

Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Official Newsletter of the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia

June 1998

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Computer Solutions ***Saturday*** ***June 20, 1998***

On Saturday, May 16, we were scheduled to hold our second Computer Solutions Workshop for our members. I must apologize for a scheduling foul-up. We were not able to use the room due to the Primary Election material being distributed from the room. I certainly hope that this did not cause anyone any major inconvenience.

The next session of the CSW will be held on Saturday June 20 beginning at 10:00 AM.

Help is needed in setting up the room prior to the meeting and I invite anyone interested in assisting in this matter to come a little earlier and lend a hand.

Remember, if you are bringing your system to work on, you must bring also bring all related components that are needed to operate your system. Available space is not unlimited, so it is first come first served setup.

Starts at 10:00 AM

7th Police District Community Room

1701 Bowler St (Bustleton & Bowler)

N.E. Philadelphia

Enter through the Bowler St door

June 10, 1998 is our next Business meeting. Some of the things to be discussed are:
Locating a new meeting place and our summer agenda.

The meeting starts at 7:30 PM and as always, coffee will be available.

President's Report

June, 1998

by Tom Burke

The monthly meeting at St Asaph's Church is about to become a thing of the past. The June 10 meeting will be our last time meeting at the church.

We are currently seeking a new home for our meetings. Anyone who thinks they can help us in our search is urged to attend the June 10 meeting. As of right now, we will be relying on the hospitality of the 7th Police District and will hold our meetings in their Community Room, beginning on July 8, until we decide where we can and want to hold our future meetings.

Also we will be discussing whether or not to cancel the general workshops for July and August. This has been the usual procedure in the past due to lack of interest during the summer. If enough interest is shown in support of the summer workshops, we will consider continuing the workshops right through the summer.

Once again I must apologize for the scheduling snafu for the May 16 CSW.

On the subject of Workshops, we are in need of volunteers to conduct a workshop on most any topic relating to using a PC. If you can help us in this matter, please contact me with your

ideas. Anyone volunteering to conduct a workshop will be reimbursed up to \$25 for any expenses they may incur.

Newsletter... I am looking for original material from any of our members to be printed in this newsletter. If you have an opinion on a piece of hardware or software that you have encountered, please feel free to share your findings with the rest of us.

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	<i>Thomas J. Burke</i>
Simple Notary service is free for CESOP members.	
Notary service is available after a meeting or call 728-7751 to make other arrangements.	

The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia, Inc. holds its monthly business meetings on the second Wednesday of each month in the parish hall of St Asaph's Episcopal Church of Bala Cynwood, PA. The meeting is called to order at 7:30 p.m. The church is located one block north of City Avenue (US 1) at the corner of Conshohocken State Road (PA route 23) & St Asaph's Rd.

CESOP is formed exclusively for charitable, educational and scientific purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code") (or corresponding provision of any future United States Internal Revenue Law), and particularly to: engage in the exchange of ideas, techniques and information for the broader and more effective use of computer hardware and software; promote the general pursuit of knowledge and education in computer hardware and software generally; sponsor meetings, seminars, lectures, and workshops to share knowledge, experiences, and discussion of computer topics of interest to members and the general public; publish and distribute a periodic newsletter containing computer information and news...

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Ask Ravi
by Ravi Moonsammy
Vol. 6/98

This month I review
MiniCAD 7 for Windows by
Diehl Graphsoft Inc.
MiniCAD 7 is a 2D/3D
drafting and modeling
software package. It has

moderate system requirements such as: Windows 3.1 or 95, a 486 or a Pentium with 12 MB of RAM, 30 MB of free hard disk space, a mouse, and an SVGA or other Windows compatible graphics card with a minimum of 256 colors. From my experience in the 3D-animation world, these are just that, minimum requirements. I didn't think those requirements would be capable of efficiently processing data by a CAD/Drafting package. I installed the software on one of my PC's with the following configuration: Intel Pentium 200MMX, running Windows NT workstation 4.0 with 96 Megs RAM, 2.5Gig HD, PCI 3D video card with 2MB RAM. The resolution of my monitor was set to 800x600 and 24bit true color (16.7 million). The software comes on CD-ROM so you will also need to have a CD-ROM drive in your system. If you would like to listen to the voice-overs on the tutorial CD, you will also need a sound card. Installing the software was very easy, after inserting the CD into the drive; the MiniCAD general install menu popped up with three choices, Install MiniCAD7 Install QuickTime, and install QuickDraw 3d. I clicked on the MiniCAD install button and after a couple of prompts the program installed without a hitch. I then installed the QuickTime and Quick Draw program drivers, which also installed easily. I can't think of just one word to sum up the package except WOW. Diehl has jam packed this little software package with features usually found in some other over priced CAD packages. Unfortunately, due to time restraints I was not able to spend the time necessary to utilize all of the features. I did, however, review the multimedia

CD tutorial that came with the package. As you all know reading through a manual and looking at pictures cannot always convey a point or a procedure. That's why the multimedia CD is a nice bonus, the multimedia video's on it allow you to review tools and functions repeatedly until you get the hang of it. MiniCAD has the features and tools to get almost any job accomplished, so I'm just going to go through a brief description of some of the tools and features. Navigating around the screen was very easy to get used to; it has the standard Windows look and feel. Technical support for the program is free for 18 months after registration. You can reach tech support either by telephone, fax, Internet e-mail or on CompuServe. Diehl also publishes a newsletter 3 times a year, which is mailed to registered users. In MiniCAD you can draw in 3 different modes, 2D, 3D or a combination of these two called Hybrid. Each mode has standard tools as well as specific tools for that mode. In drawing 2D objects you have tools such as squares, circles, lines and symbols that are designed for the 2D environment. In drawing 3D objects you have tools such as extruded rectangles and each object has 3D coordinates (X, Y, Z) Height, Width, Length. The Hybrid objects are walls, roofs, floors, columns, parametric objects, and hybrid objects. The advantage of the Hybrid objects is as you're drawing them; you are actually adding both a 2D and a 3D object at the same time. This way the object will render properly in whichever view you're looking at. Also, if you wanted to create a 3D model from you 2D drawing, or vice versa, it can be done very easily. MiniCAD allows you to create your drawings using what they call Layers and Classes. Layers is simply like drawing on different sheets of paper and placing one on top of the other. An example for using this would be if you were creating a multilevel structure, you would create one floor on each layer. So when you are ready to print out the drawing you can print either one complete drawing or separate ones for each floor. Classes are basically groups, where you can link similar objects together. Classes makes it easy for you to track materials and

costs for a project. Diehl has incorporated into MiniCAD a programming language called MiniPascal. MiniPascal makes it possible to automate tasks by creating macros. MiniCAD comes with over 300 ready-made macros for you to use, but you can also create your own. Don't worry they have graciously included a users manual for MiniPascal as part of the package. If you're looking for a cost effective CAD/Drafting package, you have got to consider MiniCAD. Most of its competition are either lacking its high-end features, or are just too overpriced. You get your money's worth with MiniCAD; everything you're looking for is included in one package, not separate modules. It also has the capability to import the standard DXF files made popular by that other CAD package. To sum it up, give MiniCAD a serious look before you waste money on a more expensive package that does not have the functionality, ease of use, or top notch tools that make it a winner in the industry.

See you next issue.....

Secretary's Summary

13 May '98 Meeting

John Membrino (610) 644-0252

We had a well attended meeting this month and it's a good thing. We have a real problem that is going to require the input from as many members as possible. After so many years I can't remember the number, the St. Asaph's church has given our club notice that we can no longer meet at its facility after the June meeting. That is a serious blow because the location is about a centrally located for our widespread membership as we could hope for.

So, what to do? Well, the first thing is to get an emergency location until we can find a convenient, permanent meeting room. Having had a few days warning President Tom had checked out our friends at the 7th Police District and has received a general approval for us to meet there. As a result, a motion was carried to utilize the facility starting in July. The available dates and times have yet to be established,

but they will be finalized at the June Meeting. There were ideas tossed around, such as combining the business meeting with the Saturday morning "Workshop" or "Computer Solution" sessions and of course, continuing with a week-day evening. In any case, be thinking about this significant change and get your two cents into the discussion.

See you all in June,

John Membrino

Attention Southpaws another Windows 95 Tip

Are you a left-handed mouse user? Then you're probably getting good and tired of dragging your right hand all the way over to the left side of the keyboard to use Ctrl-X, Ctrl-C, and Ctrl-V--the Cut, Copy, and Paste equivalents. And no, not using them isn't an option!
(Nor is picking your left hand up off the mouse.)

If you're hooked on keyboard combos, you'll be happy to know there are keyboard combo equivalents for Cut, Copy, Paste, and even Undo, on the right side of your keyboard. Still around from the days of Windows 3.0 and before (but just not documented), the following CUA (common user access) commands spell relief for sore wrists:

Shift-Delete = Cut

Ctrl-Insert = Copy

Shift-Insert = Paste

Alt-Backspace = Undo (also Ctrl-Z, for right-handers)

These commands are supported by many (but not all) applications and also by Windows 95. You'll have to try them out in your own applications. Of course, the one hitch is that you can't use Shift-Delete outside of an application (for example, to cut a selected icon from an Explorer folder). Remember, as far as Windows 95 is concerned, Shift-Delete means you want to delete the items without sending them to the Recycle Bin. So be sure not to use this combo unless you're inside an application, such as Word or Notepad.



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UNDO

by Bill Pryor

Lehigh Valley Computer Group

One of the greatest tools ever invented, is the UNDO button in my Windows programs. It's usually located under the EDIT option of the program. It's in CorelDraw, WordPerfect, Microsoft Word, Lotus, Photoshop, PhotoPaint, Cool Edit 96, and in mostly every Windows Program out. It's like a safety rope, or an emergency cord, like an emergency parachute, when you do something fatal you can not correct, just press UNDO, and your mistake is corrected. The program holds in memory the previous steps you have made, and you can go back to different levels, depending how many UNDO levels you have. Most early versions only have one. But many later programs like CorelDraw, Cool Edit, and CAD programs have dozens of selectable levels. Of course

this feature is a memory hog, and can slow down your computer if you have too many levels created, but certainly having a "snapshot" in memory of your previous steps can be very handy. Also, if you UNDO an action you wish you didn't do, all you have to do is press REDO, and it undoes the UNDO. What all this does is make me a perfect guy, and I am telling you all this, so you can be perfect too :-).

On the lighter side, I was thinking if there were enough UNDO buttons to go around, this would be a perfect world; we could correct all our mistakes just by pressing UNDO. Did people who wrote books on utopia know about the UNDO button? Or is utopia the modern UNDO button for us all? For instance, if my car was in an accident, I could just press UNDO, and it would be fine. If you ate a bad meal and got food poisoning, just press UNDO. If your marriage was going bad, or you didn't like your date, just press UNDO. If you scored poorly on your school tests, just UNDO. If you OD on drugs, just UNDO.

If you were getting layed-off, just press UNDO. Or if your team lost the Super Bowl, just UNDO.

Of course it is neat to live in a perfect world, where there are never any mistakes, and where everything can be corrected; this of course is what utopia is. In fact, the next major break through will be to create an UNDO function for all reality, so when something goes wrong, we can instantly correct it. Right now this is relegated just to our imaginations, but this process has been transferred to computers, and its modus operandi. Is the day coming when we will all have UNDO buttons that solve everything?

The next CESOP Workshop will be held
JUNE 13, 1998
11:00 AM
7th District Community Room
1701 Bowler St (Bustleton & Bowler)

The discussion will be on

Print Shop Deluxe

Submitting Articles to Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Articles may be submitted in any of the following ways:

1. internet e-mail sent to tjburke@voicenet.com
2. on 3.5" diskette mailed to Philadelphia Bits & Bytes Editor 1312 Brighton Street Philadelphia, PA 19111

The required format is electronic, IBM compatible in either plain ASCII text or MS Word 6.0 or better. Do not use any justification or margins. Single space between lines and double space between paragraphs. Paragraphs should not be indented. Lists or table entries should be separated by indenting or tabs... do not use spaces. Drawings or artwork not in digital form should be in black ink suitable for scanning.

Please include the article name, your name and phone number, (with area code).

Deadlines

All articles submitted for publication in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes must be in our hands by the third Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month you request. Example: articles for the June issue must be submitted by the third Wednesday in May.

Advertising in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Commercial Advertising is available at the following rates:

Full Page	6" x 9"	\$40.00	
Half page	3" x 9"	\$25.00	6" x 4.5"
Quarter page	3"x 2.25"	\$15.00	1.5" x 9"

Column inch 1.5: x 1" \$2.00

All ads must be camera ready and be in black in on white paper.

Payment must be received in advance for all commercial advertising. Make checks payable to the *Computer Education Society of Philadelphia*.

Non-commercial & Personal Advertisements

CESOP members may submit a non-commercial or personal ad to be published in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes *free of charge*.

All non-commercial or personal ads must follow the same format and submitted as outlined previously for submitting articles. Feel free to contact the editor for further information.

Deadlines

All advertisements submitted for publication in Philadelphia Bits & Bytes must be in our hands by the second Wednesday of the month preceding the issue month you request. Example: articles for the June issue must be submitted by the second Wednesday in May.

About Philadelphia Bits & Bytes

Philadelphia Bits & Bytes is the official newsletter of the Computer Education Society of Philadelphia, users' group open to users of all types of personal computers. This current issue was prepared using Microsoft Word 7.0.

The Computer Education Society of Philadelphia is a non-profit corporation under the guidelines of 501-C-3 of the IRS code.

The next CESOP business meeting will be

Coffee is always available



Wednesday, June 10, 1998.

The meeting will start at 7:30 PM sharp!

Reminder: This is the last meeting to be held at St Asaph's Church

Computer Education Society of Philadelphia

1998/99 Membership Application

- New Member - Membership Renewal - Information Change

PLEASE PRINT

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Computer & Equipment- _____

Operating System- Windows 95 Windows 3.1 MSDOS OS2 Windows NT Macintosh OS

Other _____

Please contact me. I am interested in helping with the following Workshops Presentations Newsletter Trenton Computer Festival
 One on one help to other members Other _____

Signature of applicant _____

Signature of parent or legal guardian for applicants under the age 18 _____

Membership dues are \$12.00 per year. New members dues are prorated based on the CESOP membership year, May 1 to April 30. Prorated dues for new members are as follows:

If you apply before the 5 th day of	May - \$12	June - \$11	July - \$10	August - \$9
	September - \$8	October - \$7	November - \$6	December - \$5
	January - \$16 *	February - \$15 *	March - \$14 *	April - \$13 *
	* These dues are prorated to include membership through the April 30 of the year following your new application			

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