



The Newsbyte

Inside this issue:

Sun Sues Microsoft	1
Windows XP SP1 Announced	1
Wireless IntelliMouse	2
Drive Image 5	3
Website of Month	4

Attend our next meeting!

April 9, 2002
7:00pm

Dravenstott's
Restaurant

410 W. High St.
Orrville OH

Dinner Meeting
Q & A Session

Visit TCC Online!
www.tricountycc.org

Editor: Brian Powell
(330) 828-8365
newsbyte@tricountycc.org

Sun Microsystems Sues Microsoft

Following the lead of AOL Time Warner, computer hardware and software maker Sun Microsystems filed a civil antitrust lawsuit against Microsoft on March 8. This lawsuit, which is seeking damages that could amount to over \$1 billion, stems from Microsoft's handling of Sun's Java technology and the bundling of software.

In addition to financial damages, Sun is looking for several other goals to be accomplished by the lawsuit. First, it is seeking a preliminary injunction that would require Microsoft to ship Sun's Java

Virtual Machine (rather than the Microsoft JVM) with Windows XP and Internet Explorer. (Because of concerns that they would be sued by Sun, Microsoft did not include Java in Windows XP or recent IE installations.)

As a part of the lawsuit, Sun seeks to force Microsoft to "unbundle" several products including Internet Explorer from Windows, Internet Information Services from Windows Server, the .NET framework from Windows, and the workstation OSs (Windows 2000/XP Pro) from the server operating systems.

Windows XP Service Pack 1 Announced

On February 28, 2002, Microsoft announced the planned release of Windows XP Service Pack 1. This service pack will differ from former Windows service packs in that it is expected to offer a substantial amount of new functionality in addition to the traditional bug fixes and patches.

In order to accommodate the inclusion of new technology and to fill the need for a yearly release of a new version of Windows, Windows XP SP1 will come out in the fall instead of during the late spring as originally expected.

Some of the new technologies expected to be included in Windows XP are known as "Freestyle" and

"Mira." Freestyle is an attempt to help tune Windows for digital media management. It is intended to help further Microsoft's dream of the PC serving as the center of the home entertainment system.

Mira is intended to facilitate increased mobility of home computing technology. At its core is a Windows CE .NET-powered portable screen that can be carried around the home. It is designed for performing basic tasks such as web browsing in conjunction with a desktop PC. The two systems will then communicate with each other by a wireless network. It should be noted that Mira is completely separate from the Tablet PC, which will be a full-powered mobile PC.

Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer

by Brian Powell, Tri-County Computer Club

With all of the recent buzz surrounding wireless computer technologies, I thought I'd take a look at the latest generation of cordless mice. Cordless mice have been around for the past several years, but to a great extent they haven't found a particularly large audience. This seems to be changing thanks to the improvements found in many of the new models. The latest models from both Microsoft and Logitech now combine optical technology and radio transmission, which is a nearly ideal combination of precision and flexibility.

For this review, I selected the Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer. This model, which is the crown jewel of Microsoft's cordless mice, is a variant of the Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer. (For a review of the Microsoft IntelliMouse Explorer, see the November 2000 issue of *The Newsbyte*.)

Hardware

At the heart of the Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer system are two components, the mouse itself and a receiver. The receiver itself is roughly the size of a normal (corded) mouse and plugs into a USB port. The receiver features a button that allows it to switch from one Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer to another (because this mouse only supports two channels, you can theoretically use a maximum of two mice with a base station).

The mouse itself looks like an oversized IntelliMouse Explorer. It features the two standard mouse buttons, the scroll wheel, and two buttons on the left-hand side of the mouse. While the side buttons are intended for moving forwards and backwards with web browsers, they, along with the other buttons, can all be programmed using Microsoft bundled IntelliPoint 4.0 software.

Like its wired cousin, the Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer is quite obviously designed for right-handed users. Left-handed people will need to look at a wired model if they wish to stay with optical technology. If they prefer the freedom that the wireless setup offers, they can choose from either the Wireless Wheel Mouse (which features the two additional buttons mentioned above) or the Cordless Wheel Mouse (which takes the extra buttons).

In order to work, the mouse portion of the system uses AA batteries, which are included in the

package. (The receiver is powered by the USB bus.) Microsoft has included several power saving features that intended to maximize battery life. Two features, "Intelligent Touch" and "Intelligent Surface Detection," are designed to put the mouse into a sleep mode when it detects that it is not being used. Another feature called "Intelligent Illumination" varies the illumination needed by the type of surface that the mouse is on. I could not locate a battery life estimate by Microsoft, but one Logitech's products that utilizes similar technology gives a 3-month estimate.

Performance

Overall, I was rather pleased with the performance of the Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer. For users looking for general applications, this wireless mouse will perfectly fine. Gamers, however, will want to look at other products due to a slight lag caused by the mouse's power saving features. As mentioned above, the mouse goes into a sleep mode after a period of inactivity. When the mouse is first used again, there is a small delay before the mouse responds. In games, this can prove to be rather problematic.

The mouse seemed to have a decent range with its radio transmitter. In tests at home, I was able to go to its listed maximum of 6-feet away from the receiver, but not much further. I also was able to go through a 1.25-inch thick solid wood door located about 5.5-feet away from the receiver.

Conclusion

This mouse is a very capable product for the average user who is looking to reduce desktop clutter. Although it is not for everyone, this product will serve the needs of most users.

Microsoft Wireless IntelliMouse Explorer

Microsoft Corporation
1 Microsoft Way, Redmond WA 98052
<http://www.microsoft.com/mouse/>

Pricing

MSRP: \$74.95

System Requirements

- Windows 98/98SE/Me/2000/XP (with MSIE 4.01 SP2 or later) or Macintosh OS 8.6 or later
- 25mb of hard drive space
- USB port
- CD-ROM drive

PowerQuest Drive Image 5

by Benard Hirsh, SouthWest International Personal Computer Club

There are three main ways to backup a hard drive:

1. Simply copying a file from your hard drive to a floppy or other small storage media.
2. Using a file-by-file backup utility.
3. Using an image utility.

Each method has its advantages and disadvantages.

1. Copying individual files to other media is quick and easy, but becomes prohibitive when an entire partition with many files need to be copied. Microsoft's original DOS backup utility could copy an entire hard drive to multiple floppies, but as hard drives grew larger it sometimes required hundreds of floppies for each backup.
2. File by file backup utilities began to utilize tape drives instead of floppies, but the early tapes only held about 250 Megabytes (with file compression). Although higher capacity tape drives and tapes soon became available, hard drive sizes quickly outpaced tape sizes. Again, multiple tapes were required to backup the larger hard drives.

With the advent of the windows registry and the ability to run multiple functions, many file-by-file backup utilities could not backup the registry or locked files while windows was running, so they had to drop to DOS in order to backup those files. That system was OK as long as windows ran on top of DOS, but this is becoming less and less true.

3. Early image utilities copied an entire drive (or an entire partition) to tape or to another drive. You couldn't specify which files to copy and you couldn't restore individual files. You had to restore the entire backup. It was an all or nothing type of thing. Over the years, additional features have been added, which now brings us to PowerQuest's Drive Image version 5.

With Drive Image 5 you can make copies of your hard drive (up to 80 Gigabytes in size) or of individual partitions. The image can be stored on Zip, Jaz, MO, CD-R, CD-RW or on another hard drive. In fact, a very good way to do it on a different hard drive or on a different partition is to

limit the backup files to a size that will fit on a CD. The backup can then take place unattended on the hard drive where it will create multiple linked files that can later be copied individually to CD disks. This allows you to have a quickly available backup on your hard drive and also a copy on CDs that can be stored elsewhere (just in case everything on the computer gets wiped out). As a bonus, the CD backup is bootable even if Windows is wiped out.

Suppose you only have a few bad files and you don't want to restore the whole partition? Well, PowerQuest has included a utility called Image Explorer, which allows you to extract individual files. Several other utilities are included in the package and you can get a complete description at www.powerquest.com/driveimage.

SWIPCC members can purchase Drive Image 5 at a special price of \$35 by ordering from the secure web site at www.ugr.com/order/. You must indicate the special price code of UGEVAL01 with your order. (Editor's Note: Tri-County Computer Club members can qualify for the same discount. Provide the TCC name and use the discount code listed above.)

PowerQuest Drive Image 5

PowerQuest Corporation
P.O. Box 1911
Orem UT 84059-1911
<http://www.powerquest.com/driveimage/>

Pricing

Full MSRP:	\$69.95
Upgrade MSRP:	\$49.95
Full User Group Rate:	\$35.00

System Requirements

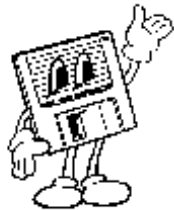
- Windows 95/98/98SE/Me/XP, Windows NT 4.0 Workstation, Windows 2000 Professional, or DOS 5.0 or later
- Intel Pentium or better processor
- 16mb RAM
- 16.5mb of hard disk space
- CD-ROM
- 3.5" Floppy Drive
- VGA or better monitor



Brian Powell
Tri-County Computer Club
669 W. Main St.
Dalton OH 44618-9475

Visit us
online at

tricitycc.org



Mr. Disk's Website of the Month:

The USA Register

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

Mr. Disk's website for April 2002 is The USA Register, which can be accessed at <http://www.theregus.com/>. The USA Register is a newly-launched North American-themed counterpart to well-known British website The Register, which is at <http://www.theregister.co.uk/>.

This British website is well known as a computer enthusiast-oriented news website, as compared to some of the other IT-gearred sites.

Although it does not have access to some of the resources as the larger technology news media, The Register still does a very good job at keeping on top of the latest

happenings and rumors.

Because of its enthusiast-oriented background, The Register's articles tend to have a very different sense about them than those from other outlets. One major way this difference is apparent is through the actual writing itself. Stories from The Register often include sharply written humor and comments related to the topic at hand. Although this writing style may hinder The Register's use for certain tasks, such as writing a research paper for instance, it does provide an enjoyable and humorous insight into the computer world.