

## Digital Debris

By Staff Writer, Bill Fogarty



### Look Deeper

Last Friday morning at about 2 A.M., while coming home from another delightful evening in

San Francisco ([digitaltimes.com](http://digitaltimes.com) never sleeps), I ran across a common sight.

A local dot-com was disposing of its surplus computer equipment by dumping it at the curb. (Possibly emulating the earlier dumping of some of its people.) Two full dumpsters were taken away. The picture shows what was left behind.

Charities and used equipment dealers are loaded with the remnants of the dot-com disaster. They won't take anymore. "Just dump it at the curb".

### Dot-Com Fever In Reverse

In both Silicon Valley and SF the story is the same -- acres of empty office space, rental housing a glut, home sales very slow, skilled personnel working for a fourth (or less) of previous income.

Deflation is fashionable. Bankruptcy rules, even PG&E is doing it. The lawyers are in clover. Now arise the new Merlins--debt reduction specialists --to salvage what is left and improve the cash flow of the survivors.

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## Digital Lifestyles

### DSL - Gotta Have It

At a recent tech event in San Francisco, I learned that 9 million U.S. households have broadband access! **Broadband Watch** reports that DSL users spend an average of 25 hours per week on the Internet, and that DSL users are addicted to broadband.

Respondents to a survey indicated what they would be willing to sacrifice to keep their broadband connection, as follows:

Microwave Oven	88%
TV Remote Control	87%
VCR	81%
Daily Newspaper	78%
Radio	74%
TV	70%
Morning Coffee	63%
Cable or Satellite TV	59%
Garage Door Opener	59%

## On The Job Surfing

### Bites The Dust

Recent studies show that 72% of all employees are spending 2+ hours/day personally surfing the Internet, resulting in billions of lost productivity to their employers. Popular destinations are adult sites, news, auctions and job searches.

**Interactive Innovations, Inc.** and their software I-Stars, intercepts the keywords and URLs entered into search engines and browsers, displaying Corporate warnings on users' screens that their search or destination is not consistent with company policies regarding access to the Internet.

## I Want My...Microsoft Office XP



This morning, June 2, 2001 I attended one of Microsoft Corp's. Xtreme events at the Fairmont Hotel in San Francisco. The live show was broadcast from Redmond, WA. I saw a demonstration of the next version of Windows, called Windows XP, Ultimate TV, Microsoft Reader eBook software [[free download now](#)], the Xbox game console and the latest version of the 'suite known as Office'.

### Office XP - Available now.

There is limited availability for a bundle called **Special Edition Professional**. This is one cool package! Word 2002, Excel 2002, Access 2002, Powerpoint 2002, etc. [Check out upgrade requirements and Pricing at:](#) <http://www.microsoft.com/office/howto-buy/pricing.htm>

Or, how about ordering the **Office XP Professional trial CD** [good for 30 days] at: <http://www.microsoft.com/office/evaluation/default.htm>

### Features that "wowed" me

- . Task Pane
- . File Structure
- . Smart Tags
- . Customizable Smart Tags
- . Digital Document Imaging & Scanning
- . Dynamic Word Count
- . Template gallery
- . Speech Recognition
- . Translate docs into other languages
- . Powerpoint animation schemes
- . While in Word, grab addresses from Outlook 2002
- . Controllable artificial intelligence
- . Copy and paste tables, stock quotes, etc. from the Web into Excel, then use Smart Tag menu for live updates!

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## Digitally Cool

### Web Kiosks

Self-service kiosks in malls and stores enhance the shopping experience by providing physical and virtual inventory, side-by-side comparisons of product types as well as FAQs, pricing information from competing retailers, gift registries and affiliated services.

Kmart Corp. has tripled inventory without building a single new store by using kiosks to link shoppers to its Web site, [www.BlueLight.com](http://www.BlueLight.com)

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#### The New Merlins

Trained, skilled and experienced in the art of negotiation, these financial types work to reduce Accounts Payable exposure.

They save their clients 40% to 80% of the amounts owed. Thus, in many cases, bankruptcy is avoided.

Unlike attorneys who are paid, whether their clients win, loose or draw, these debt reduction specialists are paid only a percentage of their clients savings.

Since most of them don't advertise, these specialists are difficult to find. They obtain business primarily through word of mouth and letters to companies being sued.

If you wish to find one in your locality, or want to explore the business opportunity, write me at [bill@digitaltimes.com](mailto:bill@digitaltimes.com).

## I Want My...Microsoft Office XP

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### Training Products Available:

I trip to my local CompUSA after this morning's event produced the following resources:

#### CDs

'Professor Teaches Microsoft Office XP'  
9 CD tutorial set retailing at \$29.95.  
Individual Software Corporation, Tel. (925) 734-6767. Toll free tech support at (800) 331-3313. URL: <http://www.individualsoftware.com/new/index2.htm>

#### 'Learn Microsoft Office XP'

6 CD tutorial set retailing at \$19.95 by Pondview Interactive Learning. Tel. (925) 943-0269 Email: [support@pondviewproductions.com](mailto:support@pondviewproductions.com) URL: <http://www.pondviewproductions.com>

#### BOOK

**Office XP for Dummies**  
ISBN: 0-7645-0830-X, \$21.99  
daily etips at: <http://www.dummiesdaily.com>

### Windows XP Operating System

Very, very cool features of this new OS from Microsoft include:

Media Player for Audio. CD quality at 1/2 the file size of MP3. My Music Folder with each folder represented by album art. Playlist, track number and resizeable console.

Movie Maker--use photos or footage and easily save for WEB, specifying playback at 28.8 or 56kps.

Burn CDs from your desktop  
DVD Player with playlist, fullscreen menu and interactive, adjustable console

Digital Photography Scanner & Camera Wizard  
Desktop access to family accounts  
Photo Printing Wizard [do wallet prints]  
Can easily group files by project, open 8-9 Word docs at once and select files from a drop-down menu.

...COMING IN OCTOBER

## Ultimate T.V. Service

Microsoft is offering a significant improvement to WebTV.

### Features

DirectTV satellite programming  
Digital Video recording  
Pause and Slow-Motion  
Record 2 shows at once  
Wireless keyboard optional

Interactively search programming by actor or title then select and record in background.

### Microsoft Reader

Store 200 books on a Flashcard  
Read books from a Pocket PC  
Get FREE Encarta Pocket Dictionary  
Can specify Font and redraw the pages  
Can bookmark, highlight text, annotate, draw on text, search for keywords.

Software is FREE at: <http://www.microsoft.com/ebooks>

Purchase ebooks at: <http://www.BarnesandNoble.com>  
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