 we will cover the subject of presentation applications. For those that may not know, the big three software producers Microsoft, Corel, and Lotus all have a presentation application (program) within their set of suite applications. Just as we did with learning word processing in 2001, we will cover as many aspects of the presentation application as possible. We will start from the basics and go on to the advance areas. The classroom approach or type of presentation will still be used and we will try and get as much hands on assistance as possible for those requesting this type of help. This style has proven to be very popular for our attendees in 2001 and we will continue with the same type presentations in 2002. Hands-on practice allows those attendees at this SIG to not only see how a particular idea is done, but allows them to actually put that same idea into action by working examples.

If you are a new member to the New Orleans Personal Computer Club (NOPCC) and do not know about this SIG please talk to the moderator Mr. Ashton C. Mouton, Jr. in our general membership meeting. This SIG (Special Interest Group) covers various applications or programs within the three major suites put out by Microsoft, Corel, and Lotus. In 2001 we covered word processing and starting in 2002 we will do presentation applications. In the future we will cover other applications such as spreadsheets, databases, calendars, and some of the specialty applications that are in some suites. The moderator tries to answer as many questions as possible and will get an answer to all questions and show examples of how to solve problems involved in the topic for the day. If you are a beginner or advance user many helpful hints are given at these meetings and we try to help all those present.

This SIG is run a little different from the way the other SIG's are handled. We setup this SIG to run similar to a school classroom setting. Hands-on work is an integral part of this SIG but mostly lectures and step-by-step information is given on how to do various actions and functions within a given application

(program). Questions are answered and examples given to better explain all of the concepts covered in a nights meeting. We start a little earlier than the other SIGs. This SIG starts at 6:00 pm and goes till 9:00 pm. If the meeting time for this SIG is a problem do not let this stop you from coming to our meetings. If you come late it does not matter because you can still get information from the rest of the meeting and if time permits the moderation will be happy to stay after meeting and cover what was done earlier.

If you have any questions on how to use your word processor talk to the moderator and he will try to help at the general membership meeting with your questions. If you call ahead of time we can better prepare for your question and make sure we have an answer for you at this meeting and the same goes for presentation application questions. The NOPCC wants to make sure that you are getting the best possible value for your money with your membership so please come to the meetings and do not be afraid to ask questions.

The e-mail for this SIG will be suites2000@nopcc.org. Any communications outside of SIG meeting time is accomplish by e-mail or though 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.

A Coffee Book for Geeks

That's what one reader called it (we're proud to say). The book, as you may already know is. "*Whatis.com's Encyclopedia of Technology Terms*". It might make a nice holiday present for someone (doesn't have to be a geek). As we said before, the book contains almost everything we have on the Web site, all 3,500 definitions and 12,000 cross-references. You can order it at..

http://whatis.techtarget.com/buyersGuide/ProductDetail/0.289826.sid9_gci771108_vdd414375,00.html.

Submitted by Tom Watkins

Shell Game

Did you happen to catch Tom Cruise flubbing his lines in Magnolia? If you haven't been **DVDeastereggs.com**, you probably missed it. When a movie comes out on DVD, the filmmakers usually hide some secret extra tidbits—called "easter eggs"—on the disc. DVDeastereggs.com is dedicated to finding them all (Hint: to see Cruise's blooper, watch the film with the Color Bars option).

Source: onmagazine, Dec. 2001

Intuit/Quicken & McKatz Bro' Send Greetings

Hello from Matt and Richard!

It's looking like we won't be able to visit your group this season. We're really, REALLY disappointed. User groups have proven to be influential in spreading the word. We love the new features in Quicken 2002 and think that you will, too! Excited users tell lots of other users! You could even consider doing a self-presentation to your group!

Since we don't want you to think we're "Grinches," for not making it live, we're making a special offer available to you and your group. Here are just a few of the latest features of **Quicken Deluxe 2002 for Windows...**

Automatic Categorization allows a user to type in an unknown payee name (like Dollar Video Rental) then Quicken automatically takes a best guess at what the category might be. In this case video rental and categorized it as Entertainment. It did it on its own!

Portfolio Analyzer looks at your investments. It shows you those that are your five best securities. It also shows you your five worst investments... ouch! In addition, it analyzes your total security holdings giving you an asset allocation pie chart with the press of a button. The Analyzer shows you what the level of risk your portfolio is in.

Automatic Reconciliation does on-the-fly reconciliation every time you update your account online. This happens without intervention when you download your data from your bank or credit card company and if it sees an error, like a missing transaction, or if your accounts don't balance, it notifies you on the spot! It's clear that Intuit is listening to their users and this version is the result.

We want your group to get the latest Quicken at a wonderful price.

Quicken Deluxe 2002 is just \$29.95.

Quicken Suite (Quicken, TurboTax and Family Lawyer) is \$49.95 as is Quicken Home and Business!

Shipping is \$5.00 flat even if you choose to get more than one! We ship by Priority Mail, usually within three business days.

If you're interested just click here to visit

www.mckatz.com/specialoffers.

You can order online or print out a User Group Special form and send it in.

If you get jazzed, tell your friends and associates just how cool this latest release of Quicken 2002 really is!

Have a great holiday season,

Matt and Richard
The McKatz Brothers

(Continued from page 2)

to understand the concepts under discussion.

If you have any questions on using your computer now is the best time to attend this SIG because we will cover all aspects of computer usage during the year. If you call ahead of time we can better prepare for your specific question and have an answer for you at the meeting. Please note that we made a slight change in this year's program; we will start the new user's SIG for 2002 by showing and discussing the PC (Personal Computer) inside and out. Starting in February we will cover operating systems and using the PC to better our lives. Tell your friends and help get some new members into the club by coming to this very informative program.

The e-mail for this SIG will be newusers@nopc.org. Any communications outside of SIG meeting time is accomplish by e-mail or though 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.

New Users SIG becomes Hardware SIG

As mentioned in the President's column, the New Users SIG will be replaced this month by the Hardware SIG. The NOPC computer will be field stripped with each part laid out on the table and its function explained. It will then be reassembled into a fully working computer. As with all SIGs, questions are encouraged.



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While Jeanne Okamoto played the members sang songs of the season!



Delicious food and drink was enjoyed by all. With Special Thanks to our Chef Extradinaire: Barbara Patenotte (Ed Jatho's sister) This is her 5th year helping the club.

Security Update

Microsoft Security Bulletin - MS01-059
“Unchecked Buffer in Universal Plug and Play can Lead to System Compromise”

Virginia Kieran brought to my attention a new Security Alert from Microsoft. If using Windows ME or XP, or who have installed Windows XP Internet Connection Sharing client on Windows 98 or 98SE, you should im-

mediately download and apply this patch.. The download location is:

[Http://www.windowsupdate.com](http://www.windowsupdate.com)

What is Universal Plug and Play?

Universal Plug and Play (UPnP) is a capability that allows devices on a network to discover other devices and determine how to work with them. UPnP is most easily understood by comparison to plug-n-play (PnP) capability that most Window users already are familiar with. PnP allows the operating system to detect new hardware that you install on a system. UPnP extends the concept to devices on a network, rather than on the local system itself. UPnP lets computers learn about other devices on the network, and determines how to use them.

BUSINESS	PERSONAL	TECHNICAL
 <h1 style="margin: 0;">MEGOHMS</h1> <h2 style="margin: 0;">CONSULTING SERVICES</h2> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">10011 Filasmeior Dr. New Orleans, LA 70127-1848</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Voice & Fax: (504) 241-2172 E-Mail: ACMoutonj@ics.com</p>		
<p>ASHTON C. MOUTON, JR., M.S.</p> <p>CONSULTANT</p>		

Who is my Computer Talking to?

At last month's meeting (December, 2001), during the question and answer portion, I spoke about the "adware/spyware". I was surprised at the number of NOPC members who indicated that they had already noted this problem and had begun to do something about it. For me, it was a new experience brought about by a piece of supplemental software that was sent to me when I purchased the full "Pro" version of *ZoneAlarm* (firewall software) called *Pest Patrol*. After installing and running *Pest Patrol*, I found several "adbots" on my system.

Let's step back a moment and compare the various "attacks" that can occur on our computers.

Viruses: Generally, these are specialized applications that can cause malicious damage to your computer by corrupting or deleting your files. Usually introduced as attachments to e-mails, but have also been found on corrupted software direct from manufacturers. Some of the less malicious viruses may only display a message at a pre-selected time. Protect your computer with an anti-virus program and keep its data base current and scan your hard-drives frequently and all incoming e-mails and attachments.

Cookies: Depending on your frame of mind, cookies can be good or bad. They are small applications that are sent to your computer while online and gather information about you and your computer, sending it back to various locations. The acceptance of and use of cookies can facilitate your online transactions. Generally, cookies that are returned to the original site are usually acceptable, but cookies that are returned to a separate site are not acceptable. Install a good firewall program to monitor and stop any undesirable cookies or other such items sent to your computer while online.

Adware/Spyware: Not a virus, and not cookie, but a detriment to the operating efficiency of

your system and an attack on your privacy.

While advertising/sponsoring is a common way to publish and promote a product for free, some software advertising systems do more than just showing static banners, they also make secret use of your internet connection to, for example, retrieve new banner ads from a third parties server or send various information about you. This information is collected and sold to third parties.

Because of the unobvious, secret behavior they are also advertising trojans. Most of these systems are installed with a (often popular) host application, which may or may not work without the snoopware components installed. Some attach themselves to your browser, some are completely invisible.

Obtain and scan your system frequently with an anti adware/spyware application.

One of the most infamous sources of this adware/spyware is Conducent (Timesink). One of its more common files is *tsadbot.exe*. If you have been infected by adware/spyware and also have a firewall installed, you should see this trojan making numerous requests to access the internet from your system. While the firewall program detects the attempt to access, it does not remove the adware/spyware.

In my case, someone sent me a zipped file, and I downloaded the *free* version of PKZip. With it came the *tsadbot* file. When I finally become aware of the this adbot, un-installing it caused PKZip to quit working, as the adbot was that tightly linked to the *free* version of PKZip.

PestPatrol can be download from:
[Http://www.safesite.com](http://www.safesite.com)

Another adware/spybot detection and removal program is *Ad-Aware*. If you search for this application, you will get **www.lavasoft.de/aaw**, but this site is intermittent. Try **www.spycheck.com/adware.html** instead. I have used *PestPatrol*, but not *Ad-Aware* though its write-up looks good.

Good Hunting!

Editor

NOPCC Directory

Elected Officers

President	Ray Paternostro	president@nopc.org	737-9099
Vice President	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	vp@nopc.org	246-7759
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Treasurer	Don Herrmann	treasurer@nopc.org	831-1284
Director At Large	Bob Gordon	director1@nopc.org	469-4686
Director At Large	Carl Henderson	director2@nopc.org	466-3954
Director At Large	Albert Fox	director3@nopc.org	269-5786

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Publicity	Jackie Elliott	publicity@nopc.org	455-6203
Webmaster	Manuel Dennis III	webmaster@nopc.org	835-7656

Special Interest Groups

Genealogy	Bob Gordon	gene-m@nopc.org	469-4686
Internet	Ray Paternostro	internet-m@nopc.org	737-9099
N O C K	Albert Fox	albertnm@bellsouth.net	269-5786
New Users	Zeke Zimmerman	new-user-m@nopc.org	456-2991
Suites 2000	Ashton C. Mouton, Jr.	suites2000@nopc.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	486-7249
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.nopc.org

Lagniappe

FAX Machine Classifications:

Buying a modem with Fax capabilities, or a new home/office dedicated Fax machine, then what do the specs mean when they say it is a Class 1, 2, or 3 machine?

Faxes are classified into four groups:

Groups 1 and 2, used until the late 1980's, transmitted a page in 6 and 3 minutes respectively.

Group 3 transmits at less than 1 minute per page and uses data compression at 9,600 bps. Group 3 speed increase led to the rise of fax usage in the late 1980's. Group 3 resolution is 203 x 98 dpi in standard mode and 203 x 196 in fine mode, and 203 x 392 dpi in super fine mode on conventional telephone lines/

Group 4 can transmit a page in a few seconds and provide 400 x 400 resolution; require 56 to 64 Kps

and ISDN or Switched 56 circuits.

Office Solutions, December 2001

Checking up on Your Airline:

Flying doesn't come with any guarantees, but there are ways to get safety and service info online. One extremely helpful online source is the *Department of Transportation's monthly Air Travel Consumer Report*:

<http://www.dot.gov/airconsumer/atcr01.htm>

What about frequent flyer miles? Every airline has its own programs with its own rewards and restrictions. Fortunately, *Webflyer* (www.webflyer.com) helps you sort through the options.

Safety is on everyone's mind. *The Aviation Safety Network* (www.aviation-safety.net) profiles the top 50 international airlines.

Onmagazine, December, 2001

January 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 <i>New Years Day</i>	2 <i>NOPC General Meeting J.D. Meisler 6:30 PM</i>	3	4	5 <i>Living with Home Electronics 690 AM Radio 10:00 to 11:00 AM</i>
6	7 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group McCann's 6:30 PM</i>	8 <i>Genealogy SIG McCann's 7:00 PM</i>	9 <i>Board of Directors Meeting McCann's 6:30</i>	10	11	12 <i>Living with Home Electronics 690 AM Radio 10:00 to 11:00 AM</i>
13	14 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group McCann's 6:30 PM</i>	15	16 <i>Office Suites SIG McCann's 6:00 PM</i>	17 <i>Hardware SIG McCann's 7:00 PM</i>	18	19 <i>Living with Home Electronics 690 AM Radio 10:00 to 11:00 AM</i>
20	21 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group McCann's 6:30 PM</i>	22	23 <i>Digital Imaging SIG McCann's 7:00 PM</i>	24 <i>Internet SIG McCann's 7:00 PM</i>	25	26 <i>Living with Home Electronics 690 AM Radio 10:00 to 11:00 AM</i>
27	28 <i>Visual Basics Learner's Group McCann's 6:30 PM</i>	29	30	31		

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
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