



Portable Computer and
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Newsletter

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INTRODUCTION

This is the newsletter of the Portable Computer and Communications Association. Effective 2000, this newsletter will be distributed via e-mail. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep PCCA members current with the activities and directions of the PCCA. We intend to publish this newsletter on a quarterly basis. This newsletter is distributed to everybody on the PCCA mailing list, including both PCCA members and PCCA non-members. Certain content however is restricted to PCCA member companies and resides on the PCCA Web page in a members-only section.

We welcome contributions. If you have any topics or articles you would like to contribute, please contact us.

ELECTIONS - CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

The term of the current board members of the PCCA will expire at the end of March this year. We are beginning the nomination and election process for a new board of directors. The board of directors sets the strategic direction of the PCCA, and oversees the working committees (e.g. Standards and Architecture Committee).

The current board of directors is as follows:

Chris Burke, Motorola
David Cook, WaveWare Communications
Boris Fridman, Nettech Systems
Masahiro Hataguchi, Toshiba/MCPC
Jim Hobbs, BellSouth Wireless Data
Gib Hoxie, The Pacific Group
Joe Korb, GoAmerica
Tim Meyer, Ericsson
David Neale, Rogers Cantel
Robert O'Hara, Microsoft
Dave Robbins, ARDIS
Peter Rysavy, Rysavy Research
Andrew Seybold, Andrew Seybold's Outlook
Ali Sharif, Melard Technologies
Stewart Skomra, Telxon Corporation

Existing board members wishing to remain on the board will be automatically nominated by the PCCA election committee. As per the PCCA bylaws, Andy Seybold is the permanent chairman of the board.

Any person working for a PCCA member company may nominate any person for the board of directors. However, for somebody to serve on the board, their company must be an associate or

executive member of the PCCA. (See <http://www.pcca.org/membership/index.html> for additional details.)

If you want to nominate somebody to the board, please follow the procedures in the document at: <http://www.pcca.org/news/Election2000.doc>. **The deadline for nominations is February 18.**

NEW PCCA MANAGEMENT

Through a letter ballot, the PCCA board of directors transferred management of the PCCA from Andy Seybold's Outlook to Rysavy Research effective December 1, 1999. The new director of the PCCA is Gloria Kowalski, who will work closely with Peter Rysavy of Rysavy Research. Gloria handles all items related to PCCA membership, meeting logistics, and marketing and promotion of the PCCA. Gloria's background in sales and marketing makes her ideal for this job. Please welcome Gloria to the PCCA. All items previously sent to Bob Venter should now be directed to Gloria Kowalski, 541-490-5140.

CONNECTIVITY REPORT - REDUCED TO \$895

The PCCA Mobile Connectivity Report has been reduced from \$5,000 to \$895. This report is analyzes the issues which are preventing more widespread diffusion of mobile connectivity. This includes hardware, software, data communication, and a host of tangential issues such as information system (IS) professional acceptance/resistance of the technology, security concerns and barriers, attitudes about mobile connectivity, the technology adoption process, cost implications, and so on.

The dramatic price reduction is for two reasons. One is that this report was intended as the first phase of a two phase research project. The PCCA has decided not to continue with the second phase. The second reason is that the report was published in October 1997. However, this 300 page report has extremely valuable information, and many of the issues and conclusions are as valid today as they were when the report was published.

We will be bringing a sample of this report to the March 1 PCCA meeting in New Orleans.

See <http://www.pcca.org/connectivity/index.html> for details.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

By Gloria Kowalski, Director, 541-490-5140.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our newest member, Metricom, Inc. Dr. Mike W. Ritter, Chief Technology Officer will be the primary member and Allam Zaheer, Director of Software Engineering will be the secondary member.

The PCCA is made up of approximately 35 members. If an existing member or a perspective member would like to review the Member Companies and Board of Directors they can access that information at <http://www.pcca.org/membership/members.html>. Companies that are participating but not currently members can access the same website for membership information or they can email me for a membership packet. We encourage them to join the PCCA. We are currently growing into a strong organization thanks to our current members. We cannot stay healthy without that support. Our membership fees are very low compared to other organizations.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR MEMBERS

I recently sent out an email to all PCCA members requesting a member information update. At present I have received an 80% response. If you have not responded to this request or have not received an email from me requesting this information please let me know.

I look forward to working with each of you.

Gloria

NEW PCCA INTERFACE STANDARD FOR GENERAL PACKET RADIO SERVICE

Specification for GPRS Manageable Objects for Microsoft's NDIS Interface - PCCA STD-201 Appendix H

By Emil Sturniolo, Senior Architect, WRQ, Emils@wrq.com

Over the last 8 years, the PCCA has always taken a lead in creating consensus within the wide-area wireless-data communication arena. This is evident by the development of significant number of standards that many other industry groups either refer to or have subsumed into their own efforts.

One standard, PCCA-STD-201 defines a generic mechanism to control wide-area wireless interfaces using a network interface card (NIC) model instead of dial up (AT command) interface for Microsoft operating systems. STD-201 was adopted by Microsoft in 1996 and is distributed as part of NT 4.0 and Windows 2000 NDIS driver specification. It is also available for download from the PCCA Web site.

The importance of STD-201 is steadily increasing as industry trends are beginning to move away from using a dialup metaphor for access to wireless data and more towards the development of network interface drivers for controlling the hardware interface. Part of this reason for this trend is that it enables hardware manufactures to remove any vestiges of an AT command parser from the hardware, freeing up valuable code, RAM, and processing power for other more important features.

As new networks emerge, the Standards and Architecture Committee continues to define and set standards that help integrate these technologies into the more popular operating systems. The newest addition to these efforts is our definition of medium-specific objects for GRPS networks. STD-201 Appendix H specifies new objects that enable the management and control of underlying class A, B, or C GRPS devices from a transport level. This draft standard (currently at revision level 0.9) specifies 13 new objects that mimic the functionality described in TS GSM 07.07 and TS GSM 07.60 for configuring and controlling GPRS devices. These objects support GPRS as implemented in GSM networks as well as in TIA/EIA-136 networks.

With the contributions and help of members such as AT&T, Ericsson, Nokia, WRQ, et al, the draft standard has undergone close scrutiny. The new appendix is currently slated for balloting after the up coming meeting in March. Once balloted and accepted by our membership the document will be handed over to Microsoft for subsequent inclusion in an up coming release of the NDIS specification. As with all of our standards information, it is freely available for download from the PCCA's web site (<http://www.pcca.org/standards-com/201appendixHd09.doc>). We welcome any further review of this document from our membership and request that all comments be sent to the PCCA mailing list.

STANDARDS BALLOTS

We are preparing the following standards for a vote by PCCA membership using a letter ballot process.

- PCCA STD-201: Extensions to NDIS for Wireless WANs, Appendix H: GPRS Objects.
- PCCA STD-101: Serial Asynchronous Automatic Dialing and Control for Character Mode DCE on Wireless Data Services, Annex O: Wake-up Commands. This annex is being submitted by the Mobile Computing Promotion Consortium of Japan.

No timelines have been established for these standards yet.

See <http://www.pcca.org/standards-com/index.html> for more information about standards of the PCCA.

WEB PAGE UPDATE

We have made a number of changes to the PCCA Web page (<http://www.pcca.org>). These include:

- Bringing all information up to date (please advise us of any corrections)
- Making standards (final and drafts) available for download
- A new section containing information on meetings, the PCCA newsletter, press releases and other activities.

- A members only section that contains valuable information including contributions by members and copies of presentations made at meetings.

To obtain a password for the members-only area, send an e-mail request to the PCCA. Please indicate the company you are with. If you are unsure whether your company is a member, check <http://www.pcca.org/membership/members.html>. This section currently includes presentations given by Qualcomm, Intel and Microsoft at the interoperability workshop last November.

MoU WITH MCPC

The PCCA has worked for the last two years with the Mobile Computing Promotion Consortium (MCPC) of Japan on standards related to mobile computing. For example, the MCPC has proposed wake-up commands that the PCCA has approved in principle, and that the PCCA will publish as a standard later this year.

To formalize the relationship between the MCPC and the PCCA, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) has been developed. Both organizations have approved the MoU and once the document has been signed by both organizations, it will be adopted. Once the signatures are in place, you will be able to find the MoU on the PCCA Web site.

IPR POLICY

By letter ballot, the PCCA has adopted a new Intellectual Property Rights policy. This policy is available at <http://www.pcca.org/membership/IPR.PDF>. The policy as well as the bylaws of the PCCA are also available from the Membership page at <http://www.pcca.org/membership/index.html>.

Any organization making contributions to the PCCA should take this policy into consideration.

NEXT MEETING OF THE STANDARDS AND ARCHITECTURE COMMITTEE

This next meeting which will emphasize VPNs and wireless will be held in New Orleans on March 1 to coincide with Wireless 2000. Thanks to WRQ, <http://www.wrq.com>, for hosting this meeting.

We have had a great response to this meeting. Forty people have registered for the meeting, with the following companies represented:

Aironet, American Mobile, Andrew Seybold's Outlook, AT&T Wireless Services, Chrysalis-ITS, Cisco, Diversinet, Ericsson, GTE, Intel, Microsoft, Motorola, Nettech Systems, Nextcell, Omnipoint, Open Group, Outlook, Phone.com, Qualcomm, Rysavy Research, Shiva, Sierra Wireless, Sprint PCS, Telxon, Transactions Marketing, WRQ, Xircom, and Yankee Group.

See <http://www.pcca.org/news/index.html> for details about the meeting (as well as future meetings). You must register if you wish to attend this meeting. See the Web page for details. Meeting details are being sent to registrants only.

For people wanting to learn more about VPN technology, the following are some useful links:

<http://www.internetwk.com/VPN/default.html> (Internet Week information on VPNs)

<http://kubarb.phsx.ukans.edu/%7Etbird/vpn/vpnfeatures.html> (list of companies doing VPNs, summary information and links to companies. Many of these sites have additional information including white papers.)

FUTURE MEETINGS

Meetings are scheduled on a quarterly basis. We are finalizing meeting dates. Future meetings will be held in May, August (Redmond, WA hosted by AT&T Wireless Services) and November. See the News and Activities part of the Web page for the most recent information.

Some proposed topics of emphasis for future meetings include:

- Survey of IETF efforts as they relate to wireless networking.
- Wireless data applications development. Workshop on how to use wireless standards, wireless applications programming interfaces and modem commands specific to wireless networking.
- New physical interfaces (e.g. USB, Bluetooth, firewire, Compact Flash, etc.) and the implications on wireless devices and platforms.
- Mobile management
- Guidelines for portable computers to provide a friendly environment for wireless devices
- Continue interoperability testing

If there are specific issues you would like to see covered, send us an e-mail.

To find out the latest information on PCCA meetings, go to <http://www.pcca.org/news/index.html>.

BONUS ARTICLES

These are select articles provided as a courtesy to PCCA members by Andrew Seybold's Outlook (<http://www.outlook.com>). These articles are available to PCCA members only (user ID and password required).

From the December 22, 1999 issue.

- **OmniSky Debuts Service** (<http://www.pcca.org/private/outlook-omnisky.html>) by Andy Seybold.

From the January 28, 2000 issue.

- **Consumer Electronics Show** (<http://www.pcca.org/private/outlook-ces.html>) by Andy Seybold.
- **Mobiltorial** (<http://www.pcca.org/private/outlook-mobitorial.html>) by Andy Seybold.