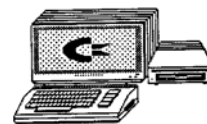


# SOUTHERN DISTRICTS COMPUTER USERS CLUB INC.



## NOVEMBER 2007

Club Web Site <http://videocam.net.au/sdcuci/>



Editor Jim Greenfield

**MEETINGS are held on  
the third Wednesday of  
the Month, at  
Christ Church  
O'Halloran Hill 1708  
Main South Road  
O'Halloran Hill at  
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### **Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc.**

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about S.D.C.U.C. Inc.

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Carleen Jared 1<sup>st</sup> November

Doris Hammond 19<sup>th</sup> November

### **PRESIDENT'S PAGE**

**This month's demonstration will be by Colin Campbell.**  
Colin will give an introduction to Microsoft Excel.

### **Committee News**

The new committee met on the 8<sup>th</sup> of November. We welcomed Alan Coe to the meeting.

The committee is very appreciative of Alan becoming involved with the committee.

Alan brings with him expertise in video editing programs.

Following on from the meeting we met at Alan's home to have an informal demonstration on the capabilities of Pinnacle Version 10.

I was very impressed. As soon as I arrived home I loaded on Pinnacle Version 8 onto one of my computers. (I loaded Pinnacle on some time ago but was totally confused so I deleted the program).

We look forward in the future to Alan demonstrating this program.

### **Subscriptions**

*Have you paid your Club Subscriptions?* The Treasurer will be delighted to record that you are a financial member for the next twelve months.

### **Visit to The Adelaide Computer Club Inc.**

On 18<sup>th</sup> October six committee members visited The Adelaide Computer Club Inc.

We were made very welcome and heard an excellent talk/demonstration on the history of Computer Games.

We have invited Brian Wormald to give a talk/demonstration at our January Meeting.

Brian is the Chairman of the Club, and also runs the BBS. (One of very few remaining BBS in Adelaide). If you do not know what a BBS is maybe we will be able to persuade him to give a talk on **BBS**.

*Jim Greenfield*

*President*

. Two hydrogen atoms meet. One says, "I've lost my Electron.  
" The other says "Are you sure?" The first replies, "Yes, I'm positive."

## EARLY COMPUTING

### The Abacus

The name Abacus derives from the Greek word ABAX meaning table or board covered with dust. The origins of the Abacus are buried deep in the history of mankind. It is known that in its 'modern' form it appeared in China in the 13th century AD. The Chinese Abacus is made of 13 columns with 2 beads on top (heaven) and 5 beads below (earth). The Japanese copied the Chinese Abacus around the 17th century AD and adapted it to their more delicate way of thinking. It has 21 columns with 1 bead on top (heaven) and 4 beads below (earth). The Abacus is still taught in the Far East as regular school training, and is used commonly in many places. In 1946 a contest between a Japanese Abacist (Kiyoshu Matzukai) and an Electronic computer was held for 2 days resulting in an unmistakable victory for the Abacist. The third modern form of the Abacus is Russian with 10 beads in 10 arched rows.

### Logarithms

John Napier, 1550 - 1617: Napier played a key role in the history of computing. Besides being a clergyman and philosopher he was a gifted mathematician and in 1614 (not long before his death) he published his great work of Logarithms in the book called "Rabdologia". This was a remarkable invention since it was able to transform multiplication and division (which were very complicated tasks at the time) into simple addition and subtraction. His Logarithm tables soon became wide spread and were used by many people. Funnily enough Napier is often remembered more by another invention of his nicknamed 'Napier's Bones'. This was a small instrument constructed of 10 rods, on which was engraved the multiplication table. This simple device was able to carry out multiplication in a fast manner provided one of the numbers was of one digit only (i.e.  $6 \times 6742$ )

### The Slide Rule:

The first Slide Rule appeared in 1650 and was the result of a joint effort by two Englishmen Edmund Gunter and the reverend William Oughtred. This slide rule based on Napier's logarithms was to become the first analog computer (of the modern age) since multiplication and subtraction were figured out by physical distance. This invention was dormant until 1850 when a French Artillery officer Amedee Mannheim added the movable double sided cursor, which gave it its appearance as we know it today.

Two fish swim into  
a concrete wall.  
One turns to the  
other and says  
"Dam!"



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## **Add a page number to every page in a Microsoft Publisher publication**

On the **View** menu, click **Go to Background**.

Create a small text frame where you want the page number to appear.

Create a text frame

Type any text you want to appear next to the page number (for example, the word "Page"). Don't type a number.

On the **Insert** menu, click **Page Numbers**.

Publisher inserts a pound sign (#). On foreground pages, this appears as a page number.

On the **View** menu, click **Go to Foreground**.



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## Have you recently acquired, or do you just want to learn more about operating, your computer?

The Club conducts classes on a wide range of subjects, at a very moderate charge

The maximum number in a class is five.

(Our aim is to conduct the classes in a friendly non threatening atmosphere)

Some of the classes that are available:-

1. Basic Computing (Stage one and / or Stage Two)
2. Advanced Word
3. Internet workshops
4. Digital Cameras

**For more information contact a committee member.**

### EXCEL TIPS

#### Data Entry and Cell Formatting

There are a few tricks to follow when entering data or formulae into cells.

Excel automatically applies a data type and format as you type in information. You should be aware that:

Using a slash or hyphen (minus sign) between numbers gives a *date* format

Using a colon between numbers gives a *time* format

Preceding a number with a currency symbol (£, \$ or €) gives a *currency* format

Including a comma in a number (eg 1,500) gives a *comma* format

Having a percentage sign (%) at the end of a number gives a *percent* format

To get a *fraction* format, precede the fraction with 0 (or a number) then a space before the fraction (eg 0 1/3)

Preceding a number with a single quote (') forces it to be stored as *text*

Press **<Alt Enter>** to get a new line when entering data into a cell

Note also that data stored as *text* appears left-justified in a cell (by default);

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## MEETING RULES

**NO SMOKING NO DRINKING NO SWEARING**

We are allowed to use the facilities at Christ Church, O'Halloran Hill in return of a small fee plus respect for their property. We ask for your co-operation in respect to the above. While we can not control what our members do away from our club meetings, Piracy of copyright material can not be condoned at our meetings.

# **A Brief History of Spreadsheets**

by D. J. Power  
Editor, DSSResources.COM

Spreadsheets have been used by accountants for hundreds of years. Computerized or electronic spreadsheets are of much more recent origin. Information Systems oral history and some published newspaper and magazine stories celebrate Dan Bricklin as the "father" of the electronic spreadsheet. In 1978, Harvard Business School student, Daniel Bricklin, came up with the idea for an interactive visible calculator (see email from Frankston, 4/15/1999a). Bricklin and Bob Frankston then co-invented or co-created the software program VisiCalc. We can look back and recognize that VisiCalc was the first "killer" application for personal computers.

## **What is a spreadsheet?**

In the realm of accounting jargon a "spread sheet" or spreadsheet was and is a large sheet of paper with columns and rows that organizes data about transactions for a business person to examine. It spreads or shows all of the costs, income, taxes, and other related data on a single sheet of paper for a manager to examine when making a decision.

An electronic spreadsheet organizes information into software defined columns and rows. The data can then be "added up" by a formula to give a total or sum. The spreadsheet program summarizes information from many paper sources in one place and presents the information in a format to help a decision maker see the financial "big picture" for the company.

## **Beginnings and the "Tale of VisiCalc"**

In 1961, Professor Richard Mattessich pioneered the development of computerized spreadsheets for use in business accounting. Some historical information on the computerization of accounting spread sheets using mainframe computers is discussed on Mattessich's web page "Spreadsheet: Its First Computerization (1961-1964)". Rene Pardo and Remy Landau co-invented "LANPAR" LAnguage for Programming Arrays at Random in 1969. This electronic spreadsheet type application was used for budgeting at Bell Canada, AT&T, Bell operating companies, and General Motors. They received a US patent (no. 4,398,249) for LANPAR in August 1982 after 12 years of litigation. Mattessich, Pardo and Landau's work and that of other developers of spreadsheets on mainframe computers probably had no influence on Bricklin and Frankston. Therefore, a history of the modern era of microcomputer-based electronic spreadsheets should begin with the "Tale of VisiCalc".

The tale of VisiCalc is part myth and part fact for most of us. The story is that Dan Bricklin was preparing a spread sheet analysis for a Harvard Business School "case study" report and had two alternatives: 1) do it by hand or 2) use a clumsy time-sharing mainframe program. Bricklin thought there must be a better way. He wanted a program where people could visualize the spreadsheet as they created it. His metaphor was "an electronic blackboard and electronic chalk in a classroom."

By the fall of 1978, Bricklin had programmed the first working prototype of his concept in integer basic. The program helped users input and manipulate a matrix of five columns and 20 rows. The first version was not very "powerful" so Bricklin recruited an MIT acquaintance Bob Frankston to improve and expand the program. Bricklin calls Frankston the "co-creator" of the electronic spreadsheet. Frankston created the production code with faster speed, better arithmetic, and scrolling. He also expanded the program and "packed the code into a mere 20k of machine memory, making it both powerful and practical enough to be run on a microcomputer". For more details check Dan Bricklin's email from May 12, 1999.

During the fall of 1978, Daniel Fylstra, founding Associate Editor of Byte Magazine, joined Bricklin and Frankston in developing VisiCalc. Fylstra was also an MIT/HBS graduate. Fylstra was "marketing-oriented" and suggested that the product would be viable if it could run on an Apple micro-computer. Bricklin and Frankston formed Software Arts Corporation on January 2, 1979. In May 1979, Fylstra and his firm Personal Software (later renamed VisiCorp) began marketing "VisiCalc" with a teaser ad in Byte Magazine. The name "VisiCalc" is a compressed form of the phrase "visible calculator" (see email from Frankston, 4/15/1999b).

VisiCalc became an almost instant success and provided many business people with an incentive to purchase a personal computer or an H-P 85 or 87 calculator from Hewlett-Packard (cf., Jim Ho, 1999). About 1 million copies of the spreadsheet program were sold during VisiCalc's product lifetime. Dan Bricklin has his version of the history of Software Arts and VisiCalc on the web at [www.bricklin.com/history/sai.htm](http://www.bricklin.com/history/sai.htm). Bricklin includes early ads and reviews and pictures of the VisiCalc packaging and screenshots.

continued on next page

From previous page

## What about Microsoft Excel and Bill Gates?

The next milestone was the Microsoft Excel spreadsheet. Excel was originally written for the 512K Apple Macintosh in 1984-1985. Excel was one of the first spreadsheets to use a graphical interface with pull down menus and a point and click capability using a mouse pointing device. The Excel spreadsheet with a graphical user interface was easier for most people to use than the command line interface of PC-DOS spreadsheet products. Many people bought Apple Macintoshes so that they could use Bill Gates' Excel spreadsheet program. There is some controversy about whether a graphical version of Microsoft Excel was released in a DOS version. Microsoft documents show the launch of Excel 2.0 for MS-DOS version 3.0 on 10/31/87.

When Microsoft launched the Windows operating system in 1987, Excel was one of the first application products released for it. When Windows finally gained wide acceptance with Version 3.0 in late 1989 Excel was Microsoft's flagship product. For nearly 3 years, Excel remained the only Windows spreadsheet program and it has only received competition from other spreadsheet products since the summer of 1992.

By the late 1980s many companies had introduced spreadsheet products. Spreadsheet products and the spreadsheet software industry were maturing. Microsoft and Bill Gates had joined the fray with the innovative Excel spreadsheet. Lotus had acquired Software Arts and the rights to VisiCalc. Jim Manzi had become CEO at Lotus in April 1986 and in July 1986 Mitch Kapor resigned as Chairman of the Board. The spreadsheet entrepreneurs were moving on ...

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While every attempt has been made to verify that the information in this newsletter is correct, the Southern Districts Computer Users Club Inc accept no responsibility for any inaccuracies.

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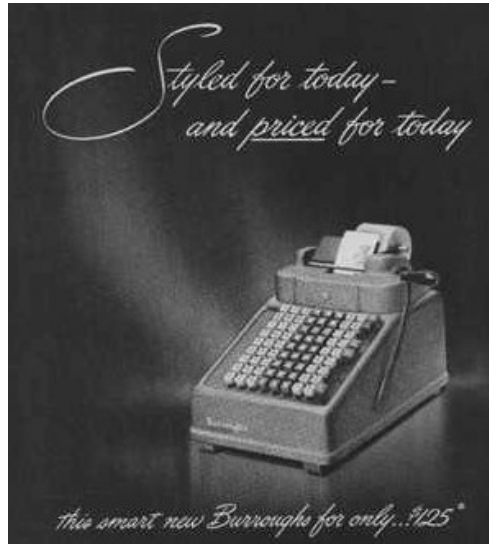
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approximatey \$1300)**

Don't fall for the hype and try to remember what Vista really stands for:

Viruses  
Intrusions  
Spyware  
Trojans  
Adware

### WHAT ARE SENIORS WORTH?

Remember, old folks are worth a fortune –

With silver in their hair, gold in their teeth, stones in their kidneys, lead in their feet and gas in their stomachs.

I have become a little older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life.

Frankly, I've become quite a frivolous old girl. I'm seeing five gentlemen every day. As soon as I wake up, Will Power helps me out of bed. Then I go to see John. Next, it's time for Uncle Toby to come along, followed by Billy T. They leave and Arthur Ritus shows up and stays for the rest of the day. He doesn't like to stay in one place very long, so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a busy day, I'm really tired and glad to go to bed with Johnny Walker. What a life! Oh yes, I'm also flirting with Al Zymer.

PS. The preacher came to call the other day.

He said that at my age I should be thinking about the hereafter. I told him, "Oh, I do - all the time. No matter where I am, if I'm in the parlour, upstairs in the bedroom, or down in the kitchen, I ask myself, "Now what am I here after?"

NB Change of date and venue for December meeting

To be held on

**December 12<sup>th</sup>**

# **CHRISTMAS DINNER**



*12th December, 2007*

*FLAGSTAFF HOTEL*

*6.30 p.m.*

*Please place your name on the circulating sheet*

## **HAVE A HAPPY OR SAD FACE IN MICROSOFT WORD**

Simply type a colon followed by a right or left parentheses, then press the SPACE bar. Depending on what parentheses you press a circle with a happy or sad inside face will appear.

*Note from Editor:* This is NOT an egg. This is a documented feature of Word.

### **Try this in Word**

Open a new word document

2. Type "`=rand(200,99)`" (without the quotes)

3. Press enter

4. Wait a few second and see

5. try typing after "`=rand`" any variation from (1,1) to (200,99)to see different results; the first number being the repetition and second the number of times in a row...