



PAFinder

New PAF Upgrade: Version 5.2 Ready for Download

By Richard Rands

The PAF development team in Salt Lake City has been hard at work to keep PAF on the leading edge of family history software. Evidence of their success was made available on July 23rd with the announcement that PAF 5.2 is now ready for download from the Web site at www.familysearch.org. The list of bug fixes and enhancements is substantial and is worthy of review.

While version 5.2 technically only qualifies as an update to earlier versions, the download is the complete PAF software and you must download the full installation file and reinstall it, replacing all of your existing 5.1 version. If you are still using PAF 4 or an earlier version, you may still download and install PAF 5.2 and then convert your database to the new version. The download procedure has been improved with two different modes of receiving the installation file: FTP or HTTP. Whether you use FTP or HTTP doesn't matter because the resulting file will be the same. However, if one method doesn't work for you, try the other method. The only difference between the two methods is which part of your browser program is controlling the download process. The size of the installation file is a little over 9.8 Mbytes which means it will take a considerable length of time to download unless you have a high speed Internet connection. The name of the file will be PAF5EnglishSetup.exe. If you do not have a high speed connection, you may want to wait until you can pick up a CD-ROM copy at the next SV-PAF-UG monthly meeting. The CD-ROM version will be available from the LDS Church Distribution Center in about three to four weeks.

Installing the new version is only a matter of running the installation file and following all of the instructions on the screen just as you have previous versions. It will still be necessary to close all other programs running on your computer before you start the installation process, or you may find the program will not install properly. Once

installed, you will note that the full version number is 5.2.18.0.

As you open the program, you will not notice any differences from version 5.1. Behind the scenes you will discover many improvements, the most important of which are:

- ◆ The program is more compatible with newer versions of the Windows operating systems, particularly Windows XP,
- ◆ The file of LDS temples and their starting dates has been updated to include new temples,
- ◆ Additional "HELP" files have been added,
- ◆ The "Global Search and Replace" function now works for names, temple codes, and notes.
- ◆ Attributes for the predefined custom events can now be edited,
- ◆ The "Match/Merge" function has been enhanced,
- ◆ Support for the Input Method Editors for non-roman languages has been improved, and
- ◆ For LDS Church members, the TempleReady Update Files (.OUP files) can now be used to update your PAF database with completed ordinance dates.

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Documentation for Beginners

By Lesly Klippel

The other day in our Family History Center, a 75-year old lady found herself in the International Genealogical Index (IGI). You are supposed to be dead to be in the IGI, but she was very much alive. Upon contacting the submitter, this lady was surprised by the response, "I supposed you were dead." Supposition has its place for the family history detective, but should not be the basis of data in your genealogy database. In order to avoid junk genealogy, your database must be based on documented evidence with the sources listed in the manner of your choosing, but with clarity and consistency so they can be understood by others.

Beginners to genealogy research often acquire or inherit information that does not have adequate documentation or any documentation at all. Remember, that information in books and in living color on a computer screen, may not be accurate and is certainly seldom complete. Perhaps, you have taken the steps of contacting your family for information, scouring previous research and searching the Internet. You may have collected quite a few names and dates, but have very few sources or some sources like "family records," a nebulous term which means "somebody came up with the dates." Databases such as Ancestral File or sites such as www.ancestry.com and www.genealogy.com often have no sources or very sketchy sources. To bring your database into good shape and turn your junk genealogy into solid gold, I would suggest the following steps:

First, try to verify the information you have gathered by contacting the person who posted it or published it in the book or article. Nowadays, phone numbers can quite easily be obtained through Internet people finder sites. Use them to get the updated address and phone

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\$250 Grand Prize

Remember the Family History Writing Contest deadline is the November 2002 meeting. Get the rules and entry form at a meeting or on the Web site at www.svpagug.org

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numbers of Ancestral File submitters. Databases on most Internet sites contain an e-mail address for the submitter and any family Internet site worth anything, has the name and e-mail address of the webmaster. By contacting other researchers, you can often find out the sources of the information and enter those sources into your database.

Second, thoroughly search the wonderful resources now on the Internet in the way of census images, marriage, land, cemetery and other original records for the time and location of the family to verify the accuracy of your data. Many of these records might not have been available to the original researcher. Sites like www.usgenweb.com and www.ancestry.com offer transcriptions and extractions of original records as well as census images, often with indexes. Many Family History Centers now have Internet access and Ancestry.com has offered a free subscription to all Family History Centers so you can go to your local Center if you do not have Internet access at home. If needed, you can order vital, probate, church, land and tax records from the Family History Library through your local Family History Center. The PERSI index at www.ancestry.com provides access to thousands of periodical articles and the Allen County Public Library gives fast service when you send for a copy of the article. A thorough search of all these types of records will help you complete your family groups for several generations.

Third, examine your information and use the principles of evaluation to determine the truth of your data and resolve discrepancies in the data. Now, lest you think that you are doing the research all over again, remember that you have names, dates and places to guide you. You are using original sources to verify data, not having to branch out into new territory in your research. This phase actually goes quite quickly, especially if you are using the Internet and don't have to wait for films to arrive from Salt Lake City. Unfortunately, some Usgenweb.com sites offer very little original data for the geographic area they cover. Hopefully, you will be using some of the better

ones that have lots of databases full of good information.

Another wonderful source of information is the local historical or genealogical society. Their names and addresses are on the particular county site at www.usgenweb.com and they often have collections of records that are neither on the Internet nor on film in Salt Lake City. The workers at these societies should become some of your best friends. They will steer you in the right direction and save you many hours of searching for records. They often can put you in touch with other researchers on the same line, perhaps some who haven't posted their data on the Internet. They also know the current descendants still living in the area. These people may still have records in their homes that you need to look at. Ask, ask, ask, telephone, telephone, telephone, contact, contact, contact and you will have success!

Here are some basic principles of documentation to remember. A Primary source is one that was recorded at or near the time of the event. Examples include the death information on a death certificate, a marriage record (although the preacher often had up to a year to "return" the marriage information to the county clerk), birth records and tax records. Census records are a primary source for the configuration and location of the family at the time of the census, but most censuses do not specify relationships of members of a household.

A Secondary source was recorded a long time after the event and its accuracy depends upon the knowledge of the informant. Examples include the birth and parentage information on a death certificates and family Bibles unless there is evidence that the dates were recorded at the time of the events such as a difference in handwriting combined with an early publishing date. Biographies, military pension records and court affidavits often refer to events that happened previously and depend upon the informant's memory and motives. Finding at least two sources for each item of information is good practice and helps weed out the inaccuracies and falsifications.

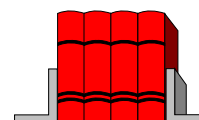
Besides determining whether the source was recorded near the time of the event or afterwards, you need to note whether

you are looking at an original record, a word-for-word transcription or an abstract listing the pertinent data in the original. If you use either of the last two types, try to look at the original since human error can corrupt even the most careful extractions. By looking at the original of my third great-grandfather's will, I found that an abstract had omitted one of his 13 children!

Next, in evaluating your data, determine if the evidence directly answers the question or if it infers the answer to the question. For instance, a birth certificate with a name, date and place of birth directly answer the question about when and where a person was born. A census record giving an age at the time and place of the census, infers a birth year but may not reflect the actual place of birth. Circumstantial evidence must be substantiated by either direct evidence or enough circumstantial evidence to give an assurance that you have arrived at the truth.

As you collect and verify your data, it is important to record your sources in the documentation template or at the very least, in the "Notes" section of PAF. By recording your sources as you go, you will avoid ending up with another database of undocumented names and dates. Take it from me, trying to go back and put in the sources for hundreds or thousands of individuals is such a daunting task that it may explain why we have so many undocumented genealogies floating around.

Verifying and documenting the data you have received from others is the best way to learn how to do original research. You learn what records are available and how to determine what sources are most valuable. Don't just take someone else's word for your names and dates. Document their research if they haven't provided the documentation for you. The good habits you form by documenting as you research will enable you to do a professional job when you start working on those end-of-line persons that may have you stumped right now but whose secrets will unfold to you as you pursue this wonderful passion of discovering your roots. •



New PAF Upgrade

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In addition to the enhancements, the following bugs have been fixed:

- ◆ All printers supported by Windows should now work with PAF. A significant number of print problems have been eliminated, including line spacing, sequence problems, duplications, and more;
- ◆ When the first source or repository is deleted from your lists, the list does not appear to be empty any more;
- ◆ The "File Restore" function now handles multiple disk backup files for Windows ME and XP;
- ◆ Various problems with date formats and date displays were fixed;
- ◆ The apparent "memory leak" when doing lots of editing was fixed;
- ◆ A problem with setting font sizes too big for the screen was fixed;
- ◆ Some problems with Web page creation were corrected;
- ◆ A problem with the GEDCOM import where portions of a citation were duplicated was fixed; and
- ◆ Some problems with Advanced Focus/Filter were fixed.

Much of the bug fixes will apply to advanced users with large data bases and who do a lot of intensive work in PAF. One of the most frustrating problems in previous versions occurred when a user wanted to increase the size of the fonts on the screen to make them more readable. Unfortunately, if the font size was made too big, the resulting window would be too big for the screen, and most of the buttons and slide bars on the perimeter of the window could not be accessed, rendering the window useless. Now there are limits to the fonts sizes that are available. Those who have very large high resolution monitors may find this to be a step backward, but for the majority of users, this will prevent problems.

Those who use PAF to print lots of reports will be pleased with the corrections to the printing routines. Sometimes a line of print would be duplicated across a page break, and sometimes a line of print would be lost a page break. Sometimes photos would not be put in a report printed to a file. If you had any such problems and they

were reported, chances are they were fixed.

The panic caused by apparent loss of every source or repository entry has been eliminated. If the very first entry in either list was deleted, PAF would not be able to display the remainder of the list. The entries were still in the file, but a bug in the program made it appear as though they were lost.

There was a serious problem with Match/Merge that caused it to miss some potential matches. Now the program is much more accurate when identifying possible matches. Once you have loaded PAF 5.2, it is advisable to perform a Match/Merge on your data to check for possible matches missed by the previous version.

Because the Global Search and Replace function has become so valuable in cleaning up incorrect information, it has been improved so that you can make mass changes to individual's names, LDS temple codes, and even portions of the text in your notes. For example, suppose you discover that all of the entries for John Tailor in your database should really be John Taylor. Using the Global Search and Replace in the "Tools" menu and selecting "Full Name" as the search option, enter "John /Tailor/" in the search for field and "John /Taylor/" in the replace with field. Be sure to specify that you wish to get a report of records changed, and then click Replace. When changing text in your notes, you can search and replace any text. However, you must be very careful – it is always wise to make a backup of your file before you do any global changes. Recently I decided that I wanted to change my notes tag "RESIDENCES" to "RESIDENCE." Because I had no idea how many of my notes entries contained this tag, it would have been difficult to fix them all. Now, a few keystrokes will make the change quickly and thoroughly.

The new date formats in 5.2 are now very impressive. For example, in version 5.1, if you entered a date as 13 Jan 1857 – 21 Jan 1858, the resulting date would be displayed as 13/21 Jan 1857/1858 – a totally meaningless date. In this new version that same entry will result in an unambiguous display as "from 13 Jan 1857 to 21 Jan 1858."

For those who use the pre-defined custom events, such as adoption, census, divorce, and religion, you will now be able to edit the format for how these events are printed in reports. In the previous version, only the formats for new user defined events could be modified.

Most of the other changes are self-explanatory – all except for the ability to use the TempleReady Update Files. Members of the LDS Church keep track of the dates and places of LDS religious ordinances. The TempleReady program is used to take a file of individual's names and check the archives to determine if any of these special ordinances have already been completed. When the archives show that there are entries for any of the individuals being checked, the program generates a special file with the .OUP file extension. This file may be used to update your PAF database with the dates. Anyone who has tried to keep this type of data current in a PAF database will appreciate the immense amount of time and effort this feature can save.

We applaud the efforts of Steve Cannon and his team in Salt Lake City for making PAF 5.2 even more solid as the premier program for family history management. •

Baker Hoax

The hoax begun with the claim that Jacob Baker left an unclaimed estate in Pennsylvania, said to be worth \$80 million. A search for his family was begun during the late 1800s. This turned out to be one of the most notorious genealogical hoaxes and largest phony heir searches in North America. Controversy over the hoax continued until the mid-1900s. If you are related to the alleged Baker heirs, you may inherit some of the wealth found in the old family letters and documents associated with the hoax. You can learn more at the following Web sites:

<http://www.rootsweb.com/~molinn/baker.html>
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~jcat2/myraarticle.html>

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DVD for the Family Historian

By Allin Kingsbury

You probably have heard of DVD. You can now rent movies on DVD, buy a DVD drive for your computer or play music from a DVD. The digital media formerly known as Digital Versatile Disc or Digital Video Disc is now commonly known as DVD. It is a common peripheral for the personal computer. The DVD performs a similar function to the floppy disk and the CD-ROM, but it holds more data than either of these.

The most significant feature of DVD is the amount of data that can be stored. The DVD disk looks like a CD-ROM and the technology is similar. The floppy disk holds 1.4 megabytes of data, enough to store almost any book in text format, or one high resolution picture in digital format. The CD-ROM can store almost 700 megabytes or about 500 times as much data as a floppy disk. The cost of a blank CD-ROM is now almost as low as the cost of a floppy disk. A CD-ROM can hold a whole library of books in text format, or one illustrated book, or about 500 high resolution pictures, or about one hour of digital music or audio recording. A DVD can store up to 17 GB of data, about twenty five times the capacity of a CD-ROM. This is enough capacity to store a feature length movie using video compression.

The Family historian can use a DVD to store home videos, large archives of photos in digital format, genealogy databases, archives of audio recordings, publish family histories, and back-up of data on a hard drive, and many other uses. With a digital video camera, a PC with a large capacity hard disk, and a DVD recorder, professional quality editing of home videos can be done at home. For users of the PAF program and other genealogy software, family historians can add pictures, sound clips and video clips to the database for a family and distribute them on DVD. As family members acquire DVD technology, they can be put on the distribution list for data on DVD.

How Does DVD Work?

A DVD looks like a CD-ROM. They are the same size and both use laser technology to store optical data on a spiral track. The tracks on a DVD are closer than on a CD-ROM (0.74 verses

1.6 microns pitch). Data is stored in pits in the track which are also closer together in the DVD (minimum spacing of 0.4 micron for DVD as compared to 0.834 micron for the CD-ROM). The smaller optical resolution required to make the DVD is done using a laser with a wavelength of 635nm or 650nm rather than the 780nm laser used with the CD-ROM.

Additional data is stored on the DVD by using two layers of data on the surface of the disk. The outer layer is translucent and the bottom layer is an opaque reflective layer. The DVD drive can switch from one layer to another by changing the focus of the laser beam. This does not double the capacity because the bottom layer is harder to read and must be written with a lower density than the top layer. Since the bottom layer of the DVD is opaque, two recordable layers can be placed on each side of the disk. The DVD disk is the same overall size as a standard 120mm diameter, 1.2mm thick CD-ROM disk. There are four versions which can be manufactured which vary in the amount of data that they hold:

- ◆ DVD-5 is a single-sided single-layered disc with a capacity of 4.7GB.
- ◆ DVD-9 is a single-sided double-layered disc with a capacity of 8.5GB.
- ◆ DVD-10 is a double-sided single-layered disc with a capacity of 9.4GB.
- ◆ DVD-18 is a double-sided double-layered disc with a capacity of 17GB.

When the DVD is read, the data rate is somewhat higher for the DVD because the data density recorded in the track is higher. Access time is helped because the lower track can be recorded or read in either direction. The top layer of data can be read the normal way from the inside of the spiral to the outside. The bottom layer can be recorded from the outside to the inside which eliminates the need to reposition the reading device when switching layers.

The CD-ROM has an error correction system which requires extra bits. Thus if a bit is misread, it can be corrected. The DVD uses a more efficient error correction system called ECC which uses fewer bits to operate than the crude

error correction system of the CD-ROM, and leaves a higher percentage of the bits for data.

History of the DVD

The DVD began as three large companies, Matsushita Electric, Toshiba, and Time/Warner, formed an alliance to develop digital technology which could store a feature length movie. The technology became known as the Super Disk (SD) technology. Sony and Philips combined their talent to create a rival development called Multimedia CD (MMCD) technology. The stage was set for an industry war rivaling the battle of VHS and Betamax technology when the video recorder was first marketed. The computer industry quickly made it known that they wanted a single DVD standard. The major manufacturers of DVD products reluctantly formed a DVD consortium to publish a standard for the technology. The DVD-ROM standard was approved in 1995. It was a compromise between SD and MMCD technology although it relied most heavily on the SD technology. The eleven major companies that planned to manufacture DVD products continued to bicker over details of the standard after it was published. It was an opposite to the development of the CD-ROM where Sony and Philips worked together and had their engineers work out the details of a standard based on technological considerations.

The major cause of bickering were the royalties that would be paid to the companies that had developed the various pieces of the technology used in the DVD standard. The movie industry added fuel the arguments when they demanded technology against pirating of their movies by the computer literate DVD users. They got an anti-copying system incorporated into the standard. Concern that the digital format could be copied to other media caused the entertainment companies to push the U.S. Congress to pass legislation to prevent copying of digital data. The act was similar to the Audio Home Recording Act, an earlier law passed to stop pirating of records and tapes. The proposed law called the Digital Video Recording Act was to apply to the computer industry and prevent the use of computers to copy DVD data. The

computer industry sided against the act and the legislation failed. However, the movie studios did succeed in adding significant copy protection requirements into the DVD-Video standard. The Content Scrambling System (CSS) was adopted in the final months of 1996. Other systems of copy protection have been developed since then and added to the specification.

The record industry also added to the battle, causing a year-long delay in the release of the first DVD-Audio products originally scheduled for Christmas 2000. They created the Secure Digital Music Initiative (SDMI) which selected copy protection features (encryption and watermarking) which were incorporated into version 1.2 of the DVD-Audio specification in the summer of 2001. Until the end of 1999, DVD-Audio digital copy protection was accomplished by CSS II, an improved version of CSS, which is used on many DVD-Video discs. The DeCSS software hack for DVD-Video caused DVD-Audio producers to seek a better copy protection for their products. Content Protection for Pre-recorded Media (CPPM) was developed by the 4C group, consisting of Intel, IBM, Matsushita and Toshiba. The new protection uses 56-bit keys, instead of the 40-bit keys used for CSS and the Cryptomeria Cipher (C2) for content encryption. Hacked playback is blocked by a Media Key Block (MKB). MKB contains a very large number of keys and is unique for every DVD-Audio title. Each licensed decoder model has a set of unique device keys assigned to it that allow it to obtain the Media Key (used to encrypt the audio content) from the MKB and decrypt the audio content. Any playback device can be revoked in future discs via the MKB.

Audio DVD products have a similar level of confusing options when compared to video DVD products. The DVD-Audio specification requires that PCM be used, but allows MPEG, Dolby Digital and Digital Theatre Systems Digital Surround (DTS) as optional audio formats. Most movies on DVD have the audio stored as discrete, multi-channel surround sound using Dolby Digital or DTS audio compression similar to the digital surround sound formats used in theatres. In spite of compression, Dolby Digital and DTS can be comparable or better than sound on a CD-ROM.

DVD-Audio discs can have video such as DVD-Video title frames, as well as high quality audio files and include limited interactivity. A dual layer DVD-Audio disk can have 2 hours of full surround sound audio or 4 hours for stereo audio. Single layer capacity is about one-half these times.

OSTA

Another organization, the Optical Storage Technology Association (OSTA), has also shaped DVD products. DVD is an optical storage media, and OSTA, representing more than 80 percent of all worldwide writeable optical product shipments, has an interest in DVD. Hewlett-Packard and Philips, two member companies developed the MultiRead specification which defines the requirements for drives for the four principal types of CD discs: CD-Digital Audio (CD-DA), CD-ROM, CD-Recordable (CD-R), and CD-Rewritable (CD-RW). OSTA expanded this specification to include DVD drives which read and write CD-ROM disks. Compliance with the MultiRead specification is voluntary, but member companies are encouraged to use a MultiRead logo program which is established and administered by Hewlett-Packard. Companies wanting to display the logo on their drives are required to self test their drives using a test plan published on the OSTA web site. To receive a license to use the logo, they must submit a test report to Hewlett-Packard along with a nominal license fee. All CD-ROMs will continue to be compatible with new drives bearing the MultiRead logo.

OSTA also developed a single physical file structure called UDF, or Universal Disc Format, for data, video, audio, or a mix of these applications. It also specified the interface to standard operating systems which assures compatibility with the ISO 9660 standard. The portion of the UDF standard applicable to DVD is a subset of the UDF specification, Revision 1.02, and is known as MicroUDF (M-UDF). The specification applies to both the read-only and writable versions of DVD. Microsoft did not support UDF until they shipped Windows 98. DVD providers were forced to use an interim format called UDF Bridge, a hybrid of UDF and ISO 9660. Windows 95 OSR2 supports UDF Bridge, but earlier versions of Windows do not. The biggest problem with UDF Bridge is the use of long file names. A computer with Windows 98 or a later version has no

problem using UDF or using long file names for DVD files.

DVD Format

The various manufacturing groups (movie, music recordings, computer, software, games etc.) lobbied for formats which would suit their products. The committee compromised on a list of standard formats for DVD data, which are:

- ◆ DVD-ROM is a high-capacity data storage format for computer data files.
- ◆ DVD-Video is a digital storage format for feature-length movies.
- ◆ DVD-Audio is an audio storage format for music and other audio.
- ◆ DVD-R is a write-once, read-many storage format akin to CD-R.
- ◆ DVD-RAM is the first rewritable (erasable) format for DVD.
- ◆ DVD-RW is a recent format for video DVDs.
- ◆ DVD+RW is a format for video DVD which has 4 modes of varying quality, similar to the ep and lp recording modes for the video cassette, and which trade off image quality and length of the recording.

Several other DVD manufacturers use their proprietary application or software formats which do not follow the DVD specification. The Sony PlayStation2 game is one example where the DVD is written in a proprietary format, also intended to prevent piracy.

Compression and Encryption

To make a feature length movie fit the space on the single-sided DVD, the data must be compressed. As the DVD was being developed, the MPEG2 standard was the best available choice for data compression. It reduces file size ten to 1 with minimal loss of image quality. The MPEG3 and MPEG4 standards were soon available for better compression and image quality. MPEG4 has significant advantages which make it the most popular compression algorithm available now. MPEG4 is more efficient at compression than earlier standards, plus it has a lossless mode which can be used for data or applications where loss of data quality cannot be tolerated. The MPEG standards are proprietary and royalties are paid to use them. Although users have considered the cost and terms of use excessive, MPEG compression has little in the way of competition.

Video recordings can also be recorded using Variable Bit Rate (VBR) technology which uses more digital data to store fast-moving video scenes and less for scenes where there is less movement on the screen. The software filters the video data to determine the best data bit rate to maintain image quality.

The entertainment industry uses encryption to protect their products from piracy. Digital code is added to audio or video files which prevent copying.

Several producers use the Internet connection to bill each viewing of the video to an account at the central office. Others limit the number of times the DVD can be played. The purpose is to have the DVD returned to the rental store and reset for a fee before the DVD can be played again.

DVD Hardware

Currently, about five DVDs are sold for computer use for each one sold for the entertainment industry. This is good news for the family historian, because the high-volume production will drive prices down. The computer user will need a DVD reader to receive and read DVDs. For publishing, backup of data, archiving or any of the many other DVD applications which require a DVD writer, there a number of read/write units available. To copy or write maximum capacity DVDs, either 17 GB of free hard drive space is needed, or both a read drive and a read/write drive, both connected to the computer are needed to copy. Unlike CD-ROM drives for your computer which come as read or read/write units, the choice of DVD hardware has more choices.

The array of DVD formats has created an array of compatibility issues that should be addressed. DVD products on the market fall into six product families:

- ◆ DVD Player: This is an entertainment product designed to

play DVD video and audio products.

- ◆ DVD-R(G): This is an entertainment product designed for the R(G)format.
- ◆ DVD-R(A): This is an entertainment product designed for the R(A)format.
- ◆ DVD-RAM: This drive is designed for the computer to read all formats except DVD+RW including CD-ROMs. It writes DVD-RAM format
- ◆ DVD-RW: This is an entertainment product designed for the DVD-RW format.
- ◆ DVD+RW: This is the machine for the person editing home videos. It uses rewritable DVD disks and can record TV shows and camcorder recordings. It can also be used with video editing software to edit video footage. These units can also write CD-ROMs, both the rewritable and write-once types. These units can read CD-ROMs and all DVD formats except DVD-RAM.

Most of these units read several formats and some write more than one format.

Table 1 shows the six product families and the formats that they usually read and write. As can be seen, the computer drive typically writes only the DVD-ROM format, which is a disappointment to someone who wants a drive that will archive computer files and produce DVD video and audio disks that can be played on an entertainment system. Some day a drive that will write many formats may be available. Before purchasing a DVD drive, one will need to understand the DVD formats and read the drive specifications to evaluate the features and determine whether the drive will meet future needs of the user.

Conclusion

You probably have a good idea of how you will use DVD technology now. If you ask yourself, will I want to edit and

produce video or audio on my computer, or record TV shows on DVD, you may have difficulty finding an answer. New software makes these tasks easy for beginners. Some long range planning can help you avoid purchase of hardware that you will want to replace at a later time.

Prices of DVD drives are dropping into and affordable range even though they are still much higher than CD-ROM drives currently on the market. Many computer users are adding DVD drives now. Since the technology is quite similar, the DVD drive prices will probably fall to near the CD-ROM drive prices a few years from now, and perhaps fall below those prices as CD-ROM drivers begin to be seen as obsolete technology. If you need the storage capacity of a DVD now, you probably should add to your computer now. It is too early to predict obsolescence of the CD-ROM and of the DVD, but DVD technology will remain on the market for many years. It will be a mainstream storage product for both the computer user and for the entertainment industry for a long time.

The cost of DVD has dropped and new hardware is continually being introduced. Hopefully, the information presented will help you differentiate between DVD drives and players on the market and evaluate which models, features and prices will meet your needs. Price cuts seem to be on the Internet before they appear in stores. Bargains are more likely to be found online. If you can wait for DVD, you will get a better price next quarter or next year. In any event, DVD will be an excellent addition for your computer for backup, photo archiving, multimedia and family history publishing. It is a necessity if you are doing video or multimedia production. •

Table 1: Format Features of the Six Families of DVD Products

DVD Disc Format	Type of DVD Product											
	DVD Player		DVD-R(G)		DVD-R(A)		DVD-RAM		DVD-RW		DVD+RW	
	R	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	R	W	R	W
DVD-ROM	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
DVD-R(G)	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
DVD-R(A)	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No
DVD-RAM	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No
DVD-RW	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No
DVD+RW	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
CD-R	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
CD-RW	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes

Ask Dr. PAF

"I Give No Answers Before Their Time!"

by Dr. Cornelius D. PAF

Q. How can I send a PAF file as an attachment to an e-mail? I sent a PAF file and it was not able to be opened unless one already had the PAF program. Any suggestions?

A. Create a GEDCOM file from your PAF file and attach that to your e-mail. If you have a very large data file, you may want to use WINZIP or a similar program to condense it. It depends on how large a file you can send with your e-mail.

Don't confuse the resulting WINZIP "zip" file with the "zip" file that is the backup file for PAF 5. The WINZIP file does need WINZIP to make it a useable GEDCOM file, unless the person you are sending it to has e-mail that will unzip it.

Remember that the GEDCOM file can only be read, and understood, by another genealogy program. If you have problems with the GEDCOM file, use the HELP text on each screen, or use the PAF 5 users guide that was downloaded with your program as a PDF file and can be read using Acrobat Reader.

Q. Do you know if there is an easy way to make a timeline? I would like to make a chronological list that shows each event for each person, in the order the events happened.

A. I am not aware of any easier way using only PAF. GENELINES is a program that will make very good timelines for a person, family, direct line, or almost any combination of relationships. Of course, this means that with so many options it takes a little while to learn, but the instructions and Help texts are very good. It reads directly from a PAF datafile. The time lines are in color too. You can download a demo copy. Get more information at <progenysoftware.com>. I believe there are several other timeline making programs. You may have figured out the easiest way to do it in PAF alone. •

Fall Classes Planned



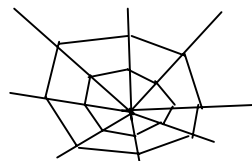
Inge Harding-Barlow & John Gleed

We have invited some outstanding speakers to teach at our fall meetings. In September, we have John Gleed and Inge Harding-Barlow teaching the first of two lectures on research in the British Isles and will discuss Victorian records beyond civil registration, census and marriage records. They have worked as a team, giving series of lectures on British Isles research at the Menlo Park Family History Center. The second lecture of our series will be held at the November meeting and cover wills before 1858, probate jurisdictions and land tax assessments.

In October, Charlotte Scoble will give a series of three lectures on social history. Charlotte is a teacher and historian and has given a number of lectures on various social history topics. Her topics will include Social History and Genealogy, Irish Social History, and Handling the Black Sheep in Your Family. These topics should be of special interest to those writing or planning to write family histories because social history is a significant aid in understanding how ancestors lived, what issues were of concern in their time, and how they approached major decisions such as careers, moves to new areas, and how people spent their time before radio and television. Her lectures will continue to about 12:30, so come prepared to stay a little longer to hear all she has for us.

We will have other classes at these meetings. Some classes being prepared are: Search Engines: Finding Anything on the Web, Analyzing Family Photographs, How to Plot Maps from Land Records, Using and Placing Multi-Media Images with PAF, and others. Because schedules of our teachers can change unexpectedly, watch the Web site for the latest information about classes. •

Spider Webs



WWI Draft Registration Cards

MyFamily.com, Inc. has begun a large project to digitize the images of the WWI draft cards for more than 24 million World War I registrants. This was approximately 25 percent of the total U.S. population. Not all of these individuals participated in military service. President Woodrow Wilson introduced the American draft to muster the large number of men needed for the war. The first draft registration date was set for June 5, 1917. Two later registrations were held in June and September of 1918. The registration cards provide personal information including: full name, age, home address, date of birth, citizenship status, birthplace, occupation, whether married, and how many children under age 12, any reason to claim exemption from the draft, height, build, eye color, hair color, whether bald, physical impairments or disabilities, and an actual signature of the draftee.

The first 100,000 of these images are now online and available to Ancestry.com subscribers to browse and additional cards are being added weekly. You can subscribe with an annual subscription for \$79.95 or \$29.95 quarterly. •

Classes ~

September 14, 2002

PAF 4 & 5 Classes

- ◆ Getting Started Using PAF to Record Family History

Macintosh Class

- ◆ General Capabilities of PAF on a Mac

General Classes

- ◆ Search Engine Skills: Finding Anything on the Web
- ◆ Research in the British Isles I