



Don't Wait for Win 98

Many of you won't be rushing out to buy Windows 98 the moment Microsoft finally puts it on the shelves, and honestly, I don't blame you. After all, it is a larger, more complex operating system than Win 95, which could mean slower performance.



Surprisingly, Win 98 isn't much different from Win 95. It comes with some long-awaited tweaks to the interface, support for new hardware, and several new features for power users. But although some features w Surprisingly, Win 98 isn't much different from Win 95. It comes with some long-awaited tweaks to the interface, support on't be available until the new OS ships (see the sidebar "Features You'll Have to Wait For"), you don't have to wait for Win 98 to get them all. I'll show you how to beef up Win 95 to make it look and act more like Win 98--without the

expense and headache of installing the new OS.

Internet Explorer 4.0, the most publicized feature in Win 98, is available for Win 95 and Win NT 4.0--free of charge. You can download it from www.microsoft.com/ie/ie40/download or pay about \$5 to get it on CD. Given IE 4.0's size, the CD might be worth purchasing. If you do download it, make sure to get the full version; later, you can choose which components to install.

Webify Explorer In Win 98, Explorer windows have a Web toolbar that lets you view both Web pages and your files and folders as Web pages--all in the same window. You can add this design element to Win 95 by installing IE 4.0's optional Desktop Update component. During the IE 4.0 installation, you can choose to install or skip this update. For our purposes, select Yes to install it. Whether this design appeals to or annoys you, it's flexible enough to meet your needs. And you can always remove it or configure its op-

tions later.

If you've already installed IE 4.0 on your system without the Desktop Update, double-click on the Add/Remove Programs icon in Control Panel, select Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0, and click on the Add/Remove button. You can then add (or remove) any optional components, including the Desktop Update (see the screenshot).

The Desktop Update changes Explorer's appearance, but you can play around with it a bit. For example, you can choose to show or hide each of Explorer's various new toolbars. Just select View|Toolbars to see a submenu of all the toolbars available. You can also configure the appearance of Explorer views by selecting Start|Settings|Folders & Icons. On the General tab, you can choose between predefined styles, such as Web and Classic, or you can customize the view by selecting the Custom option and clicking on the Settings button.

Although this Web integration might not appeal to you, the other changes installed with the Desktop Update make it worth a closer look. For example, it gives you a more accurate file-copy progress bar, which finally shows the progress of the entire group of files you're copying,

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Don't Wait

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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!

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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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from the president

by Corky Bell

I don't have much to include this month. I am sending a letter to the Gurnee Library on March 14th as an application for the club to use the conference rooms there. JJ did a little more investigative work and found the library still had us listed as a contact, which I think will help us in obtaining the permission needed.



REMEMBER that April is "ELECTION MONTH". Five (5) members will be elected to the Board of Directors, from these five one will be elected as President. At the February meeting the following people were nominated:

Corky Bell
Walter Sheets
JJ
Bob Berry
Lester Larkin

Mr. G was nominated, but declined the nomination. We will be accepting nominations at the March meeting, so if you have someone you would like to nominate, please attend and voice your choice.

We don't have formal agenda set for the March meeting, therefore we will be operating under an "impromptu" type of setting. So if you have any questions, suggestions, comments or what ever, don't be afraid to speak up. I will have a

computer there in the event one may be needed to display something in conjunction with the discussion. We won't be able to access the WEB due to the non-existence of available telephone lines.

Remember the meeting is being held at the Grant Township Meeting Hall in Ingleside on March 14th beginning at 12pm. the doors will be opened at 11:30am. I hope to see everyone there. I would also like to welcome Mr. G to the world of on-line use. Mr. G now has an E-Mail address and hopefully is using the WEB as much as he is able to. Happy computing to all.

Corky

Freedom is like a bag of sand. If there's a hole in the bag, all the sand will run out. If some people are denied their rights, sooner or later all the people stand to lose their rights. All the freedom will run out.

Membership Update

New Members:

Leslie Salsburg from Grayslake, IL

Renewals:

Linda Heinrich from Greendale, WI.

Steve Yeaton from Lindenhurst, IL

Arnold Gudyka from Mundelein, IL

Lester Larkin from Mundelein, IL

Lawrence & Stephanie Grauzas from Aurora, IL

Time to renew:

Corky & Donna Bell

50/50 Raffle Winner February:

Mr. & Mrs G. (Grauzas)

Wacom PenPartner

*Cute
and
creative!*

by Dr. I. Luv Irata

"It's so cute!" is most likely what you'll hear when your cubicle mates get a look at the Wacom PenPartner. This little teal and gray tablet is as easy on the eyes as it is on the hands--it looks more like Barbie's Dream Tablet than the functional design tool it actually is.

It's obvious that the PenPartner's design evolved from that of its plainer looking cousins, but this tablet reveals an ergonomic sensibility not found in Wacom's ArtPad models. The PenPartner's stylus is slightly larger in circumference than the conventional Wacom pointer, and it has a curvy profile as well. Consequently, your writing posture is more natural. As a bonus, the heft feels more like your favorite fountain pen than like those disposables you get from the supply cabinet. Combine this with the tablet's paperlike texture, and you'll feel like putting those art classes you took in college to good use.

If you've always been on the lookout for a comfy alternative to your mouse, or if you'd like to add your John Hancock (and other original scribbles) to a digital holiday card, the PenPartner is a winner. It's cheap enough (\$99.95) to justify its purchase, even if you don't plan to use it for artistic endeavors. If you do want to get creative, the PenPartner's pressure-sensitive tablet can differentiate thin, light strokes from hard, thick ones, making your drawings closer to what you intended. A molded button on the side of the cordless stylus



can perform a variety of custom functions: you can make it act like the right or left buttons on a mouse, for instance, or work as the Shift, Alt, or Ctrl keys. Also, the PenPartner's eraser end not only deletes graphics within applications (including Photoshop), but also text within apps such as Microsoft Word.

While the PenPartner is fun and comfortable in your hand, its compactness proves to be a limitation on a big screen. The 4-by-5-inch (approximately) active surface works well with a 14- or 15-inch display, but if you have a 17-inch or larger screen, the scale is so disproportionate it's disorienting. Design professionals interested in maintaining their onscreen equilibrium should look instead to Wacom's 6-by-8-inch ArtPad II model.

Cottage-industry designers and after-hours Picassos, however, will find the PenPartner more than suitable for their creative efforts. To get you started, the tablet comes bundled with Corel's Print House and Photo House software. And at such a low price, this desktop publishing friend won't make you starve to achieve your artistic dreams.

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First V.90 Modems to Ship!

The first V.90 ITU 56K standard modems are off the assembly line, on the trucks and rolling toward you!*

The ITU (International Telecommunications Union) is close to finalizing the standard for 56-kbps modems. The completed specification should be out by April, if not before.

If you already own a 56-kbps modem, you'll need to check into a software upgrade (likely free) from your modem vendor to upgrade your modem to the new standard. If you're considering a 56-kbps modem purchase, you may want to wait a month or two to buy, giving modem manufacturers time to update the modems that stock store shelves.

JOKE



At a recent computer expo (COMDEX), Bill Gates reportedly compared the computer industry with the auto industry and stated "If GM had kept up with technology like the computer industry

IE 4.0 UNINSTALL ALERT

In response to our recent introduction of IE 4.0 tips, a reader, K. Clem, offers this warning:

"Per Microsoft, Internet Explorer 4.0 MUST be uninstalled before 'installing or uninstalling operating system upgrades (for example, Windows 95 Service Pack 1)'."

Now that's what we call a big pain in the hard drive. For more information on other circumstances under which Internet Explorer 4.0 should be uninstalled, as well as instructions for completing the uninstall operation, check out Microsoft's Knowledge Base Article ID 174265 at

<http://support.microsoft.com/support/kb/articles/q174/2/65.asp>

has, we would all be driving twenty-five dollar cars that got 1000 miles per gallon."

Recently General Motors addressed this comment by releasing the statement "Yes, but would you want your car to crash twice a day?"

1. Every time they repainted the lines on the road you would have to buy a new car.

2. Occasionally your car would die on the freeway for no reason, and you would just accept this, restart and drive on.

3. Occasionally, executing a maneuver would cause your car to stop and fail and you would have to re-install the engine. For some strange reason, you would accept this too.

4. You could only have one person in the car at a time, unless you bought "Car95" or "CarNT". But, then you would have to buy more

seats.

5. Macintosh would make a car that was powered by the sun, was reliable, five times as fast, twice as easy to drive, but would only run on five percent of the roads.

6. The Macintosh car owners would get expensive Microsoft upgrades to their cars, which would make their cars run much slower.

7. The oil, gas and alternator warning lights would be replaced by a single "general car default" warning light.

8. New seats would force everyone to have the same size butt.

9. The airbag system would say "are you sure?" before going off.

10. If you were involved in a crash, you would have no idea what happened. []

MICROSOFT IE 4.0 PREVENTS QUATTRO PRO 7 INSTALLATION

Users attempting to install Quattro Pro 7 to a Windows PC on which Microsoft Internet Explorer 4.0 is already installed receive an Invalid Page Fault error message. The error message occurs approximately 78 percent of the way through the installation. This bug doesn't seem to affect Quattro Pro 8; however, QP7 is still a more popular version of the product, and is in wider use.

You'll have to decide for yourself, but the talk on the street regards the competitive nature of Microsoft and it's protection of Excel, a Quattro Pro competitor.



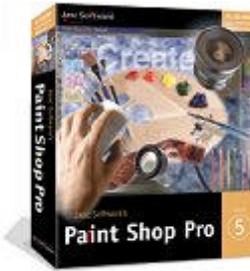
Jasc, Inc. has released beta 2 of *Paint Shop Pro 5.0*, the latest version of the Internet's most popular graphic design application.

New features include complete layers support for blend mode control, grouping, visibility, transparency locking and variable opacity. Realistic Picture Tube brushes allow users to easily add a variety of images to their work. CMYK color separations can now be processed to accurately reproduce your images on paper. A new multiple-level undo history lets you back up to any point in your image's creation. Pressure-sensitive tablet support brings out the artist in anyone.

Paint Shop Pro 5 features powerful enhancements to a wide array of

painting and retouching brushes, new adjustable cropping and selection tools, and improved image enhancements and third-party plug-in filter support. You can now adjust virtually every color parameter of an image with Paint Shop Pro; palette editing and direct palette mapping allow you to make global color changes to multiple images.

Also includes an enhanced thumbnail image browser that allows you to visually search directories for images, advanced



Internet graphics file format support, a built-in screen capture utility, batch conversion of over 40 different file formats, and

direct TWAIN scanner and digital camera support.

Jasc Software, Inc.

MAXTOR TO RELEASE HIGH-CAPACITY DRIVES

Maxtor will release a line of new, high-capacity hard disk drives on Monday. IBM will supply the key internal components. One of the drives to be announced will be an 11.5Gb disk drive using "magneto-resistive" (MR) technology.

The 3.5" drive is designed for use in standard desktop and tower personal computer cases. This drive boosts the current limit of commonly-accessible disk drives, about 9GB over the magic 10GB mark.

The large capacity drive follows demand generated from games, full-motion video, and other multimedia applications that are well known for having a voracious appetite for disk space.

popular, offers a key advantage: unlike the Zip drive, it can also read and write good old 1.44MB floppies, which show no sign of retiring anytime soon.

Though the Zip has a long lead, it's too early to declare it the floppy's successor.



Not only the LS-120, but three new superfloppies (all due out by summer) handle 1.44MB disks along with their own high-capacity media, providing a bridge to a superfloppy future. Choosing among floppy alternatives hinges partly on which technology has the best shot at winning--so you can carry your disk with you and expect to find a drive nearby that will actually spin it. But this review also answers the more immediate question: which drive gives you the best performance, capacity, and features for the money?

Superfloppies

Saving a big file to a 1.44MB floppy is like trying to stuff an elephant into a Volkswagen--no amount of persuasion is gonna make it fit. And with new hard disks averaging 3GB to 8GB, the quantity of data you want to copy to floppy just keeps growing. How else are you going to take along your digi-cam snapshots, sprawling multimedia presentations, and pirated video games?



You need more room. But not too much

more--nobody can carry more than, say, 200MB around casually. That's why we narrowed this review to the two most likely floppy alternatives: the 100MB Zip and the 120MB LS-120. The drives that spin these superfloppies start at about \$100, and the disks themselves cost between \$12 and \$20 a pop. The Zip drive has sold a whopping 12 million units or so since its introduction in 1995; many PC makers now ship the drive preinstalled. The LS-120 drive, although nowhere near as

(continued from page 1)

not just of each one. The Desktop Update also provides a more detailed Properties sheet for files and folders. For example, it now shows the full path of a file or folder, rather than just the parent folder, and it indicates the disk space a file or folder consumes in addition to its actual size. With the right mouse button, you can copy this information to the clipboard, even though it doesn't appear that you can.

Tango on the Taskbar You also get new Taskbar toolbars that, for example, provide quick access to frequently used programs, which were previously buried in the Start menu. These toolbars are mirrors of a program group's contents.

IE 4.0 comes with two predefined toolbars, including one that mimics your desktop and one that connects your machine to the Internet. Odds are you'll want to create your own. To do this, right-click on an empty spot on the Taskbar and select Toolbars|New Toolbar. Then choose the folder for which you want a toolbar and click on OK. You can grab a toolbar's handle and drag it to another spot on the Taskbar or anywhere else on the screen. You can even dock it to the screen's edge.

Some of Win 98's hottest low-level improvements are already included in Windows 95 OSR2, such as FAT32, minimal support for Universal Serial Bus (USB) peripherals and MMX processors, and some Dial-Up Networking enhancements.

And if you don't have OSR2, you can download some of these features free from www.microsoft.com/windows/pr/win95osr.htm. Microsoft won't let you have the meatier OSR2 features, such as FAT32 or MMX support. But you can get the Dial-Up Networking upgrade (2.1b, as of press time), any of the Internet goodies (if you don't already have IE 4.0), and all the stuff in the Fixes/Updates section that applies to your system.

Expert Tips Destination Desktop

Disk space to spare. IE 4.0's Desktop Update dumps about 26MB of uninstall files on your hard disk. Deleting these files will free up quite a bit of valuable disk space, and it will disable the uninstall feature for this and future versions of Internet Explorer.

Alternative upgrade. If you follow the instructions continue on page 7

Don't Wait

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WIN TIPS

Move/Shortcut Reminder

When you drag and drop a file, you're moving, copying or making a shortcut to that file, depending on where you're dragging it from and dropping it to.

Look at the lower right corner of the icon you're dragging, right before you let go of the mouse button, to find out what it's going to do. A plus sign means the file will be copied. An arrow means you'll create a shortcut. If you see nothing, the file will be moved.

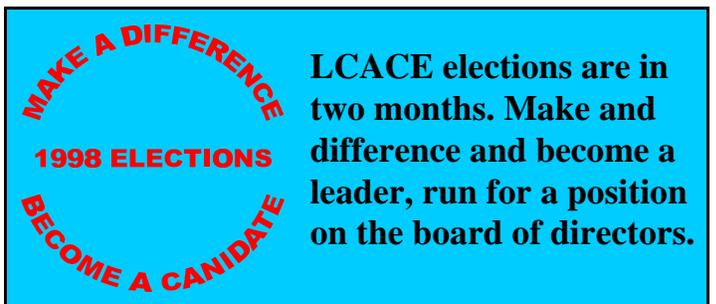
One-Step Shut Down

Restarting Win95 is a four-step process (Click on the Start button, select Shut Down, click on Restart the Computer, then click on OK). You can make it a one-step process by creating an icon on your desktop that restarts Win95.

Open Notepad and type @exit. Close the document and give it a name with a BAT extension. Now stash the file away somewhere on your hard disk. Create a shortcut to the file by using the right mouse button to drag it to the desktop, and selecting Create Shortcut(s) Here. Right-click on the shortcut and select Properties. Click on the Program tab and select the Close on Exit box. Next, click on the Advanced button and make sure "MS-DOS mode" is selected and "Warn before entering MS-DOS mode" is not. Click on OK and on OK again. Give your new shortcut a unique icon and name. Whenever you double-click on the icon, Win95 will restart, no questions asked.

A Better Clipboard

When using the Windows 95 clipboard, each time you paste something to it, its old contents are removed. However, Windows 95 has a ClipBook that can be used to save and reuse clippings. To install it, 1) Put the Windows 95 CD-ROM in your CD drive, 2) Select Add/Remove Software, 3) Go to the Windows Setup tab, 4) Click Have Disk > Browse > d:\Other\Clipbook (d:=CD-ROM), 5) Double click CLIPBOOK.INF, 6) Check ClipBook Viewer and then install. You will now be able to open ClipBook through your Start menu under the Accessories heading.



LCACE elections are in two months. Make and difference and become a leader, run for a position on the board of directors.



Best of Windows95

Now Taking Orders for the November 1997 Edition!

Windows95.com is proud to announce the long-awaited release of the November 1997 Edition of the **Best of Windows95.com** 32-bit Shareware Collection on CD-ROM. We are now taking orders for this release, and they started shipping this edition to subscribers in **December 1997**.

This four-disc set contains the all the most popular shareware on the Web site, and gives you access to over **TWO GIGABYTES** (2.7 Gigabytes, to be precise) of 32-bit shareware, freeware, and commercial demos instantly!

in the accompanying column instead of upgrading to Win 98, you won't have to upgrade any low-level system tools, such as Norton Utilities, even if they aren't Win 98 specific.

Activate the desktop. Right-click on an empty area of the desktop and select Active Desktop|View As Web Page to display Web-related content on your desktop background. This simply displays Web pages behind running apps and without window borders.

Features You'll Have to Wait For

For those of you who will inevitably upgrade to Windows 98, installing IE 4.0 now will ease the transition. But while much of the new OS's functionality is already available, you'll just have to wait for some fea-

About the CD-ROM

The CD-ROMs look and feel just like the Windows95.com Web site. You can **browse** the discs with any Web browser software, or use the Microsoft Internet Explorer included on the discs. You can click through the pages, and **download** the programs directly off the discs! Since the Windows95.com 32-bit Shareware Collection is updated so frequently, we'll be releasing an updated version of the CD-ROM every three months, so you won't miss out on any of the hot new Windows 95 shareware.

Some of the programs have distribution restrictions that do not allow us to distribute them directly, so in those cases, we've included links to their download addresses so that you can still enjoy them.

An Excellent Value

This CD Collection has already

tures.

While writing this column on a laptop running a beta of Windows 98, I discovered some new features you can't get in Win 95 or OSR2. For example, mobile users will appreciate Win 98's improved support for PC Cards. I popped in a network card while the system was running, and Win 98 not only immediately detected and correctly identified it but also installed all the drivers without powering down or rebooting. I couldn't do this with Win 95.

Win 98 includes all the OSR2 features you can't get now, such as FAT32, DriveSpace 3, and better power management. It also supports a single desktop that can span multiple graphics cards and monitors (something the Macintosh has been able to do for a decade).

sold **tens of thousands** of copies! You can order your November 1997 edition of the **Best of Windows95.com** 32-bit Shareware Collection on CD-ROM directly from InfoMagic for only **\$35 US** (plus shipping). Or, you can join the thousands of users who **subscribe** to the collection. To become a subscriber, simply purchase your first copy of the collection at full price and select the **Subscription Service** option on the order form. Then you'll **automatically get future updates for only \$25 each** (plus shipping) until you decide to cancel (if you're a previous subscriber, your subscription rate will not increase). **International orders are welcome**, and we will ship anywhere in the world.

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I think the best new feature of Windows 98 is the beefed-up version of TweakUI, which Microsoft will include on the CD. The utility will give you such options as separate on/off switches for the various animations (such as those in menus and list boxes), a way to hide the useless Internet desktop icon, and finally, the ability to force the Windows Explorer to correctly show filenames in all caps. This is a must-have. •

Byteline

"Click of death" strikes Iomega

Users of *Iomega's Zip* drives are reporting serious malfunctions in their drives and disks in a problem that has come to be known as the "click of death." Users report that, after a time, their Zip drives no longer read disks and instead produce a loud clicking sound, from which the problem gets its name.

Afflicted units reportedly no longer work once they get the "click of death," and numerous users reported damaged disks as well as data loss. The problem is not reported to be associated with Iomega's new storage product for handheld devices, called **Clik**.

MICROSOFT INTERNET EXPLORER 5.0 ALPHA

Microsoft is preparing their upgrade to Internet Explorer by designing a graphics-friendly web browser that will be released by the end of the year.

Internet Explorer 5.0 will support the vector graphics file format. Vector graphics format allows much smaller file sizes than the current bit-mapped graphics format without the usual loss of resolution following resizing.

AOL: More for Less

America Online bumps up unlimited access fee to \$21.95 and axes 500 CompuServe jobs. Nothing like paying more to get less.

New 56K Modem Standard Is Adopted

Major modem manufacturers have endorsed a new 56K standard, alleviating a major headache suffered by computer users who seek faster access to the Internet. The standard was hammered out by the *International Telecommunications Union*, an arm of the United Nations, at a conference in Geneva, Switzerland. ITU working groups have been debating the standard industry players hailed the new standard, which ends a for nearly a year. Most fierce marketing battle between two incompatible 56K technologies: X2, endorsed by *3Com Corp.* (U.S. Robotics) and K56flex, backed by *Rockwell International* and *Lucent Technologies*.

Netscape reportedly shopping itself around

Netscape is on the auction block, according to published reports *The Wall Street Journal* reported that *Netscape* would be selling some or all of its assets, quoting unnamed sources "familiar with the situation." *America Online*, *Sun Microsystems*, *Oracle*, and *IBM* are the companies named as being in serious discussions with *Netscape*

about investing in or purchasing the company, the newspaper reported. *AOL* was said to be interested in taking over or buying *Netscape's* popular Web site. *Netscape* officials declined to comment on the rumors.

Intel to make 16 kinds of Pentium II

Intel's strategy for this year borrows from an old American tradition: make a processor for every pot. Or at least a large number of different chips for servers and workstations. Similar to its strategy on desktops, Intel will release a wide variety of Pentium II processors based on its next-generation "Slot 2" architecture, which defines the chip's new packaging and improved performance characteristics. This will complement the release of at least four "Slot 1"-the current Pentium II architecture--chip designs for high-end desktops and low-end servers, including a 450-MHz desktop chip capable of running DVD titles with processing power to spare.

The buzz on the Iomagas Buz

Iomega Corp. has rolled out a new multimedia tool for consumer PC users, and also announced price cuts on its Jaz line of data storage drives. The new **Buz Multimedia Producer** provides tools to let users move multimedia files between consumer products. For example, home movies, photos and sound clips can be moved between products such as VCRs, digital cameras and PCs, Iomega officials said. The \$199 tool, now shipping in the United States, includes a video capture card, Ultra SCSI controller and associated software. Iomega also cut prices on the 1GB Jaz drives, from \$399 to \$299 for the external model and from \$299 to \$279 for the internal model.

SEAGATE TO ANNOUNCE NEW HARD DISK TECHNOLOGY

Seagate Technology Inc. will announce tomorrow that it has conceived a way to use lasers, microscopic lenses and tiny mirrors to potentially pack 10 to 20 times more data onto hard disk drives.

The new mechanism, called Optically Assisted Winchester technology, lets Seagate skip over the problems that current hard disks face. Recently, disk drive manufacturers have increased disk capacity by 60% a year, but the theoretical limit of current technology will be reached in 10 years. Without a new storage design, manufacturers will face a stone wall.

Some people have a hard time making decisions. They think the way to stay out of trouble is to stay out of sight.

Community Calendar

Computer Central

Chicagoland's Oldest and Largest
Multi-Vendor PC Show
and Sales for Home and Business

SUNDAY ONLY

March 29 1998

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Main Arena of Phys Ed Bldg.

Glen Ellyn, IL

SHOW HOURS 9:30 AM - 3:00 PM

Lets keep in touch!

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Kelly Teevin	kelly87@aol.com
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If you're interested, please E-mail J.J. Johnson at: jj1450xl@ix.netcom.com.

WINTIP OF THE MONTH

Win95 shipped with a backup utility that wasn't quite ready for prime time. Fortunately, Microsoft now offers a free update that fixes several known bugs in the original utility. It's faster, too. Download Faster Backup from the WinMag Free Win95 Software page at <http://www.winmag.com/win95/software.htm>.

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14 March 1998

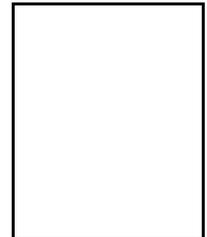
**Grant Township
Meeting Hall**

**411 Washington Ave.
Ingleside, Illinois**

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

L.C.A.C.E

Lake County Area Computer Enthusiasts
409 S. Elmwood Ave
Waukegan, IL 60085-5219



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