

The Bridge

The Journal of the Memphis PC Users Group

Volume 18, Number 5

May 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

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Wednesday, May 22 Main Meeting

Southwest Tennessee Community College

5983 Macon Cove, Memphis

Meeting Room B

Second floor Farris Building

New Users and Wizards 6:30 P.M. Main Meeting 7:30 P.M.

Don't Lose Your Identity!

At the May meeting, Shelby County Assistant District Attorney David Shapiro will tell you how identity theft happens and advise you on what you should do to protect yourself. Identity theft is the fastest growing crime in Shelby County, and Mr. Shapiro shares his expertise on the subject with concerned citizen groups. Don't be a victim! Attend this timely session on serious crime prevention and bring along a friend!



The School Bell

News From MPCUG Education Services

By Gil Hennon, Education Services Coordinator

Where do the rights of the person who creates and sells a product end? Where do the rights of a person who purchases that product begin? At what point, if any, does the ownership change? And if the ownership changes, does that include the usual privilege of doing as one pleases with his or her own property? These are questions that are not being answered by the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DCMA) and other proposed legislation.

For many thousands of years—at least from the time that the first seller and buyer struck a deal—the purchaser of a product assumed the right to use, resell, and even destroy the goods in question. If I bought a house, a car, or even a book, I paid for it and it became mine. I could live there, drive it, or read it. I could sell any of them to someone else. I could even trash the house, wreck the car, and burn the book.

But according to music and movie companies, and the congress-critters who get big campaign bucks from these companies, when I purchase a CD or tape or DVD, I don't own it. All that I get is the right to listen or watch, and even that right is limited to the kind of equipment they want me to use. Copyright laws have gone completely out of control; the producers of content want the sales dollars without giving the customer fair value and convenient use of the product purchased.

I'm not griping about traditional copyright protection for the content creators. They are entitled to fair payment for their work. Piracy should be punished, not only because it harms the creator, but it also discourages the pro-

duction of more content. Who's going to write a book, record a song, or make a movie if they can't expect to get something for their efforts. But once a book or record or movie is sold at a fair price, the consumer should be the one in control of the goods.

I write articles and stories. When I sell one to a magazine, do I expect to control how the magazine uses it? Fat chance! When it's sold, it's theirs, as far as I'm concerned. They can throw it in the waste basket if they want. If they use it without paying me, that would be wrong, because I am being injured. Once they have paid me, it belongs to them. I got money, they got my work. It's simple and fair.

But if I purchased one of several recent music CDs and wanted to listen to them through my computer while I work, I am not allowed to do that. These new CDs have special coding that allows them to only be played on a genuine music CD player (and not all of those, either). I don't happen to own one of those, but I do own several dozen music CDs that I play through my computer. If I buy one of the new ones with the special coding, I can't use it, and, according to the "shrink wrap" license, I can't take it back for a refund either. Lots of folks who bought the new CDs—which didn't have any notification visible on the package that they were different—have found out that they got the shaft from the music industry. Unless the store where they made the purchase was willing to do right by their customer, they paid for a useless chunk of plastic. That kind of treatment used to be called what it is: Fraud!

Legally, it's not fraud, however, under

the one-sided licensing “agreements” forced upon consumers by the music producers. Pretty soon the same sort of treatment will be applied to books, movies, and anything else that comes under copyright protection laws. The DCMA expanded copyright protection beyond the “fair price and use” basis of traditional copyrights. Now a bill introduced in Congress by Senator Fritz Hollings would prohibit the sale or distribution of any technology that does not include copy-protection standards set by the federal government. Every electronic device must have anti-copying hardware. Every software program must contain anti-copying functions. No exceptions. It’s a civil penalty of up to \$25,000.00 per violation or possibly a felony with prison time.

The proposed bill appears intentionally vague. Would a short batch file or script written to run on an individual’s own computer be exempt? Probably not. The bill doesn’t specify any exemptions. It prohibits importing software or hardware from countries that don’t install the anti-copying features. Does this include when an individual downloads a program from a foreign Web site? Apparently it does. And considering the global nature of the Internet, how can one be sure a download request is not being redirected to some illegal, foreign source? It’s hard to find evidence that much thought went into the wording of this bill. Would you believe that the movie and recording industry wrote this bill for Senator Hollings to introduce? I thought you might.

Since bills that become law tend to be interpreted by the courts and often expanded to cover situations never considered by the lawmakers, it might be conceivable that a law like this could eventually prohibit backing-up the files on your computer, since there could be programs you purchased. You might be violating your own “copyright rights” if you make more than one copy of a document you wrote yourself!

Although most of the wording is general and generic, applicable to every device from televisions to toasters, it does single one product out for very special attention. In 1999 a lawsuit established a legal precedent: MP3 players such as the Diamond Rio do not violate applicable copyright laws. Senator Hollings’ bill overrules that court decision.

We can’t stop Congress from passing bad laws, but MPCUG Education Services can help you get the most from your computer legally. Join the Wizards and New Users each month before the main meeting. Remember to write and tell your Congressperson your opinions, before that becomes illegal too!

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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.

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Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks

Book Review

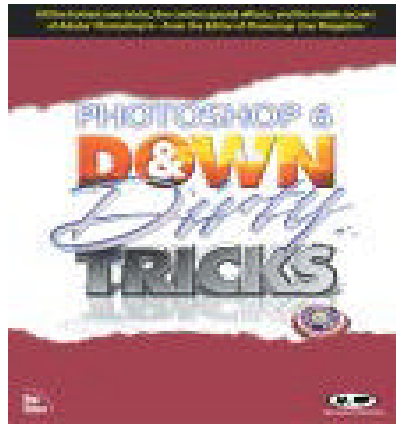
Reviewed by Roscoe Langford

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks is basically an instruction manual on how to accomplish twelve projects for *Photoshop 6*.

Each section gives step-by-step instructions on how to complete that particular project. This is an excellent approach. If the next illustration in the book does not match the one on your screen you can stop and check what you did against what the author did and quickly find your mistake.

I think the book would be much more effective if it had included a CD with clip art of the same projects as in the book. I know you can find your own clip art or photos but to make sure you did everything exactly as the author, it would help to see the same results on your screen. This book is not for the beginners. It constitutes an excellent guide for the artist who wishes to step above what the everyday assignment calls for.

Chapter one covers the very basic steps of how to handle six different ap-



proaches to drop shadows. The next chapter is really an extension of the first as it deals with more advanced methods for drop shadows. Kelby covers everything from typography, to adding shadows, to people within photographs for dramatic effect or just to separate them from a busy background.

Chapters three and four are the advertising artists' dream chapters. Here he covers typography manipulation, such as, backgrounds within and outside letters, multiple inline and outlines, distortions, steel and chrome effects and many more – all from one standard typeface.

The next few chapters cover photographic effects, such as, changing

colors within a photo, adding motion to a static picture. Adding and deleting people to a photo and curling the corner were most interesting to me.

Several chapters are devoted to the Web and interface designs – allowing you to create backgrounds with logos and textures.

The book wraps up with a series of special effects that is not only fun to work with but can be very useful in designing, especially with typography.

This 226 page softback book published by New Riders Publishing has more than 300 tricks, tips, and techniques to play with. You won't use them all but what you do will make this \$39.99 book worthwhile. Of course, *Photoshop 6* covers the same subjects but not as clearly or concisely. I believe *Photoshop 6* users will find this book very useful.

Photoshop 6 Down and Dirty Tricks by Scot Kelby. 2002. New Riders Publishing. \$40.

How to Use the Internet

Book Review

Reviewed by George Stringham

For something that's written for the Internet novice, this book hits the nail on the head. My 95-year-old grandmother could even learn to surf the Web with relative ease and confidence by following the steps outlined in the book. Although it is written for somebody who's still testing the Internet waters and is hesitant to jump in, it can also teach some veteran surfers a few new tricks.

The guide couldn't be made much simpler to follow and use. It is set up in step-by-step units starting with the basics like setting up your ISP and starting MS Explorer and finishing with creating your own first Web site.

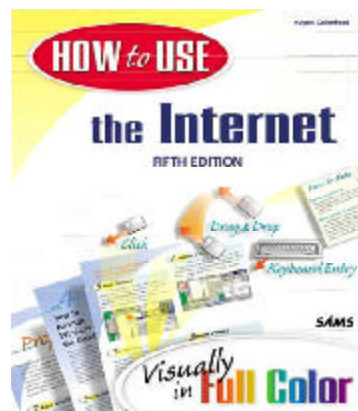
Each unit contains several "how to" chapters that walk you through, step-by-step, the motions needed to achieve a particular goal. This format allows you to read the book and go through the motions on your computer simultaneously.

The good and the bad aspects of this book are based on the fact that they use MS *Explorer* as the primary program when walking you through the procedures. Although most of the tasks the reader will go through can be transposed to other programs, like *Netscape*, *Prodigy* and AOL, each has its own unique terminology that can confuse someone new to the sport. However, since most people using this guide will be using *Explorer* to surf the net, it is only a minor inconvenience to the rest of the audience. On the plus side, it does have one unit dedicated to using AOL.

This guide walks you through the simplest tasks, ranging from starting *Explorer* and typing in a Web address to completing some more advanced tasks like setting up your Web-based e-mail (AOL, Yahoo, MSN) to run through *Outlook Express* and creating your first Web page.

Although this book isn't a "must have" for every computer user's library, due to its clear, simple and easy-to-follow steps, it would be very helpful for someone with minimal to zero experience using the Internet.

How to Use the Internet
by Rogers Cadenhead
Published by SAMS
\$ 5.89 (amazon.com)



Computer Haiku

Humor

Found by Mary Glasscock

In Japan, they have replaced the impersonal and unhelpful Microsoft Error messages with Haiku poetry messages. Haiku poetry has strict construction rules. Each poem has only three lines, 17 syllables: five syllables in the first line, seven in the second, five in the third. Haikus are used to communicate a timeless message often achieving a wistful, yearning and powerful insight through extreme brevity - the essence of Zen:

Your file was so big.
It might be very useful.
But now it is gone.

The Website you seek
Cannot be located,
but Countless more exist.

Chaos reigns within.
Reflect, repent, and reboot.
Order shall return.

Program aborting:
Close all that you have
worked on.
You ask far too much.

Windows NT crashed.
I am the Blue Screen of Death.
No one hears your screams.

Continued on Page 15

SIG News

Out for review

WORD PERFECT SIG

by Maury Ellis

The Corel Word Perfect Special Interest Group held its regular meeting April 15 at the White Station Library at 7:00 PM. Dinner was enjoyed at a pre-conference gathering at Bennigans Restaurant.

Sue Crawley demonstrated the making of a certificate to honor an employee or a friend. She also provided details for choosing and adding a watermark to a letter or certificate.

As usual, there were several other tips and suggestions for using the Word Perfect program.

Anyone interested in using Word Perfect is encouraged to join this group. The meetings are the third Monday of each month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM and some of the members meet for dinner before the meeting. It is a time of good fellowship and sharing information.

For more information about the Word Perfect SIG contact:
Maury Ellis
mhellis@mindspring.com
or
Sue Crawley
suecrwl@aol.com

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
How to Use Microsoft FrontPage 2002	David Levine
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
Macromedia (book)	David Stowell
photoshop.imageready (book)	Susan Stubbs
Encarta Ref. Library 2002	Joe Sullivan
Windows XP for Dummies	Tommy Towery



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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
MAY 2002	20 WORDPERFECT	21	22 MAIN MEETING	23	24	25 INVESTMENTS
MAY 2002	27 CLIPPER	28	29	30	31	1 INTERNET HARDWARE
JUN 2002	3	4 DOT.NET	5	6	7	8 WEB WRITERS MS OFFICE
JUN 2002	10	11	12 NEWSLETTER MAILING	13 VISUAL STUDIO	14	15
JUN 2002	17 WORD PERFECT	18	19	20	21	22 INVESTMENT
JUN 2002	24 CLIPPER	25	26 MAIN MEETING	27	28	29

Memphis Area Bulletin Board Systems

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

LindenRoom - Wildcat

901-458-9001
Sysop: Tracy Franklin

Pyramid BBS - Wildcat

901-372-7912
Sysop: Dan Rook

Public Seismic Network - RBBS

901-360-0302
Sysop: Charlie Rond

TIPS BBS - Major BBS

901-542-9060
Sysop: Tim Hackworth

Crystal Clear Ideas BBS

901-327-2500
Sysop: Carlton Smith

Meetings

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

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: _____

The Wrath of Spam

Editorial

by Gil Hennon, Editor

Declan McCullagh sends out about 200,000 email messages each day. No. He isn't a spammer. His mail isn't advertising and it is never unsolicited. But last week he was unjustly accused of spamming and then exonerated within 24 hours. Such is the speed of justice on the Internet!

As the Washington bureau chief for Wired News, Declan has collected a very impressive array of friends and contacts over the years. Information comes to him from a variety of sources. Some of it is from political and technical movers and shakers. Some is from folks in less lofty positions, but who know what is going on down in the trenches. Some is rumor, some is hard fact, and some is in-between. He doesn't edit any news that he passes on to his 20,000 POLITECH email list subscribers, but often adds his own views in a short comment immediately after the message header.

Frequently his subscribers respond back to him, and Declan posts follow-ups with the best pro and con viewpoints. His mailing list includes legislators, professors, journalists, CEOs, legal experts, computer professionals, and technical gurus—in other words, just about anyone whose vocation or avocation is impacted by politics and technology. A subscription to the list is completely free. POLITECH is not part of Wired News. Declan McCullagh has done all of the work and has provided this service at his own expense for many years, and it has become one of the most useful and well respected news sources on the Internet.

So, why was Declan and his POLITECH letter suddenly accused of being low-life spam? Here's how it happened.

Back in 1998, Melissa McClure, an employee at Fleishman-Hillard, a re-

spected public relations firm, subscribed to POLITECH using email address `mclclurem@fleishman.com`. Melissa received Declan's news there until she left the firm, but she neglected to unsubscribe when she departed. In the meantime, Fleishman-Hillard hired another employee whose name was similar: Marna McClure. Marna was assigned email address `mclclurem2@fleishman.com` and used that address for a while. After Melissa left, Marna was offered the address that didn't contain the numeral, and a few weeks ago, while Marna was on vacation, her email address was changed.

When Marna returned to work she found about 80 POLITECH messages in her email. She tried to follow the instructions for removing her address from the list, but since she was trying to unsubscribe `mclclure2@fleishman.com`, her old address, the list server removal function failed. Then she sent an angry email message directly to Declan McCullagh at his address at *well.com*. If you have been around email and electronic news forums since the early days of electronic messaging, you probably know that *well.com*—originally *The Well Bulletin Board*—has been and still is one of the most prestigious electronic addresses. Back when we stayed up all night with a 2400 baud modem connection, back before there were Internet Service Providers, we logged on to *FidoNet* and *RelayMail* forums on our local Bulletin Board Services (BBS) in the same manner that we now subscribe to *Usenet* newsgroups. *The Well* was the home of many of the best forums and most



astute contributors. A posting from anyone at *The Well* was treated with great respect. Marna notified declan@well.com, "I will report this as spam if you do not get me off your email list immediately."

As soon as he was made aware of Marna's problem, Declan searched his subscriber records so he could send her instructions that would take her off of the list. But by the time he had figured out that she was trying to unsubscribe the wrong email address, another message arrived from Fleishman-Hillard, this time from Chuck Manger, the computer administrator. To call Chuck's email a "flame" is putting it delicately. It was super-heated and probably lit up several chili peppers in Declan's inbox.

Chuck began, "Considering your inability to comprehend . . ." and progressed into threats to report Declan and also *well.com* to a half-dozen anti-spam organizations. He concluded with "I consider it an honor and privilege (sic) to use all the technology tools available at making you go away."

Fleishman-Hillard's Web site says, "Word of mouth makes the difference!" They certainly found out how true that can be during that day and the next. Declan McCullagh's loyal readers sent him a deluge of supportive email. Few epithets were spared condemning Chuck and Fleishman-Hillard and complimenting Declan's many years of fine service. He responded that he was "amazed and impressed by the outpouring of support." Some of the POLITECH subscribers vowed to block email from Fleishman-Hillard and remove the company from future consideration for business activities. They also deluged Fleishman-Hillard with email of the same sentiment. Michael Busselen, the senior vice-president and general manager of Fleishman-Hillard's San Diego office said that "the Blackberries were buzzing all night long."

Busselen phoned Declan with an

apology the following day. He used the telephone so that his own email address would not attract the same attention that was being paid to the company's other executives. He explained that Chuck had changed Marna's email address while she was away, and that she wasn't aware it had been changed. That one, small event had precipitated the entire misunderstanding. Escalating the problem, Chuck's "language, tone, and approach" had been inappropriate and "less than eloquent."

Fleishman-Hillard had not put any blocks on POLITECH mailings, nor on email from *well.com*, and Declan was satisfied with Michael Busselen's apology. POLITECH's reputation would not be tainted by accusations of spam. In a follow-up to his subscribers, Declan asked that they remove any blocks that might have been set up against Fleishman-Hillard email and thanked them again for their support.

The entire episode is noteworthy for several reasons. First, it shows how fast a misunderstanding can get out of hand over the Internet. Face-to-face or over the phone, direct conversation provides the parties with expressions and tone of voice clues that mere words cannot convey. An email, like a letter, provides neither. The written word must stand on its own. The immediacy of email makes it very easy to fire off a three chili pepper message. When we have a complaint to make by email, we can go ahead and write it, but we ought to let it sit for a while, like a letter waiting for the mailman, and take another look at it before clicking that SEND button. In almost every situation, a logical, considerate statement of a problem will usually get resolution much quicker than threats.

Second, flaming email reflects worse on the sender than the recipient. Marna and Chuck must be very embarrassed about their lack of tact in composing their original messages. Fleishman-Hillard is a public relations firm, but the email man-

ners of their employees were thoughtless, and eventually became an embarrassment to their employer. We should compose email as seriously as we compose a business letter. The recipient, and anyone else who gets a look at it, will judge us and our organization using exactly what we send them to evaluate.

Third, as my mom always told me, be careful what you put down on paper because it will come back to haunt you. Or, in this case, it's what you put down on electronic paper. Reporter Chris Gaither at *The New York Times* heard about Declan's encounter and ran the story with the lead-in, "... a publicist's worst nightmare." The problem had already been resolved with only POLITECH subscribers and Fleishman-Hillard being aware of the misunderstanding. Then the *Times* told the world, probably much to the chagrin of Fleishman-Hillard. If we didn't intend for our words to be seen in public, we shouldn't have written them in the first place.

The *Times* article concluded with "back to business as usual." Declan went back to sending out POLITECH news and his subscribers are happy. Fleishman-Hillard went back to doing public relations, and hopefully their employees are also happy again. They may have learned a valuable lesson, and will now treat email with much more respect. The episode certainly demonstrated how quickly things can happen on the Internet. Fleishman-Hillard's slogan hits the mark: Word of mouth makes the difference.

Go to <http://www.politechbot.com/info/subscribe.html> if you would like to be added to Declan McCullagh's POLITECH news list. I highly recommend it.

Easy Photoshop 6

Book Review

Reviewed by Tommy Towery

I've always liked Que's books and when I started working with this one, I remembered why. This is one of the best laid out and designed books I've ever worked with. I especially like the "comic book" approach which has easy-to-follow diagrams showing you how to accomplish basic tasks in *Photoshop 6*.

I was a *Photoshop 5.5* user and knew the basics already, but this book reminds you how to do things you might have forgotten.

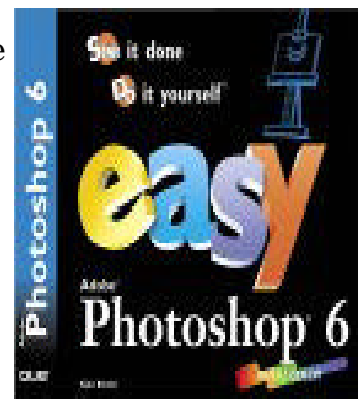
The 280-page book is divided into 12 sections with five to 32 tasks in each section. There are step-by-step instructions for each task, such as Changing the Canvas Size, Duplicating an Image, or Turning an Image Into a Painting. My first impression is that the author assumes that you know nothing when you pick up this book.

Each task is demonstrated with a numbered drawn picture of what you do on the screen and has an accompanying numbered text instruction for the same task. In the margins are some common shortcuts or explanations of what you are trying to accomplish in the process.

For an example, one task is how to crop an image. It explains in the margin what cropping means and gives you a hint about how to change an area you want to crop. Then the page shows the four steps it recommends for you to follow to crop – along with diagrams of what you do.

The biggest problem with any book of this type is that you have to have a copy of the very expensive software to gain the maximum knowledge from the book.

Easy Photoshop 6 by Kate Binder. Que. 288 pages. \$25
www.quepublishing.com



Word 2002 for Dummies: Quick Reference

Book Review

Reviewed by Rick Fischer

Imagine that you had one of the big expensive books on Microsoft *Word*. Now imagine that you had several months to reduce all that narrative to a little reference book (gouge books for those formerly in the Navy). Your reference book would have all the stuff you might need on short notice, but without all the explanation that makes the big book big.

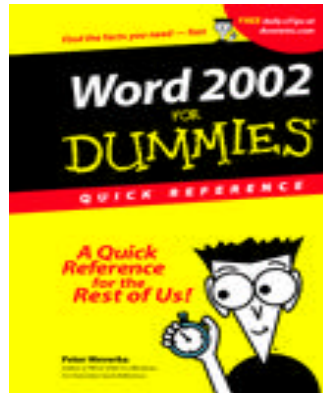
But I don't have the big book on Microsoft *Word*. More importantly, I don't have several months to reduce it to reference book size.

Of course, I am describing *Word 2002 for Dummies: Quick Reference*.

In size and layout it reminds me of my own aircrew reference book. It's a compact 5 ½ by 8 ½ with a plastic spine so that it lays flat on the desk. It would fit in a pocket of my flight suit.

Using a book like this requires a good index. It's the key to finding what you need when you need it.

But I didn't only use the index. I read it from front to back. I wanted to learn more about *Word 2002*. I expect to move to *Word 2002* on both my



machines later this year. Although I read it over several evenings, I found that it help my attention and was very useful.

I continue to be amazed as the market segments that publishers target with their computer books. I am pleased that they know their needs so well and continue to produce books that meet those needs. You don't have to be a dummy to appreciate that this book will occupy a special place next to your computer.

Misconceptions clarified

This is what the For Dummies folks say about their series: "One of the biggest misconceptions about For Dummies products is that they're, well, made for dumb people. Nothing could be further from the truth!"

For Dummies products are the first place to

turn to when you're new to a topic — but even if you've mastered a topic, For Dummies is a great quick reference or refresher. Simply put, For Dummies products are for people who are

§ Intelligent. They know that they need to search for answers but don't want to waste time with other reference materials.

§ Frustrated. They have tried to do something but are still overwhelmed by the topic or the problem.

§ Intimidated. They're just mystified by a topic — whether it's computers, sex, the Internet, home buying, or just about any other area.

Basically, if you know what you want to do — but just don't know how to do it — then For Dummies is for you!"

I'd like our readers to note that they don't only produce titles on computer topics. How about *Grant Writing for Dummies*, *Home buying for Dummies* or *Gardening for Dummies*?

Word 2002 for Dummies: Quick Reference by Peter Weverka (2001). Hungry Minds. 182 pages. \$15. www.hungryminds.com or www.dummies.com

Excel 2002 for Dummies

Book Review

Reviewed by Rick Fischer

I'm not an *Excel* wizard, but I pretty much thought I knew the basics. Surprise, surprise. There were things in the first two chapters I had missed somewhere along the way – and they weren't 2002 features.

You'll find lots of *Excel* facts mixed with light-hearted humor – all in a chatty style. And, I learned even more over the remainder of the book.

As you would expect, the "For Dummies" series presumes little on the part of the reader. It is not meant to be read from cover to cover. You're supposed to use it as a reference – referring to a topic when needed. I read it from cover to cover and am glad I did. I reinforced a lot that I already knew, locked in some of the things I keep forgetting and discovered much that I don't remember ever learning.

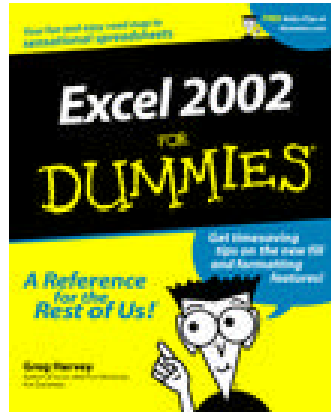
The author says he wants to guide you through the topics conversationally. You'll still find checklists, but sometimes those steps will be buried in the paragraphs. There are screen shots throughout to tie the explanation with what you should see on the screen.

Excel 2002 for Dummies has lots of "tips" – marked in the margin with an arrow and a target. These are shortcuts or hints relating to the topic. "Warnings" tell of unintended consequences that might follow from using the functions. "Remember" alerts distill and drive home the main points. "New for 2002" tells of new features in *Excel 2002*.

Speech recognition and handwriting from a graphics tablet also are covered.

The book is strong on how to format and use the basics. Split screens is covered in great detail, as is charting and database features. *Excel 2002 for Dummies* is for beginners and more advanced folks with gaps in our education.

Excel 2002 for Dummies by Greg Harvey. 2001.
Hungry Minds. \$22.
www.hungryminds.com



Continued from Page 5

Yesterday it worked.
Today it is not working.
Windows is like that.

First snow, then silence.
This thousand-dollar screen
dies So beautifully.

With searching comes loss
And the presence of absence:
"My Novel" not found.

The Tao that is seen
Is not the true Tao-until
You bring fresh toner.

Stay the patient course.
Of little worth is your ire.
The network is down.

A crash reduces
Your expensive computer
To a simple stone.

Three things are certain:
Death, taxes and lost data.
Guess which has occurred.

You step in the stream,
But the water has moved on.
This page is not here.

Out of memory.
We wish to hold the whole sky,
But we never will.

Having been erased,
The document you're seeking
Must now be retyped.

Serious error.
All shortcuts have disappeared.
Screen. Mind. Both are blank.

* * * * *

April Meeting Report

Graphical Information Systems (GIS) manage information graphically to improve the decision making process. Costi Tudan, GIS Manager for Ensaf, Inc., introduced the principles of GIS to the Group and gave demonstrations of how several industries are using GIS to manage highly-complicated systems. Ensaf manages environmental safety and health information for its clients in fifteen offices around the world. They design and maintain GIS systems for locating hazardous waste sites, underground and above ground storage tanks, and sites capable of causing environmental or biological damage. They reference information by its location in space and establish connections based upon these locations. GIS requires the collection of a great deal of data, and the collection process can be from 60-80% of the cost of a complete GIS system. When mapping the data, each piece of information becomes a point, a line, or a shape and is located according to latitude/longitude, place name, Zipcode, or other unique location identification. Costi demonstrated generating a map from data, and how the map features can contain hyperlinks to pictures, descriptions, specifications. Each feature on the map can also be hyperlinked to other locations that are related. GIS can be used as a marketing tool in addition to its applications in truck and air transportation firms, biological and chemical industries, oil and mineral exploration, and the military.



Door Prize Drawing:

Tom Rochford won a "brain" squeeze toy, John Schuster won a CD carrying case, Roscoe Langford won a tee shirt, Thad Craig won Microsoft Office 2000 Professional Version

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