

New Style

Newsletter of the LaCrosse PC Users' Group

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This Month: Genealogy 7 PM, June 30 in the Overholt

You're probably thinking: "Who's the clown doing the presentation this month?"

It will be the best known clown in the Coulee region. No, not Congressman Kind, it's Dr. Richard Snowberg, aka Snowflake the clown.

He'll show several different programs designed to help you search and establish some order out of what you find. He also will show some useful web sites. For you traditionalists he'll also bring along some paper charts.

For several years now, Carol's mother has been doing research the old fashioned way. Walking through cemeteries, searching through church and courthouse records, wearing out her car. Several months ago she finally went online and has been well pleased.

You may find genealogy dull as dishwasher, but you never know what you may find. No one remembered it, but only 50 years before Carol's parents married the families had been united when her great uncle married his great-grandmother's half sister .

Privacy online and off

You've probably heard that Intel has toggled off the ability of the Pentium III to report it's unique serial number when asked. The latest concern is that some upcoming software requires that the reporting ability be turned on, not just to install and register the software, but if the software is to run at all.

The usual suspects have made reassuring statements. That it will only be used to prevent piracy, since you have to register to run the program and they have the processor

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President's Message

Marian Havlik

Greetings from Washington DC (June 13; no White House visit this trip). At the May LCPC meeting we welcomed several new faces. During introductions Chuck Whalen told what REALLY happened when area phones went down for 3 hours at 5:00 pm, mid-May.

Our Program was a demonstration of Online Services. Gary Stelzig handed out an ISP reprint from the Digital Viking newsletter. I showed why I switched from AOL4.0 back to AOL3.0. A lively discussion followed since many members use AOL. Jack Storlie said you can get AOL technical support at: techprob@aol.net

Al and Monica Fritz said there is an AOL discount for belonging to AARP. No one was aware of this, and of course it isn't advertised much.

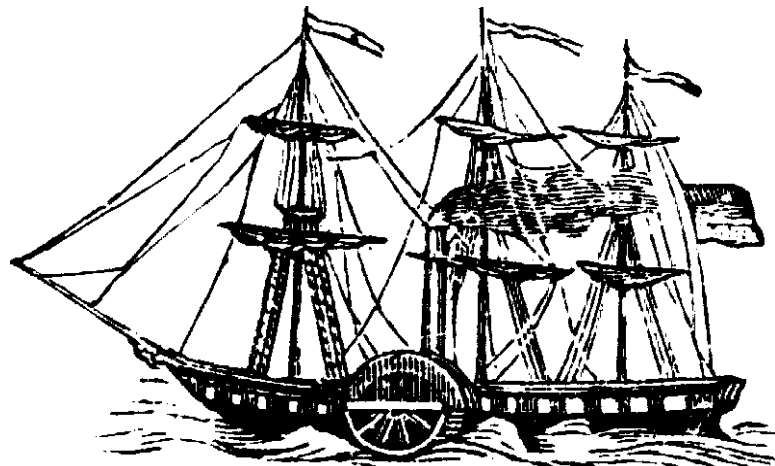
Chuck showed how to use AOL with a credit card in an area without a local AOL number. We did everything but put in my charge code. Then I had fun at home trying to figure out where we'd been, when I completed the process (Control Panel > change Modem settings). This would be even more complicated if you do not know how Cen-

tury routes their calls (through MCI, but several numbers are listed). Chuck also talked about Century Internet.

Ernesto Brauer said he uses ExecPC because he gets a discount through Gundersen Lutheran (\$14.95/month). The disadvantage is that he can only use it (easily) in the local area. A big thanks to Ernesto for seeing that the Overholt projector has the cable for laptop connections. We are privileged to have a wonderful, convenient place for the LCPC meetings.

Other services such as Hotmail and Juno were also discussed. Several members use Juno for email.

Problems included a demonstration of changing settings in the Windows Registry. Chuck cautioned us to make a backup file before working with the Registry. There was also a discussion of the sleep mode for laptops after I said I seldom turn mine off, even when traveling. Several years ago in a DC airport I had to show that my computer worked, and on 2 recent flights from La Crosse I had to take my computer out of it's case.



Visit our homepage at <http://www.wi.centuryinter.net/lcpc>

Treasurers Report

Gary Stelzig

April renewals were paid by Chuck Whalen and George Frisch - thank you.

Welcome new member Mike Larson who just started coming to meetings. There are no renewals for June.

Past due renewals: Ernesto Brauer and Bill Simdars. A couple of new guests include: Paul Bequette and Arlene Wiese.

Our checking balance as of 5/13/99 is \$299.35. May deposits of \$60 for memberships are not in bank balance. May expenses of include \$13.20 for stamps, \$1.48 for photocopy costs, and a April expense of \$31.59 for Hello labels and Ink Jet labels for mailing newsletters

Member E-mail addresses

Please check over your e-mail address carefully for accuracy. If it isn't right let us know!

The LCPC Home Page:

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An LCPC Board meeting was held June 7. It was decided we would put about 1 page of the newsletter on the LCPC Web Site, after each meeting. Chuck Whalen (maintains site) volunteered to do this. Programs for the remainder of the year include: June-Genealogy with Dr. Richard Snowberg. Plans call for a program on Office 2000, but I've been unable to make a contact for that yet. Other tentative programs include: How to Build a Web Page, Care and Feeding of Printers, Upgrading Your Computer, and a Christmas goodies program.

What ever happened to Lisa?

Marian Havlik

In the Summer 1999 "American Heritage of Invention & Technology" an article told what happened to Lisa, 10 yrs after Steve Jobs got the idea for the first commercial computer to use a mouse and icons.

Apple computer was founded in 1976. The idea for Lisa began in 1979 when Jobs saw a machine named Alto at Xerox's research center. Alto had features never seen before on a computer. It's heart was the GUI. Files were identified by icons. Price: \$40K. But Jobs set about incorporating the spirit of Alto into Lisa. After nearly 200 man-yrs of work, and \$50 million, Lisa made her debut 1-19-83. Bundled with Lisa was sophisticated software including a word processor, spreadsheet, and a paint program, things computer users now take for granted, but at the time these programs were superhuman feats of engineering. There was even a wastebasket.

Apple had high hopes, but Lisa cost \$10K, and the 48 lb Lisa was chubby, awkward, and slow. Faced with competition from cheaper, zippier machines, Lisa quickly fell behind. Jobs estimated Apple would sell 50,000 in a yr, but it took nearly 2 yrs. After re-engineering and improvements, Lisa II was introduced as the XL. I remember this era very well since I bought my first computer in 1985. At one local computer store, the only thing the clerks could talk about was the Mac, but I had already made up my mind to get an IBM compatible.

Oh yes, in 1989 2700 Lisas were buried in a landfill in Logan, Utah. This event put an end to perhaps the greatest and most revolutionary failure in the history of computing. What will future archeologists think?

from *Datasheet II*, newsletter of the Tarrant County Computer User Group, April 1999

Mormons Go Online

Margie Wylie

Much to the delight of genealogists, the Mormons are preparing to make some of their vast holdings of family records available on the World Wide Web for the first time next month, if not sooner.

The new Web site, www.familysearch.org, won't officially launch until mid-April, but it is expected to "go live" for testing any day now. Church officials originally planned to leave the site open to all during the test period. But for fear of being swamped, they may limit access to official testers with assigned passwords.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints collects genealogical records of all kinds because the Mormons believe it is important to perform religious rites on behalf of dead ancestors. It has the world's largest collection of such data.

Genealogy is one of the most popular subjects on the Internet. As more information goes online, it seems to create more genealogists. About 100 million Americans have at least dabbled in it, and 19 million actively research their family history, according to a 1995 Maritz Marketing Research study for American Demographics magazine.

Rootsweb has more than 200,000 subscribers to 3,000 e-mail lists about genealogy. The number of subscribers is growing rapidly, says John V. Wylie, a professional genealogist from Grand -Prairie. Wylie is a co-founder of GENTECH, a nonprofit society to help genealogists use technology.

Mormon Church officials are vague about what Web surfers can expect to find on their new site, but that hasn't dampened genealogists enthusiasm.

"I think the reaction the is probably going to be unanimously, WOW! It's about time!" said Marthe Arends, editor of the newsletter *Pioneers Online*, based in Bellevue, Wash. The newsletter helps genealogists use the Internet.

With 2 billion rolls of microfilm, 700,000 microfiches and 280,000 books, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is the ultimate source for many genealogists. Anyone can use the materials at the Family History Library in Salt Lake City free of charge.

They may also borrow materials for a small handling fee at any of the library's 3,200 branches.

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Ultimate Family Tree Deluxe, v.2.0

Stephanie Nordlinger, LACS, From User Friendly—the Journal of the Los Angeles Computer Society, April 1999

I have done genealogy on my computer since the mid-1980s and have tried a variety of genealogy programs and even tried to help a club member design such a program. The DOS versions of Personal Ancestral File (PAF), published by the Church of Latter Day Saints, were very easy to use, especially for data entry, and produced good, well-designed reports. However, until the current version 3, PAF lacked an acceptable word processor. PAF was a cheap (\$35-\$40) DOS and Apple program, but many other genealogy programs were developed at prices from \$50 to several hundred dollars.

I bought CommSoft's Roots II and upgraded to Roots IV, supposedly the "top of the line" programs at the time. I never used either of them much because of poorly designed interfaces. I stayed with PAF. CommSoft later developed cheaper, reportedly more user-friendly software. Ultimate Family Tree by Palladium Interactive, Inc. is the grandchild of this software. It competes with programs in the \$50 - \$75 range from several other companies, while PAF version 3 has dropped to \$20 and PAF Companion v.2 costs \$15. (All prices are approximate retail before tax.)

Any serious amateur genealogist needs good genealogical software. While word processors, spreadsheets and unspecialized databases can be used to store genealogical data, this is like reinventing the wheel. Genealogy programs set up data fields, reports and charts for you, handle date problems like the change in calendars in the 18th century (which occurred at different times in different countries), understand family relationships, can make reports that suppress data about private matters such as adoptions and illegitimacy and sometimes produce genealogies in standard formats. The most recent generation of genealogy programs, including UFT, operate under Windows, can access Internet sites and handle multi-media inputs such as creating a family photo album, reading CDs, etc.

Installation and System Requirements

UFT Deluxe requires Windows 3.1, 95 or Windows 98, a 486/33 MHz computer or

better, 8 MB of RAM (16 MB preferred), 50 MB of hard disk space, a 256-color SVGA monitor, a CD ROM drive and, for Web features, a sound card, modem and Internet account. A scanner is useful to get pictures into your album and publications.

I don't remember any initial installation problems. The program comes on 3 CDs, one for the program and two for the Social Security Death Index (54 million records, through 1996). It is, however, annoying when parts of the program (e.g., the Family Tutor) ask for my program CD and it's in the CD drive, but the program keeps asking for it. I changed my CD's drive letter from M to Z to let me add and subtract physical and logical drives without changing the CD drive's letter. I had a dreadful time trying to locate a UFT screen that would allow me to designate the new drive letter. The program would say it couldn't find drive M, but it didn't give me a chance to specify a new location.

Extensive Features

I liked the Social Security Death Index and successfully looked up people in it. The photo album looks good, but I didn't have a functioning scanner, so I couldn't do much with it. The program provides 1,600 photos and maps from Europe and colonial American and flags from around the world to illustrate your genealogy. These files are in a standard format and accessible from other programs.

I also liked the Records Requestor, which not only puts your basic data into form letters but also contains a number of record repository addresses and makes a list of your requests so you can follow up and avoid duplicate requests. The tutorial (Family Tutor) and the U.S. Gazetteer are good ideas. I think that tried them earlier, but I can't get the program to recognize my CD now. (It may be damaged; the drive letter is correct.)

Unlike some programs, UFT provides plenty of space to accurately describe your sources, which is important. You can link unlimited events to a person's life, specifying his or her role in each. There are reliability checks, a Research Log, yellow "sticky notes," and the ability to create a family journal with formatted pages. There are histori-

cal time-lines, and you can set up birthday and anniversary calendars. While UFT doesn't contain any Jewish features, it doesn't insist on labeling charts BR/CR for birth or Christening record date as PAF has done. It supports a number of freeform fields, so you can enter immigration data, medical data, etc. The program also supports LDS events and sending GEDCOM files to the LDS Church Ancestral File.

Operations - Clumsy

Unfortunately, Ultimate Family Tree v.2.0 is a clumsy effort at a Windows program. Once you know Windows, it is annoying not to be able to minimize or close a window without going to an icon in the upper left corner of the screen that brings up a File menu. Some screens have x-boxes in the upper right corner, which sometimes let you close the screen. Sometimes, for no apparent reason, they don't work or are grayed out. Often there are no minimize boxes.

Indeed, I had to look at the manual to even open the program. The initial screen comes up, but there's no obvious place to start. The top third of the screen is the button to start the main program. The bottom has icons for other programs: the Family Tutor, the World Photo Studio (Family Album Maker), the Records Requester, the Social Security Death Index, Online Resources, and a U.S. Gazetteer for 1833 and 1853.

When you have data installed and the program opens, you are in an individual data file. It is not intuitively clear how to get anywhere else. While there are icons across the top of the screen and drop-down menus, unlike most Windows programs there did not appear to be a way to add text to the icons so that I could readily distinguish them. You can get flyover labels.

Indeed, navigation in the general program is rarely easy or obvious. I couldn't figure out how to get rid of Search results either intuitively or by using the Help file; even closing the window didn't do it. When I conducted a new search, the original results still came up (with the new results at the top). I often used excessive keystrokes or didn't go where I intended to go. I rate the main part of the program poor in ease of use. The extra products like the Social Security Death index were easy to use.

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Importing Data

The main program will hold thousands of records, which can be imported from other genealogy programs via a GEDCOMM or G.I.E. file (a more or less standard format for transferring genealogical information). I imported my Personal Ancestral File files (or possibly Roots II/IV files that had originally been PAF files) with general success and not too much hassle. Ultimate Family Tree will pick up the record identification numbers (RINs) and marriage record identification numbers from your previous program, which is helpful in locating people's records in your older genealogical charts.

However, PAF version 2 lacks word wrap, and UFT deletes the hard returns at the ends of the lines in PAF notes, so all of my notes were jumbled together. The data was there, but neat lines of city directory data were one long paragraph. When you have over 1,200 people in your database, many with significant notes, this can take a long time to fix. A program exists that minimizes this problem when converting from PAF 2 files to PAF 3. If you have PAF v.2 files, it might be worthwhile to get and use it and PAF 3 before importing long PAF files into UFT.

Reports

UFT provides a wide variety of genealogical charts and reports and allows you to put specific reports on your right mouse button so that you can produce them with a minimum of effort. I was especially pleased with a Relationship List report that listed not only my immediate family and ancestors, but also included up to third cousins twice removed.

However, producing your first report is not as easy as in PAF. You make some choices and then click "Print." Nothing seems to happen. Actually, this activates the Text Editor, generates the report and puts the text editor on your lower taskbar. If you click on that, the report appears. You can review it and make the usual Windows corrections or changes in font, title, etc. and then actually print it. It is saved as a Rich Text Format (RTF) file, so it is accessible from many modern word processors. But even though this 1997 program was running under Windows 95, I was limited to an 8+3 character DOS file name. Why?

Documentation - Help??

UFT comes with a well-illustrated 350-page User's Guide. You will need it. The indexed and generally well-written manual includes appendices on using UFT if you have used other genealogy programs. It also contains a "Troubleshooting" section, but I could not find any reference to a tech support telephone number, a corporate telephone number, a fax-back number or an email support address. The company does provide tech support on the web site, by toll telephone call, by fax, mail, e-mail and a message board. The web site includes a list of (mostly ROOTS) users groups.

Ultimate Family Tree is fattening. Fattening? Not only will you spend many hours entering and manipulating your data, but you will need frequent trips to the kitchen for cookies or whatever because of your frustrations in trying to use it. For example, I apparently told UFT to use Netscape as my browser. But I never got Netscape working well and have been using MS Internet Explorer v.4 under AOL. In ANY other Windows program, you could just find the Setup or Preferences button and make the change in less than a minute. In UFT, there's nothing relevant under "preferences," no Preferences or Setup function under "Online" and nothing very helpful in the Help file. The entry under "Connecting to Palladiumnet" says to use Browser Setup to configure your browser, with no link or hint of where to find it. "Browser" in the index leads to:

"Configuring a Browser

"You can install a browser from the Ultimate Family Tree CD. Follow the instructions in the documentation supplied with the program.

What are help files for? Where is my manual? I find it, and it says on page 6:

"1. Exit Ultimate Family Tree.

2. Follow the browser Setup instructions included separately in the Ultimate Family Tree box." Well, I had kept the box, but the instructions weren't there, and they weren't in my file either. Fortunately, the Tech Support and FAQs section of the web site finally answered the question.

Web Site

UFT provides an extensive web site (uftree.com) including access to original data, some genealogy publications, an opportunity to create and register your own

web page and view the pages of others, tutorials, a chat room, a user group program and the usual technical support, FAQs and sales information, including a comparison with the features in Family Tree Maker. I recommend the web site to genealogists whether they have this program or not.

UFT must be running to access the better features of the UFT web site, and your browser must NOT be running until you seek to go on line via this program. This is unnecessarily burdensome to those of us who use various programs in sequence when on line and try to minimize wasted time because we have limited-use Internet accounts. The site takes several minutes to authorize your visit and a long time to load.

Versions

The box did not say which version of the program it was. "About UFT" was not on the main menu but was on the Help menu. It and the Users Guide said it was version 2.0. I looked for an upgrade on the web site, but couldn't find any mention of version numbers or updating on the main screen. I discovered them only when I sent an e-mail query to Tech Support about my non-responsive CD. The current version is 2.8, but there was no apparent way to download it until Tech Support gave me the URL. The update is 5.9 GB. Its readme file showed corrections of many problems not mentioned here, but it did not cover problems corrected by versions 2.1 through 2.7. Thus, this reviewer has no way of knowing which of the previously mentioned glitches have been corrected until she has time to install and use version 2.8 (past our deadline). Since the upgrades are not readily accessible to UFT users unless they complain about something to Tech Support (I even said I was reviewing the program) and since you can't tell which version you are getting from reading the box, this reviewer has no qualms about complaining about version 2.0.

The slightly more expensive UFT Platinum includes the same components as the Deluxe version plus a new multimedia tutorial, a free Ultimate Family Tree Library subscription, and photo enhancing software

Company Mergers

From at least February 10 through March 18, 1999, the UFT web site contained a let-

The Internet present and future

The estimated number of Internet subscribers recently hit 83 million people, up 20 million in the last 6 months. The introduction of good, inexpensive computers with modems will cause 1998 and '99 to be the years that people will look back on as the start of the "connected" lifestyle.

Looking back over the last 5 years, it is mind-boggling how much has changed. Faster modem speeds, increasingly better Internet browser software, and an explosion of content available for viewing has made the Internet the biggest event of the 90's. What is going on now, and what will happen in the future? And what will be the effect on how Americans communicate and conduct their daily lives? This article tries to cover the present and point out how today's trends could influence life in the year 2005.

Present Trends

1. Online Communities - The Internet is quickly becoming the favorite meeting place of the world. Students, parents and business people log on for hours a day, talking to others in chat rooms and also by using the "buddy software" that lets you know when the people you want to communicate with are online and allows you to have conversations with them anytime. Before, you were limited to talking to 1 person at a time on the telephone. Now you can converse with dozens of people at a time.
2. Online gaming. - There are dozens of online areas to play games against others, the amazing thing is that several of them average over 100,000 users at one time! Whatever kind of game you play, you can now join with others on the Web and play anytime! No worry about getting a partner, there are always thousands of other people to play. No worry about wanting to leave early or late, there is always someone willing to take your place.
3. Online shopping - It has come down to this, anything you can buy at a store, can now be bought online. Cars, computers, clothes, appliances, books, music, antiques, pharmaceuticals, travel, jewelry... the list is endless. Since the merchants offering the

products do not have brick and mortar stores to maintain, often the prices are less expensive than at traditional retail stores. There are even merchants that offer prices that are below their cost just to have you come to their sites and see the advertising.

4. Online news - Almost every newspaper in the country is also being published on the Web. It is now easy to keep up on news from your hometown, even if it is located 2000 miles away. Not only can you take your pick of any or all of the major newspapers, you can arrange to have them downloaded to your computer during the night, so that you can read them that morning.
5. Online Radio - Listening to the radio on the Internet has become so popular that Microsoft's newest web browser comes with a listing of all radio stations that offer Internet broadcasting. It even comes with a "radio tuner" that you can dial and get different broadcasts just like on your radio at home. At the present time, quality is good with voice radio; a fast modem is needed to hear true stereo music.

What can we look forward to during the next 5 years? Here are some predictions:

1. The number of users of the Internet will climb to 80% of the USA population, or roughly 240 million individuals.
2. Pocket-sized computers with wireless Internet access will be available to everyone. This Summer IBM will introduce its new MicroDrive that fits 340 megabytes on a hard drive the size of a townhouse cracker. The next advance will be in 2001 when Optical Drives will store 20 Gigabytes in an area slightly larger than a postage stamp. Speech recognition software will become 99% accurate and will be the primary way to interface with all your computers. Combine all this with cheap access to nationwide digital cellular service and the ingredients for a truly connected society come together.
3. The Internet will be everywhere, a central part of every day. 95% of the population between 8 and 70 will have

personal Internet access. Schools will become wired for the Internet and wonder how they taught without it. Homes will have computer access in several places, allowing the whole family to be connected.

4. 40% of all purchasing will be done on the Internet. During the next 5 years look for a large number of businesses to close their doors because of inability to compete with web merchants. A huge benefactor of Internet sales should be anyone that delivers items bought on the Internet.
5. Call me a dreamer, but I believe that with the Internet available to all, more and more issues will be debated and resolved on the Internet. The near instantaneous nature of Internet communication means that policies can be proposed, debated and voted on within weeks. Imagine what the effect would be if new laws were proposed on the web, emailed to each person, debated on bulletin boards and then each person made a decision and sent it to their elected official! I believe that this will be especially useful for local communities to find out what residents want.

I have always believed that while not all change is good, without change, things will never get better. We are looking at changes in the next 5 years that will totally transform the way everyone will work, play and manage their lives. Our challenge is to make sure that we seize this opportunity to make our lives better.

This article is furnished as a benefit of our membership in the *Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG)*, an international organization to which this user group belongs. The author, Stephen Morgan has been watching and participating in the advance of computers since 1976 when he got hooked by one of the first Multi User Dungeons (MUD) available through the Minnesota Educational Internet System. He is currently the program chair for the Plateau PC Users Group in Crossville, TN and the Northwest USA advisor for APCUG.

LCPC members, make sure you hang onto this page so we can discuss it at the June 2004 meeting. I'm sure that my work environment won't be "totally transformed" in the next 5 years.-your amused editor

Hidden Win98 Utilities

Dan Jerome

Those who lament that Windows 98 offers nothing new haven't been looking in the right places. Microsoft tucked its most valuable new features into obscure, backwater locations. We show you how to uncover a host of new utilities to keep your system lean and mean.

Gather System Information.

Windows 95 excelled in hiding away its system-reporting utility: (Hint: It's stuck in the Control Panel's System applet's Device Manager tab-click on My Computer, then on Properties.)

The old Win95 reporter is still there in Windows 98, but it's been upstaged by a sophisticated new System Information utility:

SysInfo. As insiders know, it sits in a completely different corner of Windows: click on Start | Programs | Accessories | System Tools | System Information.

Win98 SysInfo offers a detailed view of the hardware and software that resides on or in your system. All the old DOS troublemakers are there: IRQs, DMAs, and I/O addresses. Alongside them sit the new troublemakers: forced Plug and Play assignments, details on USB ports and infrared devices, audio and video codecs, and more.

Unlike the old Win95 report, which confined itself to hardware basics (and wasn't always entirely accurate), *SysInfo* tells you everything you want to know about the inner workings of your system software, and some applications too. You can print a complete description of your system, and you should do this at least once in the life of your PC. But brace yourself:

SysInfo doles out info by the bucket, and your system's report could run well over 100 pages.

Check System Files!

Don't leave *SysInfo* just yet. Several important Win98 utilities are accessible only from its Tools menu.

System File Checker examines all your system files (DLL, EXE, SYS, VXD) and calculates a Cyclic Redundancy Check (CRC) number for each one. The CRC is constructed so that a single bit flipped in a system file generates a CRC that differs from the original CRC. System File Checker com-

pares the calculated CRCs with a list of CRCs stored in the file C:\Windows\default.sfc and if it discovers a discrepancy offers to reinstall the presumably corrupt file from the Win98 CD.

To get to **System File Checker** click on Tools|System File Checker Click on the Settings button in the main dialog box and choose the files you want to check. Win98 calculates the CRC the first time you run it with a new file type and stores the CRC in default.sfc. On subsequent runs, it checks the files you picked against the CRCs in default.sfc.

In addition, **System File Checker** can find a single file on your Win98 installation CD and install it to the correct location on your hard drive.

Manage Version Conflicts

Next you should check out Windows 98's *Version Conflicts Manager*. Its goal is to keep your system stable. Here's how it works.

When Windows 98 installs itself, it overwrites all sorts of things: files, Registry entries, programs, and more. The Win98 CD contains a set of known good programs. Microsoft tested the living daylight out of Windows using this very precise set of applications. Win98 has a much better chance of starting and running properly if these programs are installed.

When Windows wants to install a file, say, VSERVER.VXD it first looks on your hard drive to see if there's already a copy of that file. If there is, Windows checks to see if the version of VSERVER.VXD on the Win98 CD is more current than the version sitting on your hard drive. If Win98's version is newer, it tosses the old version and installs the new one.

A problem arises when the version on your hard drive is newer than the one on the Win98 CD. If that happens, Win98 still installs its version of VSERVER.VXD. But instead of just dumping the original VSERVER.VXD, it copies its version to C:\Windows\vcn. It's true that the Win98 installer should give you some sort of warning about what it's doing (it doesn't) but the approach is basically sound: You can get Win98 up and working, then slowly move your newer files back into

service. Take a look at which newer versions of programs (typically drivers) were displaced by older versions on the Win98 installation CD by checking the *Version Conflict Manager*. Bring up the System Information utility and click on Tools|Version Conflict Manager Follow the instructions from there to restore displaced files.

Scan the Registry

If you have fond nightmares of working with SYSTEM.DAT and USER. IST files, you'll appreciate ScanReg, the Windows 98 Registry maintenance utility. ScanReg runs automatically every time you start Windows. It checks for obvious screw-ups in the Registry and prunes away deleted keys.

You can also start ScanReg manually:

Bring up the System Information utility and click on Tools|Registry Checker ScanReg, takes off immediately and alerts you to any problems. ScanReg creates a new backup of the Registry every time it runs. It stores backups in a five-deep series of Windows CAB compressed files called RB*.CAB, RB0000.CAB, RB0001.CAB, and so on, in C:\Windows\Sysbckup. To restore the backups, boot to the DOS prompt and run scanreg (the DOS version of the program).

Perform Maintenance

Win98 includes a handy utility called the *Maintenance Wizard*, which lets you schedule regular runs of the disk maintenance utilities Disk Defragmenter, CleanUp, and ScanDisk. To launch it, click on Start | Programs Accessories System Tools | Maintenance Wizard. Unless you set a schedule from within the *Maintenance Wizard*, Defrag and *ScanDisk* run once a week, while *CleanUp* runs once a month.

Schedule Tasks

You can schedule more than just system maintenance in the Maintenance Wizard. Windows 98's scheduler automatically launches any program whenever your PC is running. Double-click on the tiny icon that looks like a clock on top of a calendar in the Taskbar Notification Area. Double-click on the line marked Add Scheduled Task and follow the Scheduled Task Wizard to set up a maintenance routine or to automate other tasks.

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Ultimate Family Tree—Continued from page 4

ter from the President and CEO of Palladium Interactive stating that it and The Learning Company, the parent of Banner Blue, publishers of Family Tree Maker, had reached a definitive agreement to merge. The site says that all of the current product lines (UFT, FTM, Family Origins and Family Tree Creator) will continue to serve separate markets, but the alleged page describing the company's plans in detail was missing. A further merger with Mattel Toys is scheduled for April 1999.

Conclusion

The UFT manual and CD covers claim that the program is "the easiest and fastest software for completing your family history." Hogwash. Ultimate Family Tree will do a lot for your genealogy if you have sufficient time and patience. But if you are busy and familiar with other Windows programs, you may find it a pain to operate. I am going to look seriously at its main competitors, Family Tree Maker and Personal Ancestral File, v.3 with PAF Companion v.2, before doing more work in it. If you can buy it at the right price, it may be worth purchasing for some of its web and other features like the Social Security Death Index CDs and the graphics images, while you keep your data primarily in another, easier-to-use program. The next version of UFT might be worth buying if they hire Windows programmers to make the program and the web site easier to use.

Ultimate Family Tree Deluxe, v.2.0, Palladium interactive, Inc., Attn.:

Ultimate Family Tree, 899 Northgate Drive, 4th Floor, San Rafael CA 94903. www.palladiumnet.com or www.ultree.com. Technical support: 319-378-7105. Fax support: 415-446-1726 Sales: 888-891-1919 Customer service: 617-761-3000 Street price: \$25 - \$60.

Fun Web Site

Since I got no feedback when I posted this earlier, I'm going to put it up again. Make sure you click on both "Continue" and "Cancel" in turn so you can check out the site.

<http://www.twmacinta.com/detector/English.html>

Hidden Win98 Utilities—Continued from page 6

Compare Files

Another useful hidden Win98 utility, *WinDiff* compares two files or two folders and highlights the differences. You have to install it from the Win 98 CD, where it's buried in Win 98 Resource Kit Tools Sampler Run setup.exe from the CD's \Tools\Reskit folder. When you're done, *windiff.exe* doesn't appear on the Start Programs Windows 98 Resource Kit menu; instead, you go to: C:\Program Files\Win98RK\windiff.exe. Double-click on it to start. Once it's running, click on File\Compare Two Files; wait a minute or two while the comparison takes place; then hit F8 to cycle through all the differences.

Contributing Editor Woody Leonhard has written more than a dozen books on Windows and Microsoft Office, including The Mother of All Windows 98 Books (with Barry Simon). Subscribe to Woody's Office Watch (WOW) free weekly electronic newsletter by sending a blank message to wow@wopr.com. Edited by Liesl La Grange Noble.

Privacy -cont. from page 1

serial number on file. They say they're not really interested in what other programs you have installed, what your hardware is, etc. But since I've heard so many lies about cookies their reassurances are less than reassuring. You've probably read in the papers about BankOne in the Twin Cities.

If you're interested in protecting privacy check out: <http://www.junkbusters.com/>

The site also includes information about dealing with junk mail, junk e-mail, and telemarketers.

Beta testing

It seems that I've paid MicroSoft \$89.95 to work as a Beta tester for Windows 98 and Internet Explorer 4. Not a week goes by without IE4 locking up or going bananas.

Sunday I went to examine this newsletter. The task bar showed no programs active. I opened IE4 and CRASH! I lost the task bar and all icons. Ctrl-Alt-Del showed CorelDraw and PageMaker open! Clicking on "end task" for each program didn't help. All that appeared was the wallpaper. I tried "shut down" from Ctrl-Alt-Del but finally had to turn the power off and cold boot.

Mormons go online—Continued from page 2

A tiny but important portion of data is available by computer. In 1978, the church began computerizing some of its records in a program dubbed Family-Search. The program is currently offered only at libraries and branch libraries.

The church won't sell Family Search to individuals because it can't afford to offer everyone support for DOS, the older system the program requires. That makes it a perfect candidate for the Web.

One of the first FamilySearch databases expected to be offered online is Ancestral File. This simple database lets surfers type in names and find family trees compiled by other researchers, mostly amateurs.

The International Genealogical Index, also part of FamilySearch, lets researchers search millions of marriage, death, and birth records taken from archives in the United States and abroad. The church won't say if the index will be offered on the Web site.

Even thousands of church volunteers typing the information from original records into computers can't keep up. "We can digitize only a tiny fraction of what we capture each year," said David Rencher, manager of public outreach for the Family History Department of the Mormon Church.

Fort Worth Star-Telegram and Newhouse Network, 3/31/1999

Online Genealogy Information

A few Web sites that offer information useful in genealogical research:

*Mormon genealogy site opening in April, www.famsearch.org

*The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Foundation, www.ellisland.org

*Rootsweb, www.rootsweb.org

*GENTECH, genealogy support company, www.gentech.org

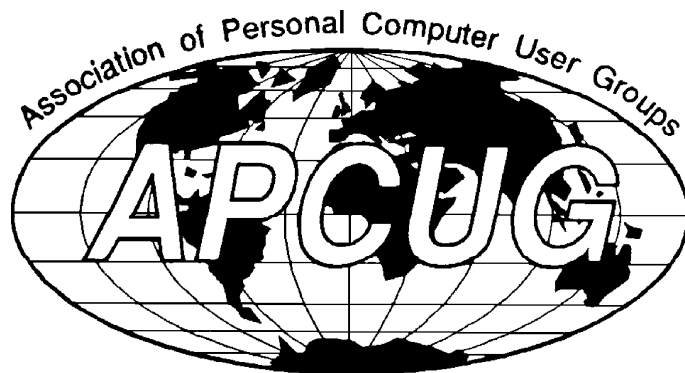
Overclocking

You may recall in the early '90s it was all the rage to run your 486 chip at a higher speed than it was designed for.

Well, here we go again. Buy a \$100 Celeron 300 chip, change your motherboard speed from 66 to 100 and you instantly have a 450 chip. This shortens the chip's life, but it should last until you ditch it in two or three years. Lots of hints and information at:

<http://www.overclockers.com>

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Dues are \$20 for one year following payment. Membership entitles you to attend meetings, tap into the corporate wisdom, receive special user group discounts from publishers and others, receive (and contribute to) this newsletter. You may also obtain software provided by publishers for review of the product. Unsigned articles are by the editor.

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