



MEETING TIME AND LOCATION

Thursday, June 8, 2006, network at 6:30, dinner (optional) at 7:00 PM, presentation at 8:00 PM.

Denny's Restaurant
3315 N. Scottsdale Rd.
Scottsdale, AZ

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Vaughn Treude

Recently I had the fun of trying to install Windows 95. (*That's not a typo!*) My current project requires me to use a diagnostic program which I already had from previous SECS/GEM development work. Unfortunately, it only works on Windows 95, because the creator of the software protected it with a hardware dongle on the printer port. Perhaps these things work better now with USB, but the driver for this hardware key was dependent on undocumented code, which broke with the Windows 98 release. To update to an XP version would cost well over a thousand dollars, so I decided to make the old one work. The problem: I no longer had a

functioning Windows 95 system.

Luckily, I'm a pack rat, so I have a number of spare computers that I've cobbled together from scavenged parts. I also had a Win-95 OEM install (fourteen floppies!) as well as a CD version I'd purchased on-line a while back.

I had one system that wasn't currently configured – I'd had trouble with the drive, and never got back to it. The IDE interface on the motherboard (500 MHz AMD) did not support drives bigger than 8 GB, and the PCI-based IDE card I bought didn't play well. Scrounging through my hoard I found an 8 GB drive, installed it, and put Windows 95 on it. But for some reason it always hung during boot. I suspect the antique hardware was faulty.

So I tried using making space on my Sony Vaio notebook. (Using Power Quest's Partition Magic, you can move partitions around, and selectively hide them, allowing you to install multiple instances of Windows on one drive. PM comes with a boot manager, but I prefer the Linux LILO program.) Good old 95 installed and booted OK this time, but the diagnostic program requires a working Ethernet interface. Despite the fact that this notebook is at least four years old, there was no driver to be found that would

function with the on-board Ethernet port in 95. Even an old 10-base-T PCMCIA card I had couldn't be made to work.

So I resorted to reformatting my test machine. This is a small desktop I use as a poor man's oscilloscope – it has Windows 98 and a Hung Chang scope card. In case I messed things up, I installed a different (old) hard drive. Due to problems with the CD drive, I had to install from *floppies-ugh!* But it worked. The misery was finding a network interface card old enough to have 95 drivers. I tried two different ISA cards and got re-acquainted with BPP (Before Plug and Play - remember IRQ Hell?) Then I found an older PCI card that appeared to work, but damaged it by accidentally yanking the LAN cable. (The case was a bit out of line with the motherboard, the NIC didn't seat quite correctly, and it came out of the slot with power on.) Returning to the second ISA card, I discovered it *did* work but was fussy about cables, perhaps because of the misaligned case. The only cable that worked was one without the rubber strain-relief that comes on almost all CAT-5 cables. I had to go to Fry's to buy a crossover adapter to put on a standard cable – because they don't make crossover cables with a “bare” RJ45 jack.

Success! Windows 95 booted *and* the NIC worked, *and* the diagnostic worked *and* it communicated with the target application (which runs on a Linux box.) Despite how primitive it seems now, I was amazed how fast 95 comes up and shuts down on a “modern” machine – even a dinosaur like the 300 MHz box I'm using. As an added plus, both the scope card and its interface program work on 95, so I didn't put the

original drive back. I'll save it for another antiquities restoration project.

Now for the obligatory plug. This month's presentation is on a topic that concerns us all – outsourcing. Professor Thomas Duening of ASU's Fulton School of Engineering will speak about how we can play the game and win in the global economy. It should be very interesting. Be there, aloha!

Vaughn Treude

EDITOR'S MESSAGE

by Clark Jones

It seems like I've been constantly busy, though I really don't have any one thing to point to. Both vehicles are out of the body shop, both looking good, though I haven't gotten around to reinstalling the antennas on the pickup.

One of the things that I noticed back when I first got W98 was that on two machines with ostensibly identical CPUs, and identical RAM size, W98, as advertised, did “start” programs faster than when you double-clicked on something in W95. The only problem was that to get that speed, it sacrificed a more-or-less equivalent boot-up time. And it did it for EVERY program you had installed – frustrating when you knew you were only going to run one program before shutting the thing down. I've also been surprised at how well XP has run even

some of my old W95 programs. And it hasn't crashed once, though admittedly, I do shut that machine off when I'm not using it.

Off on another tangent, some of you may know Mike Waters. He is going to be making a presentation on his travels as the Mensa "Forum" (monthly lecture) for June. It will be at 7:00 PM on Friday, June 9, at the Scottsdale Horizon Community Center, 15444 North 100th Street, Scottsdale. From the 101 go east on Frank Lloyd Wright,

take a left on 101, and then near the end of the curve in 100th Street, it's on the LEFT (yes, the number suggests it's on the right). Mike is an excellent speaker, and I encourage you to come and see his presentation!

See you Thursday at the PACN meeting!

Clark Jones

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IEEE Phoenix Area Consultants Network June Meeting - Outsourcing

Date: Thursday, June 8, 2006

Time: Networking begins at 6:30 p.m.

Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.

Program starts at 8:00 p.m.

Place: Denny's Restaurant

3315 N. Scottsdale Rd. (at Osborn)

Scottsdale, Arizona 85251

Abstract: Our June meeting will feature Thomas N. Duening, PhD, director of the Entrepreneurial Programs Office of ASU's Fulton School of Engineering. He will address the issue of how outsourcing is affecting technology jobs, and how we can win in the global economy. Duening is the author (with Rick L. Click) of "Essentials of Business Process Outsourcing" (2005) and "Business Process Outsourcing: The Competitive Advantage" (2004.)

For more information, contact Vaughn Treude, vaughn@nakota-software.com, or see the IEEE PACN website, ieeepacn.com.

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