



NEWS

Vol 2

North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group

No. 9

Special Interest Programs

Programmers

The C programming language was the impromptu main topic of the August meeting of the Programmer's Special Interest Group. BYTE magazine's August issue included a special on nine C compilers, with the headlined understatement that the IBM PC and MS-DOS represent one of the most lucrative software markets for C applications. Consensus of the discussion pointed toward the \$100 DeSemet C development package as the best overall choice for value in spite of its "terrible" documentation.

STB was reported to be about to produce a "universal video board" to ease the monochrome-graphic choice dilemma for PC'ers with non-unlimited funds. Rumors continue on the potential for a new 286-chip based PC for January, half-height diskette drives from Big Blue, and a weekly PC magazine. More PC-DOS 2.0 problems are being reported and confirmed. Purchasers from the IBM Product Centers are said to have available continuing assistance via an 800 number.

Reports from the San Francisco PC Fair at the end of August will likely be the central theme of the September meeting. The local Morgan Computing folk report lots of activity at the Fair.

Dick Gall

Bylaws

A vote will be taken at the September meeting on adoption of the bylaws distributed with the August issue of PC NEWS.

Agenda

The general order of business will be:

1. Club Business
2. Presentation (Not determined at press time)
3. Vendor Announcements
Club "Professional" Members
4. Specialty Group Agendas for Next Hour (Each SIG Chairman makes 1-minute announcement)
Chris

PC Maintenance

by the editor

At the August meeting we had a very informative session on maintenance of the PC, presented by Mr. Dave Parish of MAI Sorbus Service. He gave us some good tips and suggestions to help us to keep our PC's out of the repair shop.

. When using disk cleaners be sure you use one that has only a very light film of cleaning agent.

. Consider replacing disks at set intervals rather than waiting for them to konk out. They will wear out!

. Don't let your disks get too hot... like leaving them in a hot car in summertime.

. Keep smoke out of disk drives.

(continued on page 3)

Next Meeting September 17, 1983

Auditorium, Cox School of Business, Fincher Building
Southern Methodist University Campus, Dallas, Texas

(See map on page 2)

9:30 TO 12:00



North Texas PC NEWS

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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 9:30 AM in the Auditorium, Cox School of Business, Fincher Building, SMU Campus, Dallas, Texas. (Check meeting notice on page 1 for any late changes.)

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x222

Special Group

Bylaws Committee Fred Williams (214) 245-4319

Telephone (during business hours) (214) 361-0304

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 Treasurer, NT IBM PC UG, 10400 N. Central Expy #210, Dallas, TX 75231

SIG Notes:

The BASIC Applications SIG does not meet every month... It meets only for special applications in BASIC as announced in PC NEWS. Contact Charles Loftin if you have a specific subject you would like to propose for a meeting.

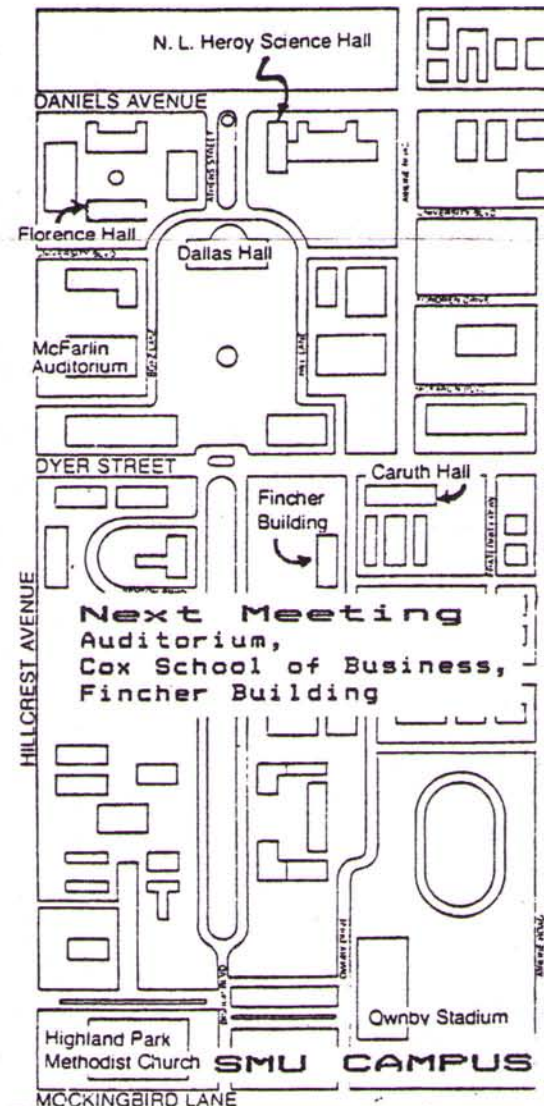
Circulation Manager

Vilma Ungerson responded to our request for help in publication of PC NEWS.

Membership is now 253 and still growing. We're getting new members at a rate of 10 to 20 per month. Vilma is now Circulation Manager and will be taking care of mailing lists, and the printing and distribution of the newsletter. Thanks for volunteering, Vilma, and welcome aboard!

New Writers

We appreciate the new writing talent represented in this issue. Check out the article on UNIX and the one on Graphics Adapters in PROGRAMMING TOPICS.



PC Maintenance

(continued)

- . Clean dust from around disk drives. Keep drive doors closed when not in use.
- . In the excitement of game playing, try to restrain the kids from hitting the keys too hard.
- . When static electricity is a problem, use anti-static sprays. Fabric softener, diluted 10 to 1 and sprayed on the rug around the computer area works reasonably well. Anti-static mats are available.
- . Three fourths of the problems that cause the PC to be taken in for repairs are power related.
- . Surge Protection devices are definitely recommended. Be sure the one you buy is UL listed and will carry the wattage of your equipment. The device should clamp in nanoseconds, contain a filter, and preferably have a power interrupt feature with manual reset.
- . If you can manage it, your computer should have a dedicated electrical circuit.
- . Use three-prong electrical plugs and be certain the socket is grounded. If the wall socket has only two prongs, ground the equipment to a good earth ground.
- . Printers do not normally need lubrication. A light film of WD-40 or equivalent applied to the slide with the fingertip is probably all you will ever need. DO NOT SPRAY the lubricant at the slide!
- . When printing that long epistle on a dot matrix printer, let the printer rest occasionally.
- . A log is a very helpful reference when something goes wrong with the computer. In addition to serial number information, you should record repairs, symptoms, solutions, replacements, etc. This will reduce time spent by the repairman if the computer acts up... and that's money in your pocket.
- . Unplug the computer during storms and when you go on vacation.
- . When moving your system, tape drive doors shut, and pack all equipment in original containers if possible. Some movers have contoured boxes for the IBM PC. Check this out if you're moving.
- . Heat is always a problem. Leave vent space around your equipment and don't store computer equipment or disks in direct sunlight. Remember, the comfort zone of the computer is much the same as that for humans.
- . Finally, if you must take the computer in for repair, take all parts of the system.

John Pribyl



DISK OF THE MONTH

SPECIAL NOTE FOR SEPTEMBER: DOUBLE-SIDED IS BACK.

Due to the length of PC-FILE 9.0, the September disk-of-the-month issue will be formatted double-sided. Members with only single-sided diskette drives are encouraged to arrange single-sided copies from other members.

PC-FILE 9.0!!!

9.0 is a much-updated version of the random-access data base program originally distributed as version 7.9 with the March disk of the month. EASE OF USE is still the overriding goal, and it has been enhanced in each of the update versions since 7.9, which include 8.0 through 8.7. The upgrade in the latest version warrants skipping 8.8 and 8.9 to get to the new unit's digit.

PC-FILE author Jim Button of Bellevue, WA summarizes some uses for the program: mailing lists & label printing, price lists, telephone directories, inventory records, and personnel files. The new version is also useful for building and maintaining files to be used by other programs, like Visicalc, Multiplan, 1-2-3, and Mailmerge.

Records can be sorted and selected, including comparison searches on any field. Reports can include some or all fields, in any sequence, and report formats can be saved for re-use. Report totals are available on numeric fields. New databases can be created from old, with format and content rearranged.

Members who used version 7.9 will especially appreciate the many improvements. The ESC key can now be used to back out of most procedures. The entry of repetitive information is simplified in the ADD RECORDS mode by prompting with data from the previous record added. Sorting capacity has been doubled, and records can now be printed on multiple report lines. PC-Export has been added to feed other programs, and ten programmable "smart" keys have been defined. Strings of up to 75 characters can be assigned to the "ALT-0,9" combinations. For those outside the monochrome world, the display colors for foreground and background can now be specified.

The documentation has been expanded to 24 pages, and a sample BASIC source program is included to demonstrate the input of data from a PC-FILE database to another program.



**Disk
Of
The
Month** (continued)

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS. 64K memory or larger (with DOS 1.0 or 1.1) or 96K or larger with DOS 2.0 and at least 320K of disk storage. 128K of memory and 2 disk drives are recommended. PC-FILE can be set up to support either 40 or 80 character wide displays.

PC WORLD calls it PC-FILE REFINED: "Version 9.0 is a concrete example of Jim Button's ongoing support and enhancement of an excellent product. What was previously a very desirable program is now just about mandatory for much of the PC population."

PATCH .ASM, .COM, & .LST

This is a small program for patching (changing) the contents of any memory location. The operating .COM program is included, as well as the assembly language source code (.ASM) and the listing generated by the assembler (.LST). Patches can be automatically made by including calls to PATCH in an autoexec.bat file.

Syntax for usage is straightforward:

PATCH 8800:11F=1A would change the contents of location (byte) 11F in segment 8800 to the value 1A (hex). Consecutive bytes can be patched by separating the desired contents with spaces, for example:
PATCH AAAA:321=3D FF 11 CA.

DISP .ASM, .OBJ, & .LST

A member-contributed program for writing to the display screen in a compiled basic program. Source code and listing are supplied, along with .OBJ file which may be linked with a compiled basic program.

DISK DETAILS....

Price: \$5.00. Available at the general membership meeting. Media: DSDD 5" diskettes formatted double-sided (most issues are formatted single-sided). Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers. Sales are made before and after the general membership meeting only. Call Will Janoschka at 231-6449 to submit material and programs for future Disk of the Month issues. All back issues continue to be available.

Will Janoschka



Programming Topics

"PC-UNIX 0.01"

UNIX enthusiasts, arise! This article demonstrates how to customize your PC-DOS 2.0 into "PC-UNIX", for any PC, PC-XT, Columbia, Compaq, Corona, etc., with floppies or fixed disk.

Be SURE you make backups of your diskettes/fixed disk before starting, and keep them around until "PC-UNIX" is proven!

The first step is to clean up the cluttered diskette directory (hereafter called the "root" directory):

1. Make a UNIX /bin directory for programs to be used:

```
mkdir \bin
copy *.com \bin
copy *.exe \bin
erase *.com
erase *.exe
```

2. Use your favorite editor to create a CONFIG.SYS file to let DOS in on your plan: (as in the UNIX /etc/rc file)

```
buffers = 20
files = 20
switchar = -
device = a:\bin\ansi.sys
device = a:\bin\mouse.sys
break = on
shell = a:\bin\command.com a:\bin -p
```

The SHELL line lets DOS know that command.com can be found in \bin whenever it needs to be reloaded, and is in the manual. The SWITCHAR line tells DOS you want a switch character of "-" rather than IBM's "/" and allows you unrestricted use of "/" for pathnames (this was found in a disk dump and is not documented anywhere (there are several more hidden features I've not explored yet, including a SHELL command in BASIC!)). The DEVICE lines load drivers for ANSI (which allows





Programming Topics

(continued)

"PC-UNIX 0.01"

(continued)

color and function key definition with PROMPT) and for the Microsoft Mouse.

Note: BUFFERS = 20 was found to provide best performance for me ... over 20 ran slower ... your applications may yield different results. Nested directories and command (.BAT) files run noticeably faster. BUFFERS = 20 uses 20 * 512 bytes or 10 KB of memory to store a cache of disk sectors that are looked at for "hits" to avoid having to repeat a recently done physical disk access (memory moves are much faster!).

3. Create an AUTOEXEC.BAT file to set up your favorite working environment: (Comparable to UNI\ ".profile".)

. Executing AUTOEXEC.BAT file ...

. Define some Function keys: (Requires ANSI.SYS) (This idea from Charles Chafouleas at Interphase Corp.)

prompt \$ef0;68;"cls";13p

. Following makes F9 a 1-key "Ctrl-S" or "Ctrl-NumLock"

prompt \$ef0;67;19p

prompt \$ef0;66;"dir d:";13p

prompt \$ef0;65;"dir d: -w";13p

prompt \$ef0;64;"dir b: /";13p

prompt \$ef0;63;"dir a: /";13p

prompt \$ef0;62;"dir b: ";13p

prompt \$ef0;61;"dir a: ";13p

prompt \$ef0;60;"dir b: -w";13p

prompt \$ef0;59;"dir a: -w";13p

. Set fg color to white and bg to blue (Color card):

prompt \$ef44;37m

. Set BOLD On (Hi Intensity) (Monochrome card):

prompt \$ef1a

. Set actual system prompt: ("Superusers" use \$n#)

prompt \$n\$\$

. Set default command file search to root of default

drive, followed by drive a: /bin directory:

path /;a:/bin

. Set date/time from your multifunction card (if any):

getclock

. Load resident portion of stty (mode) command:
stty lpt1:80,6,P

. Load res. part of print command: & & Hit ENTER & &
lplr

. Load your electronic disk program (if desired):
drv d:/u=192/1

. Load your print spooler program (if desired):
spl lpt1:/u=192/m/b

. Turn on read after write for automatic disk verify:
verify=on

. Copy programs to electronic disk:

copy a:/bin/ws&. & d:

copy a:/bin/syschk.com d:

copy a:/bin/lplr.com d:

copy a:/bin/spl.com d:

copy a:/bin/stty.com d:

copy a:/bin/format.com d:

copy a:/bin/diskcopy.com d:

. and etc. ...

. Change working directory to a:/doc.

cd doc

d:

cls

. & & Add Your Hello Message Here & &

dir a:/

. Examples: (for drive a:)

. To see working directory : cd a:

. To get to root directory : cd a:/

. To change working directory : cd a:/misc

. To see all directories, files : tree a: -f

. alternate method : syschk a: -v

. To see just contents of bin : dir a:/bin -w

4. Now make directories for your files:

mkdir /doc

mkdir /misc

copy *.doc /doc

copy *.mis /misc

erase *.doc

erase *.mis



Programming Topics

(continued)

"PC-UNIX 0.01"

(continued)

5. Your root directory should now look something like this:

```
Volume in drive A is YOUR DSK #N
Directory of A:/

BIN          <DIR>      9-25-83   8:05p
DOC          <DIR>      9-25-83   8:05p
MISC         <DIR>      9-25-83   8:06p
AUTOEXEC BAT 1280  9-26-83   1:44a
CONFIG SYS   128   9-26-83   1:57a
5 File(s)    87040 bytes free
```

Note: To get volume labels, you must format new disks and copy files onto them:

```
format b:/s/v      (you will be prompted to enter id)
copy a:*. * b:
mkdir b:/bin
copy a:/bin/*. * b:/bin
. etc. ...
```

This process could be carried further by the really serious UNIX fan: (if you proceed be sure to change your .BAT files to match)

1. (Easy) Rename disk-resident dos commands to their UNIX counterparts (the AUTOEXEC above assumes this will be done) for:

```
comp -> cmp      print -> lpr      mode -> stty
find -> fgrep    chkdsk -> syschk  debug -> adb
```

e.g.: "ren dosname.com/exe UNIX name.com/exe"

2. (Intermediate) (Not tried yet!) Patch in UNIX command names to replace built-ins; this requires use of DEBUG.COM and knowledge of how the command table lookup is done (seems I saw a magazine article some months ago on this subject ...):

```
type -> cat      copy -> cp
dir -> ls        erase -> rm
```

3. (Difficult) (Not tried yet!) Allow upper/lower case mixed filenames, e.g. treating "A" and "a" as different letters.

For those who still want the "real thing", there are at least six UNIX "ports" or independently developed UNIX "functional equivalents" now or soon to be available for the IBM PC / PC compatible market, including one locally developed: see "UNIX REVIEW" magazine Vol. 1, No. 1, available at several area stores now, for a survey article and Vol. 1, No. 2 for an in-depth review of two of them.

Jim Rich

‡ PC-DOS (c) IBM Corp. and Microsoft, Inc.
UNIX (tm) Bell Laboratories, Inc.

GRAPHICS ADAPTERS

Computer graphics encompass a large area of interest for the PC user. He may be interested in graphics only to the extent that he hopes his pie charts look right, or he may be wondering if the persistence of the phosphor on his new monitor will handle the interlaced mode of his display adapter. In either case, the user should be

advised that there is a wide variety of graphics hardware and software available.

Presently I am more interested in the high end of the graphics spectrum. To me high resolution is 1024x1024 not 640x200. I might also point out that I work at a CAD/CAM company and our requirements are probably much higher than those of the ordinary user. Now that I have provided you with the filter with which to read my article let me clarify one more thing. I am not trying to endorse or downgrade any particular product, I am just trying to give you some insights I have learned concerning graphics and certain graphics hardware for the PC. Unfortunately some of these insights, as all too often happens, were gained rather painfully.

Our requirement was high resolution graphics on the IBM monochrome display. Several companies were offering boards with higher resolution than the IBM monochrome

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Programming Topics

(continued)

GRAPHICS ADAPTERS

(continued)

adapter, but the most promising product seemed to be coming from Tecmar (Cleveland, OH). Graphics Master (as advertised a few months back at the users group meeting) was a new graphics board which would generate 720x704 in bit mapped graphics mode or 80x86 with 8x8 characters in alphanumeric mode on the monochrome display. For the color display the Graphics Master will support up to 720x400 (4 colors) or 640x400 (16 colors) in graphics mode or up to 80x50 (8x8 characters) in alphanumeric mode. Other features include:

- software selectable as the monochrome board or color board
- can emulate both the IBM Monochrome Board (minus printer port) and Color/Graphic board
- is capable of supporting all IBM advanced BASIC graphics modes
- 128K of on-board memory for display use or can be user accessible
- IBM compatible light pen interface
- colorburst can be disabled to produce 16 l_gray scale for NTSC output for B&W monitors
- NTSC, RGB, or IBM Monochrome output
- occupies one slot in the PC
- can be jumpered to occupy an "unused" address space

After several design delays and manufacturing problems we were able to obtain one of the new boards. Tecmar did a thorough job of presenting the documentation. It was offset printed in a neat 70 page booklet which was relatively informative about graphics in general, and graphics as related to their board. Unfortunately, Tecmar was not consistent throughout the manual. In several places they renamed jumper connections and did not explain their installation procedures well enough. Eventually I had to revert to some intelligent guesswork to jumper the board correctly. If they had not provided board schematics I really would have been in trouble. I do feel the documentation was a little too technical for the average user. I informed Tecmar of the errors I found - they said these would be corrected.

The software that comes with the Graphics Master is called "General Terminal Emulator". It is designed to allow easy interface to the Graphics Master from your programs operating under DOS 2.0. User programs in any

language can write to the Graphics master using ASCII characters and "escape sequences." Tecmar also states that this package can be used to actually emulate your standard terminal, but they do not recommend this. They do recommend using the Graphics Master to control a second terminal (when using their software). I found the reason Tecmar recommends this is because the software package only supports the Graphics Master when it is jumpered to be in the alternate I/O slot (not jumpered as the color/graphics card or the monochrome card). If you try to use only one monitor (Graphics Master) and the "General Terminal Emulator" you lose all DOS display commands. All DOS commands output to an I/O address for either the monochrome card or the color/graphics card, thus with the Graphics Master jumpered to an alternate I/O address all DOS display commands do not have access to the monitor screen.

This software package is difficult to use and at first could not be used with the PC-XT. It seems Tecmar did not buy an XT Technical Reference Manual and, therefore, did not realize that their alternate I/O address space is the same space IBM uses for the hard disk driver. Tecmar did correct this problem (I received the update a couple of weeks later). The terminal emulation package is designed to be interfaced to DOS 2.0 as a device driver. Tecmars' documentation is very poor covering this point and it took me several tries to load the driver and software package correctly. Finally, the software package slows down the drawing speed of the Graphics Master. When I used my own interface software the drawing speed was much faster.

Tecmar designed several useful capabilities into the Graphics Master. The fact that you can use the board to drive a color or black and white monitor is advantageous. These configurations can be obtained either through software selection or hardware jumpering. (Note: the board can only have one type of monitor connected to it at one time.) The board also allows complete access to all registers of the MC 6845 CRT controller chip. This is the same chip that IBM uses on its color/graphics card. Several of the features made available on the Graphics Master were designed for some sharp programmer who will use these bells and whistles to develop a flashy software package to interface to various spreadsheets, wordprocessors, etc. When the Graphics Master is in any resolution other than one which is IBM compatible, the computer will not "soft" boot. The reason is that one of the registers on the CRT

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Programming Topics

(continued)

GRAPHICS ADAPTERS

(continued)

controller chip is in a non-IBM compatible mode. Tecmar realized this problem and designed in a method to attach a pushbutton to their board which resets this register. This is not practical for most users and they will have to power down their system everytime they need to reboot their computer. The IBM monochrome display does not have a long persistence phosphor on it. You will have a definite flicker problem on your IBM monochrome monitor if you use interlacing. Several of the higher resolutions used by the Graphics Master use interlacing. You have been warned!

Unless you are developing software for resale, or are in an engineering environment which requires high resolution graphics, I would not recommend the Graphics Master. It is fairly expensive (\$695) to use as a replacement for one of the IBM display adapters. In high

resolution graphics, the Graphics Master should be used as a dedicated display controller (a second monitor). You also have the unnecessary expense of owning two monitors and another display adapter. Several other companies such as STB and MGT offer less expensive graphics boards which can replace the IBM display adapters. The second edition of the documentation may be the best hardware documentation for any IBM add-on board (it will be more technical than most). This is of little help to the inadequate software provided. In general the user has to develop his own software to utilize the extended graphics capabilities of the new boards. This is not to say that a program like Lotus 123, which can use the Hercules card, is not easy to use. You must remember, however, that most third party companies are designing their software to work in a mass market which, right now, is display resolution compatible with IBM hardware and software.

Paul A. Abney

But I Wouldn't Have Explained It That Way!

One of the true benefits of raising children is to watch how they make analogies to things that exist in their imperfect model of the world. As any parent will probably tell you, the world is quite different than it was when we were children. Consequently, their model of the world is quite different than our imperfect model was when we were children.

This was reinforced the other day when I had the occasion to clean out the garage, and happened to place an old manual typewriter from its place of hidden obscurity to a temporary place of prominence in the center of the room. I left for a few minutes and returned to find my five year old happily banging on the keys and watching the carriage clank from one side to the other. "What IS this Daddy?", he asked, having never seen one of these old clunkers. Before I could launch into an explanation, he offered one of his own - "Is it kind of like an old fashioned computer?"

Tom Prickett


**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.)

Consultants Directory Listings in DALLAS COMPUTES. Microsystem Consultants Agency, 561 W. Campbell Rd. No. 303, Richardson, TX 75080, phone 680-9420. Next deadline: October 28. Ads also available.

WANTED: Advertisers for N. Tex PC NEWS. Rates are reasonable, exposure is great! Current circulation approximately 250 PC users/owners. Contact John Pribyl, at phone (817)275-4109 for particulars.

Member address labels for sale. Check with PC NEWS Editor for price and details.

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=====
PC-COMM by Chris Jacobs
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The following is an actual session on the CompuServe Information
Service's IBM-PC Special Interest Group system. It is a good example
of both CompuServe and how special interest groups work can work.
=====
    
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WELCOME TO IBM PC SIG, V. 1A(53)

NAME: CHRIS JACOBS 71445,376
 LAST ON: 22-APR-83 23:18:18
 HIGH MSG#: 4835

YOU ARE USER NUMBER 24837
 SYSTEM CONTAINS MESSAGES
 9342 TO 9923

GENERAL INFORMATION SECTION

THIS SECTION IS RESERVED FOR INFORMATION CONCERNING SPECIAL USE OF THE COMPUERVE IBM SIG AND ANY OTHER INFORMATION WHICH DOES NOT HAVE A SECTION OF ITS OWN. SOME EXAMPLES ARE ARTICLES CONCERNING LOCAL USER GROUPS AROUND THE COUNTRY AND ARTICLES ABOUT ELECTRONIC JOURNALISM. IF YOU HAVE INFORMATION YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHER USERS BUT DO NOT SEE A SECTION WHICH SEEMS TO APPLY, JUST UPLOAD IT TO SECTION 0 OR LEAVE A MESSAGE FOR THE SYSOP ASKING FOR A SUGGESTED SECTION. AS THIS AREA FILLS WITH INFORMATION, DESCRIPTIONS OF THE VARIOUS FILES WILL BE PLACED HERE.

USER UPDATES/FIXES SECTION

THIS SECTION IS RESERVED FOR USER UPDATES AND FIXES WHICH APPLY TO AVAILABLE HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE. THE SPEEDUP PROGRAM WHICH INCREASES THE SPEED OF THE DISK DRIVES UNDER DOS 1.0 AND 1.05 IS AN EXAMPLE. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM IBM AND OTHER MANUFACTURERS/PRODUCERS OF PC PRODUCTS

WILL ALSO BE INCLUDED AS TIME PASSES. MEMBERS WHO HAPPEN ACROSS INFORMATION LIKE THIS ARE URGED TO SUBMIT IT TO THE SIG. RUMORS SHOULD BE IDENTIFIED AS SUCH AND WILL BE REVIEWED AND VERIFIED BY THE SYSOPS AS MUCH AS IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE. AS THIS AREA FILLS WE WILL PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ITEMS IN THE DATABASE.

PRODUCT REVIEWS SECTION (X2)

THIS SECTION IS RESERVED FOR REVIEWS OF PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FOR THE PC. THIS IS ALSO THE PLACE FOR DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS THAT PRODUCERS WISH TO MAKE AVAILABLE TO SIG MEMBERS. WE HAVE RECEIVED NONE TO DATE BUT WILL CONTACT SEVERAL VENDORS WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE SUCH PACKAGES TO ASK THAT THEY BE MADE AVAILABLE HERE. AS TIME PASSES AND THE DATA BASE FILLS. WE WILL DESCRIBE THE VARIOUS ITEMS IN THE DATABASE HERE IN THE "X" FILE. IF YOU HAVE AN EXPERIENCE WITH A CERTAIN PRODUCT OR DISTRIBUTOR, SUBMIT YOUR INFORMATION TO THIS SECTION. IT WILL BE REVIEWED BY THE SYSOPS AND MADE AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL MEMBERSHIP IN THE "XA" DATABASE. PLEASE DO NOT USE THIS AREA TO GET EVEN OR STRETCH THE TRUTH ABOUT A PRODUCT, BUT PLEASE TELL IT LIKE IT IS! PERHAPS THE PRODUCERS AND VENDORS OF SUCH PRODUCTS WILL TAKE NOTE AND WE MAY ALL BENEFIT BY CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM OF THE PRODUCTS ON THE MARKET TODAY!

STANDARDS SECTION

THIS SECTION IS RESERVED FOR ITEMS WHICH ARE OR ARE PROPOSED TO BE STANDARDS FOR THE USE OF THE PC IN VARIOUS APPLICATIONS. IT IS HOPED THAT THIS WILL BECOME THE FORUM THROUGH WHICH WE MAY BE ASSURED THAT, IF FOLLOWED, THESE STANDARDS WILL ENABLE US TO CONFIGURE SYSTEMS OF HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE THAT WILL CONTINUE TO BE USEFUL. AS FUTURE ITEMS ARE MADE AVAILABLE, THE WAY THAT THINGS FIT TOGETHER (BOTH FROM A HARDWARE AND SOFTWARE STANDPOINT) BECOME VERY IMPORTANT. THERE ARE JUST A FEW ARTICLES IN THIS SECTION WHICH DEAL WITH THE SUBJECT OF DATA COMMUNICATIONS AND FILE NAMING CONVENTIONS. THIS IS JUST A START. LET'S ALL PUT ON OUR THINKING CAPS AND COME UP WITH ITEMS WHICH WILL NOT INHIBIT THE DEVELOPMENT OF BETTER WAYS OF GETTING THINGS DONE BUT WILL ENSURE THAT WE ARE ABLE TO CONTINUE WITH OUR IMPLEMENTATIONS OF THE NEW TECHNOLOGY WITHOUT FEAR THAT WE ARE TRAVELLING DOWN A PATH WHICH LEADS TO EVENTUAL INCOMPATIBILITY.



PAWS FOR APPLAUSE

WE PAY ATTENTION TO DE TAIL



HARDWARE

	Retail Price	Wildcat Price
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PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC C

PROGRAMMING SECTION

THIS SECTION IS RESERVED FOR PROGRAMMERS OR "WOULD-BE" PROGRAMMERS TO USE TO THEIR HEARTS CONTENT. IT IS THE PLACE FOR THOSE "NOT-READY-FOR-PRIME-TIME" PROGRAMS WHICH ARE NOT QUITE READY BUT MAY HAVE SOME INTERESTING IDEAS FOR OTHERS TO USE IN THEIR QUEST FOR THE ULTIMATE PROGRAM. AS A FOR INSTANCE I HAVE SOME SUBROUTINES IN BASIC THAT DO A DISK SORT, FIND THE LAST NAME IN A NAME FIELD THAT WAS NOT FILTERED BY JUST ONE WAY OF ENTERING A FULL NAME, AND A DATA INPUT FORMAT FROM THE SCREEN THAT PRESENTS PROTECTED FIELDS AND DOES SOME MINOR EDITING. THESE MIGHT BE USEFUL TO SOMEONE WHO DOES NOT WANT TO RE-INVENT THE WHEEL (OR SUBROUTINE IN THIS CASE). I'LL UPLOAD THEM IN THE NEAR FUTURE (AFTER I GET CAUGHT UP IN THE SETTING UP OF THIS SIG AND DON'T HAVE 19 DISKS OF PROGRAMS, ARTICLES, AND ETC. TO UPLOAD).

WE NEED TO SETTLE ON SOME CONVENTIONS SO THAT USERS OF THIS SECTION WILL KNOW IN WHAT LANGUAGE THE PROGRAM OR ROUTINE IS WRITTEN. WE WILL NOT KEEP ANY ONE OUT OF THIS AREA BUT I'LL PROPOSE A CONVENTION FOR THE LANGUAGES WITH WHICH I AM FAMILIAR. IF ONE IS NOT PROPOSED, THAT DOESN'T MEAN THAT WE'RE NOT ALLOWING YOUR LANGUAGE HERE. PROPOSE ONE FOR IT AND WE'LL ACCEPT YOU WITH OPEN ARMS.

LANGUAGE	FILENAME.EXTENSION
BASIC	BAS
PASCAL	PAS
ASSEMBLER	ASM
COMPILED	
BASIC	BAS
MUMPS	MUM
ADA	ADA
C	C
FORTH	FTW
FORTRAN	FOR
COBOL	COB

YOU SEE THAT? WE'LL EVEN ACCEPT COBOL!

YOU SHOULD ALSO INCLUDE ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE VERSION OR STANDARDS WHICH APPLY TO YOUR PARTICULAR PROGRAM OR ROUTINE. FOR INSTANCE WHAT COMPILER YOU'RE USING AND WHO PROVIDED IT, ETC.

PLEASE LET'S KEEP THIS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN. ANYTHING PRESENTED HERE CAN SHOW UP IN ANYONE'S PROGRAM AND SHOULD BE FOR OUR MUTUAL EDUCATION AND NOT A "HEY, I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO USE IT!" I'M USING SOME OF THE THINGS I MENTIONED IN A COMMERCIAL APPLICATION WHICH I AM DEVELOPING. HOWEVER, I THINK THERE'S LOTS OF ROOM FOR ALL OF US IN THIS MICRO-REVOLUTION AND WE ALL WILL TEND TO BENEFIT BY THE DEVELOPMENT OF A BETTER INFORMED PUBLIC AND A LARGER COMMUNITY OF LITERATE PROGRAMMERS. LET'S MAKE THIS THE BUSIEST SECTION IN THE SIG! COME ON ALL YOU PROGRAMMERS!

COMMUNICATIONS SECTION

THIS SECTION IS RESERVED FOR THE PROCESS AND SUBJECT OF COMMUNICATIONS. IN THIS SECTION YOU SHOULD FIND SUGGESTIONS, ARTICLES, AND PROGRAMS THAT DEAL WITH ALL KINDS OF COMMUNICATIONS. PC NETWORKS, TERMINAL PROGRAMS, PATCHES TO SOMEONE FAVORITE COMM. PACKAGE, AND TIPS ON HOW TO COMMUNICATE THROUGH COMPUERVE (CIS) ARE JUST A FEW SUGGESTED AND PRESENT ITEMS. IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OF INTEREST TO OTHERS IN THIS AREA, SUBMIT THEM TO THE "XA" DATABASE AND THE SYSDOPS WILL REVIE THEM AND MAKE THEM AVAILABLE TO OTHERS IN THE SIG.

YOU WILL FIND PC-TALK AND ITS DOCUMENTATION READY TO DOWNLOAD. THE PATCHES TO THE IBM ASYNC PROGRAM THAT SUPPORT PRINTING SESSIONS AND AUTO-DIALING, ETC. ARE COMING SOON. WE ANTICIPATE SEVERAL ARTICLES ON NETWORKING AND FILE SHARING. THIS IS AN EXCITING AREA. LET'S ALL PARTICIPATE! AFTER ALL, AREN'T WE ALREADY COMMUNICATORS THROUGH CIS?

FOLLOWING THIS MESSAGE IS A NOTE ON USING CIS TO CATCH SOMEONE IN THE SIG FOR AN ONLINE DISCUSSION. THIS IS JUST ONE OF THE MANY WAYS WE CAN COMMUNICATE ON THIS SYSTEM. WE WILL BE SCHEDULING ONLINE CONFERENCES IN THE NEAR FUTURE THAT WILL PRESENT A KNOWLEDGEABLE "SPEAKER" AND ALLOW SOME INTERACTION. PLEASE NOTE THAT EVERYONE CAN'T "TALK" AT THE SAME TIME WHEN USING CONFERENCE, ESPECIALLY IF THERE ARE A LOT OF MEMBERS ONLINE AT THE SAME TIME, BUT WE'LL GIVE IT THE OLD COLLEGE TRY. DON'T BE SURPRISED IF I BREAK IN ON YOUR SESSION SOME TIME FOR A DIRECT CONVERSATION CONCERNING THE USE OF THE SIG!

FOR THOSE OF YOU THAT ARE HAVING TROUBLE WITH THE COMMANDS THAT SEND THOSE "ANNOYING LITTLE MESSAGES" THAT SOUND THE "BELL" OR LOOK LIKE THIS ON THE SCREEN:

```
;;TO1NYC: MEET RON LUCS IN CO
```

THE FOLLOWING WILL GIVE STEP BY STEP INSTRUCTIONS ON HOW TO SEND YOUR OWN.

FIRST, TO SEE WHO IS CURRENTLY IN THE SIG, TYPE <U> AT THE FUNCTION: PROMPT. THE LIST OF USERS THAT WILL APPEAR AFTER A BRIEF PAUSE WILL BE FORMATTED LIKE:

```
25 71645,253 TO1NYC IBMSIG
40 70001,1264 TOSDCA USTAT
```

THIS TELLS YOU THAT THERE ARE TWO USERS ON LINE. THE FIRST USER, WITH PPN 71645,253 IS IN THIS SIG, HAS JOB NUMBER 25, AND IS CONNECTED THROUGH PHONE MOD LINK T01 FROM NEW YORK CITY. IF THE PPN IS UNFAMILIAR, A QUICK LOOK AT THE USER LOG (TYPE <U> AT THE FUNCTION: PROMPT - JUST THE U) WILL GIVE YOU THE USER'S NAME AND ENTRY TIME.

YOU MAY SEND THAT "ANNOYING MESSAGE" BY TYPING, AT THE FUNCTION: PROMPT ONLY, EITHER:

```
SEN JOB 25 M*****
OR
SEN TO1NYC M*****
```

NOTE THAT THESE EXAMPLES ARE FOR THE FIRST USER NOTED ABOVE. "M*****" IS A MESSAGE THAT MAY BE UP TO 79 CHARACTERS IN LENGTH.

THERE WILL BE A DELAY AS THE SYSTEM SEARCHES FOR THE RECIPIENT AND SENDS THE MESSAGE. THE SYSTEM MAY ALSO REPLY:

```
?BUSY OR ?TTY NOT FOUND
```

IF YOUR "TARGET" IS USING THE SIG ACCESS AREA OR HAS JUST LOGGED OFF THE NETWORK.

IF YOU DON'T GET AN IMMEDIATE REPLY, IT MAY BE THE MEMBER IS PREPARING A REPLY OR DOESN'T KNOW HOW TO. EXERCISE SOME PATIENCE AND OFFER SOME HELP IF TOO LONG PASSES. BE PATIENT AND HAVE FUN!

SOFTWARE LIBRARY SECTION

THIS SECTION OF THE SIG DATA BASE IS RESERVED FOR SOFTWARE OTHER THAN FIXES, UPDATES, PROGRAMMING EXAMPLES, AND FUNGAMES. YOU SHOULD CHECK THIS FILE FOR SPECIAL INFORMATION REGARDING SUCH THINGS AS THE REAL NAME OF THE PROGRAM (THE NAME MAY BE REQUIRED TO BE LONGER THAN THE 8 CHARACTERS CIS ALLOWS) AND AS MUCH OF A DESCRIPTION AS POSSIBLE. WE WILL TRY TO IDENTIFY THE EQUIPMENT REQUIRED BY OR SUPPORTED BY THE PROGRAM. WE WILL TRY VERY HARD TO IDENTIFY WHAT THE PROGRAMS WILL NOT DO, IF THERE SEEMS TO BE LOTS OF ROOM FOR MISUNDERSTANDING. IF YOU HAVE PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO DONATE, PLEASE LOAD IT INTO A PUBLIC ACCESS AREA AND SUBMIT IT TO THE SIG FOR REVIEW AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT! WE WILL TRY TO REVIEW YOUR PROGRAM AND ACTIVATE IT IN THE SIG JUST AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. IF YOU ARE A DIED -IN-THE-WOODS PROGRAMMER (OR WOULD LIKE TO BE), CHECK OUT AND CONTRIBUTE TO OUR PROGRAMMING SECTION (4).

FUN & GAMES SECTION

THIS SECTION IS RESERVED FOR FUN & GAMES (THOUGH YOU MIGHT FIND SOME SERIOUS PROGRAMMING EFFORTS HERE). WE HAVE A NUMBER OF GAMES ALL READY TO BE UPLOADED. IT WILL TAKE SOME TIME AND WE WILL BE TRYING THEM ALL FIRST (WE NEED SOME ENTERTAINMENT TOO, BUT THE REAL REASON IS SO THAT WE CAN SEE THAT THEY WORK AND SO THAT WE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL YOU WHAT EQUIPMENT YOU'LL NEED). IF YOU HAVE A FAVORITE, PUBLIC DOMAIN GAME, SUBMIT IT TO THIS SECTION AND WE'LL MAKE IT AVAILABLE TO ALL THE MEMBERS. THIS COULD BE THE START OF SOMETHING VERY BIG. IF YOU HAVE SOME EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE THAT DOESN'T FIT ONE OF THE OTHER AREAS, YOU MAY SUBMIT IT HERE TOO.

OUR FIRST SUBMISSION IS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE SOUND PRODUCING CAPABILITIES OF THE PC. I WAS TEMPTED TO PUT IT IN THE PROGRAMMING SECTION, BUT IT IS FUN! IT REQUIRES THE COLOR/GRAPHICS ADAPTOR AND BASICA. THAT MEANS AT LEAST 48K OF MEMORY AND AT LEAST A TV OR COMPOSITE MONITOR RUN FROM THE GRAPHICS ADAPTOR. I RAN IT MYSELF AND PLAYED WITH THE KEYBOARD AND VARIOUS SOUNDS IT PRODUCES WHILE THIS PROGRAM IS RUNNING.

SUGGESTIONS FOR NEW MEMBERS

USE CTRL-S TO PAUSE AND CTRL-Q TO RESUME THE SCROLLING OF THIS FILE OR CTRL-P TO ABORT THIS TEXT.

WELCOME TO THE IBM PC SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ON THE COMPUERVE NETWORK.

YOU ARE NOW ACCESSING ONE OF THE MOST POWERFUL AND EXTENSIVE DATABASES FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE IBM PERSONAL COMPUTER. THIS SERVICE IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH IBM CORP. ALL CONTENTS OF THIS AREA WERE SUBMITTED AND MAINTAINED BY INDIVIDUALS FROM ACROSS THE USA ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS, AND ARE ASSUMED TO BE IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN.

PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC C

TO FULLY BENEFIT AND BE ABLE TO UTILIZE ALL OF THE FEATURES OF THIS AREA, THE SYSTEM OPERATORS OR SYSOPS, OF THIS (S)PECIAL (I)NTEREST (G)ROUP, OR SIG, RECOMMEND THAT YOU TAKE THE TIME TO CONFIGURE YOUR INDIVIDUAL CONPUSERVE TERMINAL PARAMETERS AND READ THE AVAILABLE ONLINE HELPFILES.

FIRST- IF THIS TEXT IS DISPLAYED ENTIRELY IN UPPERCASE ON YOUR SCREEN, YOU WILL NEED TO CHANGE YOUR DEFAULT SETTINGS PERTAINING TO THE ENTIRE SYSTEM. TO ENTER DEFAULT, USE GO CIS-9 FROM THIS SIG OR ANY PAGE IN DISPLA OR FROM THE OK PROMPT OF THE PROGRAMMERS AREA TYPE R DEFAULT.

SECOND- NEXT, YOU SHOULD SET YOUR ADJUSTABLE USER (O)PTIONS INSIDE THIS SIG. INSTRUCTIONS ARE AVAILABLE BY TYPING THE COMMAND: ? OP AT THE FUNCTION: PROMPT.

THIRD- NOW THAT YOU ARE PROPERLY CONFIGURED, YOU ARE READY TO USE THE 4 MAIN FEATURES OF THE SIG. THEY ARE:

- 1- THE MESSAGE SECTIONS. (TYPE I FOR FULL (I)NSTRUCTIONS)
- 2- THE SIG (O)NFERENCE FEATURE FOR REAL-TIME COMMUNICATIONS WITH MULTIPLE USERS NATIONWIDE (TYPE ' CD ' AT THE PROMPT, AND READ THE INTRO. BULLETIN THAT FOLLOWS CAREFULLY)
- 3- THE TEXT DATABASES LIKE THE ONE YOU ARE READING NOW. TYPE I# WHERE #=0-8.
- 4- THE SIG/ACCESS: DATABASES. THESE CONTAIN PUBLIC DOMAIN SOFTWARE

AND ARCHIVED TEXT FILES, AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOADING TO YOUR IBM PC. TYPE IA AND THEN SELECT THE PARTICULAR DATABASE YOU ARE INTERESTED IN.

A LIST OF THE COMMANDS IMPLEMENTED TO CATALOG AND DISPLAY THESE FILES CAN BE SEEN BY TYPING HELP AT THE SIG/ACCESS: PROMPT.

TO HELP YOU WITH ANY OF THESE FEATURES, THE SIG SYSOPS, WILL CONTINUALLY MONITOR THE MESSAGE AREA FOR HELP REQUESTS. TO LEAVE SUCH A MESSAGE, ENTER L FOR (L)EAVE MESSAGE AT THE MAIN MENU OR FUNCTION: PROMPT. WHEN THE SYSTEM PROMPTS YOU WITH TO: TYPE JUST SYSOP (OR #SYSOP TO MAKE IT A PRIVATE REQUEST) AND USE SIMPLY HELP WANTED OR JUST HELP AS THE SUBJECT: ENTER YOUR MESSAGE, AND CLOSE IT BY TYPING A BLANK LINE WITH JUST <RETURN>. WHEN ASKED FOR A LEAVE OPTION: TYPE S B TO (S)AVE THE MESSAGE IN SECTION 8 WHICH IS OUR SECTION DEVOTED TO QUESTIONS FOR THE SYSOP.

FUNCTIONS:

- B - BULLETINS E - EXIT
- G X - GO PG. X I - INSTRUCTIONS
- L - LEAVE MSG. M - PREV. MENU
- OFF - LOG OFF OP - USER OPT.
- R - RETRIEVE T - GO DISPLA
- X - DATABASE IA - X ACCESS

? X - EXPLANATION OF FUNCTION X

SIG/ACCESS: ? CAT
SIG/ACCESS
THE CATALOG COMMAND ALLOWS YOU TO EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF THE PUBLIC FILE SYSTEM. THE FORMAT IS:
CAT FILE.EXT(USER ID)/OPTION/OPTION...
EACH VISIBLE FILE IS LISTED IN THE FOLLOWING FORM:

NAME.EXT DD-MMM-YYY #

WHERE # = SIZE OF THE FILE IN BYTES. IF THE FILE WAS SUBMITTED FROM YOUR USER ID WITH THE /INV OPTION, THEN THE STRING "/INV" WILL FOLLOW THE FILE.EXT. IN ADDITION, YOUR OWN FILES WILL BE FOLLOWED BY THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TIMES THAT EACH HAS BEEN RETRIEVED, AND THE MOST RECENT ACCESS DATE.

THE CATALOG IS LISTED IN USER ID ORDER, WITH THE FILES IN ALPHABETIC SEQUENCE.

THE SIMPLEST FORM IS:

CAT
WHICH WILL GIVE A BRIEF LIST OF ALL VISIBLE PUBLIC FILES. THE FILE.EXT MAY HAVE "WILDCARDS" IN THEM, WHERE # IN EITHER THE FILE OR OR EXT POSITIONS SIGNIFIES ANY FILE WILL MATCH THE #. A ? MAY BE USED TO MEAN ANY LETTER/DIGIT WILL MATCH IN THAT SPECIFIC POSITION. FOR EXAMPLE:

CAT *.BAS

WILL FIND ANY FILE WITH AN EXTENSION OF "BAS" IN ANY USER ID.

CAT ABC???.1??

WILL MATCH ANY FILE WHOSE NAME BEGINS WITH ABC AND WHOSE EXTENSION CONTAINS AN X AS ITS FIRST CHARACTER, ANYTHING IN THE MIDDLE, AND ENDS

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PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC C

IN Z; ALSO, ANY USER ID WILL MATCH.
THE FORM:

CAT [USER ID]
WILL MATCH ANY FILE SUBMITTED BY THE GIVEN USER.

THE OPTIONS ALLOWED ARE:

/AGE:N - OUTPUT ONLY IF THE ENTRY HAS BEEN SUBMITTED WITHIN THE LAST N DAYS.
/DES - OUTPUT THE DESCRIPTION OF EACH FILE AS GIVEN BY THE SUBMITTOR.
/PAUSE - STOP AFTER EACH FILE IS LISTED; MOSTLY USEFUL WITH /DES.
/KEY:LIST - SELECT ONLY FILES WHICH HAVE THE GIVEN SET OF KEYWORDS SUPPLIED BY THEIR SUBMITTOR. THE LIST MAY BE A SERIES OF WORDS SEPARATED BY + TO IMPLY 'OR' OR & TO IMPLY 'AND'. FOR EXAMPLE:
CAT /KEY:THIS+THAT&BASIC
WILL FIND FILES HAVING KEYWORDS 'THIS' OR 'THAT' AND 'BASIC.'

SIG/ACCESS:
SIG/ACCESS

VALID COMMANDS:

PUB - RETRIEVE FROM PUBLIC ACCESS
NOR - NORMAL SIG ACCESS
IA - CHANGE TO NEW DATABASE
CAT - CATALOG
TYP - TYPE A FILE
DOW - DOWNLOAD A FILE
KEY - SEARCH KEYWORD LIST
SUB - SUBMIT A FILE
DEL - DELETE A FILE
EXI - EXIT FROM ACCESS
HEL - EXPLAINS ACCESS

SIG/ACCESS: CAT &.HLP
SIG/ACCESS

[76703,254]
SCAN.HLP 12-APR-83 2220 ACCESSSES: 69 25-JUN-83

SIG/ACCESS: CAT
SIG/ACCESS

[70001,1264]
CISCMD.TXT 13-FEB-83 7110 ACCESSSES: 105 26-JUN-83
CAPITAL.PC 02-FEB-83 1910 ACCESSSES: 114 25-JUN-83
ELEPUB.TXT 02-FEB-83 7920 ACCESSSES: 33 25-JUN-83
FEDSIB.TXT 02-FEB-83 3895 ACCESSSES: 38 23-JUN-83
PCBYER.TXT 31-JAN-83 5865 ACCESSSES: 90 23-JUN-83

[70465,1223]
COLOUR.TIT 15-FEB-83 8920 ACCESSSES: 104 25-JUN-83

[73125,27]
MIREF.MAN 01-APR-83 16770 ACCESSSES: 60 25-JUN-83

[73145,570]
DOS2.DOC 24-MAR-83 3440 ACCESSSES: 154 26-JUN-83

[76703,254]
SCAN.HLP 12-APR-83 2220 ACCESSSES: 69 25-JUN-83

SIG/ACCESS: TYP SCAN.HLP

:INTRO. TO SOME USEFULL SCANNING
COMMANDS OF SIG MESSAGE HEADERS

THE ONLINE DOC CAN BE SEEN BY TYPING " ? S " AT THE FUNCTION: PROMPT. AT ANY POINT THAT YOU ARE ASKED FOR A SUBCOMMAND, AND WANT TO SEE THE CHOICES AVAIL., TYPE ? OR H OR HELP AGAIN. BUT IF YOU ARE LIKE MANY OF US, AND FIND THIS HELP TO BE INADEQUATE, OR CONFUSING EVEN AFTER YOU FIND IT, HERE'S SOME OF THE TYPES OF SCANNING THAT I HAVE FOUND TO BE HELPFUL (PERSONAL OPINION)

ENTER THE COMMAND ON 1 LINE INCLUDING ANY "*" AS SHOWN, NOT THE " " WHICH ARE FOR CLAIRIFICATION SHOULD YOUR SCREEN FORMATTING BE DIFFERENT.
FIRST- NOTE THAT THE SCANS WILL INCLUDE ALL MESSAGE SECTIONS UNLESS YOU ISSUE THE COMMAND " SS # " TO LIMIT THE SCAN TO A SINGLE SECTION #. " SS ALL " CLEARS THIS TO ENABLE ALL SECTIONS AGAIN.
" SF NEW # " WILL SCAN ALL HEADERS IN A FORWARD (INCREASING #) SINCE YOU LA ST

READ OR SCANNED A MSG. THIS GOES IN ORDER OF THEIR ENTRY.
" SR # " SCANS SEQUENTIALLY IN REVERSE BEGINNING AT MSG #. YOU CAN ENTER A #, OR "NEW" OR IF NEITHER IS ENTERED, A <RETURN> WILL SCAN IN REVERSE FROM THE HIGHEST MSG #.
" ST # " THIS WILL SCAN (CONTINUOUSLY) BEGINNING AT MSG # (OR USE NEW) BY THREAD, (OR A MSG., THEN THE SUBSEQUENT REPLIES), AT THE END OF THE THREAD, THE SCAN WILL RESUME AT MSG #+1, AND SCAN BY THREADS, ETC.
" ST DIS # " IS MY FAVORITE. IT WILL DISPLAY THE HEADER OF MSG #. YOU WILL BE ASKED IF YOU WANT TO <R>EAD IT, IN WHICH CASE THIS MSG AND ALL SUBSEQ. MSGS IN THE THREAD WILL BE DISPLAYED. IF YOU ENTER JUST <RETURN> THE NEXT MSG HEADER IN THIS THREAD WILL BE DISPLAYED, AGAIN ASKING THE SAME QUESTIONS. YOU MAY MOVE ON TO THE NEXT THREAD AT ANYTIME BY ENTERING "SK" FOR SKIP-OUT. FURTHER INFO AVAILABLE BY TYPING " ? ST " AT THE FUNCTION: PROMPT.
FINALLY, THE FASTEST SCAN IS THE " QS " WHICH SHOWS THE SUBJECT OF A MSG. AND THE NUMBER OF REPLIES ONLY. " QS ALL " WILL SHOW THE SUBJECT, SENDER AND RECEIPIENT OF A MSG, AND DISPLAY IN A TREE-LIKE STRUCTURE THE REPLIES TO THIS MSG AND THE NAME OF THE REPLIER. BOTH OF THESE SCANS GO FORWARD ONLY, BEGINNING WITH A SPECIFIC MSG # OR "NEW". THESE ARE ONLY A FEW, BUT SHOULD GET YOU STARTED.

SYSOP#RON LUKS 3/83

SIG/ACCESS: IA
WHICH SECTION (0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8): 1
USING SECTION 1 DATABASE.

SIG/ACCESS: CAT
SIG/ACCESS

[70001,1264]
KEYLOC.ASM 15-FEB-83 7425 ACCESSSES: 63 20-JUN-83
KEYLOC.DOC 15-FEB-83 1795 ACCESSSES: 123 25-JUN-83
SD.HEX 27-FEB-83 2690 ACCESSSES: 25 25-JUN-83
SDIR.DOC 15-FEB-83 100 ACCESSSES: 59 25-JUN-83
SDIR.HEX 27-FEB-83 3840 ACCESSSES: 11 25-JUN-83
SHFISM.HEX 27-FEB-83 385 ACCESSSES: 12 07-MAY-83
SHFTBS.DOC 15-FEB-83 1025 ACCESSSES: 59 24-JUN-83
SHFTBS.HEX 27-FEB-83 385 ACCESSSES: 13 15-MAY-83
SPEDUP.HEX 27-FEB-83 385 ACCESSSES: 12 13-JUN-83

[70040,1162]
ASK.ASM 06-JUN-83 2685 ACCESSSES: 35 25-JUN-83
ASK.DOC 06-JUN-83 620 ACCESSSES: 52 25-JUN-83
ASK.HEX 06-JUN-83 285 ACCESSSES: 6 25-JUN-83
XDIR.DOC 15-JUN-83 1805 ACCESSSES: 31 25-JUN-83
XDIR.HEX 19-JUN-83 3980 ACCESSSES: 17 25-JUN-83

[71445,1006]
QDCOPY.DOC 02-MAY-83 825 ACCESSSES: 39 25-JUN-83

[72345,470]
DKSPAT.TXT 03-MAR-83 3530 ACCESSSES: 80 25-JUN-83

[73075,1237]
PRTFIX.DOC 22-APR-83 295 ACCESSSES: 48 24-JUN-83
PRTFIX.HEX 22-APR-83 285 ACCESSSES: 13 21-JUN-83

SIG/ACCESS: IA
WHICH SECTION (0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8): 8
USING SECTION 8 DATABASE.

SIG/ACCESS: CAT
SIG/ACCESS

[70001,1264]
CONFER.HLP 28-APR-83 2600 ACCESSSES: 64 26-JUN-83
SEN.HLP 28-APR-83 1605 ACCESSSES: 48 26-JUN-83
UPLOAD.HLP 14-APR-83 10895 ACCESSSES: 89 26-JUN-83

[70215,1017]
NEW.IA 13-JUN-83 14855 ACCESSSES: 34 26-JUN-83
ULCASE.HLP 26-APR-83 1280 ACCESSSES: 34 25-JUN-83

PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC COMM PC C

SIG/ACCESS: TYP ULCASE.HLP
 =====
 FILE: ULCASE.HLP
 =====

=====
 END OF FILE: ULCASE.HLP.
 =====

THIS .HLP FILE WAS WRITTEN TO ASSIST YOU IN CHANGING YOUR TERMINAL DEFAULTS SO THAT YOU CAN TRANSMIT IN BOTH UPPER AND LOWER CASE. OF COURSE, IF YOU ARE ACCESSING THE IBM PC SIG WITH A COMPUTER OR TERMINAL THAT USES ONLY UPPER CASE, THEN YOU MAY AS WELL DISREGARD THE REST OF THIS FILE.

MESSAGES LEFT ON THE BOARD IN ALL UPPER CASE SEEM LIKE THE SENDER IS SHOUTING AT US.

=====
 PROCEDURE:
 =====

FROM ANY PROMPT, ENTER GO CIS-6. ONCE IN PAGE CIS-6, YOU WILL BE PRESENTED WITH A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT CHOICES WHICH ALLOW YOU TO PERMANENTLY OR TEMPORARILY CHANGE YOUR TERMINAL DEFAULTS. WHEN USING THE PC SIG, MOST OF US HAVE CHOSEN A LINE LENGTH OF 80 AND UPPER/LOWER CASE TRANSMISSION AND RECEPTION.

IF YOU ARE IN THE MICROMET AREA, YOU CAN CHANGE YOUR DEFAULTS BY RUNNING THE DEFALT PROGRAM. ENTER R DEFALT AT THE OK PROMPT, AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS.

THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT! NOW GET GOING, CHANGE THOSE DEFAULTS, THEN COME BACK TO PCS-131 AND LEAVE A FEW UPPER AND LOWER CASE MESSAGES TELLING US ALL THAT YOU'VE ARRIVED!

SIG/ACCESS: EII
 RETURNING TO SIG...

WELCOME BACK TO IBM PC SIG

T - RETURN TO FUNCTION LEVEL
 ST - STOP BETWEEN MESSAGES (S)
 NS - DON'T STOP BETWEEN MESSAGES

LL - CHANGE LINE LENGTH (72)
 BR - SET BRIEF MODE, WHICH SUPPRESSES REPETITIOUS DISPLAY OF OPTIONS
 NB - CLEAR BRIEF MODE (S)
 CN - CHANGE NAME
 DS - SET DEFAULT LOGIN SECTION (0)
 P - MAKE OPTIONS PERMANENT

MEN - USE MENUS INSTEAD OF COMMAND PROMPTS

EXITING AT 26-JUN-83 16:39:51
 LAST MESSAGE ON SYSTEM: 9924
 HIGH MESSAGE RETRIEVED: 4835
 THANK YOU FOR VISITING IBM PC SIG

Chris Jacobs



PC Update

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

IBM announced arrangements with two large training organizations to conduct classes for PC users at selected IBM Product Centers. They also announced that the videotex software for the Series/1 Videotex System can run on the PC.

HARDWARE

Ariel introduced the RTA 331 real-time spectrum analyzer for the PC for \$649.95

International Systems Marketing of Rockville, MD announced the Unisystem-PC, an IBM PC-compatible unit with 256KB of memory, two 720KB floppy disk drives, video monitor, two RS-232 ports, one parallel printer port, 8KB of EPROM and a speaker port. Options include up to 1MB of memory, color graphics monitor and printer, 8087 computational chip and four additional expansion slots. The unit is scheduled for delivery in the fourth quarter for \$2,595.

1-Squared Interface introduced the Model 1-BM-10X 10.6MB, the 1-BM-15X 15.9MB and the 1-BM-25X 25.1MB 5 1/4" Winchester disk drive subsystems for the PC and XT running under 2.0 DOS. Prices are \$1,285, \$1,595 and \$2,295, respectively. Track-to-track access time is 2 msec for the hard disk systems. The firm introduced the 1-BM-2X, a dual half-height floppy disk subsystem for backup drives for the XT or as additional storage devices for the PC or XT. The 1-BM-2X has 360KB floppies and costs \$535. Quantity discounts are available.

Pathway Design of Wellesley, MA introduced a hardware/software capability which allows the PC to emulate 3270 terminals and 2780/3780 and 3770 RJE workstations. The adapter is \$295 and the software is \$295.

Produce Associates of Redwood City, CA announced a Keyboard Mouse for the PC. The unit is priced from \$150-\$295.

Standard Microsystems of Hauppauge, NY introduced the ARC-PC local area network controller module based on Datapoint's Arcnet token passing techniques and providing interfaces with the PC and compatible terminals. The module supports up to 255 nodes and operates at 2.5M bps. The price is \$495.



PC Update

(continued)

WIDL Video Publications of Chicago, IL announced "The Blue Book for the IBM Personal Computer", a 328 page directory of hardware and software priced at \$24.95.

Vynet of Los Gatos, CA announced that its single-board V102-I dual-channel interactive telephone interface for the PC is available with two independent telephone voice channels and a modem option. The board is priced at \$793.

SOFTWARE

ACCI Business Systems of Houston, TX announced that the Fully Integrated Project Management Programs for Architects and Engineers now operate on the XT. The four-module package costs \$6,250.

Applied Data Research of Princeton, NJ announced the ADR/Link enabling micro-to-mainframe communications between the PC and IBM mainframes via a telecommunications link. The company also plans to unveil ADR/Signon which will interface the ADR/Link to provide direct connection to mainframe applications without signing on to a mainframe product, and ADR/Editor which will offload Roscoe, Vollis, and Librarian functions on the mainframe. The firm plans to extend the Datacom/DB relational data base management system, EMail electronic mail program, Empire decision support facility and on-line program development tools Roscoe and Vollis to the PC environment. The products will be integrated with VisiOn and ADT software for use with mainframe versions of the products. Prices will range from \$500 to \$1,500 per program. Availability is in 1984. The firm expects to support other micros as well. ADT's current customer base for the firm's DBMS product is over 700.

Clarity Software of Austin, TX announced Vis-Escape to convert VisiCalc spreadsheets into IFPS models. It runs on the PC, and the resulting models may be uploaded to TSD and CMS. The price is \$600.

Computer Distributors of Bellevue, WA is developing a Pick-like relational DBMS, dictionary query language and applications development generator. The price is \$495. The software will be available by January.

Context Management Systems of Torrance, CA introduced an integrated software package for managers, including word processing, spreadsheet, business graphics, data management, forms design and telecommunications for the XT. The Context MBA program retails at \$695.

Control Data of Minneapolis, MN will make available 150 of its Plato computer courseware programs to users of the PC over a telephone hookup called Microlink.

Cosmos of Morton, WA introduced the Revelation single-user Pick-like operating system for the PC. Revelation duplicates the mini version of Pick and is \$950. The software is available now. Cosmos plans a multiuser-oriented version and versions for other micros.

Digital Research of Pacific Grove, CA unveiled micro.SPF and m3270/SPF screen editors for the PC running under CP/M-86, Concurrent CP/M or PC-DOS. The m3270/SPF includes 3270 emulation. The parent software, SPF, is a program-development tool built for mainframe software developers by Phaser Systems. The micro/SPF is \$250 and m3270/SPF is \$850.

Einstein of Los Angeles, Ca introduced letter-writing software for the PC. Ghost Writer is priced at \$449.

Export Software International of Edinburgh, Scotland is offering the Expert-Ease spreadsheet program which uses an artificial intelligence approach to structured relationships between data elements. The price is \$1,500.

Ferox Microsystems of Arlington, VA is offering its Encore financial software which combines an interactive spreadsheet and capabilities of large-scale financial planning languages for use on the PC. The package is \$1,850.

Gemunis Computer Systems of Minneapolis, MN, a developer of PC software for public schools and local governments, sold a 16% share to National Computer Systems, who also purchased exclusive marketing rights to the Gemunis software.

Graphic Software of Cambridge, MA introduced the Super Chartman II graphics package for the XT. The software allows up to 6 graphs and charts to be displayed on one page. The price is \$425; and upgrade package for Chartman II is \$50.

Great Plains Software of Fargo, ND is offering its Hardisk Series of small business accounting software for the PC and XT. It includes general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll and inventory with point-of-sale. The software ranges from \$495 to \$595/module. The firm expects the system's installed base to be three to five times larger than the Apple II version, which is 10,000.

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PC Update

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Hi-tech Software Engineering of Memphis, TN introduced the PCKey which allows the PC to function as an intelligent workstation on minicomputers and mainframes with asynchronous ASCII I/O/ The PCKey is \$800.

Information Unlimited Software of Sausalito, CA released a version of EasyWriter word processing software combining six languages in 1 package for about \$175. IUS also unveiled the EasyBusiness System family of accounting software compatible with DOS 2.2. Individual modules are \$595 each.

Integral Quality of Seattle, WA plans to introduce a Lisp compiler for the PC by November. The firm sold three hundred copies of the Lisp language interpreter for the PC, XT and compatibles since introduction in April.

Leading Edge Products of Canton, MA introduced the Leading Edge Word Processor for the PC with cut-and-paste functions and multiple formats that enable the user to move and arrange text quickly. Inadvertant deletions of overstrikes and typographical errors can be corrected with one keystroke. The file structure is similar to that of the WangWriter. Retail price is under \$300. The package will be available in September.

Life Boat Associates of New York, NY unveiled the Halo package of color graphics subroutines. Halo is

available with interfaces for BASIC, Pascal, Lattice, C, FORTRAN and assembler. With 1 language interface, the price is \$150.

Logic of Dallas, TX announced the Pro-Forma package to aid credit insurers in preparing 5-year plans. It runs on the PC and is licensed for \$1,500.

Nissim Associates of San Francisco, CA introduced the Foreign Exchange Trading system to process spot, forward and option contracts on the PC. The product is \$5,800.

Pacific Software Manufacturing of Berkeley, CA released the Sequitor UNIX-based data base management system for the PC. The software is \$795 and is available immediately.

Software Publishing of Mountain View, CA introduced PFS:Write word processing package for the PC for suggested retail price of \$140. The package is available immediately.

VM Personal Computing of New York, NY announced the Please micro-to-mainframe link running under VM/CMS and operating with Relay on the PC.

Weiss Associates of Red Bank, NJ announced the Venture Financial Planning and Analysis System comprehensive business application system for the PC. The price is \$495.

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