

# PPCUG

# NEWS

## A PUBLICATION OF THE PRINCETON PC USERS GROUP

# Monday September 11, 2000

## **Home & Small Office Networking**

# Scott Vincent

**Learn how to connect together computers at home, and in a small office, with a simple to install, low-cost, LAN (Local Area Network).**

**Learn how you can share files, printers, and an Internet connection.**

**The speaker will discuss what to buy and how to do the installation, as well as using the LAN.**

At

# Lawrence Library

Meeting Rooms 1 & 2

**US Route 1 South & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, NJ**

Meetings of an organization at any of the facilities of the Mercer County Library System  
in No Way implies endorsement of its programs

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Tom Canavan, (with back to camera) answering hardware and software questions from the PPCUG members during the Tech Corner session shortly before the start of the General Monthly Meeting.

Digital Photo by: Ed Weiss

## About PPCUG

### General Meetings

Second Monday of the month at the Lawrenceville Library.  
Route 1 and Darrah Lane.

7:00-7:45 PM: Social Time / Tech Corner  
7:45 PM: Meeting Comes to Order  
8 PM: Featured Presentation

### Board Meetings

Third Monday of the Month  
8 PM at Lawrenceville Library.  
Board meetings are open to All.

### Board Members

President:  
Paul Kurivchack ..... 908-218-0778

Vice-President:  
TBA .....

Secretary:  
Ed Weiss ..... 609-586-1395

Treasurer:  
Tom Canavan ..... 732-422-9055

Members-At-Large:  
Jon Abolins ..... 609-883-8126  
Vic Laurie ..... 609-924-1220  
Kim Goldenberg ..... 609-671-9188  
Sol Libes ..... 609-520-9024

### Chairpersons

Disk Library:  
Tom Canavan ..... 732-422-9055

Hospitality:  
Bill Hawryluk ..... 609-655-0923

Member Records:  
Larry Lewis ..... 609-771-9536

Newsletter Editor:  
Paul Kurivchack ..... 908-218-0778

Program Coordinator:  
Sol Libes ..... 609-520-9024

Web Master:  
Jon Abolins ..... 609-883-8126

### Voice Mail System

For information about, meetings, etc. call  
908-281-3107 to leave a message.

### Web Site

<http://www.ppcug-nj.org>

### Annual Dues Rates

Normal dues rate is \$25 per year.

New Members Only: after February, the  
rate is \$2 per month times the number of  
months remaining in the year.

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### Coming Events

#### October 16, 2000 - Intel Corporation

Jackie Saunders will be here to tell us all about the latest developments in microprocessors and more.

#### November 13, 2000 - To Be Announced

#### December 11, 2000 - Holiday Party & Elections!

#### January 8, 2001 - Microsoft Corporation

John Stroiney will present Windows ME along with some exciting new entertainment products



### Presidents Message

by Paul Kurivchack

This months Presidents message is going to be much shorter than normal. I wanted the announcement for the Linux SIG that Jon Abolins is trying to start right on page two were everyone would see it. Jon has seemed to generate quite a bit of interest in Linux from our members over the past couple of months and with that in mind, he wants to give it a try. If you have an interest in Linux, please attend the first meeting on the third Monday. By the way, it is at the same time as our board meeting so if you are interested in getting involved as a board member next year, it is also a good way to see your board in action.

In addition, quite surprisingly, I ran out of space after Vic Laurie's Windows Tips (No longer Window 9x Tips since the release of Windows ME) and Jon's two excellent articles. Additional thanks to Jon Abolins for his second cartoon feature. Last months did not make the newsletter due to the lack of space. We resolved the issue by removing the map to our meeting and placing the cartoon on the back cover. I hope you like the new addition.

I look forward to seeing you all on September 11<sup>th</sup>.

### The PPCUG Linux Special Interest Group (SIG) is about to hatch!

Interested Linux users welcome to participate in starting a Central New Jersey Linux resource.

#### First Meeting:

Monday, 18 September 2000 8:00pm

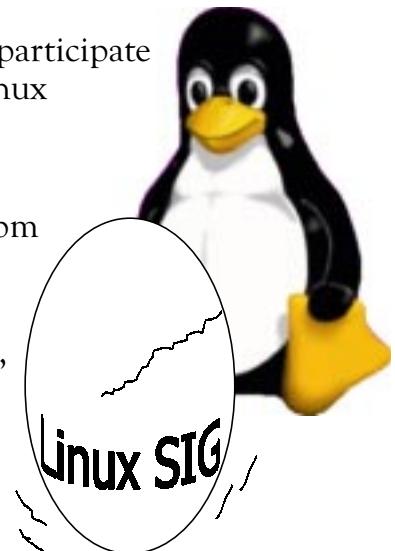
Mercer County Library -  
Lawrenceville Branch.  
Rt. 1 alt & Darrah Lane, Lawrence,  
NJ Topic:

Introduction of the Linux SIG  
followed by a live Red Hat 6.2  
installation (tentative)

#### For more info:

Email: [ppcug@njcc.com](mailto:ppcug@njcc.com)

Web: <http://www.ppcug-nj.org/sigs/linux/>



# Windows Tips: Looking Back and Keeping Track

By: Vic Laurie - PPCUG

With the advent of Microsoft's latest consumer operating system, Windows Millennium (aka Windows Me), the time has come to change the title of this column to reflect the new circumstances. Hence I am dropping the designation "9X". Now also seems a good time to look back at some of the changes that the last five years have brought and to suggest some ways to keep up with the constant modifications and evolution of Windows.

## The Past is Prologue

In the last five years I have personally gone through changing from Windows 3.1 to Windows 95 to Windows 95A to Windows 95A with patches to Windows 95B to Windows 95B with patches to Windows 98 to Windows 98 with patches to Windows 98SE. In no case were the patches applied all at once but had to be applied in various stages over time. I have lost count of the number of times I have changed my operating system but there have been many dozens. Just keeping track of the constant changes, let alone implementing them, is no easy task. Microsoft has made it easier in recent times by adding Windows Update but this is not a perfect method of updating by any means.

How many versions of Windows 95/98 are there? Here are some of the version numbers:

- Windows 95 - 4.00.950
- Windows 95 SP1 - 4.00.950a
- Windows 95 OSR2 with FAT32 - 4.00.950B
- Windows 95 OSR2.1 with USB - 4.00.950B + USB
- Windows 95 OSR2.5 with IE4 - 4.00.950C
- Windows 98 - 4.10.1998
- Windows 98SE - 4.10.2222 A

If you do not know which version you have on your system, right-click on *My Computer* and then open *Properties*. Your version number is given on the properties sheet. Also, some information about which updates are on your system is in the System Information accessory. Enter *MSInfo32* into the Run line (or go the long route and open *Programs | Accessories | System Tools | System Information*) and click on *Software Environment-Software Updates*

Of course these different versions do not take into account all the multitude of security and other patches such as the following (taken from Microsoft Knowledge Base article Q243992 at <http://search.support.microsoft.com/kb/c.asp>):

- Windows Security Update 2, November 29, 1999 (Legacy Credential Caching)
- Windows Security Update 1, November 29, 1999 (Spoofed Router Pointer)
- Internet Explorer Security Update, November 17, 1999 (JavaScript Redirect)
- Windows Security Update, November 12, 1999 (File Access URL)

- Internet Explorer Security Update, December 8, 1999 (Server-Side Page Reference Redirect)
- Dotless IP Address Security Update
- Update for Security Vulnerabilities in "Scriptlet.typlib" and "Eyedog" ActiveX Controls
- Update for Security Vulnerability in Windows 98 Telnet Client
- Update for "Fragmented IGMP Packet" Security Vulnerability
- Outlook Express "File Attachment" Security Update
- Internet Explorer "Window.External.Jscript" Security Update
- Internet Explorer "Frame Spoof" Security Fix
- Microsoft virtual machine
- Internet Explorer Information and Privacy Update
- "Favorites" Security Update
- Microsoft Libraries Update 2.0
- Windows 98 Year 2000 Update 2
- Outlook Express Year 2000 Update

By no means does the above exhaust the list of patches and updates. If nothing else there are also all the variations on Internet Explorer. Here are a few versions of IE with the most recent given first:

Internet Explorer 5.5 - version number 5.50.4134.0600.  
Internet Explorer 5.01-SP1 version number 5.00.3105.0106  
Internet Explorer 5.01 - version number 5.0.2919.6307.  
Internet Explorer 5.0 (with 128-bit cipher strength) - version number 5.00.2614.3500  
Internet Explorer 4.01 SP2 - version number 4.72.3612.1713  
And others

Information concerning the version of Internet Explorer and applied patches on a particular system can be found in an IE window by opening the *Help* menu and then selecting *About Internet Explorer*.

## Staying Up-to-Date

How to keep track of all the constantly occurring changes? As mentioned, Microsoft has an update site, which is built into the most recent versions of Windows, or which can be accessed at <http://www.microsoft.com/windows/downloads/default.asp>.

However, there are various omissions and problems at this site. For discussion of some download problems, see <http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q193/6/57.asp>. Also, I recommend a FAQ and collection of tips on using the update site at <http://members.bellatlantic.net/~mrscary/winupfaq.htm>. If you prefer to download update files to your computer before installing them, go to <http://www.microsoft.com/windows98/downloads/corporate.asp>

This site is preferable if you have several machines and wish  
Windows Tips continued on page 5

# Webroot's Window Washer 3.0

## Software Review

By: J. D. Abolins - PPCUG

We are hearing much about the privacy and security problems posed by various temporary files, Web cache files, etc. stored on our Windows systems. While there are the lurid images of criminal hackers getting hold of the information in these files, the more common problems with these are more mundane. They take up disk space. Some of the temporary files can pose problems on systems shared by several people. Imagine if an adult in the house visits sites inappropriate for the kids in the house and the kids know the trick of looking in the Windows' *Temporary Internet Files* directory.

### The Product

Webfoot's Windows Washer is designed to "wash" Windows files by deleting files associated with the history of your Windows use plus any custom file specification you choose. Windows offers options to clean off Windows document history,



Windows temporary files, Internet Explorer and Netscape history, cookies, and caches, plus various other files that trace our computer use. There is an option to specify other types of files to delete. For the really advanced user, there is the option of cleaning up Windows registry entries, particularly ones that store a record of your computer activities. (Warning: You need to know what you are doing and have backups for your system. An error can drastically affect the system.)

Windows Washer offers a "bleaching" function where it overwrites the files it deletes with random characters. You can set the number of times (up to 10) it does this for each deleted file. This makes the file almost impossible to recover.

### Installation

The installation is easy. Just run its setup program and select

the folder to where it is install plus several options. It takes less than a minute. The default installation has Windows starting up with Windows Washer in the system tray. You can quickly bring up the software to clean the system, change settings, download plug-ins, or close the program. Handy but it does cut into system resources.

Documentation is provided as an HTML file. Take the time to read this documentation. It explains the various options and gives some important cautions. The cautions mainly deal with making sure that the directories that are being cleaned do not contain files we want to keep. The "washes", especially with "bleaching", will make those files toast.

### Using Windows Washer

While the "wash" is running, it will tell how many files have been processed and approximately how much disk space was freed up. In my test, I regained Over 8 megabytes of space on my C: drive. If there are many files to "clean" or the "bleaching" is used, it can take a while for the program to do its job. My test run that included "bleaching" set to 10 times ran about 15 minutes. There are options to set Windows Washer to run when Windows is started or shut down or at specified times.

### The Big Question – Is It Worth Buying?

The software does do its promised function of cleaning off files and even registry entries. But these functions can be done with other, more powerful utilities such as OnTrack's System Suite (reviewed in the June 2000 newsletter, available at <http://www.ppcug-nj.org/newsltrs/june2000.pdf>), various Norton's utilities, and numerous cookie managers.

The main strength Windows Washers has over these utilities is putting several functions found in the other utilities into one easy to use package. Some people will find easier to run the "wash" function (with or without "bleach") than to use the other utilities and figuring out what steps need to be taken to clean the system. Another strength is the software's integration with various applications such as ICQ and Microsoft Office. This application support is aided by Webroot's constantly updated online plug-in library for cleaning after various applications. So if you install a new product, you can download a plug-in to clean that product's temporary and history files. Thus, this software can be a useful consumer grade privacy tool. (Please continue reading for the flip side of this recommendation.)

A good bargain is the Anonymizer Windows Washer package offered by Anonymizer.com. It bundles in one month of the Anonymizer.com Anonymous Surfing service with the Windows Washer software.

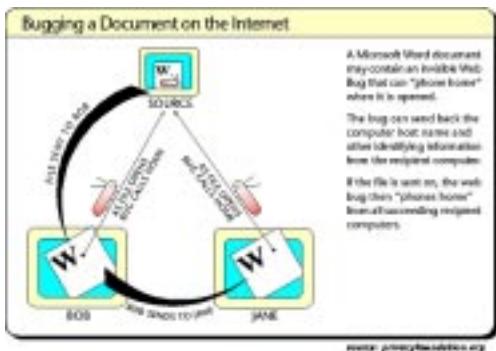
### Downside of Easy-to-Use Privacy Tools

The tools' ease of use is a mixed blessing. On the one hand, their ease makes it more likely average computerists will do something to protect themselves. (One of the reasons why personal

# Info Security Web Bugs Can Track MS Office Documents

By: J. D. Abolins - PPCUG

At the end of August, the Privacy Foundation warned that "Web bugs" could track Microsoft Word, Excel, and PowerPoint documents as they are distributed among various people.



A "Web bug" is an image from a Web site that can be used to see who opens a Web page on a partner's site. They've been around for a while. In this case, the "Web bug" is not in a regular Web page but in a word processing document, a spreadsheet, or a presentation. When a person with an Internet connection opens the document, the "Web bug" has the application load its graphic from a Web server. The Web server can then get some information about the machine that opened the document. The Privacy Foundation also found a method where the Web server could place cookies on the person's system.

How much of a security or privacy risk is this? No known cases of snooping using this form of a "Web bug" have been

reported. Some people see the technique as a useful tool for detecting leaks of sensitive documents or for testing communications flow. The loophole exists in products other than ones made by Microsoft. (As long as the product makes the documents that can contain images or other elements that are downloaded from the Internet, it is fair game for this technique.) The Zone Alarm utility (available for free from Zone Labs at <http://www.zonelabs.com>) can detect and stop and attempt by Microsoft Office products to load the "Web bug."

More info:

The Privacy Foundation's MS Office Web Bug page: <http://www.privacyfoundation.org/advisories/advWordBugs.html>

The Privacy Foundation's Web Bug FAQ <http://www.privacyfoundation.org/education.html>

Word Docs With Ears? (Wired News)

<http://www.wired.com/news/technology/0,1282,38516,00.html>

Microsoft's

<http://www.microsoft.com/technet/security/cookie.asp>

Response:

Meyda Online (my site; follow the links to the Privacy section)  
<http://www.meydabbs.com>

Note: Graphic Used With Permission of the Privacy Foundation

## Windows Tips continued from page 3

to avoid multiple downloads or if you wish to keep copies of patches and update files for possible future use (e.g., after a hard drive crash).

Often, long before anything appears on the update site, there is news on the latest patches at sites like  
<http://www.windows-help.net/windows98/>  
[http://updates.zdnet.com/essential/es\\_50922.htm](http://updates.zdnet.com/essential/es_50922.htm)  
<http://www.winmag.com/windows/win.htm>

A place that collects the latest Windows news from many sources with new entries throughout the day is <http://www.win98central.com/>

An extensive list of updates and add-ons to Windows 98 SE in particular is given at <http://members.bellatlantic.net/~mrscary/post98se.htm>

For a mind-numbing list of Windows updates go to Ben Jos Walbeehm's comprehensive compilation at <http://www.walbeehm.com/win98upd.html>.

For frequent news on the latest Windows bugs, patches, and "issues" subscribe to free e-mail newsletters like the Windows Insider by Scot Finnie or the LangaList by Fred Langa (both at

<http://www.winmag.com/subscribe/>, Updates from ZDNet (<http://updates.zdnet.com/newsletter.asp>) or Woody's Windows Watch (<http://www.woodyswatch.com/>). For daily news subscribe to LockerGnome (<http://www.lockergnome.com/>).

Of course, to be truly up to the minute on the latest developments, nothing beats the Newsgroups. Microsoft hosts a very large number of useful discussions under the general heading *microsoft.public.\**. I recommend, for example, *microsoft.public.win98.gen\_discussion* and *microsoft.public.win98.performance*, among others. If you are new to Newsgroups, be aware that there is a lot of chaff to be filtered out, but some very savvy people hang out in these Microsoft groups. They give a lot of good advice and tips and keep you up to date on the latest happenings. Your own ISP probably carries most of the *microsoft.public* groups but if you use common software like Outlook Express or Netscape Communicator (or almost anything other than AOL) you can subscribe directly through the Microsoft server at *msnews.microsoft.com*.

Oh, by the way, the next Windows operating system, code-named "Whistler", is already in early beta testing. As the Red Queen said in Lewis Carroll's *Through the Looking-Glass*, "It takes all the running you can do, to keep in the same place."

# Minutes for the General Meeting

## August 14, 2000

By: Ed Weiss

Paul opened the meeting at 19:52. Items discussed at this time were:

- Next months program - Home Networking
- The need for volunteers to become active on the board for next year.
- Discussion on forming a Linux SIG that could meet every other month in the time slot currently used by the board here at the library.
- Then came several questions from the floor.

At 20:10, Paul then turned the meeting over to Sol Libes who gave an interesting program on "Selling & Buying on line". Sol discussed such topics as how to find the best auction site, how to

present the item(s) that you are interested in selling, the best time of the year to sell items, and other points that would prove useful in cleaning out all those old treasures that some one else just can't live without. Sol's lecture continued till 20:50 at which time he opened the floor to questions.

The meeting was adjourned at 21:05. Thanks again to all the members that stick around those several extra minutes to help put away the furniture, and make the room presentable again.

As a note of interest, the slides from Sol's presentation are on [www.acgnj.org](http://www.acgnj.org) for those members who wish to view/review the information.

# Minutes for the Board Meeting

## May 15, 2000

By: Ed Weiss

In attendance at the board meeting: Paul Kurivchack, Bill Hawryluk, Vic Laurie, Kim Goldenberg, John Abolins, & Ed Weiss.

Paul opened the meeting, with discussion about next months program and the scheduling for

future months programs. There will be a holiday party as usual at the December General meeting. John Abolins discussed the possibility of getting the Linux SIG started and the meetings

would run every other month on the 3rd Monday (board meeting night) starting in September. Other items discussed included removing the map from the last page of the newsletter. This would allow more space in the news letter for other items of interest to the members. At 21:07 the meeting was adjourned, the furniture was returned to the appropriate places, and the board left the building..

Window Washer 3.0 continued from page 6

cryptography is not as widely used as it should be is the difficulty many people find in using products such as PGP and managing their keys.)

On the other hand, the tools' ease of use can lull their users into a false sense of security. All security tools have limits and it takes some understanding of systems and networks to evaluate those risks. In the case of Windows Washer, users might assume that it will clean *all* traces of their computer and Internet activities. While I have tested Windows Washer against common computer forensics tools, I see no mention in the tool's documentation about any options for "bleaching" the slack space on disks. This alone hints that the software won't protect you if your computer should be the subject of an investigation, say, in the discovery process for a lawsuit. Windows Washer should not be used for very high security needs. It is a convenience for protecting against casual snooping.

Webroot Software, Inc. PO Box 3531Boulder, CO 80307  
[webroot@webroot.com](mailto:webroot@webroot.com) or <http://www.webroot.com>

\$29.95 Available as download or on diskette (addition cost for shipping)

Anonymizer.com sells a version of Windows Washer package that includes one month of Anonymous Surfing. Details available at <http://www.anonymizer.com/services/washer.shtml>

### The Princeton Chapters of the ACM / IEEE Computer Society and the Princeton Moving Image Professionals are co-sponsoring great video/graphics meetings:

Princeton Area Fall  
Video / Graphics Meetings  
6:30 PM, Thurs Sept 21, 2000

Digital Cinema: The Future of Film?

A panel discussion on digital cinema: technology and art, production and projection.

Exclusive clips of recent digital films will be screened, and free informative handouts from the magazine editors will be available.

This meeting is open to the public; students are welcome. There is no admission charge, and refreshments are served.

Location: Sarnoff Corp. Auditorium, Princeton, NJ, Routes 1 and 571 (Washington Road)

Sponsor: Princeton Moving Image Professionals (MIP)  
Princeton chapter of ITVA / the Media Communications Association.

Visit: <http://www.movingimage.org/> or  
<http://www.media-communications.org>

Information: Vince Wright, 609-518-7646,  
[wrightfilms@macconnect.com](mailto:wrightfilms@macconnect.com)



# PRINCETON PC USERS GROUP

<http://www.ppcug-nj.org>

## PPCUG Member E-mail Directory

Name Last	First	E-Mail Address	Name Last	First	E-Mail Address
Abolins	John D.	jda-ir@njcc.com	Laurie	Vic	hampsi@bigfoot.com
Adler	Seymour	syadler@aol.com	Lazar	Joseph	joelazar@nerc.com
Arrowsmith	Donald L.	donald.arrowsmith@bigfoot.com	Lewis	Lloyd N.	Budnorth@juno.com
Axelrod	Albert	aaxelrod@erols.com	Libes	Sol	sol@libes.com
Best	John J.	jjbest57@alum.mit.edu	Markward	Margaret	mteragram@aol.com
Bolge	Eleanor	embolge@jersey.net	Metzler	Joseph	76116.3117@compuserve.com
Canavan	Thomas	tcanavan1@aol.com	Middleton	Frank	ftmprob@nerc.com
Caris	Paul D.	pd_caris@csci.com	Miller	Douglas E.	D.N.Miller@worldnet.att.net
Carman	Thomas	tom_carman@compuserve.com	Mintz	Herman	hmintz4@aol.com
Chilton	Neal W.	chilforce@aol.com	Montani	Linda	l.montani@worldnet.att.net
Cohen	Jon	jon@pluto.njcc.com	Mooney	William P.	wmo8350722@aol.com
Colucci	Frank E.	DasWeb1@aol.com	Oldenburg	Thomas A.	oldenburg-ta@worldnet.att.net
Crossley	Helen M.	CrossleyHM@aol.com	Olson	Gaylord	go@electrim.com
Davis	Perry J.	perrydavis@compuserve.com	Papier, Jr.	Philip B.	papierp@superlink.net
Dinkins-Belton	Joyce	Joyce8NJ@aol.com	Phadke	Laxman G.	layogph@aol.com
Dodge	William B.	b-mdodge@juno.com	Pitcher	Barbara	bpitcher@ets.org
Donovan	Kyle R.	stoneflykd@aol.com	Polignano	Vince	vincepo@worldnet.att.net
Duggins	Marsha	msd@gfdl.gov	Pratt	Zeblon H.	zpratt@aol.com
Edge, Jr.	Lewis A.	lewis@edgeassoc.com	Reichart	Richard	reichart@pluto.njcc.com
Einthoven	Bella	einthoven@mail.eclipse.net	Rothstein	Rick	froth@aosi.com
Ewer	Tim	tjewer@worldnet.att.net	Rouse	H. Ronald	DrRonRouse@aol.com
Farah	Avi	avifarah@netzero.net	Rutzky	Mark M.	marky@infi.net
Foulkes	Frank	ffoulkes1@aol.com	Sked	Bill	billsked@aol.com
Gibson	Dawson H.	wkgbill@earthlink.net	Steinman	Arthur M.	amsteinman@aol.com
Goldberg	Edwin M.	EdGoldberg@home.com	Stockwell	Hunt	huntstock@aol.com
Goldenberg	Kim	kim_goldenberg@bigfoot.com	Suber	Michael J.	mpsuber@juno.com
Goodkin	Jerry	goddkin@erols.com	Sweeton	Andrew	asweeton@roper.com
Griegel	Wayne B.	wgriegel@ix.netcom.com	Tayyabkhan	Mike	tayyabkhan@aol.com
Gunther	Bruce W.	bg1509@hotmail.com	Tenner	Edward	tenner@clarity.princeton.edu
Hardy	Wayne	wayne97wh@aol.com	Treadwell	Isaac	itreadwell@msn.com
Hawryluk	Bill	hawr@compuserve.com	Walhall	Ronald K.	DKDM83A@prodigy.com
Henry	Chuck	cherry@eclipse.net	Weinberg	Robert	bweinb@worldnet.att.net
Hirsh	Donald J.	djhirsh@earthlink.net	Weiss III	Edward A.	eweiss@nerc.com
Holly	Lois	lois@audet.com	Williams	Ken	krw1948@worldnet.att.net
Johnson	Florence	kredit@erols.com	Willis	Lloyd	lwillis1@prodigy.net
Juelch	H. Karl	karljnj@nerc.com	Wolff	Robert S.	Robert4269@aol.com
Kahan	Maurice	mkahan@juno.com	Shah	William V.	wwwa@bellatlantic.net
Kerslake	David	dongsung@juno.com		Sonal	sonals@microsoft.com
Kleinerman	Milton	kukumafi@Juno.com			
Konvalinka	John W.	jkonvalinka@msn.com			
Koosman	Milton	miltonk2@aol.com			
Krisak	Bill	BobKrisak@worldnet.att.net			
Kurivchack	Paul	kurivchack_p@compuserve.com			
Landis	Houston E.	judge@alumni.princeton.edu			

(Last Update: September 3, 2000)

Send Updates to kurivchack\_p@compuserve.com for inclusion in this listing.

### Consultants Corner

#### Cascade Media Group, Inc.

Jon Conant

120 Stryker Ln, Suite 407  
Belle Mead, NJ 08502-1929  
609.430.9080 Fax: 609.430.9086  
Voice Mail, Win/NT Networks,  
Phone Systems & Wiring  
*Provider of PPCUG Voice Messaging.*

#### Meyda Online

"Meyda means Information"

J.D. Abolins

**"Pro Bono"** Educational Services  
Specialties: Information Security, Privacy  
Issues, and Web Publishing  
<http://www.meydabbs.com>  
E-mail: [jda-ir@njcc.com](mailto:jda-ir@njcc.com)

### Consultants Corner

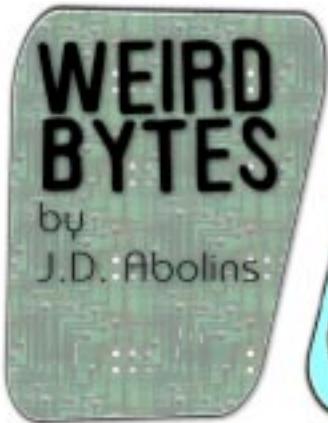
You can advertise your consulting business for \$25 per year in addition to your normal membership fee. The text space is your or your company's name plus five lines.

### NEW MEMBERS

#### Avi Farah

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US IN  
2000!

WELCOME TO THE USERS GROUP



<http://www.meydabbs.com/weirdbutes/>

9/2000

### Directions To Our Meeting:

The Lawrence Library is at the corner of Business Route 1 South and Darrah Lane.

From Princeton and North: Take US Route 1 South, past the Quaker Bridge / Mercer Shopping Centers. Continue on approximately 1 3/4 mile past I295 to the Route 1 split, stay to the right to Business Route 1(Brunswick Pike). First traffic light is Darrah Lane. Library is on right side. Park in lot towards Route 1 and to the rear. Enter Library at main entrance in front. Meeting rooms A & B are located through glass door on Route 1 side of building.

From Trenton and South: Take I295 North to US Route 1 South. Library is approximately 1 3/4 miles south of I295. Continue south to Business Route 1(Brunswick Pike). First traffic light is Darrah Lane. Library is on right side. Park in lot towards Route 1 and to the rear. Enter Library at main entrance in front. Meeting rooms A & B are located through glass door on Route 1 side of building.

For additional information visit <http://www.ppcug-nj.org>



Princeton PC Users Group  
P.O. Box 291  
Rocky Hill, NJ 08553