The PULP

HUGE this month:

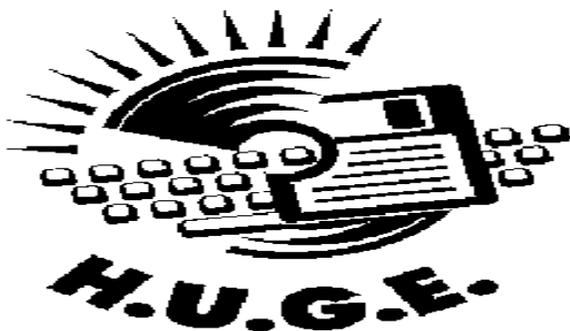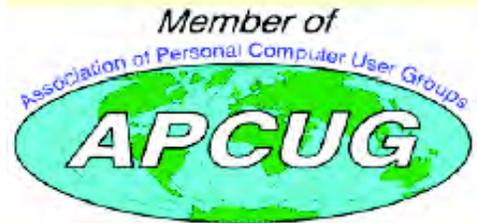**General Meeting: June 15th**

BYOT (Bring Your Own Topic)

See you there!

East Hartford Public Library
Main St. & Central Ave., East Hartford, CT.

Q&A Session: 7:00PM—7:30PM
Meeting starts at: 7:30PM

Contents:

Member of

Association of Personal Computer User Groups

APCUG

UGC

Apple User Group

H.U.G.E.

MEETING LOCATIONS
East Hartford Public Library
Main & Central Avenue
in the Lion's Room
(downstairs)

Editors Corner

This month is Bring Your Own Topic (BYOT).

Coming July 25th starting at 2 PM is the HUGE Picnic. Stay tuned for the particulars.

Ever wonder how fast your internet connection is? Do a speed test at http://www.speedtest.net/. How does that compare to the rest of the world? **It's slow**, San Jose, CA is the fastest US city at 15.04 Mbps and ranked 18th in the world. For the speeds around the world (the US is not in the top 10) go to http://www.netindex.com/.

A few notes on the latest in the tech world;

Facebook is revising their privacy policies, again,

Amazon is suing the state of North Carolina to prevent the release of customer data to the revenue department for the collection of taxes,

Google is being sued by someone that used their walking directions (provided by Google Maps) literally and was hit by a car,

Google is being investigated for "wardriving" (the act of searching for Wi-Fi wireless networks) by their streetview vans,

Google is no longer offering Windows based PCs to its employees, and

In Germany you can be fined 100 Euros for having a wifi network without a password.

Have a good summer & see you at the meeting(s) and then at the picnic.

Stuart Rabinowitz
Editor-in-Chief

Please note that the clubs PO Box has been closed. When membership renewals go out in the fall the return address will be that of our Membership person Richard Sztaba.

A Little Computer Quiz
by 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 On March 15, 1985 Symbolics.com becaqme the first dot-com name registered. Can you name the next 5?

2 In March, Richard Stallman publishes his GNU Manifesto in Dr. Dobb's Journal of Software Tools and on Oct. 4 he founded ... ?

3 In 1984 Len Bosack and Sandy Lerner founded what company?

4 At the IEEE 1984 International Electron Devices Meeting Fujio Masuoka, a Toshiba researcher, demonstrated a new product, what?

5   In 1984 2600 The HACKER QUARTERLY debuts. Why the name?

Answers to May, 2010 Quiz

1 When did HP first offer the HP200A audio oscillator?
  A It was their first product and was introduced in 1939

2 What was the first product introduced by Apple Computer?
  A The motherboard for the Apple I

3 Before there was 'Facebook' there was 'Facemash', but before that there was the first social network site. what was it?
  A 'Friendster' which started in 2002 (about a year before 'MySpace' and the others. Most of its users are in Asia.

4 Before 'blogging' and social networking there was one site (founded in 1999 and still exists) that combined the two, what is it?
  A LiveJournal

5 Before the 'iPhone', 'Palm _____', 'Blackberry', and assorted other PDAs & smartphones, there was one device that gave birth to them all. What was it?
  A The Apple Newton

Experiments with Desktop Publishing (DTP) Applications, Part 1

by Mike Morris, Front Range PC Users Group,
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The word processor is the epitome of ubiquitous—it really does seem to be everywhere. Today's "full-featured" word processor applications do, indeed, offer many features, in addition to allowing you to create text.

Even the most capable word processor, with many features, has limitations, as anyone who has worked on newsletters or other publications has discovered. To get beyond those limitations, you need to use a different category of software application called Desktop Publishing (DTP).

A DTP application is **not** intended for creating text—at least if one is talking about a large amount of text, i.e., many pages. A word processor is the correct application for creating a lot of text.

A DTP application is a layout or design application. It is also called a page assembly application, because you assemble content into a single document. Content includes text, images, drawings and everything else you want to see on the printed (or electronic) page.

True DTP applications are frame-based. This means that all the content on a page is placed into frames. Frames are freely moveable and can be placed reliably anywhere on the page. Text from one frame can be continued (flow) in another. Note that this concept is significantly different from a word processor. When you open a word processor application, all you need to do to create a document is to start typing. With a DTP application, you first have to create and position a frame, then you enter the content.

There are a variety of DTP applications. They range from free to expensive, and the "learning curve"—the time it takes to learn how to use the application—can be lengthy. Choosing a DTP application for your project (or projects) can be a challenge, since it is not easy to compare the features of the various applications. I have used 4 different DTP applications, to varying degrees of detail. I have attempted to capture the most important features (in my opinion) of these 4 applications into 9 categories:

1. General
2. Text Controls
3. Master Pages
4. Tables
5. Graphics
6. Long Document Features
7. Color
8. Commercial Printing
9. Tech Support

The comparisons for categories 1 - 4 are included in this, Part 1, of this article. The remaining comparisons will be provided in subsequent installments. The following information is **only** a collection of comparisons of selected features, based on my testing. It is **not** intended as instruction in how to use the features. Whether you use a DTP application for your work, or, if you do, which application is the best for you, is a judgment you will have to make.

The information in the following table is based on these applications and versions:

1. InDesign: CS3 (5.0.4)
2. Microsoft Publisher: 2007 (12.0.6308.5000) MSO (12.0.6017.5000)
3. Scribus: 1.3.3.13 for Windows
4. PagePlus: SE 1.0.0.5

The following table is not an exhaustive comparison of all features of all 4 programs. It is based partially on my testing and partially on other resources. The entries in the table are a mixture of facts and opinions. Opinions are enclosed in brackets: [Opinion].

Category	InDesign	Publisher	Scribus	PagePlus
General	The most capability, the best user interface, best technical support. Available for both Windows and MAC computers. Commercial, expensive. Together with its competitor, QuarkXPress, these 2 applications are graphic design applications standards for commercial printing.	Familiar to Microsoft Word users. Windows only. Commercial, can be purchased for under $100. [Suitable for simple sales/marketing brochures or simple newsletters. Not suitable for complex and/or long documents.]	Open source (free) and available for Windows, MAC and Linux operating systems. Full compliance to PDF spec. Slow Beta development stage. [User interface needs improvement]	Free and commercial versions (only the free version tested). The commercial version sells for US$100 (online only) by Serif, a company in the UK that is a "Developer and publisher of powerful, easy-to-use desktop publishing, design and graphics software." Windows only. User interface similar to Publisher.
Text Controls	Comprehensive. All text controls work on selected text. Extensive numerical control over position, size and other characteristics of text frames. Changing size, position or orientation of a text frame is aided with the Reference Point feature.	Similar to Microsoft Word. Not all text features (such as bullets and numbering) in Word can be correctly imported into Publisher. Leading applies only to a paragraph, not to selected text. [Text controls are characteristic of a word processor, not a true DTP application (percentages, not points are used for editing/adjusting).]	Extensive. Leading applies only to a text frame, not to a paragraph or to selected text. No widow/orphan control. No feature that provides vertical alignment of text in a frame. Changing size, position or orientation of a text frame is aided with the Basepoint Point feature.	PagePlus provides more complete import of selected text features (such as bullets and numbering) of a Word document than Publisher. [Text controls are characteristic of a word processor, not a true DTP application (percentages, not points are used for editing/adjusting).]
Master Pages	Master Page features available from the Pages panel.	[Master Page feature not intuitive]	[Master Page feature not intuitive]	[Master Page feature not intuitive]
Tables	Table features are extensive. Tables can cross page boundaries.	Less table features than Word.	Very rudimentary table features.	Inserting a table requires the use of the Table tool, which has a limited selection of pre-defined formats. Tables from word processing formats can be imported.

Experiments with Desktop Publishing (DTP) Applications, Part 2

By Mike Morris, Editor, Front Range PC Users Group, Colorado
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This installment continues the comparison of DTP application features. I have attempted to capture the most important features (in my opinion) of 4 applications into 9 categories:

1.   General
2.   Text Controls
3.   Master Pages
4.   Tables
5.   Graphics
6.   Long Document Features
7.   Color
8.   Commercial Printing
9.   Tech Support

The comparisons for categories 5 - 7 are included in this, Part 2, of this article. The remaining comparisons will be provided in part 3.

The information in the following table is based on these applications and versions:
1.   InDesign®: CS3 (5.0.4) (http://www.adobe.com).
2.   Microsoft Publisher®: 2007 (12.0.6308.5000) MSO (12.0.6017.5000) (http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/publisher/default.aspx).
3.   Scribus: 1.3.3.13 for Windows (open source, http://www.scribus.net/).
4.   PagePlus®: SE 1.0.0.5 (http://www.freeserifsoftware.com/software/pageplus/).

The following table is not an exhaustive comparison of all features of all 4 programs. It is based partially on my testing and partially on other resources. The entries in the table are a mixture of facts and opinions. Opinions are enclosed in brackets: [Opinion].

Coming July 25th is the HUGE Picnic. Stay tuned for the particulars.

	InDesign	Publisher	Scribus	PagePlus
Category				
Graphics	All major formats can be imported. Extensive resizing and text wrapping controls. A number of math/science symbols are available, but for equations, a 3rd party application (such as MathType) [will be easier to use]. Equations can be imported as an eps file. Changing size, position or orientation of a graphics frame is aided with the Reference Point feature.	Most major formats can be imported. Imported graphics are automatically (and proportionately) resized to the size of the picture frame. Text wrap controls similar to those of a word processor. Equations can be imported from a 3rd party application such as MathType.	Most major formats, except the wmf format can be imported. Limited resizing and text wrapping controls. Cannot directly text wrap the svg format. A number of math/science symbols are available, but for equations, a third party application (such as MathType) [will be easier to use]. Equations can be imported as an eps file. Changing size, position or orientation of a graphics frame is aided with the Basepoint feature.	Cannot import the png and svg formats. It doesn't import EPS files correctly, only preview images, and only the preview image will be exported, so that the EPS import is quite useless. Text wrap controls similar to those of a word processor. Equations can be imported from a 3rd party application such as MathType.
Long Document Features	Both the Table of Contents and Index features have extensive options. Figure captions require a separate text frame and an appropriately defined style. The Table of Contents feature can be used to automatically create a Table of Figures. When used for a Table of Figures, it is necessary to manually cut/paste entries to get list in correct order. Can import all styles from a word processing document.	Very basic [and hard to use] Table of Contents feature. No Index feature. No Footnote feature. A Table of Figures must generated manually. Formatting from an external document (such as a word processing document) can be preserved or overridden only if copy/paste is used. If Insert/Text file is used, source document formatting is used. If imported text exceeds available space, Publisher can create	Table of Contents feature available, but no Index feature. No Footnote feature. A Table of Figures must generated manually. Can import only paragraph styles from a word processing document. [Options for preserving formatting of imported text are not intuitive.] [Automatic page numbering feature not intuitive.]	No Table of Contents feature, no Index feature and no Footnote feature. A Table of Figures must generated manually. If Insert/Text file is used, source document formatting is used. No automatic text frame feature.

	There are a number of options for preserving formatting of imported text. Adding text frames is a "story" not a document feature, and can be added manually, "semi-automatically," or automatically.	additional text frames.	Automatic text frames are a document feature.	
Color	Extensive color and color management features. Pantone® licensed.	Pantone® licensed. Some (untested) color management features are available in the Windows XP and Vista operating systems.	Additional software provides color management for the Linux OS. MAC computers include color management with the ColorSync capability. Not Pantone® licensed.	It can't export spot colors to PDF/PS files. They are always converted to CMYK. Not Pantone® licensed. No color management available, although some (untested) color management features are available in the Windows XP and Vista operating systems.

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This installment concludes the comparison of DTP application features. I have attempted to capture the most important features (in my opinion) of these 4 applications into 9 categories:

1.   General
2.   Text Controls
3.   Master Pages
4.   Tables
5.   Graphics
6.   Long Document Features
7.   Color
8.   Commercial Printing
9.   Tech Support

The information in the following table is based on these applications and versions:

1.   InDesign: CS3 (5.0.4) (http://www.adobe.com).
2.   Microsoft Publisher: 2007 (12.0.6308.5000) MSO (12.0.6017.5000) (http://office.microsoft.com/en-us/publisher/default.aspx).
3.   Scribus: 1.3.3.13 for Windows (open source, http://www.scribus.net/).
4.   PagePlus: SE 1.0.0.5 (http://www.freeserifsoftware.com/software/pageplus/).

The following table is not an exhaustive comparison of all features of all 4 programs. It is based partially on my testing and partially on other resources. The entries in the table are a mixture of facts and opinions. Opinions are enclosed in brackets: [Opinion].

To summarize the results of the comparisons, it is fair to say that all 4 programs will provide some measure of Desktop Publishing capability. In my opinion, InDesign and Scribus are in a class by themselves.

In deciding which program to use, one decision factor is usually tech support. Tech support for software in today's world is often a contentious issue. Therefore you may find it helpful to know of my experiences with tech support on these four programs. I rate tech support as follows:

1. InDesign is a commercial product and one of the standards for commercial printing. Therefore, there are a great variety of support options. My own personal experience with support contracts (an expensive option) is not positive (although that is experience is now several years old). However, the Classroom in a Book series is excellent training and the free forum (http://forums.adobe.com/community/indesign/indesign_general) is also an excellent source of help.

2. Scribus has an excellent mailing list/forum

(http://lists.scribus.info/mailman/listinfo/scribus
) along with several wikis
(http://wiki.scribus.net/index.php/Main_Page)
available from the website. There is also the
printed manual (which I don't have). So despite
the fact that it is an open source program, there
is very good tech support available. There are
more help resource links available at resources
(http://docs.scribus.net/index.php?lang=en&pag
e=resources).

3. There are many books available on
Publisher. However, in my opinion, Publisher is
not a major product for Microsoft and getting
help from Microsoft to solve problems can be
difficult.

4. The free version of PagePlus is supported
only via the online forum. I have used that
forum. You have to register, but there is no
charge. I did, in fact, receive relatively prompt
answers to my questions when I used the
forum. However, in my case, I have been
subsequently bombarded with what I consider
spam from Serif trying to sell me upgrades or
other products that I did not want. I consider that
business approach highly objectionable, and,
although the program is actually a capable
starting point for users new to DTP, I cannot
recommend the program for that reason.

Coming July 25th is the HUGE Picnic. Stay tuned for the particulars.

	InDesign	**Publisher**	**Scribus**	**PagePlus**
Category				
Commercial Printing	Complete capability.	Untested.

Limited "commercial printing" tools.

Can save file as PostScript file.

Not all commercial printers will accept Publisher files. | PDF conversion capability includes color separations. | Untested.

Can save file as PostScript file. |
| | | | | |
| Tech Support | Extensive.

Support contracts available [expensive].

Classroom in a Book series.

Free online tech support forums.

Many books are available from 3rd party authors. | Many books are available from 3rd party authors.

Free online help forum [but hard to find on the Microsoft web site].

[Not a primary product for Microsoft.] | Print manual can be ordered from Amazon.

Free online tech support forum. | Only online forum available for this version.

For the commercial version, additional support options are available for a fee. |

PULP Staff

Editor   Stuart Rabinowitz
Distribution   George Carbonell

Membership: Anyone may become a member. Dues are $12 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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June 2010

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 1979 VisiCalc introduced	5 1833 Augusta Ada meets Charles Babbage
6	7	8 1979 'THE SOURCE' goes online	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 General Meeting 7 PM	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29 1972 Atari founded	30			