



The Paper Modem

February 2004 Volume 4 Issue 1

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Starting 2004 with a little humour!

EVER WONDER

- ...**why** the sun lightens our hair, but darkens our skin?
- ...**why** women can't put on mascara with their mouth closed?
- ...**why** you don't ever see the headline "Psychic Wins Lottery"?
- ...**why** "abbreviated" is such a long word?
- ...**why** doctors call what they do "practice"?
- ...**why** you have to click on "Start" to stop your Computer
- ...**why** lemon juice is made with artificial flavour, while dishwashing liquid is made with real lemons?
- ...**why** the man who invests all your money is called a broker?

- ...**why** there isn't mouse-flavoured cat food?
- ...**who** tastes dog food when it has a "new & improved" flavour?
- ...**why** Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?
- ...**why** they sterilize the needle for lethal injections?
- ...**why** they don't make the whole plane out of the material used for the indestructible black box ?
- ...**why** sheep don't shrink when it rains?
- ...**why** they are called apartments when they are all stuck together?
- ...**why** they call the airport "the terminal" if flying is so safe?

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Who is General Failure and why is he reading my hard disk?

Check Point to buy Zone Labs for \$205 million

By Michael Kanellos
CNET News.com

Check Point Software Technologies plans to buy Zone Labs, which makes security software for desktops, for \$205 million, an effort to broaden its product line. Check Point primarily concentrates on firewalls, server-side software that monitors incoming and outgoing network traffic and prevents malicious intrusions.

Zone Labs produces similar software for desktops and notebooks. The Zone Labs software can also help prevent PCs from becoming drones that can be used by attackers to launch assaults on other systems. Working together, the two types of software can further help corporations defend themselves against attacks, the companies said. "The biggest opportunity we have is bringing security to every desktop," Check Point CEO Gil Shwed said in a statement.

Check Point also hopes the acquisition will

help it better position itself competitively through diversification. Security companies previously had only specialized in a few products. Now most are trying to sell a broad array of products that will work in concert. Symantec for instance, bought two software companies specializing in management tools that, over time, will make it easier for customers to update their security systems.

Shwed, in fact, said that next quarter the company will come out with new products for beefing up Web security and security within companies. Zone Labs has approximately 25 million users of its ZoneAlarm application, many of which use the free version of the product.

The company, however, also has a corporate version that comes with tools that let information technology employees manage desktops remotely. Zone Labs also sells security software for instant messaging, which it bought earlier from IMSecure. Check Point will pay \$113 million in cash and \$92 million in stock for San Francisco-based Zone Labs.

*****SOMETHING NEW*****

At the last executive meeting it was decided that we would try a new idea for some of our future club meetings.

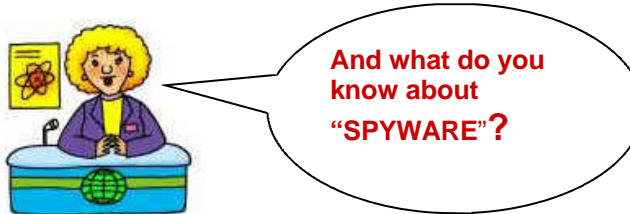
The idea is that for those of you who wish to have your "nagging" questions answered, for example how to mail merge a letter in Word, then all you have to do is to email us that question. In turn these questions will be answered by volunteers in our club with the "know how" on that particular subject.

This idea should work if we get lots of e-mail questions.... Send them as soon as you can so that we can get things going.

When emailing your question, please quote the program involved and details your question as much as possible. Email address: your-questions@shaw.ca *(Submitted by: Greg Wilson)*



Time is what keeps everything from happening at once.



**Gator Information Center - Adware/
Spyware??**— *From Langa.com*

Gator--- which has just renamed itself to "Claria"--- is a advertising company that makes money primarily through banner ads and popups placed inside small software gizmos it distributes for free, as a way to get people to view its ads. Gator/Claria calls this "in-context behavioral advertising," but the common name for their software products is "adware."

Gator/Claria was one of the very first companies in the adware business. Today, they are one of the most successful--- perhaps *the* most successful--- adware companies going.

On the plus side, adware (from any company--- not just Gator/Claria) can be OK: You get "free" software, and the vendor makes some money off ads.

But there are negatives. For example, lots of adware makes use of "phone home" components to update the embedded ads, and these components can be--- and sometimes have been--- used for snooping. That's why this kind of software is also often called "spyware."

Not all adware is spyware, and not all phone-home components are used for snooping, but the potential for misuse is there.

There can be other problems. The phone-home elements consume bandwidth and may even trigger unwanted dial-outs on phone-based systems. They also often run as nearly-constant background tasks, even if the ad-supported software itself isn't active. Thus, the mere presence of adware on your system

can eat up a *lot* of CPU cycles and slow down your system, even when the main adware application isn't running.

Worse, some adware vendors use less-than-forthright installation processes. Sometimes, adware hides behind fake error messages designed to trick unwary users into thinking they're responding to a system message or a normal dialog box, when they're really accepting or triggering the installation of an adware package.

Some adware vendors also set things up so their software tries to auto-install when you merely visit a web page--- sometimes called a "drive-by download." You don't have to click on anything; simply viewing the web page will cause the adware to try to stuff itself into your system.

You may not like hyperaggressive installation routines and downloads triggered by subterfuge--- I sure don't--- but these behaviors are often 100% legal. In fact, adware usually comes with enormous, carefully worded "click wrap" licenses that go into effect as soon as the software downloads--- even if you trigger the download by accident or in error.

These licenses usually spell out very clearly that the adware vendor has your permission to do whatever it is the adware package is designed for. This often means that you're agreeing to allow the ads to display; and agreeing to let the adware company monitor your actions. Exactly what monitoring of which actions is usually spelled out in the rest of the license terms and privacy statement.

Trouble is, many users aren't savvy enough to de-

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What happens if you get scared half to death twice?

The Year 1903— ..what a difference a century makes! U.S. statistics

The average life expectancy in the U.S. was 47 years.

Only 14 Percent of the homes in the U.S. had a bathtub.

Only 8 percent of the homes had a telephone.

A three-minute call from Denver to New York City cost eleven dollars.

There were only 8,000 cars in the U.S., and only 144 miles of paved roads...

The maximum speed limit in most cities was 10 mph.

The tallest structure in the world was the Eiffel Tower.

The average wage in the U.S. was 22 cents an hour.

The average U.S. worker made between \$200 and \$400 per year.

More than 95 percent of all births in the U.S. took place at home.

Sugar cost four cents a pound. Eggs were fourteen cents a dozen. Coffee cost fifteen cents a pound.

Most women only washed their hair once a month, and used borax or egg yolks for shampoo.

The five leading causes of death in the U.S. were:

1. Pneumonia and influenza
2. Tuberculosis
3. Diarrhoea
4. Heart disease
5. Stroke

The American flag had 45 stars. Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Hawaii, and Alaska hadn't been admitted to the Union yet.

The population of Las Vegas, Nevada, was 30.

Crossword puzzles, canned beer, and iced tea hadn't been invented.

There was no Mother's Day or Father's Day.

One in ten U.S. adults couldn't read or write. Only 6 percent of all Americans had graduated high school.

Marijuana, heroin, and morphine were all available over the counter at corner drugstores. According to one pharmacist, "Heroin clears the complexion, gives buoyancy to the mind, regulates the stomach and the bowels, and is, in fact, a perfect guardian of health."

18 percent of households in the U.S. had at least one full-time servant or domestic.

There were only about 230 reported murders in the entire U.S.

And I just stole this from someone else without typing it myself, and sent it to a dozen people in a matter of seconds! Just think what it will be like in another 100 years.It boggles the mind.....

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



Never test the depth of the water with both feet

Memo to Club Members...

Please check out our Picture Page on the Club Website, this is where we put in some pictures taken by our own Alan Forrest at the Monthly Meetings.

We would however, like to suggest that you, our Members, submit a favourite picture to this page... it will be a fun page not a contest.

There is going to be a link from our Picture Page to the Members Page of photo's and we have already put a couple of pictures in there for your interest.

One photo submitted per month per member, used on first received basis, we will try to insert 4 pictures per month, more if we find that we can.

The person submitting the picture must have the copyright of the picture and own the original.

The picture can be from a digital camera or a scan of a slide or print.. Include with the photo

a name, title or caption.

If we receive a good initial response we will try for a different topic each month with a reminder in the previous months Paper Modem or on the page itself of the future topic.

Suggested topics .. Nanaimo waterfront, Local beach shots, Historic Nanaimo buildings, Local wildlife, Island Flowers, Island views other than Nanaimo (be sure to identify the location)

Old reclaimed photos, Favorite vacation photos, Our pets, Special Nanaimo events, Sports shots, Other suggestions...

Please send your pictures, in .jpg format, under 60kb (Approx. 640x480).. no later than the 20th of each month, to the Webmaster.. at beck27@mars.ark.com

We are also suggesting that, for those who have your own web sites, you provide us with your URL, and we will insert links from the club website to your site.

Gordon W. Hussey

(Continued from page 3)

flect these overly-aggressive and sometimes even deceptive installation routines; through uninformed choices or poor security practices, these users end up with adware on their systems that they really didn't want and never consciously chose. And almost no one wades through the full license agreements, which sometimes seem intentionally designed to bury the most important terms under an avalanche of legal verbiage. But it **is** legal verbiage: You may dislike the terms of the license, but if you download the software, you have agreed to those terms.

That kind of unwanted, invasive software spawned a whole new class of defensive products designed to protect your PC. In fact, "Ad-Aware" (<http://www.langa.com/newsletters/2003/2003-11-10.htm#1>) started out as a simple tool to alert you to the presence of unwanted adware on your system. Now, of course, it and its competitors such as Spybot Search and Destroy (<http://www.safer-networking.org/>) and Pest Patrol (<http://www.pestpatrol.com>) help guard against a whole range of threats. But they all lump adware in with

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Never mess up an apology with an excuse

Canadian MP3 player tax challenged

By John Borland
CNET News.com
January 13, 2004, 1:51 PM PT

MP3 player manufacturers, including Apple Computer, Dell and Hewlett-Packard, are challenging a recent regulatory ruling in Canada that would impose an extra fee of as much as \$25 on iPod-like digital music players.

The Copyright Board of Canada ruled in December that hard drive-based digital music players should be subject to fees aimed at compensating musicians, songwriters and record labels for copyright infringement. Similar fees are placed on blank audio tapes and CDs, and manufacturers typically pass on the costs to the consumer.

A group of retailers, including Wal-Mart Stores and Best Buy, also is appealing the decision, which will be heard by a federal court. As part of the same ruling, copyright regulators

said they believed that downloading files--even copyrighted works--from peer-to-peer networks such as Kazaa was legal under Canadian law. Offering copyrighted files for upload, or otherwise distributing files without rights holders' authorization online, did not share the same shield, the board said.

Some Canadian legal experts expect the music industry to appeal that portion of the decision. Already, attorneys for the Canadian Recording Industry Association (CRIA) have said they believe the decision was wrong and that downloading is also illegal.

Since the decision, CRIA executives have told Canadian news publications that they expect to file lawsuits against file swappers in Canada, following the lead of the Recording Industry Association of America's (RIAA) actions in the United States.

Submitted by: Greg Wilson

(Continued from page 5)

overtly malicious software; they treat virtually all adware as inherently suspicious, to be checked out and possibly removed, ASAP.

Of course, not all adware is bad. As long as you know what you're getting, and as long as you consciously and overtly choose to download and install the software, and are OK with all the terms of its user agreement and with the tradeoffs involved in using the software, it's fine--- it's a valid choice you can make.

To that end, the folks at PC Pitstop just opened a "Gator Information Center" ([http://](http://www.pcpitstop.com/gator/)

www.pcpitstop.com/gator/) to help users understand the pros and cons using Gator/Claria software, which is perhaps the most widely distributed adware in the world.

If you're using, or considering using, any *Gator/Claria* software (such as **eWallet**, **DateManager**, **WeatherScope**, or **PrecisionTime**), you ought to take a look at the PC Pitstop pages.

In fact, although the PitStop pages are specific to Gator/Claria, they're worth reading for the general knowledge there as well.

Submitted by: Greg Wilson



Smith & Wesson: The original point and click interface

Club Contact List

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Email</u>	<u>Phone</u>
President	Wes Jackson	wjackson@mail.island.net	250-758-2268
Vice President	Gord Bulger	wjackson@mail.island.net	250-758-2268
Secretary	Alan Forrest	alpam@nanaimo.ark.com	250-758-6455
Treasurer/Membership	Cliff Farmer	cliff@ex.net	250-756-0660
Membership	Gord Bulger	gbulger@shaw.ca	250-741-1121
Researcher	Greg Wilson	greg-wilson@shaw.ca	
Paper Modem	Yvonne Bulger	ybulger@shaw.ca	250-741-1121
Past President/ Director at large	Gloria Saunders	gloria.saunders@shaw.ca	250-722-2738
Advertising/PR	Ben Poudrier	poudrier@shaw.ca	250-756-3195
Web site	Gordon W. Hussey	gordon@nanaimo.ark.com	250-758-8931



If you tell the truth you don't have to remember anything



DIGITAL IS A SNAP!!

What to look for in a digital camera...

When it comes to taking pictures, Canada is going digital. Digital cameras sales will surpass film camera sales this year according to the Canadian Imaging Trade Association. As in any exploding market, you can choose from a dizzying array of models. What should you look for?? Here are some key considerations.

RESOLUTION:

Digital cameras capture images using solid-state image sensors – small chips covered with millions of light sensitive “pixels”. The more mega pixels an image sensor has, the more detail it can record – and the bigger you can print. The chart on this page shows the relationship between mega pixels and maximum print size.

A MILLION POINTS OF LIGHT:

How pixels relate to print size

Mega pixels	4x6	5x7	8x10
2	Photo quality	Very good	Acceptable
3	Photo quality	Photo quality	Very good
4	Photo quality	Photo quality	Excellent
5	Photo quality	Photo quality	Photo quality

Even if you don't plan to enlarge your pictures, high-resolution sensors give you the freedom to crop, allowing you to print a section of your image while retaining photographic quality.

More mega pixels don't guarantee better results. If a higher-meg pixel sensor is not well matched to the lens, it can produce poorer pictures than a lower-mega pixel sensor. Most buyers focus on mega pixel count, and it is certainly an important specification. But there are many other factors as well.

ZOOM:

Brochures often refer to two different types of zoom: optical and digital zoom. Optical zoom is the only kind that matters. It refers to lens capability. A 3X optical zoom lens can zoom in by a factor of three from its furthest (wide angle) to its closest (telephoto) setting.

The least expensive digital cameras don't have zoom capability. They're fine for family photos, but not for close-up portraits or shots where the subject is far away. Models with a zoom lens are more versatile.

Submitted by: Allan Forrest

Good sites to go to that review digital camera's:

- www.dpreview.com
- www.dcresource.com
- www.steves-digicams.com

What is coming up for February 2004

We will be giving away some Microsoft products at our February Meetings be there and win something special with your 50/50 draw

February 11th - Photoshop with our own member Steve Wawrykow doing the presentation, this should prove to be an enjoyable & informative evening.

February 17th - Charles Wood and his partner Gerald on gaming. Any member will be able to try his skills at the games, this should be another fun evening.



Error, no keyboard. Press F1 to continue



Computer Desk For Sale—Contact Barbara Carriere @ 756-2510



**Family Tree Maker— Software good as new
Contact: John McDowell @ 756-9166**

NOTE TO MEMBERS:
Submit all Computer related items for sale to ybulger@shaw.ca

Take Control of your Internet Explorer Favorites -Melanie Boston - Lavasoft Support

Have a long list of 'Favorites' in Internet Explorer? Did you know that you can configure Internet Explorer so that only recently used Favorites are shown?
In the Internet Explorer toolbar;
Click 'Tools',

Select 'Internet Options',
Select the 'Advanced' tab,
Scroll to 'Browsing'
Check 'Enable Personalized Favorites Menu',
Click 'OK'.
If you need to view the entire Favorites list,
Click 'Favorites',
Click the drop down arrow.

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



There are 3 kinds of people: those who can count & those who can't

A third of spam spread by RAT-infested PC's

By Munir Kotadia

Nearly one-third of all spam circulating the Web is relayed through PCs that have been compromised by malicious programs known as Remote Access Trojans, according to Sophos, an antispam and antivirus company. Graham Cluley, a senior technology consultant for Sophos, said Wednesday that the increasing use of broadband Internet connections and a general lack of security awareness have resulted in about one in three spam e-mails being redirected through the computers of unsuspecting users. "There are lots of people on cable modems and broadband connections that haven't properly secured their computer," he said. "They don't know it, but their PC is being used as a relay for sending spam to thousands and thousands of other people.

We believe that 30 percent of all spam"--or unsolicited commercial e-mail messages--"is being sent from compromised computers." Cluley said that if a Remote Access Trojan (RAT), a type of Trojan horse program, is able

to get into a PC, an attacker could take full control of that PC, as long as it is connected to the Internet. "They can steal information, read files, write files, send e-mails from that user's name--it is as though the attacker has broken into the office or home and is sitting in front of that computer," he said. There is also a very small chance that PC owners will have any idea their system is being used by a third party, said Cluley, who warned that attackers could remove any traces of their activity so that there would be no obvious record: "It is really just network and Internet bandwidth that is suffering--there is no permanent record left on the PC that you can look up--you wouldn't see anything if you checked your Outlook 'Sent Items' folder," he said. Sophos is also concerned that there may be a connection between virus writers and spammers. Cluley pointed out that the groups have similar interests, and he said he knows of worms that have attacked antispam Web sites. "Antispam Web sites have been knocked out by these viruses," he said. "Why is that? We all suffer from spam. Virus writers are either working with spammers or they are the spammers."

Submitted by: Greg Wilson

10 REASONS TO UPGRADE YOUR PC

1. Your graphics accelerator card is connected to the treadmill in your hamsters cage.
2. The smoke and fumes from your CPU are beginning to affect your health.
3. The only sound you get from your sound card is "cough, cough... wheeze"
4. The magnifying glass in front of your tiny monitor is starting to melt the plastic casing.
5. You attempt to connect to a site with graphics and your modem displays a pop-up window saying "You're kidding, right?"
6. The start button on your Window 95 taskbar

7. says "Attempt to Start"
7. You find yourself drilling holes in your floor or desktop to hold your computer in place while it's running.
8. Your idea of multimedia is turning on the stereo in the next room.
9. Your email comes back with postage due.
10. You have to "crankstart" it like an old model "T".

Submitted by: Y. Bulger



The quickest way to double your money is to fold it in half and put it back in your pocket



How to Make XP Stop Highlighting Newly Installed Programs

A new feature in XP causes new programs to be highlighted on the Start menu after you install them. A window pops up to tell you that new software has been installed.

If you find this annoying, you can stop this behavior by doing the following:

Right click an empty space on the taskbar and select Properties.

On the Start Menu tab, click the Customize button.

On the Advanced tab, under Start Menu Settings, click the box labeled Highlight newly installed programs to uncheck it.

Click OK twice to exit the dialog boxes.

Now Windows will stop telling you what you already know (that new programs have been installed).

Submitted by: Greg Wilson

10 STEPS TO BETTER DIGITAL PICTURES

THINK OFF CENTRE

Pictures are more interesting if the subject is off centre. Some cameras deal well with off centre subjects, but many use the middle of the frame to set focus. To solve this problem, point your camera directly at the subject and press the shutter release halfway. This will lock focus and exposure on your subject. Now frame the picture and press the shutter release the rest of the way in when you're ready to shoot.

SHIFT YOUR VIEWPOINT.

Instead of taking standard eye-level pictures, try shooting from different angles, such as overhead, waist-level and ground level. Shifting your viewpoint is easiest with digital cameras that have rotating LCD screens or

TIPS & TRICKS

swiveling lenses.

STEADY NOW

In dim situations without flash, your camera will use a long shutter speed. Any camera shake during the exposure will blur the picture. Keep the camera steady by setting it on a flat surface or by bracing it against something, and then press the release very gently.

FILL THE FRAME

Many pictures contain distracting extraneous elements in the sides, foreground and background. They'd be less of an issue if the subject filled the frame. Do this by moving closer to your subject or by zooming in.

USE MOVEMENT

A moving subject can blur a picture. You can avoid blurring by using a fast shutter speed or by panning the camera to follow your subject. Done properly, panning will keep your subject clear, while blurring the background, thus conveying motion.

WATCH THE LIGHT

When the primary subject is lit differently than the surrounding scene – such as a person under an umbrella at a beach – think about using the camera's exposure-compensation function to let in more light. Or select a scene setting, such as beach/snow, that is right for your situation.

USE FLASH CREATIVELY

Setting your camera to use flash in a daytime shot can fill in blotchy shadows in your subject's face (the technique is called "fill flash"). Turning off the flash inside will often lead to atmospheric pictures.

USE YOUR CAMERA'S BEST SETTINGS

Submitted by: Allan Forrest



The End.