

BGA-Bytes



Official Newsletter of the
Bowling **G**reen **A**rea **M**icrocomputer
User **G**roup, Inc.

Jerry Gillette, Editor

Volume 11, Issue 09 September, 2001



News Media Websites Shine During Disaster

By Jerry Gillette

If you have not yet done so, you should visit the websites of some of the many news media services to see the technological wonders they have included to keep the public informed of the many events that have transpired

during the past couple weeks.

To get this information from TV with so much ongoing priority special coverage, you would have to stay glued to the set around the clock constantly clicking the remote.

I was amazed at the news we are missing by depending only on the TV.

For starters, check out the local sites first:

WBKO.COM & BGDAILYNEWS.COM

Then try some of the larger services for even more news:

msnbc.com - usatoday.com - wnbc.com - abc.com
washingontimes.com/ - cbs.com - nytimes.com/
& cnn.com just to name a few

See example coverage of some Technology News you may have missed for the week ending Sept. 16th starting on page 7.

BGAMUG September Presentation

After a short review of BGAMUG's member survey results and an overview of duties for the officers to be elected in November, this month's meeting will focus on the new operating system from Microsoft.



Plus, as always, have your questions ready for the Q & A.



President's message

God bless democracy

I realized the day after my birthday, September 11th, that I have not, after all, accomplished everything I set out to do this time around. This thought came on the heels of another, opposing sentiment, that I had ruminated on just before our country was attacked in a senseless cowardly act of pure evil.

What I have not done yet in this small life of mine, is I've not properly thanked and recognized the individuals - my countrymen - who fought for freedom over fifty years ago, and throughout the past half-century in various conflagrations around the world. Freedom and democracy are concepts that should be savored and ruminated on every day, even as we bow our heads at the supper table. Yet many of us take them as an entitlement, boastfully ticking off the Bill of Rights as if they were bequeathed by God.

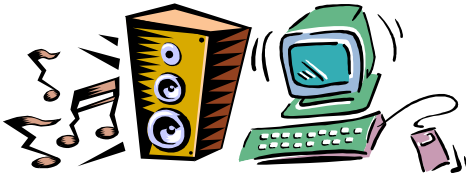
Until Tuesday happened, when all the bricks and glass came down in a crashing dust cloud of biblical proportions, I had become lulled into believing that America was beyond the reach of true overseas terrorism, the brand of hate that fills Jerusalem's streets nearly every day.

We will do different things now. We'll not allow knives on planes, and we'll take an eye for an eye, in hopes that deterrence will be enough.

As Americans, we will also judge our assailants, perhaps before the court of world opinion if no other court. And we will remember.

In the end, we can only trust. It is a matter of faith that we have to believe ourselves larger than this act, otherwise the future would be as hellish as trying to understand the level of fear onboard those fateful jetliners the eleventh of September.

Your President, Michael Moore



Connecting Your PC to Your Stereo

By Bruce Fries

author of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook.

If you've taken the time to put your music collection on your computer, you'll probably want to listen to it through a good stereo system. Even if your stereo isn't in the same room as your computer, there are several options for connecting the two, including direct analog cabling, USB Audio devices, wireless audio transmitters, and network audio receivers.

The most basic concept of connecting audio equipment is that inputs must always be connected to outputs. Sometimes you will still get sound if you mistakenly connect a sound card output to an output of a stereo receiver. When in doubt, connect the sound card output to the CD jack on your stereo-it's always an input.

Connect high-level (also called line-level) outputs to high-level inputs, and connect low-level outputs (such as a microphone) to low-level (Mic) inputs. Do not use the receiver's phono input jack because this is designed for a very low-level signal and has a special equalization circuit. Avoid using the sound card's headphone or microphone jack to connect to other equipment unless you have no other choice.

Most consumer sound cards have 1/8" mini phone jacks. A mono jack is used for the microphone input, and stereo jacks are used for the line-in, line-out and headphone. Better sound cards may have separate RCA jacks for the left and right channels. These are the same kind of jacks found on most home stereo systems. High-end sound cards may also have connectors for digital inputs and outputs.

The simplest connection between a computer and a stereo system is to run a cable directly from the sound card's line output to a line input of your stereo. To record from your stereo system to your computer, connect a cable from a line-out (or record) jack on your receiver to the line-in jack on your sound card.

If your sound card's line output is an 1/8" stereo mini-phone jack, you'll need an adapter cable (male 1/8" stereo mini-phone to dual male RCA). These cables can be purchased from most consumer electronics stores, such as Radio Shack, Best Buy and Fry's Electronics.

(Continued on page 4)

BGAMUG Welcomes Apollo Computers

In wake of the closing of Computer Renaissance, the new Apollo Computers officially opened for business the first of September at the same location, 2522 Scottsville Road across from Red Lobster.

According to co-owner Chad Brook, Apollo Computers will offer only new machines, unlike his previous employer, Computer Renaissance, which focused a large percentage of its business on used and refurbished equipment.

In addition to sales and service, Apollo Computers will offer Internet access.

For a Grand Opening Special during the month of October Apollo Computers is offering a full machine cleaning and diagnostics package that includes:

- Full Hardware Diagnostics
- Upgrade Information / Recommendations
- Driver CD
- Virus Scan
- Software Upgrades
- Cleaning and Dusting
- + Plus, they will install 64MB of memory **FREE** for systems using 168-pin PC133 SDRAM, while supplies last.

For only \$59.99

If you can't use the memory they will sweeten the pot with 3 months FREE Internet Access provided you sign-up for a \$19.95 mo. unlimited service 1 year contract with ApolloNet.

Co-owner Mack Thomas points out that you may need to leave your system for a few days if they get swamped, so you may want to call ahead.

Welcome Apollo Computers from BGAMUG

apollopc@fastwebonline.com.

Walter Hunt (left) and Chad Brook welcome all computer users to stop by and see the all NEW Apollo Computers
2522 Scottsville Rd
Bowling Green 843-8770



September 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8 Executive Board Meeting Barnes & Noble 11 AM
9	10	11	12	13	14	15 PICNIC @ Moore House 11:00 AM
16	17	18 Newsletter Folding 6:00 @ Library	19	20	21	22
23	24	25 BGAMUG Meeting 6:30 @ theJAIL	26	27	28	29
30						

October 2001

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6 Executive Board Meeting Barnes & Noble 11 AM
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16 Newsletter Folding & Training 6:00 @ Library	17	18	19	20
21	22	23 BGAMUG Meeting 6:30 @ the JAIL	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

USB audio devices perform the basic functions of a sound card, but outside of the PC, and are less likely to pick up noise from the PC's electronics. USB audio devices can be used for both recording and playback and are a good solution for notebook computer users who want higher quality sound.

The Roland UA-30 (www.edirol.com) is a flexible USB audio device that supports both Macs and PCs. The UA-30 works great and includes just about every type of input and output connector you might possibly need.

Wireless audio devices can transmit a stereo audio signal up to 300 feet. These devices typically include a transmitter and a receiver with standard RCA line-level input and output jacks. Wireless audio devices provide more flexibility than hard cabled connections, but are much more prone to interference compared to other types of connections.

The MP3 Anywhere Digital Audio Sender by X10 (www.X10.com) is a good wireless audio device for most users. It sells for under \$100 and uses the 2.4 GHz spectrum to reduce interference and provide a high quality connection. The MP3 Anywhere also includes a remote control and software, which allow you to control most popular player programs.

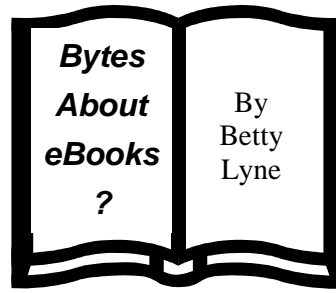
The ideal way to transmit audio from your PC throughout your house is by streaming the audio from your PC via a network. A network audio connection eliminates the loss of high frequencies, interference and hum typical of analog cable and wireless connections.

The Rio Receiver (www.riohome.com) is a very capable network audio device that allows you to access individual songs and playlists from your PC anywhere you have a telephone or network jack. The Rio has an LCD interface that displays song title, artist name and other information, and also includes a remote control.

Whatever your choice of PC to stereo connection, you will be able to use your computer as a digital jukebox and take full advantage of the latest digital music technologies to play high-quality music anywhere in your house.

For more information on connecting your PC to your stereo, pick up a copy of The MP3 and Internet Audio Handbook (\$19.95) from www.TeamComBooks.com or read it online for free at www.MP3Handbook.com.

Bruce Fries is a writer, technology consultant and entrepreneur who lives in Silver Spring, Maryland. He is an associate of the Audio Engineering Society and the founder of TeamCom Books, a customer-focused publishing company that combines the best of traditional print publishing with new media, such as e-books and the Internet.



You may be interested in knowing that we, the citizens of Bowling Green, now have the opportunity to view eBooks online from any Personal Computer connected to the Internet.

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COMING SOON

SPECIAL BBS INTRO WORKSHOP

- A special in-depth workshop is being setup by System Administrator Michael Moore for everyone interested in the all-new BGAMUG BBS Information System.
- You will learn various ways to access, navigate, and take full advantage of the many features offered by this resourceful BGAMUG telecommunication tool.
- The date, times and location for the workshops will be announced at this month's meeting, plus there will be a condensed version presented at the October meeting.

Public Service Announcement

This is a note to all would-be online auction participants.

Before sending photos of items you wish to auction, please put on some clothes before taking the picture, or consider items that are
non-reflective.

Tech Headline News from Leading News Media Websites

British retailers stop selling Microsoft Flight Simulator

Sept. 14 - Several British retailers have stopped selling Microsoft Flight Simulator after claims that terrorists could theoretically have honed their flying skills using the computer game, The Guardian reported. Microsoft denied the claims, but said it would remove images of the World Trade Center from future versions of the game. Virgin Megastores said in a statement, however, that the company didn't want to take any chances. Microsoft Flight Simulator has been sold at software retailers all over the world for years," the statement said. "Experts tell us it would have no relation to events in the US. However, as a mark of respect, copies will be withdrawn from sale forthwith." Woolworths also stopped selling Microsoft's Flight Simulator, as well as another game, Playstation 2's City Crisis, in which players save people from a burning building, the newspaper reported. Companies fear cyberterrorism Could the next wave of attacks come online?

SEATTLE (AP) - Microsoft said Friday it will remove depictions of the World Trade Center towers from future versions of Flight Simulator, its popular computer game that allows players to fly airplanes over New York City and other metropolitan areas. Microsoft spokesman Matt Pilla said the company decided Friday morning to remove the World Trade Center towers from the new version of the game, due out this fall. "We certainly want to do the right thing, and we're obviously as devastated as everyone else about this horrible tragedy," Pilla said.

Gamemakers in sticky position following attack

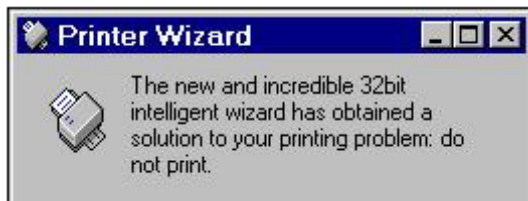
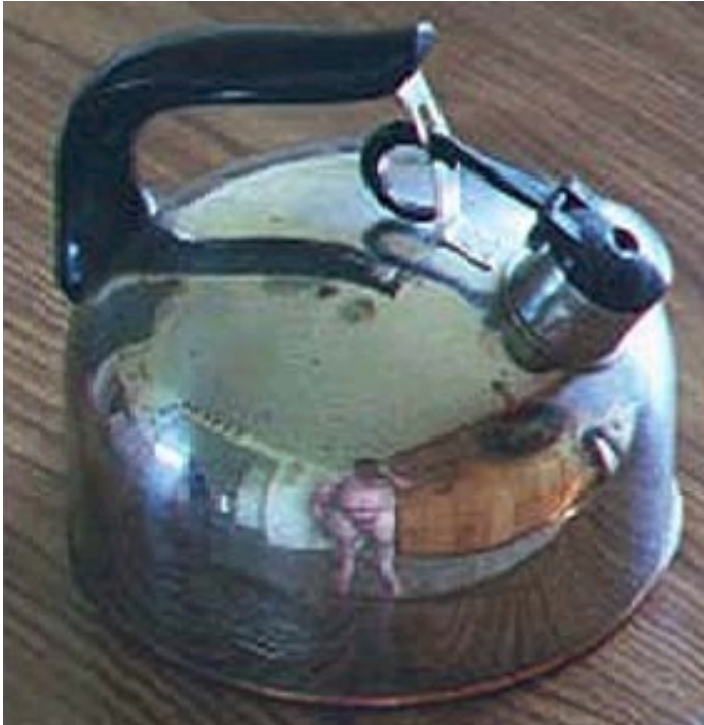
Following Tuesday's terrorist attacks, gamemakers are re-evaluating titles currently in development, such as a new addition to the Duke Nukem series, featuring the eponymous adventurer blasting his way through New York.

Online disaster-relief scams spring up

Consumer advocacy groups are warning people to beware of online disaster relief scams in the wake of Tuesday's terrorist attacks, Computerworld reported. Advocacy groups say they've received reports of scammers sending out e-mails asking for assistance for "emergency relief funds," and directing recipients to contribute money through their Web sites.

Corporations taking steps to protect computer networks

SAN FRANCISCO, Sept 14 - Corporations are taking steps to protect computer networks after this week's strikes on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, fearing that the next attacks might be launched online, experts said. **ALTHOUGH MANY COMPANIES** were in shock this week, some executives did not waste any time in preparing for possible cyber attacks, which often follow closely on the heels of international conflicts, experts said. In a recent example, there were numerous defacements of U. S. Web sites after the April 1 collision between a Chinese jet



fighter and a U.S. surveillance plane. "A lot of people are concerned about cyberterrorism since the attacks," said Joel Pogar, director of information security at Calence Inc., a computer network consulting firm in Phoenix. "Electronic attacks are even easier to do because you don't have to do them on U.S. soil," Pogar said. "The Internet and electronic communications are a lot more vulnerable. You don't need a plane to attack an Internet connection." Pogar said he's seen at least a 50 percent increase in business since Tuesday, with smaller firms seeking to upgrade firewalls and intrusion detection systems that keep malicious hackers out. A major financial institution has asked Calence to help separate its national computer network into five regional networks so the whole system won't be compromised if security is breached at one office, Pogar said.

BACK TO PAPER In another case, a chip manufacturing company has decided to temporarily take down its external Internet links with suppliers until it is sure its partners have their networks secured, Pogar said. "They're going low-tech, back to paper and faxes and what we used to do in the 1980s before we had virtual private networks and widespread Internet connections," Pogar said. Some customers who have their networks watched by Counterpane Internet Security also have requested additional monitoring services, according to Bruce Schneier, chief technology officer of the Cupertino, California-based company. "Existing customers very quickly wanted help and assurances," Schneier said. Foundstone Inc., a security consulting and managed services firm based in Irvine, California, also starting taking in more business since Tuesday, despite losing its office in the World Trade Center. "That day we got called and had a few people who wanted immediate attention," said Foundstone President George Kurtz. "They wanted for us to take a look at their perimeter and make sure their network is locked down." Some companies were at least taking the minimal step of blocking out encrypted e-mails to their networks, said Russ Cooper, surgeon general of TruSecure Corp., a security services provider based in Herndon, Virginia.

Chain e-mails rally Americans Spam now used to create unity across the country

Sept. 14 - Mass e-mailings, which have long annoyed people by flooding inboxes with bad jokes, get-rich-quick schemes and "Top 10" lists, are now being used to try to rally Americans after the devastating terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. FROM LIGHTING CANDLES to wearing the red, white and blue colors of the American flag, several e-mails are swirling around the country, urging readers to, in the words of one, "show those terrorists that we Americans stick together." That e-mail said Friday should be "Flags Across America" day, and asked citizens to display a U.S. flag at their homes or in their cars. "Let's keep the meaning of UNITED in 'United States,'" the e-mail read. Another declared Friday to be "U.S. Color Day." "Red, white and blue should be worn in honor of our fellow Americans that died. The goal is to get the whole nation to participate," it said, adding, "Send this to 10 other people." A third mass e-mail asked people to stop whatever they are doing at 7:00 p.m. Friday evening and light a candle. "We will show the

world that Americans are strong and united together against terrorism. Please pass this to everyone on your e-mail list. We need to reach everyone across the United States quickly." None of the e-mails seen by Reuters contained information about who authored them or where they originated.

What e-mails have you received?
Post them on a discussion board at
<http://www.msnbc.com/news/628874.asp>

British cyberpolice join hunt for terrorists

LONDON (AP) - British authorities have asked all phone companies and Internet service providers to preserve communications data stored Tuesday in case they contain important clues to the identity of the terrorists who attacked Washington and New York. The National High-Tech Crime Unit, set up earlier this year to fight crime related to information technology, said data stored Tuesday may hold vital evidence about those responsible for the devastating attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. "By working swiftly to contact the communications service providers in the U.K., I hope that we will be able to offer valuable assistance to U.S. authorities in investigating the appalling events of recent days," said Detective Chief Superintendent Len Hynds, head of the London-based unit.

Could cyber attack be next?

The FBI's National Infrastructure Protection Center held an emergency meeting Wednesday to analyze the threat of cyber attacks. An assault on computer and communication systems could cripple the USA as badly as a physical attack, according to several Pentagon studies.

Feds enlist ISPs in terrorist probe

By Richard Stenger CNN

(CNN) -- Major Internet Service Providers (ISPs) in the United States said Thursday they are cooperating with federal authorities in the investigation of the terrorist attack on New York and Washington.

The FBI served EarthLink with a search warrant to gather electronic information relating to national security, said Dan Greenfield, spokesperson for the Atlanta, Georgia-based ISP.

eBay bans sale of all WTC, Pentagon memorabilia

LOS ANGELES, California (Reuters) -- The online auction site eBay has banned the sale of all World Trade Center and Pentagon memorabilia after everything from chunks of rubble and bits of glass to video tapes of the disaster appeared for sale within hours of Tuesday's attacks.

BGA-bytes is the monthly publication of the Bowling Green Area Microcomputer User Group, Inc. (BGAMUG). BGAMUG is a nonprofit, charitable educational society recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)3 tax-exempt charitable organization. Donations to BGAMUG may be tax-deductible.

The views expressed in BGA-bytes are those of the author(s), and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of BGAMUG.

BGAMUG is a member of the Association of PC User Groups (APCUG).

BGAMUG holds regular presentation / membership meetings the fourth Tuesday of each month (except December) at the Bowling Green Police Department Training / Community Room, 911 Kentucky Street.

The public is invited to attend our regular presentation meetings. To join, our annual membership dues are \$25 for an individual, and \$35 for a family membership.

ADVERTISING RATES
BGA-bytes COMMERCIAL ADVERTISING RATES are based on black & white camera ready copy, 8 1/2" x 11" standard paper.

SIZE	1X	12X
Full Page	\$50.00	\$550.00
Half Page	\$30.00	\$330.00
Quarter Page	\$15.00	\$165.00
Business Card	\$10.00	\$110.00

The deadline for advertising is the second Tuesday of each month. Please contact Betty Lyne, Editor Assistant (270) 843-9452 e-mail = bbl6728@aol.com or by mail to:

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Financial Statement
September, 2001

Ramona Bobbitt, Treasurer



Beginning Balance	--	
Input	--	
Output	--	
Ending Balance	--	

Available @ meeting

APCUG First Edition CD
CLOSEOUT

Packed with many useful shareware and freeware programs.

Only a few of these CD's remain and are only \$5.00

Pick one up at the meeting.

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