

THE GURU

(formerly C-Watch)

TRUMCUG

Trumbull Computer Users Group

Since 1984

Supporting All Personal Computers

November 1994

Volume 2 Issue 3

P.O. Box 8632

Warren, Ohio 44484

Meeting Notice: Third Wednesday each month (except July and August) @ 7:00 PM. Our next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 16, 1994 at the Warren branch of Cortland Bank, on Elm Rd. (Rt. 5) North of McDonald's and across from Sims Buick.

Trumcug Officers 1993-1994



President, Co-Secretary, Amiga & IBM Librarian

Ray Williams (216) 847-8280

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Doc Sindelar (216) 395-3122

Trustee 2yr

Bob Boyts (216) 772-4220



Trustee 1yr and Guru Editor

John Calderwood III (216) 898-4674

Future Meetings

Future meeting is scheduled for Wednesday December 21.

November meeting

November's demo is going to be 3-D hidden stereograms (also known as single image random dot stereograms) of the type that you see in the Tribune Chronicle Sunday comics section. These are the "jumbled" looking pictures that you hold up close to your eyes and then slowly pull it away while concentrating on the picture.. and you're supposed to see an image from the "jumble"??? Oh well, Bob Boyts is going to show us how to do this on his Amiga 1200.

Also we're going to see a demo on PrintShop Deluxe (companion?) by Nathan Truhan. He's going to show us how to print up banners, signs, greeting cards and other things on an IBM compatible. Come and see what your printer can do!!

LAST MEETING

October's demo was a double speed Mitsumi cd-rom player. We looked at several disks thought the Windows environment, including: Compton's MultiMedia Encyclopedia, Grolier's MultiMedia Encyclopedia, Dictionary Of The Living World (which is a biology type disc), KGB-CIA World Factbook (which is an "infopedia" of facts, figures & maps of countries around the world), and a disk of shareware programs that are Windows only programs.

On the dos side, we looked at a "\$ave on \$oftware" disk that was mostly dos oriented shareware programs.

Also we looked at "Laser Library", a cd-audio player with a Sony-type look and feel to it. This program allows you to randomly play or shuffle play audio cd disks just like your stereo. It has a feature where you can type in (and save to disk for future use) all the titles and info on all the tracks on an audio cd. I think this was the favorite program of the younger people there! My favorite encyclopedia cd is Groliers.

Net Mosaic

There are 3 "big" online services available: Prodigy, Compuserve and America Online. *AND THIS IS THE YEAR EVERYTHING FELL INTO PLACE FOR THEM.*

[Ed. Note--What about GENie? They are going to have full internet access by the end of the year. Delphi has had full internet access for years]

Upstart America Online has grown 200% in the last 12 months. Users have complained of busy signals and its stock has fluctuated wildly.

But just as things are starting to look good and money is rolling in for these online services, things are starting to look a little shaky with 40,000 competitors looming on the horizon and the whole idea of competing commercial networks being undermined by the network that connects them all: INTERNET.

The reason for the popularity of these commercial online services was the ease and friendliness of using them. Everything being together under one roof, sort of like a shopping mall.

In comparison, the Internet was sprawling and disorganized. Getting around on the Internet was likened to trying to find your way around in a foreign city where the streets have no signs and you don't have a map. You could find many things on the Internet, but you had to know where to look.

But now the Internet has become a lot more accessible mostly because of two inventions:

a.) World wide Web (which is an organizing system within the Internet that makes it easy to connect between computers around the world)

b.) Mosaic (a "browser" computer program that presents information in the Web in a point-and-click format familiar to Window & Macintosh users.

What the user sees when he fires up Mosaic is a document that looks something like a magazine page, with nicely formatted text and bulleted lists of places and things. It has icons and images which have "links" to other locations on the Internet.

Certain words are highlighted in blue, and clicking on them makes the program reach across the

Internet and grab pages of information- wherever it happens to be- and displays it on your screen. For example, click on "World Wide Web", and you're in Geneva, Switzerland where the "Web" was developed!

Mosaic was originally developed by 23 year old programmer Marc Anderson at the National Center For Supercomputing Applications at the University of Illinois, and because it was developed with government money it was free.

Because of the program's immense popularity and other people's efforts to "cash in" on similar programs, Marc joined forces with Jim Clark and started a new company called Mosaic Communications and has lured all but one of the original Mosaic development team to Silicon Valley for some intense programming sessions and developed a commercial version of Mosaic called: Mosaic Netscape.

It's faster and slicker than the original and it allows users to safely pass sensitive information such as credit card numbers over the Internet.

For all of Mosaic Netscape effort, there is some stiff competition from Mosaic look-alikes, such as: MCC's MacWeb, and Spyglass's Enhanced Mosaic, Netcom's NetCruiser and Jim Gleick's Pipeline, to name a few.

These are some of the recommended programs for "cruisin' the net".

Items Of Interest

Internet News

"Young, hip Mosaic Communications was supposed to have the edge in the race to improve on NCSA Mosaic- the Internet 'browser' that made the complex computer network surprisingly easy to use. After all, the Silicon Valley start-up hired away most of the hackers at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign who had written the original program, and their new version-Mosaic Netscape- is suddenly the hottest thing on the net. So why are AT&T, IBM and Digital Equipment licensing a competing version from low profile Spyglass? Because Spyglass has something Mosaic never bothered to get- a license from the university. School spokes-

men say they are trying to avoid a lawsuit, but add, "We're obligated to our licensees to protect our intellectual property."

source: *Time magazine*, November 7, 1994

Bulletin Boards

Link could cut costs for computer users

"Computer users stand to save hundreds of dollars a month in long distance charges with a new system linking electronic bulletin boards across the country.

PC-Ohio in Lyndhurst and Rusty n Eddie's's in Youngstown are among the 30 electronic bulletin boards lined up by Concentric Research Corp. of Bay City, Mich. to form BBS Direct, which debuted yesterday [1st week of November]. The system is the latest of a variety of efforts to cheap link computer users over long distances.

For a flat monthly fee, the system gives long-distance callers of bulletin systems access through a local phone call. Subscribers to BBS Direct also receive full Internet access that gives them high-speed connections to other computer systems.

'We have built what we always wanted as cyber-surfers, an inexpensive and reliable way to connect people and information,' said Marc Collins-Rector, president of Concentric Research.

The 30 initial bulletin boards in BBS Direct have 600,000 subscribers, about 280,000 of whom dial up long distance and spend more than 10 hours a month on the boards.

Electronic bulletin board systems allow computer users to share information, software, and video and audio files across telephone lines. While boards such as PC-Ohio tend to be general interest, some, such as Small Business Connects in Westlake, have carved out specific niches.

Bbs Direct subscribers will still have to pay to subscribe to individual bulletin board systems, much as a cable television viewer would pay extra for premium channels.

About half of PC-Ohio's 5,000 subscribers dial long distance, said Norm Henke, who started the board nine years ago and runs it from an addition to his home."

source: *The Cleveland Plain Dealer* written by Jonathan Gaw

Quantum Link Off-Line

On a sad note, Q-Link is wrapping up service. Another old friend is dying and they should be honored for a job well done. It was the first BBS that I ever used and I made all of my mistakes with that service. (They were very forgiving.) It has been reported that Genie has many of the same files as Q-Link, so if you are looking for a replacement, check them out.

source: *ACGUG Albany Corvallis newsletter* Vol. 12 No. 8, Aug. 94 by Randy Weitman, editor

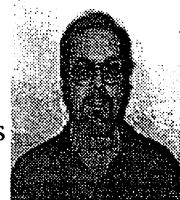
Local

According to the October 9, 1994 issue of *The Commodore Connection* (which is The Mahoning Valley Commo-

dore Club's newsletter), they have done the same as Trumbull Commodore Users group, and voted to open their computer club to all computing formats: IBM compatibles, etc.

Thanks Ray!

A big thanks to Ray Williams for his help in articles for the newsletter.



BBS NUMBERS

This is the revised list of local BBS numbers.

| Name | Type | Phone # |
|-----------------------------|---------|----------------|
| U.S.A. | Amiga | (216) 872-7464 |
| U.S.A. II (Y-town & Warren) | Amiga | (216) 544-5419 |
| Viper's Pit | Amiga | (216) 847-8669 |
| Blue Thunder | IBM | (216) 372-3579 |
| Technical Solutions | IBM | (216) 372-7270 |
| Home Line | IBM | (216) 847-0427 |
| Cat's Meow | IBM | (216) 637-8288 |
| Eagle Eye | IBM | (216) 399-3851 |
| The Last Resort | IBM | (216) 394-3063 |
| The Love Board | IBM | (216) 637-8397 |
| Steel Valley (Warren/niles) | IBM/Ami | (216) 544-0095 |
| The Monopoly | 64/128 | (216) 638-2227 |
| The Ledges | Amiga | (216) 548-2801 |
| Amigaman After Dark | Amiga | (412) 962-0961 |

(6 PM to 9 AM EST M-F Sat & Sun 24 hours)

Update

Sandbox is down, and I've heard that it might be down permanently.

If anyone has a BBS he or she wants to add, or if there are any corrections or BBSs that have gone down, leave e-mail to Picard on USA.

Newsletter

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TrumCUG COMPUTER MEETING

on the

3rd Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm

(except July & August)

++ Cortland Bank ++

Elm Road--Warren, Ohio

>> TrumCUG Membership Card & Dues Notice <<

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