




(continued)

though... I'm sure Trammell Crow's other "-marts" had the same problem when they first opened, and look at them now.

The Resource Center at INFOMART is a professionally staffed reference library, available to all registered visitors. Topical books, periodicals, films and computer based information are readily available and easily accessible. Plans are to make the library fully automated, with public access microcomputers, a computerized library catalog, and the use of the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC) bibliographic utility for a sophisticated, easy-access information system.

INFOMART is a welcome addition to the metroplex skyline. Too bad there are no provisions for User Group meetings and activities. Seems a natural...

John Pribyl 

(The next event, "INDEX: Legal, Automating the Law Practice", is scheduled May 25 - 27. For more information, or to register for this event, call (214)746-3500. Ed.)

Brief Overview of STARTEXT

by Gerry Barker (STARTEXT Manager)

STARTEXT is an online data base service of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram, available at 300 or 1200 baud to any type of personal computer.

The service is keyword-driven, run on a VAX 750, and currently serves over 1,500 users in Fort Worth and Dallas over 37 incoming lines, 9 of which are metro lines for our Dallas customers.

STARTEXT features updated news, classifieds, E-mail, closing stock prices, Delta schedules, specialized computer columns and features and the IRS Tax Library, featuring the full text of 70 different tax publications.

The fee is \$9.95 a month for unlimited useage, billed quarterly as \$29.85. There are NO CONNECT fees or startup fees.

Free trial passwords available by calling 429-2655, ext. 905.

Gerry 

SOFTWARE REPORT

by Dick Gall



MonoGrafx - THE QUICK DRAW ARTIST

This \$49.95 gem of a program will bring joy to the hearts of IBM monochrome display and display adapter owners who've always wanted to have a program that really puts to good use the only graphics available on their machines - the block graphics characters of the extended (beyond ASCII 127) character set. It might almost be called the MacPaint of the IBM mono set.


MonoGrafx, as its ad folder says, processes images in the same sense that a word processor works on words. Text and graphics characters can be freely mixed, windows are bordered by selecting their corners, and areas can be automatically designated with any of up to 19 different fill patterns. The PC's function keys put 10 line-drawing graphics symbols on the screen, and provide an additional ten symbols when used with the ALT key.

Bar graphs, organization charts, schedules, and forms can be created and edited on the video screen. SAVE stores images in disk files for later retrieval with GET, and the images can be printed to any of the popular dot-graphics printers. The trial version provided for

review includes one of the best (and fastest) demo programs we've seen, plus the TeachMe tutor of 6 short lessons. The real thing comes with an 80-page user's guide, but the single-sheet guide provided with the review copy is adequate to use almost all of the program's functions. Automatic pulldown menus and clear selection lists help the novice move quickly and with confidence to the ultimate speed of a command-driven program. The function category list (shown in caps below) is accessed using the ESC key, and the individual functions are accessed by typing the first letter of the function name. The pulldown menus for the RANGE and FILE categories are shown below:

RANGE PASTE TEXT EDIT FILE QUIT

----	----
Clip	Get ...
Move	Save ...
Erase	Drive set...
Fill	Clear
LineFrame	FinalPrint
DotFrame	QuickPrint
ThickFrame	Access DOS
UnFrame	

MonoGrafx <tm> requires DOS 2.0 or later (we ran the demo with 3.0), and at least 128K of memory. It's published by Analytics International Inc., 17 Oakland Ave., Arlington, Mass. 02174. Phone: 617-641-0400. 

SOFTWARE REPORT (continued)

**TAXPAD '84 SPREADSHEET TEMPLATES -
A \$45 FEDERAL INCOME TAX PACKAGE**

APPLICATION ENGINEERING of Orange Park, Florida offers tax templates that can be used with standard spreadsheet programs. Their first offering is a \$45 package for computing personal 1984 taxes. We've tried the Lotus 1-2-3 version and within an hour had read the instructions, learned to navigate the spreadsheet by using its menu, and verified the amount due the IRS. This amount had been previously determined during a paper and pencil session that occupied an entire Saturday.

A spreadsheet template is a pre-constructed file that is loaded into a spreadsheet program to perform a specific process. The TAXPAD files closely follow the paper IRS forms - line by line. But whenever a line on a form can be completed by evaluating data previously entered, TAXPAD fills in the related blanks automatically.

The calculations include IRS forms 1040, 1040A, and 1040EZ, schedules A-E, G, SE, and W, and forms 2106, 2119, 2441, 3903, 4562, and 6251. Applicable forms (except the signature forms (such as 1040) can be

printed using standard spreadsheet printer output. A permanent window at the bottom of the screen constantly displays the net tax refund or amount due. This makes TAXPAD also useful as a tax-planning tool and evaluating alternatives.

The documentation that accompanies TAXPAD is unusually well written for a relatively low-cost program. It includes a brief review of using LOTUS 1-2-3, an "In a nutshell" summary of navigating the program (this is adequate to get current spreadsheet users up and running on TAXPAD), and a section of guidance to specific IRS firms, schedules, and worksheets. Appendix A covers the TAXPAD command menu, B has special notes on using LOTUS and SYMPHONY, and C covers common errors (avoiding and recovering from).

TAXPAD can be ordered from Application Engineering at 2239 Grey Fox Court, Orange Park, FL 32073. Phone: 904-264-4619. The 1984 package is \$45, the 1985 revision is offered at \$30 through December, and a 3-year revision subscription is available for \$70. Versions are also available for use with MultiPlan, SuperCalc (original, 2, and 3), Visicalc, and Perfect Calc.

Dick

■



PAWS FOR GREAT DEALS



NEW PRODUCT

Oberon Omni-Scan will read a page of text into your own word processor. The ideal solution to multiple computer systems that need to share the same files. Print them out on one computer and read them into the other. Connects to computer with serial interface.

BOARDS



- Grande Byte memory for AT-128k installed mem. \$295.00
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- Hercules Graphics 389.00
- Quadcolor I 250.00



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- Mastering Symphony \$22.95
- Programming in C 18.95
- Think Tank Book 13.95
- Running MS DOS 16.95
- Wordstar Made Easy 11.95

SUPPLIES



- Lucite Dust Covers \$15.50
- Roll-top disk box-holds 100 diskettes 31.25
- Small Printer Rack 15.00
- 3 x 5 cards, on continuous feed 8.10
- 1000 sheets laser perf paper 11.25
- Rolodex cards standard forms, other disk boxes in stock.



PRINTERS

- CRII Parallel LQ \$375.00
- FX80 349.00
- RX80 235.00
- Prices good as long as supply lasts.

BUSINESS



- Latest version of Multimate with its own Speller \$371.25
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Metro 436-7322



PC-2-85

DOS 3.0 BACKUP BUG

or

What To Do Until DOS 3.1 Comes...

By Carrington Dixon

The DOS 3.0 version of BACKUP.COM has a bug in it. The backup will appear to have run correctly but may in fact have failed to update the BACKUPID.@@@ file on one or more of the backup diskettes. The most common symptom (perhaps the only one) is for BACKUPID.@@@ to appear as zero length in the directory. When this happens RESTORE will not recognize the diskette as being the next diskette in sequence. RESTORE will reject the diskette and prompt you to insert the correct one. At this point there is nothing you can do but Ctrl-Break out of RESTORE with only some of your files restored.

IBM is said to have found and fixed this problem. It should be fixed in DOS 3.1. Indeed, a fixed version of BACKUP.COM is supposed to be available through your dealer now. As of the first week in February, my dealer knew nothing about this. Fortunately, you CAN repair the faulty diskettes, here's how.

The good news is that the BACKUPID.@@@ file really is out there on the disk. 'All' you have to do is fill in the missing information in the directory. This is not quite as formidable as it might be as all the BACKUPID's are the same size and should all fall in the same place on the disk. I used the Version 3 Norton Utilities to do my disk snooping, but you can use any program that will let you read and modify specific sectors on the disk. Take a look at the entry for BACKUPID on one of the diskettes that does not have the problem. This will provide you with some idea of what it should look like. Probably something like this:

```
4241434B 55504944 40404020 00000000
00000000 00000368 410A0200 80000000
-- --
```

While an incorrect one will look like this:

```
4241434B 55504944 40404020 00000000
00000000 00000370 410A0000 00000000
-- --
```

Notice that there are two numbers on the far right in the correct entry that are zeroes in the incorrect one? The '02' is the starting cluster number and the '80' is the file size in bytes. The other numbers are the time and date that the file was created and do not have to be

changed. The size will ALWAYS be 80 hex or 128 bytes; I would expect the starting cluster to always be 02.

Once you have zapped the directory you are almost home! The only thing to do is check the data in BACKUPID itself. The first byte of the file will probably be 'FF'. This is correct ONLY if this is the last diskette of the backup set; all other diskettes should have '00' in their first byte. If a file had the 'zero length' problem, it probably has an 'FF' in its first byte as well. You should check this and change it if need be.

That's all there is to it. As a precaution, you should make an exact image copy of those diskettes that you are going to 'patch' with DISKCOPY before you begin. That way you can always try again if something goes awry. Once you have patched everything, you might want to see if RESTORE.COM will accept everything by 'restoring' some non-existent file off the backup:

```
"RESTORE A: C:\DUMMY\FUBAR.DUM".
```

If the only error you get is "file not restored" then your backup is probably in good shape. A more demanding check would be to rename your hard disk files that are backed up across two diskettes (especially those that had 'problems'), restore them, and then compare the restored and renamed files with COMP.

If all of this seems too complicated and 'technical' here is a 'get around' that you might try. The Restore need not begin with Diskette 01. After you have had to Ctrl-Break out of a restore. Issue the restore again and start with the diskette that it would not accept. Restore will complain of diskette sequence errors, but it will use the diskette; however, it will not have restored any file that was 'spanning' the previous diskette and this one. You still need to have been alert for this problem when you took the backup and re-backup any files that are spanning 'problem' diskettes. See if you can get the fixed version of BACKUP.COM from your dealer and hope that DOS 3.1 is not too far away!

Carrington

Thanks

Thanks to the contributors of articles for PC NEWS. And if you haven't written an article yet, why don't you fire up the old word processor and tell us about the good, or bad, things you've been doing... computerwise, that is! We see all kinds of reviews in the mags about the big name stuff, but very little about the short utilities and things we get from the bulletin boards or Disk of the Month. Give us your vote on the best you've found... The worst... Write something up. Doesn't have to be long... in fact, we need short articles to balance the pages!

John P.

IBM PC Network: an Overview

by Fred Williams

The PC network announced by IBM is a 2 megabit Carrier Sense Multiple Access/Collision Detect (CSMA/CD) broadband network. It uses standard 75 ohm coax cable, (CABLE TV compatible) and standard broadband components. I am going to attempt to make those the most technical statements in this article. Anybody that wants to know the bits, bytes, and buzzwords can pay \$195.00 for the technical reference manual like I did. That's part number 6322505 if you're serious, and at that price you would have to be!

The network will require that all networked PC's use PC/DOS 3.1 and the older model PC's, like mine, will require a ROM BIOS upgrade. The IBM PC/jr will not be allowed to participate. Any PC that is to function as a resource "Server" on the network will be required to have a fixed disk, ala PC/XT, PC/AT (some day), and Expansion Unit PC's. The network will support a Remote Program Load (RPL) feature which should allow diskless PC's to exist on the network as workstations if at least one file server is present on the network.

As announced, the IBM PC network will support a maximum of 72 nodes within a 1000 foot radius of the Network Translator Unit. The Network Translator Unit is described in the IBM literature as a low cost single channel unit that is required for each network. You should remember that this "low cost" unit is being brought to you by the same company that charges \$195.00 for a single book.

The network design is based on Sytek broadband technology, and Sytek has indicated that there is a very high level of compatibility between the two. IBM network literature does mention several times that the network may be further expanded through the use of an OEM broadband network that uses standard broadband components.

Any node (network terminology used to describe an intelligent device attached to the network, normally a computer) may be located a maximum of 200 feet from the IBM Network Translator Unit, through the use of Standard 75 ohm coax cable. The maximum radius of 1000 ft requires the use of special IBM PC Network Cable Kits to extend the capabilities of IBM Network Translator Unit. These cabling components are also used to increase the maximum number of attached nodes from 8 to 72. Passing mention is also made of a 256 node network maximum for the IBM Network Translator Unit. Could it be the Translator can do it, but the cabling as supplied will not?

Use of OEM components will allow the network to be expanded to 1000 nodes connected within a 5KM (4+ miles for some of us) radius of the OEM network translator unit.

Sytek network literature includes case studies of operational 3000+ node networks spread much farther than 5 miles.

Remember in all discussions of network radius, the measurement is as the crow flies, not necessarily as the coax runs. So the standard 200 ft radius can get eaten up rather quickly. If the offices to be networked are not immediately adjacent, extender kits will most likely be necessary.

The IBM Network Adaptor is a special expansion card required to connect a PC to the PC Network. The Network Adaptor card will require one long expansion bus slot. As mentioned earlier, this card will not work in the PC/jr and additionally it must be located in the main chassis of an Expansion Unit PC. Each PC may have a maximum of two Network Adaptor cards installed.

The IBM Network Adaptor card provides network interface services up through and including the "session layer" as defined in the ISO Reference Model (An explanation of the ISO Reference Model is beyond the scope of this article. It basically is a widely accepted international standard for "layered" design of computer based networks.). This allows the PC resident applications software a near transparent level of interface to the PC Network. This is accomplished with a rather high level of intelligence resident on the Network Adaptor card. This on-board intelligence is provided by both hardware and firmware (ROM).

The Network Adaptor card has an on-board 6MHz Intel 80188 processor, 6MHz Intel 82586 Communications Controller, 14MHz Sytek Serial Interface Controller, 32K x 8 Network Protocol ROM, 16K x 8 Network Protocol RAM, 32 x 8 Node ID PROM, PC Interface Controller, 8K x 8 NETBIOS ROM, and an RF Modem. You could describe it as full card! Although it is a dedicated function subsystem, I would venture to say it has more on-board horsepower than most of the PC's it is designed to plug into.

As mentioned earlier, each PC Network will require one Network Translator Unit. In broadband network terminology, the IBM PC Network Translator Unit supplies the functions of a broadband network "headend" unit. The broadband network headend unit translates and balances the send and receive channels of the network stations. This balancing and translation is necessary for proper broadband network operation. But I said I was going to keep this discussion non-technical! So, you need one IBM PC Network Translator for each IBM PC network, and it's all done "auto-magically" in the headend unit.

One thing worth mentioning about the IBM PC Network Translator is a statement made by IBM in the announcement literature. This statement is as much related to the PC Network Adaptor card as it is to the Network Translator Unit. I will quote it directly and you too can let your

IBM PC Network (continued)

mind wander into the blue sky! "The spectral purity and signal quality of the translator does not support cable amplifiers, multiple channels or video. Note, however, that this is not a statement of the IBM PC Network Adaptor which does permit active networks with multiple channels and video." Hummmmm.

Well I've about beat the physical network to death. So let's move on to the IBM PC Network software implementation. Software is what provides the more directly user apparent flavor of the actual network. The physical network determines the speed and data integrity of the network implementation, but it is the network software features that establish the useability and productivity of the actual network.

The heart of the IBM PC Network is the IBM PC Network Adaptor card. Not only does it provide the physical link to the PC network, but more importantly it provides the network intelligence. The adaptor's intelligence is provided by the on-board NETBIOS (Network Basic Input Output System) ROM. It is the combination of the adaptor's hardware and NETBIOS ROM that provides the implementation of the ISO Reference Model up through the session layer. By implementing the entire lower ISO layers on the IBM Network Adaptor card, the PC system's hardware and software are freed of both the overhead and responsibilities of implementing the network connection. This greatly reduces both PC system hardware and software requirements directly related to the network.

Also by implementing the network connection up through the session layer, a high level network connectivity is available which does not adversely impact the operating system dependent ISO defined presentation layer, which is the next layer above the session layer. This network implementation allows for the easiest link between a diverse number of workstation operating systems.

What this means in real world terms is that most operating systems should be able to access the network capabilities in much the same manner and ease as any other input/output device is handled. This will greatly simplify the actual implementation of the network link. If a programmer can successfully utilize the PC system's local disk storage, the task of using the network link should prove to be no more complicated.

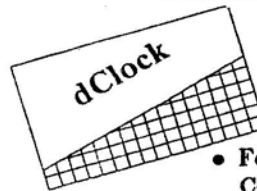
To reduce the effort and time required in implementing some of the more generic and appealing features of a newly installed network, IBM has developed the IBM PC Network Program. I could not ascertain, from the IBM literature I have, whether this software is supplied with the IBM Network Adaptor card, or whether it is extra cost. From what was not said, it appears to be an extra cost item licensed on a per PC basis.

The IBM PC Network Program provides three levels of support to the PC user. These include, and I quote, "a full screen menu-oriented operator interface using function keys, help screens and non-technical vocabulary; a DOS-like command line interface for faster operation and batch file processing; and a program interface with low-level sharing control and network status for application developers." Also provided as a part of the Network Program are file/print server drivers which may be run in in background on a PC. As mentioned earlier, the server machine must have a hard disk and also must have in addition, a minimum of 256KB of memory.

Any machine that wishes to use the services of a network resident file/print server directly will need to have the PC Network Program "redirector" module. This module redirects all local file I/O and print I/O requests over the network to the server. This makes the remote system's resources appear local to the redirected machine. Any PC wishing to use the "redirection" feature of the IBM PC Network Program must have a minimum of 128KB of memory and one double-sided diskette drive. With the announced RPL feature the requirement for the double-sided diskette drive is strange.

Multiple file/print servers may be active on a network. The file/print servers run in "background" on the host PC system which allows the PC to run user applications simultaneously with the server operation. This means

CLOCK/CALENDAR



With dClock real-time clock/calendar, you'll never again have to enter the date and time when starting DOS.

- For the IBM PC, PC/XT, or COMPAQ.
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 Number _____ Exp. date _____
 Signature _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

IBM PC Network (continued)

that a server machine may be used as if it were not operating as a network server. One would assume use will be restricted to activities short of power down and operating system crashes caused by inept fat-fingered fools, better known as us.

One feature of the IBM supplied print server is the ability to share up to three IBM compatible print devices on the network. The print queue may contain up to 100 print files concurrently. User functions available for the print server provide the server PC operator with the ability to examine and modify the print queue and to control the operation of the related print devices. Remote users of the print server may also use special functions to examine the status of their print files resident in the print queue.

The IBM PC Network Program also allows stand-alone single-session versions of the print/file server. This feature allows individual users to share files. This feature does not run in background and does not allow concurrent operation of any other user application.

Additionally, the IBM PC Network Program provides two different modes of message transfer between network users. One mode uses the full screen operator interface. This mode allows the user to edit, send, receive, save, and recall messages. The other mode allows the receipt of messages directly to the screen, printer or disk file. This mode also allows the sending of messages from the DOS command line.

The major changes to DOS, in release 3.1, are to provide the new features necessary for support of the PC network. The features include multi-tasking (two jobs at once) and file sharing support. The multi-tasking feature allows your PC to run more than one application at a time. This allows a network resource server to run along with other user applications on the same PC at the same time. The file sharing features are designed to assist the system designer in insuring the data integrity of a data file which is being accessed by more than one user application at a time.

As announced, the IBM PC Network appears to be a very appealing product. The broadband technology provides a very flexible network design medium which allows the implementation of networks ranging in sizes from 3 to 1000 nodes. These nodes may physically be located anywhere within an 8 mile circle. The smaller networks are designed to be user installable. All network components for up to a 72 node network, including cabling, are available preassembled from IBM. The installation will amount to no more than unpacking, locating, and cabling the network components together. After some initial testing the network should be ready to go.

As mentioned by IBM in the network announcement literature, the PC network may be expanded even further through the use of third party OEM broadband network products. Also in recent weeks there has been the now standard stampede of third party PC product suppliers announcing support of the IBM PC Network.

Of even greater interest is Apple's announcement of a network "bridge" between the recently announced "Apple Talk" network and the IBM PC Network. This indicates the level of (resigned?) acceptance now prevalent in the PC industry toward IBM moves. It reminds me of the good old days of IBM and the seven dwarfs, when programmers were expected to be strange; IBM wore dark blue suits, white shirts, and blue ties; and 24K was made up of little round things with wires running through them.

With the ability to expand the back bone network cable system using Sytek components (there are Sytek based networks installed and running with 3000+ nodes), and also, with the seemingly endless supply of third party equipment becoming PC Net compatible, networking choices are becoming infinitely unlimited. A network designer can quite literally run amuck, and I'm sure many will!

I was at first somewhat skeptical of the pure coax based network scheme, for naturally all the wrong reasons. Without additional investigation, coax appears to be more expensive and more technically sophisticated than a twisted pair network. It is true that coax is more expensive per foot than twisted pair. It is also true that coax installation is a more technically demanding network media than is the old twisted pair. This is, however, about where the twisted pairs' advantages end. One other advantage of twisted pairs, that of percentage of installed base, will in the near future rapidly decline.

The reason I say twisted pair installation will decline is based on the assumption that an ever increasing amount of all forms of data, digital, visual, and audio will flow into and out of the average business office. This ever increasing flow will require a multitude of baseband carrier circuits, like forever multiplying, multiple twisted pairs, or the expanding data flow could more effectively be accommodated by a single broadband circuit based on common coax. If you doubt my theory simply ask for a tour of your company's current PBX system. Man, you ain't seen twisted pairs until you've seen the telephone system!

Also the major costs involved in installing any cabling system is not the cost of the cable per foot. The greatest costs are the salaries of construction personnel and the physical requirements of the installation in order to meet local fire codes. Both of these factors will vary from location to location, but two basic facts appear to remain. Most CATV systems may be installed using non-union labor, and state and local fire codes related to CATV wiring is less rigid than twisted pair wiring.

IBM PC Network (continued)

One additional major advantage of the Sytek system, s'cuse me!, IBM system is its complete lack of dependence on a network "host" (read high dollar mainframe) system. The network is made up totally of "peer" nodes without dependence on any one node for network control. How this is done is highly technical and rather ingenious and also beyond the scope of this article.

By using off-the-shelf IBM PC Network components, it will be quite possible to build a three station network with laser printer (third party supplied) output for under \$20K. By using IBM preassembled cable kits, the system will be user installable. Also, use of the IBM PC Network

Program file/print server software will eliminate the need for any special programming effort.

And the nice thing about the little system is that it may be expanded to include 3000+ nodes, plus carry voice and video over many miles of network. Like boneless chicken, it truly is a mind boggling thing!

Fred

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(Fred Williams is the owner of Systems Consultants, a data communications software development, network design, and consulting firm. He has been actively involved in networking and data communications since late 1978, with a total of over 20 years in the computer industry. Fred may be reached at 214-492-1315. Ed.)

Room Assignments

Room #	9	10	11	Noon	1	2	3	4
AUD.	/	IBM Main Meeting	/	Apple MAC/LISA	/	Apple Main Meeting	/	/
105	IBM Beginners	/	Apple Geneology	IBM Business Application	/	/	/	/
106	Am. Lan. ^{OPEN}	/	Apple Education	IBM Advanced Prog.	/	/	/	/
107	IBM BASIC	/	Apple Education	Apple Pascal	/	/	/	/
108	IBM C.A.I.	/	Apple Adv. Topics	IBM Engineering/Sci.	/	/	/	/
109	Apple Beginners	/	Apple Business	/	/	/	/	/
111	Apple BASIC	/	Apple Apple III	Apple Communications	/	/	/	/
113	Apple CP/M	/	Apple 6502	Apple Graphics	/	/	/	/
114	Apple Stock Market/In.	/	Apple Games	Apple Spreadsheets	/	/	/	/
116	/	/	Apple Hardware	Apple Beginning Apple Corp.	/	/	/	/

Copy deadline for next month's PC NEWS is March 22!

START EARLY!



DISK OF THE MONTH

by Doug Windham

MARCH HIGHLIGHTS

MARCH 1985

(Double-sided)

PC-TAX84 Version 84.4C dated January 15, 1985 by James T. Demberger is a User-Supported program for calculation of Federal Income Tax. It does all calculations for and prints forms and schedules for IRS Form 1040 and Schedules A, B, C, D, E, F, G, SE, and W and Forms 2441 and 4562 that may be used as attachments to your Form 1040. It will run on IBM PC, XT, or AT with at least 128K, or PCjr with at least 192K. (Contributed by John Clements)

PD0030

(Double-sided)

Timelog - is a useful utility program for logging the use of your PC for reporting as required by the IRS.

Banner - lets you produce large banners on your computer printer. All IBM PC keyboard characters may be used. The size of the characters produced on the printer is variable, and may be as large as the width of your computer paper.

Starfinder on display - allows you to view the stars in any portion of the sky, change the view, see the common or scientific names of the stars displayed, and locate any star or constellation on command. This is a very educational program by Melvin O. Duke and requires 96k, an 80 column display (color or mono), and BASIC cartridge on PCjr.

PD0031

(Double-sided)

PC-VT Version 7.6 - VT-100 & VT-52 Emulator runs on the PC, PCjr, and AT under DOS 1.1, 2.0, 2.1, and 3.0. This version contains both a Hayes compatible dialer and XMODEM with CRC transfer capability, and supports DOS 2.0 path names. (Contributed by John Donlon)

PD0032

(Double-sided 9-sector)

Genealogy on Display Version 3.0 by Melvin O. Duke. This diskette replaces PD0016 which had version 1.3. It is a

program designed to help you keep track of your family tree and requires 128k DOS 2.0 or above on a PC, XT, or AT and DOS 2.1 for PCjr. The BASIC cartridge is also required for PCjr.

EX0014

(Double sided)

The IBM EXCHANGE diskette #14, dated February, 1985 has not been received yet. Check for it at the meeting.

EXCHANGE

All members of the club are encouraged to contribute copies of public domain programs to the club library. For each new diskette of software contributed, you may select any diskette in the club library in exchange. The contributions will be reviewed before credit is issued at the next meeting.

MAIL ORDERS

As long as the members use it, I will fill mail orders on the following basis. All orders must have payment enclosed and addressed to: Doug Windham, DOM Chairman, PO Box 475205, Garland, Tx, 75047. Postage and handling must be enclosed per the following: \$.50 per diskette ordered with a \$2.00 MINIMUM charge, and \$1.00 postage for each catalog.

DISK DETAILS

Price: \$6.00 (except 2-diskette pack) Catalogs: \$3.00

Available at the meeting, in the cafeteria at the specially marked table, before and after the general meetings. Media: DSDD 5 1/4" diskettes formatted without DOS (320k). Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers. Call disk of the month chairman Doug Windham at 278-5321 any time (have answering machine) to contribute new programs for future Disk of the Month issues. All back issues are be available at the meeting and by mail order (see note above).

Doug

a

Interfacing dBASE II and BASIC

by John Keohane

A friend of mine has a subscriber file on dBase II, and needed a more efficient way of providing a count by postal groupings for second class mail. With three thousand on the mailing list, her partner had spent eight hours getting the requisite counts for the most recent second class mailing. There had to be a better way.

We found a solution by interfacing dBASE II and BASIC, but first, let me explain the problem. We were dealing with a nation-wide mailing list, plus a few foreign subscribers. Although most of the subscriptions were paid, a few were complimentary. The post office's eight areas of the country are in about eighty zip code ranges, thus it would be easy to make errors doing the counts directly under dBASE II. In addition to describing counts by area (eight USA, one foreign) we had to break each of those counts down by free or paid. The post office also required that we provide a count of the Dallas County zips, and the circulation manager also needed counts by state for other reasons.

Our data base file contained fields for name, address, city, state, zip and phone number. The phone number field had already been utilized to tell circulation information such as free or paid, and expiration date. The fields needed for our counts were state, zip, and phone number.

Our first step was to take the dBASE file, create another file like it sorted by zip code and containing only state, zip and phone number, all again under dBASE II.

Once we had this file, it was a straight-forward matter to create a sequential TXT file under dBASE to read into our BASIC program

I created a BASIC program, providing a count for Dallas County and by state, a determination of free or paid, and enough of the eighty zip ranges to get the user started in BASIC, and familiar enough to complete the program.

The client was very pleased, not only with the success of the system, but also with the opportunity to get into the "wizardry" of programming.

Perhaps I should also say that not all was as simple as it had seemed it would be. Like so many things in computers, it's simple when you've figured it out, but there can be some false starts. For example, dBASE files can be brought over as SDF, but sequential files proved more practical. My little BASIC program had problems digest-

s w a p  s h o p

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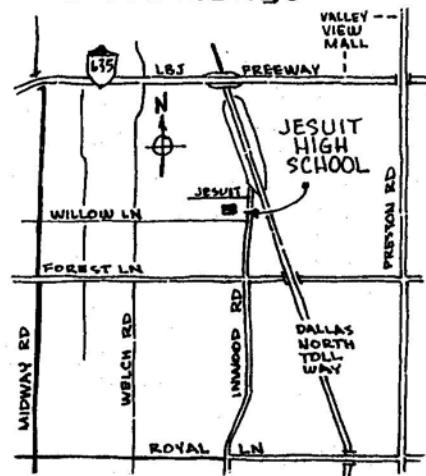
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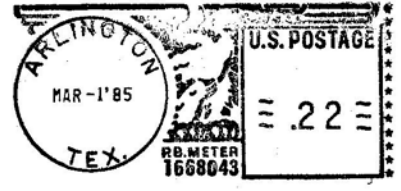
ing commas in the middle of address lines, but address lines were unnecessary to completing this job. By simplifying the problem, we found a good solution.

John

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