# We COMPUTE

The PLAIN ENGLISH guide to using computers

**FREE**

NOVEMBER 1998

In the Greater Toronto area

## THE GAMES

## WE PLAY

Best games of '98

Playing online

Also: Of mice and other input devices

# An even younger success story

By Malcolm Kelly

Well, that's our computer community service for the month.

Dave Tan Nguyen, a grade nine student in Ajax, picked up the July issue of *We Compute* this summer and saw our story on Kuru Pathmanathan, the 15-year-old who became one of the youngest in North America to hold an A+ technical license from the Computer Technology Industry Association.

Nguyen, who is 14, thought he could beat that, studied two months from the manual and passed his exam last month.

"When I read the article 'Not the typical summer job for a teenager', it made me want to do it too," said the youngster, in a letter to *We Compute*. "Kuru is right. The CompTIA

---

## HANDS-ON COMPUTER HARDWARE AND SYSTEM-UPGRADING TRAINING

### A.C.T.

257 Harris Ave.
RICHMOND HILL
ONT. L4E 3M3
(905) 883-3448

Email: act@idirect.com

**Training in Hardware and Software Setups**

**Custom Consulting and Installations**

**Network Analysis**

**In-House Consulting**

Thinking of upgrading your computer system or your computer knowledge? Use our components to build a multimedia system.

**COMPUTER ASSEMBLY and TROUBLESHOOTING TECHNIQUES:**
Setup and test a Pentium MMX System. Use diagnostic software to analyze the system. Add a 2nd Hard Drive. Add a CD-ROM. Install peripherals such as Fax Modem, Multimedia Kit, etc. Optimize system including memory management, PCI, etc. Install Windows & Win 98 - DVD
2 day sessions ..... $275.00

**NETWORKING:** Install Network Cards: do low level diagnostics: interface with networking software. Novell or Lantastic, WFW, WINDOWS 98, NT4 Client, NT3.51 Server
6 hours ..... $150.00

**Combine the ASSEMBLY + NETWORKING courses to supplement your CNE studies or to setup your own office system** ..... $375.00

**INTERNET:** Learn to use the Internet ..... from $50.00

---

---

---

---

# University without leaving home

**By Malcolm Kelly**

You can now attend more than 95 accredited California universities — including the University of California, Southern California, Stanford and Pepperdine — without leaving the comfort of your house.

WebU (no football team or fight song, as yet), in effect a huge online course catalogue, lists a large variety of online courses from those and other California institutions who are experiencing a boom in Web learning.

Cal-Berkeley, for example, had 1,748 students registered for this fall's courses, while Stanford had 700.

Found at www.california.edu, the California Virtual University (WebU) is in its first official year.

"In the last two years, interest in distance education really clicked," said Andy DiPaolo, executive director of the Stanford Center for Professional Development.

"The cost of entry has dropped significantly. A school used to (need) a building with all kinds of equipment to transmit course material and only big companies could afford to pick it up.

"Now, you (just) need a Web server and some audio and video equipment," he said. ■

## Even younger success story

A+ certificate is not that difficult."

Holding the entry-level certificate qualifies the two teens for part-time and summer jobs that include hardware repairs and upgrades, software installation and troubleshooting for all PC and Mac systems.

"You can make $30-$35 an hour," said Pathmanathan, back in July. "There are lots of shops looking for certified people."

An American-based organization, CompTIA is a central agency and advocate for computer resellers, manufacturers, distributors and training companies across North America, with 7,500 members.

Cost of taking the A+ certificate is $195 (US) for the manual, with testing done regularly in Toronto.

Go to www.comptia.org for information.

"Thanks a lot," said Nguyen. "If the article was never published, I do not think I could have had the self-esteem to do it!"

You're welcome. ■