



WELCOME to the winter issue of the Que/Sams PC User Group Newsletter. Our goal is to use this venue to keep you updated on Que and Sams' activities within the personal computing world. You'll learn some great tips and tricks, and get the opportunity to learn a little more about our authors in our author profile section. We'll keep you up-to-date with what books are forthcoming and those that are worth a second look. Likewise we want to know what is going on in your group. Keep us posted on your events and activities.

Let us know how we can make our books better and which ones just cannot be topped. If there is anything that you would like to appear in these newsletters, drop us a line on that as well. And be sure to visit www.quepublishing.com and www.sampublishing.com for the latest titles from Que and Sams!

Happy holidays from the Que/Sams team! We wish you a wonderful holiday season and all the best in the New Year.

QUE PUBLISHING INKS TWO NEW DEALS

Que Publishing has two exciting new alliances: a publishing contract with television's top tech personality, Leo Laporte, and a series publication agreement with Future Network USA, publisher of Maximum PC and MacAddict magazines.

Many of you may know Leo as the host of TechTV's "The Screen Savers" and as author of TechTV Leo Laporte's 2003 Technology Almanac. But Leo is known for much more than these successes. He regularly appears on "Live with Regis and Kelly," "ABC's World News Now," and "CNN's American Morning" as a technology expert, and he is widely recognized as a "geek guru" to tech enthusiasts around the country. Besides all of this, he is a genuinely nice guy who has a personality that flies off the screen (and of course, the page).

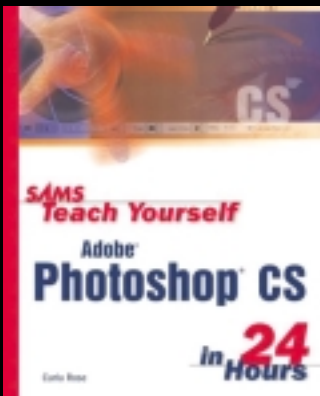


Future Network USA reaches nearly 400,000 subscribers with its market-leading titles, MacAddict and Maximum PC magazines. Both magazines are geared to the home computer user who is looking for quality technical expertise. Since its inception, Maximum PC has earned a reputation for providing the highest quality news, reviews, features, analysis and opinion. Their readers rely on them to be authoritative, accurate, and scrupulously objective - and the Maximum PC books from Que will continue in this tradition.

We are very excited to bring these excellent resources to our readers. Books from both of these alliances should be on bookstore shelves in 2004!

OWN A DIGITAL CAMERA? HOPING TO GET (OR GIVE) ONE FOR THE HOLIDAYS?

Keep in mind these digital photography equipment tips from Carla Rose, author of Sams Teach Yourself Adobe Photoshop CS in 24 Hours (ISBN 0672325926, \$24.99).



Q. What do you consider the key points to consider when selecting equipment for digital photography, digital imaging, and computer equipment?

The one key point is to consider what you're planning to use it for. You don't need to spend a thousand bucks on a camera to shoot pictures of the new baby or kitty for your web page. You don't need a 23" LCD display for surfing the web or reading your e-mail. On the other hand, you need the best equipment you can afford if you're planning to do professional photography. You need the best scanner you can get if you intend to do photo restoration. And if you intend to do fine art photography, as I do, you need a good printer that takes wide, heavyweight art papers and archival inks.

Color is an issue for me, so I invested in a good monitor and a calibration system. I chose a Nikon CoolPix 5700 camera because it has good resolution and a very good zoom lens. I am slightly handicapped and it's helpful that I can compose a photo by zooming in or out rather than walking an extra hundred feet to get closer to a subject. I also use the Nikon telephoto and wide-angle accessory lenses.

Of course, you also have to remember that no matter what you buy and how much you spend; something both better and cheaper will be out next week.

Tip courtesy of Carla's interview with Stephen Ibaraki. To see more of the interview, visit http://www.stephenibaraki.com/cips_rose.pdf.



AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: MICHAEL MILLER

Michael Miller is the best-selling author of more than four dozen how-to books, covering topics such as computer basics, eBay online auctions, and the Internet. Michael has helped hundreds of thousands of readers be productive with their PCs, and has earned a reputation for practical advice, technical accuracy, and making difficult topics easy to understand. Here is a bit of an interview with Michael, courtesy of Stephen Ibaraki. To read the entire interview, visit <http://www.stephenibarak.com/cips/v121/mmil.asp>



Q: Why did you write, “Absolute Beginner’s Guide To Upgrading and Fixing Your PC?” Please share some tips from the book.

MIKE: Absolute Beginner’s Guide to Upgrading and Fixing Your PC is actually the latest in a long series of “troubleshooting” books I’ve written over the years. The first book was written back in 1991; it was titled *Oops! What to Do When Your Computer Goes Wrong*. It was a strong seller in its day, and stayed around through three editions and a series of spin-off titles. In 1999 I revisited the topic for a book titled *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Fixing Your @\$! PC*. So this new book is a kind of spiritual successor to all those books, with the inclusion of upgrading material as a bonus.

My biggest upgrading tip is a simple one – use USB! In the old days (not that long ago, actually), upgrading your PC entailed opening up the system case and installing an add-on card of some sort. Not all that easy, especially for the technically disinclined, and prone to all sorts of problems. Today, fortunately, upgrading is a lot easier. Most recent computers come with multiple USB ports, and adding a new USB-compatible peripheral is as easy as plugging it into an open USB port. Your computer and Windows should automatically recognize the new device, with little or no manual configuration necessary. In most cases, you don’t even have to reboot your PC! So if you’re planning an upgrade, go with a USB-compatible device, if you can. It’s really easy.

My big troubleshooting tip is equally simple. Believe it or not, most computer problems arise from user error. Not bugs, not viruses, not broken hardware, but plain old user error. So if your computer is acting funny in some way, think back through what you’ve done recently, and – if you can – undo it. That might mean uninstalling a piece of hardware or software, or just rebooting your PC. If you’re running Windows XP, use the System Restore utility to restore Windows to a previous condition before the problem cropped up. In other words, think “undo.”

CHECK OUT THESE BOOKS AUTHORED BY MICHAEL:

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO UPGRADING AND FIXING YOUR PC
ISBN 0789730456

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO LAUNCHING AN EBAY BUSINESS
ISBN 0789730588

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO COMPUTER BASICS
ISBN 0789728966

Q: How can you determine if your PC needs an upgrade?

MIKE: It’s simple. You need to upgrade – or, in some instances, replace – your PC when it can’t do what you want it to do. Whatever that might be. If your computer is doing its job, you don’t need to upgrade it.

Q: Can businesses and users extend the life of their PC investments?

MIKE: Of course. Actually, most computers sold in the past 2-3 years, even the lowest-priced models, are more than powerful enough to run today’s most common applications – and should remain usable for several years to come. You don’t need a state-of-the-art multi-gigahertz computer to surf the Web and write letters in Microsoft Word – or even to download digital music and burn your own CDs. The most minimal-ly configured PC has more than enough horsepower to perform these common tasks.

Most users only need to upgrade if they’re getting into digital video editing or if they play the latest high-octane PC games. (It’s funny that the most demanding PC applications today are games!) In fact, what most users perceive as a “slow PC” problem is actually the result of a slow Internet connection – and upgrading your PC won’t speed up your Internet connection! Better to spend the money on broadband DSL or cable Internet service; you’ll see some real bang for your bucks there.

Q: Which resources do you find the most useful?

MIKE: I just keep my eyes and ears open, and remain eternally curious. Every morning I visit CNET’s News.com Web site (www.news.com), as well as Wired News (www.wired.com/news/), and those two sites keep me up-to-date on most important technological developments. I don’t visit the real technogeeky sites; frankly, the super-technical “inside” developments don’t affect those of us in the real world all that much. I’m much more interested in how technology affects the average consumer – the folks I write books for.

NEW AND UPCOMING TITLES

UPGRADING AND REPAIRING LAPTOPS

Scott Mueller
ISBN: 0789728001

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO TABLET PCS

Craig Forrest Mathews
ISBN: 0789730499

SHOW ME ADOBE PHOTOSHOP CS

Perspection, Inc.
ISBN: 0789730677

EASY GOOGLE

Shelley O’Hara
ISBN: 0789731045

SHOW ME QUICKBOOKS 2004

Gail Perry
ISBN: 0789730782

ABSOLUTE BEGINNER’S GUIDE TO MICROSOFT WORD 2003

Laura Acklen
0789729709

ALISON BALTER’S MASTERING MICROSOFT OFFICE ACCESS 2003

Alison Balter
ISBN: 0672325500

SHOW ME MACROMEDIA FLASH MX 2004

Perspection, Inc.
ISBN: 0789730685





CONSUMER ELECTRONICS SHOW

Que and Sams Publishing are dedicated to staying on top of the latest technologies – from PCs to the latest gadgets. So when the world's largest consumer technology tradeshow, the International Consumer Electronics Show (CES), takes place in Las Vegas from January 8-11, we will be there! A team from Que Publishing will be attending the show and exploring the latest and greatest in consumer gadgets.



The 2003 International CES featured more than 2,200 exhibitors, 1.2 million net square feet of exhibit space, and 117,000 attendees. Some of the products that have debuted at CES in the past include:



- | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| VCR (1970) | Camcorder (1981) | Compact Disc Player (1981) |
| Digital Satellite System (1994) | DVD (1996) | HDTV (1998) |
| Digital Audio Radio (2000) | Microsoft Xbox (2001) | Blu-Ray DVD (2003) |

QUE'S BUSINESS TRAVEL ALMANAC FLIES ONTO SHELVES



Need an airline seat with a powerport? Want to impress your client with the best restaurant in town? Need to book a hotel with high-speed access? Wish you had known that the train was faster and cheaper than a cab?

The Business Travel Almanac by Donna Williams (ISBN 0-7897-2934-2, \$19.99 USD) puts the answers to these questions and more at the fingertips of the busy business traveler. With a combination of travel advice, reference material, directory information, and city guides, this book is a unique tool for the traveling professional.

It is packed full of info, with airline comparisons, hotel details, and rental car options. The city section focuses on 15 major U.S. cities and includes airport and city maps, convention center info, restaurant reviews from Gayot.com, and much more! Cities include: New York City, Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, Philadelphia, Detroit, Boston, Dallas, Washington DC, Houston, Atlanta, Miami, Seattle, Phoenix, and Las Vegas.

The book includes special features for the technology business traveler, including a companion Web site (www.businesstravelalmanac.com) with important links, phone numbers and updated travel information. Also, purchasers of the book are able to download the book to their laptop or PDA for easy accessibility on the road. Visit www.businesstravelalmanac.com to purchase your copy today!

WORD SEARCH: MODERN PC

ANITVIRUS	A	D	X	D	Z	B	K	C	B	V	J	B	X	S	K
APPLICATIONS	M	P	R	I	I	L	N	K	I	Z	P	N	J	A	R
BITMAP	S	Q	P	A	N	L	A	U	T	R	I	V	I	Y	G
BLUETOOTH	T	P	R	L	O	U	L	Q	M	W	X	D	A	V	P
BYTES	Z	E	E	G	I	B	L	L	A	W	E	R	I	F	U
CHAT	D	N	N	S	S	C	R	F	P	M	L	Y	S	J	Q
COMPRESSION	T	T	N	R	S	U	A	E	I	J	A	K	T	H	S
DATABASE	W	I	A	R	E	E	R	T	H	T	T	R	T	E	F
FIREWALL	J	U	C	A	R	T	L	I	I	T	I	O	D	P	K
INTERNET	R	M	S	P	P	U	N	E	V	O	O	O	N	U	J
MOTHERBOARD	I	H	E	A	M	E	C	I	R	T	N	M	N	C	S
MULTIMEDIA	G	I	T	W	O	A	Q	H	E	I	I	S	C	X	B
NODES	E	A	Y	Y	C	W	H	U	A	E	W	N	B	G	N
PENTIUM	R	D	B	L	V	E	L	D	A	T	A	B	A	S	E
PIXELATION	P	J	L	N	F	B	T	X	T	G	V	W	F	N	C
RAM															
SCANNER															
UNIX															
VIRTUAL															
WIRELESS															



Special Coupon: Save 40% on all Special Edition Using books!

All Special Edition Using titles are being offered at a special discount! These titles Visit www.quepublishing.com before May 31, 2004 and enter the code **SEUSING** for your 40% savings.

ABOUT THE QUE AND SAMS USER GROUP PROGRAM

This program is designed to draw Que and Sams Publishing closer to our users and users closer to us. The program offers benefits to groups that include book discounts, review and library copies, event support, and access to the authors and experts that make Sams books indispensable tools for technology professionals and enthusiasts.

The Que and Sams User Group Program is continually evolving. We want the users to take ownership of the program. For that reason, we encourage you to tell us about your group; your members, events, needs and desires. Tell us your thoughts on Que and Sams Publishing. Tell us what we do well and what we do poorly. Contact me with any feedback at: kate.hollcraft@pearsoned.com

To register for the Que or Sams User Group Programs, visit: www.sampublishing.com/usergroups or www.quepublishing.com/usergroups.

