

# MID-CITIES PC USERS' GROUP

## September 2000 Newsletter



### MEETING NOTICE

by: *Steve Turner*

**When:** Tuesday, September 12th  
at 7:30 PM

**Where:** Old Bedford School  
(1800 block of Bedford Road)  
Second Floor.

**Program:** This month we will be giving tips on new hardware and software for your computer. Some of our members will be doing a "show and tell" to keep us all well informed.

## 10 Useful Sites

**555-1212-COM** ([555-1212.com](http://555-1212.com))

**AT&T ANYWHO INFO** ([anywho.com](http://anywho.com))

**CNNSI.COM:DESKTOP SCORES**  
([cnnsi.com/java](http://cnnsi.com/java))

**PAYMYBILLS** ([paymybills.com](http://paymybills.com))

**WEATHER.COM** ([weather.com](http://weather.com))

**TICKETS.COM** ([tickets.com](http://tickets.com))

**EXCITE: NEWSTRACKER**  
([nt.excite.com](http://nt.excite.com))

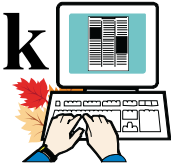
**MAPBLAST!** ([mapblast.com](http://mapblast.com))

**ONELOOK DICTIONARIES**  
([onelook.com](http://onelook.com))

**CAREERBUILDER: MEGA JOB SEARCH** ([ms.careerbuilder.com](http://ms.careerbuilder.com))

## From the President's Cluttered Desk

by *Rick Howell*

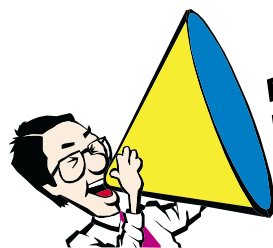


We are getting some great ideas to promote our group to the community. Anthony Nagy and his steering committee are coming up with some super suggestions which I hope we can get started on this month. If things go as planned, and some of you guys will help out, we should be able to double or triple our membership in a very short time. We do need your help, though. I know it's easy to sit back in those chairs and wait for the other guy to volunteer. Our biggest problem has been that the other guy doesn't want to volunteer either. Our Board of Directors is a central corps of people who work for you. Putting together newsletters, keeping track of membership, and taking care of club business are jobs which require dedication and a belief that our group is worth the effort. I am sorrowed to think that our Board of Directors is the only group of people in our club that feels this way. Our club has been a lot of fun in the past, and all of the memories I have of club activities have been good memories. We are like an

extended family that comes together once a month for a good time. Personally, I feel like this is worth working for. I would like to think that everyone in our group feels that way too. Come on kids, make me proud.

One thing we are planning to add to the newsletter is a column on websites, composed of input from our members on their favorite websites. If you have a favorite website, or you find something cool while you are out there hanging ten on the net, make a note of the URL, jot down a quick description and bring it in to the meeting. We will make sure it gets published in the newsletter and, if you like, we will even give you credit for recommending the site. It's a good way to share the fun. Let's run it up the flagpole and see if it becomes digital. It sure would be nice to have a volunteer to organize this too.

Since I went a little long on my other article, I'm gonna keep this one a little short this month. See y'all at the meeting.



**PARTICIPATION  
IS FUN FOR  
EVERYBODY**

# Quips N Tips

**By Rick Howell**

Last month I was having a problem with Windows 98 (hard to believe, right?) which seemed to indicate to me that I needed to reload Windows on this particular computer. You know the type of problem – blue screen – xxxxx.vcd driver missing – that sort of thing. Since I am not a whiz with the Windows Registry, reloading Windows seemed to be the easiest solution. There was only one problem. The Windows 98 disc that I have is an OEM version, which is the full-up version designed to be installed on a empty hard drive, not on a computer with an operating system already in place. When I tried to re-install Windows from this disc, I got an error saying I needed the upgrade version in order to be able to install Windows on that system. Well, this particular computer had a whole bunch of stuff on it that had been downloaded from the internet, as well as system backups from my entire network. I was not about to do a re-format on that hard drive just to get Windows to work, and I was really not interested in donating any more money to Mr. Gates for an upgrade version of Windows. So, I got on the phone to a friend of mine who I was sure could tell me a way around this dilemma and, sure enough, he told me the secret. The first thing to do is look in the C:\Windows directory and find a file called **WIN.COM**. Rename this file **WIN.BAK** and run the install program from the CD. When the installation progresses to the screen where it asks if you would like to install in the C:\WINDOWS.000 directory, make the program install to the C:\WINDOWS directory instead.

That's all there is to it. The program will continue with the installation without deleting everything on your hard drive, and everything will be hunky-dory again.

Via Technologies has formally announced their long-awaited Joshua microprocessor, which will challenge both AMD and Intel in the low-end market. The Joshua chip will be marketed as the Via Cyrix III and will be priced at about a hundred bucks less than the AMD K6-2 chip while integrating a greater amount of on-chip cache. Via will be producing two Cyrix III chips rated at 500 and 533 MHz. The chips will be manufactured by National Semiconductor, however Via has not yet announced when their processors will be available.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup>, Seagate Technology Inc. introduced their first 15,000 RPM hard drive. In speeding up its Cheetah family from 10,000 to 15,000 rpm, Seagate promises 25% more data throughput, up from 34 Mbytes/s to 42.5 Mbytes/s. The time to seek out data was also reduced to 3.9 ms. To make sure data keeps streaming, the 18-Gigabyte Cheetah family will integrate 4 Mbytes of cache as a standard feature; a special model with 16 Mbytes of cache will also be sold for video-intensive applications. Seagate plans to produce a 32 Gigabyte version next year. These drives may be missing a major share of the market as Seagate is introducing them with either an Ultra 160 SCSI or 2-Gbit Fibre Channel interface and pricing them at around a thousand bucks. By

doing this, they are aiming at the high-end server market, and disregarding us little guys. I hope some of the other drive manufacturers recognize Seagate's disregard for a major market share in their quest for profit.

There was an interesting article in the April issue of *Reader's Digest* about cyberstalkers on the internet. The author gives real-life examples of people who had been harassed incessantly online and were at their wits' end about where to turn for help. *Reader's Digest* reveals the existence of an online agency known as "CyberAngels" who help people who are victims of online stalkers. This is a very interesting article and I heartily recommend you pick up a copy and read the article. More information is available online at [www.readersdigest.com](http://www.readersdigest.com).

The latest buzzword in the computer industry is W2K. This is the TLA (three letter acronym) for the Windows 2000 operating system. Windows 2000 is the upgrade for the Windows NT operating system. If you are currently using Windows NT, this is the program you have been waiting for. Most of the reports I have been reading about W2K have been encouraging. There are some great new features, and I'm hoping we can have a program at one of our upcoming meetings which will demonstrate some of these new features. Those of us who are using Windows 98 will just have to continue to wait for the release of Windows Millennium.

See y'all at the meeting.

# The School Bell

## News from Education Services

By Gil Hennon Contributing Editor of The Journal of the Memphis PC Users Group

Have we reached bottom yet? It seems that no matter how crude the gag, no matter how raunchy the stand-up comic, no matter how utterly tasteless and unpalatable a situation might be, someone can always come up with something even worse. Daffy Duck had it right when he slobbered on himself and declared, "That's despicable!"

I just read the first reports about the W32.pokey.worm, a distant relative of the "ILove You" epidemic earlier this year. Pokey isn't as widespread as its ancestor, but makes a bigger mess. What disgusts me most is that this hack specifically targets children about ten years old or less.

The worm code arrives as an executable attachment to an email typically addressed to a child. The subject line says "Pikachu Pokemon," and the message text reads:

Great Friend!  
Pikachu from Pokemon Theme have some friendly words to say.  
Visit Pikachu at GOTOBUTTON  
BM\_1\_ <http://www.pikachu.com>  
See you.

The attached file is named "pikachupokemon.exe." This attachment is a Visual Basic 6 runtime library file. When the attachment executes, it displays an animated picture of Pikachu and the following text:

Between millions of people around the world I found you. Don't forget to remember this day every time MY FRIEND!  
Visit us at GOTOBUTTON BM\_2\_ <http://www.pikachu.com>

For any readers who aren't parents of young children, I guess I should explain that Pikachu is a Pokemon (Pocket Monster) cartoon character. Resembling a cute, yellow, baby pig with rabbit ears and a lightning bolt

tail, Pikachu is well known to most of the world's population under ten years old. There are about a million different Pokemon characters, and the average kid intends to collect every single card and see every one of about a thousand animated episodes before next Saturday.

Ready for more bad news? When executed, the Pokey worm first sends itself to everyone in the Outlook Address Book. The premise here is that if an infected email reaches a child, there will be other children in the address book. Second, Pokey deletes the entire contents of the \windows and \windows\system folders. Third, commands are added to autoexec.bat that will delete the same two folders during boot-up if they have been reinstalled.

So far, Pokey has not been a very successful infector. Reaching the age group that gets excited about a message from Pikachu is difficult, though not impossible. If you have youngsters at home, or work with them around computers, warn them never to open an attachment, no matter how enticing the message, without a parent or other adult present. I don't recommend telling them never to open an attachment. Cute little Pikachu or some other popular icon could be too much of a temptation to click and not tell. If you find the Pokey worm in e-mail, delete the message, then delete the attachment file.

And then we have another kind of strange news...

Weird News Story #1: Gemma Franks, a bar manager (her occupation may be relevant to this story) of Essex, England, complained to Compaq that her Presario lap top computer was haunted by dead rock idol, Kurt Cobain. After she turned off the computer, Cobain's image would slowly appear and grow quite distinct on the blank screen. Then he would say, "Help me. Give us a kiss, love." Hard drive technicians couldn't find

anything wrong with the lap top, so Gemma hired a paranormal investigator to perform an exorcism ceremony. Kurt Cobain no longer appears, but the lap top computer also will no longer boot up. A Compaq spokesperson advised her to put the lap top back to factory specifications. Then, if anyone appeared on the screen while it was turned off, she should get in touch with Mulder and Scully.

Weird News Story #2: The United States Navy has chosen a customized version of the Microsoft's Windows 2000 operating system to be the command and control computer system on their next three CVN-77 class aircraft carriers. A contract provision also calls for retro-fitting the computer system to seven currently operating carriers. Rumors say that preliminary tests carried out on the U.S.S. Yorktown have resulted in that carrier being towed back to port twice.

Tech news analysts had a field-day with this press release. One conjured up visions of blue screens during the heat of battle and warship systems taken over by teenaged hackers. Another chose to look at the brighter side; our enemies often copy our military decisions in order to maintain technological equality.

*(Editor's note: Gil's group has a "Wizard Session" prior to each of their meetings. At this time members discuss any problems they may have been or are experiencing with their computers. This is something we do also during our meeting, and you might want to think of one for our next get together. Remember there is never a stupid question - except maybe the one about the cupholder on the computer!*

# Autumn

## THE MID-CITIES PC USERS' GROUP

The Mid-Cities PC Users' Group is a not for-profit organization whose objectives are:

- \* to provide a forum for the exchange of ideas and experience,
- \* education in the form of seminars and programs, and
- \* community as pertains to the computer industry.

Annual membership is \$24.00 per family with one vote per membership. Members are encouraged to notify the Membership Chairperson of any change of address as soon as possible to continue receiving their monthly newsletter. Please address any notifications to: Mid-Cities PC Users' Group: Attn. Membership Chair, P.O. Box 54141, Hurst, TX 76054

### 1999/00 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

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*Payment:* required with 1st ad copy.

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## THE MID-CITIES PC USERS' GROUP NEWSLETTER

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### CONTRIBUTING ARTICLES

**Article Style:** Type all copy flush left without justification; use word wrap feature for your paragraphs. This includes headings, by-lines, and the first line of each paragraph. Place a credit by-line (author's name) between the title and first paragraph. Leave no blank lines between paragraphs. Use only one space between sentences.

**File Formats:** Word Perfect 5.0 is preferred. If formatting is crucial and you do not have access to Word Perfect 5.0 or Microsoft Word, send a hard copy to show the layout.

**Submitting Articles:** You may use one of two methods. Uploading the article to Nancy Hester at nancyhesterusa@netscape.net or you can hand them to her on diskette (3.5" preferred) during the general membership meetings.



Thanks a lot!

**Deadline:** The last Friday of the month prior to intended publication.

### Advertising Rates:

7½ in. x 9 in.	Full Page	\$40.00
7½ in. x 4 in.	Half Page	\$20.00
3¾ in. x 4¼ in.	Quarter Page	\$12.50
3½ in. x 2 in. Business Card		\$5.50

*Discounts:* 3 months = 5%; 6 months = 10%. 1st month full price, discount applies to months thereafter.

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