

On the Docket for the
General Meeting
Thursday, September 30, 2004

PC Utilities: **Applications to enhance your computer use**

A Panel Discussion with Demonstrations

A utility for your computer is a program, usually small with few functions, that makes your computer run more efficiently or adds a specific functionality. Often utilities perform “housekeeping” duties, such as resource management, file backup, and system protection and monitoring. Many utilities are freeware or shareware (try before buying).

A panel will demonstrate a variety of computer utilities to enhance your computer use.

Utilities include:

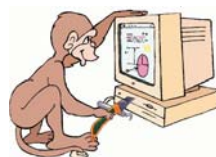
- Anti-Viruses
- Firewalls
- Spyware detection/removal tools
- Antispam tools
- Disk management/diagnosis/repair tools
- File catalogers and managers
- File viewers and converters
- Zipping/unzipping tools
- Windows Registry and tweaking tools
- Desktop accessories and screensavers
- Audio and video viewers and players
- Web photo albums and slide show creators
- PDF readers and creators
- Web Browsers: Alternatives to Internet Explorer
- E-mail Clients: Alternatives to Outlook and Outlook Express
- Ways to access Gmail and Yahoo Mail using an e-mail client
- RSS Clients

Finding and Using Freeware

There is a lot of free software out there. Some of it is wonderful, and some of it is terrible. Some of it is spyware or worse. We will demonstrate and discuss the best free utilities and show you how to spot the bad ones. We'll also tell you

about the utilities some of us have found to be worth purchasing.

Many great download sites on the web also have reviews of various utilities. We will show some of these sites and demonstrate how to use them.



We will also discuss how to make sure the great new utilities you download don't contain viruses or install spyware or trojans. We will warn you about some of the programs we, and others, have found to cause problems.

Members of the audience will be invited to talk about some of their experiences with free software, both good and bad. So if you have some program you love, or one that you hate, come and share it with the group.

Learn More

Read more about utilities—free and otherwise—before you come to the meeting at:

www.pcmag.com/article2/0,1759,158531,5.00.asp

A lengthy article from the June 8, 2004, *PC Magazine*, in which authors Ben Z. Gottesman and Sarah Pike (and others) review 161 utilities in 21 categories

www.pcworld.com/howto/article/0,aid,109696,pg,1,00.asp

Cheap Tweaks by Robert Luhn, from the May 2003, issue of *PC World*

www.pcworld.com/reviews/article/0,aid,116456,00.asp

“The Best Free Software” by Laurianne McLaughlin, from the August 2004 issue of *PC World* magazine

Inside NYPC



Volume 11 issue 8
September 2004

General Meeting Info

When: Thursday, September 30th, 2004

Where: PS 41, 116 W 11th Street,
west of 6th Avenue

Schedule: 6:00pm Networking in Cafeteria
Meet the Geek: Q&A
Networking
6:45pm Announcements
7:00pm Presentation

Subway: A,B,C,D,E,F,Q,V to West 4th St
1,2,3,9,L to 14th St @ 7th Ave
(check with MTA)

Path: Take 33rd St line to 9th St Sta

Hotline: 212-643-NYPC, code 111,
code GEN

NYPC's General Meetings are free and open to the public. To check on the NYPC General Meeting or get up-to-the-minute details on speakers, call our *Hotline* (212) 643-NYPC and enter the code 111, then the code *GEN*. *Note:* You may interrupt any speech at any time by entering a 3-letter code. Or check our website, www.nypc.org, and go to Events.

...more

Continued from page 1

A few sites with utilities and other software are:

- <http://www.winsite.com/>
- <http://downloads-zdnet.com.com/2001-2018-0.html?tag=dir>
- <http://www.download.com/Utilities/2001-2018-0.html?tag=dir>
- <http://www.slipstick.com/addins/> (Outlook & Exchange utilities)
- <http://www.tucows.com/> (both Windows and Linux apps)
- <http://www.linux.org/apps/> (for Linux users)
- <http://sourceforge.net> (note that this huge open source site includes not only “mature” applications but also ones under development)
- <http://www.freshmeat.org> (open source apps)

At the General Meeting, you’ll be able to pick up, at modest cost, a CD with a variety of useful freeware and shareware utilities.

PC Annoyances by Steve Bass also describes many useful utilities. See book review below.

Laura Balsam and Mary Ginsburg

PC Annoyances by Steve Bass: A Review

(O’Reilly, \$19.95. O’Reilly gives a 20% discount to NYPC members.)

This book is like a print version of an NYPC Random Access session! It’s a place to find answers to those pesky questions that inevitably arise when you use a computer over any length of time. It comes as no surprise that its author is a User Group founder. Steve Bass founded and currently leads the Pasadena IBM Users Group (pibmug.com) and is one of the founders of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG).

Written in Q&A format (Annoyance, followed by Solution), it deals with the many annoyances that we experience as we sit in front of our monitors, wondering who’s in charge. It’s amazing how many Annoyances bring an “Aha!” of recognition.

The book is filled with useful gems, such as a clear discussion of the four Shut-Down modes in Windows 2000 and XP. There’s something for every Windows user: the chapter on e-mail covers Outlook and Outlook Express, AOL, and Eudora, as well as broad issues. Other chapters include Windows, Internet, MS Office, Windows Explorer, Multimedia and CDs, and Hardware.

Despite many years of seeking and finding answers to PC problems—at NYPC, on the web, and in books—I found many useful tips. For example, I learned about NetSwitcher (\$14 at www.netswitcher.com), which cures Laptop “Multiple Network Disorder” by enabling me to save a set of network settings for each location.

A Sense of Humor

Bass has a great sense of humor, which he uses liberally to enliven his solutions and fixes. For example, the solution to “The Disappearing Status Bar” includes the assurance, “...You’ll never be bothered by the problem again—well, not until Microsoft releases a new version of IE!”

A Terrific Website

Instead of enclosing a CD, Bass maintains a truly useful website within O’Reilly’s site. It has solutions to new annoyances, downloadable tools, and links to other helpful sites.

Great Book!

PC Annoyances is useful for finding specific solutions or for browsing for tips you didn’t know you needed. It’s well worth the price. *Mary Ginsburg*

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This newsletter produced in Ventura. Design by Allison Moore/Database recipes by Robert Leuze.

NYPC Classes

To register or to request specific classes, phone 212 643-7005,x2 or e-mail education@nypc.org.

For complete descriptions, click on class name at <http://www.calsplus.net/nypcmeetings>.

Unless otherwise specified, classes are hands-on. We welcome walk-ins for seminars, but please phone to confirm that the class is being held.

One advantage of NYPC computer training is our flexibility. If there's a topic you want to learn, let us know. If we have at least three students, we'll try to tailor a class to your needs.

⇒ Access

Learning Access Intensive Weekend, plus Advanced Access: Saturday-Sunday, September 11-12; Sunday, September 19, 10:00am-5:00pm each day. Hands-on

Cost: \$99/day; \$175/2 days; \$260/3 days (if registering for all at same time), plus \$45 registration fee (waived for NYPC members) Taught by Mahesh Chhatlani, dynamic leader of NYPC's XML SIG. Mahesh taught our ColdFusion course, with great evaluations.

Fundamentals of Access

For participants with minimal database knowledge

Objectives:

- Concepts and terminology of relational databases
- Editing, adding, deleting records
- Finding and replacing specific data and filter records within forms
- Simple queries and calculations
- Creating and customizing reports

Intermediate Access

Objectives:

- Tables and Forms in developing Access databases
- Planning, design, creation of database tables
- Keys and data entry rules
- Importing and linking data within database tables
- Table relationships
- Forms creation/modification
- Combining multiple data sources

Advanced Access

Prerequisites: Access 2000 Fundamentals and Intermediate. Please e-mail us if you wish to take this course without taking them.

Objectives:

- Summarizing large quantities of data
- Viewing and analyzing data in spreadsheet format
- SQL statements in advanced queries
- Grouping and sorting
- Report preparation for Internet/Intranet publication

⇒ Intro to Adobe PREMIERE Pro

A "crash course" in video editing with Premiere, starting with how to set up your computer, through capturing video and using the Premiere interface, to enhancing your video with Premiere's special effects. By the end of the 7 hours, you will be able to do simple video editing. Taught by Paula K. Poulafearh, whose biweekly cable TV show, "Manhattan Classical Opera and Concert Series," airs on alternate Sunday evenings at 7:30 PM.

Saturday, September 18, 9:30am-5:30pm Partially hands-on, \$99 with preregistration) + \$45 registration fee (waived for NYPC or NYACC members)

⇒ Audio Transfer Workshop

Do you have shoeboxes or cartons filled with old audio cassettes or LPs, that you'd like to preserve and use?

Then come to this workshop! Mike Ostrowe, Co-chair of the Computer Passport SIG, will show how to digitize audio content and transfer it to CDs or DVDs (using Roxio's Easy Media Creator or Ahead Nero). Each participant will have the opportunity to transfer one item to CD or DVD, so bring a favorite family recording or piece of music. (Please observe copyright regulations.)

Sunday, September 19, 10:00am-3:00pm

Only \$99 for this full-day workshop.

⇒ Intermediate Premiere Pro

A one-day course that continues where the Introduction to Premiere began. Watch our online calendar for more information.

Saturday, October 2, 9:30am-5:00pm

⇒ Photo Enhancement with Photoshop Elements

Though far less expensive and easier than Photoshop, Photoshop Elements offers considerable power in enhancing and distributing digital images. Like all graphics applications, it is also very enjoyable. In this "Getting Started" course, we'll learn by doing: how to use "whole image" adjustments, simple selections, and layers, and how to share images via printing, web, or e-mail. The emphasis is on improving your photographs in a "natural" manner. Each student receives a CD with a trial (time-limited) version of Photoshop Elements, practice photos for homework and class use, and hyperlinked web resources. Students are encouraged to bring their own photos to class for advice.

Monday, September 27, October 4, 6:00pm-9:00pm

6 hours, hands-on, \$69

⇒ Coming in October: Artistry Corel Painter Retreat

Taught by artist Karen Sperling, author of several Painter manuals and books. It will show you art techniques and Painter tools to turn your portraits and landscapes into true paintings and not just photos with brush strokes. See <http://www.artistrymag.com>.

Not an NYPC course, but held at NYPC

Monday-Thursday, October 21, 10:00am to 4:00pm

Monday: Overview of Painter's basics: \$89*

Tuesday-Wednesday: Art concepts and Painter steps: \$400*

Thursday: Personal Feedback Day: \$175*

For more information and to ask questions about this Artistry Painter Retreat, including fees, and to register, please e-mail Karen: ksperling@aol.com, or phone at 818-981-2803.

*NYPC member price

Teach & Tune PC Upgrade & Repair Clinic

Sun., Sept. 26, 10 AM - 3 PM

Bring your ill computer to NYPC for evaluation and installation of freeware antivirus and firewall. Your donation of \$50 (per computer) goes to help NYPC. Diagnosis only; any parts cost extra, and will be installed later. Although our member-consultants are adept with hardware, we cannot guarantee that they can restore your PC to function.

You are responsible for backing up any data before you bring your computer to the workshop. Clinic ends with a drawing for a longer consultation with one of our experts.

Preregister: education@nypc.org or 212-643-7005

NYPC Meetings, Seminars/Classes & Other Events **September 2004**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
5	6	7 NYPC Board Genealogy	8 Alpha DB Palm	9 DeLUGE/Passport Beg Java MetaStock	10 Investment	11 Access Beg
12 Access Inter	13 Access Photo & Graphics	14 Photoshop ODK Excel LINUX <i>Volunteer Night</i>	15	16 C++/Adv Java	17 LINUX Study Group: Beginners	18 PREMIERE Pro
19 Access Adv Audio Workshop	20 Hardware Ventura	21 Embedded <i>Volunteer Night</i>	22 Beginners Speech Recog XML	23 Flash Database Enterprise Windows	24	25
26 <i>PC Clinic</i>	27 Photoshop Elements ODK Adv Tech & Tech Streaming	28 Photoshop Enterprise Windows Wireless	29	30 NYPC General Mtg Enterprise Windows	October 1 LINUX Study Group: Beginners	2 Intermed PREMIERE
3 Computer Building	4 Photoshop Elements Access	5 Genealogy NYPC Board	6 Palm Pilot Visual Basic DeLUGE	7 C++/Java Gen Mtg Passport	8	

Calendar Legend

Plain = SIG Meeting
Bold = NYPC Class
Black background = General Meeting
Italics = Special Event

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. Sometimes there are last minute changes, so please call the NYPC Hotline, 212-643-NYPC (6972), then enter the 3 character SIG code to confirm meeting details. Our online calendar at www.calsplus.net/nypcmeetings is also kept as up-to-date as possible. If the SIG meeting you want to attend is not listed, call the Hotline, contact the SIG chair, or check our web page, www.nypc.org. **Always confirm meeting information by calling the Hotline and entering the 3-digit character code from the listing on the following pages or check the online calendar.** See page 3 for Seminars/Classes. See pages 5 and 6 for SIG meetings.

Location Legend PS41 116 West 11th Street, west of 6th Avenue MS Microsoft, 1290 6th Ave. (51st/52nd Str), 6th Floor
 IBM IBM, 590 Madison Avenue NYPC NYPC Office, Hotel New Yorker, 481 8th Ave, Suite 1560

SIG Directory

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. You can find detailed information about many SIG meetings by going to the Events Calendar via the NYPC website, www.nypc.org, and clicking on the SIG of interest. Details will appear in a pop-up. Updates—changes, or cancellations, or specific topics to replace TBA—are announced here as well as on the hotline, 212-643-NYPC.

If we have your e-mail address, we will also send you occasional meeting updates and reminders.

AXS Access

Claire Chase, (212)691-3577, M-F, 9am-5pm
Monday, September 13th, 6:30 PM
Location: MS
Topic TBA

ATT Advanced Technologies and Techniques

Jessie Shereff, shereff@cs.nyu.edu
Monday, September 27th, 6:30 PM
Location: MS
General discussion of PC technology

ADB Alpha Database

Barry Rochford, brochford1@comcast.net
Wednesday, September 8th, 6:00 PM
Location: NYPC
Dr. Peter Wayne shows what he has done with a small application and the Web Server

BEG Beginners SIG

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net
Wednesday, September 22th, 1:30 PM
Location: NYPC
What's in the box: computer components

CSG C++/Java Gen'l Mtg

<http://www.cppsig.org>. Dario Laverde, dario@escape.com
Not meeting this month. Next meeting:
Thursday, October 7th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Topic TBA

ODK C++/JAVA: Object Data Knowledge Management

Carlos Jerome, cjinterf@panix.com
Tuesday, September 14th, 6:00 PM, NY Pub Library, Ottendorfer Branch
Monday, September 27th, 5:30 PM, NY Pub Library, Seward Park Branch
Continuing development of constituent directory & communication systems, using J2EE, LDAP, & CRM-focused unified process

BJG C++/JAVA: Beginners' Java

Shera Katz, sherak180@yahoo.com
Thursday, September 9th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Head First Java: chapters 13, 14 & 15

CSG C++/Java: Advanced Java

Dario Laverde, dario@escape.com
Thursday, September 16th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Advanced Java topics. See <http://nycjava.org>
Also join us at our yahoo group: nycjava_org

PAS Computer Passport, joint with DeLUGE

Kathy Petruzzi, kathypetruzzi@hotmail.com;
Michael Ostrowe, mjostrowe@earthlink.net
Thursday, September 9th, 6:30 PM
Location: IBM (See DeLUGE, below)
Using Linux distributions to diagnose and repair Windows problems

SEQ Database/SQL

<http://www.thelinuxsociety.net/dbsig.html>
Dario Castellanos, jdcnyc@compuserve.com
Thursday, September 23rd, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
A Look At Oracle

LUG DeLUGE (Desktop Linux UG)

<http://www.delugeny.org>. Mark Halegua, phantom21@mindspring.com
Thursday, September 9th, 6:30 PM
Location: IBM. PLEASE RVSP to Mark to be placed on IBM's SECURITY list. Please also bring a picture ID.
Using Knoppix to diagnose and repair Windows problems

PHT Digital Photography

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net;
Tony Holley, holley@bridgepress.com
Monday, September 13th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Sharing your photos via online galleries
Tony Holley shares his travel videos from digital cameras. We'll give out demo CDs for various Photoshop(Elements) plug-ins.

EMB Embedded Systems

Lee Thalblum, lee_t@bigfoot.com
Tuesday, September 21st, 6:15 PM
Location: NYPC
Introduction to AVR hardware

EWN Enterprise Windows

Bill Zack, wzack@compuserve.com; Tony Iams, tony@dhbrown.com
Thursdays, September 23rd, 30th, 6:00 PM
Tuesday, September 28th
Location: MS
9/23: Scaling Up in the Wintel Environment
John Palmieri of Computer Resolutions
9/28: SQL Server Reporting Services
9/30: Windows Storage Server 2003
See online calendar for details

EXC Excel

Al Vachris, Excel1Star@cs.com
Tuesday, September 14th, 6:00 PM
Location: MS
Topic TBA

ART Fine Arts

Melody Reed, Webdesign@melodyreed.com
On hiatus. E-mail Melody with your interest

FLA Flash

Mary Ginsburg, lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net;
Tony Holley, holley@bridgepress.com
September 23rd, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Further lessons in using Flash

FPX Front Page

If you'd like to see this SIG continue, please let us know at pres@nypc.org.

GFH Genealogy

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~metrony/>
David Kleiman, roots@heritagemuse.com
Tuesday, September 7th, 6:00 PM
Location: NYPC
Cathy Horn: Using the National Archives in Washington—in person and online!

HRD Hardware

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/hugnypc>
Kevin Raguette, Rags6600@hotmail.com
Monday, September 20th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
More circuit board design with Geda, etc.

NET Internet

Tony Holley, holley@bridgepress.com; Laura Balsam, nypc@hookbuilt.com
Wednesday, October 13th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC
Alternate Browsers: Opera, Mozilla, more

INV Investment

Phyllis Pawlovsky, PGP106@cs.com. SIG follows the investment principles of the National Association of Investment Corp.
Friday, September 10th, 6:15 PM
Location: MS
Through the Looking Glass: What Warren Buffett Owns

LNK LINUX

<http://www.thelinuxsociety.net> Dario Castellanos, jdcnyc@compuserve.com
Tuesday, September 14th, 6:30 PM
Location: NYPC

Alex Genna: How e-mail works: Evolution, Kmail, sylpheed, pine....POP and SMTP

LNK LINUX Study Group: Beginners

Friday, September 3rd, 17th, Oct. 1, 6:15 PM
Location: NYPC
Beginners' Linux Admin Study Group

WMM Macromedia MX Studio

Melody Reed, Webdesign@melodyreed.com
October 22nd, 6:15 PM (No September mtg)
Location: NYPC
Challenges of migrating from FrontPage to Dreamweaver

MTA MetaStock

Barbara Scheiner, bscheiner@nyc.rr.com
 Thursday, September 9th, 7:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

BRD NYPC Board Meeting

Tuesday, September 7th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Members are welcome to attend, but we'd like to know ahead. Please e-mail Mary Ginsburg at pres@nypc.org.

GEN NYPC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, September 30th, 6:30 PM
 Location: PS 41, 116 W. 11th St., W of 6th Ave
 Utilities to aid your computer experience

PDA Palm Pilot

<http://nypc.org/palm.htm>. Ted Cohn and Grace Lee, nypcpda@yahoo.com
 Wednesday, September 8th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Discussion of possible new Palm devices

PRL Perl Seminar NY

James E. Keenan, jkeen@concentric.net
 Next meeting October 19th

PHO Photoshop

<http://www.hookbuilt.com/nypc/stsig.html>
 Laura Balsam, nypc@hookbuilt.com
 Tuesday, September 14th, 28th, 1:00 PM
 Location: NYPC
 9/14: Curves & Selections; 9/28: Corel Knockout & Headshots and Portraits
 Join us at noon in the Tick Tock Diner for socializing prior to the meeting.

SUG Smalltalk

<http://www.ocit.com/stug>. Charles Monteiro, charles@ocit.com
 Check with leader

SPR Speech Recognition

<http://www.out-loud.com>. Laura Miner, 76233.3413@compuserve.com; Leftonred Atanycorner, vp@nypc.org
 Wednesday, September 22nd, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Hands-Free Telephone Use

STR Streaming Media

Ashod Kassabian, stream-1@earthlink.net; Edwin Woo, edwinwoo@consultant.com
 Monday, September 27th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

VPI Ventura

Allison Moore, amoore@nyc.rr.com
 Monday, September 20th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Starting a flyer from scratch

BAS Visual Basic

David Kulick, dgkulick@hotmail.com
 Wednesday, October 6th, 6:15 PM
 Location: MS
 DotNetNuke with Nik Kalyani, a member of the core DotNetNuke development team. You might have seen DNN since Edwin Woo is mocking up a DNN site that we can use for NYPC. DNN is an open source ASPNET application, written in VB.Net, which can be used by anyone to set up a web portal. Look at www.DotNetNuke.com for an example of the product. You don't need to be a developer to use or set up DNN.

WFI Wireless — New SIG!

Ted Cohn, TedCohn@earthlink.net; Leftonred Atanycorner, vp@nypc.org
 Tuesday, September 28th, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Topic TBA

XML XML/Web Services

Mahesh Chhatlani and Lori Mogol, nypcxml@hotmail.com
 Wednesday, September 22nd, 6:30 PM
 Location: NYPC
 Web services education project, continued

Other Organizations

NPC Non-Profit Computing

John L. German, 212-759-2368
 Includes:

JOB Career Development Group

Tuesdays, Sept. 14, 28, Oct. 19, 4:00 PM
 West-Park Presbyterian Church, 86th & Amsterdam
 Facilitators include:
 Susan Werbin, 212-799-6111
 Mort Trachtenberg, 212-769-TRAC

Thanks to Our Hosts!

The following companies provide space for many of our meetings.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

**Microsoft
 IBM**



Computer Building Event

On Sun., Oct. 3, at 10:00 AM, Fred Kahn and Mike Ostrowe will build our new Intel hyperthreading computer, using a mother board and processor donated by Intel.

We invite you to observe these pros in action. (It's of particular interest if you missed our June General Meeting.) In order to support our equipment purchases, we ask that you register with education@nypc.org and donate \$25 to NYPC.

Thanks to Stanley Zabar!

Once again, we express our heartfelt thanks to Stanley Zabar for his generous support of NYPC, in matching \$800 of member gifts. These donations will be used to upgrade the computer equipment in the classroom, so that we can teach the newest applications.

(Have you shopped at Zabar's at 2245 Broadway recently? When you do, be sure to visit the housewares department upstairs—they have lovely teapots!)

Volunteer Days:

Instead of a Volunteer Day in September, we're having two Volunteer evenings:
 Tuesdays, September 14 & 21, 5:00-9:00PM., NYPC office. Come anytime, and stay as long as you'd like.

New SIG in October:

Len Ginsburg is reviving the Accounting SIG. Its first meeting is tentatively scheduled for Monday, October 18, in the NYPC office. E-mail Len with your ideas for the SIG: LenGinsburg@earthlink.net



The New York Personal
Computer User Group
<http://www.nypc.org>

Directory of NYPC Supporters

Please support these merchants who have chosen to support NYPC! Dollar signs (\$) indicate supporters offering discounts or extras to NYPC members. Present your membership card (or newsletter with membership number) to exercise these discounts.

CONSULTING SERVICES

❖ ACCOUNTING

Acctrack Computer Consultants: Steven Fromer, President
14 Penn Plaza, Suite 1800, New York, NY 10122; 212-695-8585; fax: 646-304-6312; SFromer@acctrack.com; www.acctrack.com
Acctrack has CPAs as employees who can answer your questions regarding the legal and financial aspects of accounting. \$

LHG Consulting: Leonard Ginsburg
718-828-9547; LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net
QuickBooks consulting: set-up, training, maintenance. Help with accounting-related problems in computerized bookkeeping. A QuickBooks ProAdvisor.

❖ ADVERTISING

Murray Strelitz
212-691-7788; MStrelitz@bigfoot.com
Advertising agency financial management software ["Adman" consulting & training].
Review of various vertical software packages. \$

❖ COMPUTING SERVICES

Fred Kahn
88-21 69th Rd.; Forest Hills, NY 11375;
718-263-2041; brooklynbridge@att.net;
www.FredKahn.com
Consulting on computer purchasing, set-up, repairs. Ebay trading assistant. \$

❖ DATABASE

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses achieve success through technology. Clients range from small business owners to Fortune 500 companies. No-obligation consultation. \$

❖ EDITING/PROOFING

Professional Editing Services
631-422-6804; fax: 631-422-1170;
Claire-M@att.net
Are your letters, websites, and business materials free of grammar and spelling mistakes? Let us make **you** look good. \$

❖ INTERNET

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses—small to Fortune 500—achieve success through technology. No-obligation consultation. \$

❖ ORGANIZATION

Annika Ginsberg
646-645-1118; Annika@chilitech.com
Personal Assistant/Professional Organizer.
Quicken set-up and maintenance, organization of workspace, home, and more.
Available for long-term and per diem projects.

❖ PROGRAMMING

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses achieve success through technology. Clients range from small business owners to Fortune 500 companies. No-obligation consultation. \$

❖ SOFTWARE

Acctrack Computer Consultants: Steven Fromer, President
14 Penn Plaza, Suite 1800, New York, NY 10122; 212-695-8585; fax: 646-304-6312; SFromer@acctrack.com; www.acctrack.com
Acctrack specializes in accounting software, specifically MAS90 and QuickBooks. We also have CPAs on staff for your accounting needs. \$

Software Pundits, Inc: Mahesh Chhatlani
516-205-4709; Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com;
www.SoftwarePundits.com
Over 20 years' experience helping businesses—small to Fortune 500—achieve success through technology. Call for no-obligation consultation. \$

❖ TAXES

Tierney Associates
315 E. 72nd St., Apt. 5L, New York, NY 10021-4627; 212-535-0261; fax:
212-535-0331; GTierney@nyc.rr.com
Taxes—Federal, State, City—Individual, Corporate. Review previous returns: \$15

❖ TRAINING

Mary Ginsburg
718-828-9547; MaryGinsburg@earthlink.net
Patient training in computing basics. Training in Internet use, emphasizing effective searching. Help with advanced searching; specialty: medical/health topics. \$

COMPUTER VENDORS

❖ COMPUTER STORE

Stone Computer
62-01 Northern Blvd., Woodside, NY 11377;
718-267-6677; fax: 718-267-6678;
Jimmy@stonepc.com; www.stonepc.com
Friendly full-service computer store. Parts, service, all at competitive rates. From barebones to full-service, Stone Computer has it all.

❖ REMOTE ACCESS

Guardian Gateway
718-296-5737; info@a1flexus.com
www.a1flexus.com/gateways.html
SSL alternative to VPNs. Securely connect to corporate resources from anywhere! Users work from home or on the road, safely and securely. Call for online demo.

❖ WEB DEVELOPMENT/SERVICES

Progressive Internet Action
215 W. 91st St., Ste. 57, New York, NY 10024-1336; 212-787-0700; Dick@pia.net
www.pia.net
Full-service web company: consulting, site design, content development, web hosting, e-commerce, search submission and optimization. Affordable rates. First-class service. \$

LOCAL MERCHANTS

❖ RESTAURANTS

Ben's Best Kosher Deli & Restaurant
96-40 Queens Blvd., Rego Park, NY 11374;
718-897-1700; www.bensbest.com
Ben's Best Gourmet Kosher Deli & Restaurant, a Rego Park tradition for 60 years!
—Ask about our world-famous catering service.

Featured SIG: Investment

The NYPC/NAIC Computer Group: The "Comedy Central" of Investing

by Phyllis Pawlowsky,
Investment SIG Chairperson/Director, New York Chapter National Association of Investors Corp.

Welcome to the NYPC/NAIC Computer Group—The "Comedy Central" of Investing. We are the best-kept secret for investors in our area. Whether you are a novice or advanced investor—whether you use a computer or not—these meetings will get you where you want to be as an investor and probably have you laughing all the way to the bank. It is a wonderful way to spend a Friday night.

Founded in 1994 by Phyllis Pawlowsky, a New York City Director of the National Association of Investors' Corp., and Gayle and Bob Freeman from the New Jersey Chapter, the NAIC group aligned itself with the New York Personal Computer Group. The philosophy was to teach computer users how to invest and investors how to use the computer for investing. We are proud to say that we have achieved both. Over 250 NYPC members have joined NAIC, taken the investing classes, and come to our meetings to put their class learning into practice. Individual investors come to increase their judgment skills and evaluation technique. NAIC club members attend to practice making presentations before a "live" audience before presenting the stock to their club members.

Our Monthly Meetings

The meetings are held on the second Friday of each month at 6:15 PM at the Microsoft Offices, 1290 Avenue of the America (between 51st and 52nd Streets), 6th floor. We are fortunate in meeting at Microsoft with top-of-the-line equipment and spacious seminar rooms.

We are also able to connect to the Internet. Access to the Internet gives us the opportunity to explore favorite websites of our attendees; visit Quicken and do the One-Click Scorecard to see if NAIC would consider a particular company; check out earnings estimates for companies that we like; or visit Vector Vest to see how they rate the stock.

Each meeting is focused on a particular industry. We evaluate three stocks in the industry and compare them at the end of the presentation. Each presenter brings a Stock Selection Guide (NAIC's tool for evaluating publicly traded companies) either on a disk or hard copy, along with copies of the Value Line. The discussions are lively and informative. During the presentation, audience members, who know in advance the stock to be studied, ask questions, offer comments, and assist the presenter in good evaluation techniques. Many of our attendees are NAIC teachers who bring their expertise to the group.

Member Comments

I asked some of our visitors who have been attending meetings for years what the group has to offer and why they keep coming back.

Robert Freed, a one-year veteran of the group, says, "Attending meetings has helped increase my knowledge of what to look for when making long term investments... allowed me to get other's opinions on my selections...picked up on stocks presented that I would not have thought of. Attending has also helped build my confidence selection and judgment of stocks." (May I add that Bob has made several presentations that turned out to be excellent selections?)

Avi Horwitz, an NAIC local and national director and one of New York's favorite teachers, who really knows his stuff, keeps coming back for more because: "The meetings are the absolute best place to discuss a company with a smart group of people and to look at the Stock Selection Guide and talk about how to interpret it and what the numbers are telling us."

Doris Schrieber, the group's former secretary and keeper of the e-mail, believes the meetings have been of value to her because she has:

- Met people with similar interests
- Been introduced to new websites and shown how to obtain information on familiar websites
- Learned how to use the various parts of Toolkit (computerized investing software) and to make informed judgments about a company
- Found out about new companies and their products or services.

Doris says that attending meetings has forced her to be more cautious than she was before and to do a lot of research before investing in a dentist's or brother-in-law's hot stock tip.

The Chair's Perspective

I have been the Chairperson of the group since inception and will not give up these meetings for anything, no matter how busy I get in my life. The meetings are fun and the group, all strangers to each other at one time, have become a well-educated investing group that throws open its arms to any newcomer that walks in the door. The high level of interest, opinions, well-thought-out judgments, presentations, and laughter keep us coming back.

An Invitation

We'd love to see you. Just show up and learn how to evaluate companies better. This we promise.

Our September
10th meeting will be "Through the
Looking Glass—What Warren Buffet
Owns—and Why"

A \$16 File Server

Dealing with an old computer can be difficult. Before it leaves your possession you should securely wipe the hard disk of **all** data, something Windows cannot do. Although there is free software for this, tracking it down can be time consuming. Then, do you throw out the machine and feel guilty about disposing of something with toxic waste or do spend the time, effort and money to try and recycle it or donate it?

You can avoid this and turn an old computer into something useful with NASLite, a \$16 program that makes a file server out of pretty much any computer. Think your computer is too old to be a file server? NASLite works on a 486 with as little as 16 MB of ram.

A Good Backup Repository

Everyone knows to backup—backup—backup. After all, there is so much that can go wrong with personal computer. A network-accessible file server is an excellent repository for your backup files. The fact that you can now do this for \$16 is remarkable.

The prerequisites for this are a Local Area Network (LAN) and, of course, a network card for the old computer. [If you don't have a LAN, the hardware to set one up is fairly cheap (less than \$100 to network a handful of computers).]

NASLite runs off a bootable floppy disk; it does not get installed on the hard disk. When you buy NASLite, they send you the floppy disk. The boot floppy contains Linux, networking software, and a web server. Quite a feat.

Old computers have relatively small hard disks, but NASLite supports up to four internal disks. For very little money you can add a new internal hard disk to the computer.

Old computers also have problems (due to BIOS limitations) accessing newer large capacity hard disks. No problem: NASLite does not depend on the BIOS but accesses the hard disks directly.

Being Linux, NASLite requires a Linux file system, specifically ext2. When faced with a brand new hard disk, NASLite will format it for its own use. When faced with a hard disk with nothing but Windows on it, NASLite will reformat the disk, and all your previous files will be lost. If you have partitioning software, such as Partition Magic from Symantec, you can create an ext2 partition for use by NASLite and keep Windows in another partition. In this case, NASLite sees the ext2 partition, uses it, and ignores Windows.

The first time NASLite runs, you need to run the text-mode Administration utility to configure a workgroup name. You might also want to change the IP address and subnet mask (default is 192.168.1.1), the password for logging into the Administration utility itself, and the name used by the file server on your network (it defaults to Naslite-smb).

Once NASLite is up and running, you remotely access the hard disks under its control using normal Windows shared files and directories. You can also access files and reports on the NASLite server via HTTP. Being Linux, it also supports telnet access to the NASLite administration utility.

NASLite is limited to: TCP/IP networking, hard disks (no CDs or DVDs), IDE (no SCSI or Serial ATA), internal disks (no external USB hard drives), and peer-to-peer workgroup networks (no Windows domains). It also does not support user-level security or file compression.

NASLite can be downloaded free, but to create the boot floppy disk from the downloaded file you need Linux. The floppy is 1.72 MB, not the normal 1.44 MB, so Windows can't deal with it at all.

NASLite is available at www.serverelements.com

Michael Horowitz, www.michaelhorowitz.com

Upcoming Expos and Other Meetings

- Columbus Avenue Festival, Sun., Sept 19
Columbus Avenue from 66th - 86th Streets
- Digital Lifestyle Expo, Sat.-Sun., Sept. 25-26, Apple Store and Marriott Marquis
<http://www.dlexpo.com/>
- TechXNY, Tues.-Thurs., Oct. 5-7, Javits Center
<http://www.techXNY.com>
Code for free expo admission: **ietgy5**
- DigitalLife Expo, Thurs.-Sun., Oct. 14-17, Javits Center
<http://www.digitallife.com/>
A new consumer technology and entertainment event
- PhotoPlus Expo, Thurs.-Sat., Oct. 21-23, Javits Center
<http://www.photoplusexpo.com>

Plan to attend some of these for fun and learning.

NYPC may have an outreach table at some of these events. If you can help, contact Kathy Petruzzi, kathypetruzzi@hotmail.com.

Thanks for Your Generosity!

Thanks to your generous outpouring of donations, NYPC has exceeded the goal of \$800, which was matched by Stanley Zabar, for upgrading our classroom computers.

NYPC greatly appreciates your caring support.

And All Had a Good Time

Many NYPC members enjoyed cool air, good food, and interesting conversation at the Pier 63 gatherings in July and August.

We're grateful to the coordinators of Pier 63 and the [Frying Pan](#) for making these get-togethers possible.

September 2004

Address Correction
Requested

First Class Mail

Volunteer to Help NYPC

Membership Chair Kathy Petruzzi is working on a variety of outreach efforts. These include street fairs and expos. Plans are tentative, but we're working on the following:

- E. Manhattan Community Festival (3rd Ave), Sun., Sept. 12
- Columbus Avenue Festival, Sun., Sept 19
- Digital Lifestyle Expo, Sat.-Sun., Sept. 25-26
- TechXNY, Tues.-Thurs., Oct. 5-7
- DigitalLife Expo, Thurs.-Sun., Oct. 14-17

Please contact Kathy if you may be able to donate a few hours: KathyPetruzzi@hotmail.com.

In this Issue: SIGs

- The Enterprise Windows SIG has **3** meetings this month! (See page 5.)
- In early October, attend Visual Basic to learn how to set up a web portal using DotNetNuke. (See page 6.)
- Learn how to use Knoppix to diagnose and repair Windows problems at the joint DeLUGE/Passport meeting.
- We're starting a Featured SIG column; this month Phyllis Pawlovsky describes the Investment SIG. We hope to feature at least one SIG per month, and you can help: encourage your SIG leader to write one—or, better yet, offer to help with it.

coming attractions

We've got some great general meetings coming up...

Thursday, October 21

[Hyperthreading](#), demonstrated with NYPC's new 3.06 GHz Pentium 4, built from a chip and board donated by Intel



We're working on:

Intellectual Property/Copyright; Macromedia products

Let us know what you'd like to see! Send an e-mail to Bill Ginsberg, wzg128@aol.com.

Bring Your Computer to our Clinic!

- Frustrated by your older computer?
- Perplexed by error messages?
- Wondering whether to upgrade or buy?

Let our own experts diagnose your problems! In exchange, all we ask is a \$50 donation.

When: Sun., Sept, 26, 10 AM - 3 PM

Where: NYPC Office

Details: Page 3 or our online calendar