



# *The Bridge*

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For group information  
please visit our Web site:  
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## *In This Issue*

|                      |         |
|----------------------|---------|
| The School Bell      | Page 2  |
| Using MS Excel 2003  | Page 4  |
| Out for Review       | Page 5  |
| Every Vote Counts    | Page 6  |
| Access in a Snap     | Page 7  |
| Hijaak Version 5     | Page 8  |
| Phishers and Phrauds | Page 10 |
| Zoo Tycoon           | Page 14 |
| Event Calendar       | Page 16 |

## Main Meeting Wednesday, Sept. 22 Southwest Tennessee Community College

5983 Macon Cove, Memphis

### **MEETING LOCATION**

## Farris Meeting Room C

Second Floor - Farris Building

Wizards Session 6:30 p.m.  
Main Meeting 7:30 p.m.

The Main Meeting topic for September was not available at press time. We will have a good time, no matter what the topic may be.

Come and bring a friend!





# The School Bell

## News From MPCUG Education Services

By Gil Hennon, Education Services Coordinator

Are you seeing more spam lately? Everyone seems to be saying so. For a while, I seemed to be practically immune, but now I'm getting ads for home equity loans, Viagra, cheap software, and online casinos everyday. Such popularity!

Part of the spam increase is due to the rapid growth of spamming shops. They started out selling their own stuff, then found out it was more profitable to spam for other vendors. Now, instead of sending out several thousand emails per hour, they send out several million. They also use crawlers and bots to search through the Internet and find addresses. They get addresses from newsgroups, company sites, organization lists, and "guest books" on Web sites. The process has become so efficient that they now call it "address harvesting." There is a lot of redundancy too, so if your address happens to land on a spammer's list, you can be sure it will be on a dozen more very shortly.

One of the latest spam elimination tools was created jointly by Microsoft and Pobox.com. Computerworld magazine perhaps prematurely called "Sender ID" a de-facto standard in email authentication. In spite of a strong push into the market from Microsoft, it has not yet been widely accepted.

"Sender ID" works by putting a record of approved email systems on DNS servers. The record can be used by mail servers to verify the sender identity of each email message. Theoretically, a message that fails the "Sender ID" test may have a spoofed sender field, and therefore is likely spam or virus propagation. In fact, according to an early test conducted by CipherTrust, Inc., the email security company, more email that passes the "Sender ID" test turns out to be spam.

CipherTrust concluded that spammers have been the majority of early adopters of "Sender ID." They noted that only about 3% of the Fortune 1000 companies is using "Sender ID," so their findings are based on a small sample, but there was no doubt that spammers are using "Sender ID" validation more often than legitimate email senders.

On the one hand, this is a good thing. It means that the spam houses are providing a real, verifiable sender address in their email. It also means that the spammers have found more benefit than risk in a tool that was originally designed to prevent spam. So even when the other 95% of email senders are using "Sender ID," there will still be some question over which is legit and which is spam.

Since both of the political conventions are over, I searched their platforms to see if either is taking a stand on the continuing battles over digital rights and copyright piracy. Neither side seems to have noticed the increasing burden of lawsuits on the U. S. court system nor addressed the legal abuse of citizens through the Digital Millennium Copyright Act (DMCA). It's as if the candidates hope that by ignoring the problem, it will go away. Perhaps they actually realize that the DMCA was an embarrassingly poor piece of legislation, and want to distance themselves from it.

The courts, however, still have to deal with the law that congress created to improve the profitability of the movie and recording industries. Of the glut of lawsuits that have been brought against individuals, many of them children, judges have, so far, dismissed the majority. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) quietly stopped taking suits for music piracy to court. Its lawyers

push for settlements, and lately fairly mild ones, rather than risk annoying more judges and losing more cases.

Suits based on DMCA violations brought by companies outside the movie and recording industry have actually been more effective, but several recent actions have also been a bit too creative when interpreting what the DMCA forbids. Direct TV went overboard in bringing lawsuits against purchasers of "smart card" programming devices. Evidently, Direct TV's lawyers came to an erroneous conclusion that anyone who programs "smart cards" does it to pirate premium television channels. So when they obtained by unspecified means a customer list of a "smart card" device vendor, they filed hundreds of lawsuits. Well, it turns out that there are quite a few other legal uses for "smart cards" besides satellite TV tuners. Fortunately, courts require evidence and judges are not amused by fishing expeditions. Direct TV has dropped all of those suits and will be doing a lot more groundwork before approaching the bench again.

Other creative lawsuits based upon the vague wording of the DMCA have included Sony suing video gamers for porting non-Sony games to Playstations and Lexmark, the printer manufacturer, who sues ink cartridge refillers. Adding to the confusion created by the DMCA is the sorry state of affairs at the U. S. Patent Office, where an over-worked staff will issue a patent for almost anything these days. They don't have time to research a new patent request properly, so they rubber stamp it, issue a patent, and let the courts work it out thereafter. The result is a gold mine for imaginative lawyers who can interpret patent laws and the DMCA almost any way they like.

Finally, as the dog days of August came to an end, an appeals court judge called a halt to one of the spurious suits inspired by the DMCA. The Chamberlain Group of Elmhurst, IL, a manufacturer of garage door openers, had sued its competitor, Skylink, for marketing a universal handheld transmitter that opened a variety of garage door mechanisms, including those made by Chamberlain. The transmitters, Chamberlain contended, violated the DMCA because they bypassed a digital security mechanism.

Because the DMCA was written with tricky wording that defines criminal acts rather than civil torts, the judge ruled that people who bought a Skylink transmitter did not intend to bypass a security system, which is illegal under the DMCA. They did, however, want their garage doors opened and closed, which the judge did not find to be covered by the Digital Millennium Copyright act. That case is closed, but when will the rest of the DMCA lunacy end?

MPCUG Education Services can help with your problems with spam, and maybe even garage door openers. Join the Wizards each month before the main meeting for their famous Q&A session.

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# Using Microsoft Office Excel 2003, Special Edition

*Book Review*

## Review by Jim Redmond

This comprehensive book in the Que series of software manuals is a great addition for anyone doing serious work with *Excel* including statistical analysis, data mining, and depth analysis of numerical data. As is the case with most of Que's products, the text clarifies sometimes confusing or superficial information available in Microsoft's *Excel* help menus, and provides practical suggestions for users at the end

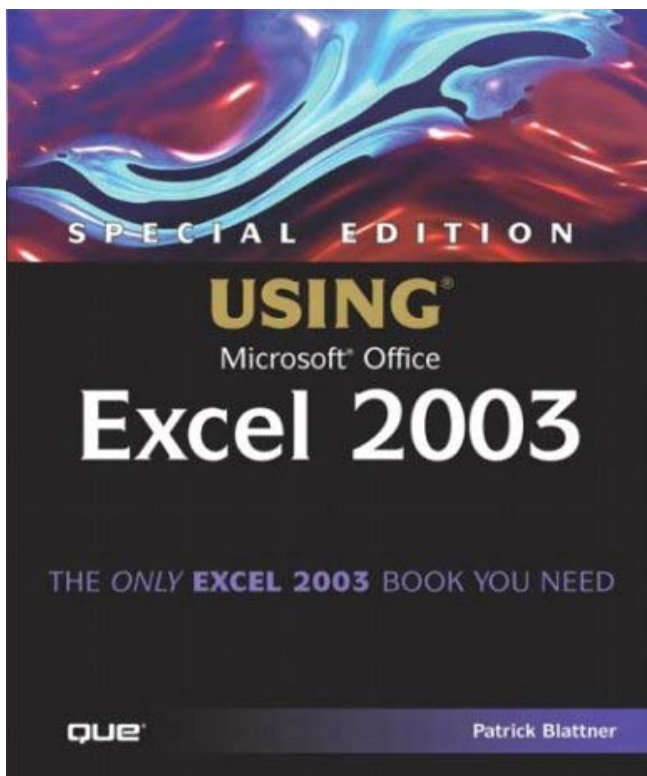
of each section titled "Excel in practice." It covers all the new changes in *Excel 2003*.

The book is substantial, 953 pages including a short appendix and fairly comprehensive appendix. It's easy to use and was written clearly and effectively to be useful to both novice and expert users of *Excel*. Additionally, the book comes with a CD-ROM that includes all of the sample spreadsheets used for examples in the book, as well as PDF files of the text.

An additional feature on the CD-ROM is a list of useful Web sites for additional resourced for *Excel* including such specialized add-ons as scheduling modules for businesses that have to juggle different kinds of

employees with sometimes conflicting schedules.

The book provides a strong section on the statistical functions available in *Excel*, with generally clear explanations of the purpose of the various analytical tools. These range from the basics of mean, median, and mode, through one and two tailed tests and such tools as Chi Square ( $X^2$ ) hypothesis testing and correlation. While the text does a fine job with these concepts, the limitation of *Excel* in some statistical functions such as  $X^2$  cannot be overcome. That is, *Excel* does not provide a decent cross tabulation function common to serious statistical software normally used in the  $X^2$  analysis to sort X and Y attributes as part of the  $X^2$  tool. You can perform a cross tabulation using the pivot table function in *Excel*, but you don't end up with the combination of  $X^2$  statistical information combined with the cross tabulation frequencies, which is a fundamental part of applied use of



X<sup>2</sup>. However, for typical statistical analysis used in industry both the program and the Que publication are quite satisfactory and they include a wide range of statistical applications and concepts that are quite sophisticated.

One very good section in the book deals with PivotTable functions and updates in *Excel* to facilitate and simplify their use. Pivot tables are handy to look at portions of a large data set to determine which things intersect with others. In effect, you can determine what rows and columns to compare to determine any relationship between isolated elements within your greater data set.

One of the most useful aspects of *Using Microsoft Office Excel 2000, Special Edition* is having the whole book and all the spreadsheet examples on a CD-ROM, complete with the index. It provides easy access at any time to brush up on your *Excel* skills, or refresh yourself on a particular tool, without packing a big book around. Perfect for the growing world of laptop users with hours of waiting in an airport.

*Using Microsoft Office Excel 2003, Special Edition* by Patrick Blattner. 2003. Que. 960 pages. \$40.

## 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 Me: The Missing Manual                              | Greg Adams      |
| Teach Yourself GoLive 5 in 24 Hours                         | Allison Banks   |
| Teach Yourself Adobe Photoshop CS<br>in 24 Hours            | Judith Bogan    |
| Wipe Drive 3.0                                              | John Dodson     |
| Windows Security Handbook                                   | Dorothy Drum    |
| The Little Web Cam Book                                     | Mike Heinrich   |
| Microsoft Works 7.0                                         | Jim Ingram      |
| How to Use Microsoft FrontPage 2002                         | David Levine    |
| The Complete Idiot's Guide to Starting<br>A Business Online | David Levine    |
| User Interface in C#                                        | Jim McGee       |
| Windows XP Pro (book)                                       | Daniel Notowitz |
| FrontPage 2002 Unleashed                                    | Carl Osborne    |
| Burn, Baby, Burn                                            | John Schuster   |
| Macromedia (book)                                           | David Stowell   |
| Windows XP (book)                                           | Terry Thomas    |
| SPSS                                                        | Jin Yang        |
| Photoshop CS Down and Dirty Tricks                          | Jin Yang        |

Thanks to all who checked out products for review. Let's keep the Group vital and provide value for membership.

# Every Vote Counts: A Practical Guide to Choosing the Next President

*Book Review*

Reviewed by Joe Hayden, Ph.D.

You read that right: this book is on politics. No mention of ASP, Visual Basic, or Microsoft *Office* anywhere here. What are Chris Katsaropoulos and Que doing putting out a book on Campaign 2004? The author, who has previously published books on Web entrepreneurship, says the bizarre presidential election of 2000 triggered his interest and also showed him how every vote does indeed count. The result is a little primer that proves surprisingly useful, informative, and fun.

Katsaropoulos divides his book into two sections — one on the candidates, the other on the campaign and the American electoral process generally. Entrenched partisans may assume there's not much they don't know already about their candidate or even about "the other guy." They'd be wrong, though. In fact, what's refreshing about this digest is the impartial side-by-side comparisons between the candidates on various issues. The summaries are by no means comprehensive, but they give you a straight, succinct profile free of cant and rhetoric, and they cover about two dozen subjects, from agriculture policy to the Abu Ghraib prison scandal.

The book even provides a "candidate match survey" to allow readers to see

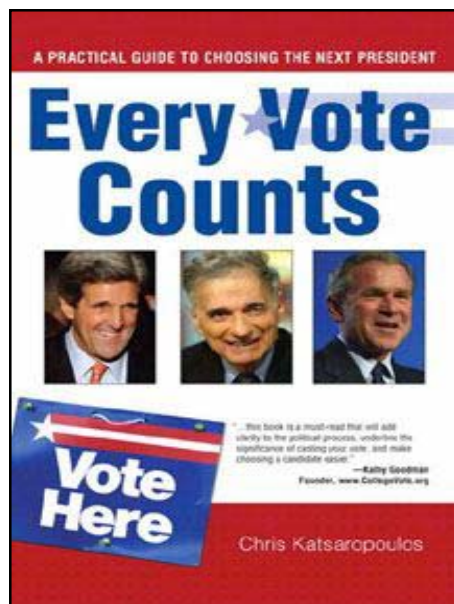
how closely their own views are or aren't in sync with the candidates. Perhaps it's naïve to think that voters over the age of 25 and with strong opinions will sit through this, but that's not really the point. The value of this section is having non-partisan information on all three major-party candidates in one compact place.

The other half of the book deals with both the campaign and with voting (maybe a third section would have made more sense). These parts make particularly enjoyable reading. Forgotten how the Electoral College works? Here's an easy-to-follow refresher course. Want to know which states are this year's "battle-ground states"? Charts and maps spell it out.

If this material isn't enough to make you a political junkie, they will at least help make you a well-informed voter. And that's Katsaropoulos' main goal — that, and perhaps making you laugh, which the book will also do, with its selection of political cartoons and quips from late-night TV talk show hosts. Indeed, you may feel as though you've been following the race intensely all along.

This book is especially ideal for young people, for non-partisans, and for politicians in need of something to read on the beach. But I suspect that even some committed Democrats, Republicans, and Naderites could get a kick out of it as well, as there's enough political ammo in it to wield with deadly force. For the rest of us, though, it's just fun to page through while we wait for our next fix from *The Daily Show*.

Every Vote Counts: A Practical Guide to Choosing the Next President by Chris Katsaropoulos (Que, 2004) 225 pages. \$12.99.



# Access 2003 in a Snap

Book Review

## Reviewed by Rick Fischer

This appears to be a new series by Sams. It is so new it's not yet listed on the Sams Web site. Amazon has it listed, but the cover is slightly different from mine.

I like this book. Let me tell you why. It is for beginners, yet very comprehensive. It gives you the concepts you need to get started, and to work on a database on your own. It is, perhaps, the best thought out book on *Access* I have seen.

The layout seems to have borrowed concepts from mind mapping. Not so much the pictorial representation, but the way the concepts are linked together.

I am building an *Access* database to hold student records. I plan to share it with other departments at our University. That means that I will be both user and developer. And,

I can see that you pretty much want to get it right the first time.

Balter holds your hand as you build the database, the queries and reports. I am ready to get started.

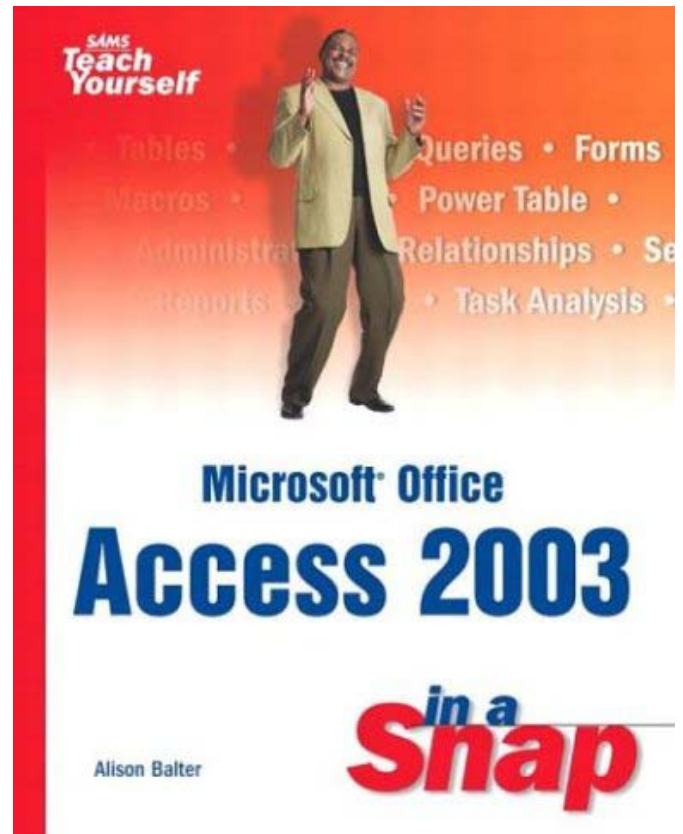
I found some real interesting material in the last chapter (Chap. 15). I

think I really need to know this, but only here did I leave wanting more.

The section on switchboards was very timely. I think I now see how it all goes together. The only thing I needed here was an example of what a completed switchboard might look like. Better

yet, let me access a Web site where I could download a full database that included a switchboard. I'll check the templates on the Microsoft site, but I would be surprised if any of them have it fleshed out that far.

And, I can't say I remember seeing anything about the database splitter in the other books I have read. This sounds like something I will need to do. From the step-by-step instructions and pictures I see how to do it, but the section ended leaving me a bit uneasy about how I



operate on the database after that. It is clear that Alison Balter understands. I will be checking other books to bolster my understanding. Those are the only two quibbles I have.

When I distribute my database, I will be writing a set of instructions on how to operate the database. In that instruction set I am going to recommend this book for more information. I am impressed.

Microsoft Office Access 2003 in a Snap by Alison Balter. 2005. Sams Publishing. 318 pages. \$25.

# HiJAAK version 5

*Software Review*

Reviewed by John Schuster

There have been many times, in the past 20 years or so, that I wished I had a utility that could convert from one graphic format to another. During this time, there have been many utilities that would do it with raster type graphics (your basic bitmaps), including one of my favorite viewers, *Irfanview*. However, there have been few, if any, that could work with vector and metafile type graphics.

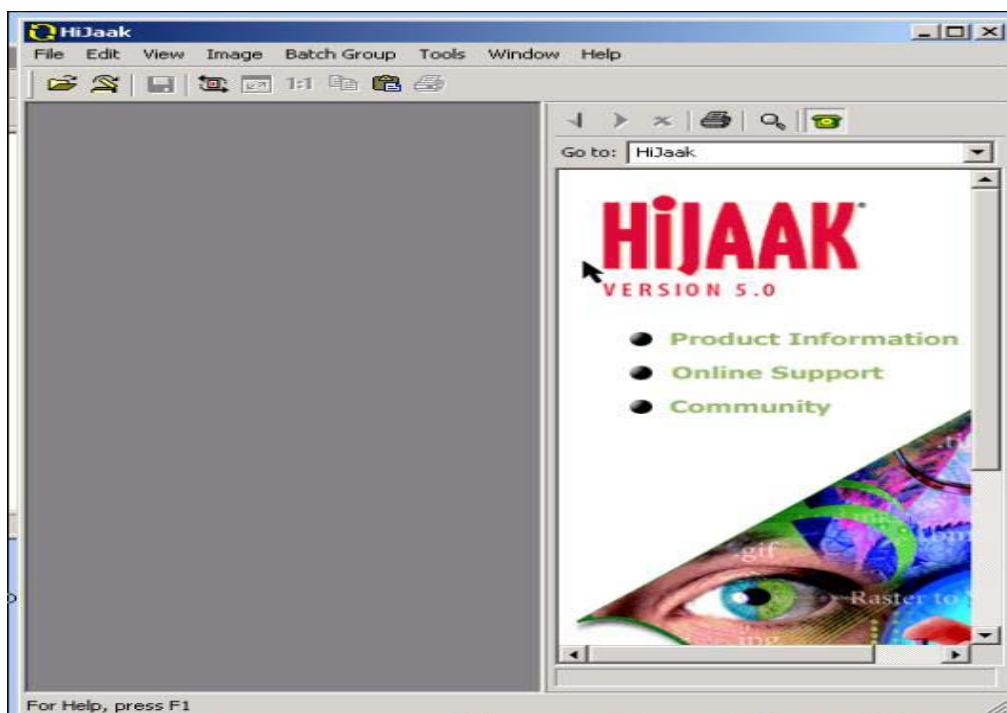
Many years ago, I had heard mention of a program called *HiJAAK* but I had never had a chance to see it, much less use it. Now, through the auspices of Rick Fischer and the MPCUG Software/Book Review System, I have the opportunity to run it through its paces.

My first impression is that this program can do it all, with respect to graphic format conversion. Covered are: 45 Raster formats, 16 Metafile formats, 10 Vector formats, 2 3D formats, 8 CAD formats, 2 Dedicated digital camera formats, 5 Animation formats and 27 Fax formats.

There are, of course, some limitations in converting from one format family (such as raster) to another (such as vector). Inherently, vector graphics are actually line drawings where raster graphics are pixel based bitmaps. When you convert a JPG (raster) to a PGL (HP 7475A vector plotter), you lose a lot of the detail that cannot be properly interpreted in a line-oriented format and you will lose detail within enclosed areas, such as faces.

Within the *HiJAAK* program, you will find tools for manipulating the image. These include cropping, brightness/contrast/gamma controls, resizing, etc. Learning to use all these features, as well as the actual format conversion, is facilitated by inclusion of 11 tutorials.

Truthfully, there are other programs (some free, such as *Irfanview*), which can do many of the things that *HiJAAK* is capable of. There are, however, no other programs that will do all the things that *HiJAAK* does. Among its abilities are viewing and creation of thumbnail





images and many batch operations (Want to convert all the images in one folder from BMP to JPG? This program will let you do it).

Additional features include capturing screens and Web-sites (using the IMSI Capture utility). Just for an experiment, I tried capturing the IMSISoft website. After over three hours and 33MB of data transfer (at my blazing 26.4K connection speed), I aborted and took a look at what I'd gotten. Much of it was non-IMSI advertisement pages (most likely paid). I had not applied any filters or put any limitations on the depth or breadth of

the capture. These capabilities are built in to the program and I could have limited the capture by judicious use of them. However, I wanted to see what would happen with the simplest possible scenario. Obviously, unless you have a broadband connection and plenty of hard drive space, you will not want to do unlimited captures of major web-sites.

In theory, a full capture would have automatically patched the links so that they would work locally rather than going back out to the Web to find their content.

The image capture allows you to select how you will capture the image, where it will be saved and a choice of TIF or BMP to save it as. Here are a couple of samples that I captured from *HiJAAK's* various menus, including the main screen of the, rather extensive, help.

Just for grins, I tried converting one of the captured BMP's to a JPG and noticed a drastic drop in quality using the default settings. By increasing the size and the DPI, I was able to improve on this. In all cases, the file size will increase as the quality improves.

All in all, I found *HiJAAK* easy to use and very comprehensive. Some of its features are included in other (some free) utilities but, the overall combination of all the abilities, included in this package, make it a very desirable program. I will use it and would recommend it.

By the way - even though the box and manual indicate that it is for Windows 95, 98 and NT 4.0, I tested it, with no problem, on *Windows 2000 Pro*. I would assume that this is due to the copyright date being 1999. The package, that I'm reviewing, contained version 5.02 (this is the latest patch, according to IMSI's Web-site). If you have an earlier version of *HiJAAK 5.0*, it may not install correctly on *Windows 2000* or *Windows XP* but the patch can be downloaded.



HiJAAK version 5 is a product of IMSI. \$99.95 or shop around.  
<http://www.imsisoft.com>

# Phishers and Phrauds

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*Editorial*

by Gil Hennon

One of the unfortunate results of computers getting easier to use and computer users becoming more comfortable with online transactions is that computer crooks are also learning new ways to operate in cyberspace. The earlier forms of online fraud were relatively simple adaptations of familiar con games. Whether it was a "wallet on the sidewalk" or the "Nigerian treasury" scam, the object was the same: Get access to the victim's bank account. So it was done in just about the same way by email. Technology wasn't a factor beyond the method of targeting the mark.

When the victims wised up and quit taking the bait, the fraud artists found that computerized crime offered opportunities much more lucrative and difficult to detect. They made their email look like official communications that computer users were familiar with and usually trusted. A request that seemed to come from a bank or credit card company brought back the numbers and often passwords or PINs needed to activate the account. When the email scams no longer attracted victims, fake Web pages did the trick. Every new ploy moved computer fraud farther from "social engineering" and nearer to "technological misrepresentation."

Some of the computer fraud schemes making the rounds these days could not have existed before networks and the Internet. One of these that you won't see as an individual, but makes what you purchase cost more is "click fraud." It grew out of the advertising methodology

associated with search engines. Yahoo and Google arrange with a vendor to display a link when someone searches for a particular keyword. Typically, the search engine company gets about fifty cents from the vendor when the searcher clicks on that link and sees the vendor's products. The "click through" payment is variable, with some highly competitive vendors willing to pay a dollar or more. It turns into fraud when the vendor's competitor has a crew of shills who click thousands of times on the link and run up the "click through" costs without being valid customers. Detecting this behavior is difficult, but not impossible. The major search engines all give refunds to vendors who have evidence of "click fraud," but still is an added expense that none of the parties should bear.

A more sophisticated form of "click fraud" is the method practiced by the notorious "CoolWebSearch" organization based in Russia. In this case, hundreds or thousands of "affiliate" Web sites are paid to place Trojan Horse software programs on visiting computers. The software may only generate pop-up advertising, producing a "click through" payment if the computer user actually clicks on a pop-up ad. As the Trojan Horse software takes more control of the user's computer, nastier tricks are played, such as redirecting searches from legitimate engines like Yahoo and Google to proprietary search engines that only display links to a few sites that all pay for "click throughs." At the worst end of the spectrum is the multiple abuse software that uses virus technology to infect a computer in several ways and is nearly impossible to remove.



Once this type of software has established itself within a system, the user loses all control over Internet searching and browsing. The computer can only connect to sites the Trojan Horse software allows it to, only sees vendors who make “click through” payments to the affiliated sites, and in many cases, gets a lot of unrequested pornography and pop-up advertising instead of what the search was actually supposed to find. For all practical purposes, a computer infected in this manner becomes useless.

Another form of fraud growing rapidly online is a variation of identity theft. Last month, the two largest German banks, Deutsche Bank AG and Postbank AG, were victimized by phishers. Postbank was attacked twice and Deutsche Bank once. Two of the three attacks appear to have the same origin. Email to bank customers asked them to come to bank Web sites and verify information, but the link provided in the message pointed to a hoax site that imitated the real bank sites so well that account holders entered their login names, passwords, account and credit card numbers, and other personal financial information.

A month earlier, several large banks in Brazil were similarly targeted. Besides an email message designed to alarm account

holders and copycat Web sites, the email contained a Trojan Horse attachment that redirected attempts to visit the real bank Web sites. So whether a bank customer clicked on the email link or used a bookmark, the destination was always the fraudulent hoax Web site. Bank officials had the fake sites closed down, but not before many customers left confidential information there. The sites were professionally created, and were said to be very difficult to distinguish from the real thing, even by alert online banking veterans.

The Brazilian and German phishing attacks signal a significant change in direction for fraud perpetrators. Previously, phishers targeted banks and credit card companies only in English speaking countries, especially the United States, Great Britain, and Australia. And although the German attacks were not quite as perfect as the Brazilian ones, there were noticeable similarities. Law enforcement agents believe that the attacks came from Russia and Asia. The German email contained some grammatical errors typical of a translation by someone not well familiar with the language, while the wording was too close to the Brazilian messages to be coincidental. In the first attack on Postbank, which was different from all the others, the email messages were written in English rather than German. That detail probably kept the exploit from being much of a success, since German customers of a German bank will find an email in English to be odd, if not suspicious. A Deutsche Bank official said that the email messages sent to his customers contained a link to Postbank, a competitor. As soon as Deutsche Bank was made aware of the attack, they had the hoax link blocked. Since the attacks, both banks have sent postal letters to all customers, letting them know that the bank never uses email as a customer

notification method. The letter also warned customers against entering personal data, passwords, PIN numbers, or transaction information on any Web site that does not identify itself with a valid verification certificate.

Another form of phishing targets users of eBay and other online services where individuals can register to be notified if certain kinds of merchandise become available. A typical fraud scenario has a registered collector receive email that a highly desirable item can be purchased for an attractive price. A link takes the collector to a Web page where credit card information and a shipping address is entered. Usually, within twenty-four hours, the collector discovers that his/her checking account is empty. Often savings accounts are also emptied because many banks guarantee overdrafts by transferring funds between the two accounts.

A less carefully targeted phishing expedition, and a type growing more common, sends out millions of email messages asking for verification of some type of account information. The majority of recipients ignore the message because they don't have an account at the specified bank or carry the identified credit card. Of those who do have a relationship of some kind, not all will respond. But some will go to the linked Web site, and if nothing triggers suspicion, confidential information may be given. Ponemon Institute at Carnegie Mellon University studied one of these attacks and interviewed several hundred customers who received the phishing email and visited the fraudulent Web site. The researchers found that although only a small percentage (16%) actually gave the site personal information, and an even smaller percentage (1.25%) actually experienced any identity theft activity, the dollar loss can still be

significant. This crudely executed ploy netted the phishers about \$50,000.00. Besides the victims' losses, some of which were insured or reimbursed, the targeted institution lost more than 200 customers as a result.

Phishing and other online fraud are profitable enough that security and law enforcement professionals are seeing a shift in the type of criminal committing the crimes. Technological methods for invading accounts and stealing identities originate in communities of amateur hackers, but the successful exploits are quickly adopted by criminally-minded individuals and organizations. There isn't any rocket science in using a Denial of Service tool or remote access utility to go for the money instead of revenge or recognition. Click fraud grew out of browser hijacking, and online identity thieves use keystroke loggers, Trojan Horse software, and spoofing of email and Web site addresses.

Online organized criminal activity involving spam has been blamed for the July outbreak of a new variant of the MyDoom virus. Some experts believe that Denial of Service (DoS) attacks triggered by the virus against Microsoft and SCO were "red herrings," a side-show intended to conceal a more sinister purpose. The virus installed a "back door" on infected machines that allowed innocent PCs to be used as "zombies" during the DoS attacks. Perhaps vandalism wasn't MyDoom's purpose at all. About a week after MyDoom infections peaked, millions of these "zombie" PCs were used to mail spam.

Variants of the MyDoom and Bagle viruses install a Trojan Horse program named Mitglieder, which installs a back door and sends a message back to its originator with the Internet address of its

new residence. Then Mitglieder probes attached networks and the Internet, identifying other similarly infected PCs and building a secret peer-to-peer network. Mitglieder remains completely hidden from the users of infected computers while it waits for instructions from its home. When those instructions come, they typically originate from eastern European countries. Quite often the controlling computers belong to organizations already familiar to international police as criminal "front" operations. The same crime organizations that traditionally dealt in drugs, prostitution, money laundering, and pornography now find "zombie" networks highly profitable and low in risk.

Imagine, for a moment, that your personal computer has become infected with one of the Mitglieder carrier viruses. You now operate a "sales office" for a world-wide criminal organization. Several times each day your computer sends out small batches of spam. Usually the quantity is not enough to attract the attention of your ISP, although some of them are getting smart enough to look at cumulative traffic rather than single instances. You may be selling low-cost bootleg software for the mob, or you may be peddling pornography. Maybe your computer is being used to lure honest folks to fake Web sites that look like their bank or credit card company. You have nothing to do with it, of course. It all goes on inside your computer. But by operating an infected computer, you have become a part of an organized crime syndicate. That's scary enough, but also consider that one day your computer could be identified by law enforcement. Although you knew nothing about it, when they confiscate and analyze your computer, there will be evidence on your hard

drive that could possibly send you to prison.

Okay. Stop imagining now. That's enough daydreaming. Go do some things that are both productive and protective. Check that you have all of the critical security patches your operating system and applications need. Make sure you have good virus eradication software and that its virus data files are up to date. If you don't have a firewall on your computer, install one and pay attention to what is coming into and going out of your PC. Hardware firewalls come in routers, which are good to have between your computer and a broadband modem. They cost money, but when properly configured are very secure. Software firewalls can be nearly as good, and some of the best ones are free. If you are really serious about your computer's security and like to sleep peacefully every night, install both a hardware and software firewall.

Click fraud routes customers away from legitimate vendors and increases the cost of doing business. Taking steps to prevent "click fraud" also costs money. Phishing and other identity theft schemes enable crooks to unlawfully access bank and credit accounts and fraudulently steal from victims and companies. "Zombie" PC networks turn virus infected computers into crime tools and innocent users into pornographers and criminal accomplices. These illegal online schemes have moved rapidly into high-tech methods. The crooks are getting smarter while the tools for preventing these activities are finding it hard to keep up. For the time being, the most effective prevention is a well prepared computer, a healthy measure of suspicion, and a willingness to pull the plug on anything that doesn't look quite right. Remember, whenever a fraud artist scores, we all pay for it.

# Microsoft ZOO TYCOON

## Software Review

**Reviewed by Jesse Ingram,  
Hernando (MS) Middle  
School**

By far, this game was the most outstanding game I have ever played. I liked it because I could create my own kind of zoo the way that I wanted. I also enjoyed the way that if my zoo had low ratings or people were in need of anything, a message would pop up and let me know.

I liked the way that the zoo could get awards if it was really clean or got a large amount of visitors to the park. Another thing that I liked about this game is that

it promotes kindness to animals. The goal is not to make as much as possible; it is to make your guests and animals happy.

My eight-year-old cousin is fascinated by *Zoo Tycoon*. He plays the game by putting people inside the fenced-in areas of the zoo with dinosaurs and other predators attacking from outside. This gives the effect of the zoo being a fort being attacked by Indians.

### **Requires:**

Windows 95/98/2000/  
Me/XP. Multimedia PC  
with a 233 MHz processor,

300 MHz recommended.  
32 MB for Windows 95/98  
and Windows ME, 64 MB  
for Windows 2000, 128 MB  
for Windows XP. Mini-  
mum 250 MB of available  
hard disk space, 600 MB  
recommended. Quad-  
speed or higher CD-ROM  
drive. Super VGA video  
display, capable of  
800x600 resolution;  
DirectX® 8.0a (included);  
4 MB graphics card, 16-bit  
color capable, 16 MB  
recommended. \$20

A trial version is  
available at: [http://  
www.microsoft.com/  
games/zootycoon/zoo1/  
downloads.asp](http://www.microsoft.com/games/zootycoon/zoo1/downloads.asp)



**Lions escape from the zoo!**

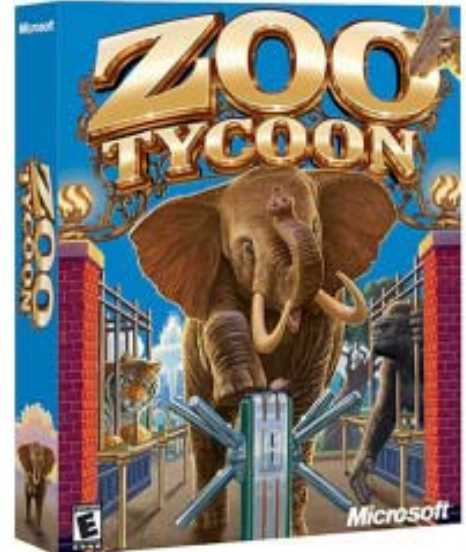
### New version due out soon

Walk with the animals when a new, graphically stunning 3D version of *Zoo Tycoon* debuts on store shelves this fall. *Zoo Tycoon™ 2*, the sequel to the award-winning *Zoo Tycoon* game for Windows, will launch in time for holiday gift-giving. *Zoo Tycoon 2* adds a spectacular new chapter to the wildly popular franchise, which has earned accolades from Child Magazine, Children's Software Revue and the Parents' Choice Foundation, and was awarded the prestigious Bologna New Media Prize for its fusion of education and entertainment.

*Zoo Tycoon 2* cranks up the excitement, challenge and fun of building the ultimate zoo with new animals, a dazzling array of building tools and objects, new terrain-altering options, scenery, foliage, themed buildings, animal shelters and moats and more. Gameplay has been enhanced with a new zoom feature and 3D graphics that allow players to keep a closer eye on the action and craft more-creative zoos.

*Zoo Tycoon 2* gets players up close and interacting with the animals and zoo, offering intuitive controls and fun tutorials that allow players of all ages to enjoy the game right out of the box. Players are immersed in the zoo experience with new features including: the Zoo Guest mode, in which players can walk around and enjoy the game like visitors on a day at the zoo; Zoo Keeper mode, which allows players to interact with their animals as never before; and a new Photo Mode, which gives players the ability to take pictures of their favorite animals and guests and share them online with friends.

(Source: [www.microsoft.com/games/zootycoon](http://www.microsoft.com/games/zootycoon))



## 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: \_\_\_\_\_

For up to the minute information and special updates  
be sure to check our Web site at:

***www.mpcug.org***

|                       | MONDAY                                                                                                    | TUESDAY                                                                                             | WEDNESDAY             | THURSDAY                                                                                 | FRIDAY                                                                                                 | SATURDAY                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| SEPT<br>2004          | 6                                                                                                         | 7<br>DOT.NET                                                                                        | 8                     | 9<br>VISUAL STUDIO                                                                       | 10                                                                                                     | 11<br>WEB WRITERS<br>MS OFFICE                                                                            |
| SEPT<br>2004          | 13                                                                                                        | 14                                                                                                  | 15                    | 16<br> | 17                                                                                                     | 18                                                                                                        |
| SEPT<br>2004          | 20<br>WORDPERFECT                                                                                         | 21<br><br>AUTUMN | 22<br>MAIN<br>MEETING | 23                                                                                       | 24                                                                                                     | 25<br>INVESTMENT<br> |
| SEPT--<br>OCT<br>2004 | 27<br>CLIPPER                                                                                             | 28                                                                                                  | 29                    | 30                                                                                       | 1                                                                                                      | 2<br>INTERNET<br>HARDWARE                                                                                 |
| OCT<br>2004           | 4                                                                                                         | 5<br>DOT.NET                                                                                        | 6                     | 7                                                                                        | 8                                                                                                      | 9<br>WEB WRITERS<br>MS OFFICE                                                                             |
| OCT<br>2004           | 11<br><br>COLOMBUS DAY | 12                                                                                                  | 13                    | 14<br>VISUAL STUDIO                                                                      | 15<br><br>Ramadan | 16                                                                                                        |