

OTTAWA



PC NEWS

The Newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG)

Windows 95

Fixing broken windows

by Chris Taylor, Sysop

I would like to deviate from my normal articles on optimizing Windows to fixing things when they get broken or at least that prevent you from getting full functionality. Some of these tips come from the Microsoft Knowledge Base, others come from users on the Win95 listserv on the Internet. Most have not been tested by me. Be sure you can back up from any of these changes.

Command-line expansion

When working at a DOS prompt from within Windows 95, you are unable to work with command lines longer than 127 characters. If you have been creating very long filenames, this can cause problems dealing with these files. To fix this, create a line as follows in your CONFIG.SYS file:

```
shell=c:\windows\command.com
/u:250
```

The /u:250 portion of this line expands the maximum command line in DOS virtual machines to 250 characters.

To serve or not to serve

If you have enough memory (32MB or more), you might be able to enhance performance by going to Control Panel | System | Performance tab | File System and changing the 'Typical Role of this machine' to 'Network Server'.

However, just selecting this role by itself will probably *decrease* performance because Microsoft accidentally reversed two keys in the registry when this setting is chosen. Same goes for choosing a role of 'Mobile or docking system'. To fix, run REGEDIT and navigate to

```
Hkey_Local_Machine
Software
Microsoft
Windows
CurrentVersion
FS Templates
```

Under the Server and Mobile keys there are values named NameCache and PathCache. In both cases, the values are reversed. The correct values are as follows (note the value data are all numbers - not the letter 'O');

```
Mobile
NameCache 51 01 00 00
PathCache 10 00 00 00
```

```
Server
NameCache a9 0a 00 00
PathCache 40 00 00 00
```

Fatally attracted to Cyrix

If you are using Windows 95 on a computer with a Cyrix CPU and the ACC2066 chip set by ACC Micro, your computer may freeze or you may receive an error message similar to:

```
Fatal Error at 0028:c0027900
in vxd VFAT(01) + 000019d8
```

The fix is to disable 16-byte write burst cycles by copying the wb16off.exe file from disk 1 of

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your Windows 95 disks or the Win95 folder on the Windows 95 CD-ROM to the Windows\System folder. Then add the following as the first line of AUTOEXEC.BAT:
c:\windows\system\wb16off.exe

Persistent Explorer

By default, if you have a folder or Explorer window open when you shut down Windows 95, it is opened automatically the next time

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you start Windows. But, if you get folder or Explorer windows opening when there were none open at Windows shutdown, look to the Run= and Load= lines of WIN.INI. This odd behavior can be caused by two or more spaces separating commands on these lines. Remove the extra spaces and the problem should go away.

Troubleshooting telephony

Windows 95 has a Control Panel applet for telephony, which may be helpful in troubleshooting telephony problems. Strangely, Microsoft did not make it available by default. Look in the Windows\System folder for a file called TELEPHON.CPL and change the file extension to CPL. Start Control Panel and you will see a new icon labeled Telephony.

And there it was...gone!

If you use Tweak UI (part of the PowerToys from Microsoft) to remove the Network Neighborhood icon from the desktop, Explorer is no longer able to access network resources via UNC's (Universal Naming Conventions). You will need to use mapped drive letters to access network resources. Something that is not immediately obvious is that this also affects use of the Direct Cable Connection (DCC). If the Network Neighborhood icon is hidden, DCC cannot display the contents of the host computer.

Batch files not batching

If you are having problems running batch files while in Windows 95, check to see if the [386Enh] section of SYSTEM.INI has the line:

```
LocalLoadHigh=1
```

If it does remove it. Some people have found that this line can increase the amount of available memory in DOS windows, but it can cause problems running batch files.

Club news

National Museum of Science and Technology Seminar Series

The National Museum of Science and Technology is presenting a series of computer-oriented seminars that are produced and are to be delivered by the Ottawa PC Users' Group. The seminars, which are to be held on Saturdays, are:

- Nov 30, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm: Buying a computer from the inside out. This is aimed at beginners who know little or nothing about computers.
- Jan 25: Windows 95 workshop. Starting time to be determined.

- Mar 22: Kids and the Internet. A series of short seminars for all the family. Times to be determined.

The museum will charge a fee for entry, which will be announced closer to the day. For more information concerning purpose, times, price, and so on, please check The PUB, or contact Harald Freise at email address hfreise@fox.nstn.ca, or by phone at 828-3411.

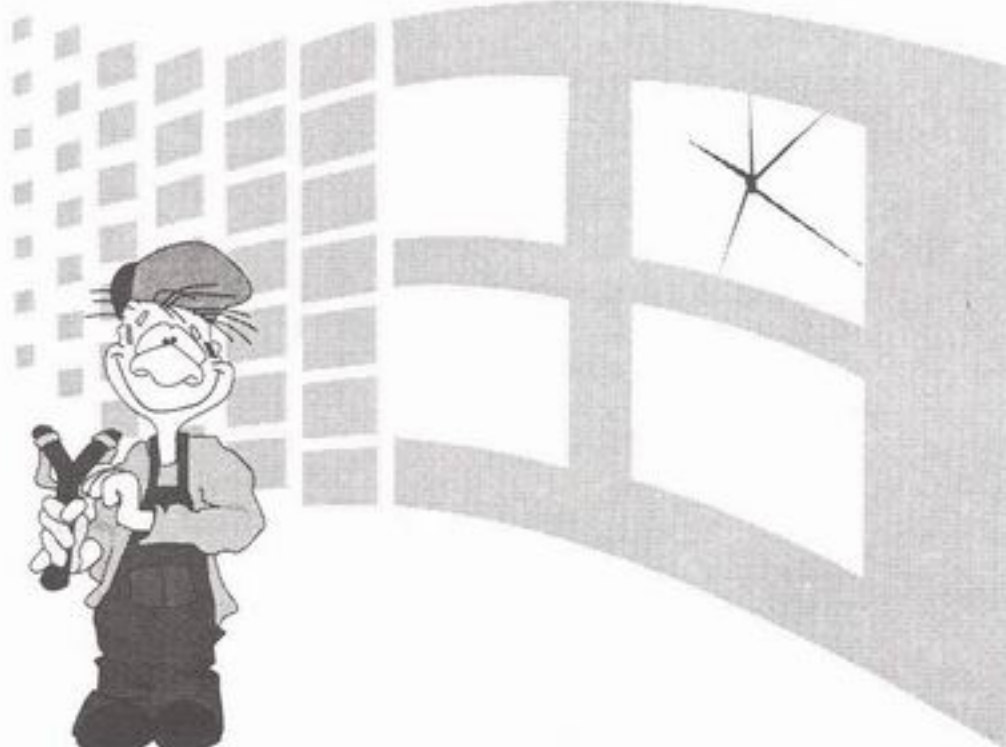
♦♦♦

Defrag lies

If you get an message from Defrag telling you that it found errors and you should run Scandisk, but you run Scandisk and it finds no errors, you may have been bitten by a bug in Scandisk. If you have a folder with a huge number of files in it (I don't know any magic number), Scandisk can report this error, even though there is no problem with the disk. First thing to try is emptying your cache for your Web browser since this often accumulates a very large number of files. If that doesn't help,

browse around looking for other folders that contain many hundreds or thousands of files. Try moving some of the file temporarily to another folder. Just be sure to avoid moving files that Windows may need such as those in the Windows and Windows\System folders.

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Microsoft 97 Land Beckons

by Julie Dustin

Besides all the brilliantly coloured leaves, crisp air and migrating geese, what else signifies the fall season but the appearance of Microsoft at our OPCUG meeting. This year, we will be welcoming Randy Brown, an account manager with the Ottawa office of Microsoft Inc. He promises a packed agenda that includes previews of the about-to-be-released Office 97 suite, Front Page and the interactive media products.

"Microsoft Office 97 has been in development for almost three years. Its design began around the same time as Office 95 so we have spent considerable time and lots of money on this project," explains Brown. "As well as upgrades to all the individual software applications, we have added new applications to the suite. IntelliSense is a key feature in Word. It means you can have on-the-fly spell and grammar checking. A new feature is called the 'intelli-mouse'. The mouse has a third button that, when clicked, will start the automatic scrolling of a window."

The new suite will include upgrades of Word, PowerPoint, Excel, Internet Explorer and Outlook "on ice." ICE is Microsoft's latest acronym to describe their product releases and stands for integrated, comprehensive and easy. The professional version of Office 97 will

include the database, Access. All the applications will have HTML support. This support doesn't necessarily mean you can create HTML documents for publishing. In fact, it is the reverse. You will be able to use documents already existing on the Internet. A document can be captured and then put into a Word document, for example. All this can be done assuming you respect the copyright laws of the land, of course.

What is this product named Outlook? Microsoft calls it a "desktop information manager". I interpret it as the replacement for Schedule Plus and Calendar, with improvements. Brown says, "Outlook allows you to keep a journal where you can assign timeframes. It also provides a contact database to keep track of phone calls and allows notes about those phone calls." The currently targetted release date for Office 97 is January 1997. The suggested retail price

will be \$460 for the full package.

With Christmas shopping looming, Brown will be giving us some ideas by showing us information on Microsoft's interactive media products. These products include Publisher 97 (which has a scaled-down version of Front Page for producing net pages), EnCarta 97, Monster Truck Madness, Deadly Tides, Creative Writer II, Hellbender, Music, Cinemania and Greeting Workshop.

After the product previews are presented, members will be eligible for draws that could include upgrade copies of Office 97 and the interactive media products. Hope you can make it to our new location at the Museum of Science and Technology. (Did you know that the Museum had a visit from over 40 astronauts a couple of weeks ago??).

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Calendar

General Meeting Location: National Museum of Science and Technology - 1867 St. Laurent

General Meeting Time: 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Date	Topic
Wednesday, 6 November	Microsoft Office 97 Suite
Wednesday, 4 December	Keating Technologies (US Robotics)
Wednesday, 8 January	To be announced

Please note: meetings are now normally held on the first Wednesday of each month.

CorelDRAW™ 7 and Corel VENTURA™ 7

by Chris Seal, Newsletter Editor

This article is based on information provided by Corel.

CorelDRAW™ 7 is scheduled to begin shipping in early November. It will be localized into 9 languages including French, German, Italian, Spanish, Dutch, Japanese and Portuguese.

This year the main component applications have been paired down to three: CorelDRAW™ 7, Corel PHOTO-PAINT™ 7, and CorelDREAM 3D 7. All have been optimized for speed and performance. This version is also the most intuitively interactive graphics package that Corel has produced to date. A streamlined user interface in all three applications is designed to provide outstanding productivity for the end user. Bonus applications, including a new wizard-driven scanning utility, and a selection of Libraries, round out the package. The DRAW component of CorelDRAW 7 is built for speed with faster file open, save, import, export, and redraw capabilities. A context-sensitive Property Bar is the key to the streamlined interface and changes depending on the tool and object that one selects. Extensive drag & drop, right mouse button support and interactive cursors have all been added.

New effects to help produce creative illustrations include accelerated blending, bevelled extrusions, color adjustment of bitmaps and vectors, and built-in bitmap effects such as support for Adobe PhotoShop-compatible plug-ins. Netscape Navigator and Microsoft Internet Explorer color

palettes are also included and you can assign URLs to any object. You can also publish your documents to HTML, GIF, JPEG, or Barista.

Corel PHOTO-PAINT 7 also benefits from the CorelDRAW™ 7 team's focus on streamlining the user interface. New enhancements include an Object Transparency tool that allows interactive on-screen adjusters to change the transparency of an object and a repeat stroke tool to paint your image with a saved brush stroke. An Interactive Gradient Fill tool provides on-screen drag and adjust to apply gradient fill to any of your images, while an image sprayer can paint a series of realistic images onto any Photo-Paint document.

More power is obtained through transformations, a new methodology that significantly improves the rendering of objects during multiple transformations. Tag WWW URL, found in the Object menu, adds to the power by allowing you to hyperlink objects for Web images.

CorelDREAM 3D 7 includes a new scene wizard. Object links have been incorporated into this version, along with improved rendering capabilities, camera navigating and object deformation tools, and better Internet connectivity.

Bonus applications in the box include:

- Corel MULTIMEDIA MANAGER™ 7 (a visual file management utility)
- Corel OCR-TRACE™ 7 (a bitmap-to-vector tracing utility)

- Corel TEXTURE™ 7 (a procedural texture generation program)
- CorelSCAN 7 (a wizard-driven scanning utility)
- CorelDEPTH™ (a utility that facilitates the creation of 3D logos and text)
- Corel CAPTURE™ 7 (an advanced screen and video capture utility)
- Corel SCRIPT Editor™ and Corel SCRIPT Dialog Editor™ (scripting programs that facilitate the creation of add-on utilities for CorelDRAW™ 7 and Corel PHOTO-PAINT 7)
- CorelMEMO™ (a utility that allows you to add 'sticky notes' to drawings)

Corel VENTURA™ 7

Corel VENTURA™ 7 will be available later this fall. The application was rewritten to take advantage of Windows 32-bit processing and multitasking capabilities, and it features multi-document windowing for the first time. Corel VENTURA™ 7 also offers over 80 new templates; libraries of HTML buttons, master pages and other formats; HTML page examples; sound and picture examples; and, Paper Direct Templates.

Perhaps one of the strongest new interface features is the multiple master pages. Incorporated into every publication, they provide a blueprint for the layout of your pages, and contain information such as page size, orientation, column sizes, margins, and headers and footers. Using master pages allows you to change page orientation mid-chapter, create

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repeating elements, and incorporate design elements that cross the spread of facing pages.

Tables now include spreadsheet-like features including hundreds of built-in functions, support for formulas, and AutoFill and Sort commands. You can even import spreadsheets as Corel VENTURA™ 7 tables and maintain any supported formulas. Other enhancements include the ability to have multiple paragraphs in a cell, a skewed header row, and skewed header text.

Corel Barista technology adds a whole new dimension to Corel VENTURA™ 7. This publishing engine will allow you to create a Web document that will appear consistently across all Java-enabled browsers and operating system platforms. It will also allow you more control over layout and fonts, as well as support for gradient fills or columns. You can create Web pages in Corel VENTURA™ 7 and publish them to the Web with WYSIWYG accuracy.

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Club news

October's winners

by Mark Cayer, Membership Chairman

The Ottawa PC Users' Group thanks Terry Hamilton and IBM Canada for the OS/2 pins given to all attendees, the OS/2 sweatshirt won by Don Chiasson, and the copy of OS/2 Warp Version 4 won by Hans Hageraats.

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Club news

Election notice: OPCUG Board of Directors

by David Reeves, Secretary

Nominations for membership on the Board of Directors must be in the hands of Doug Poulter (past chairman) on or before 10 PM EST December 4, 1996. The Board of Directors consists of nine members who administer the affairs of the OPCUG. From their ranks they select a President, a Treasurer and a Secretary and any other position they deem necessary. The current Board of Directors consists of Harald Freise, Tony Frith, David Reeves, Mark Cayer, Chris Taylor, Chris Seal, Jorgen Rasmussen, Bob Herres, and Bob Walker.

You can nominate yourself or another person (who must accept the nomination). For a nomination to stand, the nominee must file signed acceptance of their nomination with Doug Poulter, 3-164 Ethel, Vanier, K1L 5X4, 745-8768, or send a private message to Doug Poulter via the PUB. Please include the telephone number of the nominee.

If there are more than nine candidates, an election will be held at the 1997 General meeting. Each candidate has the opportunity to outline their platform in the January newsletter. (Reasonable rules concerning submission deadline, article length, and omission of po-

tentially slanderous content apply.) Additionally, at the General meeting each candidate will have the opportunity to address the membership to clarify their platform immediately before the election.

Doug Poulter is looking for two non-board members to review the club's records and financial statements before the publication of the Financial Report. Also, Doug would like volunteers to assist if there is an election.

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Club News

Membership reminder

by Mark Cayer, Membership Chairman

Each month membership renewal notices are mailed out to those folks

whose memberships are nearing their renewal date.

Please remember to update any pertinent information and mark down how much you are enclos-

ing so that we can keep those records 'straight and up to date'.

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Coming up in November: Lindsay Fraser-Fazakas on building successful Web sites

by Jean Stalker

November's technical presentation will answer the question "What is wrong with the Web today?" and present a strategy for ensuring that your organization builds a successful Web site.

The focus will be on developing a clear Internet strategy, including:

- conceptualizing your Web project
- building a Web-site business plan

- designing appropriately for the intended audience
- staffing and resourcing your project

Lindsay Fraser-Fazakas is a partner in Strangelove Internet Enterprises, publishers of the Internet Business Journal and How to Advertise on the Internet, and Director of the Internet Training Company, a Division of Strangelove. For further information on the company you could visit <http://www.strangelove.com> and <http://www.strangelove.com/titc>.



The presentation takes place on Thursday, November 14, 1996 from 7:30- 9:00 p.m. in the Keefer Room of the Ottawa-Carleton Centre (RMOC), 111 Lisgar Street, Ottawa. For additional information about the SIG or the presentation, contact David Curling at 731-5381, email him at curlingd@loday.com, or visit the I-SIG Web site at <http://www.synapse.net/~loday/isig.htm>.

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DTP SIG

Desktop Publishing SIG

by Bert Schopf, DTP SIG Coordinator

The October DTP SIG meeting featured Tom Anzai demonstrating Corel PhotoPaint 5 tips and tricks. Many people buy the Corel package for CorelDraw, yet never fully explore the possibilities of



using the image editor included with it. Tom's techniques will be sure to save us time and

effort in image editing.

The November 5th DTP SIG meeting brings in Adobe to demonstrate some of their new and revised products for document and web design. Adobe will showcase PageMill for the PC as well as upgrade features in Adobe Acrobat 3.0 and ATM Deluxe 4.0.

Please note the address of the meeting (Lemmex CTCI) is 275 Slater Street, suite 340. For more information, contact SIG coordinator Bert Schopf at 232-8427 or blackbird@cyberus.ca. Note that DTP SIG info is also now posted on the WWW at <http://cyberus.ca/~blackbird>.

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Club news

Going, going, gone!

by Chris Taylor, Sysop

As was announced in the last issue of the newsletter, we have upgraded all the modems on The PUB to 28.8kpbs models and we auctioned off the six 14.4kpbs modems taken out of service.

The six modems were snapped up by four people. The successful bids ranged from a low of \$25.11 to a high of \$40. The total came to \$190.11.

Many thanks to those who participated in the auction.

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Review of September's presentation: Peter Robinson on Corel Web Graphics Suite and More

by Jean Stalker

Peter Robinson, Product Marketing Specialist with Corel Corporation, opened the 1996/97 I-SIG program with a presentation on Corel's products for the Internet, featuring the recently-introduced CorelWeb.Graphics Suite and CorelWeb.Data.

Corel is now made up of four Divisions: Business Applications, Graphics, Multimedia, and Video-conferencing. Corel has a staff of 1700 world-wide, of whom 800 are located in Ottawa.

Web.Graphics Suite is a complete Web-authoring toolkit, which can be used by either novices or professionals to create Web pages that include graphics, animations, and virtual reality, as well as text. No knowledge of HTML is necessary, though those who wish to do so can easily access and modify the underlying HTML code. The product includes over 100 templates, as

well as over 7500 Internet-ready images.

Web.Graphics consists of six distinct components. The central core is Web.Designer, and the other components can be accessed from it. The interface looks and behaves much like a word processor.

In addition to Web.Designer, the suite includes:

- Web.Gallery, a bank of .JPEG and .GIF images
- Web.Draw, adapted from CorelDraw5
- Web.Move, which enables the author to include animations
- Web.World, to add virtual reality (VRML) capability
- Web.Transit, which converts legacy documents into Web format

The product is published on CD-ROM for the Windows environment and sells for \$289 Canadian.

Web.Data is a separate product which converts data bases to Web format.

The speaker discussed the features of each application, then used the Web.Graphics suite to create an attractive Web page, including a background, a logo, a data base (brought in via Web.Data), an image map and a form, all in less than an hour!

Peter Robinson also discussed the Internet features of some of Corel's other products. Corel purchased WordPerfect in March, and has now released two versions, both with the ability to publish a document to the Web using Barista, a Java-based technology developed by Corel..

For additional details about Corel Corporation and about the products demonstrated by Peter Robinson, you could visit <http://www.corel.com>.

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Internet SIG

Review of October's presentation: Paul Theriault on Adobe Products for the World Wide Web

by Jean Stalker

Paul Theriault, the Regional Account Manager of Adobe Systems, spoke on "Adobe Products for the World-Wide Web", focusing mainly on Adobe Acrobat and the Portable Document Format (PDF), which:

- provides a common denominator for information from multiple sources
- is readable from multiple platforms in internal corporate intranets, in the World Wide Web, and on CD-ROM

Additionally:

- Documents already in electronic form can be converted to PDF as easily as they can be printed
- Paper documents can be scanned into PDF image files, retaining their original format, (including fonts, graphics, images and page layout), while text is made searchable via OCR
- Multimedia elements can be inserted into PDF files
- Interactive Web-ready forms can be easily created or captured from scanned images

- Drafts can be circulated for comment in PDF format and annotated without altering the original
- PDF documents can be viewed from within the leading Web browsers

Adobe Acrobat 3.0 beta includes, as a single package:

- Acrobat Exchange
- Acrobat PDF Writer
- Acrobat Distiller
- Acrobat Catalog
- Acrobat Capture (Plug-In)

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Ottawa PC News

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July. The opinions expressed in this newsletter may not necessarily represent the views of the club or its members. Deadline for submissions is four Saturdays before the general meeting.

Group Meetings

OPCUG normally meets on the first Wednesday in the month, except in July and August, at the National Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St Laurent Blvd, Ottawa. Meeting times are 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m.

Fees

Membership: \$25 per year.
Disk-of-the Month: \$25 for either 5.25-in or 3.5-inch diskettes (10 diskettes).

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October's Presentation Continued from page 7

Acrobat Reader is offered free of charge and can be downloaded from the Adobe Web Site

(<http://www.adobe.com/acrobat>).

Adobe is the third largest PC software company in the world, with a staff of

about 2,000. Major products, in addition to the Acrobat family, include PageMaker, FrameMaker, PageMill, SiteMill, and Photoshop.

For additional information about the agile and versatile Adobe Acrobat and other Adobe products, visit the Adobe Web site (<http://www.adobe.com>).

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Club news

Annual swapmeet

by Willem Vandijk

Fall is the time of year when all the trees shed their used leaves, and the OPCUG membership sheds its old computer parts. This year is no exception. The swapmeet will be held in the National Museum of Science and Technology on **Tuesday 12 November**. The times will be: setup at 6:30 p.m., general admission at 7:30 p.m., and closing no later than 9:30 p.m.

Rules are much the same as before:

- members only, (NO commercial vendors)
- display your name and phone number
- mark items that are non-functional

I will coordinate the tables to ensure everyone has a spot, so drop me a line on The PUB (please include phone no.) to reserve space. This may be a 1/2 table or more as required. No minimums, so if you have only one item to sell, that is fine too. No charge for the table.

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