



The ICON Graphic Newsletter

of the ICON PC User Group

“Long Island’s Largest Computer Club”

February, 2008

President’s Corner

As you read this, the first month of the year has completely gone by. Fast wasn’t it? Well, it seems so to me since club business has been keeping me very busy.

Mid-month, I printed and mailed 80 letters and a dozen emails to computer-related small businesses in Nassau and Suffolk. This is a first step in the club’s outreach to businesses that I mentioned at the beginning of January’s meeting. We are seeking relationships with companies that might include, presentations, sponsoring the newsletter, donating products for door prizes, extending discounts to our members, and/or obtaining circulars, flyers and catalogs for the membership. We want to provide extra value to you as a member. If you know of any companies or stores that we should contact, let me know or write to me at president@iconpcug.org.

The Executive Board met on January 14th and discussed plans for the year ahead. We are still seeking people to give presentations at our monthly meetings.

On the 15th, I sent out press releases to forty or so weeklies in Nassau and Suffolk and posted February’s meeting in several locations on both of the Long Island Craigslist Web sites.

Frankly, in regard to business outreach, programs & presentations, and publicity, I can use help. If you have a few hours to donate, let me know.

Table Of Contents

Title	Page
A Childhood Memory/Nitty Gritty Dictionary	2
Windows EZ Tips	2
Fabulous File Managers	3-5
Helpful Hardware	5
Tom Cott Presentation/Holiday Party Pix	6
Holiday Party Pix Continued	7
Winners Circle Pix	8

I was at John White’s first in his series of workshops about word processing on January 18th (Thanks, John!!) and at the Market Pro computer show the morning of the 20th, giving out our new calendars and meeting people to let them know who we are and invite them to our meetings.

No wonder the month went by so quickly. As I’m sure it did for John Prankaitis, our former newsletter editor, who donated time every month to create and update our monthly newsletter. If you noticed the “former” in the previous sentence, John is unable to continue on creating our club newsletter due to his other obligations.

So... we are looking for help writing articles in our newsletter. We all enjoy picking up the newsletter at our general meetings. We also use it to introduce ourselves at our computer show booth. Please consider writing for the newsletter - most of the single column articles are not even a typewritten page.

Thanks again to Tom Cott for his excellent presentation at the January meeting on a wide variety of hardware to make various aspects of computing that much easier.

Tonight’s meeting will start off with a computer Q&A where you get to ask the questions and we all help you solve problems and gain information.

The Q&A will be followed by tonight’s presentation, “Google is Much More Than Searching. Laura Cummings will be demonstrating all of the cool, new online resources that Google is working to provide. She will discuss Google Desktop, IGoogle widgets, interactive mapping, using Google to see photos of where you drive, Google Documents, and other neat tidbits beta or otherwise. It looks as if Google is on the horizon of shaping our online future including the possibility of having a complete OS on the Internet.

If you have any ideas to improve the club, tell anyone on the Board. We want and are actively seeking new ideas.

Ira Brickman - ICON President

A CHILDHOOD MEMORY

An elephant and a crocodile were swimming in the Amazon, when the elephant spots a turtle sunning himself on a rock. The elephant walks over to the turtle, picks him up in his trunk and hurls him far into the jungle. "What did you do that for?" asks the crocodile. The elephant answers, "That turtle bit me when I was a baby, almost fifty years ago." The crocodile says, "And you remembered him after all these years? Boy, you sure do have a good memory."

"Yep," says the elephant. "I have turtle recall."

Windows EZ Tips

by Ira Brickman

Resize Web Page Fonts On The Fly In Internet Explorer

In Internet Explorer, while you are viewing a web page, hold down the CTRL key and use the scroll button on your mouse to increase or decrease the size of the fonts on the page.

Back & Forward In Internet Explorer

Speed up your web browsing while viewing a page in Internet Explorer by holding down the SHIFT key and use the mouse scroll wheel to quickly go forward or back through the pages you have viewed.

The Invisible "No To All"

When copying or moving files, there is a 'Yes to all' option, but not an apparent 'No to all' option. It exists but is invisible. To use the invisible "No to all" command just hold down the SHIFT key and click "No.: This will automatically answer no for all following files.

A Shutdown Or Restart Link On Your Desktop

To create a desktop shortcut to shutdown or restart your computer, right click on an empty area of your desktop and select 'New' and 'Shortcut.' For the location of the shortcut, type in "SHUTDOWN -s -t 01" to shutdown the system or "SHUTDOWN -r -t 01" to restart the system. Name the shortcut and that's it.

Rename Multiple Files Simultaneously

You can rename multiple files by highlighting all the files you wish to change, right clicking one of them and selecting 'Rename.' All the files will share the name you type in but each will have a different number in brackets after that name.

Create A 'My Computer' Toolbar

Drag your "My computer" icon to the right side of the taskbar. It will create cascading menus for easy drive, folder or file access.

Membership Corner

by Tom Engel

January's meeting presented by Tom Cott was a great success. We had 65 people attend the meeting one of the best turn-outs for a January meeting. We had 10 new members join last month three of which were family memberships. There were also 9 renewal memberships for a total of 19 members.

We are looking for a new logo for the ICON PC User Group those members with artistic backgrounds are invited to submit their ideas to the board.

THE NITTY GRITTY DICTIONARY

By Rich Luken

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOR: A place where women curl up and dye.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS: The only animals you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone who is usually me-deep in conversation.

GOSSIP: A person who will never tell a lie if the truth will do more damage.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold Storage.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: Grape with a sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell to one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labor saving devices of today.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.

WRINKLES: Something other people have. You have character lines.

For Our Members

Our user group members are entitled to a 30% discount off the list price of any books from Peachpit Press (<http://www.peachpit.com/>) purchased online. At checkout, right before you put your credit card number in, you must enter a user group coupon code. This coupon code is an exclusive offer that may not be used in conjunction with any other coupon codes. You will find the user group coupon code on the ICON Yahoo! Group, in the files section, listed as ?peachpit discount.pdf

Fabulous File Managers

By Larry Cohen

This month I will analyze several extremely useful **file managers** that replace the weak Windows Explorer. [Note: For those that remember the old file manager, winfile.exe, from WIN 3.1 and 95 — in my view, even this program was superior to Windows Explorer.]

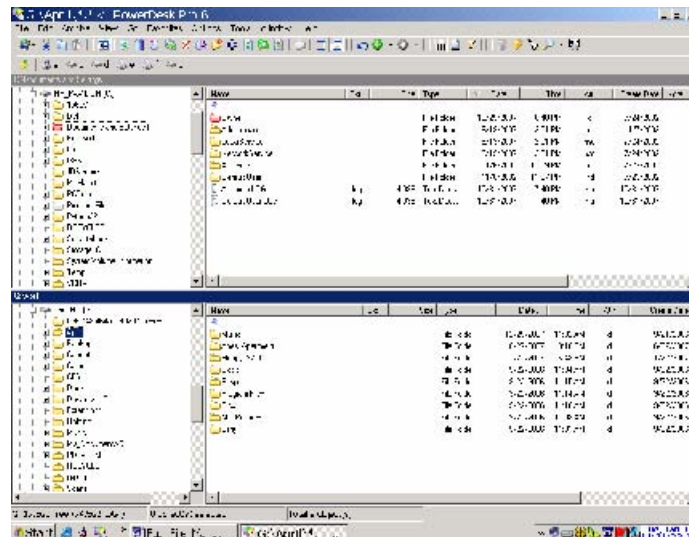
The first one that I will discuss, **and my favorite**, is “PowerDesk” from V. Communications. It is available in two configurations – PowerDesk Pro, and a **freeware** version called PowerDesk Standard. The Pro version of PowerDesk includes the following features:

- ◆ 32 compression formats
- ◆ File preview viewer that supports 150 file types including thumbnails of all your graphics
- ◆ Drag and drop FTP from the PowerDesk interface
- ◆ **Fast File Finder that searches multiple drives for your files**
- ◆ And no nag screen when it shuts down.

The Pro version list for \$39.99, but I have received e-mails offering it for as low as \$19.99. What advantages does one get by replacing Windows Explorer with PowerDesk? (Using the options menu you can make PowerDesk your default file manager.) They are:

- ◆ For one thing, you get either a horizontal or vertical DUAL pane screen where you can drop and drag files! You also have the ability to add NOTES to any file. (Especially useful when a file has an obscure name.) Some other extremely useful functions:
- ◆ File Filtering using wildcards.
- ◆ Choice of folder colors.
- ◆ File information when you move your mouse over a file.
- ◆ Graphic format conversion ability (30 formats).
- ◆ Digital Camera Support including thumb nail views (size adjustable) in any folder.
- ◆ Digital Music Support including editing of MP3 tags.
- ◆ The ability to print the result of file searches including searches inside compressed files. (E.g. – zip, cab, etc.)
- ◆ File Synchronization
- ◆ Size Manager including a graphic view of the space used by each folder
- ◆ FTP that works similar to any other folder; The ability to compress files (zip, cab, etc.). Encryption.
- ◆ And one of my favorite features – “Dialog Helper” – that lets one open the last ten files or folders visited.

PowerDesk’s Dual View



http://www.v-com.com/product/PowerDesk_free.html

http://www.v-com.com/product/PowerDesk_Pro_Home.html

Although I have not used them extensively, three other file managers are worthy of consideration —**and they're free!** They are 'FileAnt,' 'Free Commander,' and 'BonCommander.'

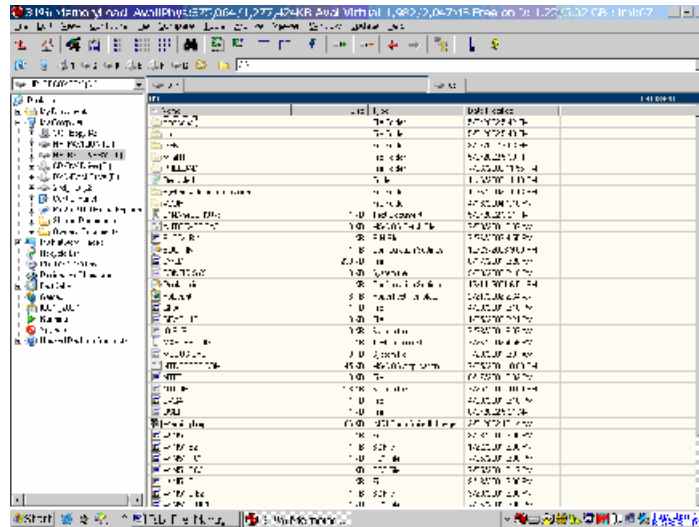
FileAnt - Although FileAnt comes close to PowerDesk in functions, it does not match it. However, it is certainly a respectable substitute for Windows Explorer. [There is one disadvantage I have found however, it usurps the shortcut menus of other programs.]

The following description is from the FileAnt website. (Opinion: The website uses horrible colors.)

“FileAnt is a Windows File Manager (like explorer) on tabs, it is also a cool Ftp Client and has nice features such as folder pie charts, and a viewer for commonly used file formats. It loads quickly from the tray and uses very little memory to achieve what it does. The Ftp Client is semi-intelligent, multi-download (you can keep browsing while downloading lots of files) and written from scratch by me using the winsock. The Pie Chart features 2D telescopic browsing. Advanced tools let you modify file dates, sync folders, and change file attributes en masse. There is also a nice little mp3 player in the tray. Release 20070519

FileAnt supports XP themes. FileAnt does not interfere with explorer and does not attempt to do any strange or annoying stuff to your pc. FileAnt will use some of the same settings as explorer, such as 'show extension'. You can configure many extra settings such as background and font colors. It also has some 2000 advanced file manager features, such as thumbnails (which will even work on Win9x).

The code behind FileAnt is very tight, I use type libraries and numerous low level testing programs. FileAnt has been designed and tested on Win98se, Win2000, WinXP Home/Pro and 2003 Enterprise Server. Requires Internet Explorer 4 or greater. It should work in Vista, I have looked but not tested yet, you may need to set permissions, etc.”



<http://www.fileant.com/>

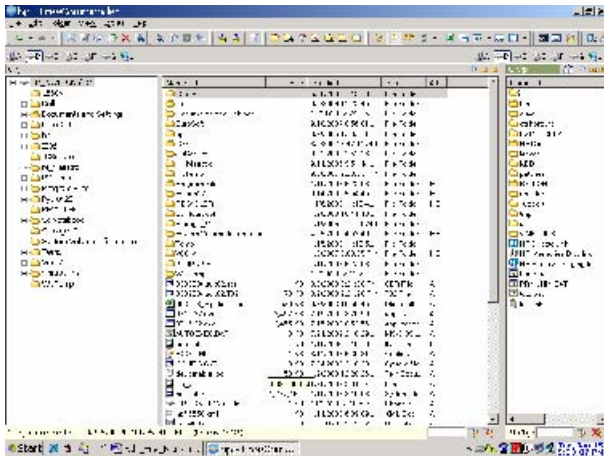
FreeCommander - Like FileAnt, FreeCommander is a decent replacement for Windows Explorer. Once again, in my view, not as proficient as PowerDesk. None the less it performs almost the same functions as PowerDesk. (I do not like the layout as much.) Here is a description from the FreeCommander website: [\[http://www.freecommander.com/index.htm\]](http://www.freecommander.com/index.htm)

“FreeCommander is an easy-to-use alternative to the standard windows file manager. The program helps you with daily work in Windows. Here you can find all the necessary functions to manage your data stock. You can take FreeCommander anywhere - just copy the installation directory on a CD, USB-Stick or even a floppy disk - and you can even work with this program on a foreign computer.”

(Fabulous File Managers continued)

Main features in FreeCommander:

- ◆ Dual-panel technology - horizontal and vertical
- ◆ Tabbed interface
- ◆ Optional tree view for each panel
- ◆ Built in file viewer to view files in hex, binary, text or image format
- ◆ File viewer inside archives too
- ◆ Built in archive handling: ZIP (read, write), CAB (read, write), RAR (read)
- ◆ Nested archive handling
- ◆ Easy access to system folders, control panel, desktop and start menu
- ◆ Copy, move, delete, rename files and folders
- ◆ Wipe files
- ◆ Create and verify MD5 checksums
- ◆ File splitting
- ◆ File properties and context menu
- ◆ Calculation of folder size
- ◆ Folder comparison / synchronization
- ◆ Modification of file date and attributes
- ◆ Folder / program favorites
- ◆ File searching (inside archive too)
- ◆ File filters for display
- ◆ User defined columns for detailed view
- ◆ DOS command line
- ◆ Multiple language support”



Next Month: Bon Commander



Thanks to Larry Cohen for his contributions to the ICON Graphic Newsletter

Helpful Hardware

At the January meeting, ICON member Tom Cott presented information about hardware to help make computing a bit easier and more reliable.

The items he demonstrated included:

External Hard Drive Enclosure: Although a familiar item to most, Tom pointed out how anyone can easily take an internal drive and create an external USB drive to use for backing up files and even imaging whole hard drives. External drives, of course, also provide additional storage and can be formatted in a way that permit newer computers to use them to boot alternative operating systems.

USB-To-USB Cable: This special cable permits two computers to link up to copy files and folders. Special electronics in the cable make the “link up” automatic under Windows.

IDE-To-USB Cable: This cable permits temporarily connecting a bare internal IDE hard drive to a computer. It’s uses are the same as that of an external USB enclosure but there is no case. The “kit” also comes with a separate power brick and cord that is used to connect power to the drive.

IDE "Benzi-Box": This device converts an internal drive into a device that can easily be removed from a computer case. Tom emphasized that the “Benzi Box” itself is invisible to the computer but that the hard drive is not. Having easily removed hard drives permits using different internal drives for different purposes, from using different operating systems to serve as a second drive for backing up a primary internal drive or simply providing additional storage.

Liberator "WYE" AC Power Sockets: This is a power cord that is often described as an “octopus.” The one shown by Tom makes it easier to connect two power packs to a power strip outlet by providing two foot-long cords that connect to a single outlet. This permits most wide single power packs to no longer take up two or more outlets on a strip.

Molex "WYE" Cable: A molex connector is the one used to connect power to IDE hard drives. This cable provides two connectors for single internal molex connector coming from a power supply. This permits connecting more internal hard drives in a computer.

Hard Drive Fan: The fan unit shown by Tom contained two fans that attach under an internal hard drive to provide additional cooling. This is important since heat can be fatal to hard drives.

ICON thanks Tom for his interesting and informative presentation.



G Kudos to **Tom Cott** for his excellent presentation at ICON's January meeting (above). Below are pictures from ICON's annual Holiday Dinner. A great time was had by all in attendance. Several holiday prize winners are also shown. Thanks to all of our members for another successful year. And the happy door prize winners from the January meeting are on the last page. Congratulations to all!

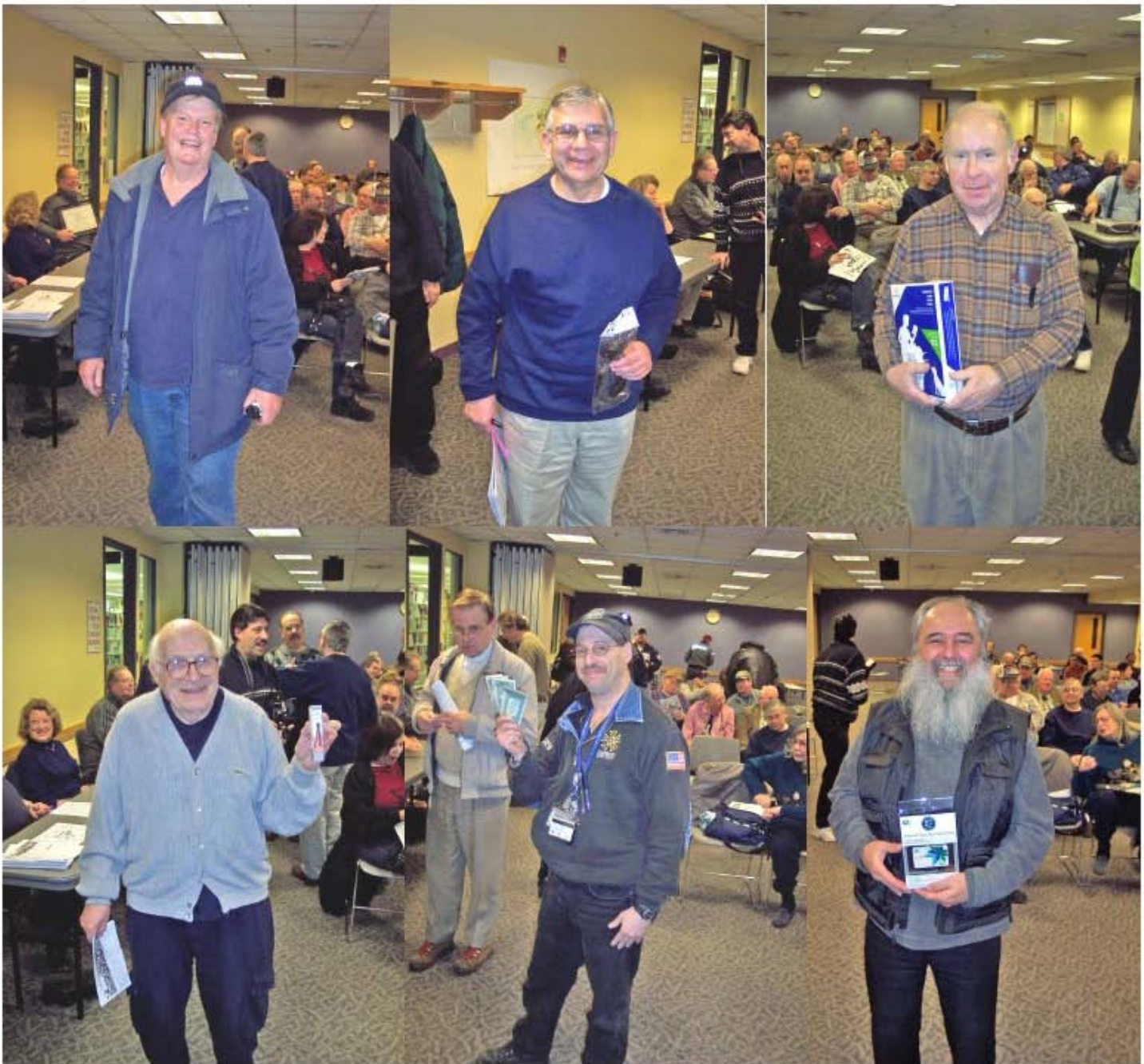
9

Thank you, Tom Engel, for 17 years of faithful service to the ICON membership, including 14 years as our President.





Happy Holidays
From
ICON Computer Club



PC RICHARD & SON Est. 1969
"The Appliance • Electronics • Computer Giant!"

DISCLAIMER

This newsletter is freeware / shareware . It may be copied, duplicated and shared with others. The information that has been placed into the newsletter has been obtained from many sources and cannot always be verified. Before applying any suggested changes, you should completely backup your system and verify the recommendation(s) with the manufacturer(s) of your system and its components.

**COMPUTER
 MarketPro
 SHOWS**

www.marketpro.com
 (201) 825-2229

Instant Coupon!

Save Up to 80% on All Your Computer Needs!

One admission per coupon. One Coupon per person. Not valid at TCF. MarketPro reserves the right to refuse coupon for any reason at any time.



Saturday, February 16th: One-Day MarketPro Computer Show at the Islandia Marriott. See www.MarketPro.com for directions. \$7 admmiss