



OTTAWA PC NEWS

Vol. 14 No.5

The newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group

May 1997

Opening Windows

Troubleshooting the net

by Chris Taylor

First, let me state that I am not an expert on TCP/IP or the Internet. However, in my job providing technical support, I have been asked to trouble-shoot problems people have had dialling in to our terminal server to access the Internet from home. Following are some general guidelines that may help if you too have problems. I am going to assume you are using Windows 95 with the Dial-Up Networking (DUN) that Microsoft provides.

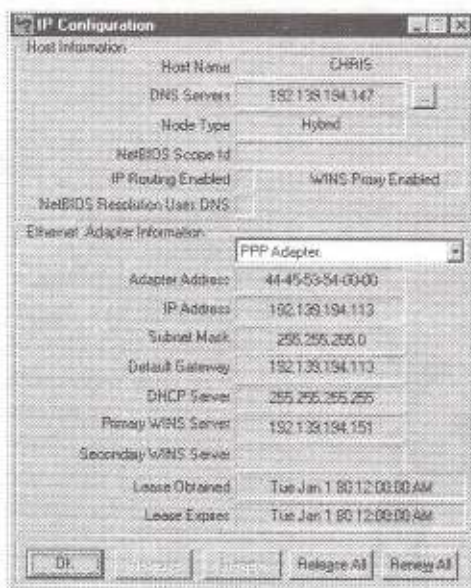
The Internet isn't working

The most common complaint I hear is that "the Internet isn't working." Well, many believe the Internet is about to break down, but so far, it still seems to be working. What the people really mean is that they loaded their web browser and it is not able to contact their home page.

The first thing to check is to see if you are connected. See if your modem is on and the lights show that there is carrier detect. In the notification area of the task bar, there is normally a modem showing when you are on-line using a 32-bit application to talk to the modem (DUN uses 32-bit code).

If you are not connected, go back and review the instruction given to you by your ISP. You probably left out one or more critical steps. If you do appear to be

connected, the fastest thing to check is to see if it is just the one page on the Internet that is giving you problems. Try going to another site by typing in the URL on the address line and press enter. If you don't know any off the top of your head, try <http://www.microsoft.com>, <http://www.novell.com>, or <http://www.ibm.com>.



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Back to basics

If you are still having problems, it is time to get back to basics. Open a DOS prompt and use PING to bounce a signal off a remote host. You can try a few addresses. Following are the addresses for www.microsoft.com, www.ibm.com, and www.nrcan.gc.ca:

PING 207.68.137.65 PING
204.146.96.133 PING
132.156.36.1

If you do not get a response from any of the above, you have not established a basic TCP/IP connection. Review the instructions given to you by your ISP. Also consider the possibility that you are entering your user name or password to your ISP incorrectly. Keep in mind that you may be connecting to a Unix machine and both user names and passwords may be case-sensitive. If you did get a response from any of the above, you

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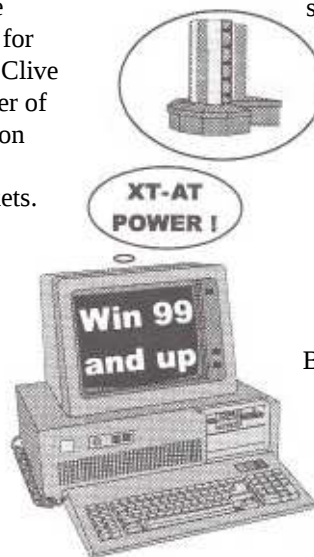
Next meeting: **WEDNESDAY 7, 1997** See page2

Coming up

New Deal Inc.

This excerpt from New Deal Inc.'s web pages is edited by Julie Dustin

New Deal Inc's mission is to recycle computer hardware through smarter software and provide Internet solutions for older and entry level computers. New Deal, founded by Clive Smith, a former Geoworks vice president, is the publisher of New Deal Office 97, point-and-click software that runs on older computers. The company initially focussed on the educational, religious, non-profit, and home office markets.



same features, ... and runs lickety-split on 80286s and XT's ... [This] could be the biggest thing since Windows." Robert Luhn, PC World. "Because of its modest hardware requirements, [it] will be of particular interest to people with older machines as well as budget-minded computer shoppers looking for an easy-to-use environment that runs on low cost equipment. The product is aimed at the home and small business markets.

New Deal Office 91 applications

New Deal Office 97 applications include: word processing, spreadsheet, database, drawing, personal organizer, and communications, including America Online. New Deal Office 97 runs well on computers with as little as a 286 processor, 640K of RAM, and 8 MB of free hard disk space.

But even users of more powerful machines will appreciate [its] simplicity, speed and excellent graphics... [It has also got] a program to connect with America Online... and you can start regular DOS programs that do not use [this] interface." Lawrence J. Magid, The Washington Post.

"[It] is a fast, easier-to-use graphical environment that may even win over 386 power users... [The] environment sports a simplified (but sharper-looking) Windows-like interface with many of the

For international sales and technical support call (514) 633-6370 or (514) 633-6647. Visit their web pages at www.newdeahnc.com for more information.

Ottawa Paradox Users Group (OPUG)

News and reviews

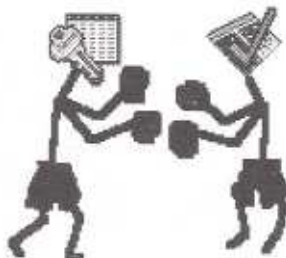
by Larry Chop

Sneak Preview of Paradox Ver. 8

Corel have agreed to provide the club a sneak preview of Paradox Ver. 8 at our next meeting on Thursday 15 May at 6:15 p.m. at Inly systems. A lot of discussion has gone on about this first release of Paradox by Corel.

Access and Paradox

For the June meeting, we plan to do a comparison between Corel Paradox and Microsoft Access. More details will be coming.



April in review

We had two presentations this month: John Ladds reviewed two paradox books pointing out highlights and demonstrating various techniques:

- "Programming Paradox 5 for Windows"
- "Killer Paradox 6 for Windows"

John showed a lot of excellent tips, tricks and techniques from these books. Although



Paradox is up to version 7 and version 8 is in Beta testing now, objectPAL has not changed a lot. There is a lot of consistency between versions of Paradox which allows easy upgrading and downgrading between versions. These books were sold at \$70.00 each when they first came out. Now they can be had for \$25.00 or less, a good value.

Richard Brousseau presented a customized method to replicate and enhance the built in Paradox look-up (pick list) function in forms using [Ctrl-Space]. One form allows look-up and selection of a code value from a code-description table. The second form performs a set Range on the selected category code from a code subcode description table and which displays only those subcodes related to the selected code. The

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Meetings	Date	Time and venue
OPCUG General Meeting	May 7: New Deal Office 97 applications	7:30 pm - Museum of Science and Technology, 1867 St. Laurent Blvd.
Desktop Publishing SIG	May 13: Workshop on colour-trapping techniques	7:30 pro - Lemmex Computer Training Centre, 275 Slater St. (at Kent)
Internet SIG	May 8: Web Authoring and Site Management	7:30 pro - Keefer Room, RMOC, 111 Lisgar St.
Ottawa Paradox Users Group	May 15: Sneak preview of Paradox 8	6:15 pro - Inly Systems, 1221a Cyrville Rd.
FOX SIG	May 20: To be announced	7:30 pro - Sir Jean Talon Building Conference room, Thnney's Pasture, Holland Ave. (north of Scott St.)

Book review

Java by Example by Jakie Gee, NOCCC*

"Java by Example" by Jerry R. Jackson and Alan L. McClellan is a very well written book on the Java language. It is highly readable, and should be considered one of the books used to learn Java programming.

What is Java?

Anyone today who surfs the Web has heard of Java. It is a general purpose object-oriented language that supports GUI development. Unlike Pascal, C, C++ and other computer languages, Java is not a compiled language. Like Basic, it is both an interpretive and runtime language. Unlike Basic, Java is an runtime extensible, multithreading, dynamic memory management language.

Why Java?

Since Java is machine independent, you can run Java on any platform that has a Java interpreter and runtime written for that platform. This enables programmers to develop applications on one platform and run it on any other platform that has a Java interpreter and runtime. Another advantage of Java is that, unlike C and C++, Java source code is very readable.

Why use this book to learn Java?

As this book title indicates, you learn Java by working through the examples given in the book. Those familiar with C and C++ will see quite a bit of similarity in both syntax and structure to those languages. But unlike C and C++ these commands seem, in Java * North Orange County Computer Club

are English-like and very readable. Though the intended audience of this book is for intermediate to advanced programmers, the book does not leave out important topics on programming constructs such as memory and constructs, types, arrays, exception handling, input/output, pointers, etc. It uses simple Java program examples to demonstrate application code constructs and programming concepts. These examples reveal the elements of object-oriented programming, i.e., classes, subclasses, instances, inheritance, encapsulation and polymorphism.

Class is an object into which similar objects are grouped together. Subclass is the offspring or child of the class object (the parent). The subclass object can be used as is, or enhanced with additional properties. An instance is one of a set of class objects. Inheritance is the process of transmitting characteristics from a parent to a child, should a change be made in the parent class object. Encapsulation places a protective shell around the program code. Finally, polymorphism is the ability of an object to send the same generic message to many other objects, where each object implements that message based on other predetermined information held by that object.

The objective of this book is to teach both how to use and to develop with the Java Language. The reader is

continued on page 5

Opening Windows (continued from page 1)

have established a TCP/IP connection. Try using ping with a name rather than a number. The same hosts can be pinged with:

PING www.microsoft.com

PING www.ibm.com

PING www.nrcan.gc.ca

If you do not get a response now, the problem is that you do not have access to a Domain Name Server (DNS) which is what translates friendly names like www.nrcan.gc.ca into the numeric address required to actually access a machine on the Internet. Review the instructions that your ISP gave you. Most likely, you entered in the wrong address for the DNS server. It is also possible that all DNS servers you have access to are down right now.

If you get a response at this point, you know your basic TCP/IP is functional and you have access to a working DNS server. If you are still having problems, they are most likely related to your web browser itself. It may require a re-install. You may want to talk to the tech support people at your ISP. Tell them the steps you have taken above and ask them how you should proceed.

TCP/IP tools

In addition to Ping which was used above, Windows 95 provides a number of TCP/IP tools that can help you in your computing on the Internet. While many think of the Internet as just the World Wide Web, it is so much more and Windows 95 provides some rudimentary tools. Unfortunately, when you install DUN on Windows 95, there are no shortcuts created for these tools, so some people never discover them.

WinIpCfg.exe can provide a great deal of information regarding your TCP/IP configuration. Run this application and click the "More Info" button to get a screen similar to the following. You can use WinIpCfg for trouble-shooting by ensuring that the lines for DNS Servers, IP Address, Subnet Mask, and Default Gateway all contain numbers and are not all zeros.

Ftp.exe is a console (character mode) application for transferring files to and from FTP servers. As an example of how to use it, open a DOS prompt and type the following (comments in braces):

```
ftp
open ftp.mcafee.com {go to McAfee's ftp site. When
prompted for user name, type in anonymous}
dir {get a directory listing}
cd pub/antivirus/win95{change directory}
dir
ascii {set transfer mode to text}
get 00-index.txt {transfer the file to you}
binary {switch to binary mode}
get v95i301e.zip{download a 4MB file}
close {close the connection}
bye {exit the FTP program}
```

Note that there are many good Windows programs for accessing FTP sites that don't force you to know all the FTP commands. See

The PUB's Internet file area for several good ones. Still, sometimes a character mode application lets you see some essential information that a graphical version hides from you.

NetStat.exe is a console utility that can show current connections you have established over the Internet. It will tell you what hosts you are connected to.

Telnet.exe is a graphical program to connect to hosts out on the Internet. From the Start button: choose Run and type in Telnet. Once Telnet loads, choose Connect I Remote System. In the Host Name box, type freenet3.carleton.ca. Make sure the Port box says Telnet. For TermType choose VT100. Click the Connect button and after 5 to 10 seconds, you should see the login screen for the National Capital Freenet. Sure beats getting the busy signals on their modems!

TraceRt.exe is a console utility to trace the hops from your ISP to a remote host. It lists the machine names and addresses as well as the time it takes. If you are having sporadic problems connecting to a particular host, try running a Tracert to it and see if you are getting a lot of time outs. Nothing you can do to fix it, but at least you will know it is not your machine that is at fault. For example, from a DOS prompt, type: TraceRt ftp.mcafee.com.

All the machines that had to be travelled through in order to get to McAfee's ftp server are listed.

There are three more TCP/IP utilities that come with Windows 95. They are Arp.exe, NbtStat.exe and Route.exe. Since I don't really know what these are used for, I will not attempt to describe them here. All three provide a help screen if you run them from a DOS prompt with no parameters.

Club news

April winners

At the April club meeting, a copy of Lotus SmartSuite 97 was won by Bob Walker.

Thanks to Lotus Development Canada for donating this prize.





Chris Biber on Office Applications for the Java Platform by Jean Stalker

On April 10, the I-SIG had the good fortune to meet Chris Biber of Corel Corporation. We were joined for this session by a contingent from the Ottawa Java Users' Group (OJUG). Chris Biber is Corel Corporation's Director of Strategic Alliances. He has just returned from the second JavaOne Conference in San Francisco.

Java was first introduced in late May 1995 by Sun Microsystems. There were three major components: the Java programming language, the HotJava browser which could execute Java code embedded in HTML documents (now integrated into both Netscape and the Internet Explorer), and a "virtual machine", which made it possible to run the same code under any operating system. ,

From Day 1, Java generated widespread excitement. Code resident at remote locations could now be executed on local machines. The excitement has only continued to grow. Less than two years after its introduction, there are an estimated 500,000 programmers writing Java code.

Corel's interest

Corel Corporation saw in Java the embryo of a new computing model for the corporate environment. Present office systems are very rich in features, but very heavy in support costs. A figure of "\$8,000 per computer per year" is often quoted. Software is resident on individual machines, and upgrades are labourintensive in terms of installation and training. Furthermore, very few of the features supported on any one machine are actually used.

The upcoming Corel Office Suite for Java is much leaner and easier to manage than current products. Applications can be

stored on the server and downloaded as they are needed. Software maintenance can be done centrally, making upgrades instantly available throughout the organization and making back-ups and trouble shooting much easier.

Clients can be "thin" (the so-called "Network Computer") and rely on the server for software and storage or they can be "fat" and store software and documents locally. Clients can log on from remote locations and work with company software and documents. Developers can operate a palette of JavaBeans in much the same way as Visual Basic Toolbox.

Corel Office Suite for Java Beta 1 became available April 2, 1997. Chris Biber conducted a brief on-line tour of the product, which includes: Desktop, WordPerfect for Java, Quattro Pro for Java, Chart for Java, Presentations for Java, and InfoCentral for Java.. You can download a copy of the client components from <http://officeforjava.corel.com> and explore at your leisure. Office for Java is still under development, and added features, as well as improvements in speed, are expected. Comments are welcome.

For further information on Java, visit <http://www.corel.com> and <http://java.sun.com>.

Java by example (continued from page 3)

brought up from the very basics of the language, its constructs and features, what is object-oriented programming, how to implement OOP in development, creating applets and putting all the pieces together.

A well thought out feature is in the selection of examples-in general the examples are interesting and educational. One instance is the example of the four function calculator. We have all at sometime or another used a variation of the four function calculator to do some needed calculation. Some of us may have even wondered how it works internally. The book explains the code ,necessary to develop the four function calculator code. Another example we have probably encountered is the puzzle, where the objective of the game is to slide the pieces around until a certain pattern is arrived at. On a more practical example, the code and

methods are shown for creating a form for data entry. One topic this book does not cover is the developing of code for Websites, but anyone working through the book and learning to code in the Java language has the tools for developing Java applications for Web sites.

Again, Java by Example is a very-well written book on the Java language. It is highly readable and should be considered one of the books use to learn Java programming. Java by Example by Jerry R. Jackson and Alan L. McClellan-for intermediate and advanced programmers. Comes with CD-ROM. Published by SunSoft Press. Price \$US 34.95.

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The I-SIG Link *by Jean Stalker*

The I-SIG is experimenting with an electronic newsletter, tentatively entitled "The I-SIG Link". Sample issues will go out for May, June, September, and October. The concept will be critically re-evaluated at the October Members-helping-Members session.

The I-SIG Link will be distributed as an HTML file which can be printed off or read through an Internet browser, either on-line or offline. Readers will be advised to save the I-SIG Link files to a dedicated subdirectory.

The I-SIG Link may include:

- Brief notes and references on I-SIG meetings and presentations
- Introductions and links to Websites maintained by members
- Introductions and links to Internet sites deemed by members to be carrying good stuff

- Information about Internet-related events in the NCR
- Hot tips

As befits an Internet newsletter, the emphasis will be on supplying references to on-line sources rather than moving extensive amounts of text.

We will be looking for comments on both the format and the content. Anyone interested in participating in this experiment is welcome to do so. Send a request to go on the I-SIG emailing list to Norm Dafoe, ndafoe@sirius.on.ca.

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May presentation: Update on Web authoring and site management *by Jean Stalker*

At the May presentation, David Curling will outline a systematic process for analysis and preparation of a Web site. Emphasis will be on preparation of pages and management of a Web site. In the time available, some thoughts on creating effective Web sites, page preparation, site analysis, and management will be presented.

David uses Bradbury's HomeSite for HTML coding, CSE3310 HTML Validator for code validation, Incontext Web Analyzer for automated site analysis, and Microsoft FrontPage and Corel WebMaster Suite for Web Management. David is an ardent "internaut" and Coordinator of the Internet SIG of the Ottawa PC Users Group.

For information, call David Curling, I-SIG Coordinator on 731-5381 or e-mail him at curlingd@lodaycom. Visit the I-SIG Web site at <http://www.synapse.net/~loday/isig.htm>.

Details

Speaker: David Curling, LODAY Systems Inc
Topic: Update on Web Authoring and Site Management

Date: Thursday May 8, 1997. Time: 7:30 to 9:00 p.m.
Location: Keefer Room, 111 Lisgar Street, Ottawa



News and reviews (continued from page 2)

Look-up forms retrieve parameter values from calling forms without the need to explicitly program it in the calling form. The look-up forms automatically position the cursor to the same code value as the current value of the calling form. The Look-up forms are written for complete code re-useability. One only needs to change the table associated with the TableFhame object and possibly the field names to make it fully functional for another look-up table. This is done by using the Paradox system variable, self, to attach to UIObjects variables.

The forms will be put on the web site (see below) shortly.

Next meeting

Our meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month, at Inly Systems, 1221a Cyrville Road from 6:15 to 8:00 p.m. Everyone is welcome. The next meeting will be on Thursday, 15 May, 1997, when Corel will present a sneak preview of Paradox 8.

For more up-to-date information about meeting topics, please visit our web site at:
<http://magi.coW-chopla/opug/opug.html>.

Go International!

by Jean Vaumoron

Judging from the requests on the PUB and on the Internet, many Microsoft Windows users seem to have difficulties typing accented letters and other non-English characters from an English keyboard.

An answer to this problem lies hidden in the Windows 3.x, Windows 95, and I believe NT, environments: a variation on the US keyboard, called US International.

Accessing the US International keyboard

In *Windows 95*, click successively on: My Computer-Control Panel-Keyboard-Language (the line En - English United States should come up highlighted)-Properties-United States International (just below United States-Dvorak). The Keyboard layout line should now read: United States International. Close Windows and restart your system. In *Windows 3x*, click on Configuration, then International. In the Keyboard pick list, chose United States International (just below United States-Dvorak). The Keyboard line should now read: United States-International. Close Windows and restart your system.

Possibilities

Your keyboard now has 2 1/2 deadkeys*:

- the ` and ~ key, at the top left of your keyboard
- the ' and " key, just left of the Enter key on the right
- the ^ key (Shift-6)

To get the normal value of any deadkey, just press it, release it and type a space with the space bar, or any letter which it does not modify.

- Type ' followed by any of the letters e, a, c, y u, i, o, and you will get é, á, ç, ý, ú, í, ó. And of course E, A, C, Y, U, I, O will give you É, Á, Ç, Ý, Ú, Í, Ó.
- ^ (Shift-6) followed by e, a, u, i, or o, will give you ê, â, û, î, and ô (Ê, Â, Û, Î, and Ô).
- ‘ followed by e, a, y, u, i, or o, will give you è, à, ì, ù, and ò (È, À, Ù, Ì, and Ò).
- “ followed by e, a, y, u, i, or o, will give you ë, ä, ÿ, ü, ï and ö (Ë, Ä, ÿ, Ü, Ì and Ö).
- ~ (Shift-') followed by a, o, or n, will give you ã, õ, and ñ (Ã, Õ, and Ñ).

* A *deadkey* does not produce a character on screen but modifies the character produced by the next key you press.

Other bonus points

Ctrl-Alt-? will give you ¿ and, you guessed it, Ctrl-Alt-! will give you ¡.



¡ Olé !

I have been using the United States-International keyboard to type French for years and am very pleased with it. I don't have to switch keyboards and remember the keys that play musical chairs in the three or four different versions of French Canadian so-called standard keyboards. I can also quote words from other Latin or Germanic languages without having to hunt for accented letters.

Benefits

- No character is shifted from its original location.
- The symbols used for producing the accented letters are in themselves a clear reminder of their function.
- It takes very little time to get used to this new environment and it *works in any Windows program!*

Drawbacks

- There is still no direct access to French quotation marks («<N>»), and to Œ, œ, Æ, æ, Å, and å.
- Typing an apostrophe can be frustrating for a week or two. Followed by any of the letters which do not react to it, it will give you a normal apostrophe. For example, I went to the butcher's will work fine, whether you type a space or not before the s. If the apostrophe is followed by a vowel or a c, automation takes over and you are faced with dune instead of d'une, or l'immédiate instead of l'immédiat. I have now tamed my fingers to type a space after any apostrophe... end of problem! The same goes for the opening double quotes sign which turns into an umlaut when it is followed by a vowel and you forget to type a space.
- A minor snag crops up if you have chosen to turn on Single Smartquotes in the Quick-correct tool of your favorite program, be it WordPerfect or Word. The apostrophe is automatically turned into a closing single quote. The closing quote (') looks in fact much better than the original apostrophe (') in most fonts, but conversion programs don't take kindly to this kind of eccentricity. Grammar checkers also get nervous and ask where the corresponding opening quote is located, just to show they are being watchful.

OTTAWA PC NEWS

Desktop Publishing SIG

Ottawa PC News is the newsletter of the Ottawa PC Users' Group (OPCUG), and is published monthly except in July and August. 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.

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April meeting review by Bert Schopf

Our April meeting focused on specialty printing techniques such as embossing, foil stamping, die cutting, varnishing, and raised printing. Koert Winkel of Commercial Printers Limited brought in several printed samples as well as some of the Ahardware@ used in commercial printing. Koert did a fine job of explaining the techniques and the requirements for producing these from the PC desktop. Also discussed were some service bureau tips which will be expanded on at the May 13 meeting (see below).



Koert Winkel displays a brass die used in embossing

May meeting

Join us on Tuesday May 13 for a workshop on *Colour Trapping Techniques* using popular PC software such as CorelDraw, Quark Xpress, and PageMaker. The evening will start with a trapping tutorial and then progress to hands-on demonstrations of trapping and print file generation.

Logistics notes

DTP SIG meetings are hosted at Lemmex Computer Training Centre, 275 Slater Street (at Kent), suite 340. Meetings commence at 7:30 p.m. Meetings are open to all OPCUG members as well as the general public and visitors are welcome.

Please note that DTP SIG meetings will now be held on the SECOND Tuesday of the month. The June meeting (our last before the summer break) will therefore be held on June 10. Topic to be announced.

For further information, contact DTP SIG Coordinator Bert Schopf at 232-8427 or email to blackbird@cyberus.ca

The DTP SIG website is (finally) up and running. Bookmark this site: www.cyberus.ca/~blackbird/dtp/dtpsig.htm.

