



# Spring Into Computer Art



Squash Blossom modified in Photoshop 6.0  
Filter>Angled Stroke>Levels

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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.

## ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION

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## ONLINE NEWSLETTER:

<http://www.vom.com/svcg/index.html>

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## MAILING ADDRESS:

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PO Box 649  
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## Donating Used Computer Equipment

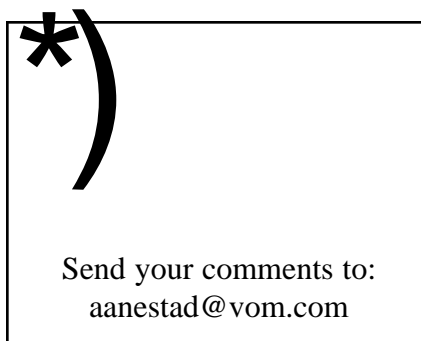
The URL listed is for the Computer Recycling Center. All of the info needed (and then some) is listed on the site. <http://www.crc.org/>

Thanks to Wayne Till for that tip.

## SVCG 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. b



## Computer Consultant

A shepherd was herding his flock in a remote pasture when suddenly a brand-new BMW advanced out of the dust cloud towards him. The driver, a young man in a Broni suit, Gucci shoes, Ray Ban sunglasses and YSL tie, leaned out the window and asked the shepherd, "If I tell you exactly how many sheep you have in your flock, will you give me one?"

The shepherd looked at the man, obviously a yuppie, then looked at his peacefully grazing flock and calmly answered, "Sure."

The yuppie parked his car, whipped out his notebook and connected it to a cell phone, then he surfed to a NASA page on the internet, where he called up a GPS satellite navigation system, scanned the area, and then opened up a database and an Excel spreadsheet with complex formulas. He sent an email on his Blackberry and, after a few minutes, received a response.

Finally, he prints out a 150-page report on his hi-tech, miniaturized printer then turns to the shepherd and says, "You have exactly 1586 sheep."

"That is correct; take one of the sheep." said the shepherd. He watches the young man select one of the animals and bundle it into his car.

Then the shepherd says: "If I can tell you exactly what your business is, will you give me back my sheep?"

"OK, why not." answered the young man.

"Clearly, you are a consultant." said the shepherd.

"That's correct," says the yuppie, "but how did you guess that?"

"No guessing required." answers the shepherd. "You turned up here although nobody called you. You want to get paid for an answer I already knew, to a question I never asked, and you don't know crap about my business. Now give me back my dog."

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

by Veda Lewis, lap@vom.com



**Compage** — After last month's meeting, I felt like going home and using Stephanie Clark's "compage" (abbreviation for computer decoupage) method on a piece of drab furniture. A wealth of other priorities is all that stopped me. At the first lazy summer day, I already have a project in mind. I'll use images of vintage woodies like the 1940 Packard wagon (station sedan) to upgrade a small, uninspired plastic piece.

In case you missed it, Stephanie gave us a tour of her craft using computer images to adorn furniture, large and small. This is just the kind of creativity that makes the digital world exciting. With paint, it would take months to create what she does in weeks or days with her computer, her original art and glue.

## BRING THOSE IDEAS-

What ideas do you have that you would like to test out? This is the call for you to get going on your idea in preparation for the club's second annual Digital Art Show in September. Starting at the next meeting, we'll have a section of the meeting for discussing ideas and sharing projects in progress. It will be great fun to watch the ideas take shape and see them in their final form in the show.

Bring printouts of your material for feedback and sharing to the May meeting and subsequent meetings until the show.

## PARTNERING WITH VINTAGE HOUSE-

Kathy Aanestad and I met with Cindy Scarsborough and Jackie Stubbs at Vintage House last week and received a tour of their new computer lab. It is a gem. They will hold an open house on May 14<sup>th</sup> from 2-5PM to introduce visitors to their biplatform lab. They are working on their curriculum and are seriously interested in working with our club to further develop their training program. Based on club feedback at a recent meeting, a Photo Elements workshop should be in development soon. Since the demographic of our club and the Vintage House is a neat overlap, we could be very helpful to those users who have not yet learned the basics that we take for granted.

Stay tuned.

## NETWORKING-

Speaking of training, I attended a workshop on networking last weekend through NCMUG (North Coast Mac Users Group). It was mostly way over my head. However, I did learn enough to be able to wirelessly connect my laptop with a PC base station. Jim Dickenson, longtime NCMUG Mac geek, spent an entire afternoon explaining how to hook up machines, what cables to use, etc. It was a lot of heady material, but, I came away with concepts that do make the tech world a bit more clear.

## DO LESS, APPRECIATE MORE-

This club has embraced the Internet, email, and graphics over the years. Many of our members do things with their machines we would never have imagined just a few years ago. However, do you find that sometimes it is good to just step back and make a concerted effort to do less on your computer?

I took a vacation day yesterday and did a strange thing. I left my computer at work. I turned off my cell phone and ditched my PDA. Heck, I think I even took off my watch. I felt like I had lost 5 pounds (actually more because that Dell is heavy). It was a pleasant reminder that machines are here to do our bidding, not to be the center of our lives.

## MICROSOFT PRODUCER-

Before my lazy vacation day, I found a new tool that I will share at the next meeting. Can you beat finding a free add-in that does all sorts of cool stuff? A colleague at work recently demonstrated MS Producer. It is a free add-in for MS Powerpoint 2002. It allows you to add video and audio to Powerpoint presentations to produce some cool products.

Powerpoint 2002 is a part of Office for the XPplatform only, sorry Mac users. It will produce compressed files that will open in Internet Explorer. The viewer does not need Powerpoint.

When I say Powerpoint, you may be thinking Big Blue and business only, but there are lots of uses for this tool. My interest is the training applications, especially in these lean budget times, but you could have lots of fun with this producing all sorts of things (party invitations, family stories, video memories, etc). If you want to check it out before the meeting, go to Microsoft's website and search Microsoft Producer.

Happy Computing  
Veda

SVCG

 Plugged into Technology 

# May Madness

## Topics for SVCG May Meeting:

- 1) Enhancing photos how-tos: w/ levels, select, cut/copy and move (move a person into a group/animal head on person) using smooth/feather
- 2) If your photo has deep shadows where you are unable to see the facial features, what to do.
- 3) Emailing photos -- getting your digital camera shots ready to email to friends and family so that they don't take three years to download and don't take up the entire window of your email message!!

... and so much more.

Bring in your computer-generated art to show, ask questions, share your tips and tricks. You only have four months until the September SVCG Digital Art Showcase!

# Care and Handling of Your New Computer

Six Tips for New Owners

## 1) Clean Your Computer

Use a soft, dry cloth to wipe dust from your computer's surface. Never spray directly onto the CRT screen or computer case. If you need to use a mild household cleaner, spray onto your soft cloth, then clean. Don't forget to clean your keyboard too. Use compressed air made for cameras on your hardware.

## 2) Avoid Touching Your Display

Flat-panel displays are sensitive to pressure and can be difficult to clean. NEVER tap the display with a pen, pencil or other sharp object. You can permanently damage the display. Traditional glass-tube displays aren't nearly as fragile.

## 3) Update Your Software

Updated software delivers additional features, faster performance, and bug fixes.

## 4) Add More Memory

The more memory you have, the more applications you can open, and the better able you are to run today's advanced software and games. RAM has never been so affordable as it is now.

## 5) Buy a Good Desk and Chair

Avoid muscular discomfort. Create a comfortable working environment. Use a desk with a large flat surface and deep enough to accommodate your computer, keyboard, mouse, monitor. Your chair should have a solid lower back support.

## 6) Add Speakers

Add an external set to enhance your listening pleasure.

## 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

## **SURVEY FINDS ONE-QUARTER OF AMERICANS ARE OFFLINE**

A study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project found that almost 25 percent of Americans do not use the Internet. The number of people dropping offline equals the number of new users, leading the researchers to conclude that the 60 percent use of the Internet measured in October 2001 is likely to persist. About 42 percent of Americans say they do not use the Internet, but half have either used it in the past or access it through other family members. Only 17 percent are classified as actual net dropouts, but this is an increase from the 13 percent identified in a similar 2000 survey. BBC, 17 April 2003  
<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/technology/2956315.stm>

## **AOL, MICROSOFT, AND YAHOO FIGHT SPAM**

America Online, Microsoft, and Yahoo have announced a partnership to fight spam. The three companies are the leading providers of e-mail accounts, and each has separately developed means to try to identify and filter spam. Spam continues apace, however, and the companies are calling for revising the technical specifications for how e-mail works to add a level of oversight and control that currently does not exist. E-mail protocols are relatively open, allowing spammers to include fraudulent return addresses, for example, fairly easily. According to the three companies, after new standards are put in place to guarantee the identity of senders, a list could be developed of "approved" marketers--those who agree to abide by specific rules. Those not on the list could still send e-mail, but users would have the option of only accepting mail from those on the approved list. New York Times, 28 August 2003  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/28/technology/28AOL.html>

## **APPLE ENTERS THE ONLINE MUSIC FRAY**

Apple Computer's much-talked-about music service is set to debut this week. For 99 cents per song, users will be allowed to download music, initially to Macintosh products but later to Windows machines, reportedly without paying a subscription fee. The service, which was negotiated by Apple CEO Steve Jobs, is supported by the five leading record labels, though details are not yet available about exactly what rights users will have. Ryan Jones of the Yankee Group noted that Apple has an extremely strong user base and said that the "record industry is becoming desperate." According to Jones, "The timing is right and it makes sense for a lot of the players, from the ISPs to the PC manufacturers, to hop aboard." Internet News, 28 April 2003  
<http://siliconvalley.internet.com/news/article.php/2197271>

## **STATES OPPOSE FEDERAL SPAM LEGISLATION**

Attorneys general from 40 states and the District of Columbia have raised objections to two recently proposed federal anti-spam laws. The CAN-SPAM Act and the Reduction in Distribution of Spam Act, said the states, would result in more spam, not less, because the federal statutes would overrule state laws, many of which are already more restrictive than the proposed federal laws. Twenty-seven states have already enacted anti-spam legislation. Federal

lawmakers argue that a federal anti-spam law is needed to avoid the confusion and difficulty in enforcing a patchwork of laws that vary from state to state. Robert Wientzen, president of the Direct Marketing Association, which supports the CAN-SPAM Act, said, "The Internet is not a place to make a states' rights argument." Washington Post, 30 April 2003  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A60659-2003Apr30.html>

## **VIRGINIA MAKES FRAUD-BASED SPAM A FELONY**

Lawmakers in Virginia this week approved legislation that makes sending "fraudulent" e-mail a felony, punishable by up to five years in prison and loss of revenues and assets connected to the e-mail activity. Fraudulent e-mails are those that deceive consumers, either with bogus return addresses or that are sent through hijacked servers, masking their true source. The law applies to spam that is sent either to or from Virginia. Because the state is home to many of the largest Internet providers, including America Online, legislators hope the law will significantly improve the problem of spam. Mark R. Warner, the governor of Virginia, said that many spammers consider the civil fines to be "just a cost of doing business" and that he hopes the criminal penalties will discourage spammers from continuing to send unwanted e-mail. New York Times, 30 April 2003 (registration req'd)  
<http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/30/technology/30SPAM.html>

## **PROPOSED BOUNTY FOR SPAM WHISTLE-BLOWERS**

Representative Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.) plans to introduce the Restrict and Eliminate Delivery of Unsolicited Commercial E-mail (REDUCE) Spam Act to address the growing problem of unsolicited e-mail. REDUCE differs from recently introduced bills in that it would pay a bounty to persons who report spammers. Lawrence Lessig, a Stanford University law professor and cyberlaw author, is so certain that the bounty approach will help reduce spam that he's betting his job on it. Lessig believes bounty-based legislation will work "because prosecutors have better things to do than tracking down spammers." Bounties, however, will make sending spam too costly. With a reward of 20 percent of the civil fine levied by the Federal Trade Commission against the spammer or up to \$10 per e-mail, those who report spam violations could net thousands of dollars. To avoid fines, the bill would require spammers to label spam as "ADV:" or "ADV:ADLT" for adult content, provide a valid opt-out feature, cease sending e-mail when a person opts out, and refrain from sending e-mail with deceptive routing information or subject headings. PCWorld, 29 April 2003  
[http://www.idg.net/ic\\_1311151\\_9676\\_1-5122.html](http://www.idg.net/ic_1311151_9676_1-5122.html)





Excerpts from *101 Essential Tips: Exploring Multimedia* by DK Publishing, Inc. and *Jargon, An Informal Dictionary of Computer Terms* by Robin Williams with Steve Cummings

## WHAT IS MULTIMEDIA?

**Multimedia combines many types of media into a single package— text, pictures, animation, video, and sound. It is also interactive, involving the user in selection and control. Multimedia computers can produce hi-fi sound, 3-D graphics, photo-realistic pictures, film footage, and animation. They are powerful educational tools, offer crucial business services, and provide the ultimate in home entertainment.**

## What does Interactive mean?

Multimedia gives you the chance to influence what appears on the screen. Interactive features range from simple selection from a list of options, to question and answer, to directing a movie plot. Objects can be selected and even rotated, for example.

On the World Wide Web, you can access certain sites that include multimedia features in some of their pages. For example, you might hear music or introductory remarks or sound effects or see special effects or a little movie when first coming to a site.

## What is the World Wide Web?

For many people, the World Wide Web (WWW) is the most exciting aspect of the Internet. The Web is a universe of linked “pages,” and you navigate it as you would a multimedia CD-ROM. A typical Web page contains words and pictures, like a magazine, but with the big difference that the page is interactive, and may contain sound, video clips, and links to other pages. To access the WWW, all you need is a standard Internet connection and some “browser” software. There are millions of pages to explore.

## What is a Browser?

Initially, a Web browser was simply a tool for viewing pages on the Web. Today’s Web browsers are much more than Web navigation tools: they have developed into launch pads from which you can send e-mail and visit newsgroups. Two leading Web browsers are Microsoft Internet Explorer and Netscape Navigator, which show you how to navigate the Web. They also come with plug-ins.

## What’s a Plug-in?

Most browsers come with pre-installed plug-ins. A pre-installed plug-in is simply a program that adds capabilities to your Web browser. It may improve the ability to handle video, animation, games, or interactive documents. If a Web browser cannot locate the appropriate plug-in, you will need to download the one you require separately. For instance, when you go to <http://www.vom.com/svcg/newsletter03.html> and click on the icon (a little picture that represents a file or folder) for the April 2003 newsletter, you will need the plug-in for Adobe Acrobat Reader. If you don’t have that plug-in, you will be directed to download it

from Adobe’s website. After downloading the plug-in, you will need to install it in order to download the newsletter file. Isn’t computing fun!! ;)

There are hundreds of plug-ins available that will increase the functionality of your Web browser, with new ones appearing regularly. Most plug-ins are self-extracting (open up and decompress by double-clicking on its icon) files that are very easy to install. You just need to download the plug-in software and install it on your hard disk.

For instance, the MPEG Player plug-in enables you to play MPEG audio-video files. Apple’s QuickTime plug-in allows you to view films on Web sites. The Flash plug-in allows you to view animated graphics-drawings-movies... just to name a few.

## What does Download mean?

To download means to receive information, typically a file, from another computer to yours via your modem. For instance, you might go online and find some great shareware, such as fonts or games or perhaps a handy little utility or your club’s newsletter saved as a .pdf file. Or maybe someone sent you a long love letter as a separate file. Well, when you decide you want a copy of that item, you must download it from the computer of the online service to your own computer. In many cases, this is as simple as selecting the file and clicking the button labeled “Download.”

The opposite term is upload, which means to send a file to another computer. Maybe you have a file you want to share with the world — you log on and upload it to the computer that runs the online service, and others will download it later. This is different from e-mail, where you send letters directly to your chosen recipient (although you can attach a separate file to an e-mail that your friend would then have to download).

## What does Online mean?

Online, in general, refers to communicating to other computers or to the people sitting at other computers or to devices such as

printers or file servers through your modem or network.

With a modem, you're "online" when the modem is actively connected to and communicating with another modem. For instance you need to go online to get your e-mail or to send e-mail. "Honey, could you call Sarah and remind her about the upcoming SVCG meeting — I'll be online for awhile!"

If your computer is hooked up to a network, either throughout your office or even internationally, you are "online" when you have logged onto the network.

When a device like a printer or a hard disk is up and ready to be used and controlled by the computer, it is considered to be online. Your printer may have an On Line, Ready, or Select button and a corresponding light. If the light's not on, you press the button to "take" the printer online.

### **What is a Modem?**

A modem is a device, either built into the computer itself or an external device, that lets you access the Internet and online services from a computer. The speed at which information is transmitted varies depending upon which type of modem you use... ranging from 14k, 33k, 56k, cable, DSL, T1, etc. Basically, think of the information that is being transmitted from one computer to another via the Internet like being sent through a tube. The opening of the tube for a little 14k modem would be about the size of a pencil lead compared to the size of the T1 which would be like the size of a baseball (figuratively speaking for comparison sake). The wider the opening of the 'tube', the more data gets passed through and more quickly. A 1MB (megabyte) file might take 20-30 minutes for a 56k modem to download, but for a cable modem... around 1-3 minutes.

### **What is an Internet Service Provider?**

An Internet Service Provider (ISP) is a commercial service you subscribe to which offers you access to the Internet. You will need a set of programs (like Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator) in order to "browse" the web and do your "e-mail" (like Outlook Express or Eudora or Netscape's mail program). DataProfessionals, or vom.com, on Eighth Street East in Sonoma is an excellent Internet Service Provider. Many ISPs, like vom.com, run programs in the background which check for viruses (nasty little software programs written expressly to do damage to other people's computer systems) and SPAM (unsolicited email). ISPs also host web pages (personal or business sites like the club's web site or [www.Epson.com](http://www.Epson.com) or [www.Microsoft.com](http://www.Microsoft.com) or [www.Apple.com](http://www.Apple.com) or [www.HP.com](http://www.HP.com) or [www.winebirds.com](http://www.winebirds.com)).

### **Internet Telephones**

Internet technology allows you to phone anyone with an Internet link, anywhere in the world, using our multimedia (audio, video, text, graphics) computer. Internet telephony programs work by first digitizing your speech, spoken into the computer's microphone, then sending voice data across the Internet. Your computer rings to indicate connection. If the person you call is not on

line, you can leave a message on voice mail!

### **Public Information**

It is now common to see public kiosks that use touch screens, graphical interfaces, and video telephones to provide information about goods and services. Most systems run on a computer inside a kiosk and use the latest multimedia to improve and expand the service. More advanced kiosks offer features such as printers and credit card readers.

### **Videoconferencing**

Home users may have been slow to take up videophones, but existing technology now makes possible international video meetings without the expense or delay of travel. Videoconferencing also brings benefits to remote areas, where schools and medical centers can benefit from computer links.

Broadband computer networks and digital cameras provide high-quality links for successful long-distance meetings.

Videophones, multimedia e-mail, and videoconferencing are all now familiar in the workplace.

### **Smart Appliances**

Online and virtual reality equipment may (before too long) make it easier to pursue much of our business without leaving home. There are likely to be further links between different technologies, particularly television, computer, and telephone. Powerful home computers will be capable of controlling TVs and VCRs, heat and humidity, and will be linked by cable to the superhighway.

### **Multimedia News**

Personalized newspapers with video and sound can be assembled electronically by "intelligent searchers."

To learn more about multimedia, visit your library or enroll in classes offered through Adult Ed or Santa Rosa Junior College. Many of these classes meet at Sonoma Valley High School.

# What is Spyware?

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Spyware is Internet jargon for Advertising Supported software (Adware). It is a way for shareware authors to make money from a product, other than by selling it to the users. There are several large media companies that offer them to place banner ads in their products in exchange for a portion of the revenue from banner sales. This way, you don't have to pay for the software and the developers are still getting paid. If you find the banners annoying, there is usually an option to remove them, by paying the regular licensing fee.

## Why is it called "Spyware" ?

While this may be a great concept, the downside is that the advertising companies also install additional tracking software on your system, which is continuously "calling home", using your Internet connection and reports statistical data to the "mother-ship". While according to the privacy policies of the companies, there will be no sensitive or identifying data collected from your system and you shall remain anonymous, it still remains the fact, that you have a "live" server sitting on your PC that is sending information about you and your surfing habits to a remote location.....

## Are all Adware products "Spyware"?

No, but the majority are. There are also products that do display advertising but do not install any tracking mechanism on your system. These products are not indexed in our database.

## Is Spyware illegal?

Even though the name may indicate so, Spyware is not an illegal type of software in any way. However there are certain issues that a privacy oriented user may object to and therefore prefer not to use the product. This usually involves the tracking and sending of data and statistics via a server installed on the user's PC and the use of your Internet connection in the background.

## What's the hype about?

While legitimate adware companies will disclose the nature of data that is collected and transmitted in their privacy statement (linked from our database), there is almost no way for the user to actually control what data is being sent. The fact is that the technology is in theory capable of sending much more than just banner statistics - and this is why many people feel uncomfortable with the idea.

## On the other hand...

Millions of people are using advertising supported "spyware" products and could not care less about the privacy hype..., in fact some "Spyware" programs are among the most popular downloads on the Internet.

## Whatis.com's definition of spyware:

spyware

In general, spyware is any technology that aids in gathering information about a person or organization without their knowledge. On the Internet, spyware is programming that is put in someone's computer to secretly gather information about the user and relay it to advertisers or other interested parties. Spyware can get in a computer as a software virus or as the result of installing a new program. Data collecting programs that are installed with the user's knowledge are not, properly speaking, spyware, if the user fully understands what data is being collected and with whom it is being shared.

The cookie is a well-known mechanism for storing information about an Internet user on their own computer. However, the existence of cookies and their use is generally not concealed from users, who can also disallow access to cookie information. Nevertheless, to the extent that a Web site stores information about you in a cookie that you don't know about, the cookie mechanism could be considered a form of spyware. DoubleClick, a leading banner ad serving company, changed its plans to combine cookie information with database information from other sources to target ad campaigns directly to individuals without their permission. DoubleClick's current policy is not to collect "personally-identifiable" information about a user without their explicit permission or "opt-in."

Aureate Media, which distributes free software on the Web in exchange for the right to gather user information, is another company that has been criticized for not plainly indicating what data it gathers and for making it difficult to remove its programming.

Spyware is part of an overall public concern about privacy on the Internet .

The following from: <http://grc.com/optout.htm>

## Anonymous Surveillance for Profit

Online profiling & tracking "privacy statements", and backchannel "spyware" license agreements, invariably adopt identical cop-out terminology. They state that "no personally identifiable information" is being collected. It has been shown that in many instances this is an outright lie in itself, but even when, or if, it is true, I submit that these " identity stealing profilers " are nonetheless profiting from valuable information that has been stolen from us without our informed consent.

I consider the actions of companies that hide behind their fine print, take advantage of consumer trust and ignorance, and deliberately leverage complex hidden technology, to be the lowest form of personal privacy exploitation.

So I created OptOut to inform and empower the individual, to

bring this bad corporate behavior to light, and to publicly critique the actions of these spyware publishers.

I'm afraid this problem is not going away . . . but neither am I.

OptOut warns its user when any spyware known to us has entered their machine, and provides the option of immediate or later removal.

#### The Code of Backchannel Conduct

The Personal Computing industry needs a public code of conduct against which software that uses our Internet backchannel can be evaluated, graded, and compared. This web site proposes the formal establishment of the CBC: The Code of Backchannel Conduct . With that established, the Index of Known Spyware page uses this proposed code to rate and rank all known backchannel users.

#### The Internet Spyware Analyzer

In order to fully analyze all possible behavior of unknown spyware we must often conduct an "Internet Dialog" with the software under analysis. We have, therefore, developed proprietary spycracking technology, known as the Internet Spyware Analyzer. This proprietary tool facilitates the forensic analysis of unknown and potentially hostile spyware.

#### The Index of Known Spyware

As we encounter and analyze new spyware, our findings will be graphically summarized in the index of known spyware. The online conduct of each spyware system will be analyzed against the criteria of the CBC to quickly highlight its troublesome features. Also, any subsequent changes to the spyware system's CBC-related behavior will also be shown. Links branching from the graphical quick summary further detail the specific nature of CBC transgressions.

#### The Growing List of Suspected Spyware

As new "suspects" appear and are brought to our attention, this page serves as a clearinghouse for not-yet-analyzed suspicious software and systems. In order to help prevent duplication of reporting efforts, any reporter must first check both the Known Spyware page (for the listing of previously analyzed and well known spyware) and this "Suspects" page for previously reported — but not yet analyzed — suspicious software.

#### OptOut : A Tool for Proactive Control

The goal of this OptOut web site, in addition to publicizing spyware existence, behavior, and activities, is the support and maturation of the OptOut software. This page describes the present status and future plans for OptOut.

#### The OptOut User's Guide

The forthcoming release of the OptOut program will be significantly more capable and extensive than the initial "preview"

release. This page will contain an extensive online guide to all operational features of the next release of OptOut.

#### The OptOut Program FAQ

To provide the best and quickest possible technical support of OptOut, and to answer the most commonly asked questions without incurring the delay of an eMail cycle, this page provides answers to the most often asked questions about the OptOut program. A separate Privacy FAQ page (see #12 below) provides answers to more general privacy-related concerns.

#### Privacy On The Net

Internet privacy has suddenly become a hot topic on the Internet. This page gathers a wide variety of privacy-related links for those wishing to explore this rapidly expanding topic in greater detail and depth.

#### Our Internet Privacy Discussion Newsgroups

You are invited to read and participate in our online discussion forums. Either way, you'll find these newsgroups to be amazingly informative and often quite entertaining. (Be sure not to miss our newest " Ten-Forward " group for freewheeling "off topic" debate, dialog and fun!)

#### Be Notified of Significant Events!

"Being connected" on the Internet is all about knowing what's going on. We are rapidly building a strong eMail community of people (currently 679,933 members strong!) who wish to receive a brief eMail note from us whenever something significant occurs. So, if you haven't already, I urge you to consider joining the other 679,933 people who are now "in the loop" with us and being informed of important security and privacy events through our brief monthly updates. You will never receive excessive eMail, and you can freely leave the eMail system at any time.

#### Internet Privacy FAQ - Frequently Asked Questions?

This FAQ page answers the most often asked questions arising from the pages on this site. It also addresses common questions regarding Internet privacy. Please note that questions directly relating to the capabilities and use of our OptOut software are addressed on the separate "OptOut Program FAQ" page (see #8 above). Our goal is to minimize your confusion and the repetition of common questions being asked in the online public forum. Please check here to see whether we've already addressed and answered any privacy-related questions you may have.

# What's News

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from Edupage

## **NEW SEARCH ENGINE FROM YAHOO TARGETS GOOGLE**

In an effort to become the most widely used Internet search resource, Yahoo is offering a new search engine promoted as more powerful and easier to use than Google's. The new version will combine Google's index with Yahoo's customized services for sports, weather reports, and the like. Industry analysts expect a struggle for dominance to ensue between Yahoo and Google. Currently Google handles an average of 112 million searches a day compared to Yahoo's 42 million, which are generated by Google's software. Yahoo supported Google's creation and licensed its software three years ago for searches on Yahoo's portal. To wean itself from Google, Yahoo purchased Inktomi and will use its search-engine tools instead. Wired News, 7 April 2003

<http://www.wired.com/news/business/0,1367,58368,00.html>

## **NATIONALARCHIVE DOCUMENTS GO ONLINE**

Fifty million historical records in the National Archives are now available online. Instead of visiting the Archives or requesting records by phone, researchers, genealogists, and others can now search for records ranging from the details of battles to immigration information remotely and free of charge. Veterans in particular are expected to welcome the system to search for information on military action, casualties, and prisoners of war. The database of searchable records contains only a small portion of the archive's electronic holdings and is compiled from 20 federal agencies. To ensure their integrity, the records from the different agencies have not been altered, so some contain typographical and historical errors. Associated Press, 4 April 2003 (registration req'd)

<http://www.nandotimes.com/technology/story/840830p-5910961c.html>

## **FILTERING SPAM TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE WORK ENVIRONMENT**

Some experts have recently begun speculating that laws requiring employers to ensure that work environments are not "hostile" could apply to pornographic e-mail delivered to employees. Courts have ruled that sexually explicit or lewd comments by employees constitute a hostile, and therefore illegal, work environment, and some argue that pornographic solicitations in e-mail represent the same type of situation. According to one antispam company, pornographic e-mail is the fastest growing category of spam. Eugene Volokh, a professor of law at UCLA, said companies' liability is not necessarily mitigated simply because the source of the e-mail is outside the company. "If the employer is reasonably capable of filtering the material," Volokh said, "and if it doesn't do that, it would be held liable." Joanna Grossman, a professor of law at Hofstra University, suggested that some employers will install filters to ensure safe working conditions even if no complaints are received. David Burtot of filtering company N2H2 noted that sexually

explicit spam is much more difficult to detect than sexually explicit Web sites. ZDNet, 7 April 2003  
<http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105-995658.html>

## **COMPUTER COURSES AT AFGHANISTAN UNIVERSITY**

Kabul University in Afghanistan will soon offer computer-networking courses, including some classes with only female students. Afghanistan was long cut off from the technological developments happening in other parts of the world, and, under Taliban rule, women were denied education altogether. According to the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), almost no one in Afghanistan is able to handle computers due to the country's 20 years of relative isolation. A statement from the UNDP said, "The new academy fills a critical void for women and men alike in Afghanistan." Associated Press, 13 April 2003 <http://www.nandotimes.com/technology/story/852842p-5976562c.html>

## **AOL GOES AFTER SPAMMERS**

As part of a multilayered approach to fighting spam, America Online (AOL) has filed five lawsuits in Virginia against several companies and individuals for violations of the Virginia Computer Crimes Act, the Federal Computer Fraud and Abuse Act, and the Washington Commercial Electronic Mail Act. AOL is seeking at least \$10 million in damages from the defendants for sending approximately one billion unsolicited e-mails to its customers, more than eight million of whom have filed complaints with AOL. AOL is also fighting spam by supporting federal anti-spam legislation, including the recently introduced CAN-SPAM Act, and by taking technological steps to limit spam. According to an AOL spokesman, the company has been blocking mail servers associated with certain residential IP addresses that have been identified as sending spam. IDG, 15 April 2003

[http://www.idg.net/ic\\_1306559\\_9677\\_1-5041.html](http://www.idg.net/ic_1306559_9677_1-5041.html)

## **AUSTRALIAN REPORT URGES INTERNATIONALANTI-SPAM EFFORT**

Australia could be the first nation to take the fight against spam to an international level if its government heeds advice from a report issued by the National Office for the Information Economy. The report views technical countermeasures and global consensus as the best approaches to limiting spam. In the United States, spam is regulated by state but not federal laws, and in Europe the European Parliament regulates spam by requiring that recipients legitimately "opt-in" to receive e-mail solicitations. The Australian report suggests, however, that an international legal approach is not enough and that technology, industry regulations, and domestic legislation are also required. ZDNet, 16 April 2003

<http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105-997131.html>

## **AMERICANS ENTHUSIASTIC YET CAUTIOUS ABOUT E-GOVERNMENT**

A study by the Council for Excellence in Government and

Accenture shows that although Americans increasingly use online government services, they are concerned that their privacy may be compromised as a result. According to the study, more than 60 percent of U.S. Internet users want to use e-government for activities such as filing a change of address or renewing a driver's license. Nearly 45 percent think the government will be able to better serve them if they submit personal information to government Web sites. Yet roughly the same number believe that providing such information puts them at risk for security and privacy violations. More than half think e-government will help homeland-security efforts and condone the government's searching its existing databases for terrorist-related information. More than two-thirds of current e-government users said that governmental transactions are easier because of e-government, and a majority of those believe its benefits will increase over the next decade. Internet News, 15 April 2003 <http://dc.internet.com/news/article.php/2190871>

### **MICROSOFT SETTLES FLORIDA SUIT**

Microsoft has settled a class-action lawsuit with residents of Florida. According to the suit, Microsoft violated trade practices in the way it sold software, and consumers who purchased certain of the company's products between late 1995 and the end of 2002 will be eligible for vouchers totaling \$202 million. The vouchers will be good for hardware and software from any manufacturer. Details were not released about when the vouchers will expire, but the settlement stipulates that half of unclaimed vouchers will be donated to public schools. One public school official called that part of the settlement "great news for schools all across Florida," saying that "the timing is particularly helpful" in the current budgetary situation. Nando Times, 15 April 2003 <http://www.nandotimes.com/technology/story/855791p-5993194c.html>

### **HOMELAND SECURITY APPOINTS PRIVACY OFFICER**

The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) has named Nuala O'Connor Kelly as its first privacy officer. Prior to her current role as privacy officer and chief counsel for the Department of Commerce's Technology Administration, she was the privacy officer for online ad firm DoubleClick. As part of the DHS's creation last year, Congress mandated a privacy officer to protect U.S. citizens' privacy rights. Congress and privacy rights' advocates have expressed concern over programs O'Connor Kelly will oversee, such as the Computer Assisted Passenger Prescreening System II (CAPPS II) and the Pentagon's Total Information Awareness (TIA) program. CAPPS II, currently being tested by Delta Airlines, assigns a color-coded threat level to travelers and runs background screenings that can include credit, banking, and criminal background checks. Congress has temporarily blocked funding for TIA, a data-mining program that seeks to track and capture potential terrorists through "information signatures." Internet News, 17 April 2003 <http://dc.internet.com/news/article.php/2192521>

### **INTERNET LAW FORUM ADDRESSES IDENTITY THEFT**

Attendees at a meeting of state attorneys general focusing on developments in Internet law spent considerable time discussing the need to protect against identity theft. Lawmakers have introduced bills to help curb identity theft, although none has yet passed in Congress. Also, the Federal Trade Commission has censured several companies whose

security it deemed inadequate. Of particular concern to consumers is the theft of personal information from large databases, such as those maintained by banks and credit bureaus. In one case, three people were accused of stealing personal information on 30,000 people from one of the big three credit reporting agencies. Wired Magazine, 17 April 2003 <http://www.wired.com/news/business/0,1367,58512,00.html>

### **FTC CRACKS DOWN ON PORN SPAMMER**

The Federal Trade Commission asked the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division, to bar Ballwin (a suburb of St. Louis) resident Brian Westby from sending e-mail containing deceptive subject lines, false reply information, and pornographic material designed to steer recipients to an adult Web site. The FTC claimed that the pornographic spam operation has grossed more than \$1 million in commissions and prompted almost 50,000 consumer complaints in response to a recent bulk e-mail campaign. The suit is the first to target deceptive subject lines and the second on "spoofing," which is e-mail that uses false reply-to or from information that leads recipients to assume an innocent third party sent the message. ZDNet, 17 April 2003 <http://zdnet.com.com/2100-1105-997329.html>

### **DUPLICATE WEB STANDARDS EFFORTS**

Led by IBM, Microsoft, and BEA Systems, about 20 businesses plan to propose the creation of a technical committee within the Organization for the Advancement of Structured Information Standards (OASIS) to standardize the Business Process Execution Language for Web Services (BPEL), which is used to automatic complex business processes. The World Wide Web Consortium (W3C) is already trying to sort through similar Web services proposals. The group of companies, which originally authored BPEL, said others can use the language without paying royalties to them as authors of the standard. In addition, the proposal will include an update to BPEL. IBM and Microsoft executives said their companies plan to implement the BPEL standard within their products this year. CNET, 17 April 2003 <http://news.com.com/2100-1013-997042.html>

### **E-GOVERNMENT FACES BUDGET SHORTFALL**

The Bush administration's E-Government Strategy aims to help federal agencies communicate better with the public, modernize government technology, and ensure that computer networks are safe from cyberattacks. The \$45 million requested to launch the program this year was reduced by Congress to \$5 million. The total budget request is \$345 million over four years. A spokesman admitted that the shortfall is an obstacle, while others asserted that the \$5 million budget is inadequate to accomplish the program's goals in 2003. Washington Post, 17 April 2003 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A46483-2003Apr17.html>

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Postage

## Topics:

- Mac and Windows Break-Out Groups
- Q&A Session
- Main Topics, See Pg. 4 for details

Place Label  
Here



Date: Saturday, 5/10/2003  
Place: Sonoma Public Library  
755 West Napa Street  
Time: 9:30am to 11:30am

# Sonoma Valley Computer Group Newsletter



Apple User Group

for Mac and Windows Users

