GLAD TIDINGS

Blessings
2005
by Kathy Aanestad

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Donating Used Computer Equipment

The URL listed is for the Computer Recycling Center. All of the info needed (and then some) is listed on the site.
http://www.crc.org/

Thanks to Wayne Till for that tip.

SVCG User Group Benefits and Discounts

As a benefit to being a member of the Sonoma Valley Computer Group, you get 20%-30% off books from various publishers.

In addition, SVCG belongs to the Apple User Group program whereby members can purchase Apple products at a savings. Contact Kathy Aanestad for user ID and password in order to access their online site.

We need members to help with finding contacts for PC user group offers so that they can be included in the newsletter postings.

O'REILLY

Members receive a 20% discount on O'Reilly books and conferences. Contact Kathy for the code.

NEW RIDERS BOOKS

http://www.newriders.com
BECOME A NEW RIDERS CLUB MEMBER. You can save up to 20% on all books every day at newriders.com simply by becoming a New Riders Club Member. Membership is **free** and easy. All you have to do is answer a few, short questions in our ongoing, online survey, which you can access on any book page. Don't worry.

All of your information stays with us--we won't sell it or give it away to anyone. After you've filled out the profile, you'll save 20% automatically whenever you log on to http://www.newriders.com as a member. It's that easy!

Note that you may use your User Group Coupon Code **ON TOP** of your Club Member savings. Just remember to log in first when making a purchase and then enter the code at checkout as well! Contact Kathy for code.

PEACHPIT

JOIN THE PEACHPIT CLUB

You can save 30% on all books every day at peachpit.com simply by becoming a Peachpit Club Member. Membership is free and easy. All you have to do is answer a few, short questions in our ongoing, online survey, which you can access on any book page. Don't worry, all of your information is confidential and stays with us--we won't sell it or give it away to anyone. After you've filled out the survey, you'll save 30% automatically whenever you log on to http://www.peachpit.com as a member. It's that easy!

USER GROUP COUPON CODE

User group members should note that once you've become a Peachpit Club member, you may use your user group coupon code ON TOP of the permanent savings you earn as a member of the club. Just make sure you've logged onto the site before you make a purchase to ensure this permanent discount will be in effect, then enter coupon code (case-sensitive) at checkout! This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. Contact Kathy for code information.

You can contact Kathy by
email: at aanestad@vom.com
snail-mail: at P.O. Box 729, Sonoma CA 95476.

WHAT'S NEWS

UN MEETING TO ADDRESS CONTROL OF INTERNET

The United Nations (UN) is hosting an international conference this week in Tunisia to address concerns about U.S. control of the Internet. The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) was set up in 1998 to oversee the Domain Name System, which reconciles Web addresses and directs Internet traffic to proper destinations. Despite an understanding that ICANN would become independent of any national ties, the Bush administration this year rejected such a move, and the organization still operates under the authority of the U.S. Department of Commerce. This situation has left many other countries complaining that the United States holds the power over a global resource, and nine different proposals for putting ICANN under the guidance of an international body will be addressed at the meeting in Tunisia, which will host as many as 15,000 delegates. Some individuals who were part of the work that led to the Internet have said that concerns over ICANN are misguided. Leonard Kleinrock, computer scientist at UCLA, said, "Everyone seems to think that the D.N.S. system is a big deal, but it's not the heartbeat of the Internet." Robert Kahn, one of the developers behind TCP/IP, said of ICANN, "There is nothing in there to control, and there are huge issues that the governments of the world really do need to work on."
New York Times, 14 November 2005 (registration req'd)
http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/14/business/14register.html

GOOGLE FLOATS IDEA OF RENTING BOOKS

Google has reportedly proposed a plan to rent books online. An unnamed publisher said that Google suggested the idea of letting consumers pay a fee, equal to 10 percent of the price of a printed copy of the book, to have online access to the text for one week. Rented books would not be downloadable or printable, according to the publisher, which said that although the fee Google suggested is too low, the notion of renting texts might represent a viable new model for content distribution. A spokesperson from Google said that although "Google Print is exploring new access models to help authors and publishers sell more books online," the company at this time has nothing to announce. Other publishers said they were curious about a rental program for books and are interested in hearing more details, as long as the program ensures that copyright holders are compensated. David Steinberger, chief executive of Perseus Books, also noted that for a rental program to be successful, it would have to augment physical book sales, not limit them.
Wall Street Journal, 14 November 2005 (sub. req'd)
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB113192806168096032.html

SNOCAP ADDS WARNER MUSIC TO QUIVER

Online music service Snocap has reached an agreement with Warner Music Group, giving Snocap deals with all four major record labels as well as a number of smaller, independent labels. The company already had struck deals with Sony BMG, Universal Music, and EMI Gr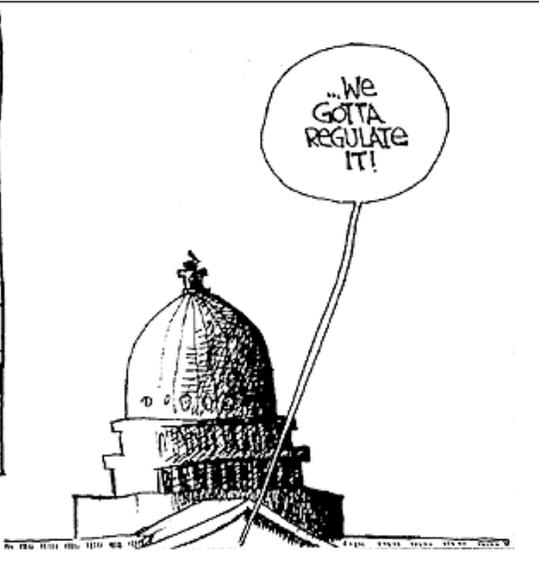oup. Snocap was founded by Shawn Fanning, creator of the original Napster. The company uses "fingerprinting" technology to label electronic music, which gives consumers online access to music while giving record labels the ability to control how files are used. Copyright owners can register songs with Snocap and then use the company's management system to set properties for how each track can be used. According to the company, consumers who use Snocap can be assured of having only legal downloads of music, without the risk of litigation for illegal file trading and without the risk of downloading viruses or other malware that is sometimes included in music on P2P services.
CNET, 13 November 2005
http://news.com.com/2100-1027_3-5949869.html

I2HUB SHUTS DOWN

I2Hub, the P2P service that ran on Internet2's very high-speed network, has ceased operation amid growing concerns over the liability of such services for copyright infringements by their users. I2Hub was launched in early 2004 on the academic and research network that connects more than 200 locations. Although the service made forays into legal activities, it was largely used by students at connected campuses to trade music and movies at speeds substantially higher than possible with commercial Internet services. A number of i2Hub users had been targeted by the entertainment industry for copyright infringement, however, and the service itself was cited by the Recording Industry Association of America in September as a

SVCG
☎ Plugged into Technology ✆

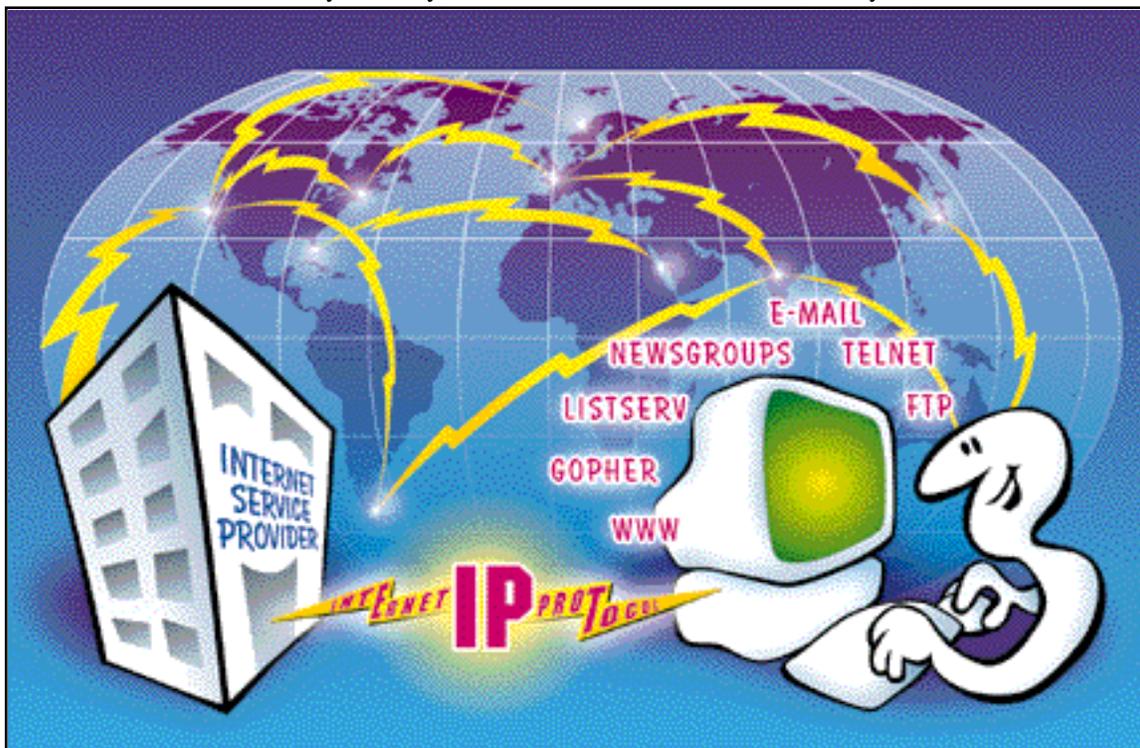possible target of legal action. The closure of i2Hub follows that of Grokster last week and an announcement by eDonkey, the most popular P2P service, that it would change its business model to a paid download service. CNET, 14 November 2005 http://news.com.com/2100-1027_3-5952060.html

IFPI RATCHETS UP LAWSUITS The International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) has filed lawsuits against 2,100 individuals in a number of countries for allegedly sharing copyrighted material over the Internet. The new round of lawsuits, which targets users in the United Kingdom, France, Germany, Italy, Switzerland, Sweden, Argentina, Singapore, and Hong Kong, brings the IFPI's total to more than 3,800. In the United States, nearly 16,000 individuals have been sued for illegal file trading, resulting in more than 3,500 settlements so far. The sharp upswing in the number of lawsuits from the IFPI comes after strong victories for copyright holders in the United States, Australia, and South Korea against operators of P2P services, which in those countries can be held liable for copyright infringement by their users. IFPI Chief John Kennedy said the new suits represent "a significant escalation of our enforcement actions" and noted that through such lawsuits, thousands of individuals "have learnt to their cost the legal and

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Sonoma Valley Computer Group Membership Application/Renewal Form

New Applicant

☐ Use information below

Name: _____
Address: _____
_____
Home Phone:_____
Work Phone: _____
E-mail Address:_____

☐ Send ☐ $20 (individual) ☐ $30 (family) check to:

Sonoma Valley Computer Group
POB 649
El Verano, CA 95433

☐ I give permission to use this info in the club roster which is for members only

Renewal (expiration date on label)

☐ Use the name and address label on Page 12

Platform: ☐ Mac ☐ PC ☐ WinNT
Operating System: ☐ OS 8x ☐ Win3 ☐ Unix
☐ OS 9x ☐ Win95 ☐ Linux
☐ OS X ☐ Win98 ☐ WinME
Computer Make/Model: _____

How did you hear about SVCG?

☐ class ☐ club member ☐ newspaper ☐ newsletter

User Level: ☐ Novice ☐ Intermediate
☐ Advanced ☐ Expert

financial risks involved in file-sharing copyrighted music."
BBC, 15 November 2005
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/entertainment/4438324.stm

U.S. TO KEEP CONTROL OF ICANN

Delegates at an international meeting in Tunisia have agreed to allow oversight of the Internet's Domain Name System (DNS) to remain with the United States. Leading up to the World Summit on the Information Society, a number of nations had put forth proposals that would have required the United States to cede DNS control to an international body. Instead, agreement was reached to leave DNS management with the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) and create an international forum to address concerns, though the forum will not have binding authority. The Internet Governance Forum is to begin meeting next year and will address issues both within the purview of ICANN, such as the addition of domains in languages other than English, and outside ICANN's authority, such as spam and cybercrime.
San Jose Mercury News, 16 November 2005
http://www.siliconvalley.com/mld/siliconvalley/13180104.htm

MIT DEBUTS $100 LAPTOP

At the World Summit on the Information Society in Tunisia, Nicholas Negroponte, director of MIT's Media Lab, will show an early version of a $100 laptop that he announced in January. Negroponte has said that such a device would bring the fruits of technology to millions of schoolchildren in developing nations, spanning the digital divide and spurring economic development. According to those involved with the project, a number of countries have expressed interest, including Brazil, China, Egypt, Nigeria, Thailand, and South Africa, though development remains before orders can be placed. In addition, the governor of Massachusetts has called on his state to provide the new laptops to every middle and high school student. Critics of the program argue that people in developing nations often need more basic supplies, such as food and clean water, and some also note that the educational value of laptops for every student has not been proven. The devices use the Linux operating system and flash memory; they do not include cameras or DVD-ROM drives, as originally planned. They run on C batteries that can be recharged using a hand crank attached to the device.
Chronicle of Higher Education, 16 November 2005
http://chronicle.com/free/2005/11/2005111602t.htm

OSDL OPENS PATENT LIBRARY

The Open Source Development Labs (OSDL) has unveiled its public patent library (PatentCommons.org), which offers a free searchable database of patents donated to the open source community. The library is a catalogue of patents whose owners have agreed not to exert any control over the technologies as long as they are used to improve the open source community. The OSDL does not hold any of the patents but simply offers the site as a clearinghouse for information about patents, where they came from, what they do, and under what conditions they can be used. Officials from the OSDL said they expect more patents to be added to the database soon but that they wanted to launch the service now, ahead of patent pledges they expect later. The site should free open source developers from much of the uncertainty they have when using patented technologies in their development efforts.
Internet News, 15 November 2005
http://www.internetnews.com/dev-news/article.php/3564201

PROGRAM WILL SHED LIGHT ON DOWNLOADS

A new initiative is designed to give computer users the information they need to avoid downloading software that includes ad programs or other pieces of code that they do not want. The Trusted Download Program, created by America Online, Yahoo, CNET Networks, Verizon, and Computer Associates, will offer a certification program for companies that offer downloads. Rather than determining what should or should not be allowed in a download, however, the certifications simply require vendors to disclose exactly what the products do and what other components, such as adware or spyware, are included. Users are then given the opportunity before downloading any software to see that information. Before the software can be downloaded, users must explicitly agree to the indicated components of the download. Consent is then required again before the software can be installed. Clear instructions for uninstalling the software must also be provided.
CNET, 15 November 2005
http://news.com.com/2100-1029_3-5954668.html

MICROSOFT TO OFFER HIGH-END COMPUTING SOFTWARE

Microsoft has announced plans to begin offering tools that will pool the resources of desktop computers running Microsoft software into high-performance computing systems. The market for high-performance computing has been dominated by Linux and UNIX systems, and market analysts at International Data Corporation noted that demand for such systems has grown faster than the rest of the server market in recent years. A Microsoft official said their target is not the "highest-end systems but...divisional and departmental computing systems." Microsoft will also provide support for 10 supercomputing installations around the world, including facilities at Cornell University, the University of Utah, University of Stuttgart, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. To be successful, Microsoft will have to compete with existing tools for moderately sized

The Desktop Metaphor
L.Allison 1995

high-performance environments, such as a program called Linux Rocks. Linux Rocks is already in use at more than 500 academic and technical sites and is available for free. New York Times, 15 November 2005 (registration req'd)
http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/15/technology/15super.html

ONLINE EDUCATION EXPANDS IN AFRICA

The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation has announced a grant to fund online education efforts in Africa. The $900,000 grant will support the Teacher Education in Sub-Saharan Africa consortium, which is working to develop an online portal that will offer a broad array of educational materials from institutions such as MIT, the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, and Chinese Open Resources for Education. According to Kuzvinetsa Peter Dzvimbo, rector of the African Virtual University, which is part of the consortium, Africa is in great need of math and science teachers, and the new portal will be used in "teach the teacher" programs to educate new instructors in sub-Saharan Africa. The online resources will not be limited to teachers, however. Beginning in Tanzania and South Africa and spreading to other African countries, the portal will be openly available to anyone with Internet access. Dzvimbo said he hopes that eventually teachers in Africa will join the online efforts alongside the professors and students in the United States who will be initially involved.
Inside Higher Ed, 17 November 2005
http://www.insidehighered.com/news/2005/11/17/africa

REACTION TO EXPECTED EXTENSION OF PATRIOT ACT PROVISIONS

Groups opposed to two provisions of the USA PATRIOT Act up for review expressed disappointment at a tentative plan to extend both. The proposed extension was written by a conference committee charged with reconciling House and Senate versions of

a bill covering the parts of the act that will otherwise expire at the end of the year. Under the plan, the provision that allows the government to issue so-called national security letters without a judge's approval would be made permanent and would allow for criminal prosecutions of individuals who reveal that they have received such a letter. The plan does not make changes to the second section of the act at issue, the library provision, that were included in the Senate bill. Those changes included requiring

the government to demonstrate a connection between terrorists and individuals whose records were sought. The Senate bill also called for another review of the library provision in four years; under the proposal, it would not be reviewed for seven years. The plan does include limited concessions. Those who receive national security letters would be allowed to discuss them with their attorneys, and the government would be required to disclose certain details about how the national security letters are used.
Chronicle of Higher Education, 18 November 2005 (sub. req'd)
http://chronicle.com/daily/2005/11/2005111801t.htm

HACKER HITS IU

Officials at Indiana University reported that a routine scan of computer systems turned up malicious software on the computer of a faculty member at the Kelley School of Business. According to James Anderson, the school?s director of information technology, the software could have been used to access the personal information of about 5,300 current and former students at the university, though no reports have surfaced that the information was used illicitly. The school has notified the students who are possibly affected and encouraged them to monitor their credit reports for suspicious activity. Daniel Smith, dean of the Kelley School, said all of the institution's computers are being audited to ensure they are free of malicious software and have current antivirus and system patches installed.
Associated Press, 18 November 2005
http://www.fortwayne.com/mld/fortwayne/news/local/13202338.htm

FEDS WIN GUILTY PLEAS IN ID THEFT RACKET

Six individuals caught in a Secret Service sting called Operation Firewall pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit credit and bank card fraud and ID document fraud. Two other individuals involved in the scam previously pleaded guilty to the same charge. All were among 19 who were indicted last year, charged with running a private-access Web site where people from around the globe bought and sold sensitive information, such as Social Security numbers, credit card numbers, and fake IDs. The ID theft ring is thought to have trafficked in more than 1.5 million credit card numbers, close to 18 million e-mail accounts, and other information that was used to buy and sell merchandise

online. One who pleaded guilty, Wesley Lanning, specialized in making and selling fake IDs. His attorney, Marc Leibman, said that although Lanning sold most of the IDs to teens to use to buy beer, "obviously everyone is concerned that some...militant is going to get one of Wesley Lanning's fake IDs and use it to transport a bomb."
Wired News, 17 November 2005
http://www.wired.com/news/infostructure/0,1377,69616,00.html

LIBRARIES FOLLOWING RETAILERS' LEAD

Libraries increasingly find themselves in a quandary between growing expectations among patrons for personalized services and libraries' traditional stance as a strong advocate for personal privacy. Commercial enterprises such as Amazon and Netflix typically make suggestions to customers based on previous purchases and can notify users when certain products are available. The library at North Carolina State University is implementing a program that offers students similar services based on past usage. To offer such services, however, the library must keep more-detailed patron records than many libraries given, the author- ity of govern- ment officials under the USA PATRIOT Act to subpoena those records. Officials from the university report that students are comfortable trading some measure of privacy for the convenience of personalized services. Another program at the University of Notre Dame offers similar suggestions to users, which, according to its developer, should simplify research for many students. Michael Golrick, the city librarian in Bridgeport, Conn., said that the large numbers of immigrants in his community would not be so willing to trade privacy for convenience. Many of them, he said, "came to this country to avoid the kinds of surveillance and persecution we're seeing tinges of today."
New York Times, 20 November 2005 (registration req'd)
http://www.nytimes.com/2005/11/20/weekinreview/20cowan.html

UNIVERSITY COMBINES EXERCISE AND TECHNOLOGY

The recreation center at Minnesota State University now includes computers that can be used while people are exercising. Although many fitness centers include individual TVs for treadmills and other pieces of equipment, officials at Minnesota State wanted to offer something more. They set up 40 adjustable stands, each of which has a computer, monitor, mouse, and keyboard. Students using the rec center can surf the Web, check e-mail, or perform other computer tasks while they exercise. One professor at the university said he will incorporate the new facilities into one of his fitness courses, where students will exercise while taking quizzes and doing other activities on the computers. Officials at other schools said they would consider adding similar facilities to their rec centers, noting that more and more students grew up multitasking and expecting to have access to a computer all the time. Some disagree with the approach. Stephanie Maks, who worked as a personal trainer for 20 years, said often the biggest hurdle to an effective exercise program is letting go of technology. "Don't bring the office with you to the gym," she said.
Wired News, 20 November 2005
http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,69633,00.html

CITIES AND TOWNS ADDING WIRELESS NETWORKS

Cities and towns across the United States are launching, or announcing plans to launch, wireless broadband networks. Wireless technologies are evolving to allow increasingly secure, robust networks in city-wide installations. Large cities, such as Philadelphia and San Francisco, and smaller towns, such as Lebanon, Oregon, are establishing wireless municipal networks for reasons ranging from economic development to improved services for residents. In Tucson, Arizona, a wireless network will allow communication between ambulances and one of the city's hospitals, improving patient care. That network is expected to be online in mid-2006, and the service could be extended to other medical facilities in the city. Other municipalities see wireless Internet access as a valuable step in narrowing the digital divide and bringing the benefits of technology to lower-income residents. In Mountain View, California, Google, which is headquartered there, will develop a wireless broadband network at no cost to the city. Federal Computer Week, 21 November 2005
http://www.fcw.com/article91475-11-18-05-Web

BRITISH ORGANIZATION URGES DATA SHARING

In the United Kingdom, a report from the Council for Science and Technology calls on the government to share information among its various agencies while keeping a close eye on privacy concerns. Due to the sheer amount of data that the government collects and stores, pooling that data can facilitate improved public services, as happens already with health-related data. Mark Walport, head of medical charity at the Wellcome Trust and author of the report, said such data sharing in medical research has uncovered links between health problems and social factors and can allow researchers to closely track the effectiveness of various treatments over time. Walport suggested that similar benefits could be derived from governmental sharing of other types of data, which is currently not being used effectively. Walport said he believes that with adequate creative thinking, the government could see significant benefits from sharing data while ensuring protection for personal privacy.
BBC, 20 November 2005
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/4455306.stm

ICANN TO CONSIDER SINGLE-LETTER WEB ADDRESSES

The Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) has agreed to consider single-letter addresses such as a.com in response to company requests. (Six companies with

single-letter names were allowed to keep their names when the existing system was established.) In deciding whether to accept single-letter names, ICANN will also have to determine how to sell the names and whether companies will have to seek individual entries across all suffixes. Domain name brokers and others expect intense demand for the names because of their rarity. There are no plans to consider two-letter names because of possible confusion with two-letter country code suffixes. Yahoo, 28 November 2005

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20051128/ap_on_hi_te/single_letter_domains

DUTCH COMPANY DUMPS COMMON TOP-LEVEL DOMAIN NAMES

Amsterdam-based UnifiedRoot S&M BV has created an Internet addressing system that eliminates top-level domains such as .com and .edu, allowing organizations and individuals to register Internet addresses ending with the name of their businesses or other words. The new system can combine top-level domains with second-level domains for what the company calls more intuitive addresses for different categories of products and services, such as vegetables.supermarket. UnifiedRoot has established 13 master root servers worldwide to run its domain name system. To avoid conflicts, the company said, it will not register top-level domain names already registered by the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN). Existing Internet service providers will have to update their server directories to accommodate the new system names.
ComputerWorld, 28 November 2005
http://www.computerworld.com/news/2005/story/0,11280,106559,00.html

U.S. SUPREME COURT TO HEAR E-BAY PATENT CASE

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear a patent-infringement lawsuit involving eBay and a patent holding company that eBay lost in 2003. MercExchange holds a patent over sales and purchasing methods used in online auctions. The appeal deals with whether the U.S. District Court that handled the case should have issued a permanent injunction against eBay. The Federal U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which handles patent lawsuits on appeal, ruled that the federal trial judge should have issued a permanent injunction against eBay, which said they believe the legal reasoning used will force district courts to issue more injunctions in patent lawsuits. Meanwhile, Congress is considering legislation that would change how patent injunctions are issued by federal courts. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is also exploring the issue.
Wall Street Journal, 28 November 2005 (sub. req'd)
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB113319064690608067.html

DUTCH SUPREME COURT ORDERS LYCOS CLIENT REVEALED

The Dutch Supreme Court has ordered Lycos to reveal the name of a client who anonymously posted slanderous allegations against an Internet postage stamp dealer on a member site. The dealer took Lycos to court in 2003 to determine the client's identity in order to pursue financial damages. The court found the claim of damages sufficient to order Lycos to release the client's name and address, even though a criminal offense had not been committed. The court rejected the company's argument that client details should be released only to the police in cases where a crime is suspected. Copyright groups believe the ruling will facilitate prosecution of those who illegally exchange music and movies online, a view supported when the Brain Institute, which represents entertainment companies in the Netherlands, issued a statement that the ruling will enable it to pursue damages against illegal file swappers.
InformationWeek, 25 November 2005
http://www.informationweek.com/story/showArticle.jhtml?articleID=174401810

AUSTRALIAN COURT ORDERS KAZAA TO INSTALL KEYWORD FILTER

The Federal Court of Australia in Sydney has ordered the operators of the Kazaa file-sharing service to install a keyword filter to screen out copyrighted material by December 5. The filter will keep users from trading files containing keywords from a list of 3,000 chosen by record companies. The order follows a September ruling that found Kazaa had been used extensively to infringe copyrights. Sharman Networks, the owner of Kazaa, won an extension until February 2006 to comply fully with the court's injunction to block file trading of copyrighted materials. The filtering system is seen as an interim measure, with Sharman expected to appeal in early 2006. InfoWorld, 28 November 2005
http://www.infoworld.com/article/05/11/28/HNjudgeorderskazaa_1.html

BBC2 TO BROADCAST VIA BROADBAND

Controller Roly Keating intends to make BBC2 the first mainstream TV station to broadcast via broadband. A broadband service pilot is scheduled for 2006 to run concurrently with further trials of MyBBCPlayer technology, which enables viewers to download and watch BBC content on demand. The broadband version of BBC2 reportedly will combine streamed media and downloads. Silicon.com, 25 November 2005
http://networks.silicon.com/broadband/0,39024661,39154583,00.htm

THE RISING TIDE OF ONLINE COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Motivated by a number of factors, growing numbers of college hopefuls are turning to the Web to submit applications, though concerns about the medium persist. For colleges and universities, online applications generally mean easier processing with fewer mistakes. Many institutions waive application fees--which can run as high as $75--for students who apply online. As a result,

most institutions are seeing higher percentages of applications filed online, and many students are applying at more institutions. According to the National Association for College Admission Counseling, 57 percent of students applied to college online in 2004, compared to 35 percent one year earlier. The Higher Education Research Institute reported that in 2004, more than 16 percent of students applied to seven or more schools, up from less than 10 percent in 1994. Some schools do not waive fees for online applications, however, among them Yale University and Harvard University. And despite growing confidence in the Internet, some students remain skeptical that their materials have been received. William Fitzsimmons, dean of admissions at Harvard, said, "Students will send it electronically, then they will fax it to you, and then they will send it snail mail."
Wall Street Journal, 30 November 2005 (sub. req'd)
http://online.wsj.com/article/SB113331711186209812.html

NEW ORLEANS ANNOUNCES WI-FI NETWORK

City officials from New Orleans have announced plans to deploy a wireless network covering the entire city by the end of 2006. The network will provide improved communication for city services, including fire and police departments, and--the city hopes--will draw residents and businesses back to the city following this year's disastrous hurricane season. When complete, the network will provide free Internet access to anyone in the city. Unlike several other municipal networks under development, the New Orleans network will be installed and operated by the city itself. Still, city officials must grapple with a state law that restricts Internet access speeds on municipal networks. Unless the city is able to change the law or win an exemption, it will only be allowed to offer transfer speeds of 144 Kbps. Representatives of cable and phone companies that offer Internet access have argued that cities should not be allowed to offer services that compete with services from private companies. City officials reject that notion, arguing that commercial Internet access is too expensive

and inconvenient for many potential users.
Silicon.com, 30 November 2005
http://networks.silicon.com/broad-band/0,39024661,39154681,00.htm ⬧

eBay Review

Many thanks to Kay Nagel for November's presentation on "all things eBay"! Folks who had stuff that they no longer needed which was just taking up space and collecting dust in their home or who had been looking unsuccessfully in stores for an item found answers to their questions. We found out that you could dispose of your old stuff and earn a surprising amount of money, or find that item and buy it at a fair price, by using eBay. EBay, which is now celebrating its tenth anniversary, is the world's largest online community of buyers and sellers, with more than 157 million registered users, of whom 75 million are in the United States.

Kay Nagel, a highly experienced eBay user, presented a tutorial on selling and buying on eBay. She gave an overview of how eBay works and showed us how to register as a seller and as a buyer, complete seller forms, and create suitable titles for sale items. She discussed fees and pricing strategies and outlined how to create attention-attracting merchandise descriptions, take photographs that will attract buyers and inspire bids, upload photographs to your seller's listing, and package and ship sold items. Kay discussed bidding strategies, finding the selling prices of similar previously sold items, and payment options, including use of PayPal, eBay's online payment service. By using Kay's tips, techniques, and strategies, selling and buying on eBay can be fun, fast, and profitable.

Kay, who resides in Napa, has been buying and selling items on eBay for many years. She has been especially active as a seller during the past year. Even as a casual seller, she has often grossed more than two thousand dollars per month auctioning items on eBay. Members have her rave reviews and would like to invite her back to talk with us again some time. ⬧
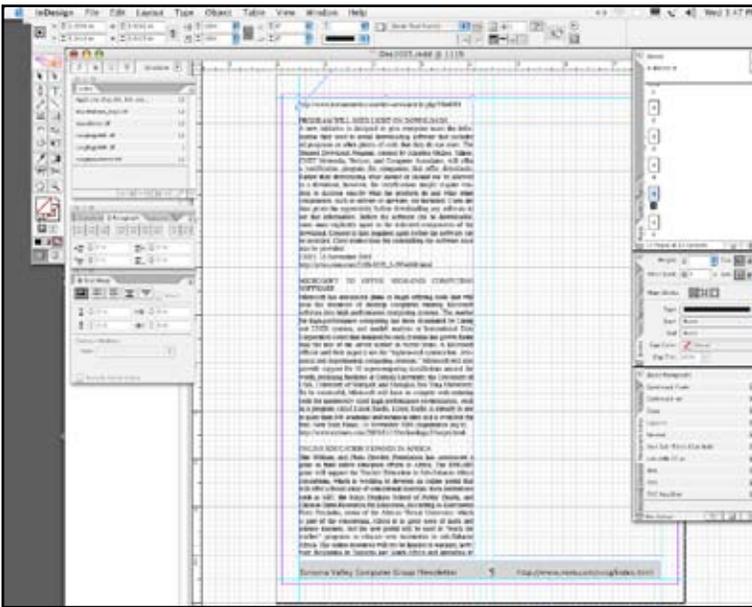
InDesign Review

by Kathy Aanestad

For years, I've been using QuarkXpress 3 and then 4 to work on the club's newsletters. The past couple years since upgrading my operating system (from OS 9 to OS X and then had to boot in Classic), I've had some problems working with and printing in Quark. So my solution was to save each page (of a twelve page newsletter) as an EPS file and import each file into Adobe Acrobat to create a PDf file. From there, I could print the newsletter. Whew!

Well enough is enough. I finally gave myself permission to experiment with Adobe InDesign 2 and what a joy. I've been having so much fun with it and haven't even cracked open a manual. You know me and manuals. Let's not go there.

The very first thing I tried in InDesign was to import an old Quark file, one of our old newsletter files. Not only did InDesign import the file, it also imported all the graphics files as well with all the links and page numbering. Oh what a thrill!
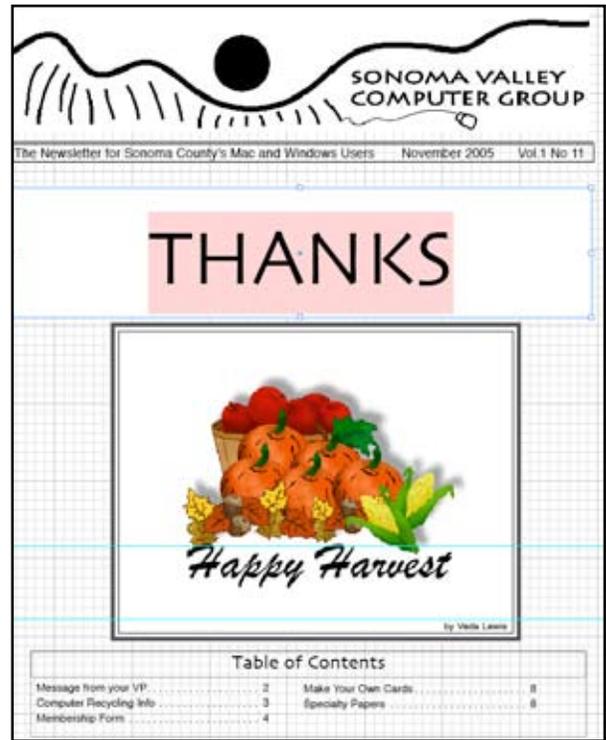
When I created a new file, it took me not very long to figure out how to use the Selection and Direct Selection Tools and how to Place graphics... just like in the old PageMaker days... remember how you had to 'please Place' your graphics. And it didn't take long to figure out how to link text boxes either.

One very interesting feature of InDesign is how non-installed fonts appear. In the illustration below, see how "THANKS" appears highlighted in pink. That is your que that something is

wrong. Simply select the text and replace it with a font from your font menu.

Linking text boxes didn't take me long to figure out. After creating a text box and filling it with more text than it could hold, I then selected the Selection Tool (V) and clicked in the text box. This created a blue outline around the text box with tiny bounding boxes, of which one had a red plus in the lower right area. Clicking that box with the Selection Tool turns the box blue and the cursor from a point to that old familiar PageMaker text symbol. Then clicking in the text box of choice (the cursor turns into a Pointer and Chain) links the two. It couldn't be more simple than that.

As you can see from the above illustration, the palettes are very similar to the look and feel of Photoshop or Illustrator or Elements, which most of you have had experience using.
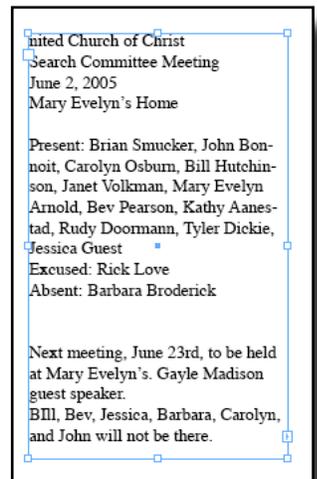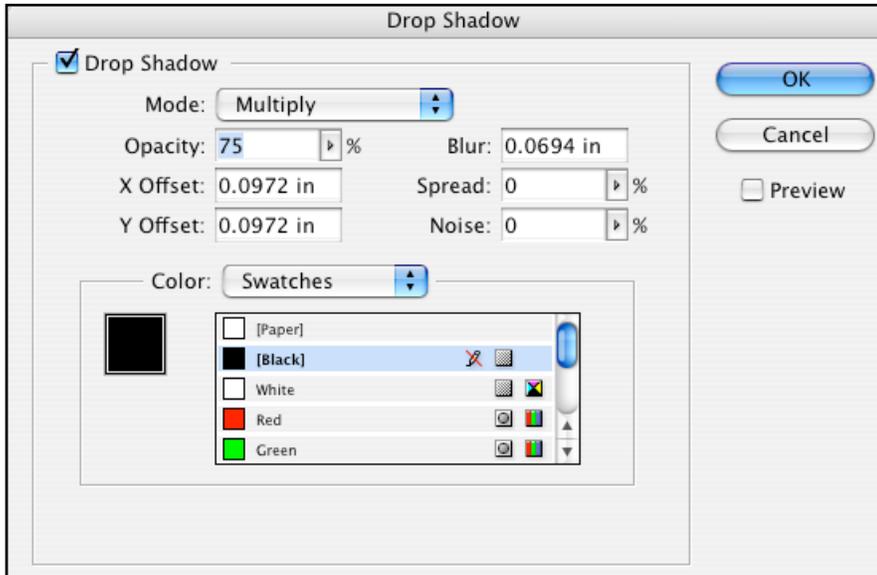
InDesign offers an extensive array of palettes which I think are easier to navigate than Quark.

Adding a drop shadow is so easy in InDesign. Simply select the graphic with the Selection Tool, go to the Menu bar, click on OBJECT>DROP
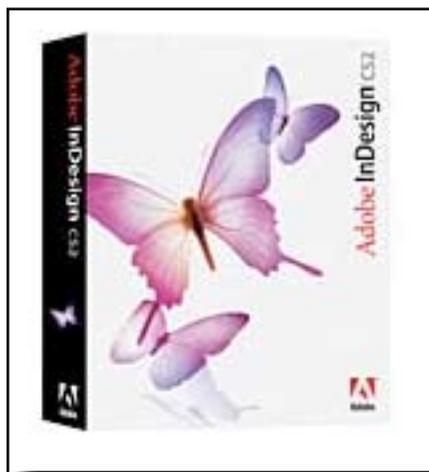
SHADOW... there are many options to manipulate color, opacity, mode, blur, etc. of the shadow as illustrated in the picture below.

I've only begun to investigate the power of InDesign. Thus far I've found it to be fairly intuitive (had experience with PageMaker and QuarkXpress in the past) and easy to use. The Toolbar, as I stated earlier, looks very similar to that in the other Adobe programs. The Control Bar shows all the options for text (font selection, size, style, character and paragraph formatting, Leading, Kerning, Tracking, Vertical Scale, Horizontal Scale, Baseline Shift, Skew, and lots more.

The Links palette lists all the graphics used and which page they are located in. You can sort by name, page, or status. Boxes that allow you to Re-link, Go to Link, Edit Original, or Update Link.

A feature that made me very happy is the ability to import my styles sheets from Quark!! I didn't have to re-create them in InDesign. How cool is that!

The Text Wrap feature is another easy to use tool which allows you to wrap text around a bounding box, around the object shape, jump the object or jump to the next column, with top, bottom, left and right offsets.

System Requirements:
Windows

Intel® Pentium® III or 4 processor

Microsoft® Windows® 2000 with Service Pack 3 or Windows XP

256MB of RAM (320MB recommended)

850MB of available hard-disk space

1,024x768 monitor resolution with 16-bit video card (24-bit screen display recommended)

CD-ROM drive

QuickTime 6 required for multimedia features

For Adobe PostScript® printers: PostScript Level 2 or PostScript 3™

Internet or phone connection required for product activation

Macintosh

PowerPC® G3, G4, or G5 processor

Mac OS X v.10.2.8 through 10.4.1

256MB of RAM (320MB recommended)

870MB of available hard-disk space

1,024x768 monitor resolution with 16-bit video card (24-bit screen display recommended)

CD-ROM drive

QuickTime 6 required for multimedia features (included in Mac OS X)

For Adobe PostScript printers: PostScript Level 2 or PostScript 3

Pricing for InDesign 2 is $699.95; upgrade $169.95; from PageMaker $349.95.

In summary, I couldn't be happier with this page layout application. The transition from Quark was seamless and I was up and running in no time. From non-profits to small businesses to large corporations, this program will suit all your page layout needs. For those of you who have never used a page layout program, there are always classes through the local Adult Ed or Junior College; many book tutorials and training CDs to help you along the way. You'll be an expert in no time. Kudos to Adobe for making my work as your club's newsletter editor easier and fun! My rating: 'A'.

Happy Holidays

Topics:

- December Potluck Party
- Sharing Holiday Gift Ideas

Date: Saturday, 12/10/2005
Place: Sonoma Public Library
   755 West Napa Street
Time: 9:30 am to 11:00 am

Please bring enough to share
   with 5 others:
A-K: appetizers, salads, dessert
L-Z: veges, bread, main dish

Bring your family and friends.
Invite a neighbor.

Sonoma Valley Computer Group
Newsletter

Apple User Group   for Mac and Windows Users