

W N N E R S

W I N D O W S U S E R S

Notepad

APRIL 2003

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CES 2003

By Terry Currier

The Consumer Electronics Show (CES) was in Las Vegas January 9-12. It is not just a computer show. They have automobile accessories, cooking utilities, cameras, wireless connectivity (big this year), and of course computers. It is now much larger than Comdex and much better organized. Information presented here is taken from the two days I spend there and the ShowStoppers and PressClub I attended. Is it complete? No. I did not see everything, and there is not enough time or space. This report will be two parts, one little bit of information. When I state the prices I round up the price, I find it easy to think of it in those terms.

Digital Cameras

Argus Camera

<http://www.arguscamera.com>

- The PDA 1500 uses CompactFlash and takes pictures up to 1.3 Megapixels. It has a rotary head and an optical

Continued on page 3

Bits & Bytes & Xp

By Siles Bazerman



As some of you already know, on February 24 I had an angioplasty and a stent placed in my right cardiac artery. On March 31 I had surgery on my left knee, and I will be having surgery on my right knee in about three months. Because of this and some very pleasant family events, my mind has not been exactly on writing this column. Believe it or not, I do have other things in my life besides computers. If you want to see some of them visit my web site

<http://mysite.verizon.net/res044a4/railroad.htm>

These efforts also take up a great deal of my time.

During my series of tests for these surgeries, I was fascinated to watch the computerized real time data recording and analysis now available. I remember when my father had similar tests done in the 1960s. The information was not available for analysis for days. Mine was available within minutes. Progress is also very evident in the miniaturization of equipment like cameras and scanning devices, and the precise computer control of these devices.

Before this sounds like "General Hospital," let's get on to the topic at hand. I have finally given up on monitoring Windows ME newsgroups, as several things have happened to them. The same questions are being asked every day as people will not take the time to do a search on Google

groups to see if it has already been answered. A few people have hijacked the Windows ME General group and treat it as their own private social club. Lastly, the same few "knowledgeable people" continue to give out misinformation and berate others for not already having the knowledge how to solve their problems. I will still monitor several Windows Xp newsgroups until I become bored with them.

Lately I installed a DVD-ROM drive in place of my CDR. I still can play and read CDs but also can play and read DVDs. One day I hope to replace it with a DVD RW/R unit, but I am waiting until either I am given one as a gift or the choice between DVD-r/-RW and DVD+R/+RW is decided. At this time I have been told that DVD+R/+RW is technically better but DVD-R/-RW is more compatible with existing programs. Sony has the right idea with a unit that will read, write, and rewrite to both formats as well as CDR and CDRW. However, it is the most expensive of the home user types. Above that are the professional grades. I want this device for use as a primary backup unit, as I hate swapping removable hard drives to get backup done, and I do not want to sit and insert five or six CDs. I like starting the backup or imaging program and then going to bed. In the morning the backup or image is done. Using my tape drive involves mounting a SCSI card and an external drive and then having my computer slow down because of the added card and drivers.

Continued on page 7

Telephone Help Line

PROGRAM/SOFTWARE	NAME	PHONE	TIME
CompuServe	Cathy Grammer-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
CorelDraw 5	George Margolin	949-645-5950	Most times
CorelDraw & Ventura & PhotoPaint	Sunny Lockie	949-644-0103	6-10 p.m. weekdays 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends
Hardware	Jonathan Means	714-542-1653	6-9 p.m.
Internet	Cathy Grammer-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
Novell, NT & Networking	Jonathan Means	714-542-1653	6-9 p.m.
Quicken & Quickbooks	Max Lockie	949-720-8170	6-10 p.m. & weekends
Windows 95,98,Me,Xp	Siles Bazerman	714-897-2868	9 a.m.-8 p.m.
Word for Windows	Cathy Grammar-Margolin	949-645-5950	6-10 p.m. & weekends
WordPerfect Windows	Sunny Lockie	949-644-0103	6-10 p.m. weekdays 9 a.m.-10 p.m. weekends

General Meeting April 12 Orange Coast College 9:00 a.m.-12:00 noon in Science Room #149

BELKIN

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PURPOSE

WINNERS, a computer association, is a volunteer organization providing a forum for sharing information and experiences related to Windows-based software, encouraging ethical use of computers and software, and offering service to our communities.

MEMBERSHIP

Annual membership is \$20.00 for individuals; \$5.00 each additional family member.

MEETINGS

WINNERS generally meets the second Saturday of each month from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Orange Coast College in the Science Building, Room #149, 2701 Fairview, Costa Mesa.

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stevede@aol.com

Programs

Terry Currier 714-774-2018
tcurrier@aol.com

By-Laws

Max Lockie 949-644-0103
mlockie@pobox.com

Editor/Publisher

Sunny Lockie 949-644-0103
sundesigns@pobox.com

Board Members

Cathy Grammer-Margolin 645-5950
inventor00@pobox.com
Ray Howard 714-966-1468
candr321@bigfoot.com
Ed Koran 562-427-2560
Edk246@aol.com
Charles Schreiber 714-378-1253
cschreib@csulb.edu

Info/Message Line 949-644-0295
Website: <http://windowsusers.org>

FUTURE MEETING DATES

- ★ April 12
- ★ May 10
- ★ June 14
- ★ July 12

viewfinder, is WinCE 3.0 or Pocket PC 2002 compatible, and fits into the compact card slot of a pocket PC. The PDA-1500 has a suggested retail price (SRP) in the U.S. of \$150.

- The DC-1540 3-in-1 can be used as a digital camera, a PC cam or a video camera and then can be folded up to fit in a pocket or purse. It offers two megabytes of internal memory and the convenience of USB plug and play compatibility, plus consumers get everything they need to send video or still images using a PC. You can fit up to 80 pictures with a resolution of 352x288. It also features a 10-second self timer, and a frame rate of 25 frames per second for transmitting video images. It comes with a editing software package from ArcSoft. The SRP in the U.S. is \$35.
- The SL-2660 and SL-2650 give consumers the functionality of a digital still camera, a video cam, a PC cam, and a security cam all in one package. They offer 1.3 megapixels, 16 MB flash memory, a strobe flash, and a rechargeable Li-ion battery. The SL-2660 also has a 1.3-inch TFT screen on the back of the camera. The SL-2660 has a SRP in the U.S. of \$170 and the SL-2650 of \$150.
- ST-2520, ST-2550: The ST line of 4-in-1 digital cameras provide a digital still, video still, web cam and security cam all in one. ST-2520 captures 1.3 megapixels pictures and has 8MB memory at a SRP of \$140, ST2550 captures 2.1 megapixels pictures and has 16MB memory at a SRP of \$250.

- DC-3810 is a high-end digital camera with CCD of 5.2 megapixels. It includes 3X optical zoom, a multi-function strobe flash, a self-timer, a 1.8-inch color LCD screen, auto-focus capability, 16MB CompactFlash card, 12 frame VGA out, TV out, and USB interface. The suggested retail price in the U.S. is \$500.
- USB-1800 is a 4-in-1 camera: a digital camera, a PC cam, a video camera and an internal USB port. Offering 16MB of internal memory it can also be used as a storage device for documents and large data files. The USB-1800 has a SRP in the U.S. of \$100.
- USB-1810 is a necklace CAM offering a 350K VGA (640X480 resolution) digital camera and memory stick, a deluxe metal body, 32MB flash memory and a rechargeable Li-ion battery The USB-1810 has a SRP of \$100.

Olympus

<http://www.olympusamerica.com>

Olympus was showing their new "Stylus Digital" line of digital cameras. The first members of the Stylus Digital family include the 3.2 Megapixel Stylus 300 Digital and the 4.0 Megapixel Stylus 400 Digital cameras. Measuring an ultra-compact 3.8" long x 2.2" high x 1.3" wide, and weighing just 5.8 ounces. They utilize the new xD-Picture Card™ memory media. The card's small size (about the same as a postage stamp) and an Olympus dedicated miniature Li-Ion rechargeable battery help keep the camera size down. Both models ship with a 16MB xD-Picture Card™. They have a 1.5" color LCD view finder display on the back. Menu navigation is easy to control with the push of arrow buttons. Transferring images to the computer is easy with the Auto-Connect USB (that does not require software drivers) for hassle-free image downloads. Images may also be viewed on a television with the video cable. The all-glass lens (with

aspherical lens elements) that's specially designed for digital cameras, and provides the equivalent of 35 to 105mm, f3.1/5.1 in 35mm photography. The Macro Mode allows users to take close up photographs to capture details like the wings of a butterfly. Other controls include Digital ESP multi-pattern and spot metering; auto white balance; multiple flash settings including slow sync flash; and auto bracketing and exposure compensation. The cameras comes with a built-in flash that offers 6 settings to provide the widest range of options. The cameras also capture QuickTime™ video so users can create short movies that can be sent over the Internet to co-workers, friends and family. The Stylus 300 Digital (\$400) will be available in February 2003, and the Stylus 400 Digital (\$500) will be available in April 2003. Zoom 12x (3x optical and 4x digital combined [5x at VGA]), ISO Auto, 80 – 320 (equivalent).

Oregon Scientific

<http://www.oregonscientific.com>

- DS6618 is only 85.5 x 54 x 6mm, and has a suggested price of \$100. Features Autobrite™ automatic brightness adaptive technology to automatically adjusts the exposure so that details in both bright and dim areas of a picture are clear. Only 1/4-inch thick, and weighs 1.2 ounces. Comes with 8MB of internal memory that stores approximately 26 photos at VGA (640x480) resolution.
- DS8228 is a 2.1 Mega-pixel (1688 x 1248) camera with digital recording feature. It has a compact flash memory and optional 8mb internal memory for picture storage. There is a 3x digital zoom for fixed focus close-ups (macro mode). Offers three photo quality modes - fine, normal, or basic, and three variable resolutions - 1600x1200, 1280x960, or 640x480. The camera has pre-set scene exposure for portrait, landscape, sports, and black

and white options. For optimum use of light, the flash features red-eye reduction, night scene auto exposure, and auto white balance.

Panasonic

<http://www.panasonic.com>

- The new KX-HCM250 network camera allows remote viewing of high-quality, 640 x 480 live video images over the Internet. It requires no direct PC connection and works with any 802.11b-compatible router or Ethernet connection and an AC source. It features a built-in web server and its own web page where automatically uploaded images can be viewed. To remotely view live images on a personal computer, simply open a standard web browser and type in the camera's Internet address. Users can remotely control the camera to pan and tilt, giving them a wide viewing range for monitoring homes or business. Available now it has a manufacturer's suggested retail price (MSRP) of \$750.
- The new DMC-FZ1 high-performance Lumix camera is one of two new 2003 models being launched in February, to be followed by additional models later this spring. All Lumix cameras feature an SD Memory Card/MultiMediaCard slot and built-in USB port. New features include super 12x optical zoom (equivalent to a 35-420mm zoom lens on a 35mm film camera) and F2.8 brightness throughout the entire zoom range. Also new for this year is the Mega Optical Image Stabilization (O.I.S.) feature, which reduces jitter when shooting distant and fast-moving subjects. Another feature is a newly developed digital signal processor, which increases processing speed so that sequential shots can be taken quicker without having to wait for the image to be writ-

ten to the memory card. It features a Leica DC-VARIO ELMARIT lens, 2 mega pixel resolution, stabilization function, a special panning mode, 4 frames per second "burst" shooting, and an included lens hood to diminish flare and ghosting when photographing extremely bright scenes. The MSRP is \$450.

- DMC-F1 features a full metal



body, F2.8 Leica DC VARIO-ELMARIT lens and 1.25" 3.2 mega pixel CCD. Comes with 3x optical/2x digital zoom, QuickTime motion image recording with audio and burst shooting. The MSRP is 400.

- Palmcorder® digital camcorders new models PV-DV53 and PV-DV73 feature LCD displays of 2.5 inches or larger, high optical and digital zoom capability, built-in auto lights and easy PC connectivity. With IEEE 1394 digital interfaces available on both models (with an additional USB port available on the PV-DV73), downloading video images to a PC is simple. MagicPix for rich videos under low-light conditions. The addition of Dual Digital Electronic Image Stabilization (EIS) compensates for hand and camcorder jitter both during recording and playback of previously recorded video. The high-definition 10x optical/700x digital zoom can help users get exceptionally tight shots of far-away subjects. With

Progressive PhotoShot™, users can take still pictures with high resolution, and smooth image contours. By storing image data in two fields instead of one, then combining them with no time lag, the camcorders can produce pictures with 1.5 times the resolution of standard recorded stills

- Palmcorder badge, models PV-DV103 and PV-DV203 fit easily in the palm of the hand. Each model measures 3-3/8 inches high, 2-5/8 inches wide and 4-7/8 inches long, making this line of mini DV camcorders among the smallest in the industry. The PV-DV203 is a multifunction 3 in 1 camcorder that features the benefits of a digital camcorder,

digital still camera and web cam camera. It is fully PC compatible with IEEE 1394, and USB computer interfaces. It also incorporates a removable SD Memory card for quick and secure storage and transference of digital still images. It will be available in March with an MSRP of \$600, the PV-DV103 MSRP is \$500.

- e-wear™ SV-AV20 and SV-AV30 are 4-in-1 A/V SD recorders with a flip-out, 2-inch LCD screen can play back MP3 and AAC audio, record and play back MPEG-4 video, capture and display digital still photos, and function as a voice recorder. Cost is \$400, it is a 2Mb camera which comes with a 64Mb SD card (They have up to 512Mb SD cards now.) The SV-AV30 adds a docking station for recording and viewing footage on a television. Both units feature enhanced picture quality with an MPEG-4 frame rate (15 frames per second) for video and 640 x 480 resolution for JPEG still pictures. A swiveling 2-inch LCD screen and

two record buttons allow users to shoot comfortably with the unit in either the horizontal or vertical position. A new 2x digital zoom helps bring subjects into closer view. Both include a built-in flash, and a built-in USB interface. Planned for April, 2003 SV-AV20 MSRP is \$300, including a 32MB SD Memory Card. The SV-AV30, which includes a 64MB SD Memory Card as well as the docking station, will have an MSRP of \$400.

SiPix

<http://www.sipixdigital.com>

- StyleCam Blink II is a palm size camera which takes VGA resolution pictures (640x480) and comes with 8Mb of build-in SDRAM. With that you can store 70 VGA pictures. You can also capture up to 160 seconds of digital video at 15 fps at 320x240 resolution. It comes with a tilt base to put on or attach to a computer. They give you photoImpression for editing and retouching your photos. With videoImpression you can edit video and image files. It also works with instant messaging from AOL, Netmeeting, Yahoo!, and Messenger. MSRP is \$40.
- SC330 takes up to 3.3 resolution pictures and with the 16Mb of memory and MovieMode you can record live digital video. Video is captured at two modes 320x240 and 160x120, speed being 15 fps. It comes with an optional CompactFlash card slot. Zoom is 3x digital, continuous shots up to 4 images. There is a self timer, red eye reduction, white balance control, and weight is 7 ounces. MSRP is \$200
- StyleCam Deluxe will take up to 1280x1024 resolution pictures, and includes 16Mb SDRAM of built-in memory.

You get photoImpression and videoImpression for editing and retouching your captures. Movie resolution is 320x240 capture at 16 fps. It can capture audio as well. Comes with an easy mount stand for video conferencing.

Vivitar Corporation

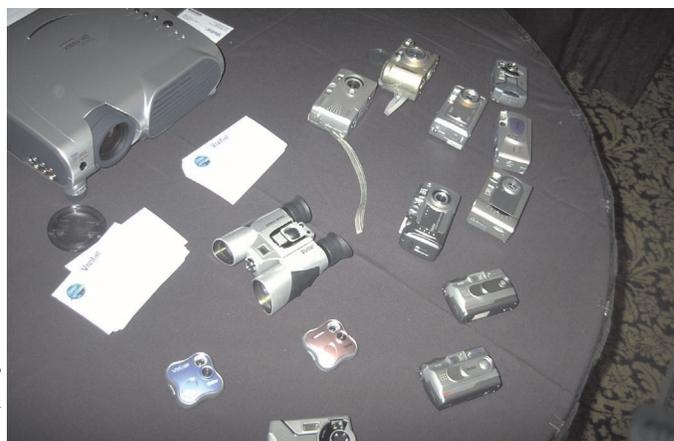
<http://www.vivitar.com>

There was one I could not find information on but thought was really cool. They said was in the press kit, but I could not find it. They have a set of binoculars with a camera on it. So what you see through them you could take a VGA quality picture.

- The ViviCam 3825 is available now. The V3825 is a compact, feature-packed, 4 MP digital zoom camera. Equipped with a 4 megapixel CCD image sensor, its 3X optical power zoom lens ranges from 7 to 20 mm (equivalent to 34 – 97 mm) and is complemented with a macro function. Optical zoom is supplemented with 2X digital zoom capability. Images may be reviewed on the 1.6" LCD display. Users may select from four resolution settings including 2272 x 1704, 1600 x 1200, 1280 x 960, and 640 x 480. MGI Photo Suite SE and Photo Vista editing software are included with the camera. Other features include auto focus, auto white balance, exposure compensation control, built-in flash, and a 10-second self-timer. The suggested retail price is \$470.
- The ViviCam 3745 is available in February 2003. Equipped with a 3 megapixel CCD image sensor its 3X optical power zoom lens is complemented

with 2X digital zoom, and macro capability. Images and video clips may be reviewed on the 1.5" LCD TFT display. In addition it also has a movie mode allowing for the capture of movie clips. Users may select from two resolution and three quality settings. Still image resolution may be set to either 2048 x 1536, or 1024 x 768 while motion JPEG video clips are captured at a resolution of 320 x 240 in AVI format. Video clips captured may be recorded to the extent of available memory. Other features include auto focus, auto white balance, exposure compensation control, an integral four-mode flash, slideshow playback mode, 4X playback zoom (for still images), a 10-second self-timer, and a tripod-mounting socket. The SRP is \$400.

- ViviCam 3675 will be available in February 2003. It has a 2.1 megapixel CCD image sensor, and 3X optical power zoom auto focus lens which is complemented with 2X digital zoom, and macro capability. Images and video clips may be reviewed on the 1.6" LCD TFT display. The 3X optical zoom provides a 35 mm equivalence of 33 mm to 98 mm. In addition it also has a movie mode allowing for the capture of movie clips. Still image resolution may be set to either 1600 x



1200, or 800 x 600 while Motion JPEG video clips are captured at a resolution of 320 x 240 in AVI format. Users may also select three levels of images sharpness (soft, normal, or hard) depending upon the subject. Video clips captured with the V3675 may be recorded to the extent of available memory. The SRP is \$360.

- Vivicam 5 is the smallest in the Vivitar lineup at 2"x2". With 8 Mb of internal memory it can store 45 images at VGA resolution (640x480). Images can be downloaded through a USB port. The SRP is \$70.

PDA's

CMC

<http://www.cmcia.com>

CMC has a number of PDA's including the PPC-500 which uses the WinCE operating system. It has expansion slots for CompactFlash and SD memory. It has an Intel StrongARM 206Mhz processor, and color display. Software includes handwriting recognition, calendar, contact, task, notes, Pocket Word, Pocket Excel, Pocket Internet Explorer, Windows Media Player, and solitaire. The LX-100 uses a LINPUS linux operating system and comes with 8Mb of SDRAM and 4Mb of Flash memory. The EX-880 has the same amount of memory and uses a Motorola Dragon Ball processor. It's display is a color LCD, and uses CompactFlash for external memory.

Hewlett-Packard (HP)

<http://www.hp.com>

The iPAQ Pocket PC h5400 series and h390 series use a Intel Xscale 400MHz PXA250 processor. The h5400 comes with 48Mb of Flash ROM and 64Mb of RAM. The h3900 series has 32 or 48Mb of Flash ROM. Both have TFT color (up to 65,536 colors) touchscreen display. Both use input by handwriting, keyboard or voice recording. They use the Windows Pocket PC 2002 operating system. This gives the user Pocket Word, Pocket Excel, Pocket Internet Explorer, Windows Media Player,

solitaire, and more. You can expand them with slide wireless packs.

Oregon Scientific

<http://www.oregonscientific.com>

Entry Level Organizer (Model #PDA188, MRSP \$29.95) is designed specifically to take the intimidation out of "a digital day timer". It has a large easy-to-read LCD touch-screen, 256K non-volatile flash memory and has plenty of storage with up to 384K characters available through its compression data technology. The contact folder on the PDA188 is formatted in three partitions for categorizing the personal telephone directory and address book, which makes contacts quick and easy to locate. A monthly calendar, individual day or full week viewing option is available so that the user can see a plan for the day, week and month. Handles date and time schedules, reminder alarm for an important appointment or special occasion, date and time, and note pages for memos, grocery lists, "to-do" lists, and tasks. Other features include a calculator, a foreign currency converter, time display, a world time clock, and synchronization to any PC with data transfer to such programs as Microsoft Outlook and Goldmine.

Phones

Donate a Phone

<http://www.donateaphone.com>

A way for charities to raise money from old cell phones. ReCellular Inc., will purchase them and send money to the organization, the phones are refurbish, and reprogrammed. They even cover the cost of shipping the phones to the processing facility. Any phone not able to be repaired is recycled according environmental laws (not just thrown in trash.) Charitable organizations will receive over \$10 million this year from ReCellular and literally 2 million phones will be recycled and not end up in landfills.

Oregon Scientific

<http://www.oregonscientific.com>

Thermo Dect Phone (Model TW338): As a 2.4 GHz cordless

phone with Caller ID, the base unit also functions as a display for weather conditions, time and temperature, while the receiver has an additional sensor for reporting current temperature for its surroundings. Features an easy-to-see backlit LCD display that displays the time, 10-memory speed dial, storage of up to 40 Caller ID numbers, and page-from-handset.

Panasonic

<http://www.panasonic.com>

The KX-TG2258S digital cordless telephone features a number of innovative technologies for people who are hearing-impaired, including Talking Caller ID, which is capable of phonetically speaking names received by the Caller ID, and Panasonic's exclusive Voice Enhancer Technology to enhance the whole spectrum of the human voice for improved audibility. They also had nine new 2.4GHz GigaRange® cordless phones, 5.8GHz cordless phones and other cordless models. All had most of the above features.

Sanyo

<http://www.sanyowireless.com>

The Sanyo SCP-5300 is not only wireless, but also a camera phone. It has a 2.1 inch TFT 65,535 color LCD display. Pictures can be taken with the camera open or closed. It can store up to 79 images and can zoom in up to 16x. Sold at Radio Shack.

USElectronics

<http://www.uselectronics.info>

Dick Tracy would have loved their wrist watch radio telephones. I know I did, I went back to work telling them they should replace the two pound bricks they carry. They could be used just like walkie-talkies for up to two miles. They also showed 2.4Ghz wireless with 40 name/number directory. Three line display shows caller ID, call waiting and talk timer (GH9457RM). Also introduced was a 5.8Ghz cordless analog phone with digital answer machine, and caller ID on call waiting. (GH5830BK.) Both units have Multi-Handset systems which you can add up to nine handsets.

These have dual keypad, built-in speakerphone, two-way intercom between base or handsets, and more.

Watches

I have had a digital watch for years and love them for the alarm ability. Well my watch stopped working (would not switch over) so I was interested in looking at them.

Oregon Scientific

<http://www.oregonscientific.com>

The Altimeter Weather Watch sport watch (Model #RP107, MSRP \$300) is bundled with PC software and a docking station (RZ910), and computer port linkage (RS232) for downloading information from exercise routines or mounting onto equipment such as bicycle handlebar. It measures altitude and vertical speed (feet per second), while monitoring outside temperature (Fahrenheit) and barometric pressure for current and 12-24-hour weather forecast. With a chronograph stopwatch timer that extends up to just under 100 hours, and a heart rate monitor with wireless chest strap it can be programmed for an audible and visual alarm for your optimal heart rate training zone, as well as altitude alarm warning, daily alarm and three other event alarms (MSRP \$200).

Timex

<http://www.timex.com>

The new Ironman with Data Link USB connection works with Microsoft

BITS & BYTES

Continued from page 1

Also tape is a sequential backup and much time is wasted in trying to restore one file about 75 percent of the way in. CD and hard drives are random access and will find the file quickly.

I backup with Stomp Backup MYPC and image with Drive Image 2002 by PowerQuest. Both programs work well, but I have never gotten the emergency restore set to work in Stomp. Drive Image works from a boot disk for a full restore or in Windows, using Image Editor, I can restore any file(s).

With the DVD player, the best program I have found for viewing a movie or video is PowerDVD XP from

Outlook to download phone numbers, contacts, schedules, and other information. It has multiple alarm, time, and time zone capability. The user can allocate memory to features used the most. Such as more alarms or appointments. Contacts can have addresses, four phone numbers, and email address. Appointments can be set for daily, weekday, weekend, weekly, monthly, yearly, or one day. There is even a reminder feature for each appointment. The man who showed it to me had a sense of humor. He programmed the watches for the others. What they didn't know was that he set the alarms to go off at 2:00 a.m. and every half hour after. Due out in Spring 2003 for about \$90. Their Ironman Bodylink System is a network of devices worn on the body to gather sports monitoring information.

Next month I'll report on wireless networks, DVD, the PVR's (personal video recorders), and other products I saw. I did not include a lot of pictures here because the size would be huge. The last time I did that the PDF was 3Mb. I will put this on the club's web site with pictures so you can see them right away, or of course you can click on the links to take you to the companies web sites. Look for <http://www.windowsusers.org/ces2003.html>.

Cyberlink. My DVD player came with a basic or lite version, but I found the full upgrade well worth the cost. Using an ATI All-in-Wonder card (Rage 128), I can play the DVD on my TV, play the TV on my computer, or watch the DVD on the computer. It did require installing the latest ATI drivers for XP and running six cables between HAL (computer) and the Satellite control box and the VCR. Your installation may vary depending on the equipment you have and what you want to do. One incentive I had for doing this is my knee surgery. I now can lay on a couch and watch DVDs, check email and surf the internet while elevating my leg.

AverVision300

From AVerMedia

By Terry Currier

AverVision300 is called a document camera because its basic design is a camera that points down and takes pictures (displays) what is in front of the lens. This makes it easy to put documents down and show them on a screen for everyone to read. You can do that without having to scan them in or make transparencies first. Really ideal for schools and law offices, but it really is more than just that. The camera can pick up more than just text on a document. It will see and show whatever is put in front of the lens. There are two VGA ports on it—one for output. This can be hooked up to a monitor or, for presentations, a video projector. The camera has a 850K-pixel CCD sensor and will display up to 1024x768 XVGA/DVI resolution. It has the ability to zoom in up to 8x so it will even let you read that fine print on the used car contract. The input can be hooked up to a computer, microscope or anything with a VGA output. This then is transmitted to the output projection. The output can be at 1024x768, 800x600, or 640x48 resolution.

It is small in size. Folded flat it is about 14" long, with the arm up it is 9"Lx6"Wx17"H and weighs only 3 pounds. The arm can move up down or extended outward. The arm extends out up to 22 inches from the base unit. The camera can be turned 180 degrees. This allows you to not only show what is directly below it, but just like a camera up can point it at any object you want to project. They provide four laser points on each corner to help correctly position what you want to show. This can really be helpful with displaying small objects. With the panel on the unit or remote control you can pan the camera up, down, left, or right. So if the image is not quite center you can line it right up.

There are no software drivers to install—it is plug and show. It comes with microscope adapter included. You can purchase a optional light box for viewing 35mm slides or negative film as positive images. Other features include:

- Menu which lets you select automatic or manually change the amount of brightness, contrast, white balance, exposure (flicker)
- Switch between text and graphic mode
- Image mirroring
- Image reverse
- Change image to Negative / Black and White / Color
- Night View lights up the image so you can see it better
- Freeze image on screen
- On-screen presentation timer

AverVision300 is sold directly from AVerMedia (408) 263-3828 <http://www.aver.com>

The cost is \$999. They have other units with less zoom (4x) and effect down to \$499. It comes with a three-year parts and labor warranty. It is the type thing if you need it when you will see this you'll want it right away. By the way, I checked some other document cameras and they were more than double the cost.



File Rescue Plus™ 3.0

from Software Shelf

by Terry Currier

File Rescue Plus 3.0 is designed to recover files which have been deleted. It will work on an NTFS, FAT32, FAT16, or FAT12 formatted drive. It will work on removable drives, including 3.5 floppy, Zip, and Jazz. It will also work on digital camera media if the computer can see it as another drive. It can recover files emptied from the Recycle Bin, or deleted from the command line. For digital camera media, it will work on Flash Media, CompactFlash, SmartMedia, Secure Digital, and Memory Stick.

Reminder: a deleted file is not truly gone. When you delete a file you are telling the operating system it can now use the space the file was taking up. But the file is still there until overwritten. Therefore your best chance to recover a file accidentally or otherwise deleted is to try and get it back as soon as possible. Ergo it also helps to have such a program already installed ahead of such an event, since installing the recovery program afterward could overwrite the needed file.

There could be a situation where the software cannot be installed on a computer system. In that case, you can use the files they give you, Undelete.exe and Unicows.dll, on a floppy disk and run it from the floppy drive.

When you first run the File Rescue Plus program a screen is presented asking you what you want it to look

for (scan mode). The choices are: look for deleted files, a cluster scan which recovers files from a quick formatted or virus damage drive, or a picture rescue to recover digital image files from a computer or digital camera media. After that it will ask you what drive you want scanned, and if you want to look at all deleted files. You can narrow the scan and look for a specific type only such as Microsoft Word files.

A list of all the files it found deleted is presented. Select what you want to undelete from that list. You can save the scanned list, but not the scan. If you realize you needed another file, you will have to restart File Rescue and rerun the scan. The scan is very quick. It took less than a minute to scan my drive. The scan came up with a list of 558 deleted files. Now this was before I emptied the recycle bin and defragged, which I thought was a lot. It literally looks at everything which the you or system deleted. Any file you moved to another folder is a copy from one and delete from the other. Open and close the file, the system creates a link file. File Rescue Plus will lists them all. Files which are updated, such as when you go on-line and the index files are changed, will be listed. Files which I just looked at in ACDsee were listed as deleted files, which they were not. Even just starting up AOL or Namo WebEditor caused it to list the all the associated files as if they were deleted. That would be something I wish would be corrected, that it would not be so sensitive.

The list presented to you includes the file name, what folder it was deleted from, size, date last modified and, most important, the condition of the file. You

File name	Directory	Size	Modified	Condition (od...	M	FirstCluster
?C6.JPG	C:\RECYCLED	10KB	2003/2/1...	Good		152403
?C7.ART	C:\RECYCLED	3KB	2003/2/2...	Good		332580
?C8.ART	C:\RECYCLED	5KB	2003/2/2...	Good		351678
descript.ion	C:\RECYCLED	0	2002/11/7...	Poor		458752
FileRescue.msi	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	2MB	2002/12/...	Good		477887
Setup.ini	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	1KB	2002/12/...	Good		363787
Undelete.exe	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	2MB	2002/12/...	Good		142189
unicows.dll	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	241KB	2002/10/...	Good		281393
Setup.exe	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	108KB	2002/10/...	Good		272904
InstMsiA.exe	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	2MB	2001/9/2...	Good		272923
InstMsiW.exe	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	2MB	2001/9/1...	Good		478010
FileRescue.zip	C:\RECYCLED\?C12	6MB	2003/2/1...	Poor		474722
VivitarBin.jpg	C:\Word	5KB	2003/2/9 ...	Good		431151
?S_FTP.LDGG	C:\Word	1KB	2002/8/2...	Good		431152
CA_user_groups.xls	C:\Word	91KB	2002/8/2...	Good		431153
ca_county_map.jpg	C:\Word	31KB	2002/8/4 ...	Good		431156
web contest.doc	C:\Word	32KB	2002/6/5 ...	Good		431157
download5a.txt	C:\Word	16KB	2002/6/7 ...	Good		431158
makaha.zip	C:\Word	6MB	2002/6/7 ...	Poor		431160

can also print the list and a print preview is included. The list can be sorted by clicking the appropriate header bar over the file list.

The file condition tells you your chances of recovery. The ratings are excellent, good, fair or poor. The chance of your recovering a deleted file will depend on how long ago you deleted it. Since then, did you defrag or copy a number of programs onto the hard drive? It will also depend on the type of file. As a comparison, 558 files were found on the first scan. After defragging only 12 deleted files were found, and those were just system type files such as Internet History (index data). Text or word processing files get recovered easiest. With pictures you have a fair chance. They almost always will be recovered, but half the time they will come out okay while the other half, when you look at the picture its not right. Zip files and executable files will often have something wrong with them, and PDF files almost always never come back correctly.

From the list, select the file or files you want recovered, and click on the save file icon. The Save dialog will appear. Simply choose the original directory (Default) or another directory on any available drive and click Save. The file will be restored to its original location or the chosen location. When

recovering more than one file, you should not save the files back to the same partition they were originally on, since each write to the partition changes the file structure, and could prevent recovering other files.

One thing I did find in testing is that I would usually save the recovered files to a \temp folder I set up. In copying some files to that folder I did a straight delete (holding the shift key down while pressing delete bypasses the Recycle Bin). After starting up File Rescue Plus and doing a scan of deleted files, I notice those files were not listed. I did it several times before I realized that since I recovered the deleted files there, it would not register deleted files from there. By doing the same process in other folders, File Rescue Plus listed those properly.

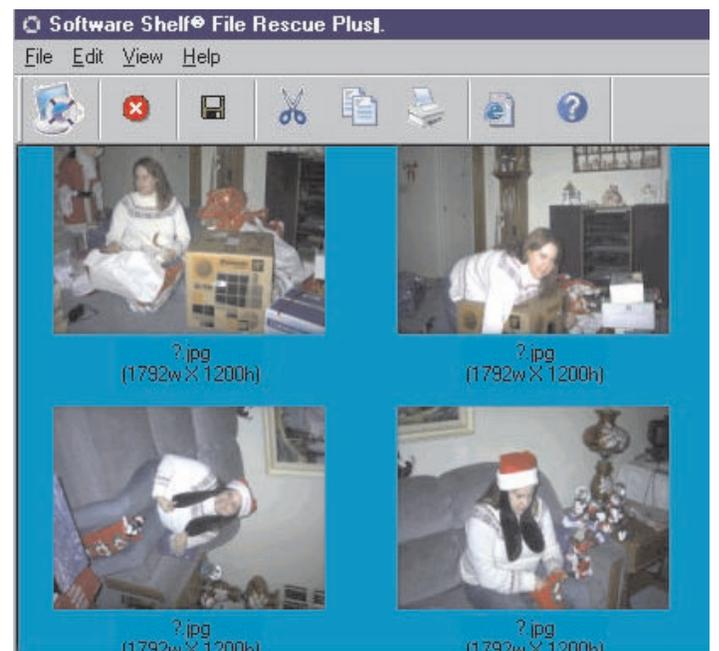
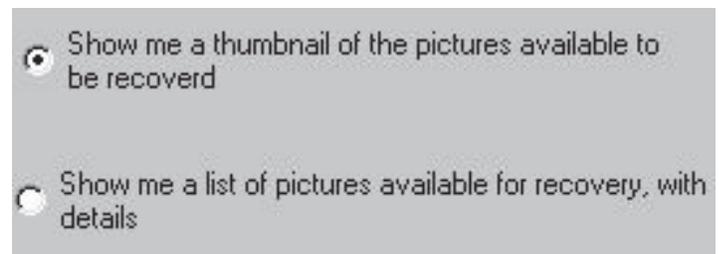
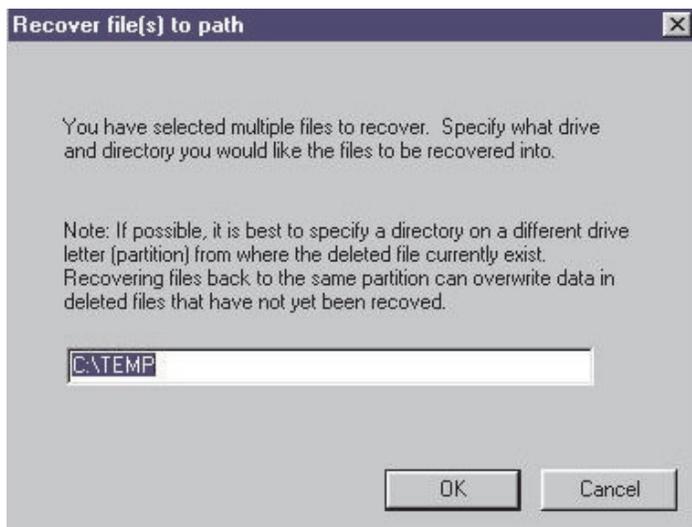
All that said, how did it do? The answer is, it depends. When I tried to undelete some Word files it got back three out of four but one could not be read. Same with digital pictures. Zips, PDFs, and executable files, I had no luck with. However, when I deleted files and then immediately used File Rescue Plus to bring them back, it worked 100 percent of time on all the files.

Where it really shone was in the recovery of digital images from my CompactFlash disk. Putting it in a media reader makes the disk a removable drive and File Rescue Plus could read it. It not only listed the files/images, but gave a thumbnail of each deleted picture from which I could select the undelete. You can recover graphics or pictures even if you've quick-formatted the media. It will present a thumbnail for deleted or corrupted picture files such as: .GIF .JPG .PNG .TIFF .EPS, etc...

File Rescue Plus works with Windows 95/98/ME, and Windows NT/2000/XP

The cost is \$29.95 download or \$34.95 for the CD to be shipped to you. I would consider it a good buy; just remember to use it as soon as possible after the deletion. I also recommend getting such a program before you need it, too long afterward may just be too late. Get it from Software Shelf (800) 962-2290 or

<http://www.softwareshell.com>



April 12 – 9 a.m. to 12 noon Orange Coast College Science Building Room #149

BELKIN

Belkin will show us some of their latest, greatest products. Among them are UPS, USB hubs, USB wireless network connectors, digital camera media readers—actually just about anything to do with USB. Latest is Belkin's 54g Wireless Cable/DSL Gateway Router that lets users share files and a broadband Internet connection among their computers without using networking cables. It features 54g technology that makes accessing files and networked peripherals, such as hard drives, printers, CD-ROMs, and DVDs, easier than ever. 54g technology provides you with networking speeds nearly five

times faster than the current Wi-Fi (802.11b) standard. An integrated, 4-port 10/100Base-T Ethernet switch also allows you to connect wired computers to the network. The Gateway Router uses the wireless 54g 2.4GHz standard to offer you the widest working range—upto 1800 feet—and greater interoperability in mixed networking environments. 54g technology is backward compatible with the 802.11b Wi-Fi networking standard so it allows you to implement faster wireless technologies in combination with existing 802.11b Wi-Fi networks.



PIG SIG: We will go to the Red Robin Restaurant, 1307 W Sunflower Ave Santa Ana, CA 92704-7432 Phone: (714) 432-1111

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