Vero Beach Computer Group

Homepage

IMPORTANT NOTICE ! !

The Username and Password for the "Members Only" Section changed in March. If you haven't heard from us about it, please go to vbcg.org and submit an update to your e-mail address, or send us an e-mail at <u>webmaster@vbcg.org</u> .

Say...

Would you like to donate an afternoon each week to help the public with computers at the Main Library? There are now two sections which need your help badly. See page 5.

It's a lot of fun. It's good practice, and you meet interesting people.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

General Meeting - May 4, 2004
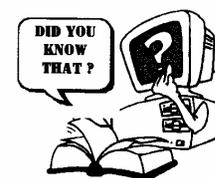## Mark Herndon
Owner of Autobahn Communications

The presentation this month will by Mark Herndon, owner of Autobahn Communications, and will include the integration of Apple and Windows operating systems.

Mark is a graduate of National Lewis University, Evanston, IL with a Bachelor's in Business and Management. He started working with dedicated industrial computers (big boxes of relays and switches that control machines) in the late '70s. His first computer was a Sinclair 1000. In the mid '80's he worked for the Associated Press as the Assistant Chief of Communications in Chicago IL.

As the change began from teletype and tape driven computers to PCs, Mark was in charge of the computerized photo network that brings and distributes photographs for 7 mid-western states for the news distribution networks for radio & TV stations, Illinois papers, and for 500 individual phone lines in the city of Chicago which were mostly stock and commodity tickers.

In the early '90s Mark and his family moved to Florida and he began to work on computer and data systems. As he developed his business, he began focusing more on service. Today Autobahn Communications is certified to sell and service Macintosh computers. They integrate Apple with Windows and advise and build networks for medium size businesses. For his music and movie work his tools are his G4 Powerbook and a 200 Gig hard drive.

Did You Know That?

By Staff Writer **Jean B Grider**

This article is about a feature I discovered in Windows XP. So if you are not using XP or don't plan to use it, you can just skip this article this month.

I was telling two different friends how nice a digital camera is and that they should get one as soon as possible. Well both of them did. I went to one friends house and he was using Windows XP to print his pictures. I quickly told him that he should get "Adobe Photoshop Elements" because in addition to enhancing his photos, it had a great print feature, but he said maybe next fall when they get back to Vero. With that he continued to print using the "Windows Photo Wizard". I discovered that you can select the paper to be used, set up your printer preferences, select the size of the photo and the number of copies. I thought — How Dumb Though!

Well later that same day I saw the second friend and she greeted me with, "Guess what I got?" and proceeded to show me her new digital camera. She had already downloaded some photos on her computer and what did she proceed to do, but go to Start, then My Pictures then print and there were the same features. So primitive, I thought! Again I told her the same, that she should purchase Adobe Elements because among other things the Print Layout feature could not be beat. Well she said she didn't know how it could top what Windows XP could do. She went through step by step with me and I found that it is a great way to finish your photos. This person just got a new laptop and she had never used a computer before so she asked me how to e-mail one of the pictures of her schnauzers. The image was 984KB so I tried opening the photo in "Paint", and used Save As with file extension .jpg and I was going to save it with low resolution as I quite often do in Elements. But that option was not available and it still ended up 498KB. So I said, that is another reason you need Adobe, you can make the file ready to e-mail. With that I saw the "E-mail this file" right there in Windows XP so I clicked on it and sent it to myself and here it is 59.9 KB. What more could you ask for?

I will still use Adobe, but I think I will try this feature a few times and tell others who do not have Adobe Elements about this feature. I have used the "Scanner and Camera Wizard" to download my images from the beginning. Did you know that you can go to Windows Explorer and open the folder containing your photos then click on "View", then click on Filmstrip. Double Click on the first image, then click on the 5th Icon over and all your images in that folder will continue to show as a Filmstrip until you close it. This is a great feature that I have used since XP first came out. XP will also make great movies. You can add digital images and email it and it can be viewed as a filmstrip or slideshow.

I learned that Windows XP actually handles the burning of CD's better than Roxio Platinum 5. Just right click and "Send To" and the temporary files will wait until you are ready to burn them.

As you can see, I am totally sold on Windows XP. It has so many great features. But no matter what operating system you have, the main thing is to get into it and see what it can do. Even if it is no more than to use it as a word processor. Some use their computer only for e-mail, others use it for searching the Internet. "To each his own". Just turn it on and do something with it. You can only learn by doing. I tutor at the Library and I ran into a lady that got her computer for Christmas of 2002 and she had never been able to use it. She was a quick learner at the classes, but I went over and set up her e-mail and showed her how to use the Word Processor and she is doing great. Don't be afraid to turn your computer on and use it.

Notice

Recycle old CDs, floppies, magnetic tape from VCRs, 8-track and cassettes. Bring them in, and we'll do it for you.

Meetings and SIGs

All meetings are held in the Indian River County Library at 1600 21st Street, Vero Beach, Florida

May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 Computer Basics 6:00 - 7:30 PM - History Room	4 <u>General Meet.</u> <u>7:00 PM</u> - <u>Multimedia Room</u>	5 Microsoft Office 2-4 PM - Multimedia Room	6	7	8
9	10 Internet 1:00—3:00 PM - Multimedia Room	11 New to Computers 2:00—4:00 PM - History Room	12	13	14	15 Mac 10:00 - Noon - Multimedia Room
16	17	18 Personal Accounting 6:00—7:30 PM - History Room	19	20	21	22
23	24 Web Design 6:00 - 7:30 PM - History Room	25	26 Digital Imaging 6:00—7:30 PM - Multimedia Room	27	28	29
30	31					

Officers, Board Members and Chairpersons

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Important Dues Notice

The annual dues are only $20.00 for either a single person or a family. They are payable in January of each year. Newsletters and communications from **VBCG** to you are delivered via web site and e-mail. However, if it is necessary, these things can be mailed. That is, sent to you by snail mail, so, if you require it, be sure that we have your snail mail address, **and** you specifically request it.

If you haven't heard from us, either you haven't paid your dues, or we don't have your email and snail mail addresses, so please go to your computer right now, and send us an email at webmaster@vbcg.org.

The Library needs help.

Please Volunteer - Call *Lucia Robinson at 778-1838*

Library Volunteers - May 2004	Tuesday morning classes:
May 12 Ione Andersen	PC Basics and e-mail - Hank Pena
May 6, 13, 20, 27 Hank Pena	Wednesday morning classes:
May 7, 14, 21, 28 Jim Crawford	Keyboard, mouse, internet - Jean Grider
May 19, 26 Lucia Robinson	2nd & last Thurs. morning classes:
May 14 Eleanor Ryan	How to create and save a document us-
Afternoons (1-3 or 2-4 PM)	ing Microsoft Word. — Jean B Grider

These Fascinating and Valuable Articles Are Selected by Our Webmaster, Tim Glover

Favorites Management Master v2.02 [1.3M] W9x/2k/XP FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 11-4-02

http://www.mywebattack.com/gnomeapp.php?id=105499

Favorites Management Master (Favor Master) is a useful browsing companion designed to help you organize and manage your Internet Explorer Favorites. You can check, modify, and organize your links, and also search them by keyword. A unique feature of this program is that it allows you to search within the actual Web sites of your Favorites, rather than just in the name and URL. So, in a way, Favorites Management Master can be used as a personal Web search engine that only returns results from your favorite Web sites. [MWA]

Install and Configure Speech Recognition in Windows XP, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 11-4-02

http://support.microsoft.com/default.aspx?scid=kb;en-us;Q306537

I don't care who you are, at one time or another everyone who has a computer has thought, "Wouldn't it be cool if I could talk to my computer and it could talk back to me?" Well, with Windows XP Speech Engine, it can! This article outlines, step-by-step, everything you need to know to get the Speech Engine installed and functioning on your Windows XP machine. Please keep in mind that there are some basic requirements that must be met first though, such as at least a 400 MHz processor, Internet Explorer 5.0 or higher, and a high-quality close-talk microphone (Microsoft recommends a USB microphone). Although not on the required list for speech recognition, I recommend speakers to be able to use the text- speech functionality. Although I doubt your PC will become a HAL over night, at least you will be one step closer! As a note, the Microsoft Knowledge Base article doesn't come out and say it, but you will also need Office XP installed to do this. [BS]

SysMetrix v1.0.0 [2.6M] W9x/2k/XP FREE, Lockergnome Windows Digest, 11-4-02

http://www.xymantix.com/sysmetrix/index.html

{System monitor} I'm sure some of you reading this newsletter also read the Digital Media newsletter and if you don't, then I would suggest you go check it out! Jake, the editor of the Digital Media newsletter, reviews a different application skin in every issue, and occasionally one of those application skins is for an application called SysMetrix. SysMetrix is a program that helps you monitor your system in style. SysMetrix is completely skinnable and you can even find themed skins for this application on many of the popular skinning Web sites such as DeviantArt.com and WinCustomize.com. SysMetrix is a clock, an uptime counter, CPU monitor, and much more. Different skins add different functions but if configured properly you can use SysMetrix as a command center to your computer. It will tell you when you have new messages, the status of your incoming/outgoing network traffic, free/used hard drive space, and it will even help you empty your Recycle Bin. I have reviewed some pretty slick system monitors since I started with Lockergnome, but none of them have been as functional and cool as SysMetrix. [BS]

Every effort has been made to provide accurate information in this publication; however, no warranty is made as to its accuracy by the Vero Beach Computer Group.