

On the Docket for the  
**General Meeting**  
Thursday, May 18, 2006

# Open Source on Your Desktop

## Accessible, Reliable, Free

### Learn if it's right for you!

Come to the NYPC May General Meeting and find out how you can get and use Open Source Software (OSS) to improve your computing experience. Our panel of open source experts includes Mark Halegua, chair of NYPC's DeLUGE SIG, Jacob Brickman, who teaches many of our Linux courses, and others.

You'll learn what applications are available, on what platforms, and how you can get and use open source browsers, email programs, databases, office suites, graphics programs, desktop publishing apps, and more.

### What Is Open Source?

The term *open source* refers to the free availability of the software source code. Anyone (who can program :) ) not only can use the software but make changes to it, typically publishing the code changes for comment, revision, and use by the open source community. The use of the term *project* to refer to open source applications reminds us that an application is not completed—and out the door, bugs and all—but continues to be refined by the community.

There are some complexities to the licensing of the software, but in general it gives users the freedom to run, study, modify, and/or redistribute a program for any purpose, without paying royalties to previous developers.

The alternative to open source software is closed source software, whose source code is hidden from public view. Under most licenses the user cannot modify the program or redistribute it. Note that, although open source software is typically free, Open Source

Software/Free Software is not synonymous with freeware or shareware. The latter applications may be freely distributed but often carry the caveat, "You may not modify this program or any portion of it..., without author's prior written consent."

### Is Open Source available to all?

As open source applications have matured, they have become increasingly accessible to everyone. They are easy to load, have user-friendly graphical user interfaces (GUIs), and have readable documentation. They are reliable and possess a broad support network. The user typically can find a version for any popular operating system.

### What applications are available?

If you've used Firefox browser or Thunderbird mail reader, you've used open source projects. Many web servers run on open source. Tested and supported applications you can use and modify at YOUR convenience are available for you on Windows, Mac, and Linux.

Open source applications include more than operating systems (such as Linux). There are:

- ▶ office productivity suites with word processor, spreadsheet, and presentation software (OpenOffice, KOffice, ...)
- ▶ database applications (Base, SQLite, ...)
- ▶ graphics applications (Inkscape, GIMP, ...)
- ▶ desktop publishing apps (Scribus, ...)
- ▶ development platforms (Python, Perl, ...)
- ▶ web browsers (Firefox, ...)
- ▶ email readers (Thunderbird, Kmail, Evolution, ...)

more...

# Inside NYPC



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May 2006

## General Meeting Info

**When:** Thursday, May 18, 2006

**Where:** PS 41, 116 W 11th Street,  
west of 6th Avenue

**Schedule:** 6:00pm Doors open  
Cafeteria: Networking  
Meet the Geeks Q&A  
6:45pm Announcements  
7:00pm Presentation

**Subway:** A,B,C,D,E,F,Q,V to West 4th St  
1,2,3,9,L to 14th St @ 7th Ave  
(check with MTA)

**Path:** Take 33rd St line to 9th St Sta

**Office:** (212) 643-7005

**Web site:** <http://www.nypc.org>

NYPC's General Meetings are free and open to the public.

To check on the NYPC General Meeting or get up-to-the-minute details on speakers, check our website at <http://www.nypc.org>.

continued from page 1

- ▶ IM (GAIM, KIM, Jabber, ...)
- ▶ multimedia and music creation programs (Ogg, ...)
- ▶ utilities

### What does Open Source mean to you?

Open source has many benefits: rapid progress and upgrading, responsiveness to user input (remember when major vendors listened to user groups?), and a sense of community. In addition, most open source software is free! Why pay hundreds of dollars for software when you can download it for nothing?

Several products are full-featured and use standard formats, i.e.,

OpenDocument Format, as well having compatibility with proprietary ones. Why shouldn't you take advantage of them and save money?

Open source software is an increasingly viable alternative to proprietary applications for both businesses and individuals. This meeting will demonstrate the many options available in OSS and explore why you should consider them for your computer(s).

NYPC offers several courses to help you get started using open source software. See page 3 of this newsletter, and watch our listing at <http://www.nypceducation.org>. Mark Halegua, [phantom21@mindspring.com](mailto:phantom21@mindspring.com), with

#### Web Sites

The Open Source website: <http://www.opensource.org>

Why Open Source Software, with many references: [http://www.dwheeler.com/oss\\_fs\\_why.html#desktop](http://www.dwheeler.com/oss_fs_why.html#desktop)

The State of California explores Open Source Alternatives: <http://cpr.ca.gov/report/cprprt/issrec/stops/it/so10.htm>

A Corporate Viewpoint: <http://www.cio.com/archive/031503/opensource.html>

## So You'd Like a New Computer?

There are many options to consider when you buy a new computer:

- ▶ Buy or build
- ▶ Desktop, laptop, or small-form-factor
- ▶ Buy online or in a store
- ▶ Get a brand-name computer or one from a local customizer
- ▶ High-end or low-end
- ▶ MAC or PC

The first question to ask yourself is: "What will I use it for?" If you're going to use Adobe's Creative Suite, you need more power than if you're only going to work with Open Office. However, it's always a good idea to get the most powerful machine you can afford.

### Help from NYPC

NYPC has several ways to help you in this important purchase.

If you're interested in building your own computer, take our course in **Building a Computer from Found Parts** on Sunday, May 7.

If you'd like to build your own computer and learn all there is to know (or most, anyway) about keeping it running smoothly, you might want to take our upcoming **A+ course**. This might even lead to a whole new career! An Open House to learn what's involved in the intensive A+ class will be held on Sunday, April 30.

For solid advice on buying your next computer, take our course on **Buying a New Computer** on Sunday, June 11. Or watch for our upcoming class on **How to Buy and Use a Laptop**.

If you want to buy a well-crafted computer with excellent support in the U.S., consider Velocity Micro at [www.velocitymicro.com](http://www.velocitymicro.com). If you phone them after making your choice, and tell them that you're an NYPC member, you'll get a 3% discount.

Or perhaps you want to keep your old machine running a while longer. Bring it to one of our **PC Clinics** to restore it to health.

**NYPC can help you at each step!**

## NYPC Officers

**President**  
Leftonred Atanycorner  
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Michael Horowitz  
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[treasurer@nypceducation.org](mailto:treasurer@nypceducation.org)

## Other NYPC Board Members & Volunteers

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Inside NYPC - Kathy Petruzzi  
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**Webmaster**  
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[nypc@nypc.org](mailto:nypc@nypc.org)

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**SIG Chair Representatives**  
Laura Balsam (Photoshop)  
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This newsletter is produced in Ventura. Design by Allison Moore/ Database recipes by Robert Leuze.

# NYPC Classes

To register or to request specific classes, phone 212 643-7005, x2, email [classes@nypceducation.org](mailto:classes@nypceducation.org), or register online at <http://www.nypceducation.org>.

For complete descriptions, click on class name at <http://www.calsplus.com/nypcmeetings> or <http://www.nypceducation.org>.

Unless otherwise specified, classes are hands-on. We welcome walk-ins for seminars, but please phone to confirm that the class is being held. One advantage of NYPC computer training is our flexibility. If there's a topic you want to learn, let us know. If we have at least three students, we'll try to tailor a class to your needs. Prices below are for NYPC members; if you are not a member, please add registration fee of \$10.

## ⇒ Building a Computer from "Found Parts"

Learn how to build a working computer from recycled components! At this class, we'll build a Pentium IV Computer from found and donated parts. After building it, we'll auction it off. It will be fun! Taught by Mike Ostrowe, Co-chair of the TechTips SIG and instructor of NYPC's A+ class.

Sunday, May 7, 10:00am-3:30pm

Hands-on, \$29.95. Refreshments provided.

## ⇒ Linux Shell Scripting, Level 2

If you know something about using Linux Shell script programming to execute commands in Linux, and would like to pursue it further, come to this course. Learn to use Linux power tools from Jacob Brickman, an expert.

Mondays, May 8, 15, 6:00-9:00pm

Partially hands-on, \$69

## ⇒ Understanding Accounting for Non-Accountants

Popular computer bookkeeping programs promote themselves as requiring no knowledge of accounting. While this may be true, you will feel a whole lot more confident if you understand a few basics. If you can tell left from right, in these two sessions of two hours each, illustrated using QuickBooks, you can learn everything you need to know about accounting to keep books well, talk to your CPA, and be sure you know what you are doing. Taught by Ron Acher.

Tuesday, May 9, 16th, 6:30-8:30pm

Two sessions, chalk talk with homework, \$39

## ⇒ How to Save Money Buying Safely on Ebay FREE

In this FREE seminar, Ebay Power Seller Fred Kahn will give an overview of using Ebay to save money on purchases large and small. If you've wondered if you should look for needed items on Ebay, but are a bit leery, this seminar is for you. Fred will also touch lightly on what you need to know to sell your trash (which may be someone else's treasure) on this premiere auction site.

Saturday, May 20, 10:00am-2:00pm

FREE seminar

## ⇒ EBay All Day

A comprehensive demonstration of buying and selling on Ebay, beginning with an overview of how Ebay works, how to register, browse, buy, and sell. Led by Ebay education specialist and Power Seller Fred Kahn. Advanced topics will include finding items to sell, photographing and editing the images, listing, shipping, and more.

Sunday, May 21, 10:00am-5:00pm, with lunch break

\$69.95 with advance payment/\$89.95 at the door

Materials fee: \$10 cash payment to the instructor for a book by Ebay education.

## ⇒ Getting Started with Open Office

Open Office is an office suite which is free for the downloading. The suite includes word processor, spreadsheet, presentation generator, and drawing application. Testers particularly like the integration among the suite's applications, such as being able to create new spreadsheet applications from within the word processor. It is able to import from and export to such familiar file formats as .doc and .xls. Available in both Windows and Linux versions, it is written in open code, with a community of contributors. It receives good reviews and is growing in popularity. Here's your chance to learn it! Mark Halegua, chair of the DeLUGE SIG, will give you the instruction you need to get a running start. Each class participant will receive a CD with Open Office and some resources. (See <http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1895,1571626,00.asp> for an interesting comparison between Open Office and Office 2003.)

2 Wednesdays, May 24, 31, 6:00-9:00pm

Hands-on, \$79

## ⇒ Getting Started with Adobe Acrobat

Learn how to make PDF files, using full Adobe Acrobat, in the most efficient manner. Learn how to configure Acrobat and how to use its many features to make attractive, secure documents. Instructor is David Kleiman, whose publication of *Child's English and Scottish Ballads* on CD truly pushed the envelope of Acrobat use.

Thursday, June 1st, 6:00-9:00pm

Watch our website for more details

## ⇒ Doing "Fancy Things" with Acrobat

Multimedia and more.

Thursday, June 8th, 6:00-9:00pm

Watch our website for more details

## ⇒ Beyond Google: Advanced Internet Searching

Google is great, but sometimes it's overwhelming to get 100,000 hits! This course will look at alternatives to Google, meta search engines, clustering search engines, topic-specific searchers, and alternative ways to visualize results. We'll also look at directories (and when to use them), RSS feeds, and other ways to supplement search engines when you're seeking specific information on the web. Please bring some topics on which you'd like to search.

Wednesday, May 10th, 6:00-9:00pm

Hands-on, \$39

## A+ Class coming soon

If you could not attend our A+ Open House, but are interested in the course, please let our registrar know! E-mail her at [classes@nypceducation.org](mailto:classes@nypceducation.org). If you have technical questions regarding course content, please ask her to put you in touch with the instructor.

We have had several requests for our intensive, highly regarded A+ class. Thus, we are "gearing up" to offer it again. As is fitting for a professional class leading to a certification exam, this course is demanding. It is a terrific course, covering both hardware and software in depth. Several of our past students have taken the A+ exam and passed it. Others simply wanted to know more about computers.

We would like to be sure that we have sufficient students to run it. Please let us know by e-mailing the registrar.

**NYPC Meetings, Seminars/Classes & Other Events** **May 2006**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 TechTips Access	2 Genealogy ODK	3 Visual Basic Palm	4 Enterprise Windows C++/Java GM Photog/Graph	5 Marketing	6
7 <b>BUILD COMPUTER</b>	8 <b>Linux SHELL SCRIPT</b>	9 Photoshop <b>ACCOUNTING</b> Exchange Excel MAKE	10 Alpha <b>BEYOND GOOGLE</b>	11 Java Cert Study MetaStock	12 Investment Gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble	13
14 Gift wrapping at Barnes & Noble	15 <b>Linux SHELL SCRIPT</b> Ventura	16 ODK <b>ACCOUNTING</b> Perl	17 Speech Recognition Embedded	18 <b>NYPC Gen Meeting</b> Java Cert Study	19 Photog/Graph	20 <b>EBay OVERVIEW - FREE!</b>
21 <b>EBAY All Day</b>	22 Hardware Java Projects Adv Tech & Tech	23 Photoshop Wireless NYPC Board	24 <b>OPEN OFFICE</b> Web Design	25 DeLUGE Marketing	26	27
28	29	30 SIG Chairs Meeting	31 <b>OPEN OFFICE</b> Internet	1 Enterprise Windows C++/Java <b>ACROBAT</b>	2	3

**Calendar Legend**  
 Plain = SIG Meeting      *Italic = Other Meetings*  
**Bold = NYPC Class**      **Black background = General Meeting**

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. Sometimes there are last minute changes, so please check the online calendar at [www.calsplus.com/nypcmeetings](http://www.calsplus.com/nypcmeetings). If the SIG meeting you want to attend is not listed, contact the SIG chair. **See page 3 for Seminars/Classes. See pages 5 and 6 for SIG meetings.**

**Location Legend** NYPC NYPC Office, Hotel New Yorker, 481 8th Ave, Suite 550  
 MS Microsoft, 1290 6th Ave. (51st/52nd Str), 6th Fl  
 PS41 116 West 11th Street, west of 6th Avenue

# SIG Directory

The calendar shows the events that were scheduled at press time. You can find detailed information about many SIG meetings by going to the Meeting & Class Calendar via the NYPC website, [www.nypc.org](http://www.nypc.org), and clicking on the SIG of interest. Details appear in a pop-up. Updates—changes, cancellations, or topics to replace TBA—are announced here.

If we have your e-mail address, we will also send you occasional meeting updates and reminders.

See Location Legend bottom of page 4.

## AXS Access

Claire Chase, (212)691-3577, M-F, 9am-5pm  
Monday, May 1st, June 5th, 6:30 PM

Location: MS

Sandra Schanzer: Creative use of subforms to enhance the user interface

## ACC Accounting

Len Ginsburg, LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net  
On hiatus. Contact Len if interested

## ATIT Advanced Technologies and Techniques

Jessie Shereff, shereff@cs.nyu.edu  
Monday, May 22nd, 6:30 PM

Location: MS

General discussion of PC technology.

## ADB Alpha Database

Barry Rochford, brochford1@comcast.net  
Wednesday, May 10th, 6:00 PM

Location: NYPC

Daniel Weiss: designing a multi-level Dialog form; creating applications using no forms

## BEG Beginners SIG

On hiatus. Contact Mary Ginsburg,  
lm\_ginsburg@earthlink.net, if interested

## CSG C++/Java: Gen'l Mtg

<http://www.cppsig.org>

<http://nycjava.org/certification>

See also our Yahoo group: nycjava\_org

Thursday, May 4th, 6:00 PM

Location: NYPC

Topic TBA

## Java Certification Study Group

Thursdays, May 11th, 18th, 6:00 PM

Location: NYPC

Study for the Sun Java Certification exam

## CSG C++/Java: Java Projects

Monday, May 22nd, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

Java Projects Study Group (hands-on coding on our open source projects)

## ODK C++/JAVA: Object Data Knowledge Management

Carlos Jerome, cjinterf@panix.com

Tuesday, May 2nd, 6:00 PM, May 16, 5:30 PM

5/2: Ottendorfer Library, 135 2nd Ave;

5/16: email Carlos

Continuing our development of a constituent communications system using LDAP & CRM-focused unified process

## LUG DeLUGE (Desktop Linux Users Group for End Users)

<http://www.delugeny.org>

Mark Halegua, phantom21@mindspring.com

Thursday, May 25th, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

TBA

## EMB Embedded Systems

Lee Thalblum, lee\_t@bigfoot.com

Wednesday, May 17th, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

AVR Serial Ports

## EWN Enterprise Windows

Stephen Goodwin, srg@winnyc.com; Tony

Iams, tony@dhbrown.com; <http://nyewin.org>

Thursday, May 4th, June 1st, 6:00 PM

Location: MS

Topic TBA

## EXC Excel

Al Vachris, Excel1Star@cs.com

Tuesday, May 9th, 6:00 PM

Location: MS

Topic TBA

## ART Microsoft Exchange

Ben Serebin, exchangeug@reefsolutions.com

<http://www.nyexug.com>

Tuesday, May 9th, 6:00 PM

Location: MS

Speaker: Kevin Wall of the Henson Group

Topic: Exchange Disaster Recovery

## FLA Flash

Jeff Frankel, webjff1967@aol.com

Not meeting in May

E-mail leader with interest

## GFH Genealogy

<http://homepages.rootsweb.com/~metrony/>

David Kleiman, roots@heritagemuse.com

Tuesday, May 2nd, June 6th, 6:00 PM

Location: NYPC

Topic TBA

## HRD Hardware

<http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/hugnypc>

Kevin Raguette, Rags6600@hotmail.com

Monday, May 22nd, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

More on circuit board design

## NET Internet

Mary Ginsburg, lm\_ginsburg@earthlink.net;

Tony Holley, tholley@citytech.cuny.edu

Wednesday, May 31st, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

Your own blog—what's involved

## INV Investment

Phyllis Pawlovsky, PGP106@cs.com. SIG

follows the investment principles of the National Association of Investment Corp.

Friday, May 12th, 6:15 PM

Location: MS

Analysis of stocks in Metals and Mining industry

## MAK Adventures with Make Magazine

Mary Ginsburg, treasurer@nypceducation.org

Tuesday, May 9th, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

More on digital video camera modifications

## MKT Marketing SIG - NEW!

Murray Strelitz, marketing@nypc.org

Friday, May 5th, Thursday, May 25th, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

E-mail Murray for information

## MTA MetaStock

Al Kinzinger, Jr, bigaljr@attglobal.net

Thursday, May 11th, 7:00 PM

Location: NYPC

Moirra Moran of Fidelity Investments: Fidelity

Active Trader Pro

## BRD NYPC Board Meeting

Tuesday, May 23rd, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC

Members are welcome to attend, but please

e-mail pres@nypc.org

## GEN NYPC GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 18th, 6:00 PM

Location: PS 41, 116 W. 11th St., W of 6th Ave

Open Source Applications on your Desktop

## PDA Palm Pilot

<http://nypc.org/palm.htm>. Ted Cohn and

Grace Lee, nypcpda@yahoo.com

Wednesday, May 3rd, June 7th

Location: NYPC

Google Video & Palm: Take it with you

## PRL Perl Seminar NY

James E. Keenan, jkeen@verizon.net

Alex Gill, alexgill@nyc.rr.com

Tuesday, May 16th, 6:15

Location: NYPC

Utilizing Perl templates to generate AJAX code

...SIG Directory, continued

**PHT Photography & Graphics**

Mary Ginsburg, [lm\\_ginsburg@earthlink.net](mailto:lm_ginsburg@earthlink.net);  
 Tony Holley, [tholley@citytech.cuny.edu](mailto:tholley@citytech.cuny.edu)  
 Thursday, May 4th; Friday, May 19th, 6:30 PM  
 Location: NYPC  
 5/4: Free & inexpensive imaging software  
 5/19: Practical camera use

**PHO Photoshop**

[http://www.hookbuilt.com/nypc/photoshop\\_sigs.html](http://www.hookbuilt.com/nypc/photoshop_sigs.html); Laura Balsam, [nypc@hookbuilt.com](mailto:nypc@hookbuilt.com)  
 Tuesday, May 9th, 23rd, 1:00 PM  
 Location: NYPC  
 5/9: RSS & Video Training; 5/23: TBA  
 Join us at 11:45 in the TickTock for socializing prior to the meeting.

**SPR Speech Recognition**

<http://www.out-loud.com>. Laura Miner, 76233.3413@compuserve.com; Leftonred Atanycorner, [pres@nypc.org](mailto:pres@nypc.org)  
 Wednesday, May 17th, 6:30 PM  
 Location: NYPC  
 Maryanne Veshecco: Introduction to Dragon NaturallySpeaking: Web & email use

**STR Streaming Media**

Sonia Thompson, [soniathp@verizon.net](mailto:soniathp@verizon.net)  
 Not meeting in May

**PAS TechTips**

Kathy Petruzzi, [kathypetruzzi@hotmail.com](mailto:kathypetruzzi@hotmail.com);  
 Michael Ostrowe, [mjostrowe@earthlink.net](mailto:mjostrowe@earthlink.net)  
 Thursday, May 1st, June 5th, 6:30 PM  
 Location: NYPC  
 General Discussion of PC Technology

**VPI Ventura**

Allison Moore, [amoore@nyc.rr.com](mailto:amoore@nyc.rr.com)  
 Monday, May 15th, 6:30 PM  
 Location: NYPC  
 Frames and frame tags

**BAS Visual Basic**

David Kulick, [dgkulick@hotmail.com](mailto:dgkulick@hotmail.com)  
 Wednesday, May 3rd, June 7th, 6:15 PM  
 Location: MS  
 ASP.NET - Profiles and Localization

**WMM Web Design for the 21st Century**

Melody Reed, [Webdesign@melodyreed.com](mailto:Webdesign@melodyreed.com)  
 Wednesday, May 24th, 6:30 PM  
 Location: NYPC  
 Vlogging (video blogging, aka vodcasting)

**WFI Wireless**

Ted Cohn, [TedCohn@earthlink.net](mailto:TedCohn@earthlink.net)

Tuesday, May 23rd, 6:30 PM

Location: NYPC  
 Topic TBA

**XML XML/Web Services**

Mahesh Chhatlani, [nypcxml@hotmail.com](mailto:nypcxml@hotmail.com)  
 On hiatus. Contact leader

**Other Organizations**

**NPC Non-Profit Computing**

John L. German, 212-759-2368  
 Includes:

**JOB Career Development Group**

Tuesday, May 9, 23, 4:00 PM  
 West-Park Presbyterian Church at 86th and Amsterdam  
 Facilitators include:  
 Susan Werbin, 212-799-6111  
 Mort Trachtenberg, 212-769-TRAC

**Thanks to Our Hosts!**

The following company provides space for many of our meetings. We would like to take this opportunity to thank them.

**Microsoft**



**I Want to Join NYPC**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Company: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (day) \_\_\_\_\_ (eve) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership:  One Year - \$45     Two Years - \$80     Three Years - \$120     Student - \$35  
 Family     One Year - \$60     Two Years - \$105     Three Years - \$160

Add'l Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_  
 New membership     Renewal - Member number \_\_\_\_\_

Payment:  Check enclosed (payable to Gotham NYPC)     Visa, Mastercard, Discover, AMEX  
 Card number \_\_\_\_\_ Exp date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing address (if different from above) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Computing Interests: \_\_\_\_\_

If a gift: Name of giver: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Send gift certificate to:  Giver     Recipient

Please send completed application with payment to **NYPC Membership, 481 Eighth Avenue - B25, New York, NY 10001**. NYPC is a non-profit education organization run by volunteers. It may take up to six weeks to fully process a membership.

## Directory of NYPC Supporters

Please support these merchants who have chosen to support NYPC! Dollar signs (\$) indicate supporters offering discounts or extras to NYPC members. Present your membership card (or newsletter with membership number) to exercise these discounts.

### CONSULTING SERVICES

#### ❖ ACCOUNTING

**LHG Consulting:** Leonard Ginsburg  
718-828-9547; [LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net](mailto:LeonardGinsburg@earthlink.net)  
QuickBooks consulting: set-up, training, maintenance. Help with accounting-related problems in computerized bookkeeping. A QuickBooks ProAdvisor.

#### ❖ COMPUTING SERVICES

**FarSight Data Systems:** Mark Halegua  
718-360-1712; [info@farsight-data.com](mailto:info@farsight-data.com)  
Providing general computer services for businesses and individuals including repair, network design & setup, hardware & software recommendations, malware eradication, and more.

#### **Fred Kahn**

88-21 69th Rd.; Forest Hills, NY 11375;  
718-263-2041; [brooklynbridge@att.net](mailto:brooklynbridge@att.net);  
[www.FredKahn.com](http://www.FredKahn.com)

Consulting on computer purchasing, set-up, repairs. Ebay trading assistant. \$

**Middle Earth Media:** Leftonred Atanycorner  
631-793-0930; [middleearthmedia@yahoo.com](mailto:middleearthmedia@yahoo.com)

- Computer Service & Training
- Wired & Wireless Networks
- Spyware & Virus Removal
- Data Backup & Recovery

Windows, Mac & All Other OS's. Serving large & small businesses & individuals. \$

#### ❖ DATABASE

**Software Pundits, Inc:** Mahesh Chhatlani  
516-205-4709; [Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com](mailto:Mahesh@SoftwarePundits.com);  
[www.SoftwarePundits.com](http://www.SoftwarePundits.com)

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#### ❖ TRAINING

#### **Mary Ginsburg**

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## Book Review: Degunking Your Email, Spam, and Viruses

by **Jeff Duntemann** (Paraglyph Press, 2004. Buy at [O'Reilly's](#) User Group Discount)

From choosing the right email client to using firewalls and anti-malware applications, this book thoroughly covers all aspects of making your email use more efficient and less frustrating. The author, Jeff Duntemann, describes in detail how he retains "22,000 messages on virtually every topic you can imagine, and yet somehow, I can zero in fairly quickly on anything I have in my mailbase."

The book gives solid advice on dealing with email, typically explaining the background technology in clear, concise terms. Duntemann explains how email works and describes the advantages and disadvantages of various email clients, web mail interfaces, and helpful software add-ins. The tone is friendly, and the author reassures the reader that an Inbox of 5000 unsorted messages is not an insurmountable barrier to efficient communication.

Among the endearing features of this book are the metaphors: "Is your email a tended lawn or a wild meadow?" It's also realistic, acknowledging that you cannot avoid Spam altogether, for example.

### *Thoughtful Coverage of Email Problems*

The book opens with a *Quick Degunking Sheet*, outlining the Degunking 12-Step Program and suggesting modifications for those with time limitations. For example, there are a 30-minute plan and a half-day plan.

For me, one of the most interesting—and potentially useful—chapters is "Read and Degunk Your Email from

Anywhere." This describes several options for managing email on the road, without having that feeling of "I think I read and answered this at the office, but did I?"

Much of the book deals with malware. Four chapters deal with prevention and eradication of Spam. The book also gives solid advice about avoiding viruses, worms, and spyware.



I highly recommend this book to anyone who feels that dealing with email takes far too much time. Effective use of this book does require that the reader take the time to organize his/her mailbase (messages to retain) and keep it organized. For most computer users willing to exert some

effort, the book's suggestions will richly repay them in lowered frustration and more accessible information. *Mary Ginsburg, [treasurer@nypceducation.org](mailto:treasurer@nypceducation.org)*

### **A Word about Our Reviews**

You may have noticed that we have not published many reviews in the last few months. Several NYPC members were given books or software many months ago, and have not submitted the reviews. This makes it hard for me to request more items from vendors.

I hope that they will read this...and feel guilty!

Inside  
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May 2006

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### coming attractions

*We've got some great general meetings coming up...*

Thurs., June 16

Drive Partitioning and other utilities with Michael Horowitz

Let us know what you'd like to see!

Send an e-mail to Bill Ginsberg, [wzg128@aol.com](mailto:wzg128@aol.com).



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