



SVCG club member

Dr. Seuss Explains Why Computers Sometimes Crash

If a packet hits a pocket on a socket on a port,

and the bus is interrupted at a very last resort,

and the access of the memory makes your floppy disk abort,

then the socket packet pocket has an error to report.

If your cursor finds a menu item followed by a dash,

and the double-clicking icon puts your window in the trash,

and your data is corrupted cause the

[Seuss cont'd on Pg. 2](#)

President's Column

by Veda Lewis

DIGITAL TAKES OFF-

The countdown has begun and flyers are being distributed as you read this column. The SVCG board's bright idea to showcase the talents of Sonoma Valley digital artists has taken flight. Thanks to all of the board members and other volunteers who are making it happen. If you signed up to help, someone will be contacting you soon. If you can distribute flyers or help receive or hang art, your assistance will be appreciated.

In case you haven't heard, the reception will be May 11th after the club's May meeting. Selected works will hang in the library until May 29th. The deadline, drop-off day is April 27th from Noon to 5:30PM at Sonoma Valley Library. One submission per person. No prizes, no entry fee. Sonoma Valley residents only.

A jury, composed of SVCG board members, a couple of local artists, and possibly a library representative, will volunteer to select representative works from each category if all submissions cannot be shown due to space limitations. Some works may be rotated in order to maximize display time for as many artists as possible.

[President cont'd on Pg. 3](#)

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Sonoma Valley Computer Group

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BOARD MEETINGS

Usually following General Meeting. Open to all members. Call 935-6690 for further information.

MEMBERSHIPS

S.V.C.G. Annual Membership: \$20.
S.V.C.G. Family/Couple membership: \$30 (residing at same address). Membership renewals are due and payable at the beginning of each year.

GENERAL MEETINGS

S.V.C.G. meets second Saturday of each month at Sonoma Public Library, 755 West Napa Street; hours: 9:30AM to 11AM unless otherwise notified. Meetings free; guests welcome.

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MAILING ADDRESS:

PO Box 649
El Verano, CA95433

Seuss cont'd from Pg. 1

index doesn't hash,

then your situation's hopeless and your system's gonna crash!!

If the label on the cable on the table at your house

says the network is connected to the button on your mouse,

but your packets want to tunnel to another protocol,

that's repeatedly rejected by the printer down the hall,

and your screen is all distorted by the side effects of gauss,

so your icons in the window are as wavy as a sousee;

then you may as well reboot and go out with a bang,

'cuz sure as I'm a poet, the sucker's gonna hang!

When the copy of your floppy's getting sloppy in the disk,

and the macro code instructions cause unnecessary risk,

then you'll have to flash the memory and you'll want to RAM your ROM.

Quickly turn off the computer and be sure to tell your Mom!

WELL! That certainly clears things up for me!

Welcome New and Renewing Members

Jon Beckmann, Jeff Blum, Patricia Bolton, Ronald Kalvin, Christa Wilson, Harry Phillips, Paul Nielsen, Micki Goedewaagen, and Frank Krueger.

Donating Unused 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 UG Benefits

As a benefit to being a member of the Sonoma Valley Computer Group, O'Reilly Press is giving you a 20% discount on all their books and software! For more information, please contact Kathy Aanestad at 935-6690 or email at 'aanestad@wco.com'.

In addition to the O'Reilly Press offer, 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. ☺

On line traffic reports URLs, etc.

AAA: <http://www.aaa.com>

National Traffic and Road Closure Information: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/trafficinfo/index.htm>

Road Conditions Index:
<http://www.weather.com/activities/driving/roadconditions.html>

Traffic.com: <http://www.traffic.com>

Travel Advisory News Network:
<http://traffic.tann.net>

Looking to get top speed out of your CD-RW burner. Go here for tips.

http://www.roxio.com/en/interest/burning/cdburner_performance.html

President cont'd on Pg. 1

All of the details on the event, including the answer to the frequently asked question, "What is digital art?" can be found on a link from the club's website (<http://www.vom.com/svcg/digitalart.html>). Due to the limitations of the show space, we're looking to gather work from a few artists (about 50 max) who have been having fun with digital art for a while and are willing to share by showing what they can do. The goal is to inspire and spread the word about our club. There are no prizes, no entry fee. Yes, club members are invited to enter.

If you can distribute flyers, take the one included in your newsletter and make a few copies and give them to your friends or family members who are really into playing with Photoshop, Painter, Illustrator, Appleworks, or any other digital art program. They'll need to go to the website for the submissions rules and the entry form. (You can also pick up copies at the Library.) If you have a local business, place a flyer in your window. Locals are looking forward to stopping by the showcase even if they are not planning to enter.

Speaking of showcases, the club has the display case in the library entryway for the month of April. Kudos go to club secretary Stephanie Clark for providing digital art to fill up the case and advertise the event. Heads are turning as they enter and leave the library. Stephanie shows a bit of photo enhancement with the touch of a menu from Photoshop and colorful whimsy from Appleworks Paint and Draw programs. More of her work can be seen in her local publication, The Buzz, (for more info, see www.winecountryjournal.com).

Librarian Stephan Buffy has been extremely helpful with this event. We appreciate the library's support and suggestions.

Kudos are also due to Beth Pickering and Jeanette Woods for handling press contacts and Kathy Aanestad for getting the information up on the website. We received an inquiry within hours of the information going on the web!

MUGGING FOR SOFTWARE-

Were you present at the meeting a couple of months ago when we took a club photo to send to Pro-Vue? They promised to provide a free working copy for every member in the photo of their database program. Well, the CD's are here. They've provided a copy of Panorama, their latest product. Also included are Quicktime demos for the club to use at a future meeting. You can pick up your CD at the April or May meeting.

Anyone who would be interested in doing a review of the product and writing a review article for the newsletter, let me know at the April meeting.

Happy Computing! —Veda

Edupage cont'd from Pg. 7

sites is letting more students find more scholarship programs more quickly than they were previously able to do. Scholarships.com reports usage double what it was a year ago. Some sites, such as FastWeb.com, are able to provide their services for free by selling users' information to marketing partners, while other sites, such as ScholarshipExperts.com, charge a fee to users. New York Times, 31 March 2002 (registration req'd) <http://www.nytimes.com/2002/03/31/business/yourmoney/31COLL.html>

NEW SEARCH ENGINE TAKES ON GOOGLE

A Rutgers University mathematics professor is confident that the new version of his search-engine technology will outshine Google, which many regard as the best available search engine. Apostolos Gerasoulis, the man behind Teoma, has been working on his search engine since 1999 and received the financial support to take on Google when he sold Teoma to Ask Jeeves for \$4.4 million last year. Since then, new tools have been added to Teoma that Gerasoulis believes make his product more effective at finding Web resources than Google. The algorithms

that Teoma uses divide the Web into clusters of online communities. Rob Lancaster of the Yankee Group said that one of the benefits of Google is its simplicity and that Teoma will have to educate users about how to get the most from its site. Associated Press, 1 April 2002

<http://www.nandotimes.com/technology/story/337110p-2800855c.html.com>

Domain Name

Q: How does one determine who owns a particular domain name? —I.M. Curious

A: What you want to do is something called a "whois" search. This will tell you who owns a particular domain name.

There are a bunch of sites on the 'net which will do this for you - I believe register.com is one of them.

Some provide more information on the owner, some provide less.

You can find other search sites by doing a google (or other search engine) search for "whois search" sites.

It is also possible to do a whois search "manually" using a telnet application, providing your ISP's server supports this function (most do); but you have to know a little (not a lot) of tech-stuff, how to enter command-line commands, etc. to do this. —Jay

A: <<http://www.netsol.com/cgi-bin/whois/whois>> is another option. —Ann





Sonoma Valley Computer Group members in action

Stephanie Clark's artwork

phone 996-5679
fax 996-0997



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

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 Model: _____

How did you hear about SVCG?

class club member
 newspaper newsletter

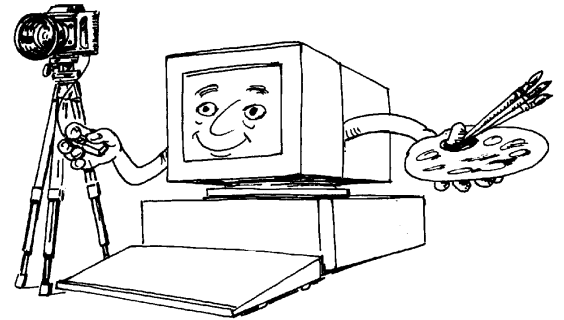
User Level: Novice Intermediate
 Advanced Expert



Stephanie Clark's cards

Digital Art Showcase

S
V
C
G



It's Coming!!!

The Event: The Sonoma Valley Computer Group (SVCG), in association with the Sonoma Valley Library, presents a digital art showcase. Sonoma Valley artists, amateur and professional, are invited to join in the fun by submitting an original artwork to the showcase. We're planning on having an artist's reception on May 11th, 2002 in conjunction with the May meeting of SVCG at the Sonoma Valley Library, 755 West Napa Street, Sonoma, California. Selected artists will be invited to show their techniques on the computer at the SVCG meeting, followed by the reception.

The Reason: The purpose of the event is to showcase the diverse creative talents of Sonoma Valley computer users, young and old, amateur and professional.

Limited submissions: Due to exhibit space limitations, each artist is limited to one submission. Submitted art must have the artist's identification affixed to the back of the print. The identification includes artist name,

Size of submission: Artwork can be up to 11" x 17". Digital prints must be affixed to a rigid background and in ready-to-hang condition. Submissions are limited to flat two-dimensional work, with no mixed media additions to the computer print or the frame, if included.

Categories:

- 1) Photography- Includes original digital photography, photo-restoration, photo-manipulation (for example, collage)
- 2) Paint
- 3) Drawing
- 4) Mixed digital media

Deadline for submittal: To be considered for the showcase, entries must be turned in to SVCG by April 27th.

Further details will be discussed at Saturday's meeting, so please come and join in on the fun.



Entry form on Pg. 11



Stephanie Clark and her 'Deborah'



Stephanie Clark and Veda Lewis arranging artwork in the showcase

SPAM

by Ron Leal, vom.com

The information provided here may give you some insight into the mechanism that drives spam. We are installing various filtering methods to help you but there is no one fix-all for junk mail and the user must get involved if unwanted mail is to be curtailed. So read on, we hope this helps.

What is SPAM?

Different people with different perspectives and agendas may define spam in different ways. As we see it, spam/junkmail is e-mail that is received, unsolicited or unrequested by the e-mail user. There is also e-mail that is considered spam by the user because it is unwanted but that user may have intentionally or unintentionally gotten themselves on a mailing list. Sites, services or individuals will sell or otherwise distribute personal info which includes e-mail addresses and these may in turn be obtained and used by spammers.

Where does spam originate.?

Spam comes from either fixed or varying e-mail addresses.

1) Fixed e-mail addresses Mailers that have the same e-mail address from mailing to mailing. This is made possible when the ISP where the spam originates allows it to happen, from a list server that someone pays to send their advertising or a legitimate entity (has a real unsubscribe/remove).

2) Varying e-mail addresses A method that is becoming more common is for spammers to obtain list information and set up temporary accounts, mostly at places like Yahoo and Hotmail and send the spam out to thousands or tens of thousands of addresses then close the account and move on to use another e-mail address to send spam.

Where E-Mail addresses are obtained from?

Mailing Lists. It all comes from lists of some sort. The question is, HOW DID I GET ON A MAILING LIST??

Following are ways that your address can be had by a spammer and a few recommendations on how to keep it from them. Listed are the most common methods but I'm sure there are more since spammers are as devious as crackers (hackers gone bad).

Online registration - The site you 'register' at may sell your registration information including your e-mail address to spammers. Any site that requests your e-mail address is a potential for spam lists. Take the time to read the sites privacy policy information before you leave an e-mail address. Don't give your e-mail address unless it's required. I give an e-mail address that I created at Yahoo when I must give an e-mail address but don't want the site to have my real address. I check it once every couple of months and send myself an e-mail from there to keep it active. I consider this poetic justice since Yahoo/Hotmail does virtually nothing to curtail spammers. I call this a garbage account. As far as the other personal information, you can create your own 'alias' name, address etc. a kind of alter ego.

Replies to Spam - When a spam message has a 'Remove' or 'Unsubscribe' and you reply, the whole intent of the spam may not have been to sell something to you but to confirm that your e-mail address is legitimate. A list of legitimate addresses is compiled and sold to other spammers. Use common sense. The legitimate companies eg CNet, Mercury News etc. will take you off their lists since they have more to lose by bad press concerning spam if they don't. I do use the 'Unsubscribe' at places that I consider legitimate. If a 'remove' address is at Yahoo or Hotmail or something I have never heard of, I will not respond.

Purchasing Online - Here you must fill out correct personal information. Check on the privacy policy and make your decision. This may be the cheapest you have ever seen this product for sale but it is up to you to weigh the options with respect to the possibility getting on a list.

Legitimate Lists - There are legitimate mailing lists that provide daily news or information of whatever sort that you

really do want to receive. They may have functional 'Remove/Unsubscribe' options but check the fine print to see if they sell or otherwise distribute personal information which includes your e-mail address.

Guest Books - Like registration, some guest books make themselves public or sell the e-mail info for lists. Use a garbage account.

IRC and Chat Rooms - Some IRC clients give out their e-mail addresses to anyone who wants them. Some chat rooms give out e-mail addresses. Remember, they are looking for a valid e-mail address not you in particular. Use a garbage account.

Hostile People - A person that is angry at someone might sign them up on a not so nice e-mail list using the other persons e-mail address. This can be very hard to get off of since the username and password at the list site is unknown to the legitimate user of the e-mail address.

What can you do on your end?

1) Use common sense when responding to e-mails. Don't give it out unless necessary. The internet is the real world and common sense will win the day.

2) Utilize the filters built into your browser Outlook Express and Netscape Communicator both have pretty good filtering facilities. We have some info at www.vom.com/faq.html and will have more soon.

3) Set up a garbage account eg Yahoo, Hotmail etc.

4) We have implemented filtering methods here at VoM and we are employing them when requested. We take spam/junkmail very seriously!!



Edupage News

PUBLIC-USE COMPUTERS ARE BIG DRAW

Public-access PCs are especially attractive to users who have neither the money nor the inclination to purchase their own computers, which accounts for a significant portion of Americans. North Carolina is a case in point: Although the Rural Internet Access Authority said that state household computer penetration rose from 53 percent in 1999 to 68 percent in 2001; 39 percent of those without access say they cannot afford PCs. To address this situation, the organization wants to provide public-access computer centers to all 85 rural N.C. counties and any participating urban counties by the end of 2003. Each center will house 6 to 25 computers, and the effort will be funded by both the federal government and the private sector. The RIAA is now conducting a survey of county residents who use or have access to computers to estimate how many computers are needed. Across the nation, the household penetration rate for computers has leveled off at about 60 percent.

(NewsFactor Network, 8 March 2002)

FAD OR REVOLUTION--BLOGGING SWEEPS WEB

Whether it is just a fad or a truly revolutionary movement, Web logging, or blogging, is catching on. Bloggers, estimated between 500,000 and 1 million, publish online journals that cover a wealth of matters, including personal information, current events, opinions, commentary, or anything else that interests them. The advent of free, automated online publishing systems let the genie out of the bottle and caused a surge in the blogging population. "Now everybody can publish their own Poor Richard's Almanac," commented blogger Doc Searls. University of Tennessee law professor Glenn Reynolds, also a blogger, likes the system because feedback is so rapid, practically instantaneous. Pew Internet and American Life Project researcher Amanda Lenhart wonders if blogging is more than just a passing fad. "My sense is these Web pages offer a new functionality that wasn't too available to most people until recently, but the question is whether people will use them much in the future," she said.

(Scripps Howard News Service, 6 March 2002)

FREE E-MAIL TOO SUCCESSFUL?

As with many other online services and content lately, free e-mail has not been able to attract a sufficient number of advertisers to support all of the users who want these products. When Microsoft bought Hotmail in 1998, there were 8.5 million members. Today there are 110 million, with commensurate spiraling of costs to maintain the e-mail service. Although Hotmail is not currently planning to charge members, Parul Shah, who oversees the e-mail service, does not rule that out as a possibility. Meanwhile, e-mail providers Yahoo! and mail.com, though not charging for simple membership, have begun to charge for special services, including mail forwarding and extra storage space. AOL does not offer premium e-mail services; e-mail accounts are included in the monthly fee for membership. USA Today, 31 March 2002

<http://www.usatoday.com/life/cyber/tech/2002/04/01/fee-mail.htm>

THE ROCKY ROAD OF COPYRIGHT PROTECTION

A bill recently introduced by Sen. Hollings has drawn criticism from various experts, though copyright owners support efforts to curb the illegal reproduction of copyrighted works. David J. Farber, a professor of telecommunications systems at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia and a former chief technologist at the FCC, said the bill is a "very, very badly conceived idea." Rob Enderle, an analyst at Giga Information Group Inc. speculated that the restrictions the bill would impose could flatten the market for PCs because copying songs is "one of the reasons people buy new machines." The Recording Industry Association of America defended copyright protection measures, saying that piracy cost the industry \$3 billion in 2001. Computerworld, 1 April 2002

http://www.computerworld.com/story-ba/0,4125,NAV47_STO69702,00.html

MICROSOFT, PATCHES AND PROBLEMS

Despite releasing a patch last week for two security flaws in Internet Explorer,

Microsoft is under pressure from security groups to address a recently revealed problem in Windows NT and Windows 2000. The IE patch fixed two holes: one would allow hackers to put damaging code on a Web surfer's computer through a cookie, while the other could permit the execution of files that already exist on a computer when the user visits a Web page. The Windows flaw can allow hackers to gain otherwise restricted privileges on servers running either of the operating systems. As with other software flaws recently, this one was revealed by a security services company that decided information about the flaw was spreading faster than a patch was being developed, raising the risk of the flaw being exploited. CNet, 29 March 2002

<http://news.com.com/2100-1001-871771.html>

RIT LAUNCHES GRADUATE PROGRAM IN GAME DESIGN

Three years ago Carnegie Mellon University established the Entertainment Technology Center, which teaches skills applicable to creating video games. In January of this year, the Art Institutes of San Francisco began offering an undergraduate degree program in game design. The Rochester Institute of Technology now offers a master's degree in computer game design. Students in the program are confident that they will be able to put their skills to use professionally, despite the uncertainty about job offerings that accompanies a new academic field. Students say that if they are unable to use their skills in creating games, any company that needs graphic simulations could benefit from a graduate of the program. New York Times, 1 April 2002 (registration req'd)

<http://www.nytimes.com/2002/04/01/technology/01GAME.html>

SHOPPING ONLINE FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

Each year, approximately 700,000 individual scholarships are available from more than 25,000 providers. Many scholarships have very narrow criteria for eligibility, so getting the right applicants connected with the right scholarships can be a daunting task for both sides, which is partly why a significant amount of scholarship money is not claimed. A new crowd of scholarship Web

Spam: It's Completely Out of Control

By Stefanie Olsen

<http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1106-865442.html>

Chris Lewis walks a tightrope every day as leader of a spam-eradication team at a major telecommunications company.

He is the guardian of roughly 45,000 employees' e-mail in-boxes, protecting against unsolicited commercial messages that are nearly doubling in number every five months--and costing an estimated \$1 per piece in lost productivity. But perhaps just as important is Lewis' ability to field the bad mail without discarding the good, such as potential business leads.

"Everyone in a large company is afraid to lose business, and e-mail is sacrosanct," said Lewis, whose unofficial title is "spam issues architect." "If you implement (a spam filter) that drops one piece of e-mail, it is a huge mistake. At this time, in our economy, we have to be as anal retentive as possible."

Spam is as old as the mainstream Internet itself, but its alarming rise is challenging companies more than ever. In the past six months, the volume of junk mail sent online more than doubled, according to spam filter company Brightmail. Internet researcher Jupiter Media Metrix estimates that consumers will receive about 206 billion junk e-mailings in 2006--an average of 1,400 per person, compared with about 700 per person this year.

The pace is driving companies to take desperate measures that in some cases are creating international controversy. Some American business owners, systems administrators and Internet service providers are banning all unknown e-mail from entire regions of Asia, where they believe unregulated servers are being used to relay much of the spam traffic that both originates and ends up in the United States.

The size of the Web-borne epidemic was cast in sharp relief last month when e-mail systems were paralyzed at AT&T WorldNet for more than a day, one of the first known instances of junk mail shutting down a major ISP. That deluge was believed to have been part of a denial-of-service attack. But the ballooning rate of everyday spam is making it all the more difficult to fend off sporadic assaults.

About 20 percent of incoming messages to AT&T WorldNet are junk e-mail, nearly double the number from the previous year, spokeswoman Janet Wyles said. The spam count reaches 50 percent at some ISPs.

"This is guerrilla warfare...There's just more spam, and spammers are getting smarter," Wyles said.

It's cheap and easy The amount of junk is increasing partly because e-mail marketing is seen as the cheapest and easiest way to reach potential customers. For about \$150, anyone can buy a CD-ROM on the Net with instructions on how to use spam as a path to potential riches that costs next to nothing compared with the printing and postage expenses of paper mail.

To make it even more economical, many spammers siphon bandwidth and resources from insecure mail servers, or open relays, set up overseas.

Most U.S. and European mail servers are configured to route only those messages addressed specifically to customers, as ISPs fear that security risks and other problems could result from relaying messages for any third party. So spammers have taken to using insecure servers in other parts of the world--particularly in Asia--to relay, by some estimates, as much as 70 percent of junk e-mail in the United States.

"That's a real boon for spammers, because they need someone to get the

mail out," said Steve Linford, who maintains a London-based blacklist of mass e-mailers called the Spamhaus Block List. "Literally hundreds of thousands of these servers are around China, configured on a wing and a prayer."

As a result, many ISPs are blocking the entire Internet address ranges designated for China and other Asian countries. The practice recently became a diplomatic issue, leading the Chinese parliament to issue a statement rebuking such wholesale blockades based on geographic boundaries.

Nevertheless, junk mailers are crafting new ways around such blocking methods. According to Brightmail, more spammers are masking their origins by hacking into high-speed Internet cable lines to send mail through customers' dynamic IP (Internet Protocol) addresses. These temporary addresses are assigned to computers only for a specified amount of time. ISPs are often unable to trace the sender because it requires enormous resources to investigate vaporous connections throughout the network.

Spammers are also increasingly forging mail headers, a tactic known as spoofing, to make e-mail appear to come from legitimate sources. U.S. corporations including Bank of America, eBay and Wells Fargo have fallen victim to junk mailers taking free rides on their names.

Corporate headaches getting worse Brightmail, which provides filters to several major ISPs including AT&T WorldNet, has doubled its number of enterprise customers in the past six months because of corporate headaches with spam. The San Francisco-based company plans to expand



its all-hours spam-fighting crew of five, known as the Bloc. The team studies sources of commercial bulk mail by seeding the Internet with decoy addresses. It then creates new rules for filters based on content and headers contained within spam.

Spamhaus, the Mail Abuse Prevention System (MAPS) and about 30 other blacklists ban IP addresses or whole ISPs that are used to shepherd spam. Any company or individual can subscribe to such lists for recipes to block known spammers.

In the past, signing on with such blocking lists was thought too risky for many corporations because banned marketers or hosts could include major ISPs such as Sprint, which are used to send legitimate e-mail that could be valuable to business. But against today's growing levels of spam, companies are finding they have little choice.

Jill Vanhove, director of enterprise network services at Silicon Graphics, said she subscribed to MAPS's Realtime Blackhole List and began other filtering tactics in the past year.

"It's really a reaction to an increase of volume of spam and complaints we're seeing," she said. "We're also looking at tools to combat spam from our sponsored news-groups."

Still, these grassroots efforts are only of limited help when fighting an exponential rise in junk traffic. Even after taking the anti-spam measures at SGI, Vanhove said she has seen the amount of incoming junk mail nearly triple in the last four months.

Many companies and anti-spam groups have appealed for help from government agencies such as the U.S. Federal Trade Commission, which recently opened a full-scale assault on deceptive marketers. In the last month, the FTC said it settled six cases against alleged con artists using e-mail to disseminate scams.

"The federal government (isn't) in a position to cure the problem, but I do think that law enforcement actions will help deter people from spamming once they realize

what they're getting into," said Jennifer Mandigo, a staff attorney at the FTC who is in charge of spam issues.

Legislation wanted For now, regulators are hampered by the absence of federal legislation and a hodgepodge of nearly two-dozen state laws that critics say allow too many loopholes. For example, California law requires marketers to place the letters "ADV" in the subject line, signifying an advertisement, but some include a variation such as "A.D.V." or "a d v" to circumvent filters.

Spamhaus' Linford advocates federal legislation requiring industry standards such as a banner on every mail server that warns against sending unsolicited commercial material. The law would make it illegal for a marketer to trespass beyond the sign.

Others are turning to self-regulation among companies, pinning hopes on such organizations as Truete and ePrivacy Group, which launched a Trusted Sender program last month. Using encryption, Truete plans to provide approval seals to companies that meet certain standards, such as an existing customer relationship, before they send commercial e-mail.

"This is a really big first step," said Fran Maier, executive director at Truete, which will release a test version of the tool next month. "With time, we hope that your e-mail client will help filter by the Trusted Sender seal."

Civil libertarian Sonia Arrison, of the Pacific Research Institute, advocates a system in which people wishing to send a message to someone they don't know must pay to have it delivered.

It would be "kind of like with paper mail; we still get a lot of junk, but not nearly the same if it were free," she said.

All of these solutions, real or proposed, carry inherent drawbacks. Many of those based on technology, such as Arrison's idea, would depend on redesigning the Internet's global e-mail architecture. Other measures are either

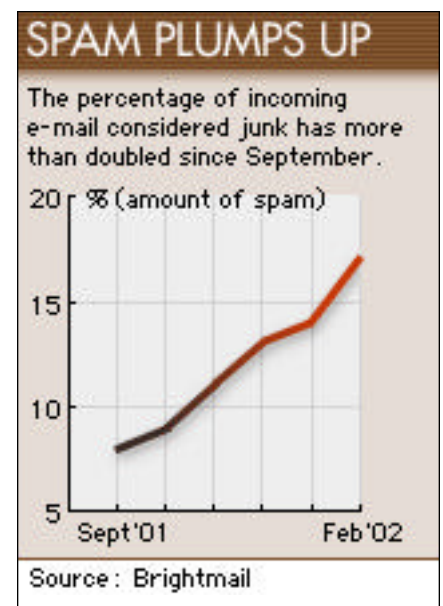
unrealistically laborious or simply bad for business.

Spam fighters such as Lewis and his five-man team employ a wide range of tactics to fend off junk, including homemade blacklists, pattern matching, and software to ban certain content, addresses and headers. Lewis said he's been able to cut down on a large amount of spam in the past year by removing numerous e-mail aliases for employees.

But it's slow going. For every piece of mail that takes seconds to delete, there are always those that require hours in security investigations--which is how Lewis arrived at his estimate that each piece of junk mail costs his company \$1.

And even as he hunts down countless offending missives, Lewis remains under equally intense pressure to keep his systems open to communication from potential partners and customers. His company refused to install spam filters until the Melissa virus forced it to take such precautionary measures, and Lewis still will not block all e-mail from China, because of business relations.

"I'd love to turn off China. But unlike some of the other people in the anti-spam community, I have to be very conservative," Lewis said. "It's a delicate balancing act for our filters because if I make a mistake, it could cost business."



Third Party Inks

Q: Where can I get third party inks and what are your thoughts about using them?

A. Try InkJetDiscounts. Ed Woods, (woods@inkjetdiscounts.com) sells inexpensive cartridges, and I'm sure he'll have some of the kind you are looking for. I just bought some black cartridges for my Epson 740i for \$7.95. He is in SF, and charges \$3.50 for shipping, no matter the quantity. I got my order in 2 days. The folks who use his inks report they are as good or better than the "name brands". —Vern

A. You might try: 4YourPrinter.com
betsy

A. I'd like to put in a plug for www.ink4art.com, especially as far as customer service is involved. Well over a year and half ago, I took advantage of a "free shipping" promotion and bought 6 color and 12 b/w, thinking my daughter and I would be using them up fairly quickly on our Epson 740's. The reality was that we didn't and the package sat unopened for quite some time.

When I finally needed a b/w cartridge, I discovered that they were for 850's. I called ink4art and they said they would work okay, which the b/w did. Late in 2001, I tried to put in a color one but it wouldn't fit. Wrote a snotty email to them and got a quick, polite response with a Return Authorization # and a request for a copy of the original invoice.

Looked for some time for invoice but couldn't find it (they had lost their records due to a server crash). Emailed them about inability to find invoice. Right back came a new RMA #. Mailed the cartridges and received correct replacements by return mail.

In spite of unreasonable time lags on my part and no invoice to support my claim, they acted quickly and much more than fairly. —Pat

A. I have tried ink4Art and was not happy with the quality of ink. Kathy

A. I haven't used them, but you might try:

(They're offering a sale - 75% OFF and it's guaranteed!)

<http://www.allyoucanink.com/index.cfm?refer=RB2>

OR, try:
<http://www.2for1inkjet.com/default.asp?adcode=4119> (I have used them with success.) —Bart

Film to Floppy

Q: I'm getting some film developed, and an option is having images on floppy. anyone have any experience with this? How do the pix come out?

A: It says at the kodak site you can save the pix in several formats:
: KODAK Picture Disks can be saved as the following file formats:

- : • JPEG (*.JPG)
- : • BMP (*.BMP)
- : • TIFF (*.TIF)
- : • PICT (*.PICT)
- : • PCX (*.PCX)
- : • PHOTOSHOP (*.PSD)
- : • Targa (*.TGA)

URL:<http://www.kodak.com/global/en/consumer/consDigital/pictureDisk/index.shtml> —Lenz

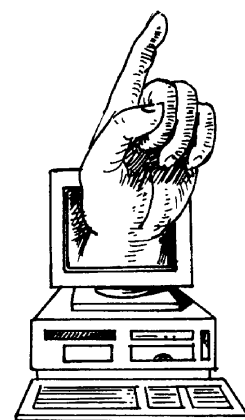
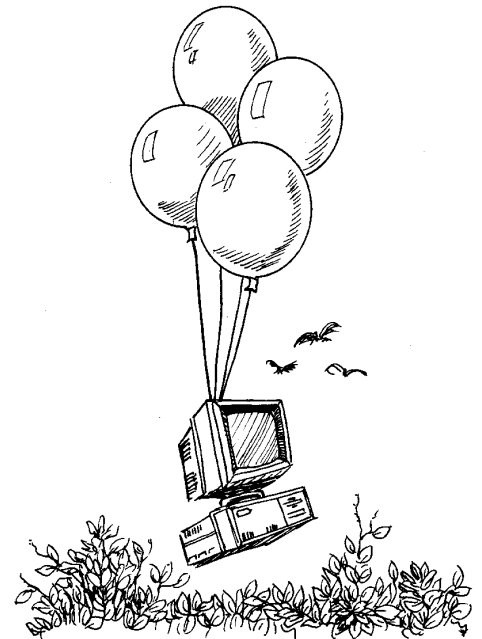
A: hmmm seems its approaching time to get that digicamera... —April

A: The images are fine, but of relatively low resolution. The services I've seen place all the images of the roll on one floppy (1.4MB Disc). Since an 8x10 print might require a 45MB file you see the dilemma. — Brian

P.S. If you have an option to get a Kodak CD the format supports much higher resolutions. ...also- I've had someone send me both printed photos and a CD of the same photos and the quality was quite a bit different on the CD of images (as I would imagine it would be on the floppy.)

What they did was develop the film normally, make prints where each print was

optimized and printed, then they took the negative and apparently scanned them all as a batch, averaging the exposure across ALL the images scanned. Some images that looked fine printed were grossly over or under exposed on the CD version. —Brian





Digital Art Showcase ENTRY FORM:

(please print out, fill in, and submit with your artwork on April 27, 2002)

Name: _____ (required)

Address: _____ (required)

City: _____ (required)

Phone: _____ (required) Zip: _____ (required)

Email address: _____ (optional)

Artwork title: _____

Category type: ___Photography ___Paint ___Draw ___Mixed Digital Media

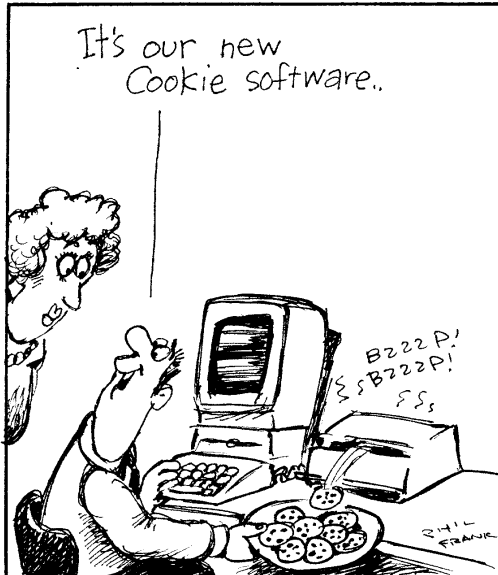
By signing below, I agree to abide by all conditions of this Digital Art Showcase as described by Sonoma Valley Computer Group in the submission form.

Artist signature: _____ date _____



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Sonoma Valley Computer Group Newsletter

Next Meeting: Saturday, 4/13/2002

Place: Sonoma Public Library
755 West Napa Street

Time: 9:30 a.m. to 11:00a.m.

Topic: **Hard Drive King**. Tom Schenck will talk about how he uses 19 hard drives in his computing. We'll also discuss the upcoming Digital Art Showcase as well as our Q&A