

# Got Tjit? New software upgrades file sharing

■ Employees of the Eugene-based MCC are working around the clock to get the new company on its feet

By Lisa Toth  
Oregon Daily Emerald

For the last two months, 15 friends and employees, many of whom quit previous jobs, have worked 60 hours a week without pay to establish a Eugene-based business that provides computer support services and software. Ben Markum, the CEO of Markum Communications Corporation, said the group, which includes current and former University students, is living off Top Ramen. Everyone is in debt because they have collectively invested tens of thousands of dollars into the venture. Markum said he is personally over \$50,000 in debt in his seventh week of working for free.

“I hope people don't have to carry floppy disks around campus anymore.”

Jacob Herbold  
chief technology officer,  
MCC

“The idea wasn't to become bankrupt,” Markum said. “But everyone believes in it. I am 100 percent confident that we are going to succeed.”

While working for the Los Angeles-based OnSystems Inc., Markum helped develop software called Tjit — a term students remember from when it appeared written in sidewalk chalk on campus earlier this term. With a PC and an Internet connection, Tjit users can transfer files of any type and size — including music, text and video files — to other Tjit users all over the world. Other benefits include instant messaging and chatting.

Tjit uses peer-to-peer technology that connects computers directly, bypassing a central server, which is how most computers are currently connected.

Tjit encrypts all the transmitted data, which means that it is more secure than many Web sites. Download time for transferring information with Tjit varies depending on a person's Internet connection, Markum said.

Markum said Tjit is more advanced than Napster, which only lets people transfer music files.

Markum co-founded the company with his brother, Jon, who dropped out of Lane Community College to work for the company.

The brothers leased a 7,000-square-foot home at 1819 Fairmount Blvd. The bedrooms, living room and indoor gymnasium were converted into offices, and the work began.

Markum, a graduate of Harvey Mudd College in California, said MCC does not actually own the technology it is marketing. Rather, the company has special licensing that allows it to “distribute free versions to groups.”

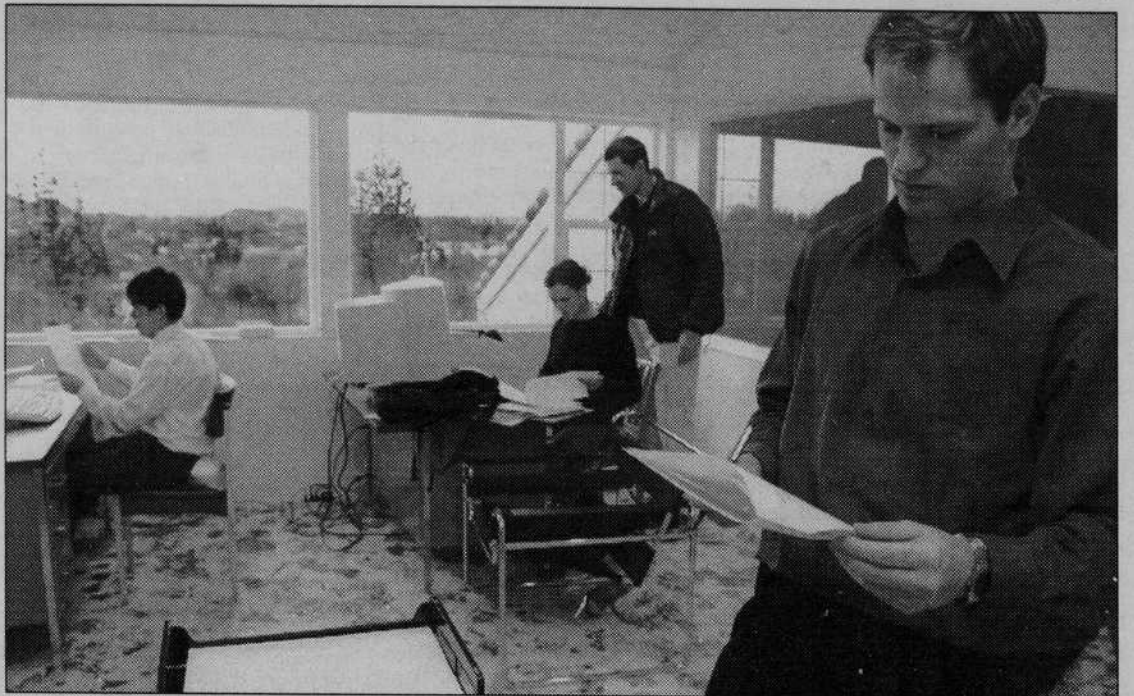
MCC is currently researching 60 potential corporations that might be interested in Tjit, Markum said, but the company is also targeting non-profit organizations.

“We would like to get everyone using it,” Markum said.

Local groups such as the ASUO, the Cultural Forum, the Women's Center and ROTC have been given demonstrations of the program, which would allow them to transfer files for free.

Dong Il Jang, who graduated fall term from the University with a degree in history and anthropology, joined MCC as the market, sales and human resources coordinator. Jang said applications such as video conferencing and network video gaming are in development.

“I just love working with my friends, and I want to see my



CEO Ben Markum looks over documents as Dong Il Jang, Kelly Randle, and Jacob Herbold work on the software for Tjit. ‘The stuff we're doing is going to benefit a lot of people,’ said Non-profit Coordinator Randle. (Below) In mid-January, the word Tjit began appearing around campus. Freshman Matt Merback looks at one of the Tjit markings outside Grab ‘N Go.

friends succeed,” Jang said. “You don't really have the opportunity to work with your friends in the professional world, but this gives us the opportunity to take it to the next level.”

Jacob Herbold, MCC's chief technology officer, said he turned down an offer in the Bay Area to work for MCC.

“It seemed like a waste of my youth. So I'm here instead, and what we are doing is more exciting,” Herbold said. “There is a bigger chance for change with what we are working on.”

Herbold said he hopes Tjit will be used to securely connect people in distance learning. He also said Tjit has the potential to eliminate floppy disks, which can easily damage, lose or corrupt the data on them.

“I hope people don't have to car-

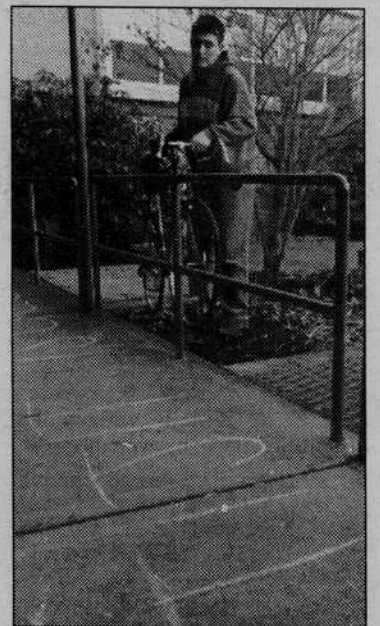
ry floppy disks around campus anymore,” Herbold said.

Seth Re'voal, a sophomore multimedia design major, said after testing a demonstration version of Tjit, he found it was simpler than other means of transferring files, such as File Transfer Protocol. The software could be easily used in his fraternity, Delta Tau Delta, he said, and would allow a connection among not only the house members, but possibly chapters nationwide.

Re'voal also said the University could benefit from the software.

“If the University were to get online with Tjit software, it would greatly facilitate the transfer of information and ideas and improve learning efficiency,” he said.

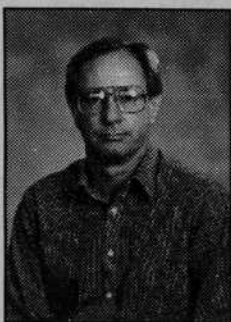
More information about MCC and Tjit is available at [www.markumcc.com](http://www.markumcc.com).



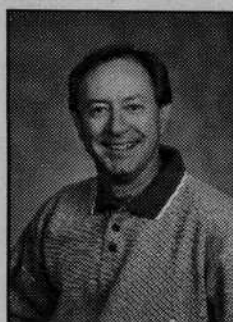
## LASIK Laser Vision Correction

Nearsightedness, farsightedness, and astigmatism

STEVEN OFNER, MD



Jerry Allen BEFORE



Jerry Allen AFTER  
(Surgery by Steven Ofner, MD)

You Don't Have To Imagine Anymore!

Discover the freedom of reducing your dependence on glasses or contact lenses.

Call us to see if you are a candidate & explore your options with a FREE consultation appointment.

STEVEN OFNER, M.D. (541) 687-1715  
<http://www.eugeneeyecare.com>

## SPRING WORKSHOPS

Bicycle Repair  
Ceramics  
Drawing & Painting  
Jewelry  
Photography  
Stained Glass  
Weaving  
Woodworking



Registration begins 10 am March 15th

EMU CRAFT CENTER

For more information or to have our brochure mailed to you call: 346-4361 or [www.craftcenter.uoregon.edu](http://www.craftcenter.uoregon.edu)

### Oregon Daily Emerald

P.O. Box 3159, Eugene OR 97403

The Oregon Daily Emerald is published daily Monday through Friday during the school year and Tuesday and Thursday during the summer by the Oregon Daily Emerald Publishing Co. Inc., at the University of Oregon, Eugene, Oregon. A member of the Associated Press, the Emerald operates independently of the University with offices in Suite 300 of the Erb Memorial Union. The Emerald is private property. The unlawful removal or use of papers is prosecutable by law.

NEWSROOM — (541) 346-5511

Editor in chief: Jack Clifford  
Managing editor: Jessica Blanchard  
Community: Darren Freeman, editor.  
Lindsay Buchele, Aaron Breniman, reporters.  
Freelance: Serena Markstrom, editor.  
Higher education: Andrew Adams, editor.  
Brooke Ross, Hank Hager, reporters.  
Student activities: Jeremy Lang, editor.  
Emily Gust, Beata Mostafavi, Lisa Toth, reporters.  
News aide: Ben Lacy.  
Perspectives: Michael Kleckner, editor.

Jayna Bergerson, Rebecca Newell, Pat Payne, Eric Pfeiffer, columnists.  
Pulse: Rebecca Wilson, editor.  
Mason West, reporters.  
Sports: Jeff Smith, editor. Scott Pesznecker, asst. editor. Peter Hockaday, Adam Jude, Robbie McCallum, reporters.  
Copy: Sara Lieberth, Katie Mayer, copy chiefs.  
Jessica Davison, Monica Hande, Lori Musicer, Jessica Richelderfer copy editors.  
Online: Carol Rink, editor.  
Timur Insepov, webmaster.  
Design: Katie Miller, editor.

Brooke Mossefin, Russ Weller, designers.  
Bryan Dixon, Giovanni Salimena, illustrators.  
Adam Amato, Chrystal McConnell, Tom Patterson, Laura Smit, photographers.  
BUSINESS — (541) 346-5512  
Judy Riedl, general manager.  
Kathy Carbone, business supervisor. Sarah Goracke, receptionist. Masahiro Kojima, John Long, Jeff Neely, Laura Ramelli, Nelson Hawkes distribution.  
CLASSIFIEDS — (541) 346-4343  
Trina Shanaman, manager. Katy Hagert, Amy Richman, Laura Staples, assistants.

ADVERTISING — (541) 346-3712

Becky Merchant, director.  
Doug Hentges, Katie Harsany, Nicole Hubbard, Trevor Kuhn, Jesse Long, Chau Nguyen, Adam Rice, Hillary Schultz, Chad Verly, Lisa Wood, sales representatives.  
Erin O'Connell, Van Nguyen, assistants.  
PRODUCTION — (541) 346-4381  
Michele Ross, manager.  
Tara Sloan, coordinator. Laura Chamberlain, Kara Fallini, Cassie Keller, Melissa O'Connell, Laura Paz, Ross Ward, designers.