North Texas PC NEWS

North Texas IBM PC Users Group

4.7

July 1985

Deadlines:
All material for publication in PC NEWS (articles and ads) must be received by the NEWS staff no later than the fourth Friday of the month prior to publication.

Articles:
Column width of articles is not critical, but please do not right-justify the copy. Article submission is preferred by modem (817-275-4109 or Startext 51563), or disk in ASCII format, unjustified. If you send a disk, please include a printed copy of the article to assure accuracy. Double spaced, typewritten copy is acceptable but must be received a week before the deadline.

July Program

Chris Morgan, President of Morgan Computing Company, takes the "Database Challange" with Dynamic Microprocessor Associates' Formula IV! Can he beat the 15 minutes for creating a nested-menu data base established at the last meeting by R:base? Come to the program at the July meeting for the answer...

August Program

We plan to have a presentation on the new AT compatible Kaypro computer.

Mike Bouton, Program Chairman

... from the Editor's desk.

Last Month

Our first meeting at INFOMART was a rousing success! If you were unable to attend, you missed a good one.

A visitor walking in the door of INFOMART would have had no indication of the many meetings going on... Most were on the seventh floor and activity was not readily apparent, even when elevatoring to the seventh. But if you looked close, many meeting rooms were in use, some small, some large... And wouldn't you know, one of the smaller rooms was set up for Turbo Pascal SIG, the only one that had standing room only! Other rooms had varying rattle-ability. Some were large with the SIG crew huddled over in a corner, others medium size with just the right crowd, some with a view... Attendance at the various SIGs: Databases 44, Assembly 17, BASIC 25, C Language 21, Turbo Pascal 45, Business 25, Advanced Programmers 57, Science/Engineering 9, Integrated Software 50, Beginners 36, and Vendors 6492.

Kathryn Crawford won the door prize - a copy of R:base 5000 donated by Microrim. Russ Levington, Senior Sales Rep for Microrim, gave a good presentation. He set up a nested-menu data base using R:base 5000 in fifteen minutes.

This Month

Starting times for the SIGs (and the Main Meeting) are different than they were last month. Be sure to check the schedule in this issue. Officers of the Club are interested in arranging meeting times that best suit the members, so let your preferences be known.

Someone turned over the bit bucket this month. We have, for the first time in history, an overabundance of articles for one issue of PC NEWS! Thanks for the good response. If your article doesn't appear in this issue that's the reason - the last minute flood almost caused the dam to break! Be of good faith: your article is established as a frontrunner for publication in the next issue. Keep the bucket turned over!

Our new Toshiba P351 printer arrived on Tuesday of deadline week. Kinda late for this issue, but midnight oil is still available... New software too... one thing always leads to another. More improvements are in store for PC NEWS. Stay tuned!

John

Copy deadline for next month's PC NEWS is July 26!

President's Corner

The June meeting at INFOMART went very well. The bookstore and cafeteria managers reported doing better than expected and will extend their open hours in July. The cafeteria may be open as late as 3:00, although hot food might not be available until then; hopefully, a hot breakfast may be served.

The two new SIG's started off with a bang – 40 to 50 interested people attended the DataBase and Integrated Software SIG's. The Turbo Pascal SIG had standing room only. The advanced programmer SIG is tentatively scheduled for the auditorium.

The meeting schedule for July will be different. The main meeting will begin at 9:00, with the ten SIG's starting at 11 AM, 12 noon and 1 PM. See inside for details. This schedule lets you have most of the afternoon for other things. The only break scheduled occurs after the main meeting; the new SIG schedule lets you still attend two SIG's and eat lunch if you like. The cafeteria will be open for snacks (at least) for those who wish to attend three SIG's.

The INFOMART location appears to have sparked much interest; about 70 people became new members at the meeting.

HELP!

We need a number of people to help with manning the information booth and passing out INFO-CARD's in July, and indeed for as long as we meet at INFOMART. Anyone interested please contact Jane Hughson at 262-0457 (H). People from other user groups will help us during our main meeting, and we will reciprocate during theirs.

Group Discounts

We have started a series of discounts for paid-up club members. The first item to be sold is a modem, and will hopefully be available at the August meeting; see inside for details. Jim Graham will manage this program. The next item we expect to handle is a hard disk (Bernoulli Boxes, too, if there is enough interest).

Future Meetings

The next two meetings are scheduled for August 10 and September 14. Mark your calendars!

SYSOPS!!

We are looking into setting up a bulletin board. The equipment would be purchased by the user group, and installed in a member's home. The BB would be available on a 7-day, 24-hour basis. A hard disk and multiple lines would be part of the package. Anyone interested in being the sysop please call me.

Demos

A room at INFOMART has been set aside for demonstrations of hardware or software by users or vendors. The demos would ideally be for those things not necessarily suitable for the main meeting. The room is not restricted to our user group, and must be scheduled at least one week in advance. Sales will not be permitted in the room. Interested parties should call me.

E-Mail Directory

There are a number of us who subscribe to services with elctronic mail such as MCI-MAIL, STARTEXT, CompuServe and The Source. In conjunction with the pending group purchase of modems, it might be nice to publish a (printed?) list of members who have any such service and are willing to have their number(s) listed. Anyone who wants to be in the directory, please send me your name and number(s). My STARTEXT number is 102338, my address is 4537 Atlanta Drive, Plano, Texas 75075, and my telephone number is 867-8012(H). Thanks for the suggestion, Carrington!

Dallas Computer Council

For anyone interested in more information on the Dallas Computer Council, an informal question and answer session will be held at 1 PM. The location will most likely be room 7005 (the 7th floor (or Penthouse, if the elevator designations haven't been changed by then.))

Stuart

Clipper dBase III Compiler by Nantucket

by Bruce Lutz

I briefly sampled the Clipper software which as you may know is a preliminary version for competing dBase software programs. It does not presently include all the dBase III commands, but seems to perform within the purpose intended. The software is protected by Superlock, and thus can be installed on a hard disk and later uninstalled and moved to another computer. While this is better than some types of software protection, it still does not protect one from having a hard disk failure that wipes out the installed version.

I first wrote a very short program comprising 241 bytes that used the copy command on a large data base with a number of restrictions in the "FOR" portion. This program ran in six minutes and twenty seconds in the interpreted version. This program was then compiled to a size of 118,000 bytes and it ran in exactly the same time. The fact that it was the same running time is not surprising since the commands within dBase are very powerful and reasonably optimized, and it would be logical that with the proper writing of dBase files that often the speedup using the compiled dBase language would not be noticeable.

I then took another program which was poorly written and had been taking three hours and twenty minutes to complete. This program used about 2,000 bytes and compiled to 110,000 bytes. The compiled version ran approximately three times as fast; it took an hour and five minutes. By using some more powerful dBase commands and rewriting the program to take advantage of the TOTAL command (the TOTAL command is not presently supported by the compiler) I was able to perform the entire operation (previously taking three hours and twenty minutes) in 9 minutes flat.

Although the data contained in the documentation is somewhat sparse, it certainly appears to be complete enough for the purpose intended (other than error message support). Further, although there are many pages that are not typeset, I found very few mistakes. The present version of the software does not include several powerful commands, such as JOIN, REPORT, SET, PATH, SORT, TOTAL, and UPDATE.

Some of the commands supported by Clipper are supported in a slightly different context than often are used in dBAse III. Other commands that the Clipper designers decided are normally used only in the COMMAND, or DIRECT mode are not supported at all. Clipper has a few new commands including a Lotus style IF statement which, while it may be usable, is not explained in the book. They don't say why their new IF statement is better than dBAse III's old IF statements.

I think that the prime use of Clipper will probably be to protect application program code from being altered by the user. Programs will be speeded up only minutely over an already optimized dBase III interpretive program.

Bruce

SOFTWARE REPORT
by Dick Gall

MonoGrafx 2.0 -
THE 5-STAR QUICK DRAW ARTIST

Monochrome display & display adapter users can celebrate again: major new functions have been added to Analytic International's MONOGRAFX program with the Version 2.0 release in May. Flexible new printout features are due in the in the free upgrade from 2.0 to 2.1 announced for release on August 1.

At its introduction here in March, MONOGRAFX was described as the MacPaint of the IBM mono set. On that scale, the new versions bring a 5-star rating to this $69.95 winner. The original was designed to provide a low-cost graphics solution for the sixty percent of the IBM PCs that use standard monochrome displays without graphic display adapters. Users can create line and block diagrams, organization charts, bar charts, schedules. and forms by freely intermixing text and graphics characters. Graphics symbols assigned to the function keys let your fingers do the drawing - easily. Area figures can be filled automatically with a selection of graphics characters by simply designating their upper-left and lower-right corners.

MG's tutorial quickly teaches even PC novices to use all the features, and the pulldown menus used to initiate all special functions mean you'll never have to remember a command:

Range	Paste	Text	Edit	File	Quit
Clip		Underline	Undo	Get ...	
Move		Boldface	Backup	Save ...	
Erase		Reformat		Drive set...	
Fill				Clear	
LineFrame				FinalPrint	
DotFrame				QuickPrint	
ThickFrame				Access DOS	
UnFrame				ViewScreen	
				BSaveScreen	
				Import ...	

FILE IMPORT is foremost among the new Version 2.0 commands. It allows any ASCII file to be read into MONOGRAFX for editing and highlighting with graphics and text. The exported or file-printed output of a spreadsheet could be read into MG, for example, for adding various types of boxes or frames around strategic sections, re-arranging portions with the clipboard functions, underlining and boldfacing text, and adding special graphic effects.

A new BSAVESCREEN function save a MG screen image so that it can be used in a BASIC program via the BLOAD function. This can be used, for example. to create on-line "Help" screens for software programs, and a sequence of screens can be displayed - indiviiually in slide show fashion or sequentially in a program loop to make a self-running demonstration. The new ACCESS DOS command is very handy for quickly performing DOS tasks, such as checking a directory to get a file name or file contents to get some information needed to complete a screen.

Version 2.1 will expand the page width size from 80 to 132 columns, and will add enlarged and wide characters to the MG user's arsenal of tools. All the original features are retained, including the on-line help function. four-way electronic eraser, and the UNDO command.

ANALYTICS comments that computer novices report finding MG easy to learn and less intimidating to first-time users than many other kinds of software. Since "what you do is what you see" with this program, it is a good means for learning the basics such as the keyboard, choosing commands. working with files, etc. As a result, the Boston Museum of Science plans to use MG in some of its introductory computer classes.

MG requires a PC with at least 128 KB of memory (256 KB recommended) and DOS 2.0 or higher. It supports 50 dot matrix printers and the IBM Quietwriter. Although the program does not require a graphics board, it supports most color/graphics adapters.

Further information is available and orders can be placed with Analytics International Inc. at 1365 Massachusetts Avenue, Arlington, Mass 02174. Phone 617-641-0400.

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SOFTWARE REPORT (continued)

LetterWriter 1.1

This is another straightforward "what you see is what you get" shareware product. LW provides all the basics for getting out the mail easily. The electronic address book database can be applied to the body of a letter to print any quantity of letters. Envelopes are printed too, including return address if desired.

All the action occurs on a single screen, which contains the address entry, update, and display area at the top:

```
       First name: John_____
        Last name: Jones_____
           Street: 2345 Anywhere Dr._____
 Street/City-State: Anytown, TX 76013_____
       City-State?: _____
```

The lower portion of the screen displays a listing of the regular (Fn) and shifted (SFn) function keys that call into play all the functions of the program:

```
    F1 = ADD NEW ADDRESS
    F2 = CHANGE DISPLAYED ADDRESS
    F3 = DISPLAY PREVIOUS ADDRESS
    F4 = DISPLAY NEXT ADDRESS
    F5 = DELETE DISPLAYED ADDRESS
    F6 = CHANGE MY ADDRESS
    F7 = CHANGE COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE
    F8 = SORT ADDRESS FILE BY FIRST NAME
    F9 = SORT ADDRESS FILE BY LAST NAME
    SF1 = PRINT LETTERS CONTINUOUSLY
    SF2 = PRINT LETTERS WITH STOP
    SF3 = PRINT ENVELOPES
    SF4 = PRINT LIST OF ADDRESSES
    SF5 = PRINT ONE LETTER CONTINUOUSLY
    SF6 = PRINT ONE LETTER WITH STOP
    SF7 = PRINT ONE ENVELOPE
```

Being a 27K .EXE file, the LetterWriter program can be executed on a PC with only 64 KB of memory. The distribution diskette includes a 31 KB manual. The manual indicates that the program uses color and a color display is required, but LW runs fine on my IBM monochrome display machine. An entire generation of enhancements in planned for Version 2.0.

Under the shareware concept, users are encouraged to send in whatever payment they feel the program is worth. A payment of $35 gets one a copy of the next upgrade, for $75 are offered the next upgrade, a copy of the Pascal source code listing for the program, a copy of the PC-Write shareware word processor program, and help line access.

LetterWriter is published by Edward Reasor, P.O. Box 290539, Tampa, FL 33617.

PC-WRITE VERSION 2.5

Though PC-Write is by now well known as the heavyweight shareware word processor program, version 2.5 that became available as the club's disk-of-the-month diskette JUN8501 adds several significant features. First, it now runs on the IBM family from jr to AT. Second, mouse support has been added – including 6 popup menus. Mailmerge is now provided, and a print test file helps in learning how to get all available character attributes working on your printer, such as boldface, underlining, italics, double width, etc.
This new version makes PC-WRITE the king of shareware word processors in our book.

                    Dick   ▲

Invitation To DALTRUG Sessions
John McGinty, DALTRUG President

The speaker at the DALTRUG meeting at 11:00 on July 13 is Roy Irvine, Tandy Corporation's Product Manager for Printers and Networking Systems. Roy is probably the leading authority on printer technology in Texas. He is an entertaining as well as informative speaker. Members of the IBM user group are invited to attend this session as guests of DALTRUG.

One other DALTRUG session may be of interest to IBM users who own or have been considering getting a Tandy lap-top portable Model 100 or 200. An organizational meeting of 100/200 users has been set for 3:00 PM on July 13. See posted schedule for room assignment.

C Programmer's Notebook

by Dick Barr

In Sid Nolte's June C Language SIG, several group members reviewed their "favorite" C compiler (or at least one with which they were very familiar.) Below is a brief review of the Mark Williams C compiler. I hope the other members that did such nice jobs describing the Lattice and DeSemet codes will send in their reviews to future news-letters.

Also included below are reviews of the $49.95 Ecosoft compiler and the Run/C interpreter from and Austin user group newsletter.

Mark Williams C

General Features

Cost is $495 retail. closer to $425 through the mail. Supports both the large and small memory models and the Microsoft/IBM linker format. (Small model permits up to 64K of program code and 64K of data: large model allows up to 640K of program and/or data under PC DOS. As with all C compilers I am aware of, it does not support large objects. i.e. arrays or subprograms that exceed 64K.) It has its own assembler, object code format, and linker for use with their terrific source code debugger, described below. The 8087/80287 arithmetic coprocessors are supported, with in-line code.

Data Types

All data types listed in Kernigan and Richie (K&R) are supported, plus several others. The "unsigned" adjective may be applied to char, int. and long types. There is a void type for functions that do not return a value. Register variables are supported and speed execution. A new Unix V "enum" type allows variables with enumerated values, as in the following:

    enum opinion { yes, no, maybe} x;

declares a variable (x) to be an enumerated type (opinion) with three possible values (yes, no, maybe).

Language Summary

Full K&R plus the latest extensions. Long variable names are accepted. Structures may be assigned and returned as values of functions, rather than having to assign individual elements and send/return pointers to functions as arguments.

Compiler Usage

Single command runs all compiler phases and linker.

For example:

    cc main.c sub.c -xlMWC -vlarge *.obj

This command (1) calls all four compiler phases to compile files main.c and sub.c. (2) looks for headers and libraries in directory MWC. (3) compiles for the large memory model in IBM format, (4) links in all files in the current directory whose type is .OBJ with MAIN.OBJ to create an executable file MAIN.EXE.

The diagnostics are very good. They are in English, and tend not to repeat or cascade. Can even detect missing semicolons much of the time.

Generated code appears to be fast, optimized, and reasonably-sized. There are bugs, however. The scanf() routine discards the sign when reading negative floating point numbers. I had an problem with the index on a for() loop going 1,2,3,1050 for some reason; same code ran ok with C86. On the other hand. I have had programs that run fine with MWC and go to another planet with C86. I guess all these compilers are buggy.

Function Library

A full library with all the usual string manipula-tion, sorting, malloc, is??(), sequential and random i/o. Lots of math support: trig, hyperbolic, log, exponent, bessel functions. random number gener-ator. FORTRAN floating point formatter. Com-mand line parser. Source code is NOT provided.

Utilities

An assembler, linker, and librarian are provided for the MWC object format only. This lack of utilities is made up for by the slickest debugger this side of Neil's Professional BASIC.

Here's how CSD, the C Source Debugger, works. You compile and link your C program with the CSD option. which uses MWC object format. This .EXE file can be executed at normal speed, if desired. To run in the debug mode, enter: CSD filename.

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C Programmer's Notebook (continued)

The source and executable files are both read by CSD and then a two-window display appears:

```
+===================================
|  Top Window:              Window function
|     Source Code or        determined by
|     Program Output or     function key.
|     Breakpoint History
|  -------------------------  Help screen
|  Evaluation window          replaces both
|                             windows
+===================================
```

Typical usage is to page through the C program listing (Source Code Window) and select breakpoint lines in the program. To select a line, move the cursor to it and press a function key; the line is highlighted. Then another function key begins execution which stops at the next breakpoint. You may also single-step through the program. If output is generated, it is shown in the top window, and the Source Code Window returns when the next breakpoint is reached.

When execution is suspended, the Evaluation Window can be used to display values of any variable and execute any function. These values are updated when execution resumes, so you can monitor variables easily by setting breakpoints carefully, like inside loops. The values of variables can also be changed and execution resumed. I have used this to change values of a debug toggle. The ability to call functions is particularly powerful. If you plan ahead, put in a function to dump all arrays to the printer; it need not be called in the program, but can be used in the Evaluation Window.

Other features of CSD: Each time your program stops at a tracepoint, a copy of the traced line is written to the History Window for later perusal. A "find" key helps search the source code for character strings. Windows may be resized. The stack can be inspected and, if you want to live dangerously, stack values can be changed.

Telephone Support
On reporting some of the bugs described above, some very helpful people at Mark Williams Inc.

agreed that there were problems and they would be fixed in the next release. They also promised a "pre-release" copy of the new compiler - which never arrived, even after a second phone call and second promise. Well, at least they sounded sincere.

Documentation Quality
Very nice form. Documentation comes in a IBM-style slipcase, and is actually typeset (is this a first for C compilers?) Descriptions are a little terse, but it is all there. Table of contents is included and a overly-brief index. Biggest drawback: no examples with the function descriptions (per CI C86). Thank goodness it is not like the Lattice manual where you have a "main" manual plus several page sets slapped on the end -- one set for EACH update.
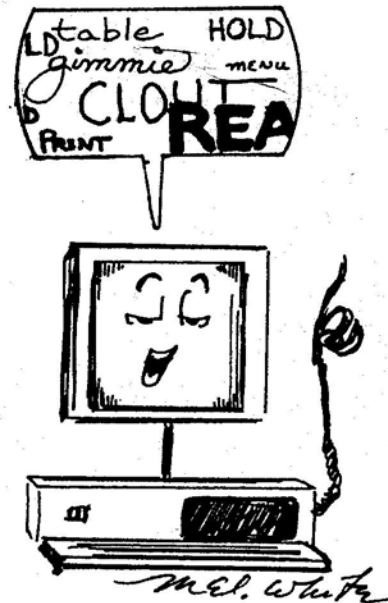
Update Policy
The next update will "probably be free" or $40, they haven't decided. At least they sounded sincere.

SUMMARY
Would be my compiler-of-choice due to language richness, running speed, ease of use, and the debugger, if only they would fix the bugs.

(Next month we'll reprint a review of Ecosoft Compiler and Run/C Interpreter from an Austin PC newsletter. Dick.)

Lotus Tips, Ltd.

by Jim Janeway

One day a few weeks ago, a strange magazine appeared in my mailbox. LOTUS - Computing for Managers and Professionals.

Just what I need, I thought, another addition to that stack of unopened publications that grows inexhorably on the corner of my desk - the black hole of computer periodicals, where magazines and newsletters are drawn in, and accumulate to such a density that no single issue can escape to be filed or trashed or, perchance, even read.

But I happened to have two and a half minutes of spare time, and my curiosity was aroused, so I quickly glanced through it. Turned out to be a rather nice publication.

Among the features I found particularly interesting were an article relating comments and tips from several "expert" Lotus users, the "Q&A" column answering users' questions, and the "Good Ideas" column. Here are some of the highlights, plus a few other of my favorite Lotus hints picked up along the way.

Get organized before you begin.

Before entering your first /command, identify what the principal output of the spreadsheet is going to be. If it is a one-page report, draw a picture of it. If it is a graph, make a rough sketch of what you expect to see.

Next, determine what your input is going to be. Which numbers are constants? Which are variables? Which are assumptions?

Finally, write down in general terms what calculations will have to be performed on the input to give you the desired output. When you finish, you have specified the basic components of any computer application - Input, Processing, and Output.

Develop a standard spreadsheet layout.

The best spreadsheet writers I've seen just create the same spreadsheets over and over again, with additions and variations as needed. Of course, that's an oversimplification, but they do seem to

have settled into some specific ways of organizing their spreadsheets with which they are comfortable.

Some like to put their assumptions and variables in the Home screen, some prefer to put their summary output page there, and others like to start with a menu, an outline, or a narrative description of the spreadsheet.

When designing your spreadsheet layout, think in terms of screens and pages. A screen displays 20 rows. Set your page size to 60 rows so there are three screens to a printed page. If you need to start a new table or range, do it at a screen or page boundary. This will make it easier for you (and others) to move around in a large spreadsheet.

Use Range Names - lots of them!

Whenever you have to specify a range of cells for a formula or a report or a graph, always take the time to define the range and give it a name first. Then use the range name instead of the cell coordinates. Not only will this save you from a possible error if you move a formula or range, but it makes formulas easier to read and understand.

Show your intermediate results.

When the company comptroller gets some figures from a member of his staff that don't quite look right, what does he say? "Let me see your work papers." Always make sure you can ask the same thing of your assistant (your spreadsheet program) without having to decipher a few dozen formulas as long as your arm.   ►

Lotus Tips, Ltd. (continued)

Test your spreadsheet by duplicating it manually.

Start with the input section and enter all the numbers and formulas on a calculator. Compare each result to the corresponding spreadsheet cell.

Of course, this really only applies to spreadsheets that are used repeatedly. But a word of caution - 95% of what I call "production" spreadsheets didn't start out that way. Almost all spreadsheets are born as one-timers. If they prove to be useful, they gradually and informally become part of the corporate data base.

No one really knows how many jobs or dollars have been lost because of computerized spreadsheets that were never thoroughly tested, but no doubt there have been a few of each. Prepare your spreadsheets with care, plan before you type, and allow yourself plenty of think time and test time. Better to blow a couple of extra hours making sure it's right, than to blow a couple of million making a decision based on bad data.

Jim

Special Interest Program Reports

Programmers SIG

As chairman Neil Bennett was unable to attend, the June session was led by our unofficial vice-chairman, Jim Hoisington. The room that we were assigned proved to be far too large and noisy, but the members did not let that prevent us from have another of out 'famous' round table discussions.

The first topic of discussion was graphics. The Intel graphics chip was discussed, and the fact that IBM's Professional Graphics Adapter can be very slow and will NOT work with any communications package! Rumors of the PC-II suggest that the Enhanced Graphics Adapter will be standard with that machine (perhaps as a part of the motherboard).

One member had a question about bugs in DOS-3.1. Several members had heard rumors of such bugs, but no one reported having actually encountered one himself. The current PC Network is rumored to have been a 'renegade' project of Boca Raton which will be allowed to 'wither on the vine' while IBM produces yet another networking system (one in line with their over all corporate policies).

The new Intel/Lotus memory expansion card was discussed. Jim felt that it was extremely difficult to program for this new card as it requires that memory be divided into 16Kb segments! There was some feeling that this card is just a 'band aid' on the 8088 which may not take hold as it is difficult to program for and as the 80286 based machines may be less than nine months away.

This led to a discussion of the new 80386 chips, which Intel is now said to be 'sampling' to OEM's. This chip supports a huge address space. It still uses the Intel segmentation register scheme, but as each segmentation register can point to a 4 gigabyte address space, this will not be the handicap that it has been in the past.

Join us at the July meeting for further discussion of these and other hot topics. Stuart has assured us that this month we shall get a room that is more suited to out needs.

Carrington Dixon

Assembler SIG

Interrupts: Because of the high level of interest in discussing machine functions directly via interrupts, we are detailing a different interrupt function code each meeting. Last meeting, we covered interrupts 21H, Code 4CH which terminates a program and passes an error code to DOS. The error code passed can be branched on within a batch file, thus providing a simple way to set up a menu program so the user can run other free-standing applications. The section of our sample program which defines variables comparable to COBOL's Datavision or Paschal's VAR section was covered in detail.

Group buy of MASM: By the next regular meeting we should have a consensus as to which assembler is best to work with (Microsoft 3.0 is current leader) so that we can make a group buy of 10 to 20 at a good price.

In-Between Meetings: The last in-between meeting turnout was real good on June 8. No meeting is scheduled between June and July regular meetings because of the short interval and July 4th holiday. We'll meet again on Saturday, July 27, 9:00 a.m. at UTD, building and room number to be announced at the July 13 meeting. Call me if you miss that announcement and want to attend.

John Wolley, SIG Chairman
HOME PHONE: (214)238-9443

Business Applications SIG

Last month we had a presentation by John Keohane on Lotus business applications using Lotus to produce a Treasurer's report. Stacey Smith talked about SuperCalc III applications for real estate analysis.

Ricky Burke,
 Co-Chairman
H:(214)276-5003
W:(214)272-0515

Ed Fries,
 Co-Chairman
W:(214)783-8543

EPC

Special Interest Program Reports

C Language SIG

At the June meeting there were individual presentations on personal experiences with four C compilers; Lattice, Mark Williams, DeSmet, and the public domain Small C. Discussion centered upon the cost, speed, convenience, support, module size, and limitations of each.

We have invited Creative Programming Consultants, Carrollton, TX, to make a presentation on their "Vitamin C" library which is designed to assist the programmer in developing window-oriented user interfaces. The remainder of the session will be an open forum, with topics likely to include users' experiences with other libraries.

We welcome members of DALTRUG and other User Groups. Join us!

Sid Nolte, SIG Chairman
HOME PHONE: (214)233-6178
WORK PHONE: (214)995-3868

First pants, THEN your shoes

TURBO PASCAL USER CONTEMPLATES ADVANTAGES OF STRUCTURED PROGRAMMING.

Turbo Pascal SIG

Last Month
The June Meeting at INFOMART had a good response. (Fetching more chairs from neighboring rooms has become S.O.P.) Beginners' literature and a Turbo Pascal demo disks were distributed. It was also decided, that topic-specific source code disks should be made available; e.g., a Graphic Procedures Disk, a DOS Access Procedures Disk, a Game Code Disk, a Beginners' Training Disk, etc. NOTE: Members may obtain a disk by swapping one DS/DD disk or by paying a $1 reimbursement fee. (If you trade-in a disk of turbo contributions, make sure it's labelled - inlcuding your name and phone number.)

Meeting Agenda
Beginning next month, The FIRST HALF of the meeting will be dedicated to a classroom style presentation examining a specific feature of Turbo. Both beginning and advanced uses will discussed and illustrated (including documentation).
For the SECOND HALF of the meeting, we will use a free-style Open Forum. This format (borrowed from the ADVANCED PROGRAMMERS SIG) seems to highlight the major attractions of a Special Interest Group: Programmers can compare specific methods, new ideas are brainstormed, and users can find answers that are not generally available.

What About Beginners?
First-time Turbo Pascal users will be glad to hear that we now have a "Quick-Start Manual", explaining (1) how to use Turbo Pascal, plus (2) how to integrate the nifty procedures explained at the SIG meetings. Beginners should also request our menu driven "Beginners' Turbo Training Disk".

Thank You
"THANK YOU!" to the several SIG Members who turned in some new turbo stuff. It was pretty clever. I think other Members will find it helpful, encouraging and challenging !!! Good Job. See y'all July 13th.

Chris Wilde, SIG Cordinator
HOME PHONE: (214) 521-6066/-6173
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Special   Interest   Program   Reports

BASIC Applications SIG

Our July meeting promises to be informative. Don Taylor will talk on BASIC structure, including FOR - NEXT loops, Dimensioning, and Arrays. Don is a full-time programmer with Rockwell and a part-time instructor at Mountain View College. In addition to Don's talk and discussion, we will have a question and answer session for half an hour. Bring your questions!

Had a good turnout at the June meeting... twenty-five members attended.

John Keohane, SIG Chairman
WORK PHONE: (214)690-8092

Integrated/Spreadsheet SIG

The inaugural meeting of the Integrated/Spreadsheet SIG turned out to be informative and lively, despite the inherent lack of structure in these organizational sessions. We were delighted with the standing room only crowd, which seemed to be the order of the day among almost all the groups.

A show of hands poll revealed that the group was made up of a sizable majority of 1-2-3 disciples, about one-third as many Symphony users, and a handfull of Framework and Enable buffs.

In experience with these packages, about 30% considered themselves novice users, 20% said they were in an advanced state (of what, we're not sure), and the rest of us are apparently lost somewhere in between.

The members of the group shared some ideas on methods and resources for enhancing knowledge and skill levels on these software packages, as well as some of the applications for which they are using them now. We attempted to find answers for some individuals' specific questions and passed along some caveats on such things as pre-written templates, extended RAM, computer based training packages, and new software releases.

For next meeting, we will bring in a Compaq and have some members show off some of their spreadsheets in both the novice and advanced divisions.

Jim Janeway. SIG Chairman
WORK PHONE: (214)349-0314

Database SIG

We had a good first meeting in June, with 44 people in attendance. We established that what we want to do as a SIG is support the class of Database defined by PC Magazine as Category III; relational databases with a procedural language. Included are products such as DataFlex, dBase II/III, R:base 5000 (but not 4000), Formula IV, PC Focus, MDBS III, Btrieve, etc. What we will not cover in this SIG are products like Lotus 1-2-3, Framework, PC File, TIM III/IV, PFS File, CIP, etc.

There will probably be several sub-SIG groups spun off the main SIG after a while. The first to be started will be for DataFlex and Formula IV, meeting on Tuesday, July 9th for the first time. The meeting will begin at 7:00 pm at 2520 Tarpley Road, Suite 500, Carrollton.

The Group will develop over time a comprehensive list of data base features and comparison charts covering all the database products we have experience with. We will spend a lot of our time discussing the in's and out's of database design, product evaluation, sharing tips and utilities, and answering questions from the floor.

Formula IV will be discussed at the 9:00 main meeting. A followup discussion for up to 30 minutes will be held during the SIG session at 1:00 o'clock. We will also begin putting together the format for comparing and evaluating products.

Chris Morgan, SIG Chairman
WORK PHONE: (214)245-4763

DISK OF THE MONTH
by Doug Windham

JULY 1985

FANSI-CONSOLE (tm)   Version 1.09 Copyright
Hersey Micro Consulting is a fast ANSI X.34 stan-
dard console driver running under MS or PC DOS.
It is a resident console driver and requires 20K,
for which you get: faster screen I/O (up to 3
times), DEC VT100/52 emulation, one finger paus-
ing, recall of lines scrolled off screen, 127 charac-
ter typeahead buffer, keyboard macro assignment,
turns off display when not in use, one-finger
typing, support for 50 line displays, plus others.
The program is full function, but the documenta-
tion on the diskette is abbreviated. Registration
is $50 and includes the complete printed manual.

PD0045

EZ-FORMS Revision A by MaeDae Enterprises is a
form-generating program that allows you to gen-
erate master forms tailored to your individual
needs. You can create or revise a master form or
a completed (filled out) form. Master and com-
pleted forms can be stored as well as printed.
EZ-FORMS supports IBM (Epson) compatible
printers as well as daisy wheel printers, but only
Epson and Prowriter compatibles can take advan-
tage of the compressed print mode.

PD0046

HOST-III & HOSTCALL Version 1.1 Copyrighted
by William HT Bailey is distributed under the
USER-SUPPORTED concept and the author
requests a $35 contribution if you like and use the
software. These programs give your IBM-PC the
ability to engage in unattended telecommunica-
tions.   HOST-III will answer an incoming tele-
phone call and exchange files based on the com-
mand of the calling computer. The calling com-
puter may or may not be an IBM-PC. HOSTCALL
will initiate a telephone call to a host computer
(such as an IBM-PC running HOST-III) and
exchange files based on the commands in what is
called a COMMAND FILE. The host computer may
or may not be an IBM-PC. Both programs support
XMODEM protocol for file transfer.

PD0006 (Updated)

I received a new version of FREECALC which sup-
ports the color graphics adapter or the mono-
chrome adapter. This seem to be the only thing
changed, so I am going to try just offering an
updated PD0006 this month. If you want the new
version you will need to buy another copy of this
diskette, but there will not be two copies of
FREECALC in the library.

PD0031 (Updated)

PC-VT version 8.0 USER SUPPORTED Software is
a DEC VT100 terminal emulation program.   It
allows file transfers as well as VT100/52 type ter-
minal emulation. This version of PC-VT contains
both a Hayes compatible dialer and XMODEM with
CRC transfer capability. It supports DOS 2 path
names.   PC-VT now supports VT52 compatibility
mode and ALT-F1 thru ALT-F10 as macro keys.

Disclaimer

We copy these programs as a service to the club
and the members of the club. We try to test all
programs, but we DO NOT WARRANT THE PRO-
GRAMS IN ANY WAY. YOU MUST DECIDE IF A
PROGRAM IS SUITABLE FOR YOUR SYSTEM. If
you ask, we will tell you what we know about any
program, but the final decision to buy and/or use
these programs is yours. We will gladly and with-
out question exchange an unreadable diskette for
one of the same program.

Exchange

All members of the club are encouraged to contri-
bute copies of public domain programs to the club
library. For each new diskette of software contri-
buted, you may select any diskette in the club lib-
rary in exchange. The contributions will be rev-
iewed 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 packs $8)

Catalog Diskette (has READ ME file from each diskette in club library): $3.00 or return catalog diskette with $ .25 and get a new catalog diskette. Available at the meeting, before and after the general meeting. Media: DSDD 5 1/4" diskettes formatted without DOS (360k). 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).

ADVERTISING PRICES & POLICIES

Ad Prices:

		1 col (3 1/4" W)	2 col (7" W)
1/16 page	$10.00	1 1/8" H	5/8" H
1/8 page	15.00	2 1/4" H	1 1/8" H
1/4 page	25.00	4 1/2" H	2 1/4" H
1/2 page	40.00	9" H	4 1/2" H
full page	60.00	–	9" H

Shop & Swap Prices:
$ 0.15 per word
(approximately 8 words per line)
Deadlines:
All advertising copy must be received by the NEWS staff no later than the <u>fourth Friday of the month.</u>
Policies:
. Shop & Swap ads must be typed, or neatly hand lettered.
. Commercial ads must be in repro form, black only, ready for printing.
. No ads will be run on cover.
. No bleed pages. No color.
Payment:
On acceptance of advertising copy.
Make checks payable to North Texas PC News.
Address:
Mail all advertising copy to:
Editor, North Texas PC News
2025 Rockcreek Drive
Arlington, TX 76010
For further information ...
Call J. P. Pribyl at 817-275-4109.

PC NEWS Financial Report
24 June 1985

January through June 1985*
(June Printing 740 copies)

INCOME:

Advertising, labels	$ 723.15
Cash from Treasury	4400.00
BALANCE from 1984	10.62
	$5133.77

EXPENSES:

Office/Art Supplies	$ 181.00
Misc (Copies, Newsletter Exchange, Business cards)	268.07
Print, Dist & Mail PCN	4513.77
Telephone Calls	52.54
BALANCE 22 June 1985	118.39
	$5133.77

*Includes 6 issues PCN, 1 Member Listing, 1 postcard mailing, Newsletter Exchange costs, Officers' business cards.

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swap PC shop

Four lines free each month to members, otherwise cost is 15 cents per word. Mail ads to the Editor.

Room Assignments
Saturday, 13 July 1985

INFOMART

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Check listing in lobby at INFOMART and write room numbers in the following list for those SIG's you want to attend. Ed.

MAIN MEETING: 9:00 — 11:00
(a u d i t o r i u m)

11 - 12	Room	12 - 1	Room	1 - 2	Room
Advanced Prog.	____	Business Applic.	____	Databases	_7002_
BASIC Applic.	____	Turbo Pascal	____	Assembly	____
Beginners	____	C Language	____	Science/Engr.	____
Int. Software	____	V E N D O R S			_____

Copy deadline for next month's PC NEWS is July 26!

ANNOUNCEMENT OF MODEM GROUP PURCHASE

The North Texas IBM PC User Group is going to initiate a series of group purchases for members if there is enough interest to warrant it. This is a test to see if there is an interest in purchasing modems. If you are interested please complete this questionaire and bring it with you to the meeting on July 13. There will be a box to collect the questionaires on a table outside the main meeting. If you are unable to attend the meeting, please complete the questionaire and send it (prior to July 19) to:

        Jim Graham
        c/o Morgan Computing Company, Inc.
        P.O. Box 112730
        Carrollton, Texas 75011

We will tabulate the results of the survey, settle upon one or more modems, and communicate the results. We will collect money from those who are interested by August 3, and deliver the modems at the meeting on August 10.

Please check all that apply:

Manufacturer

Price Ranges

Manufacturer	1200 Baud	2400 Baud
___ Anchor	___ Under $200	___ Under $300
___ Hayes	___ $200-250	___ $300-350
___ Novation	___ $250-300	___ $350-400
___ Qubie	___ $300-350	___ $450-500
___ US Robotics	___ $350-400	___ $500-550
___ Any	___ $450-500	___ $550-600
___ Any Hayes Compatible		
___ Other: _____		

Type   ___ Internal   ___ External   ___ Either

Comments:

        Name: _____

        Address: _____

        City: _____ State: __ Zip: _____

        Daytime Phone: _____

        Evening Phone: _____

**** NOTICE TO VENDORS ****

We will be soliciting bids starting in the fourth week of July. If you are interested in submitting a bid, please contact Jim Graham at 245-4763 for more information.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NEW OR RENEWAL ____
ADDR. CHANGE ___

Name _____

Address _____

_____

City _____ State ___ ZIP _____

Phone: Home _____-_____-_____ Metro?___

        Work _____-_____-_____ Metro?___

Send completed application with your $24 check to:
Membership Chairman, 135 Skyline Dr., Dallas, TX 75074

North Texas IBM Personal Computer Users Group
P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066

The North Texas IBM PC Users Group is a non-profit, independent group, not asso-
ciated with IBM Corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested
in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to
the IBM Personal and compatible computers.   To join the Group, complete the
application blank printed elsewhere in this issue, and send it with $24 membership
dues to address shown below.   A subscription to the newsletter is included with
each membership.

The Group meets once each month, usually on the second Saturday. See cover for
date, time and place of the next User Group meeting.

Officials:

President	Stuart Yarus	(214)320-7263 w
President-Elect	Jim Graham	(214)245-4763 w
Program Chairman	Mike Bouton	(214)495-4534 h
Treasurer	Bill Hood	(214)960-4754 w
Secretary	Jane Hughson	(214)262-0457 h
Membership Director	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
Operations Director	open	
Setup Team	open	

Special Interest Groups:

SIG Coordinator	Becky Rahaim	(214)385-8205 h
Beginners	John Hall	(214)495-2375 h
BASIC Applic.	John Keohane	(214)690-8092 w
Business Applic.	Ricky Burke	(214)276-5003 h
	& Ed Fries	(214)783-8543 w
Disk of the Month	Doug Windham	(214)278-5321 w
Programmers	Dr. Neil Bennett	(214)422-5673 w
Assembler	John Wolley	(214)238-9443 h
C Language	Sid Nolte	(214)223-6178 h
Turbo Pascal	Chris Wilde	(214)980-4943 h
Integ. Software	Jim Janeway	(214)349-0314 h
Databases	Chris Morgan	(214)245-4763 w

Telephone		(214)242-4187
Bulletin Board SYSOP:	open	

Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be
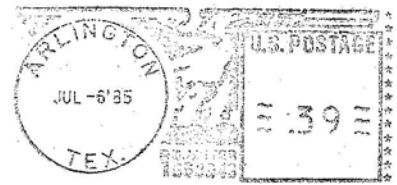directed to:

NTPCUG Membership Chairman
135 Skyline Drive
Plano, Texas 75074

Check newsletter mailing label for your membership renewal date. No separate
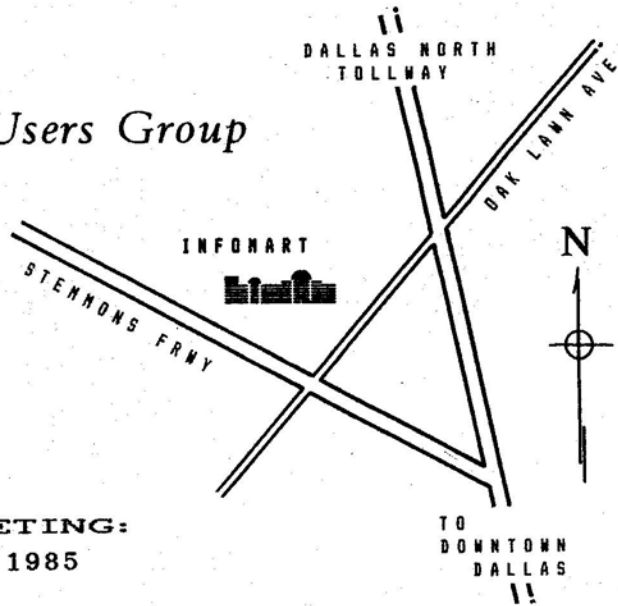renewal notice will be sent.

North Texas IBM PC Users Group

DALLAS NORTH TOLLWAY

OAK LAWN AVE

INFOMART

STEMMONS FRWY

N

TO DOWNTOWN DALLAS

NEXT MEETING:
13 JULY 1985