

The Bridge

The Journal of the Memphis PC Users Group

Volume 18 Number 8

August 2002

General Information

For Information on Special Interest Groups, see yellow pages in the middle

For Member feedback, contact us on our Voice Information Line

901-375-4316

or on our Web site:

www.mpcug.org

In This Issue

The School Bell	Page 2
Adobe Photoshop Elements	Page 4
Out for Review	Page 5
602 PC Suite	Page 6
Teach Yourself Photoshop 7	Page 11
Encarta Reference Library	Page 12
Windows XP for Dummies	Page 13
Teach Yourself Windows 2K	Page 14
July Meeting Report	Page 15

Main Meeting Wednesday, August 28 Southwest Tennessee Community College

5983 Macon Cove, Memphis

Farris Meeting Room A

Second Floor - Farris Admin. Building

New Users & Wizards 6:30 p.m.
Main Meeting 7:30 p.m.



Guest Speakers For August

Topics of Discussion

Advanced Technical Training
A+ Operating Systems Fundamentals
A+ Hardware Fundamentals, & Network +

And Microsoft Office Classroom Training

Tech Shop, Wireless Networking, Game Fixx,

McAfee/Microsoft Products

Door Prizes

Discount coupons available for Members
Call Terri Isbell (901) 565-2050 for more info



The School Bell

News From MPCUG Education Services

By Gil Hennon, Education Services Coordinator

When Gene Kan testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee in July 2000, he was nervous and a bit in awe of the high-ranking government officials and music industry executives surrounding him. By the same token, the Senators and CEOs were unsure what to expect from him. Gene was obviously very intelligent—often called a technological genius—and very likely the most brilliant mind in the room that day. He was there to explain peer-to-peer networking, and specifically music file sharing by Internet users of Napster and Gnutella. But he didn't snow his listeners with technical jargon. Gene spoke softly of people and information in motion, of digital rights and the tradition of freedom. He described a future society where everyone could reap the benefits of peer-to-peer technology. Music sharing was only a small beginning, he told them, in spite of the fact that it had become instantly popular with millions of users. "The people who use Napster are not criminals," Gene told the Committee. "They are not the thugs you see on the evening news. The people who use Napster are your family and friends."

Just the fact that a Senate Judiciary Committee was interested in people listening to music scratches at our curiosity. What did Senators care about music? Not much, actually. But they did care that their large campaign contributors—the Big Media firms in recording, television, publishing, and movies—were frantic about ordinary citizens exchanging digital copies of songs over the Internet through

their computers. There hadn't been very much of it at that point, but peer-to-peer file swapping was a fast growing threat to Big Media's iron-fisted control of artists and distribution. In a panic, they called upon their hired hands in Washington. Big Government must protect Big Media's profits.

Gene Kan didn't know much about politics, but he knew plenty about peer-to-peer file exchanges. Although he hadn't been one of the originators, he mastered Napster and then its successor, Gnutella. He expanded the technology and authored an open source version of Gnutella which he ran from his own Web site, and became one of the most visible advocates of peer-to-peer networking. Eventually, Gene founded a company, InfraSearch, that used peer-to-peer technology to find and deliver information between normally incompatible sources and destinations. Mark Andreessen, who wrote the first Netscape Web browser, was an early investor in InfraSearch. The successful company was later acquired by Sun Microsystems, where peer-to-peer technology was merged into their UNIX system tools.

On that day in July two years ago, before the Senators, Gene spoke of a perfect world where peer-to-peer technology provided everyone with a better life. Change was inevitable, he predicted, and he urged Big Media and Big Government to adapt and share in the benefits. In a perfect world, they would have listened and learned. But adapt and change are not

their methods. The gentle, quiet young genius scared the bejabbers out of them.

One of the results of Gene's testimony was the hastily drafted legislation now known as the Digital Millennium Copyright Act. To keep peer-to-peer technology from bringing about the changes that Gene predicted, the DCMA gutted existing copyright laws, removing the "fair use" rights of those who acquired music, books, and tapes, and gave Big Media unprecedented control of artistic content, even the right to invade the private homes of U. S. citizens. The DCMA protects Big Media's profits at the expense of the artists who create the songs, movies, books, and television shows, and the citizens who purchase those artistic products.

Gene Kan dreamed of a perfect society where digital rights and freedom of expression are important and inviolate, where information flows simply and easily from sources to where it is needed. Big Media rejected his assertion that peer-to-peer networking opened fresh, opportunities for companies who adapted to the new technology. Peer-to-peer offered a widespread and more profitable market presence without any manufacturing costs, physical inventory, or overhead expenses. Peer-to-peer delivered artistic products to customers when and where they wanted it with virtually no distribution cost. Peer-to-peer even provided fair recompense directly to the creative artist right at the moment of sale without any long and drawn out accounting processes. There were benefits for everyone in peer-to-peer networking, but that didn't satisfy Big Media. They wanted it all and the DCMA gave it to them.

Dreams die hard, and Gene Kan's dreams were no exception. After planning his future around the peer-to-peer technology, he found it hard to change course. Big Media and Big Government legislated into oblivion his visions of higher human purpose. With obvious disappointment, Gene ceased promoting peer-to-peer technology. He tried to start some new projects, but his enthusiasm wasn't there. None could match the promise and potential of peer-to-peer anyway. Even his lifetime interest in racing cars was dimmed.

Not too long ago, Gene edited his resume to read: "Summary: Sad example of a human being. Specializing in failure." On June 29, nearly two years after his testimony before the Senate, Gene Kan put a gun to his head and took his own life. He was 25 years old.

This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Memphis PC Users Group, Inc. (MPCUG) Copyright ©1998 MPCUG. Unless otherwise indicated, articles may be reprinted in other non-profit publications without express permission, subject to the following conditions. Full acknowledgement must be given to the MPCUG, The Bridge, and the author. The article must be reproduced in its entirety from magnetic media, without editorial changes, deletions or additions. Two copies of the entire publication containing the reprinted article should be sent to The Bridge within 30 days of publication. All other rights reserved. Any changes to the article require the written permission of the author. All articles are made available through the APCUG BBS and on disk to qualified non-profit organizations.

Any opinions expressed belong to the author and not the Memphis PC Users Group, Inc. Articles in this newsletter may contain trademarks of various companies. Any proprietary right those companies have in those names is hereby acknowledged.

Unless otherwise indicated, all submissions to this newsletter become the property of Memphis PC Users Group, Inc., and are subject to editing by the staff. The MPCUG reserves the right to determine the suitability for publication of all items received.

Members are encouraged to submit articles for publication. By submitting articles, the author gives permission for publication in this newsletter and for publication by other user groups. The editor cannot guarantee that all submissions will be used.

The information contained in this newsletter is believed to be correct and accurate; however, the Memphis PC Users Group, Inc., cannot and will not assume responsibility for the consequences or errors contained in articles or misapplication of any information provided. Any information used from these articles is at the user's own risk. If a review of any hardware or software contains errors or inaccuracies, upon notification of these errors or inaccuracies by the manufacturer in writing, a correction will be printed in the subsequent issue following receipt of these corrections.

The Memphis PC Users Group, Inc., makes no warranty, expressed or implied, as to the suitability of any advertised product. You must determine that yourself. The Memphis PC Users Group, Inc., also expressly declines to assume liability for any use of any published software, and your use of same constitutes your agreement to hold us blameless.

Memphis PC Users Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 241756
Memphis, TN 38124-1756
Internet: www.mpcug.org
Information Line: 901-375-4316

Adobe Photoshop Elements

Software Review

Reviewed by Rick Fischer

Asiaweek called it “*Photoshop* for fumlbers.” They are describing me pretty well. Digital graphics is definitely one of my weak areas. But, it looks like I will have to study a lot harder to work up to fumbler.

Photoshop Elements is “designed specifically for amateur photographers, hobbyists and business users who want an easy-to-use yet powerful digital imaging solution.” That’s what it says on the box and that’s what attracted me to *Photoshop Elements*.

Let me suggest a reason **you** might want to take a look. The full *Photoshop* costs around \$609.

Photoshop Elements sells for \$99. Got your attention?

Even so, you’ll need some time to get to know this powerful program. I started with the manual (aka User Guide). This is a real hefty manual – 260-some pages of instruction and “how to.” It’s very good at showing what each of the program’s functions can do. More *what* than *why*.

I also bought *Adobe Photoshop Elements One-Click Wow!* This book is produced by Peachpit Press in cooperation with Adobe. It is a good deal



smaller in size (58 pages), but it emphasizes the big picture (no pun intended). You use the *Photoshop Elements* functions to accomplish common tasks. I am working my way through this book now. I believe it will shorten my time to understanding considerably. It also features a CD with preset styles ready to go. There’s lots of effects for photos, text and shapes.

Adobe has four tutorials on its Website. The specific site is noted at the end of the review. Here you will find a picture gallery and tutorials on creating a postcard, creating a background image for your Web page, creating a Web photo gallery, and color correcting a scanned image. I did a lot of reading before I ever tried the program.

Distinguishing features

Photoshop Elements uses layers – something I haven’t found in photo products in this price range. Layers gives you

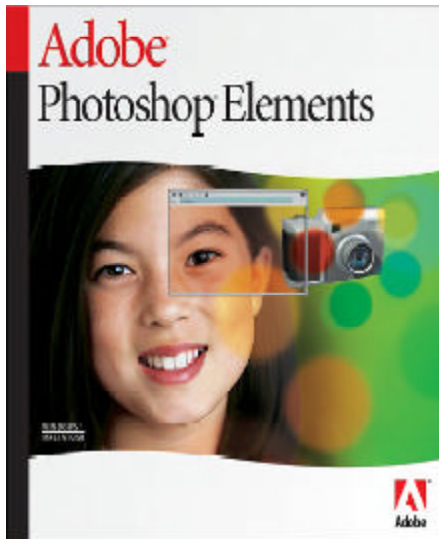
special control over changes you make to an image. It also creates (or permits) complexity. Some might see this as **reducing** complexity by allowing you to isolate effects.

My favorite features (so far) are the recipes and hints palette. The recipes selections branch from six to 30 or more. More are available for download via the Internet. Until I get comfortable with a complex program I use checklists to get work done. Adobe has made the checklists for me already. And, they sit in the workspace where I can refer to them as needed. The Help menu is in addition to the hints and recipes.

Both of these features support the occasional user. I appreciate that.

Capabilities

I’m almost afraid to start listing features. The list won’t be exhaustive. It’s got red-eye correction, darkroom tools, lighten, darken, contrast adjustments and color correct. You can put images inside objects or shapes, make eye-grabbing buttons and lettering for Web pages. Isolate parts of an image and put them in a completely different image. It



has built-in GIF animation tools (haven't tried that yet). Add special 3D effects, drop shadows and frames around pictures. Retouch and repair old photos. Even output in PDF format.

I don't believe they designed the graphics program yet for true fumlbers. In the meantime, you should be able to do pretty good work with *Photoshop Elements*.

For Windows or Mac

Windows requirements: Pentium or equivalent processor, Win 98 or above, 64MB RAM, 150MBV on hard drive, color monitor with 256-color (8-bit) or greater video card, 8—X600 or greater monitor resolution, CD-ROM drive.

\$ 99

www.adobe.com

Tutorials:

www.adobe.com/products/tips/photoshopel.html

Out for review

Here is a list of software, books, or other products you can expect to see reviewed here in the coming months. These members checked out items to review for the benefit of all.

Windows XP Unleashed	David Arant
eMedia Guitar Method	David Arant
Teach Yourself GoLive 5 in 24 Hours	Allison Banks
Spell Catcher	Deborah Hart-Curtis
Civilization: Call to Power	Morgan Curtis
Microsoft Office 2000 8 in 1	Dorothy Drum
Windows Security Handbook	Dorothy Drum
Drive Image 4	David Hamlin
The Little Web Cam Book	Mike Heinrich
Teach Yourself Windows 2000 Prof.	Al Hrutkay
Encyclopedia Britannica 2002 DVD	Jim Ingram
Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks	Roscoe Langford
How to Use Microsoft FrontPage 2002	David Levine
The Complete Idiot's Guide to Starting A Business Online	David Levine
Space Bunnies Must Die (game)	Adam Locke
Sin (game)	Adam Locke
X-Wing vs Tie Fighter	Adam Locke
Star Wars: Behind the Magic	Adam Locke
Extreme Tennis	Adam Locke
Windows XP Professional	Bill Luber
Windows 2000 Unleashed	Jim McGee
MapPoint 2000 (his own copy)	Jim McGee
Sportsman's Challenge	Kim McNeil
Top Shot	Paul Merz
Drive Image 3	Eric Miles
Using MS Windows 2000 Prof	Eric Miles
FrontPage for Win 2000 (book)	Lee Mouring
Word 2000 (book)	Carl Osborne
FrontPage 2002 Unleashed	Carl Osborne
Using Microsoft Access 2002 Spec. Ed.	Carl Osborne
Upgrading & Repairing PCs 13 th ed.	John Schuster
How to Use the Internet	George Stringham
Macromedia (book)	David Stowell
photoshop.imageready (book)	Susan Stubbs
Easy Photoshop 6	Tommy Towery
Windows XP for Dummies	Tommy Towery

**Reviewed by
T. R. Cardwell**

I'll readily admit to skepticism when Rick sent me an e-mail about a new product to try. He told me that it was a full-featured word processing suite available for down-load for only \$29.99! I was invited to visit the site and get back with him.

I visited the site and found out the software was available for a FREE down-load, but money had to be paid to get the spell checker and thesaurus. Turns out the down-load is pretty taxing for a regular dial up, so I asked that maybe the company would send a CD and not "cripple" it so I could write a fair review.

The CD arrived and several options show up on the INSTALL screen. The options are: *Lan Suite*, *PC Suite*, *PC Suite Plus*, and *Print Pack* all made by 602 Software. Since I don't run a Network, I wasn't interested in installing *Lan Suite*. *PC Suite* is the word processor and *PC Suite Plus* has the dictionary,

thesaurus and spell checker. *Print Pack* is a nifty program which can turn documents and/or pictures into PDF files or HTML files. The CD allows me to try *Print Pack* for 30 days free, after that I have to pay for it.

The installation of *PC Suite* and *PC Suite Plus* went smoothly, but asked that I register before using. I dialed up the site and obtained a registration number, which I entered when prompted and booted the program. In fact I'm typing the review on *PC Suite* to see how it works. It allows you to save the documents in a ".doc" format which is universally accepted by most processors. First time I tried out "Magic Text" I received a message that it was only available in the full-featured version. I thought that's what I had. I gave up after the 5th time. After going downstairs and getting some coffee, I tried one more time. This time it worked!

True enough, the word processor is full featured. Navigating and using it is easy and straight forward. The neat thing about pulling up *Word* documents is that they include

a summary and are easier to understand. I've used the word processor for about three weeks. I honestly can't tell much difference between it and *Microsoft Word*.

The price is a Huge difference! *PC Suite* has most all the bells and whistles of the word processors out on the market. The dictionary can be easy to confuse and doesn't handle Legal or Medical terms smoothly. But, that is a small criticism. It handles font manipulations and inserting pictures like a dream.

My daughter enjoys using *PC Suite* more than *Word*, because she finds it easier to use and find her documents. It is fast, almost fool-proof and has every right to use it's advertising as a full-featured processor that equals any other on the market!

I'm going to transmit my review to Rick, typed with *PC Suite*. Don't believe me? Then check it out for yourself at: www.software602.com

Editor's Note. T. R.'s file imported nicely into *Microsoft Word* for later import to *PageMaker*.





Memphis PC Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 241756

Memphis, TN 38124-1756

Phone 901.375.4316

Officers

President:

David Hamlin
dhamlin@ix.netcom.com

Vice President:

Open

Secretary:

Gil Hennon
aghennon@onemain.com

Treasurer:

Jim McGee
jim_mac@bellsouth.net

Board of Directors

Curtis Liner — 601-893-6252 or Wcliner@centuryinter.net

Howard Watson — priority@comtutors.com

Jack Merrill — jmerril1@midsouth.rr.com

Sue Crawley — SueCrwl@aol.com

Ted Wood — ted.wood@bellsouth.net

Mike Davidson — mmdavids@worldnet.att.net

Jim McGee — 683-4347 or jim_mac@bellsouth.net

Cheryl Gaines — N1L2mom@aol.com

Bill Luber — wluber1@midsouth.rr.com

Megan Wolfe — megwolfe@centurytel.net

Susan Stubbs — 2stubbs@bellsouth.net

David Hamlin — dhamlin@ix.netcom.com

Greg Adams — mpcug@aol.com

Staff

Program:

Jim Ingram, Chair - jimingram@prodigy.net

Membership:

Jim McGee, Chair - 683-4347 jim_mac@bellsouth.net

Education:

Gil Hennon, Chair - 396-4173 aghennon@onemain.com

The Bridge:

Gil Hennon, Editor - 396-4173 aghennon@onemain.com

Les Owen, Publisher - 372-3987 owenles@juno.com

Advertising:

Open

Software Review:

Rick Fischer, Chair - 754-2045 rfischer@memphis.edu

TR Cardwell -- safron@ix.netcom.com

Office:

Daniel Notowitz, Mgr - 818-0095 - daniel.notowitz@iname.com

Outreach:

Don Helyer - 375-4316

SIG Council:

Open

Website:

Michael J. Heinrich, Webmaster heinrich@usit.net

Susan Stubbs - 2stubbs@bellsouth.net

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Clipper (4th Monday, 7 p.m.)

Nils Pallesen - 366-9673 - 72234.1027@compuserve.com

Investment (4th Saturday, 10 a.m.)

George Pearson - 761-0161 - gpearso2@midsouth.rr.com

New User (4th Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. - Southwest TN Comm Coll)

Gil Hennon - 396-4173 - aghennon@onemain.com

WordPerfect/Corel (3rd Monday, 7 p.m.)

Sue Crawley - 363-3681 - SueCrwl@aol.com

Hardware (1st Saturday, 10:00 am, White Station Library)

Jim Ingram - 683-9342 - jimingram@excite.com

Wizards (4th Wednesday 6:30 p.m. - Southwest TN Comm Coll)

John Schuster - 662 236-4168 - umjohn@bigfoot.com

**For up to the minute information and special updates be
sure to check our webpage at:**

WWW . MPCUG . ORG

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
AUG 2002	19 WORDPERFECT	20	21	22	23	24
AUG 2002	26 CLIPPER	27	28 MAIN MEETING	29	30	31
SEP 2002	2	3 DOT.NET	4	5	6	7 INTERNET HARDWARE
SEP 2002	9	10	11 NEWSLETTER MAILING	12 VISUAL STUDIO	13	14 WEB WRITERS MS OFFICE
SEP 2002	16	17	18	19	20	21
SEP 2002	23 CLIPPER	24	25 MAIN MEETING	26	27	28 INVESTMENTS

Memphis PC Users Group Information

General Meeting

All meetings are held at Southwest Tennessee Community College on the fourth Wednesday of every month unless otherwise noted. Because of Christmas holidays, no meeting is scheduled in December. Pre-meeting sessions for New Users and Wizards begin at 6:30 p.m. and the main event starts at 7:30 p.m.

SIG Meetings

All SIG meetings are held at the White Station Branch of the Memphis Public Library unless otherwise noted.

Affiliations

The MPCUG is a member of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG).

Other Memphis Area Computer Groups

AMUMS: Micro User Group at University of Memphis - Barbara Okerson 678-3682

AutoCAD: AutoCAD Users Group - Jim Prewett 382-0885

Clarion: Clarion Users Group - Timothy Jordan 767-8719

CCAM: Computer Consultants Association of Memphis - Jessica Morris 382-8459

DPMA: Data Processing Management Association - 680-1268

EDI/EC User Group: Jim Story 753-0500, ext. 341

KPCUG: Kirby Pines Computer User Group - Bob Nichols 360-9262

MADBUG: Memphis Area DB2 Users Group - Betty Stanley 325-5394

MAG: Memphis Amiga Group - Brian Akey 278-6354

MASH: Memphis Atari Systems Hobbyist - Bruce Leach 385-8195

MCCUG: Memphis Color Computer Users Group - B.J. Seaton 682-8737

MCTA: Microcomputer Technology Association (State Tech) - Doris Stepp 755-6685

MCUC: Memphis Commodore Users Club - Charlie Wirth 386-3337

MSMRUG: Mid-South Midrange Users Group - Jill Herrin 753-0500

TI99/4A: Mid-South TI99/4A Users Group - Gary Cox 358-0667

Memphis Area Bulletin Board Systems

If you would like your Bulletin Board listed here, notify Gil Hennon - aghennon@onemain.com

LindenRoom - Wildcat
Pyramid BBS - Wildcat
Public Seismic Network - RBBS
TIPS BBS - Major BBS
Crystal Clear Ideas BBS

901-458-9001
901-372-7912
901-360-0302
901-542-9060
901-327-2500

Sysop: Tracy Franklin
Sysop: Dan Rook
Sysop: Charlie Rond
Sysop: Tim Hackworth
Sysop: Carlton Smith

Bridge the Gap

<u>Product</u>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Time to call</u>
Adobe Photoshop	Gil Hennon	396-4173	
CA-Clipper	Nils Pallesen	366-9673	
Corel WordPerfect	Gil Hennon	396-4173	
DOS	John Schuster	662-236-4168	Evenings
InstaCalc 3	Les Owen	372-3987	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Internet	T.R. Cardwell	377-9209	Evenings
PageMaker	Les Owen	372-3987	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
MS dot.net	Jim McGee	683-4347	M-F: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m.
MS PowerPoint	Gil Hennon	396-4173	
Professional Write	Les Owen	372-3987	8 a.m. - 10 p.m.
Quattro Pro	Gil Hennon	396-4173	

Memphis PC Users Group Membership Application

Date: ___/___/___ **Membership #** ___

Name: (Last) _____ **(First)** _____
(M.I.) _____

Mailing Address: _____ **Birth Date:** ___/___/___

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip:** _____ - _____

Home Phone: (____) _____ **Business Phone:** (____) _____

Fax Number: (____) _____ **E-mail:** _____

Employer: _____ **Position:** _____

Dues: \$35 per year

For office use only

Check#: _____ **Amount:** _____ **Date:** ___/___/___ **Initials:** _____

Teach Yourself Adobe Photoshop 7 in 24 Hours

Book Review

Reviewed by Bill Brody

It's tough to get serious about a book that claims to teach *Photoshop 7* in 24 hours. Oh, you may be able to identify all the tools. It's conceivable you might even be able to find all of them without returning to the book.

But being able to differentiate between a hammer and a screwdriver doesn't arm anyone with the knowledge necessary to use them successfully. Owning an expensive camera doesn't make you a photographer. And no book will make you productive with *Photoshop 7* in 24 hours.

Even the additional "hour or two" that the author recommends you add to the book's 24 one-hour lessons that the author recommends will leave you a long way from journeyman status with the granddaddy of all graphics programs.

There may be a few dozen individuals around the world who can claim to be expert in all aspects of *Photoshop*. Most users [I must admit to being one of them] probably learn as much as they must to do what they want to do and never approach expert status. Just keeping up with the improvements in each new version can be a time-consuming task.

All the foregoing notwithstanding, Sam's book is a worthwhile primer for the program. It's not encyclopedic, but it's not supposed to be. What it can do – provide novices with an overview of the software and some sense of what it can accomplish – it does well.

Photoshop 7 is not hard to use. If anything, it's easier to deploy than predecessor versions. But it's B-I-G! And it keeps getting bigger.

Carla Rose walks her readers through 24 lessons, each of which require about an

hour. The novice will find the first lessons – as many as a half dozen of them – very helpful. Any who have used earlier versions of the program will want to move quickly to more advanced content.

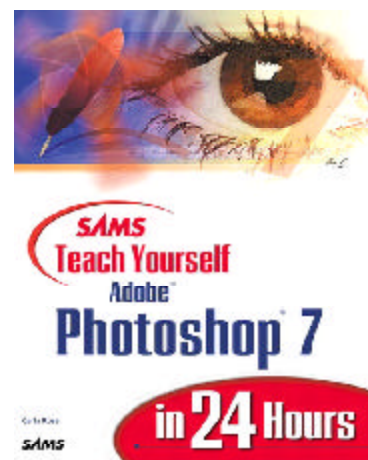
You'll find four chapters [7-10] dealing with painting. Following are chapters dealing with layers, masks and paths. Chapters 14-16 focus on filters, 17-19 on typography, and 20-22 on photo repair and enhancement. Chapters on printing and Web application conclude the text.

Experienced users will find *Photoshop 7*'s new toolbar

docking system helpful but toolbars can be most easily managed by setting up F keys to permit you to open and close them with a keystroke. Two new retouching tools – Healing Brush and Patch – will be welcomed by those who use *Photoshop* to clean up photos. Color correction has been automated and a spelling checker has been added [a bit belatedly given the expansion of typographic capabilities in *Photoshop 6*]. I'm inclined to agree, however, with those who argue that *Photoshop 7* probably would have been better called *Photoshop 6.5*.

As to the book, it's worth the money, especially if you take the time to shop the Web. Best price I found: \$16.76 at www.bamm.com.

Teach Yourself Adobe Photoshop 7 in 24 Hours by Carla Rose. 2002. Sams. \$25.



Encarta Reference Library 2002

Software Review

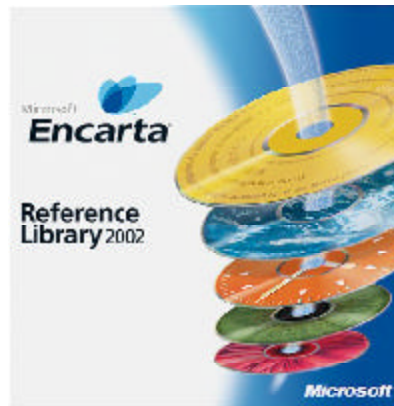
Reviewed by Joe Sullivan

The resources contained in this interactive program are almost overwhelming. As with most programs these days there is no printed manual. That means you may spend considerable time learning how the program works. The content, as you would expect in an encyclopedia, is extensive.

The program ships on five CD's that can either be installed completely to the hard drive or accessed individually when needed to access information. I chose the latter to conserve hard drive space.

The search

Searching can be done by entering key words in the Find menu or selecting a drop down window in the Find menu that displays search strategies classified as: Atlas Maps, Web Sites, Definition or Search Encarta.com on the Internet. Also, an all entries pinpointer offers an alphabetical listing of titles on many subjects. The advanced search contains a selection of content types with a drop down menu to narrow search results. Clicking on features on the toolbar offers articles, Maps, Multimedia, Research,



Online, Timelines, Tours, Statistics and Games.

Content

The content is so vast that space will not permit an explanation of *each* feature. One of my favorites is the Map Center featuring World Atlas, Historical Maps and Multimedia Maps. I particularly enjoyed clicking on Multimedia Maps that produced a dialogue box offering Images with choices of All, People Places, Landscapes Agriculture and Industries, Animals, Music and Flags. Choosing any one of the choices enables clicking on the globe producing images from the country chosen. Choosing Music not only produces an explanation of the music of that country, but plays a sample.

Another of my favorites is the Time Line Center that offers a Dynamic Timeline and Africana Timelines. Clicking on Dynamic Timelines opens tools needed to

create and work with historical timelines. Here's an example.

1862 First Machine Gun Patented

March 8, 1862 - March 9, 1862
Monitor v. Virginia

1864 George Marsh Demonstrates Humans' Effect on the Earth

July 27, 1866 *Transatlantic Cable Completed*

1868? Celluloid Developed

A researcher feature allows reports to be built from different sections of the program without the need to exit the program to cut and paste information into another program.

Encarta Reference Library 2002 truly lives up to its name and is more than an encyclopedia program.

Requires: Multimedia PC with Pentium 200 MHz (300 Recommended). Windows 98, 2000, ME, or XP. 32 MB RAM (64 MB for Virtual Tours). Up to 330MB of available hard-disk space. Quad speed CD-ROM drive. Super VGA, 16-bit or higher monitor supporting 800 X 600 screen resolution

\$65.

Note: See version 2003 at www.encyarta.msn.com/shop/default.asp

Windows XP for Dummies

Book Review

Reviewed by John Schuster

As with most, if not all, of the “for Dummies” series, Windows XP for Dummies makes learning sort of fun. These books do not claim to be the end all and be all of instructional manuals for the topics they cover. They are, clearly, written to get you going and to address most of the common problems you might run into. There is no hesitation to tell you that a feature is beyond the scope of their book. For this, I must give the series credit.

As with many other volumes at this level, one of the most useful parts of the book is the index. Once you have skimmed through the book (If you are a glutton for punishment, you can read it from front to back but, most of you will be going over a lot of information you already know or can figure out on the fly), you can, easily, find the information you need by using the index.

The Dummies series of books all share some attributes which I like:

- Some delightful cartoons
- Icons to let you know when something is “Technical Stuff”, a “Tip”, a “Warning”, an “Upgrade” from a previous version of Windows, or something you should “Remember.”
- Information which may be especially useful is presented with a grey background so that it will catch your attention.
- There is humor scattered throughout this book. An example is in the section on floppy disks. “You can shove anything that’s flat into a floppy drive, but the computer recognizes only one thing: floppy disks.”

I was a bit surprised to find an opinion (the author’s, I’m sure) which was anti-.NET Passport. I’m pleased to see that this book is not a “Microsoft is great in everything they do” treatise. I was also pleased to see that they broke the book down into only five main sections:

Part I: Bare-Bones Windows XP Stuff: An introduction to Windows XP

Part II: Making Windows XP Do Something: Covers starting up, buttons, bars, boxes, folders, files, moving windows, searching, cut and paste, and file sharing.

Part III: Using Windows XP Applications (And Surfing the Web): Covers the desktop, start button, taskbar, included programs, My Computer, basic surfing, e-mail, newsgroups, and multimedia stuff

Part IV: Help! Customizing XP via the control panel, fixing things, pop-up messages, and Windows XP Help System.

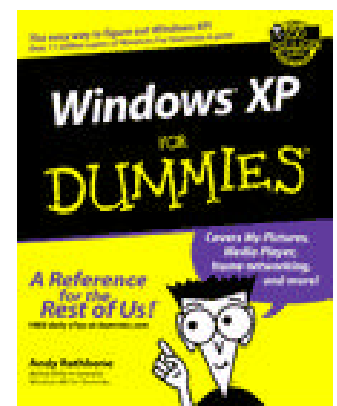
Part V: The Part of Tens: New features and aggravating things (and how to fix them), Windows XP Icons, and Frequently asked Questions.

For a beginner’s book this is pretty comprehensive and yet does not go into such painful detail that it will frighten the newcomer away. I would recommend this as a useful reference book for all but the most advanced XP users.

On a scale of 0-5, I think this book is a 4.5, and some day I will get used to the fact that books don’t sell for \$5.95 any more <groan>.

The same publisher also offers “Windows XP All-In-One Desk Reference for Dummies”, which lists for \$29.99 and is available from Amazon.com for \$20.99. I suspect that this would be a better choice for the advanced Windows XP user.

Windows XP For Dummies lists for \$21.99 but can be had, from Amazon.com, for \$15.39. Published by: Hungry Minds, Inc. www.hungryminds.com and/or www.dummies.com



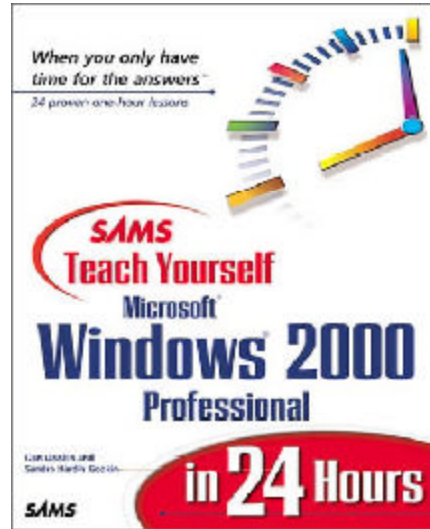
Teach Yourself Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional in 24 Hours

Book Review

**Reviewed by
John Schuster**

Now this is a nice concept: break the learning process down into 24 hour long lessons and get the thing over with. The one caveat to this is the subtitle, "When you only have time for the answers."

As you can imagine, this book, consisting of 375 pages, hits the highlights and the things you MUST know to use *Windows 2000*. Things like an hour of instruction on the "Start Menu." There are also a couple of time out sections, that cover the games Free Cell and Solitaire. As with most books of this type, there is much more left out than is included. Also, the most useful part of the book is the Index. As long as you have some clue of what you are looking for, you should be able to find it (if it is included in this book).



At the end of each section is a summary, Q&A, a Workshop (mini quiz) and a Vocabulary reminder.

Much of the material covered in this book should be intuitive (that is the point of a GUI OS, isn't it?). And the book was, obviously, geared for a total novice user. That is the type of user for whom I'd recommend this book. Anyone who needs true depth of understanding of *Windows 2000*, such as over-

coming problems with installing devices, managing resources and users for best efficiency and security, etc. would be better served by a *Mastering Windows 2000 Professional* type of volume.

If this is to be considered a primer, I would say that it is pretty good, about in the same league as the "Dummies" and "Idiot's Guide" series.

At \$20 list price, I feel that they are a bit prouder of themselves than is warranted for this book. After studying this text, you will be able to use *Windows 2000 Professional*. You will, definitely, NOT be an expert!

On a scale of 0 to 5 stars, I rate this book at 2.5 stars.

Teach Yourself Microsoft Windows 2000 Professional in 24 Hours by Dan Gookin and Sandra Hardin Gookin. SAMS, 2000. 324 pages. \$20.

***One of the lessons of history
is that nothing is often a good thing to do and
always a clever thing to say.***

-Will Durant

July Meeting Report

More of “The Good Stuff!” Gil Hennon demonstrated the best free and shareware software he found recently, as well as a few favorite pictures of “The Duke.” Some of the software shown:

- Gpaper - freeware to make graph paper on you own printer
- 3D Photocube - put your favorite pictures on a screen saver
- Note Tab Lite - smarter replacement for Windows Notepad
- Pop-up Stopper - kills annoying pop-up windows on the Web
- Ad Aware - finds and deletes “spyware” programs and keys
- Cacheman - manage memory for better performance
- Ashampoo Optimizer 1.32 - tune up Windows and disk drives
- HTML Beauty Editor - author and edit Web Pages
- Mozilla 1.0 - The new Netscape browser engine
- Magicjhp - creates image thumbnails and Web pages
- ShyFile - encrypt files for sending as email attachments
- Konvertor - convert format of many image and multimedia files

Where to find freeware, shareware, and other inexpensive software on the Web:

freewarepro.com

superdownloads.ubbi.com.br (Spanish language site in Brazil)

www.downloads.ch (German language site in Czechoslovakia)

www.freewarehome.com

www.sunfreeware.com (Specializing in utilities for Solaris OS)

www.shareware.de (German language site in Deutschland)

www.freeware.de (German language site in Deutschland)

freeware.sgi.com (Specializing in utilities for SGI Iris OS)

www.freewarefiles.com

www.jumbo.com

freeware.ru (Russian language site in the Balkans)

www.topqualityfreeware.com

www.shareware.com (CNET's software download site)

www.tucows.com

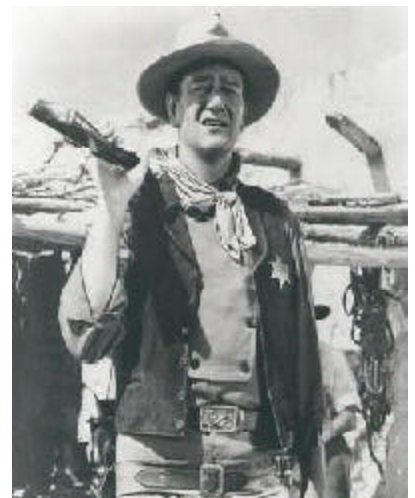
www.passtheshareware.com

www.sharewarejunkies.com

www.sharewareplace.com

www.5star-shareware.com (Great Britian site)

(continued on next page)



www.hitsquad.com/smm/ (Specializing in music related downloads)
www.nonags.com/nonags/ (Regular and offbeat freeware)
www.asp-shareware.org (Association of Shareware Professionals)
www.supershareware.com
www.galttech.com (Lots of desktop themes, screen savers, etc.)
www.zdnet.com/downloads/
paulspicks.com (Links to developers and downloads)
www.davecentral.com (Good place to start searches)
www.macesoftware.com
freewarearena.com (Has a list of free tech support sites and forums)
www.completelyfreeware.com (Specializes in high-quality freeware)
www.quality-shareware.com (Has an online newsletter)
www.javashareware.com (Specializes in Java language)
www.softonic.com (Spanish language site)
www.hpc.net (Handheld computer software)
www.wugnet.com/shareware/ (Site is sponsored by Microsoft)
www.infinisource.com/shareware.html (Handheld computer software)
www.winappslist.com (Allen's Win Apps List - PC Mag top rated!)
www.eeggs.com (The Easter Egg Archives)
www.annoyances.org (Tips, patches, workarounds for Windows)
www.driversguide.com (58,000 hardware drivers available with "driver detective" that gives detailed information about all drivers installed on your computer)



Memphis PC Users Group, Inc.
P.O. Box 241756
Memphis, TN 38124-1756

**Non-profit Organi-
zation**
U.S. Postage
PAID
Memphis, TN
Permit #134