Special Interest Programs

Programmers

The Wordvision word processing program was the main topic of the April meeting of the Programmers' Group. Ken Land demonstrated a 'pioneer's edition' on his PC, with additional loaned hardware used to show the program's color display features. The program itself is $49.95, and 'bells and whistles' for specialized needs will be offered separately as Wordvision Powerpacks. Requires 64K, 1 disk drive, IBM mono display or 80 column color monitor, and PC-DOS.

May meeting topic: **TRACE86**

Group chairman Neil Bennett jumps in to fill the void of suggested meeting topics by volunteering to present his TRACE86 program, which is being released by Morgan Computing Co., Inc. ($75).

TRACE86 unassembles object code and displays it on one screen with all machine registers and selected memory data. It provides general utility functions for memory manipulations, including dumps (words, bytes, or blocks), moves, pattern search, and block comparison. Also provides capability to read and write a diskette sector. Its main function is to show in detail how a program is working inside the PC. Any member having access to a means of projecting the PC screen at the May meeting for the demonstration is asked to contact Neil at 238-7650. It is also a safe bet that Neil will share a few comments about the arrival of his new 8087 numeric data processor chip and its installation with a 'torch'.

New Special Interest Group

Communications and Networking is the subject of a new Special Interest Group being formed under the leadership of Bob Van Wyk. If you are interested, contact Bob at the next meeting, or give him a call at (214) 867-5012 (H) or 696-0254 (W).

Agenda

For the next meeting, the general order of business will be:

1. Club Business
2. Presentation –
   Computer Aided
   Instruction (CAI)
   by Dr. Buddy Gray
3. Demonstration – TECMAR
   Voice Recognition,
   Speech Synthesis,
   SyQuest Drive,
   and Graphics Board
4. Vendor Announcements
   Club "Professional"
   Members
5. Specialty Group Agendas
   for Next Hour (Each
   SIG Chairman makes
   1-minute announcement)

             Chris

BYLAWS
Special Meeting

We will have a meeting in the auditorium at 2:00 PM next Saturday for discussion and comment on the bylaws. Please read your copy of the bylaws, with particular attention to Fred Williams' cover letter, and be there if you can.

Next Meeting May 21, 1983
Auditorium, Cox School of Business, Fincher Building
SMU Campus
9:30 TO 12:00

North Texas PC NEWS

Deadlines:
All material for publication in PC NEWS (articles and ads) must be received by the NEWS staff no later than the first Saturday of the month in which publication is desired.

North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group

A non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM Corporation. The Group meets on the third Saturday of the month at 10:00 AM in the Auditorium, Cox School of Business, Fincher Building, SMU Campus. (Check meeting notice on page 1 for any late changes.)

Officers:
  President   Alan Elliott   (214)941-8475
  Program Chairman   Chris Morgan   (214)446-0484
  Treasurer   Bill Hood   (214)350-9784

Special Interest Groups:
  Beginners   Mike Durbin   (214)271-8779
  Business Applications   Alan High   (214)385-0553
  Disk of the Month   Will Janoschka   (214)231-6449
  Programmers   Neil Bennett   (214)238-7650
  BASIC Applications   Charles Loftin   (214)492-3594
  Comm & Networking   Bob Van Wyk   (214)696-0254

Special Group
  Bylaws Committee   Fred Williams   (214)245-4319

Dues: Professional Membership - $36.00 year
        Regular Membership   - $24.00 year
        Student membership   - $12.00 year
  Payable in January, dues are prorated for balance of year when applicant joins after January. Dues should be mailed to W. A. Hood, 10437 Goodyear Dr, Dallas TX 75229.

Program Editor's Notes

Have you made a discovery in hardware or software? Do you have a success story, or a caveat you would like to share? That is an important purpose of our user's group... to share information. Attendance and interest in our group will continue to swell.

We love your contributions. We love them so much, we have never had to turn one down. It would probably be appropriate to re-iterate the deadline policy: the first Saturday of the month. Hardcopy is acceptable if it gets to John's address in Arlington by the deadline date. A width of 56 characters per column, compressed and justified, will save having to re-key the information. If you have communications, and would prefer to send your article in another form, I have a variety of editing tools, and can accept your article in almost any format that you can transmit. Make arrangements with me sometime before the first Saturday, and I will make sure it gets to John's house by the deadline. My telephone is (214) 387-3667.

                              Tom Prickett

Editor's Notes

We have a couple of good articles on communications in this month's PCN. Dick Gall signed up for S.T.A.R.T.E.X.T after the Star Telegram presentation last month. He gives his impressions in the article 'STARTEXT Observer' beginning on page 3.

Chris Jacobs also zeros in on communications with a typical Compuserve session printed in this issue (PCCOM).

Thanks to Becky Jacobs, Chris' better half for illustrations for PCN. We need a few more sources! Any other artists out there willing to donate a little time to the cause? We'd like to add a little more interest... pictures, cartoons, etc.

Let's hear from you!

Disk of The Month

by Will Janoschka

MAY HIGHLIGHTS

FUN & GAMES returns to the Disk of the Month with the May issue. The entire disk is devoted to games and entertainment, all written in listable, interpreted BASIC. Programs included:

MENU is a unique menu program that permits selecting games and programs by letter from 3 menu screens, a useful program in itself for generating a BASIC operating environment. When a program is selected by designating it with a letter, the CHAIN statement is used to load and initiate execution automatically. Most games CHAIN back to MENU on completion so that the next desired game may be selected from MENU.

BLACKJACK. Place your bet (house limit $500) and hope the reverse-video cards fall your way in spite of the dealing computer. Betting "END" returns control to MENU.

PONGPONG. The object of the game is to deflect a moving ball with paddles so that the ball hits the stationary target. An insane variation on a classic game.

WOMBATS MATH GAME. A word-problem-generating game for arithmetic practice. As exciting or dangerous as your own vocabulary.

CHARACTER PATTERN. Prints out the ROM BIOS dot pattern for PC graphics characters - one at a time on request - in a 1" wide x 2" high matrix.

YAHTZEE. Same as the popular board game, for 1 to 7 players, except multiple Yahtzees may be scored. The dice-rolling routine used in this program belongs in the repertoire of every BASIC programmer.

SWARMS. Defense strategy in fighting a bee swarm. A spoof on the STAR-TREK word adventures, medium well done.

OTHELLO. Outflank your opponent on an 8 x 8 game board.

MAXIT. Players move perpendicular to each other, capturing numbers and points at intersections on a game board.

BASEBALL. A situation-word-response game that tests your skill and patience. A good lesson in living with the results of having it your way.

KALEIDASCOPE. Continually changing multi-mirror image pattern with musical accompaniment. An amazing variety of patterns for a 2560-byte program. Possibly a good study in "how to do it right" for the BASIC special interest group.

PACMAN. (One more time). Requires color/graphics adapter.

CIVIL WAR. A simulation in words where one tries to win battles or save one's scalp by selecting well among four available defensive and offensive strategies (or surrender). Battles include Bull Run (1861), Shiloh, Seven Days, Bull Run II, Antietam, Fredericksburg, etc.

CRAPS. The scene is Casino Univac 1108 in Las Vegas, where players start with their $25K winnings from the Readers' Digest Sweepstakes.

MASTERMIND. Guess a 5-digit number from hints on the number of correct digits and digits in the correct position in your previous guess. 12 tries per run.

MAZE. You input width & length and the program generates a new maze on the printer each time its run.

SLOT MACHINE. "Welcome to IBM's Casino." Saves dozens of quarters and hundreds in airfare.

PEASHOOT. Shoot a pea from the peashooter at the upper left hand corner of the screen with the correct velocity so that it lands in the tee at the bottom of the screen.

DEMON. A spoof on METEOR. Shooting stars attempt to collide with a happy face which gobbles dots around a graphic demon.

CATCH 88. Slowly falling objects are to be caught in a bucket positioned horizontally along the bottom edge of the screen by pressing the correct letter, number, or punctuation keys. A video game freak's version of 'Typing Tutor'.

Also: STRINGS, LUNAR LANDER, FOUR, and BOUNCE

Will

Standard Deviations
(continued)

machine. But, does there exist a Head Guru who is content to build a BABAL system no better than anyone else? That CCC machine can do some things better than any other machine in the market! Surely, a small extension to the BABAL language would be in order. (The standard is all very well, but it must not be allowed to get in the way of progress; a sort of double standard?) Fred, the customer, gets his BABAL program running on the CCC machine, takes advantage of the Joe Bloggs extension and is quite content with the world.

Along comes the day when Fred wants to buy a second machine. The BLT company (The Bankers Life Trust, an insurance company, is just getting into micros) has taken advantage of a technological breakthrough. Their machine is faster and cheaper than the CCC. Best of all, it's got a BABAL system on it. Over at BLT, their Head Guru has his own extensions. What do you think of Freds chances of getting his program going on the BLT? Did the head of CCC stop Joe Bloggs from building a "gotcha"

into the system? Should Fred go ahead with the BLT machine (and suffer with two different BABAL systems), or get a second CCC machine? These days the cost of programmers just keeps going up. Joe Bloggs really should have been far-sighted and public-spirited enough to warn the head of CCC about the consequences of that extension to BABAL. But then the head of CCC might have started wondering if he should recruit that bright, willing, young Head Guru over at BLT...

                                                        Neil

PC Programming Topics

Fun With DOS 2.0 — The Prompt Command

DOS 2.0 has many new commands and features and some of them are just plain fun to experiment with. Have you tried out the PROMPT command yet? This command allows you to design your own system prompt. For example, you can replace the familiar "A>" prompt with one that reads "Good Morning:" by typing the following command:

    PROMPT Good Morning:

You can also include variable information such as the current date, time, the default drive letter, and the current directory name in your system prompt. An ESCape character can also be planted in the prompt, which opens the door to a number of additional possibilites if you use this command in conjunction with the Extended Screen Control feature of DOS 2.0. This feature is explained in detail in chapter 13 of the new DOS manual; the main thing it provides is the capability of positioning the cursor anywhere on the screen.

The prompt sequence shown below will give the regular DOS "A>" prompt in the normal place along with a display of the current date and time in the upper right corner of your display. But before you can use it you must add the Extended Screen Control driver to your system. This is done by placing the command "DEVICE=ANSI.SYS" in your CONFIG.SYS file. This can easily be done by typing the following command:

    ECHO DEVICE=ANSI.SYS >>CONFIG.SYS

Then make sure that the file ANSI.SYS is on your diskette (it is supplied on the DOS 2.0 system disk).

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Programming Topics

(continued)

Print Spoolers and Disk Emulators
(continued)

don't have to change your system to use it. It is also very flexible in that it can work with several different devices, such as LPT1, LPT2, COM1, etc. (but only one at a time). There is a major difference, though, between the PRINT command and the other printer spoolers generally available: PRINT requires you to have the print data on a disk file, already formatted properly for your printer, while the other products automatically cause spooling of all data being directed to the printer.

An advantage of the PRINT method is that your system memory does not have to be set aside as a print buffer. The disadvantage of this method is that you have to somehow get your print data into a disk file. This must be done in different ways for different

applications. VisiCalc, for example, allows you to "print" to a disk file. A number of application programs, however, are not set up to do this and would have to be changed to accomplish this. Once you print to disk, you must then exit from the application, use the PRINT command to start the actual printing, and then then start the application again. This process must be repeated for each file you want to print. You are also responsible for erasing the print files after they have been printed. The PRINT command may be used to create a list of up to 10 files to be printed.

You must also be careful not to erase or change the file being printed, remove the disk containing the print files, or use the printer for any other purpose while this command is in operation. This means you can not use the PrtSc key, LLIST, LPRINT, or other commands during this time. Printer operation is somewhat erratic when under control of PRINT - it continuously starts and stops as your application uses the various

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PC COMM   PC COMM   PC COMM   PC COMM   PC C

- VICTOR, DEC, WANG, ETC AND HAVE JUST RECEIVED THE NEW MICROSOFT BASIC COMPILER WHICH DOES NOT EVEN SUPPORT THE LOCATE STATEMENT. REGARDS...BILL

```
#: 4804      SEC. 0 - GENERAL INFORMATION
SB: RANDOM ACCESS FILES
17-APR-83  12:58:01
FM: BILL HARTS 70315,201
TO: TED BATUTIS 76703,252 (X)
```

I THINK THAT WHAT THEY MEANT BY "PACKED BINARY" WAS THAT YOU CAN STORE ALL VALUES FROM 0-256 IN A BYTE, WHEREAS WITH A SEQUENTIAL FILE, IF YOU WRITE CERTAIN CODES (E.G., 1A) THEY WILL HAVE SOME EFFECT ON THE FILE OPERATIONS. BEWARE THAT THERE IS NO WAY TO WRITE A FILE OF AN EXACT LENGTH. THEY WILL ALWAYS BE EXPANDED TO THE NEXT HIGHER 128 BYTE BOUNDARY. REGARDS, BILL

```
#: 4806      SEC. 2 - PRODUCT REVIEWS
SB: #RGB MONITORS
```

```
17-APR-83  13:00:47
FM: BILL HARTS 70315,201
TO: RICHARD STUMP 70165,130 (X)
```

I AM SUCCESSFULLY USING A MITSUBISHI CM-2501 25" COLOR MONITOR WITH RGB INPUTS. IT ALSO MAKES A NICE TV SET WHEN COUPLED WITH THEIR TX-101R TUNER, AND YOU CAN SWITCH BETWEEN RGB, COMPOSITE, TV, VCR, VIDEO DISK AND TV CAMERA ALL FROM THE REMOTE. REGARDS, BILL

```
#: 4809      SEC. 0 - GENERAL INFORMATION
SB: #4790-DEADLINE
17-APR-83  13:05:59
FM: DAVE MCLAUGHLIN 70110,505
TO: A MEDWIN 73125,40
```

I'VE NEVER TRIED IT, AND AM ALMOST FINISHED. THEY ALL SEEM TO BE SILENT - WHY DO YOU WANT THEM TO CHAT?

- - - etc., etc., etc.

PC Update

The following news items are reprinted with permission from Computer Industry Update published by Industry Market Reports, Los Altos, CA.

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IBM introduced the XT personal computer using 64K bit chips. It is based on the 8088 with 128KB of memory, and a 10 MB hard disk drive with average access time of 90ms and transfer rate of 5M bps. It also has a 360KB floppy disk drive and 5 expansion slots for peripherals and add-ons. It runs DOS 2.0 an updated version of MSDOS operating system. DOS 2.0 is about 12K larger than DOS 1.1 but most DOS 1.0 and 1.1 programs reportedly should run under version 2.0 without change. XT is $4995. DOS 2.0 is $60.

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The 8 slot expansion box introduced for the PC and the XT allow each to accommodate two 10MB hard disks. It is $2,695 without drive or adapter and $3,390 with a 10MB drive. A 10MB Winchester is $1,695 and an adapter card is $695.

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New software introduced by IBM includes PeachText word processing package, and Peachtree's General Ledger, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Inventory Control, and Payroll. Peachtext is $400 and the other packages are $595 each.

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IBM introduced a color monitor with resolution of 640 x 200 pixels. It is $680, not including adapter.

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IBM has cut the price of the PC with 160K diskette drive 15% to $1,864 and, with one or two 320K disk drives 12% and 13% respectively. A 320K disk drive was cut 18% to $529, a 160K disk drive 35% to $289, and 64K add-on memory 35% to $165. A color graphics monitor adapter is $244, and the asynchronous communications adapter is $120.

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IBM has added on-site maintenance to the service options for its PC. On-site service is available in 100 cities at a cost of about $329 per year.

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Advanced Data Technology of Sherman Oaks, CA is offering a 9-function card for the PC. The Series 1000 multifunction card with 64K bytes of memory is $595.

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Computer-Mate of Dallas, TX is offering a slide maker to produce presentation-quality 35 mm slides or photographic prints directly from the PC's display. The Video Printer is $2,495.

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Convalescent Busines Systems of Montrose, CA introduced the C.B.S. financial and records management system for health care facilities using the PC. A basic 5MB system is $18,965.

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Corona Data Systems of Westlake Village, CA enhanced its hard disk sybsystem for the PC with RAM disk software which allows program segments on the floppy disks or

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PC Update
(continued)

hard disks to be started interchangeably without reconfiguring the system. The firm also increased the speed of its hard disk sybsystem 48%.

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Davong Systems of Sunnyvale, CA will unveil a 20MB streaming tape backup drive for the PC or XT for about $2,000. Also planned are 21MB and 32MB 5 1/4" Winchester disk drives for $3,100 and $3,500 respectively. The firm cut prices on its 5MB hard disk drive 8% to $1,845 and 10% on the 15MB drive to $2,695.

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Faraday Electronics of Palo Alto, CA introduced the FE Model 64 single-board microcomputer which is fully compatible with the PC and provides 256KB of memory. It is $275.

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Interface of Canoga Park, CA announced 5,10, and 15MB 5 1/4 Winchester disk drive sybsystems for the Personal Computer. The drives have an average access time of 85 msec and range in price from $1,695 to $2,295.

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Microdisk of Gardnerville, NV is offering 20, 27, or 54MB Winchester disks to replace the 10MB Winchester disk drive on the XT PC. The disks come with a menu-driven operating system. Prices range from $1,300 to $3,000.

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Mouse Systems of Sunnyvale, CA will introduce software packages for connecting their mouse to the PC and for using it with WordStar, VisiCalc and the Text Editor on the PC. The mouse, pad, RS-232 interface and software is $332. The firm has sold about 1,000 of its optical mice for the PC and expects to sell another 1000 this month.

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NBI of Boulder, CO unveiled the NBI Word Processing option for the Personal Computer which gives the unit the functional equivalence of the NBI Docuwriter. The capability is $695 and will also run on the Compaq portable computer.

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Raytronics of San Diego, CA is offering the Ramplus memory board which can accept 64K or 256K bit chips and add up to 1MB to the PC. The memory board is $575.

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TecMar of Cleveland, OH cut prices on its 10MB disk sybsystem to $2,795 and the 15MB subsystem to $3,195. The 5MB version was dropped from the line.

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United Suppliers of Brisbane, CA is offering a video display card for the PC which includes 32KB of on-board memory providing two pages of high-resolution graphics. The display card is $499. Also, United Suppliers will introduce two mice with hardware interface for the PC and driver software to connect it with Basic language and WordStar. A model aimed at OEMs is $279, and a consumer model is $179.

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Hogan Systems of Houston, TX will provide banking systems with the PC as remote terminals for branch offices. The PCs will be able to communicate directly with the host for branch-wide tasks.

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International Software Systems of San Diego, CA introduced a two-part package allowing the PC to function as a graphics design workstation connected to any host running the firm's Tell-A-Graf or Disspla software. The host softaware is $2,000 and the PC software is $240.

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Micro Architect of Arlington, VA announced an integrated office automation system for the PC. It includes a data base manager for $398, and application system for $198 and word processor for $98 as well as graphics and spreadsheet interfaces.

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Micro Network of Minneapolis, MN introduced 5 operating systems for the PC that provide memory, disk, and communications sybsystem enhancements. Prices range from $200 to $500.

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Microrim of Bellevue, WA announced the Relational Information Management data base for the PC. It runs under MS-DOS and is $795.

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Open Systems announced that its Software Fitness Program business accounting applications are now available for the PC.

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Persoft of Stoughton, WI introduced the TE100 emulator for DEC VT100, VT101, VT102 and VT52 terminals for the PC. It runs under PC-DOS and is $100. The TE100-FT adds bidirectional file transfer capabilities for $150.

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Software Technology for Computers of Watertown, MA introduced the Creator structured interpreter for generating programs for data bases, word processing, and graphics. It is $300

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Statistical Graphics pf Princeton, NJ announced the Statgraphics PC graphics package developed originally for mainframes is available for the PC. It runs under Waterloo microAPL and is $475.

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SHOP & SWAP

(Four lines free each month to members, otherwise cost is 15 cents per word. Ads will run three consecutive months unless notified earlier to cancel. Ads must be renewed after three months if continuation is desired. Mail ads to the Editor.)

FREE Consultants Directory Listing: DEADLINE MAY 1 Microsystem Consultants Agency, 2116 E. Arapaho Suite 155, Richardson TX 75081, or call 690-4224. Extra lines, listings, ads avail., starting at $5

FOR SALE - 2 SSDD Tandon TM-1's with IBM controller card ($300), IBM printer card ($60), Centronics 739 PC-compatible printer ($300), JFORMAT softwre ($40). FOR TRADE - Heavy-duty 120 cps Centronics 702 dot-matrix printer brand new. Trade for correspondence quality dot-matrix printer or sell ($850). Ernie Stokely, Work 688-2910, Home 350-4430.

FOR SALE - IBM ASYNC attachment $60; D.C. Hayes Smartmodem $175; call Rich Lefebvre 661-6223 or 596-7953.

Word Processing and proof-reading. Reasonable rates Text copy, or program copy acceptable. Completed text can be returned by telephone line. User-Soft Wares, call Tom or Dianna Prickett (214) 387-3667, afternoons.

Member address labels for sale. Contact PC NEWS Editor for particulars.

WANTED: Advertisers for PC NEWS. Rates are reasonable, exposure is great! Circulation approximately 170 PC users/owners. Contact John Pribyl, at phone 817/275-4109 for particulars.

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