



NEWS

Vol 2

North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group

No. 10

Special Interest Programs

Programmers

OCTOBER MEETING PROGRAM: QNX. Wayne Reich will give a program on Quantum's QNX operating system. QNX is a multi-user, multi-tasking system that includes a C-compiler (requires 8087 chip for floating-point calculations or long integers), full screen editor, and communications. It's advertised to be "faster, smaller, and better than Unix". Optional QDOS is an available emulator for MS-DOS 1.1. Wayne uses QNX at the Dresser Industries Computer Services Division. He will give a brief overview of the system, and plans to have two PC's available to demonstrate it.

Group Chairman Neil Bennett presented his upcoming Professional Basic system at the September meeting of the Programmer's Special Interest Group.

Dick Gall

New Meeting Place

We have a new place on campus to have our meetings beginning in October. It's Carcher Auditorium, Room 100 in Storey Hall, in the northwest corner of the campus. This room holds about twice as many people as Fincher Auditorium where we've been meeting, and seats will be available for all.

Tutorials for IBM PC Users

At a recent User Group meeting a suggestion was made that since we are growing rather large it might be possible to organize tutorial sessions on various special topics. Some topics that come to mind are:

1. DOS Ins and Outs for Beginners
2. Pascal Programming
3. Basic Fundamentals for the First Time Programmer
4. Color Graphics
5. Using Supercalc, Lotus 123, or Other Application
6. Getting Started with Communications

Tutorials at a computer store are quite expensive and since the user group is supposed to be a place where we pool our knowledge for the benefit of all, it seems to be a natural extension of the group.

If you are interested in presenting a tutorial, or if you have a topic in mind that you want to know more about, call me at 669-8797. This is in the "information-only" stage at this time, to find out if there is enough interest to continue planning.

Call me... I'd like to hear your ideas.

-Jeanne Pitz

Presentation for the October meeting was not determined at press time.
Ed.

Next Meeting October 15, 1983

Carcher Auditorium, Room 100, Storey Hall
Southern Methodist University Campus, Dallas, Texas

(See map on page 2)

9:30 TO 12:00



North Texas PC NEWS

Published monthly by members of North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Members each receive a free subscription; for others, price of the NEWS is \$1.00 per copy. Advertising is accepted; contact Editor for rates. Members are requested to notify the editorial staff in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to the Editor, PC NEWS, 2025 Rockcreek Dr. Arlington, TX 76010.

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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 Carcher Auditorium, Room 100, of Storey Hall, SMU Campus, Dallas, Texas. (Check meeting notice on page 1 for any late changes.)

Officials:

President Alan Elliott (214)941-8475
 Program Chairman Chris Morgan (214)446-0484
 Treasurer Bill Hood (214)350-9784
 Secretary Charles Kroboth (214)699-8088

Special Interest Groups:

Beginners Mike Durbin (214)271-8779
 Business Applic. Dick Barr (214)692-2605
 Disk of the Month Will Janoschka (214)231-6449
 Programmers Neil Bennett (214)238-7650
 BASIC Applications Charles Loftin (214)492-3594
 Comm & Networking (open)

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 Expwy #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.

The Communications and networking SIG is looking for a leader. If you are interested, contact Alan Elliott for details.

**You are Eligible
 Write Faster...**

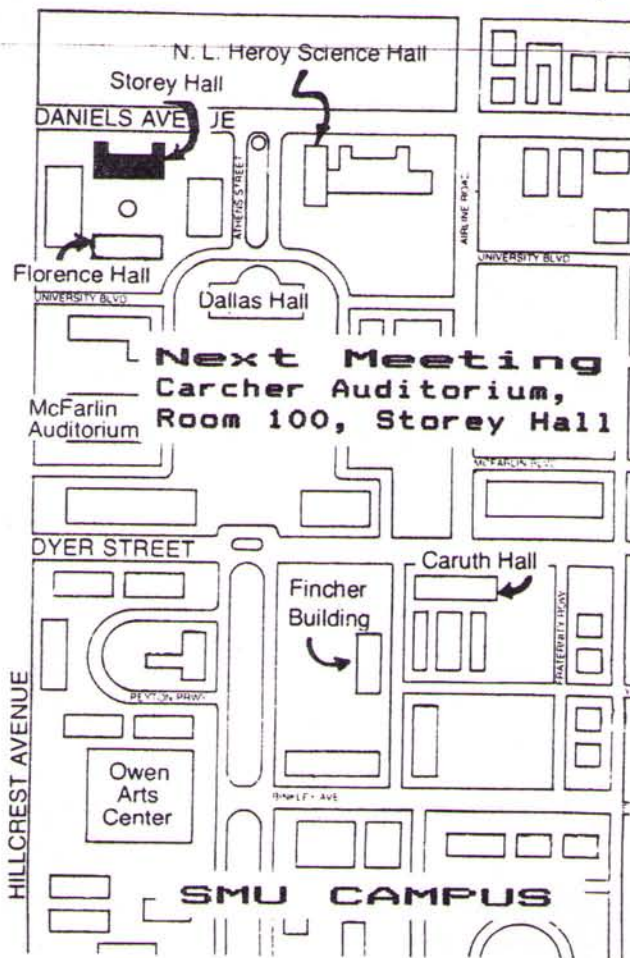
It's time to sharpen your pencils, crank up the old word processor and finish up those articles you've been writing, or thinking about writing! We have an idea in mind that will make you glad you did. It's not ready for publication yet, we still have to run it by the Board of Directors, but it promises to be something of interest to all members!

Ed.

PC Update

Due to circumstances beyond our control we cannot bring you PC Update this month. Hope to have this column up and running again next month. Meantime, all those hardware and software announcements we've been reprinting are available in Computer Industry Update published by Industry Market Reports, Los Altos, CA.

Ed.





DISK OF THE MONTH

by Will Janoschka

CHASM - THE CHEAP ASSEMBLER

John Williams has provided the latest major offering of the freeware concept, a BASIC program for converting assembly-language statements into executable code. Although some restrictions are imposed, CHASM provides many of the functions of the \$100 IBM Macro Assembler program.

MAIN FEATURES:

- * Extensive documentation (52K bytes of it!)
- * An assembly-language primer (44k bytes), which is "a gentle introduction to the field of assembly language"
- * CHASM is an interpreted BASIC source program, useful for learning how an assembler works
- * I/O default file for automatic printer and display color setup and listing format changes
- * Runs on a system with 64K of user memory
- * Separate program included for incorporating a machine-language subroutine in a BASIC program.

WHAT IT DOES. CHASM takes a text file, consisting of mnemonics, user-defined symbols, numbers, and pseudo-ops, and produces a file of corresponding machine language for the 8088 processor.

CHASM's author, David Whitman of Hanover, NH, comments:

- CHASM is easier to use than the macro assembler
- Be patient. CHASM is written in BASIC, and does a good imitation of a snail crawling through molasses. [Note: this is partly due to the large amount of diskette I/O. Running CHASM with a hard disk or ram disk helps somewhat].
- a faster-executing compiled version is available to those who provide a donation supporting his modified FREEMWARE (tm) marketing scheme.

CHASM'S LIMITATIONS. Statement syntax is not quite as free as in the macro assembler, and the number of pseudo-ops is severely cut down. Macros are not supported. Expressions are not allowed (such as BUFFER - 2). Multiple segment definitions are not supported (ie, CHASM assumes that your entire program fits in one segment). External linking of programs is not supported. Object code is output in .COM format only.

THE ASSEMBLY LANGUAGE PRIMER. The primer is a valuable, straight-shootin' plain talk introduction to some of the concepts necessary to learn assembly language. Its table of contents includes:

- * The computer as a bit pattern manipulator
- * A notation system for bit patterns [HEX demystified]
- * Addressing memory
- * The contents of memory: data & programs
- * The Dawn of Assembly Language
- * The 8088
- * Assembly language syntax
- * The Stack
- * Software interrupts
- * Pseudo-Operations
- * Tutorial (a walkthrough of the process of writing, assembling, and running a very simple program.

DISK DETAILS . . .

Price: \$5.00. Available at the general membership meeting. Media: DSDD 5" diskettes 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. Most back issues are available.

Will

Modem Madness

You may be hit with another in the long series of increased costs for phone service if you have a modem connected to your phone line. It seems there is an obscure tariff on the books that the phone company is dredging up to go along with their other increased prices for service. This tariff, originally established in 1964 for data communications utilized by large companies, consists of a surcharge of approximately \$30.00 to computer users who attach a modem to their phone lines.

I don't think they'll make it stick for the occasional home user, but you never know...

John



Programming Topics

TED

A Programmer's Text Editor

This month, I will describe another one of the many fine products that are developed locally. Several months ago, at the programmers' special interest group meeting, Mr. Bill Hood (the club's treasurer) presented how TED works, and many of the features. Several enhancements have been made since that presentation, and our membership has evolved quite a bit since then, so this article will assume you were not present for that presentation.

TED falls under the general category of a full screen text editor, meaning it is most useful for creating and modifying an ASCII text file containing program source code, a DOS batch file, or data that will be processed by a computer program. Although it can certainly be used for documentation or a manuscript, it lacks features that are present in the category of programs called word processors (i.e. margin justification, pagination, headers, footers, footnotes, underline, etc.).

There are many IBM-PC users who are former IBM mainframe users. Speaking to this audience, TED is similar in format to the SPF text editor that is quite popular with TSO users. Many of the commands are identical in syntax with SPF, although the many bells and whistles of SPF are not all present in TED.

A TED screen will look something like this:

```
TED  A:TUTOR  .TXT  << C N I >>  READY

      1...5( )10...15...20...25...30...35...40...45...50
0001
0002          INTRODUCTION
0003
0004 TED is a programmer's text editor.
0005 It has all the features of a professional
```

```
0006 programming text editor. These features
0007 are designed to provide ease and speed
0008 for coding. The assembly language programmer,
0009 in particular, will find that TED is a valuable
0010 new tool to work with on the IBM-PC.
```

```
0011
```

```
1{COMLIN} 2{DL}3{CC}4{DD}5{TB ASM}6{TB C}7{DL1}8{DE}...
```

Note: The () notation indicate a highlighted field on the screen

There are several status indicators that are quite helpful: First, TED displays the setting of the IBM toggle keys - Caps Lock, Num Lock, and Ins which is also used as a toggle key. This is shown by the << C N I >> in the example screen above. Secondly, regardless of where the cursor is sitting, its position is always displayed at the top of the screen by reverse video in the column marker line. The lines of text are numbered along the left margin, and the screen has the capability of displaying 75 columns of each line of your text file. For lines longer than 75 columns, the rest is displayed on subsequent lines, with a continuation character instead of a sequence number. TED is a command driven program, its edit commands are entered above the column marker line.

TED will allow you to put a special text sequence within your file and it will optionally update the field whenever you save the file. These special fields are a (1) date stamp, (2) a time stamp, and (3) an incrementing version number. This is most helpful if you embed the date and time stamp as the definition of a constant. When the program is compiled, this constant (saved date and time stamp) will become part of the object code and will allow you to verify that the object code was produced by the source code via the date and time stamp. ▶

Programming Topics



TED

(continued)

A most helpful feature of TED is the ability to redefine your function keys. The bottom line of the screen (as shown above) allows you to define the displayed name and a text string associated with each key. A recent enhancement allows you to include characters like the return key, and some of the other control characters, kind of like a one line series of keystrokes that is executed at the touch of a function key. Where does it save all these keystroke codes at the end of the session? Not in your text file, but in a special file reserved for this sort of thing. The same function keys will be "remembered" for subsequent sessions.

TED is an in-memory editor, meaning that should the text file be so large that it cannot be completely loaded into memory, you must figure out a scheme to split your files into smaller chunks. The good side of this is that moving around in your file is quite fast, and you don't physically change your disk file until you tell TED to save it. Backups are not automatic.

TED is written in assembly language and is designed to run under DOS 1.1. It works under DOS 2.0, unless you try to use the hierarchical file features that are present in 2.0 only, which is not supported by TED. The major benefit for using assembly language in TED is that it gets around the address space limitations imposed upon most programs written in higher level languages. This is important for an in-memory editor; the more memory you have, the bigger the files that you can edit. Another benefit of an application coded in assembly language is that you end up with a program that will typically run faster than a program coded in a higher level language, i.e. HelpWare, reviewed in the August newsletter.

TED allows you to take a one screen "snapshot" of a screen, and refer to that any time you hold down a special key. Handy for quick referral to variable names or parameter definitions.

It is an extremely effective editor for the assembly language. It is also effective for the high level

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					Wordstar 3.3	\$365.00			
					Pro Blackjack	\$63.00			
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					PFS Report	\$87.50			
					PFS Graph	\$98.00			
					PFS Write	\$98.00			
					Suspended	\$34.50			
					Mastertype	\$28.00			

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Programming Topics



TED

(continued)

language programmer, but needs a few features that I think would make it better: A case independent find and change would be extremely helpful. For example, a Pascal compiler would recognize all the following as the same variable - NUMCHAR NumChar numchar, and NuNchar. However, if you were trying to locate (find) all occurrences of a variable, you would have to perform four searches to locate all the above variables. In other words, you must be 100% consistent in the use of your capitalization to be 100% effective in the use of a find or change command. Thus, a case independent find and change would be most helpful in locating text "hits." Many high level languages are also much more readable if properly indented. An option to automatically indent according to the prior line I find to be extremely helpful when writing indented code. It was pointed out to me that this can be accomplished by defining the function keys to indent a specific number of spaces,

thus allowing you to use one function key for each level of indentation.

There is another feature that is becoming increasingly useful in these days of modular programming. TED needs a feature that would allow you to look into another text file without terminating the edit session on the current file. Very handy if you have your program split into a dozen or so separately compiled files. A way of viewing a DOS directory without terminating the edit session would be a useful companion to a show file feature.

I have spoken with Bill Hood, and he informs me that all of the above mentioned enhancements are being considered for future releases of TED. We are likely to see some of these in the future, as TED is regularly improved upon.

In conclusion, I found TED to be useful and error free in the short time I had to "experience" the program. The package sells for \$95, which includes the software disk with tutor files, and a manual.

Tom Prickett



PAWS FOR APPLAUSE

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PC COMM



by Chris Jacobs

This is another sample of portions of an actual communication session. This time it is from our user group's own bulletin board (214-223-0983) which is run by Mark Collard. The file directories are only representative of the large number of useful programs that are available. The BBS's communication features can also be very useful to you. Give it a try and find out how easy it is to use.

WELCOME! If you are new to electronic bulletin board systems, the following information may be useful.

You can skip this by typing a control K which is done by pressing both the control and the K keys at once. It may take a bit for the printing to stop, it may type 100 characters or so before it gets done!

This system operates similar to most of the other systems. It allows you to read or leave messages, upload or download files, and read bulletins.

Message Functions

You may enter, read, or scan messages from the main menu.

- Q)quick scan will list the subject line of the active messages
- S)can will list From, To, and Subj. of the active messages
- R)ead will allow you to read the messages
- E)nter will allow you to leave a message. You have the option of making your message public or private
- C)omments are messages that you can leave to me.

Upload and Download of programs and files

This is the most popular feature of most bulletin boards. If your communications software allows file transfer (most do) then you can transfer files to and from your system and his BBS.

From the main menu select option F)files menu. From the file menu you can select L)list which will list the available download files. Once you've made your selection choose the D)ownload option and follow the computer's prompts. If you have trouble there is a more detailed explanation under the H)elp menu and the ?) download help.

Go ahead and look around, if you get stuck try the help menus to see if they can help you if not you can call me at 214/223-6382.

You can also page me using the O)perator option. If I'm in hearing distance I'll be glad to chat.

HAVE FUN!

* Use <^K> to abort, <^S> to suspend *

===== FUNCTIONS SUPPORTED =====

- o Send and receive messages with password protection
- o Download and upload 7-bit ASCII files
- o Download and upload 8-bit binary files using XMODEM protocol
- o List files available for download
- o List User's Log of callers
- o Operate at 450 Baud if you call in at 300 Baud
- o Remembers Status of Xpert and high message read from last call

===== RBBS-PC MAIN MENU =====

- B)ulletins
- G)oodbye
- M)sg margin
- PL)age length
- S)can msgs
- X)pert on/off
- S)Nulls
- C)omment
- H)elp
- N)ew baud
- PW)assword
- T)ime
- #)statistics
- E)nter msg
- K)ill a msg
- O)perator
- Q)uick scan
- U)erslog
- ?)Functions
- F)iles menu
- L)ine feeds
- P)rompt sound
- R)ead messages
- W)elcome
- !)Personal mail

Function <B,C,E,F,G,H,K,L,M,N,O,P,PL,PW,Q,R,S,T,U,W,X,#,?,!,#>? F

Entering File Subsystem...

===== RBBS-PC FILE MENU =====

- G)oodbye
- L)ist files
- ?) Xfer Info
- H)elp
- M)ain menu
- D)ownload a file
- U)pload a file

File Function <G,H,L,D,U,M,?>? L
Files available for downloading..

Download disk has 109568 Bytes free

Filename.Ext	Bytes	Description
CALENDAR.BAS	9216	Perpetual calendar
CHESS.EXE	20352	Chess
COM2ASM2.BAS	3009	Convert .COM to assembler code
COM2ASM2.DOC	2162	Description of COM2ASM2.BAS
CONFIG.BAS	2297	Gives installed options on your system
GLOBE.BAS	3616	Rotating globe
HOST.BAS	14104	Host computer program
MATH.BAS	7448	Children's Math game
PC-TALK.III	43313	PC-TALK.III with 450 BAUD feature merged in and in BASIC
PC-TALK.MOD	1408	450 BAUD for PCTALK III (See msg. D. Stickle)
PC-TALK.EXE	81408	PC-TALK III [Req. 128K to run]
PSQUISH.BAS	4736	Compress BASIC ppgs. [Fix 6/22 by C. Dixon] ▶

PC COMM
(continued)

PC-FILE.EXE	44160	*** PC-FILE Version 7.9 by FREEMWARE
PC-SORT.EXE	24704	*** Must be used with PC-FILE
PRT40.CTL	128	*** Must be used with PC-FILE
PRT80.CTL	128	*** Must be used with PC-FILE
PRT.CTL	128	*** Must be used with PC-FILE
PC-FILE.DOC	46848	*** Documentation for PC-FILE
SD.COM	1536	File directory Sort
WORLDMAP.BAS	8376	GRAPHICS - Draws map of the world
XREF.BAS	5632	Basic Cross referencer - See next 2 pages-
XREFM.MOD	3200	Enhancements to XREF.BAS
XREFM.DOC	1024	Description of XREFM.MOD
End directory # 1. List more? NO		

===== RBBS-PC FILE MENU =====

- G)oodbye H)elp D)ownload a file
- L)ist files M)ain menu U)pload a file
- ?) Xfer Info

File Function <G,H,L,D,U,M,??>
etc., etc., etc...

Try it, you'll like it! Chris



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