Basic DSL: High speed comes home

By Manley Mandel

Many Houstonians now have the opportunity to get onto the high-speed lane of the Internet. Many Mac users probably will not need this service. Those who do are those downloading megabytes of material (programs, photo albums, books, movies etc.) and want to accomplish in minutes what has taken hours with 33.6 modems. Others, like myself, want to videoconference with the family. Gamers would like interactive shootouts. To do this well requires greater bandwidth than an analog modem provides.

As an example, using CUSeeMe (White Pine Software, Nashua, NH or http://cuseemworld.com) and QuickCam (http://www.quickcam.com), grayscale images with a 33.6 modem are displayed at two frames per second in a herky-jerky fashion and accompanying voice transmission has been unsatisfactory. I would like to do a lot better than that, so I have explored the new options.

Cable service would have been lovely, but Time Warner still has not begun Roadrunner service in Houston, although they are taking orders for it (www.timewarnerhouston.com). In my case, I would have to reroute our present cable service at considerable cost. ISDN lines are available, but are more costly and slower than the Digital Subscriber Lines being offered by the phone companies and various ISPs.

Southwestern Bell offers ADSL (Asymmetric Digital Subscriber Line) service. Go to http://www.swbell.com to see if your phone is capable of

connecting to this service. Mine was, and I placed the order for the basic DSL service. Pricing information is available at (888) 792-0999 or through e-mail to sales@swbell.net. Aside from hardware costs, the monthly charge is about what I was paying for the extra phone line, in-line service, and for the deteriorating service of Netcom. The service is compatible with any computer using Ethernet and operating systems through OS 8.5.1 (8.6 should be OK).

Basic DSL service is $39 per month with a one-year contract. Southwestern Bell Internet Service for ADSL subscribers is $10 per month for unlimited service and high-speed transfers throughout the

Better (Yep), Faster (Definitely), Cheaper (2 outta 3 ain't bad)

net. They guarantee a minimum of 128 KBPS service upstream and up to 1.5 MBPS downstream, whereas if the connection is handed off to another Internet Provider, the only guarantee is from your machine to their nearest switching station.

The downside is that ADSL is a little more expensive than the cable system. The hardware (an Alcatel 1000 modem, the POTS splitter, a Kingston KNE40T Network Interface Card, which you may not need but take it as they include it in the package) costs $199 plus a $14 installation fee. With the SWB package comes a dynamic IP number, three POP e-mail boxes and a three meg Personal Home Page. News Server access and an Extra Access Analog Modem Access

Account are also provided.

This latter feature is a great plus. I have access to my mailbox and the Internet via the 33.6 modem and Windows machine at my desk at no extra cost. I can also dial in from my Notebook (if I only had one) to connect from any line in the USA at four cents per minute, a non-option on cable

There are other DSL providers in Houston primarily servicing the business community. For example: Verio (www.verio.com) service can be provided at much higher rates of transmission and cost.

The big day arrived on May 11. Randy Herzstein came over to watch since he was scheduled to get an enhanced installation on the 13th. The installer arrived. He neatly disconnected my extra phone line, installed the POTS splitter on the incoming phone service and routed the digital service over the extra line to the jack where my SupraXpress modem used to reside. Now all that remained was for him to plug the Alcatel modem to that line, connect the power (which we did via the UPS) and connect the modem to the Ethernet connector on the rear of my Performa 6115.

Whoops! The Performa has the old style Ethernet connector, not the newer standard one. Never fear—Randy was here. And in a flash, he went to his house and returned with the proper Ethernet adapter, which did the mating job. I booted up and was on the Internet via Netscape Communicator. The installer left, Randy stayed and configured the

Board Minutes 5/27/99

These are excerpts and unapproved.

In attendance were Jeff Davis, David Jaschke, David Scheuer, Joe Fournet, Elizabeth English, Stephen Cravey, Bob McGuinness, Lyda McGhee, George Sroka, Amy Denton, Patty Winkler, and Randy Herzstein.

Secretary Lyda McGhee's minutes were approved as read.

Programs Vice President Stephen Cravey reported that **Adobe will be back with us in June** demonstrating InDesign. July is the Swap Meet. August will be VST hopefully .

Facilities Vice President Alán Alán Apurim was absent and no report was given. Jeff will check the July 17th date with the U of H to confirm the date for the swap meet.

Treasurer Elizabeth English reported a net income of $1,304.56 as of 5/26/99.

Membership Chairman David Jaschke reported on membership statistics.

Apple Barrel Editor George Sroka reported that there was little to no copy to date and asked that everybody think of something to write. He wants to use negatives and more pictures. Giving ImageSet a free ad in exchange for the extra service will cut the cost of printing by $40. Mention was made of the need for an ad for HAAUGNet, which George agreed to produce.

Apple Barrel Ad Manager Peter Gingiss was absent and no report was given.

SIG Coordinator David Scheuer reported there was a problem with the A/C at the last meeting. There was a problem with the Ethernet plugs. The contractor had evidently sprayed them full of sheetrocking stuff, making them useless.

Andrew was late because of an accident, so Useless but Neat was not held. Larry McLaoughlin was ill, so there was no Internet SIG. The club's Mac died again, so Clair had no machine for her Quicken SIG, so it was cancelled.

In June Andrew of Useless but Neat and Joe of PowerBook will both be out of town. Unless someone wants to take over for a month. they will be cancelled. And the Games SIG is without a computer since they have been using Andrew's. Also Internet is uncertain for June because David doesn't know if Larry is well yet.

Volunteer Manager Peter Gingiss was absent and no report was given.

Apple/Mac Librarian Mike Brouillette was absent and no report was given.

Publicity Chairman Kimberly Reeves was absent and no report was given.

Boutique Chairman Amy Denton reported that the Boutique is doing well. She also informed us that her supplier will ship stuff to her, so she doesn't have to spend hours getting there. Patty Winkler has agreed to take over for June. July is the swap meet and not a lot happens then, so we'll just wait for August when Amy will be back.

OLD BUSINESS

HAAUG Heaven: Randy Herzstein reported that he wants to use Timbuktu to administer HAAUG Heaven. He is also still working on automating backups.

The Audit Committee: We still need someone to head the committee. The 1996 Audit Committee Report was never given and they still have the books.

ISP Committee Status Report: We have more paying users and no major problems have been reported.

NEW BUSINESS

George Sroka is going to try to find a database to buy to do a direct mail campaign to solicit new members. He asked about sending certain people (those who so desire) the Barrel in Adobe Acrobat (pdf) format and not mailing it to them. However, Jeff Davis pointed out the pdf issue had been discussed and resolved about a year ago when the Board decided it was best to continue mailing the newsletters.

Funds for the December 1999 meeting site were approved.

Up to $250 was approved to create and print updated brochures.

Randy Herzstein was appointed sysop, replacing Paul Wood.

Jeff may have found a new computer for the club.

Lyda McGhee will bring her digital camera to the next meeting to photograph board members, officers, SIG leaders, etc so Jeff can create real name tags.

Bottom of the Barrel

HAAUG wishes to thank HAL-PC for providing HAAUG with Internet service.

HAAUG Officers
President: Jeff Davis
First VP – Programs: Stephen Cravey
Second VP – Facilities: Alán Alán Apurim
Secretary: Lyda McGhee
Treasurer: Elizabeth English
Senior Advisor: Howard Fitter
Directors: Joe Fournet, Mike Epstein, Randy Herzstein, Michael Lawshae, Patty Winkler, Bob McGuinness.
Past President: Rex Covington
HAAUG Heaven Sysop: Randy Herzstein
HH Administrator: Neal Scott
Membership: David Jaschke
Apple Barrel Editor: George Sroka
Apple II Librarian: Mike Brouillette
Mac Librarian: Mike Brouillette (acting)
SIG Coordinator: David Scheuer

Ad Manager: Peter Gingiss (acting)
Publicity Chairman: Kimberly Reeves
Vendor Coordinator: Alán Alán Apurim
Volunteer Coordinator: Peter Gingiss
Apple Barrel Publishing
The Apple Barrel was produced by a committee including Elizabeth English, Jerry Jones, Manley Mandel and Bob McGuinness, led by George Sroka on various Macs running PageMaker, among other things. April Enos designed the logo in the masthead.

Mac and Apple SIGs Wanted
Volunteers who have ideas for SIGs to run, please contact David Scheuer at (713) 464-1228 or send e-mail to david_scheuer@haaug.org.

Articles Needed - All Flavors
Send any articles to Apple Barrel Drop or to apple_barrel_drop@haaug.org.

HAAUG**Net**

The most Mac-friendly Internet Service Provider (ISP) in Houston

Setup includes a one time, non-refundable $45 charge, six months of service for $60 and sales tax of $8.66 for a total of $113.66. Renewals will be available for six months at $64.95 or twelve months at $129.90. HAAUGNet applications available at next meeting.

Only current HAAUG members can join HAAUGNet. Other terms and conditions apply (see below). Support will be via HAAUG Heaven. HAAUGNet members will enjoy unlimited internet access and access to 1,000's of new groups. Join up, save money AND support HAAUG.

The purpose of HAAUGNet is to advance and promote low cost access to the Internet for HAAUG members. HAAUGNet is intended to assist in the collaboration and exchange of information between and among members, SIGs, officers and the general public.

HAAUG membership is required to obtain a HAAUGNet account and to renew a HAAUGNet account. Annual HAAUG membership dues are $45 to join ($40 for students) and $40 to renew.

The goal of HAAUGNet is to promote education and training in innovative technology. To achieve this, the system must provide quality, equitable and cost-effective access, communication, and technical resources to the PC community in Houston and Texas.

Terms and Conditions

I understand that membership in HAAUGNet includes the following conditions:

1. Any use of HAAUGNet for commercial purposes is prohibited.

2. Access to a full service PPP.

3. Each member is allowed unlimited attended usage, 10 megabytes of disk space for a home page, mail, and personal storage. Maximum e-mail message size will be 2 megabytes.

4. There are no assurances of privacy on HAAUGNet.

5. HAAUGNet accounts should be used only by the authorized owner of the account for the authorized purpose. Each member is solely responsible for his/her account and the way it is used. HAAUG/HAAUGNet shall not be held liable for any damages resulting from access provided or from objectionable material obtained with this access.

6. All communications and information accessible via HAAUGNet should be assumed to be private property unless expressly stated otherwise.

7. Any HAAUGNet user's traffic that traverses another network will be subject to that network's acceptable use policy.

8. Any use of HAAUGNet for illegal purposes, or in support of illegal activities, is prohibited.

9. No use of HAAUGNet shall serve to disrupt the use of the network by other users.

10. Failure to abide by such policies as are deemed necessary by the System Administrators or abuse of privilege as determined by the System Administrators may result in loss of membership in HAAUGNet and forfeiture of all funds paid for such membership.

11. All membership fees are subject to change without notice and membership will expire automatically if not renewed.

12. These Terms and Conditions are subject to change and/or restriction at any time without prior notice.

DSL Basic*… continued from page 1*

First Class Client to route me through to HAAUG Heaven. Bits and bytes now jump out of the monitor faster than my processor can handle them.

The Star Wars Episode I trailer (25 MB at 480 x 216 pixels) took 4.5 *minutes* to download at 82 KBPS. With my 225 megahertz G3 upgrade card reinstalled (that's another story), the same trailer downloaded in 2.4 minutes. By contrast, I downloaded it at my office using a 133MHz Pentium and 33.6 K modem taking 85 minutes at 3.4 K!

For online reports on DSL from other users & comparisons with cable modems: http://www.macfixit.com/reports/cable-dsl.shtml#DSL
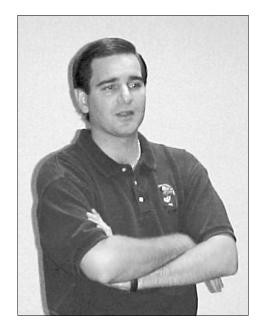
NEXT MEETING

Saturday, June 19
UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON
Main Campus University Center
Main Presentation: Adobe InDesign

Washington Mutual's online banking demo'd at May meeting

Jay Coppock of Washington Mutual demonstrated the company's online banking services at the HAAUG Main Presentation in May. The company offers a wide range of financial services to account holders with Internet access using a version 4-or-better browser. In it's former life as Savings of America, the company offered Mac-friendly direct dial banking services using Quicken. The new web-based service is also Quicken friendly. Coppock demonstrated the web service using a Compaq PC, which prompted several minutes of good-natured ribbing. The audience eventually forgave him for that transgression.

BTW Net Acronyms FWIW

By Betty English
betty@cityscope.net

It was suggested that I write up a list of acronyms that are frequently used on the net (and on BBS's, for that matter). So here are a few of the ones I've seen most frequently.

BTW   By The Way
FWIW   For What It's Worth
IMHO   In My Humble Opinion
IMNSHO   In My Not So Humble Opinion
OTOH   On The Other Hand
RSN   Real Soon Now
TANSTAAFL There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch
TIA   Thanks In Advance
SAUNA   Society Against UnNecessary Acronyms

There are lots more and they're all in a little thing called Smiley DA which

I'll post to HAAUG Heaven for those of you who are really interested. I lifted them from it, BTW.

GIGO   Garbage In, Garbage Out
DIIK   Darned If I Know
ESAD   Eat Spam And Die
BMUS   Beam Me Up Scotty
LMA   Last Minute Addition
IMBO   In My Biased Opinion
CBU   Carbon Based Unit (human)
SBU   Silicon Based Unit (computer, also known as CPU)
TDMMDI   The Devil Made Me Do It
LLAP   Live Long And Prosper

Here are a few that are probably favorites of tech support people:

RTM   Read the Manual
RTFM   Read the Fine Manual

Apple Barrel Deadlines

The Editorial Staff of the Apple Barrel thanks you for your support!

Post your articles (SimpleText format preferred) to the Apple Barrel Drop folder on HAAUG Heaven or to gsroka@aol.com on the Net. The dates we need copy by for the rest of the year are indicated blow. We'll update them as needed. Deadlines around the holidays could change.

(Editor's note: We prefer SimpleText, but will take just about anything.)

Copy Needed by	For Issue Dated
Jun 27th	July 1999
Jul 25th	August 1999
Aug 29th	September 1999
Sep 26th	October 1999
Oct 24th	November 1999
Nov 28th	December 1999
Dec 26th	January 2000

Beachware offers Mac-friendly games

By Bob McGuinness
bobmcg@hal-pc.org

I read in the San Diego MUG of a special offer by BeachWare and I contacted them by email to see if HAAUG members could take advantage of it.

BeachWare responded they are a small company within an hour of San Diego and couldn't do that because their CDs are so low priced to begin with (most softwre is priced at either $11.95 for download or $19.95 for CD).

They did offer to let me preview a couple of their CDs, and sent me NIGHT SKY INTERACTIVE and CASINO. All of their CDs are capable of running on both Mac and PC platforms. Each of these titles had Mac requirements of 256 colors, CD-ROM drive, and 4 Megs of RAM.

The first thing I learned was that my Mac was very unhappy when I tried to run these CDs in its standard set of Conflict Catcher extensions. The Mac started fine and I could load and run each of the CDs but after I quit the Mac froze. I contacted BeachWare and they suggested that I run the CDs in their own extension set. I have never had to do this for a CD before.

NIGHT SKY INTERACTIVE is a solid astronomy text-based primer. It is like what you expect to hear and see visiting a planetarium in educational value except for the still pictures. It would be wonderful for a child who has an interest in learning about astronomy.

CASINO is just like it sounds. You can select from six slot machines, two different poker games, blackjack or keno all for the purpose of losing your money to your hearts content. If your money runs out, you can go head for the ACM (Automatic Cash Machine) to get more or pawn your shoes, watch or house. If you like to gamble but not lose real money, you would be happy with this software.

You really need to go to BeachWare's website to see the range of their products like BOMBER BLITZ, or CAVERNS OF ATLANTIS & SUB HUNT that you can download and register for $11.95. In BB, you are the pilot of a bomber avoiding ground-to-air missiles that can not only decimate your plane, but obliterate your bombs in midair while trying to destroy (or defend) the two enemy cities and their three guns. I did not try these. I'll leave that up to you.

You can also download Freeware like Classy Clicks, a collection of a dozen classy and professional click sounds in .AIF format for the Mac.

BeachWare is located at
9419 Mt. Israel Rd., Escondido, CA 92029;
Website: www.beachware.com
Voice/Fax: 619-735-8945

Start sorting your software, hardware and peripherals now:

Swap Meet in July!

Helpful Phone Numbers

Here are a few phone numbers of people in the club to contact for help. These are the elected positions on the Board:

Jeff Davis–President
(713) 708-8253

Alán Alán Apurim – 2nd VP (Facilities)
(713) 741-1458

Lyda McGhee – Secretary
(713) 781-5053

Betty English – Treasurer
(713) 472-7089

Rex Covington – Past President
(281) 358-8442

Randy Herzstein – Director
(713) 664-4533

Michael Lawshae – Director
(281) 492-8789

Patty Winkler – Director
(713) 946-5914

Joe Fournet – Director
(281) 980-1802

Michael Epstein – Director
(281) 870-8584

We plan to run a few numbers each month so that every month there will be someone here to help new members. This month we ran the elected board positions.

S.I.Gs...

HAAUG Special Interest Groups are a great way to get the most from your computer and your membership. SIG meetings last about an hour. Plan to attend this month. Check at the entrance for the room assignments and updates of your selections.

Libraries 10 AM - 2 PM

HAAUG's Public Domain Libraries offer a wealth of software resources. Bring your own diskette or purchase them at the library. A list of software is available. Your diskette is made to order while you attend the meetings! For the Apple II or Mac Library see Mike Brouillette. Our Apple II Software Library is the major Apple II resource center in this part of the country! Check for new Zip disk collections, $15 each including the cartridge. Blank 100 meg Zip cartridges as well as blank 120 meg Imation Superdisk cartridges will be available at the HAAUG Library for only $13.50.

9:00 AM

MAC 101
KEN MARTINEZ – ATLANTIC RM.
Prerequisite, owning a Mac or Mac clone: This one-hour SIG is for beginners or those with basic Macintosh questions. Join us with your questions and/or conversation. This SIG is general although hardware oriented, Mac Fundamentals leans more toward system software.

SPREADSHEETS
JOE MUSCARA – PACIFIC RM.
A discussion group in which participants are invited to bring in problem spreadsheets - or upload them to Joe on HAAUG Heaven in advance so he can review the problem. Also, along with the problems, participants hopefully will bring solutions to problems that they have solved.

10:00 AM

APPLE II Q&A & SUPPORT
With the Apple II library

APPLEWORKS/CLARISWORKS
JOHN REEVES – PACIFIC RM.
Beginning and intermediate users. This is a 5 part SIG which demonstrates the use of the word, spreadsheet, and database modules of CW, and secondarily, draw and paint. Startup, use for correspondence, adding tables and spreadsheets, printing, mailing, and fun add-ons are main topics. We demonstrate the integration of the Mac OS with CW and resources for getting the most from CW and your Mac. Related Internet, troubleshooting and utilities for ease of use are covered as time allows. Please check CW/MS Office Folder for templates.

MAC FUNDAMENTALS
**SIDNEY CHEN & JONATHAN MAGNUS
ATLANTIC RM.**
A beginners SIG that will answer beginners questions. The operating system ins and outs, the built-ins and the add-ons, tuning it and keeping it happy. This general SIG is mainly software oriented, Mac 101 is primarily hardware oriented.

10:20 AM

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION
JEFF DAVIS (CLUB PRESIDENT) – CASPIAN RM.
Getting the most from your membership. How HAAUG works to serve you. Meet the Mentors.

11:15 AM

MAIN PRESENTATION –
MEDITTERANEAN RM.
An Adobe representative will demonstrate InDesign, Adobe new high-end page layout package squarely aimmed at the QuarkXpress market. Tickets for giveaways—if any—will be given at the beginning of the main presentation, one to a membership. The actual drawings will be held during the business meeting. Must be present to win.

12:15 PM

BUSINESS MEETING
**JEFF DAVIS (CLUB PRESIDENT) –
MEDITTERANEAN RM.**
The business meeting will be conducted on time even if it means interrupting an unfinished main presentation in order to let SIG leaders and other attendees make it to 12:30 SIGs on time. If the main presentation has more to offer it will resume after the business meeting. Drawings if any will be held at the end of the business meeting.

12:30 PM

APPLESCRIPT
JONATHAN MAGNUS – CASPIAN RM.
I will be focusing on AppleScripting desktop publishing applications. Level is beginner up.

GAMES
ROBERT LEWIS – ATLANTIC RM.
Always something new and interesting. - Deeper into the Tomb Raider series, and Terminal Velocity.

MAC PROGRAMMING 101
PAUL ROEBUCK – BALTIC RM.
Covers programming on the Macintosh for beginner/intermediate levels. Discussion based on new technologies and how to take advantage of them.

QUICKEN
CLAIR JASCHKE – PACIFIC RM.
Come see why this easy-to-use program is the most popular home and small business accounting system going. Exploring Quicken 98.

1:45 PM

INTERNET
LARRY MCLOUGHLIN – PACIFIC RM.
The happening spot. Come get started on the Internet.

MOBILE COMPUTING
JOE KUDRNA – CASPIAN RM.
Will not meet in June; Joe not available.

SIG NEWTON – VENDING MACHINE RM.
Responsive to all levels. Discuss and see the latest Newt stuff and share the latest Newt rumors.

USELESS BUT NEAT
ANDREW MCCLURE – ATLANTIC RM.
Cancelled for June, Andrew will be out of town.