The Hartford User Group Exchange, Inc.

Founded in 1981

presents

The Pulp

May 2004 – Volume 22, Number 5

HTTP://WWW.HUGE.ORG

GENERAL CHIT–CHAT STARTS AT **6:00** P.M. PLEASE COME AND CHAT- I REALLY DO NOT LIKE TO BE ALONE!

General Meeting

POT LUCK - Your choice - You ALL have asked for it!:

7 P.M.

MEETINGS ARE HELD AT THE EAST HARTFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY WITH INTERNET ACCESS FOR OUR MEETINGS

HUGE this month!

Coming General Meetings
June – Guest Developer Speaker
Talks working with Apple and Disney

May 10 OS X Beginners SIG – Topic: The Finder
Wethersfield Public Library.....7 p.m.

May 17 **General Meeting** — See above 7 P.M.

May 18 Deadline for **ALL** Articles. Please upload articles to editors@huge.org or give them to the Pulp Editor.....**Midnight**

June 14 **OS X Beginners SIG** – Topic: Mac OSX Basics .....
Wethersfield Public Library.....7 p.m.

June 24 **Board meeting**– Topic: Summertime
Wethersfield Denny's.....7 p.m.

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MEETING LOCATIONS

East Hartford Public Library
Main & Central Avenue
in the Lion's Community Room
Downstairs

Wethersfield Public Library
500 Silas Deane Hwy., Wethersfield, CT

The President's Message

George Carbonell

HELP!

The Apple MUG Store

The Apple MUG Store is giving away printers, MP3 players, extra RAM and more to MUG members with the purchase of select new Apple computers. To take advantage of these deals, or browse the selection of refurbished Macs and blowout specials, go to: http://www.applemugstore.com
User ID: iPod
Password: mini
You can also order by calling one of the PowerMax consultants at 800–689–8191. Don't forget to tell them the name of your User Group (**HUGE**). When you purchase and are a confirmed Apple User Group member, your particular group will receive special awards points which can be redeemed for merchandise and Apple logo materials.

The MUG store always has great deals for user group members. This
month's highlights include:
Refurbished eMac G4/1Ghz w/Combo drive: $788 (US)
Refurbished iMac G4/1 Ghz w/Combo drive: $1,149 (US)
Refurbished 15" PowerBook G4/867 w/Combo drive: $1,549 (US)
And a special buy on brand new G4/1.25 Duals for only $1,599 (US), plus a free USB watch (after rebate).
Don't forget - your group gets one percent return toward anything the MUG Store sells when your members buy from the store.
Place your orders: http://www.applemugstore.com
This offer is available to members of U.S. user groups.

A Little Computer Quiz

Stuart Rabinowitz

The trivia and minutiae of the computer related world. The answers will appear next month, or you can submit an answer sheet at the General Meeting. Good Luck!

1. In April 1983, a personal computer was released that did not use BASIC as a programming language. What programming language did it use?
2. What was the name of the personal computer?
3. As you view your personal computer today you notice a separate keyboard, a box containing the CPU, memory, and disk drive. What was the first system sold as a system that had those parts?
4. In what year was it sold?
5. What was the name of the computer?
6. What was the name of its creator?

April Answers ,

This month I thought I'd do something a little different, with a theme.

Many of you have heard of "Easter Eggs" or even gone on a hunt for a few, not necessarily the eating kind. In honor of the season, here is the first and possibley last HUGE Easter Egg Hunt.

1. What is an "Easter Egg"? The term "Easter Egg", as we use it here, means any amusing tidbit that someone hid in computer hardware or software, movies, music, art, books, or your watch.
2. What world-famous computer command did the first IBM PC technical manual, the 'Purple Book', omit?

   A. The command is the well-known "three-finger salute": [Ctrl][Alt][Delete]. On the original PC, this keystroke combination produced a warm reboot. When Windows came around it took on a dual task of launching the Task Manager.

Apple Confidential 2.0

(written by Owen W. Linzmayer)

Review by Ted Bade

Company: No Starch Press. 555 De Haro St., Suite 250, San Francisco, CA 94107
Fax: 415-863-9950; email: orders@nostarch.com, Web Site: http://www.nostarch.com/ Author's web site: http://www.owen-ink.com/ Cost: $19.95 USD ISBN: 1-59327-010-0

Apple Confidential 2.0 is a recent update of the fascinating book which follows the history of Apple. Appropriately sub titled: "The Definitive History of the World's most Colorful Company", this book shares information about the trials and tribulations of Apple's growth and development as a company and the many people and computers that have made this happen. A true must read for true Apple fans.

I have lived with Apple computers for a long time, it all began in the eighties when I purchased an Apple][+. During the years since, I have always been interested in what was happening with Apple Corporation, but, as most people who follow Apple's antics, I heard only part of the tale. Apple Confidential provides a lot more of the story.

It is a real credit to the author that the first day I sat with Apple Confidential 2, having a quarter of an hour to kill, I became so engrossed that I forgot the passage of time and ended up reading for almost an hour! This book is well written and I personally found the information fascinating.

Apple Confidential chapters concern important aspects of Apple history, such as people, machines, and even certain advertising campaigns. Although the chapters follow a general timeline, obviously some topics overlap and others haven't yet ended. In any case, the book does a good job covering each topic.

Apple Confidential starts with a chapter called: "The Genesis of Apple", obviously covering the early days. Other chapters concern Steve Wozniac, Xerox's graphical user interface concepts and how Jeff Raskin first realized they would make a great consumer computer, the development of the

Continued on page 4

Apple Confidential *continued*

Macintosh, the 1984 commercial and the controversy around that, Microsoft, and much more.

Each chapter is loaded with information you probably never heard before. This information is provided not only by the text of the book, but through the inclusion of photos and quotes appropriate to the section they are in. A collage of photos, timelines, quotes, captions, and even cartoons surrounds and add to the content of the text.

The photos were interesting; its amazing to see the two Steves in the early days or a picture of the Mac Portable (I knew a guy who lugged one of those around!) The photos provide a glimpse of past days in the evolution of Apple.
The author also uses many interesting quotations by famous industry figures. The quotes reflect the information in the chapter and often add a bit of sarcastic humor to the book, by showing how the "experts" made statements that were off the mark and sometimes just downright wrong. You'll also find jokes and cartoons related to Apple; (you can imagine Apple has done enough to create tons of ammunition for jokes ;-)). I got a real kick out of some of them.

Most chapters in Apple Confidential include a time line, which list a series of events or milestones pertaining to that particular topic. The Macintosh time line was like taking a walk along memory lane. Yeah, I had that one (That was a terrific machine), and then that one and then that one! Oh yeah, I missed getting that one, (lucky me!) The most interesting time line was that of code names for new Apple products, its amazing how they come up with that stuff.

If you have read the earlier version of this book, this later version adds events that happened after the first publication. Since Apple continues to evolve, Apple Confidential should also. I hope someday to see a version 3!

As I was reading, I often kept wondering how Apple managed to survive all these events, mistakes, bad management, and sometimes terrible ideas. It is truly amazing. I am sure there are other companies that have similar interesting histories, but Apple is probably one of the most exciting! All I can say is that I am glad Apple weathered these events. I like using them and being able to poke fun at Wintel PCs ;-).

I highly recommend this book. It is a fun read. Definitely get a copy of Apple Confidential and read it, it will give you a lot more appreciation for those Macs that you use and the people who created them.

Windows Tips

Is DOS Really Dead?

By Charlie Paschal, PPCC

Microsoft official made the break with DOS with Windows 2000. Although it tried to "fake" out the public by saying that Windows ME did, it wasn't true. With some information off the Web, a true bootup diskette can be made that will access ME with a floppy.

That's not true with 2000 and XP, which makes a true break with DOS -- you can't start either operating system with a boot disk. You can, though, bootup an ill-acting system with a boot disk that contains the correct files out of your root directory.

Both 2000 and XP use an NTFS file system -- if you use the native file system the system expects -- that supposedly can't be accessed with a floppy. There are certain floppies -- available on the Internet -- that can be used to access NTFS volumes.

Another floppy, also available on the Internet, allows a user to boot from it to a version of Linux that allows someone to access and change the administrator's password. It's useful for someone who has forgotten the administrator's password.

Knoppix -- A Tool for Everyone

By Charlie, PPCC

One of the greatest tools a computer technician has over a home user is the access of another computer. A second computer can be used to access the Internet and find answers to problems. When a home user's computer is crippled, it's very difficult to find answers -- except by telephone.

Although it's not another computer, a very useful tool is a Knoppix CD. Knoppix is a version of Linux that runs from a CD. If you've got a broadband connection to the Internet, such as a cable modem, it automatically senses the connection and gives you access to the Internet. It usually finds all your hardware, giving you total access to your files and information. You usually can copy files to CDs, floppies or Zip disks.

Get Knoppix at www.knoppix.org. It's a large download, about 700 megabytes, but it comes in a form that you can use to automatically make a bootable CD. If you don't have this CD, download it (or ask a friend with a broadband connection to do it for you) as a tool for a day when Windows won't start.

Continued on page 5

Windows Tips *continued*

Hex, binary, Decimal numbers

Charlie Paschal, PPCC

Ever wonder what people are talking about when they mention binary and "hex" numbers? It's the way computers "talk" and the language they understand. Our system, of course, is the decimal number system, which is 10 base. Binary is 2-based, while hex is 16-based. The binary is where you get the "1s and 0s" from because that's the only numbers used in that system.

For example, the number 11 in decimal is 1011 in binary and B in hex. Since 1s and 0s can easily show numbers from 0-9, hex is used to represent numbers from 10 through 16, meaning at A is 10, B is 11, etc. Because binary numbers can get complex, hex is used because it makes it shorter to write and it's easier for humans to remember.

If you ever want to do some conversions yourself without having to learn the mathematical way of doing it, use Windows calculator. Go to View and select scientific. Plug in a number in decimal and then click on Hex or Bin to see the number in that system. For example, 999 is 3E7 in hex. In binary it's 1111100111. See? You can remember 3E7 but it's not as easy to remember the binary version.

Don't forget system restore

By Charlie Paschal, PPCC

Viruses are always a threat, but did you know that one can "return" without warning if you don't turn off one Windows XP feature when cleaning up from a virus?

One of XP's great features is System Restore that can take your system back to a time when it was running better. I've used it countless times to return an ill-acting system back to a healthy time.

What if, though, you get a virus? Because System Restore can contain system settings that will restore the virus itself, it should always be turned off before you remove a virus.

To do that:

* Right Click on My Computer and select Properties and left click. Click on the System Restore tab and check the box labeled "Turn Off System Restore on all Drives."

Then, clean up the virus and reboot. Don't forget to turn System Restore back on after cleaning up the virus.

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

MUG InfoManager

Lynn Wegley, InfoManager, with coeditor Fred Showker

Microsoft Antispam Tool "Microsoft Uses Antispam Tool Favoring Some Mass E–Mailers" This article appeared in the Wall Street Journal, so there won't be a link. It seems that MSN and Hotmail are using a product developed by IronPort Systems Inc to establish lists of certified e–mailers. E–mailers basically agree to follow certain guidelines and post a $500to $4,000 bond. Messages from these companies will get through thee–mail filters. They would forfeit part or all of the bond if a certain level of complaints are reached. It is an interesting approach, but I could see a day when such certification could come with a certification fee that would make Microsoft even richer. On the other hand, it would potential stop those who are flooding the world without much cost to them. What do you think about this "whitelist" approach

Speaking of Spam And we were, weren't we? How about a site that gives you all the basics about how spam works. ResearchBuzz.com*…brought this site to my attention. This site is run by Randy Cassingham, who is the author and publisher of *This is True* and the *True Stella Awards* newsletters. He is trying to reduce spam so his newsletters get through the filters. See it at: http://www.spamprimer.com/

Will Your Next Display Be Flexible? In an article with this title, PC World discusses the fact that flexible displays are still a few years away. But when they get here, we will be able to have some of the pictures that we only see in Harry Porter movies today. (Note: we have been hearing about these flexible displays for about 2 years now, but it looks like we are going to wait another couple of years.) Read all about it at: http://www.pcworld.com/news/article/0,aid,115963,00.asp

What is A9? It is a "new" search engine being constructed by Amazon. But closer study shows that it is Google with an addition of searching within documents on Amazon. However, while you would think that would increase your "hits", it actually returns a smaller number. But then do you really need 10K responses? BTW – you must be logged on your Amazon account to get full benefit of the search. You can also use a generic version that won't keep track of your searches at: Full article at: http://www.tourbus.com

Sony pushes paper discs. Sony and Toppan Printing have developed a way to print data onto25–gigabyte Blue–ray discs made mostly of paper. This will provide a lower cost disk. I personally figured that the DVD would go the way of the CD and be 10 – 15 cents in

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today's dollars in a few years. This could help it move quicker. Full story at: http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20040416.gtblurayapr16/BNStory/Technology/

Microsoft Patents Invalid? A New York–based nonprofit patent watchdog group is claiming that a 7–year–old patent Microsoft holds for the FAT file system is invalid and should be revoked. In a formal request sent yesterday to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office in Washington, Daniel Ravicher, executive director of the Public Patent Foundation, asked the patent office to conduct a review because previous patents had already been issued on the same technology. One of the patents is on the File Allocation Table (FAT)file system. Ravicher alleges that Microsoft wants to control the licensing of the FAT system so it can discourage open–source and free software by not allowing it to be interchangeable with Microsoft software. Full story at: http://www.computerworld.com/governmenttopics/government/legalissues/story/0,10801,92315,00.html?nas=AM–92315

Resolve credit disputes. Consumers now have a new avenue to pursue to resolve credit disputes they believe were not handled properly. The FTC will jump into the middle and send the three big credit bureaus complaints from consumers that concern disputes they have over inaccurate or incomplete information in their credit bureau files. The bureaus are supposed to report back the results to the FTC. For more information on how to dispute your report, go to: http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/conline/pubs/credit/fcra.htm

Delete history software compared. ViaClean has reviewed a number of well known delete–history, internet–washer and internet–eraser programs in all price categories, including freeware delete cookie software. The quality of the clean pc programs differed widely. Some turned out to be outright dangerous for the average user because they don't even delete history or clean registry as they promised. See: http://www.viaclean.com/compare.html

Computerworld Links

Grid Computing Glossary– Like any technology, grid computing has aspecialized lexicon of terms, acronyms, and concepts. This comprehensive glossary provides a definition of grid–related terms. http://zones.computerworld.com/oracle/?lpid0092033600690410idlp

Extended Enforcement. It isn't good enough to simply have security measures such as firewall and antivirus software on end users' systems. Enforcing security policies at network endpoints is also becoming increasingly crucial, users and analyst say. http://www.computerworld.com/newsletter/0,4902,92943,00.html?nlid=AM

SAP To Push On .Net. In addition to boosting .Net support around its Net weaver middleware platform, SAP said it will create a collaboration technology support center with Microsoft to craft and showcase examples of joint integration. http://www.computerworld.com/newsletter/0,4902,93095,00.html?nlid=AM

Lieberman Calls For New Outsourcing Ideas. Sen. Joe Lieberman (D–Conn.) said U.S. politicians should stop blaming others for jobs lost to offshore outsourcing and instead focus on how the U.S. can better compete.http://www.computerworld.com/newsletter/0,4902,93094,00.html?nlid=AM

Microsoft Warns of Noncritical Flaw In Some Versions Of Windows. The company released a software patch and a security bulletin describing a flaw in the Windows Help and Support Center that could allow remote attackers to run malicious code on vulnerable Windows machines. http://www.computerworld.com/newsletter/0,4902,93092,00.html?nlid=AM

Canada Eyes World Treaty To Deal With Spammers. Canada's Industry minister, Lucienne Robillard, said there is a pressing need for an international effort, perhaps a treaty, that could include the extradition of suspected large–scale spammers. http://www.computerworld.com/newsletter/0,4902,93097,00.html?nlid=AM

Windows XP Update Delayed. As recently as last week, Microsoft said Service Pack 2 for Windows XP would be out in the first half of the year. But the update has been delayed because testing hasn't been completed and changes to it are still being made. http://www.computerworld.com/newsletter/0,4902,92740,00.html?nlid=WK

PULP Staff

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Graphics: George Carbonell

Membership: Anyone may become a member. Dues are $24 per year and include a one-year subscription to The Pulp as well as access to the HUGE Public Domain disk libraries and BBS. Meeting topics, times and places can be found on page 1 of this issue.

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Board of Directors and Special Interest Group Leaders for 2003-2004

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Do you know someone interested in joining YOUR group?
Please make copies of this page and give them to your friends, co–workers and others who share your enthusiasm for computers.
NOTE: Every new member you get, you earn a bonus $$$ towards your renewal.

Total number of HUGE member families is 65!

A HUGE welcome to ALL0

HUGE on the Web at http://www.huge.org

Please complete this application form. Bring it with you to the General Meeting, or mail with U.S. $24.00 to:

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P.O. Box 380027
East Hartford, CT 06138–0027

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May we release your name and address to vendors we support? ❒ YES _____ ❒ No _____

May 2004

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First Class Mail

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