

The NEWS JOURNAL

July-August
1998

LAKE COUNTY AREA COMPUTER ENTHUSIASTS

Volume 15, Number 2

"Members Helping Members"

Lake County, Illinois



Juno

Launches Full Web Access and Enhanced E-Mail

The free e-mail service is turning into a full-blown Internet service provider.

by Brian McWilliams,
PC World News Radio
July 21, 1998, 10:45 a.m. PT

Juno Online Services on Tuesday announced it is moving beyond offering free e-mail accounts only. Juno now wants to turn itself into a multi-tiered online service.

At a press conference, President Charles Ar dai unveiled two new services: Juno Gold is an expanded e-mail service that allows you to send and receive e-mail attachments for \$2.95 per month; Juno Web includes Juno Gold, plus access to the World Wide Web for the industry standard price of \$19.95 per month.

Ardai said that the new offerings are Juno's way of meeting the expanding needs of its 5 million members. "Typically, Juno is the first Internet connection for a Juno member," notes Ar dai. "Over time, what we have found was that they often ...

started requesting additional features and services.

...A lot of people out there who are mainstream consumers--who are getting their first computer or just becoming familiar with how to use the online world--started with Juno because they felt they needed an e-mail address. They felt that Juno was a terrific way to start and, over time, they were ready to graduate."

The company said it has more than 1000 local phone numbers across the country, most of them supporting 56-kbps connections.



Gaming Fair 98

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Sunday---- 8 AM to 4 PM.

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NOTICE

July 27, 1998

Software City

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Mark, from Software City, contacted Corky today and notified him that Software City in Mundelien is going out of business

All items will be reduced

5%-50%.

The closing sale begins immediately on all in stock items.

Mark and his staff have been one of the main supporting computer businesses for Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts. The contributions to the club were always appreciated and were in fact a big help to us in promoting the club. Mark and his staff will be deeply missed.

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corky@lnd.com

DWIGHT J.J. JOHNSON, Treasurer - 847.623.3815
jj1450xl@ix.netcom.com

BOB BERRY, Membership Chairman - 815.344.8413
tberry@aol.com

LESTER LARKIN, Public Relations - 847.949.5888
lester@eagletest.com

DENNIS WILSON, PC Disk Librarian - 414.546.0282
dcwilson@execpc.com

CORKY BELL, Webmaster- 847.587.2051
corky@lnd.com

The News Journal Team

DWIGHT R. JOHNSON Sr., Senior Editor - 847-623-3815
VIC FALKNER, Editor Assistant

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts

L.C.A.C.E.
c/o Group Ambassador
409 South Elmwood Ave.
Waukegan, Illinois 60085-5219

Membership

Membership in L.C.A.C.E is open to all individuals and families interested in personal computing. Annual dues are \$20.00 per individual/family. Associate membership is only \$10.00 (out of state, unable to attend meetings). Membership includes a one year subscription to the L.C.A.C.E. News Journal and access for all club libraries, and functions. Application for membership may be obtained at the monthly meeting or by request on the club fax, Hotline or by writing to the club address.

Meetings

L.C.A.C.E meetings are held on the second Saturday of each month at the Grant Township Meeting Hall, 411 Washington Ave. Ingleside, Il. Meetings open at 11:00 a.m., and are open to the public. Bring a friend!

Advertising

Ad rates per issue: Full page - \$25, Half page -\$15, Quarter page - \$10, Business Card -\$5. Discounts are available on advance purchase of multiple issues. Please send Camera-ready copy and payment to the club address by the 21st of the month preceding publication. For more information on ad pricing, please call our Hotline. Ads are **FREE** to all paid members.

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**Deadline Approaching
SEND YOUR ARTICLES**

Remember, the deadline for all articles submitted to the News Journal is the 20th of each month. Send your article ...or e-mail it to the club web-site or newsletter editor.

L.C.A.C.E. HOTLINE

Voice: 847.623.3815
Fax: 847.623.9570
E-mail: LCACE@inf-net.com
Web Page: www.inf-net.com/lcace/default.html



The LCACE News Journal is published eleven times annually. Contributions by members are encouraged and will be greatly acknowledged in this newsletter.

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from the president

by Corky Bell

Well, it's back to the "**OLD ROUTINE**" once again.

I hope everyone had an enjoyable and safe summer (hopefully nobody suffered any downtime due to blackouts in some areas). Remember this month we are meeting at the Grant Township Meeting Hall in Ingleside on Saturday, August 8, 1998 and I am anticipating having the doors open at 11:30am. The agenda for this meeting will be a general question and answer (let's talk) session unless someone has something they would like to demonstrate.



I have been reviewing the WEB site and am going to make some changes and additions to it. There will be a page added which will be a review area. Anyone doing a review of a computer product will

have their article published on this page. I felt this would be a positive for the club in many ways. People who visit the page can see that we are an active organization, they will also be able to get information about products here, the manufacturer will be able to see the review on-line and last of all there will be a reference to the manufacturer's site so if the reader is interested in the product, he/she may go directly to the WEB site for the item and be able to receive additional information or make an order. For those who are not aware of the practice of writing reviews for computer products, this is a

The September meeting will be held at the Warren/Newport Library (Gurnee) on O'Plaine Road in Gurnee. The meeting will be on Saturday, September 12th in the McCullough Room

powerful mechanism used by manufacturers and/or developers in order to get information from actual users for their products. It's very similar to a quality control department for any manufacturer in that they receive hands on information, be it positive or negative, so they can change and improve their product before it reaches the general public. Sometimes the reviewer gets a free copy of the program as a reward for his/her contribution of information. The club receives programs from time to time and we offer it to the membership under a review agreement. Hopefully we can get this aspect of the club in gear again and keep good computer products available. If we announce that there are products available at any of the meetings, don't be afraid to volunteer to "test drive" it. Nobody expects you to be an expert, all we are seeking is an actual "on hands" usage report.

We have been contacted by Matt McCann (remember Matt, he was that very funny representative from Parsons Technology) who is now operating his own business. He calls it "**USER GROUP PROMOTIONS**", and basically what he is doing now is demonstrating new products to user groups. I will be contacting him so that we can have him attend one of our meetings to visit and demo some items. If there is a particular new software program that you are interested in, let me know and I will see if he has it available. We can discuss which month we would like Matt to visit at the August meeting. For those who would like to see his WEB site the url is <http://www.ugpro.com/> and is loaded with information, including open dates and products. Leave him e-mail so that he knows that you are from the club.

The September meeting will be held at the Warren/Newport Library (Gurnee) on O'Plaine Road in Gurnee. The meeting will be on Saturday, September 12th in the McCullough Room. I am not sure which one is the correct room, but we will have some directional signs posted so that we can be located. I haven't been to the library since they have reopened from their reconstruction, but I understand that there are many changes.

That's all I have for now. See everyone at the meeting on August 8th.

Corky

Software engineer glossary of Product Terminology OR...

The world of computer terms as seen by the marketing department.

ALL NEW.....Software is not compatible with previous versions.
ADVANCED DESIGN.....Upper management doesn't understand it.
BREAKTHROUGH.....It finally booted on the first try.
NEW.....Different colors from previous version.
DESIGN SIMPLICITY.....Developed on a shoe string budget.
EXCLUSIVE.....We're the only ones who have the documentation.
FIELD TESTED.....Manufacturing doesn't have a test system.
FOOLPROOF OPERATION.....All parameters are hard-coded.
FUTURISTIC.....It will only run on the next generation supercomputer.
HIGH ACCURACY.....All the directories compare.
IT'S HERE AT LAST.....Released a 26-week project in 48 weeks.
MAINTENANCE FREE.....Impossible to fix.
MEETS QUALITY STANDARDS....It compiles without errors.
PERFORMANCE PROVEN.....Works through beta test.
REVOLUTIONARY.....Disk drives go round and round.
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED....We'll send you another copy if it fails.
STOCK ITEM.....We shipped it once before and we can do it again.
UNMATCHED.....Almost as good as the competition.
UNPRECEDENTED PERFORMANCE....Nothing ever ran this slow before.
YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT.....Finally got one to work.



Should you convert to

FAT-32?

Before you convert to FAT32, make sure it's the right choice. FAT32's strong point is that it uses hard disk space more efficiently. The minimum file size for FAT16 on a 1GB disk, for example, is 32K. For FAT32, it's 4K. Another benefit is that unlike FAT16, FAT32 isn't limited to a 2GB-per-disk partition.

On the other hand, you can't use DriveSpace to compress a FAT32 disk. And if you like to use your notebook's suspend-to-disk feature, it won't work with FAT32. Nor can you dual-boot your system to run most earlier versions of Windows or DOS. Additionally, some older disk utilities work only with FAT16, so you may have to upgrade your third-party utility programs. And once you've converted to FAT32, the only way to return the disk to FAT16 and reclaim these capabilities is through repartitioning and reformatting.

If you choose to convert, the Drive Converter Wizard does a good job of warning you about possible problems. Be sure to read each screen carefully as you work your way through the choices, and don't hesitate to cancel the conversion if you have any doubts.

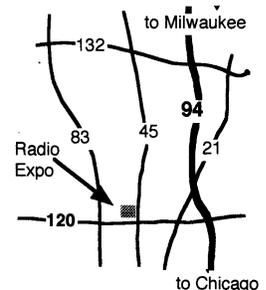
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A New Look

Digital Cameras

For home users and PC hobbyists looking for affordable, easy-to-use cameras with acceptable image quality, choices are the Canon PowerShot 350 and the Konica Q-mini (each \$500 street). These virtually identical units both deliver 640-by-480 resolution and features not yet standard at this price point: built-in flash with red-eye reduction, swivel 1.8-inch color LCD, CompactFlash removable memory, and video-out capability. Given the resolution, images taken outdoors were excellent, with good color saturation.

Indoor shots with the flash were among the best we saw at the price. The Yashica KC 600 (\$500 street) deserves honorable mention in this category. This unit, with a resolution of 640-by-480, delivered fine picture quality (though not quite as good as our winners), and it also has a host of features and an intuitive software

bundle.

For serious business-productivity chores, two cameras merit our Editors' Choice: the Eastman Kodak DS DC210 Zoom Camera (\$899 list) and the Olympus D-500L (\$900 street). These high-resolution megapixel cameras offer some of the best image quality available for less than \$1,000, and their features make them handy business tools. The DC210 uses CompactFlash memory cards and sports a 2-inch LCD. The menus, written in understandable English, make the unit easy to use for nontechnical newcomers. The 1,152-by-864-resolution images were excellent. The Olympus D-500L looks and feels like a traditional 35-mm SLR camera (a trend we expect will continue) and is the only camera under \$1,000 that offers true through-the-lens viewing. Its 1,024-by-768 resolution delivered near-flawless images both indoors and out.

Reviews:

I found ten other business-oriented

cameras that merit serious attention before you make a final buying decision.

Although they don't quite deliver the image quality of our winners, these cameras offer good combinations of performance and features that may suit your needs just as 600 (\$800 street), Fuji DX-7 (\$499 list), Minolta Dimage V (\$500 street), Olympus D-220L (\$500 street), Olympus D-320L (\$700 street), Ricoh RDC-300 (\$499 list), Ricoh RDC-2E (\$599 list), Sony DSC-F1 (\$500 street), and Sony Mavica-MD7 (\$799 list).

Finally, for semiprofessional photographers, the Agfa ePhoto 1280 (\$899 list) is the only sub-\$1,000 camera that has the right combination of image quality and user control to merit our Editors' Choice. It is a virtually goof-proof point-and-shoot camera, and unlike others in this category, the ePhoto 1280 offers the advanced

Continued on page 8

WEB WATCH



The Wind-Up Toy Company

www.winduptoyco.com

Catalog of wind-up toys in every shape and size.

The Show of Automotive History

www.angefire.com/me/HOFF

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It Doesn't Pay To Build Your Own



Unless it's thrills you seek, building CPU Upgrades your own PC can't compare with buying one new

Maybe it's the modern version of the midlife crisis: I hear more people my age wanting a CPU upgrade than a cherry-red Dodge Tami's Viper. Or maybe it's Forum just that the new Bare-Bones processor is more CPUs Are attainable. No Bargain Whatever the case, one thing's for sure--people never talk about building their own cars anymore. But a lot of folks still hanker to build computers for themselves from the ground up. Every week, at least a few people ask me, "Should I buy or build my next PC?"

The answer isn't really as cut-and-dried as my usual response: "Buy, if you know what's good for you." The answer actually depends on your experience assembling computer components. If you lack that experience, you may find the project costly in terms of time and money.

Ironically, it's the desire to save a few bucks that incites many to head down the build-your-own path. But if complications arise, they may end up paying more.

The situation is not unlike home remodeling. If you view the activity as a welcome challenge, fine, but recognize that the less experience you have, the more time the job will likely consume.

Real Money

Whatever your ability or impetus, before you set out to build your own PC, take a realistic look at what's

involved. Foremost, unless you're willing to bypass the latest technology, you'll pay a small fortune for all the individual cutting-edge components needed to put your home-built PC on a par with a top-shelf prebuilt model.

The main reason is that PC makers, due to their tremendous buying volume, achieve costs of efficiency in manufacturing that you can't come near. For instance, at this writing, you'll pay \$1,200 on the open market for a 400MHz Pentium II processor and an Intel 440BX motherboard. The CPU and the motherboard might be the most expensive parts of your computer, but they are of course only a fraction of all the components you'll need.

Buy that same foundation and all that goes with it--such as 128MB of RAM; an 8.4GB hard drive; a 32x CD-ROM drive; an 8MB 3-D graphics card; a 17-inch monitor; and other sundries such as a case, a power supply, a keyboard, and a mouse--and you're easily talking thousands of dollars more. But you can get the whole thing from, for instance, Dell Computer (www.dell.com): the Dell Dimension XPS R400 for just \$2,693. And that includes a three-year warranty, along with essential applications such as Microsoft Office and--oh, yeah--the operating system.

Can I Get Some Service?

In addition to the onerous up-front costs of building the system yourself, there's also your time and trouble. I realize that the latter commit-

ment, in some cases, might be the essence of the fun--a thrill-seeking diversion, a hobby, a story to tell at the office on Mondays. But unless you accept that this system probably will consume much of your spare time even after it's created, you've got one of the best reasons to buy prebuilt from the start: service and support.

Owners of manufactured computers sometimes tell tales of finger-pointing between hardware and software makers' tech-support teams, so you need to recognize what could be in store for you and your home-built PC. Piece together a PC from components bought from a variety of sources, and when you seek support from any one of the makers or sellers, there very well might be at least one finger pointing in your direction--that is, if support is even offered.

At a minimum, if you're remodeling a name-brand PC, you usually can count out continued service and support from the company it came from--most PC makers consider their warranties void once you start tinkering. Before you upgrade even a graphics card--let alone a CPU--in a PC that's still under warranty, check with its manufacturer to learn whether the warranty requires you to take the system to an authorized repair shop for work inside the chassis.

But if you're building an entirely new machine, of course, there's no such thing as a warranty on the PC as a whole. Fortunately, if you do build your own, a few sellers of motherboards, such as Treasure Chest Computers (www.tccomputers.com) offer outstanding customer service and limited warranties if you buy the board installed with CPU and RAM.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

Software: The Hardest Sell

As far as the software you install on your home-built special, the support you get might not be so different than if you were seeking it in conjunction with a name-brand PC. Although many computer makers provide software support for the operating system and applications they bundle, sometimes you'll find the level of support limited; you'll often end up needing to call the software maker directly.

A major difference, however, is in what you'll pay for those applications, plus for an operating system. When you buy a factory-made PC from almost any vendor, not only is the OS included in the price (a roughly \$200 value alone, in the case of Windows 95), but also dozens of useful applications, from office suites and games to communications programs. To buy them individually could cost \$1,000 or more, depending on the bundle.

The Dell Dimension XPS R400 I cited doesn't come with a huge software bundle--its collection of titles includes Microsoft Office Small Business Edition, McAfee Associates' Virus Scan, and Windows 95 (98 had only just shipped to PC makers at this writing)--but these bundled items would still cost about \$650 were you to buy them all separately, even at mail-order or Internet prices. However, the packaged software would be practically free when preinstalled on the Dell computer, considering the overall system price.

For some people, a freebie like that is quite a thrill in itself. ☺

Remember when.....

A computer was something on TV from a science fiction show
A window was something you hated to clean....
And ram was the cousin of a goat.....

Meg was the name of my girlfriend
And gig was something you did on stage for money
Now they all mean different things
And that really mega bytes

An application was for employment
A program was a TV show
A cursor used profanity
A keyboard was a piano

Memory was something that you lost with age
A CD was a bank account
And if you had a 3 1/2' floppy
You hoped nobody found out

Cut you did with a pocket knife
Paste you did with glue

Compress was something you did to the garbage
Not something you did to a file
And if you unzipped anything in public
You'd be in jail for a while

Log on was adding wood to the fire
Hard drive was a long trip on the road
A mouse pad was where a mouse lived
And a backup happened to your commode

A web was a spider's home
And a virus was the flu

I guess I'll stick to my pad and paper
And the memory in my head
I hear nobody's been killed in a computer crash
But when it happens, they wish they were dead

(Continued from page 4)

A New Look

user complete control over f-stop, shutter speed, and other settings. It also sports an excellent 3X zoom lens and can accept auxiliary lenses and filters. As you would expect, the unit's 1,280-by-960 image quality is outstanding.

Looking good: The Olympus D-500L.

WORDPERFECT SUITE

PASSWORD FIX

Corel, publisher of WordPerfect Suite, has identified a potential security problem with version 8, the suite's latest release. This problem is specific to users who have installed the Corel WordPerfect Suite 8 REV D CD or downloaded and installed Service Pack 3 (WP8SP3.EXE). Corel has released the Password Fix patch, which addresses problems you may experience with password-protected files and with the equation

**** WINTIP ****

Drag and Drop

Everyone who has a computer today knows how to drag and drop a file. The frustration comes in knowing how to move or copy the file. Windows 95 solves the problem for those who can never remember the correct key strokes.

Instead of using the left mouse button to drag your file. Use the **right button!** After you have dragged and dropped your file with the right button, a pop-up menu appears and asks you whether you want to **move** or **copy** the file.

editor, and fixes booklet printing problems with nonduplex printers. You can download the patch from <ftp://ftp.corel.com/pub/WordPerfect/wpwin/8/wp8pwfix.EXE>

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WIN98TIP OF THE MONTH

You could gain an average of 28% more hard drive space by converting to FAT32, the improved FAT (file allocation table) file system in Windows 98. FAT32 stores information more efficiently on your hard drive and eliminates the need to partition hard drives over 2 GB. To convert your drive to FAT32, go to Start/Programs/Accessories/System Tools/Drive Converter (FAT32) and follow the instructions. <http://www.winmag.com/win95/software.htm>

Corky Bell	corky@ind.com
Bobby Bell	bobbybell1@juno.com
Donna Bell	donnabell1@juno.com
Bob Berry	tberry64@aol.com
Mike Brown	chimick@aol.com
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Vic Faulkner	rvf@se-iowa.net
Tom Fitzsimmons	Tomfitz11@aol.com
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Larry Grauzas	larryg553@aol.com
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Lee Musial	leem@execpc.com
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Walter Sheets	sheets32@aol.com
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8 August 1998

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11:00 am - 2:00 p.m.

L.C.A.C.E Online

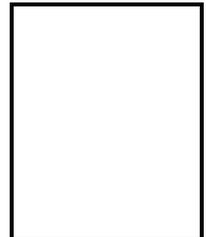
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