



North Texas PC Users Group

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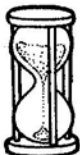
All material for publication in North Texas PC NEWS (articles and ads) must be received by the NEWS staff no later than the fourth Friday of the month prior to publication.

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.

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation is 780. Member distribution is 613; remaining copies are distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.



The deadline for the next issue of North Texas PC NEWS is January 24th.

...from the Editor's desk.

January is election month.

This is an important election. We'll be helping to shape our Club's future progress by electing three at-large members of the Board of Directors for 1986, and a President for 1987. This issue of NT PCN contains a ballot and a short bio-sketch of candidates for consideration. Choose the members you think best able to lead the Group and cast your ballot. If you cannot bring it to the meeting, please mail your ballot to the club Secretary no later than January 9th. She needs to get it before the January meeting. That doesn't give you much time to procrastinate - Vote now and be ahead.

Bits:

Our thanks to the vendors who gave door prizes at the December meeting. **G. Klinghamer** won the copy of PARADOX. + Lotus Tips, Ltd., an article by **Jim Janeway** from July NT PC NEWS was reprinted in the K C IBM Personal Computer Owners Association newsletter. Cartoon talent of **Mel. White** was also represented... + And one of **Marion Cutler's** cartoons showed up in PC-Plus, Central Texas IBM PC User Group. + Do we have any other artists out there in PCNland? We could use more illustrations and cartoons in NT PC NEWS! +

Hard Disk Group Purchase

This has been my project, and it is a bit behind schedule. I hope to have firm prices by the January 11 meeting. Our negotiating stance has been weakened by having only about 50 questionnaires returned. If there is no more interest than that, the project will be dropped.

The revised plan is to collect money by the February 8 meeting, with delivery no later than the March 15 meeting. If there is sufficient response, we will collect money by mail and deliver at the February meeting. So fill out that questionnaire... now.

Stuart



President's Corner

Here we are at the end of another year. As this is my last time writing this column, I sense a feeling of loss. Perhaps that is why I also feel that the apparently traditional rewind and fast forward (TAPE ?!?!?) over the events of the past year is in order...

When the new leadership took office, it already had a major problem facing it: a meeting site. As of the end of the March, 1985 meeting, we could no longer meet at Jesuit. The problem was to find a site for at least 300 people which would permit our vendors, and was also inexpensive. There are a number of public places available, but they do not permit sales (vendors). So we met in April at the Crowne Plaza and in May at our old home, SMU. Fortunately, at the behest of Lee Kaplan, a number of computer user groups met in April to form the Dallas Computer Council. Shortly after that momentous meeting, Charles Kroboth met Mike Weinnig of INFOMART and we were asked how interested we were in using that facility. The rest, as is said, is history.

The group purchase project was started with modems, and continues with hard disk drives. Jim Graham got this project off to a marvelous start.

The number of SIG's went from 5 or 6 to 15 or 16. That is due entirely to your interest and participation. As long as there is that much interest in meeting to discuss common interests, this Users' Group will be a growing benefit to the members and the community itself. Of particular interest to me is the two Orientation sessions each month. This is how we sustain ourselves.

We have taken over the Disk of the Month project ourselves, and I am extremely impressed with how Walton Grayson has run this project. We now offer shareware and public domain software for \$2.00 - a price no other major user group anywhere can come close to. And we still put about half of that price into the treasury to reduce our expenses. One of the largest and certainly the most visible change was to the format of our newsletter,

the North Texas PC News. John Pribyl pours his heart and mind into one of the best newsletters anywhere - and does it with little fuss, less thanks and no pay.

Speaking of fuss, Jane Hughson, our Secretary, has certainly fussed at us. For someone who has:

- o been Secretary
 - o manned (womaned?) AND staffed our information booth
 - o represented us at the Dallas Computer Council
 - o been Secretary of the Dallas Computer Council
 - o collected dues and membership forms
 - o given freely of good advice (whether or not it was followed)
- if she wants to fuss, don't complain. Be thankful. I am.

The bulletin board system is still in development, but may be up in the Spring. The delay is due to the desire to make a BBS worthy of a club of our stature (and the holiday season).

There are other accomplishments not mentioned, hard-working people not named. A look at the inside back cover of the PC News shows some of the people. A look at the bylines inside the PC News shows more of our hard workers. A number of us contribute articles almost every month.

Thank you all for working so hard this year.

Bylaws Changes

The bylaws changes we have been voting on have finally passed. The most important of these is the change of our name from the North Texas IBM PC Users' Group to the North Texas PC Users' Group. This was done for two reasons: there are a large number of owners of IBM-compatible equipment in the club, and getting tax-preferential treatment from the IRS.

Stuart

L I G H T N I N G

A review by Sid Nolte

For all of us, PC's have vastly improved our writing productivity. Our favorite word processors have made it easier to produce the written word. A new program now available to PC users has the potential to have an equally significant improvement in word production.

This new program, called LIGHTNING from Borland, performs in a truly amazing manner to assist you in the use of your favorite word processor. Mine happens to be WordStar which I am using in producing this review. It could be MultiMate, PFS Write, Microsoft Word, or any one of about a dozen others that LIGHTNING supports. There are no misspelled words here because you see, LIGHTNING is proof reading each word as it is being entered. Just misspell a word and LIGHTNING gives a soft "beep". While LIGHTNING is performing this remarkable service, there is no noticeable effect on the performance of WordStar.

Why get so enthusiastic about LIGHTNING? We all have access to spelling checkers and if that were all that Borland's LIGHTNING did, there would be no need to get excited. Well, one reason is the considerably greater convenience of real time spell checking. The normal process in the past has been to create the text file, then exit, run the file through the spell check and then go back into the word processor to format the final copy. LIGHTNING outdates that procedure.

The convenience of real time spell checking comes from the way LIGHTNING handles the situation when an incorrect spelling is entered. You already know about the little beep sound but what can be done about it? A hot key is provided to activate LIGHTNING to perform its finest service, that of error correction. After a brief pause caused by a search of the disk dictionary, a list of sound alike words is displayed in a pop up window. They are indexed by letter and when the appropriate letter is pressed to select

the suggested word, it is immediately replaced into the text in place of the incorrect one. For example, in typing a transposition of the word "the" by typing "hte", the list contains the correct spelling as the "A" option, the first one on the list. Pressing the "A" key forces correct replacement.

But that is only half of the story. Lightning provides an on line thesaurus as well. So when you are searching for the right word, a list of synonyms is provided with another hot key. For example, if you wish an alternate for the word "replace", simply press the hot key to get six suggestions, including supersede and substitute. Again, the words are provided on a keyed pop up menu so that any one of them may be selected by pressing a single key. Replacement is automatic.

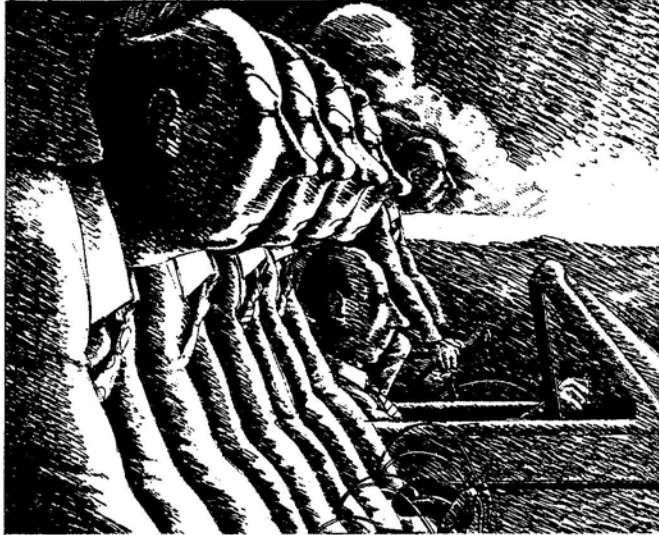
Checking is done by use of a RAM resident dictionary, one of three that are provided to adapt to your system depending upon available memory size. The confirmation and thesaurus are accessed from a disk dictionary. Both a floppy and fixed disk dictionary are included to suit your needs. In case your system has a very large paged RAM, the disc dictionary can be used in lieu of a RAM dictionary. Some of the options and features allow for defining the environment, turning the automatic beep off, and adding words to your personal auxiliary dictionary. Yes, Borland has thought of everything in this innovative product. Word processing will never be the same.

Sid

2



JANUARY PRESENTATIONS



Revelation®. Because the object is to win.

COSMOS™

and at 9:00

Btrieve

from



10:15 AM REVELATION

Roger Harpel, President and Founder of Seattle based Cosmos, Inc., will be joining Dion Long (Regional Sales Manager) for our main meeting presentation and will be giving away a copy of Revelation. While network hardware has been practically nonexistent, REVELATION is one of a few major database products running successfully in this environment.

REVELATION is a sophisticated data base and programming environment that makes use of the 8087 math chip and the PICK operating system to go beyond many other relational data base products. Cosmos also has two enhancements, R/LINK and R/COMM, which the company claims give users access to data bases resident in mainframes and local area networks. Roger and Dion will be visiting the Database Special Interest Group Saturday afternoon.

9:00 AM Btrieve

Nancy Woodward (President) and Doug Woodward (VP of Development) are the founders of SoftCraft, Inc. and will be discussing Btrieve, Xtrieve, and Rtrieve. Nancy and Doug will also be visiting the Advanced Programmers Special Interest Group.

Btrieve is a file management system designed for use by programmers developing complex applications in traditional programming languages. One of the problems with traditional programming languages such as BASIC, Pascal, or C is that while they may provide some form of file access, the capabilities are limited and do not include operations for complex database manipulation. Btrieve makes database operations accessible to users of traditional languages, giving application writers the best of both worlds, the flexibility and familiarity of their current programming language, and the power of a multikeyed database facility.

UPCOMING EVENTS

February TI Business-Pro

Representatives from Texas Instruments will be here to demonstrate their new Professional Computer, the BUSINESS-PRO. The BUSINESS-PRO is compatible with the other members of the TI Professional Computer family as well as the IBM AT. It may be used as a single-user workstation; as a local area network server; as an artificial intelligence workstation; or in the near future, for general purpose multiuser applications running in the most current XENIX V environment.

Charles Kroboth,
Program Chairman



Software Report

by Dick Gall

hBUDGET <tm>

A HOME & PERSONAL ACCOUNTING
PROGRAM THAT MEANS BUSINESS

hBUDGET has what it takes to make you keep one of the common promises made in connection with the purchase of a PC: to get your financial life fully under control. This program organizes and tracks finances and supports future planning, budgeting and cash flow projections. Business functions are already being expanded with the planned release of an upgrade including check writing capabilities.

Typical features include a data base of future transactions and resultant "payment reminders", cash flow projections that predict account balances on future dates for "what-if" studies and monitoring of account profiles, and comparison reports of actual versus budgeted expenditures. The system tracks 31 user-defined accounts, each of which can be used as a checking account, and 36 basic expense categories and up to 100,000 expense types. A "data" diskette can store up to 1300 transactions, which represents approx. 1 1/2 year of complete financial records for a typical family of four.

The hardest part of setting up a personal financial system is one of the strongest points of hBUDGET: organization. Much of the 180-page manual is devoted to planning the organization of your accounts and data for the production of meaningful results and reports. A complete set of demo-data is provided on diskette, and forms the basis for real-time training guided by the manual. Appendix A gives program technical specs., B provides file structure and methods for transferring data files to other programs such as dBase II and Lotus 1-2-3, and C is 27 pages of examples of every type of report available. One can use Appendix C to prove mastery of the program because these reports are based on the demo-data diskette provided.

Customized setup features include account names, of individuals who will be

inputting transactions, expense/income categories, checks display, password protection, help menus display during data entry, subtotal definitions, and expense types to be monitored in the monthly budgeting process. Also archiving criteria for saving older data on diskette, printout headings, and printer type. A printer test function is provided to confirm correct setup of the printer hardware and printer driver software.

The main menu (abbreviated below) indicates the major functions and the program's flexibility:

- E - enter/review/modify completed transactions
- U - update book of records
- V - verify transactions against an account statement
- S - search data base/modify/print
- A - account balances display/print
- B - budget/cash flow projections
- O - old transactions' review
- R - reprint selected pages of records
- M - modify initial account balances
- I - initialize all data files
- C - correct an error/recalculate/reset
- D - define program functions
- T - transfer selected data to Archive disk

Assignable passwords are required for all modification, initialization, and definition tasks. Transactions are identified by operator, and the capability for independent verification of each individual entry is provided.

hBUDGET is written in compiled dBASE II language (the user does not need dBase II to run it), and is provided on 5 DSDD diskettes (not copy-protected). One diskette contains the setup program, three are hBUDGET programs, and the fifth is the demo-data diskette. All files used or created by the program are dBASE II compatible.

The minimum PC configuration is a dual-floppy system with 256K of memory. The program will load entirely in memory, thus speeding operation, if 550K of memory is available. Installation of a hard disk requires approximately 1.3 Mbytes of disk space. Maximum transaction amount is \$ 999,999.99 (one million), and calculations are performed with up to 30 significant digits. Printer ►

Be Somebody in the PC Users Group
by Jane Hughson, Secretary

I would like to thank the North Texas IBM PC Users Group Board of Directors for the opportunity to serve as the Secretary for the 1985 year. I encourage anyone who would like to serve the PC Users Group next year to consider this position. Remember, officers, directors, chairmen and others who help are all volunteers. We need qualified people, who are willing to serve the group, to be considered for this position. It should be noted that the secretary is not elected by the group in the same manner as the president-elect and the board of directors. The secretary is selected by the board of directors at its first meeting in January. This means that



PSSSSST!

We still need
a few good
volunteers!

SOFTWARE REPORT (continued)

output is sent to LPT1. Monochrome and color monitors are supported.

The program is from Oak Park Software, Inc., P.O. Box 710, Milwaukee, WI 53201-0710, phone (414) 797-7911. It is supplied on 5 diskettes with a 180-page manual in an IBM style ring binder and slip case. The price is \$155 + \$3 shipping & handling, with a user's club discount price of \$129 on orders for 5 or more. The current Oak Park policy to provide free upgrades to registered users. An upgrade to dBASE III language is now in work. Dissatisfied owners of other home accounting programs are invited to trade in their original program diskettes and manual for an additional 20% discount on hBUDGET.

Dick

■

Jane

■

you need to call Jim Graham as soon as possible. His number is listed on the inside back cover of the PC News.

To those of you who have heard me say how much work it was, that's true, being secretary requires more than just showing up on the second Saturday of each month. It requires attending a Board of Directors/Officers meeting each month. It also includes spending another night or two preparing minutes and items to be discussed at the next meeting. However, there are many rewards also. The chance to be an officer of the group and to have a say in how the group is run, makes it all worthwhile. I made some very good friends this year in the group and learned a lot about how a large group operates.

1985 was a big year for the group. We made the move to the Infomart by becoming a founding group of the Dallas Computer Council (I must pat myself on the back here--Lee Kaplan of Metropolitan Computer Products and I started the DCC). We revised the bylaws, conducted a group purchase for modems, and made headway on establishing a bulletin board. Who knows what more will be accomplished under Jim Graham's leadership? I have worked with Jim this year, and I know he will be a good president. (Another good reason for running for secretary or other office.)

If you are still hesitant about seeking the office of secretary because of the amount of work done by the secretary this year, reconsider! This year I served not only as secretary of our group, but also as registration booth coordinator, Dallas Computer Council Secretary, and assisted the Membership Chairman. Another secretary will be elected by the Dallas Computer Council in January. Jim has also advised me that he will be asking several people to fill the other positions next year. This means that there will be several opportunities to assist the PC Users Group next year. If you are not interested in running for secretary, please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

Again, thanks for the opportunity to serve the group; it was a year I'll not forget.

Special Interest Program Reports

SIG Leaders - ATTENTION!

To help the Editor get your SIG meeting news in the Newsletter, PLEASE SEND ALL YOUR MEETING INFORMATION to Phil Chamberlain, the SIG Coordinator. You may use StarText, the U.S. mail, diskettes, drop it by his home, or use direct modem transmission to Phil. In a pinch, he might even pick it up from you! He will combine all the reports and make one transmission to the Editor on Thursday evening before PC NEWS' deadline. Contact Phil at:

(214) 243-5034
3535 Courtdale Dr.
Farmers Branch, 75234

Startext Mail Code 2606

In this same message, include (if possible) any changes in your meeting room requirements for the next month. Since the "deadline" for the Newsletter is the 4th Friday of the month, and the deadline for the meeting requirements is not until the Friday of the week before the meeting, you may need to send an additional message re: the meeting.

Assembler SIG

Notes on Dec 14 meeting: MAIN TOPIC was a program to take numbers from the keyboard in decimal form, convert them to binary within a register, then display the hexadecimal equivalent on the screen (Ch. 6 in "the Waite book" - Robert Lafore, "Assembly Language Primer for the IBM PC & XT", Plume/Waite); conditional jumps and math instructions were reviewed.

Next meeting we'll cover several programs (Ch. 7 in the Waite book) that generate different kinds of sounds on the PC. These will introduce some stack operations,

some more register manipulations, and a simple random number generator algorithm.

John Wolley, SIG Leader
WORK PHONE: (214)739-9090

BASIC Applications SIG

As we go to press, John Keohane is no longer able to lead the BASIC Applications group, and we're not yet sure who the new leader will be. Check the schedule at the meeting.

SIG Leader, - o p e n -
(Volunteers please contact Phil Chamberlain.)

Business Applications SIG

In December, Wally Boyer, President of Forestwood National Bank, Dallas, and a member of the SIG, finished his 2-part presentation on using the computer to generate the kind of numbers that will help you run your business better and make your banker want to lend more! Ed Fries, CEO of Communication Plus Adc/PR, Richardson, also ran (on his Compaq Portable) a "video slide show" he created on IBM's PC Storyboard graphics program.

For January, Dr. Robert Pierce, CompuMart president, will speak on "Benefits a mail order house can offer a business/organization." It'll be a great opportunity to get a lot of hardware questions answered, as well.

We'll again have a portable Compaq (8088, 256K, 2 floppies) on hand, so feel free to bring any programs/applications you think will benefit SIG members. We'll run 'em as time permits. Bring a printer and cables if you need it.

Ed Fries, SIG Leader
WORK PHONE: 214/783-8543

Special Interest Program Reports

C Language SIG

We have a good start on our project to compile a C bibliography. What we now have was distributed at the November meeting, and several suggestions were made as to additions. Contributions are still coming in. Send yours!

We had a discussion on the use and misuse of pointers in the C language. This seems to be a common problem for all of us as we begin to use the language. Perhaps we can schedule a more in-depth and organized discussion for a future meeting.

Dr. Neil Bennet will present the program for the January meeting. He will demonstrate the work that he is doing on a debug tool for the MIX C compiler. Judging from the work Neil did on Trace86, we know that he will do for C debugging what he so ably did for MASM. Come and join us for a great program.

Dr. Sid Nolte, SIG Leader
HOME PHONE: (214)233-6178
WORK PHONE: (214)343-7842

Graphics SIG

This month the Graphics SIG will meet jointly with the Science/Engr group in order to see the demonstration of IN*A*VISION (see write-up for that SIG). It promises to be a fascinating day!

Mike Durbin, SIG Leader
HOME PHONE: (214)271-8779
or (214)840-9344

Investment: N-Squared SIG

The December meeting was well attended. The discussion on moving averages was continued with emphasis placed on the many different types of averaging techniques that can be used. The N-Squared Market

Analyzer-XL was used to demonstrate the differences in arithmetic and exponential averages. Also, a method for extracting cycles from price data was shown. This technique is known as detrending.

Greg Morris put a list of recommended books on the board. These were seven (or eight) books that have become classics in the field of technical analysis and thought to be of value.

The January 11, 1986 meeting will be devoted entirely to the Barron's Database that comes with the Market Analyzer program. A discussion of its contents, source and use, will be given. Also, Greg will demonstrate many of the indicators and techniques of manipulation that can be used with the data.

Greg Morris, SIG Leader
WORK PHONE: (214)680-1445

Programmers SIG

The meeting began with (further) discussion of AT crystals, what will and will not work at faster speeds (8MHz seems the 'safe' upper limit) and where you can get them and how much. This was followed by a discussion of the "CD ROM" optical disk. The current product is (usually) read-only to the end user, but write-once, read often devices are beginning to appear. One member thought that re-writeable optical disks should begin to appear by the end of this coming year. This topic led to the subject of virtual disks and from there to non-volatile memory disks (with battery backup) and the new "Hard Card"/"Drive Card" disk drive in an expansion slot technology. Software products discussed included Borland's new "Lightening" resident spelling checker and Microsoft "Windows".

Resume blanks for a directory of Metroplex contract programmers/consultants were available for those who were interested. Tony Sinclair of Programmers Limited had appeared at the users group main meeting

Special Interest Program Reports

to briefly discuss this directory but could not come to the SIG meeting. The firm will publish this directory, which will be available to the various firms which may desire such services. It is to be published twice a year with the first edition coming out the end of February. Listing in the directory requires a 'handling fee' of ten dollars per year to keep the resume up to date; the firm hopes to make its moneys through the sale of the directory. Neil will try to bring the resume blanks to this coming meeting, but those who are interested may wish to contact the firm directly:

Programmers Limited
 100 North University Dr. Suite 243
 Fort Worth, TX 76107
 Phone: (817) 870-1185
 (817) 870-1186

Carrington Dixon

Science/Engineering SIG

Thanks to David Lamb for pinch-hitting in the December meeting. The January meeting will be host to MicroGrafx from Richardson, TX. We will have a demonstration of their CAD/CAM drawing package, IN*A*VISION. IN*A*VISION offers state-of-the-art windowing and mouse interface capabilities, at a price within everyone's reach.

IN*A*VISION's features include:

- A versatile, mouse/keyboard interface
- Pull-down menus
- Windowing
- Multitasking capabilities
- Icons
- Multi application integration (optional)

IN*A*VISION utilized a run-time module (a set of graphic routines) developed by MICRO-SOFT CORPORATION for their break-through ▶



PAWS FOR GREAT DEALS



BOARDS

If you haven't seen STB's newest monitor card, the Chauffeur, you've missed a real treat. At last there is a true monochrome graphics card. Just take your old IBM monochrome monitor (or any other hi-res TTL monitor) and plug it in. Colors appear in 16 shades of gray. This card handles most programs requiring color graphics adaptors without any trade-off in monochrome resolution.
 Chauffeur card w/parallel port ... **\$285**

NEW PRODUCTS



We now carry AT&T and ITT computers in both stores. For the rgular PC-lover we have the AT&T 6300 or the ITT Xtra. For those who need greater speed, larger memory, or more advanced features, we have the AT&T Unix 7300 in the Lewisville store or the ITT XP, which is now in stock. We offer competitive pricing on both types of systems.

In the market for a second PC? Check out Epson's new MS-DOS compatible, the Equity One. Forget Valdocs, CP/M, and slow access time, this IBM compatible is a super bargain.
 Equity One 256k. 2 floppy drives .. **\$1295**
 Equity One 256k. 20 meg hard disk .. **\$2195**



PRINTERS

FX-85 **\$395**
 DX-35 LQ PRINTER **\$729**
 SQ-2000 INK JET **\$1775**
 LX-80 **\$250**

SUPPLIES



Rainbow Packs -
 200 sheets of colored paper **7.95**
 (Bright green, red, yellow & blue)
 Pastel Packs -
 250 sheets of one color **5.95**
 (available in blue, yellow, green, pink, buff or gray)

EMS#5 DS DD SS DISKS ... **\$17/BOX**
 DISK NOTEBOOK SHEETS ... **\$8.90/10 PK**



TAPE BACK-UP UNITS

ALLOY MT25 (25MG) **\$925**
 BACKPAC PORTABLE (10MG) .. **\$795**
 THESE UNITS PLUG INTO THE IBM FLOPPY DRIVE CONTROLLER AND NEED NO INTERFACE CARD.)

GAME CONTROLS



On the theory that there is no point in selling junk when you have a

really good product, we recommend the following joysticks:

ANKO 2 BUTTON JOYSTICK **\$24.95**
 ANKO 4 BUTTON JOYSTICK .. **\$29.95**

WILDCAT COMPUTING, INC.

Wildcat Computing, Inc.
 1830 Avenue K
 Plano, Texas 75074
 (214) 424-3582
 1168 West Main
 Lewisville, Texas 75067
 Metro 436-7322



We stock continuous index cards, Rolodex cards, colored or white labels, and a variety of papers.

500 SHEETS LASER PERF IN CARRYING CASE **8.98**

Special Interest Program Reports

Windows product. IN*A*VISION supports the Microsoft Windows environment and can run as a Windows application.

IN*A*VISION and Microsoft Windows incorporate many of the design features available in the Apple Macintosh. In addition, Windows is an extension to the MS DOS operating system, which provides the first multitasking, windowing, mouse-based, userfriendly operating environment for the PC.

IN*A*VISION is priced very attractively for an individual wanting a PC based CAD/CAM package. Details will be available at the presentation, or by calling MicroGrafx in Richardson.

Arlin Collins, SIG Leader
HOME PHONE: (214)436-7697
StarText MC 124994

Turbo Pascal SIG

The December meeting combined the "beginners" and "advanced" groups into one SIG. This seemed to a beneficial move to both. Most of the meeting was devoted to helping those who wanted to know "How do I do ...?" Several questions were asked that will be answered at the January meeting, such as "How does TURBO really handle constants?", and "How can I clear out the 'type-ahead' buffer?".

The SIG leader gave out diskettes with files of useful Procedures and Functions. A FEW more will be available at the January meeting, for those who didn't receive one in December.

The January meeting will include discussion of the significance of "Compiler Switches", especially for beginners, and "Inline Coding" and "Sets" for the advanced users.

Phil Chamberlain, SIG Leader
HOME PHONE: (214) 243-5034
StarText Mail Code 2606

Integrated/Spreadsheet SIG

At last month's meeting, we enjoyed a roundtable discussion of recent issues and topics concerning integrated software users. Several of those attending were able to share personal experiences with the new releases of Framework, Lotus 1-2-3, Symphony, and Topview.

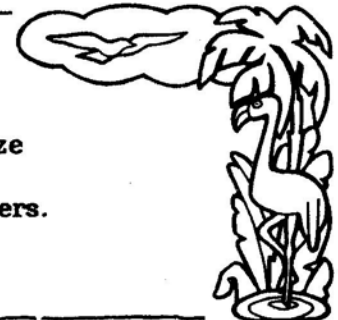
New product announcements were discussed including Javelin, 1-2-3 Report Writer, the HAL English language interface for 1-2-3, and Borland's new Turbo Lightning. The growing market of memory-resident software, such as Sidekick, ProKey, and SuperKey, also received a good bit of attention due to the accompanying rise of memory-contention problems between these and other programs.

We wrapped up the hour with a summary of recent articles appearing in such publications as PC Week, Lotus Magazine, PC World, Absolute Reference, and Ashton-Tate's Tech Notes.

This month we will continue our open forum format and will also discuss the possibility of establishing smaller discussion groups dedicated to specific software products, such as 1-2-3 and Framework. Bring your questions, comments, or just your curiosity, and join in the mayhem.

Jim Janeway, SIG Leader
WORK PHONE: (214)349-0314
StarText MC 113737

Patronize
the
Advertisers.





Disk of the Month

By Walton Grayson, IV

JANUARY 1986 DOM

The January disk of the month is a utility which allows any Epson printer to print the IBM graphics characters in a way that is transparent to you or any program that you run. This disk also includes a memory resident program that allows you to execute DOS commands by selecting from a menu.

PD0053

Public domain # 58 is a cash flow ledger that runs under LOTUS 1-2-3 it makes extensive use of menus and macros and includes 60 pages of documentation on disk.

PD0059

Public domain # 59 is a collection of utilities with documentation. Includes an enhanced print spooler, prtsc with an HP Laserjet, DOS command editor, cpu speed tester, a fixed disk organizer, and a basic subroutine that provides access to DOS with the assembly source code.

PD0060

Public Domain # 60 is Patrick Magee's advanced 1-2-3 class disk. It includes a IRA work file and analyzer, cash flow work file and tutorial, and a general ledger.

PD0061

Public domain # 61 is a 1-2-3 cash flow and financial statement projection for a department oriented company. Demonstrates useful financial modeling techniques.

LT0009 & LT0010

LETUS A-B-C data base for the 4th quarter of 1984. Includes articles from PC MAGAZINE, PC WEEK, BUSINESS COMPUTING, PC jr., PC

WORLD, COMPUTE!, jr., PROGRAMERS JOURNAL, PC TECH JOURNAL, BYTE, and PC PRODUCTS.

LT0011 & LT0012

LETUS disk for the 1st Quarter of 1985. Includes the magazines listed above.

LT0013 & LT0014

LETUS disk for the 2nd Quarter of 1985. Includes the magazines listed above.

DISCLAIMER: The North Texas PC Users Group copies these programs as a service to the club and the members of the club. We try to test all the programs, but we DO NOT WARRANT THE PROGRAMS IN ANY WAY. YOU MUST DECIDE IF A PROGRAM IS SUITABLE FOR YOUR SYSTEM AND USE. 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 totally 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 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: At this time we will not be handling mail orders. The one exception we will make to this is if we are out of stock on a diskette at a regular meeting. For this service we will have a MINIMUM CHARGE OF \$2.00 FOR THE FIRST TWO DISKETTES AND \$1.00 FOR EACH DISKETTE AFTER THAT. When we have some club members volunteer to help with DOM we might be able to extend this option.

DISK DETAILS

PRICE: \$2.00 per diskette (if the program is on two diskettes the price is \$4.00)

CATALOG DISKETTES: Curently this is a two volume set priced at \$4.00. This has all of the readme files from each diskettes in the club library.

MEDIA: DSDD 5 1/4" Formated as 9 sector

data diskettes. Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers, we will do our best to have all past diskettes at each meeting

AVAILABILTY: We will do our best to have all past diskettes at each meeting. DOM the will open around 8:30 to 10 min. before the main meeting when we will close. We will then open up again after the main meeting and remain open until around 1:30.

IBM EXCHANGE NEWS LETTER: The EXCHANGE for the current month will be available at the DOM table AFTER the main meeting at no charge to paid up members of the NTPCUG.

Walton a

The Answer Man

(Send in your questions. THE ANSWER MAN is a well known computerist with years of experience solving user problems. We hope you will make extensive use of this resource by submitting your troublesome questions to:

The Answer Man
 c/o North Texas P. C. News
 2025 Rockcreek Drive
 Arlington Texas 76010 a

North Texas PC NEWS Financial Report
 14 December 1985

July - December 1985*
 (Dec Printing 900)

INCOME:

Advertising, Labels	\$1472.20
Cash from Treasury	4500.00
 BALANCE - June 1985	 118.39

	\$6090.59

EXPENSES:

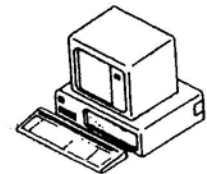
Office/Art Supplies	\$ 92.60
Misc (Copies, Newsltr Exchange, Ballots)	179.30
Print, Dist & Mail PCN	5952.30
Telephone Calls	41.61
 BALANCE 14 Dec 1985	 -175.22

	\$6090.59

 *Includes 6 issues PCN, Ballots for Bylaw Changes, Newsletter Exchange, PCN/StarText connection. a



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What's New in DOS 3.10

GSBUG - Greater South Bay Users Group

IBM Personal Computer Disk Operating System (DOS) version 3.10 is an enhancement for DOS 3.00. DOS 3.00 supports the IBM Personal Computer AT and includes features for improved file handling and multiple country support.

Dos 3.10 contains all the features of DOS 3.00 plus supports for the IBM Personal Computer Network. Also, the DOS Reference manual and DOS Technical Referencd manual have been updated and improved. This article details some of the new features and improvements.

COMMANDS AND FEATURES

Some of the existing commands and features in DOS 3.00 have been enhanced for version 3.10.

The DOS Linker program (LINK.EXE) has two new parameters. At runtime, the /X parameter lets you adjust the maximum number of segments that the .EXE file contains. You may use any value between 0(zero) and 1024; 256 segments is the default. The /O parameter allows the 2.30 version of the Linker to work with object modules created by the 1.00 versions of the Pascal and FORTRAN compilers. The LABEL command has been improved in version 3.10. It now displays the volume label you are working with. When deleting a label, you are now prompted to confirm your choice.

The TREE command now displays files from the root directory when the /F parameter is used. Previously, only files from subdirectories were displayed.

In DOS 3.10, two new commands lets you join the directory of another disk to an empty subdirectory of your current disk. The format is:

```
[d:][path] JOIN [d:d:\directory] or
[d:][path] JOIN [d:/D]
```

where

[d:][path] is the drive and path where the JOIN command file is located.

d: specifies the drive to be joined.

d:\directory specifies the drive and directory to be joined to.

d:/D specifies the drive to be disconnected from a join.

You cannot join to a directory that isn't empty, nor can you join to a directory you are currently in. Once a drive is joined, you must disconnect it to refer to the drive by itself. The JOIN command without any parameters shows currently joined drives and directories.

The SUBST command is now the preferred method for making drive reassignments. Like the ASSIGN command, the SUBST lets you substitute one drive for another. SUBST lets you select a path as well as a drive for substitution. The format is:

```
[d:][path] SUBST [d: d:path] or
```

```
[d:][path] SUBST [d:/D]
```

where

[d:][path] is the drive and path where the SUBST command file can be found.

d: is the drive letter you will use for a nickname.

d:path is the drive and path you will substitute for the nickname.

d:/D is the nickname substitution to delete.

You cannot use the same values for both drives, nor can you use the default drive for the first drive letter. If you use the command with no parameters, the current substitutions are displayed.

You cannot use substitution with network drives, and should not use substitution with the ASSIGN, BACKUP, DISCOMP, DISKCOPY, FDISK, FORMAT, JOIN, LABEL, or RESTORE commands. You can use the CHKDIR, MKDIR, RMDIR, and PATH commands with caution.

The SUBST command is affected by whatever you use for the LASTDRIVE command in your CONFIG.SYS file. The LASTDRIVE command lets you set the maximum number of drives your system will handle. The default is E. If you are not using the CONFIG.SYS file or the LASTDRIVE command, then the only values you can use for the drive are A through F.

Anonymous

GSBUG - Greater South Bay Users Group



**The
Variety
Store**

*(New or unusual hardware/software/applications
for IBM small computers and compatibles.)*

Read a recent review by George Gynn in N.E. Indiana IBM-PC Club Newsletter of a board from England that will allow you to back up your hard disk on a \$4.95 video tape! George installed the board in his IBM PC/AT, hooked it up to his VCR, and says it works very well... with a claimed Read error rate of 1×10^{-11} . The system is completely menu-driven such that the manual, which is written for the complete novice, will generally not be needed after a few sessions. Indeed, George says that a knowledgeable PC user could run the program without having first read the manual! His tests show backup times "...just as fast as many of the external streamer backup units." Backup can be mirror-image or file-by-file using DOS * and ? wildcards. There is also a provision to check quality of the VCR tape before use! (Sounds too good to be true. Ed.) The Alpha Micro 616 is being marketed at a "suggested retail" price of \$795. Have your dealer call Alpha Micro if he doesn't have the board in stock.

George's review says that a Alpha Micro 616 presentation can be arranged for user groups through Paul Sypniewski (1-404-256-5943), 880 Johnson Ferry Road, Suite 525, Atlanta GA 30342. How about it?

(WANTED: Reporter for The Variety Store. Call the Editor.)

Deadline for submission of copy and ads for the next issue of NT PC NEWS is

January 24th



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SHOP

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FOR SALE: 640K MEMORY UPGRADE KIT. All memory on mother board w/o using a slot. Works with IBM XT, IBM Portable, & COMPAQ Portable. Installed & tested \$125. Murray at Metro 467-3430 after 7PM

WANTED: Need 2 double-sided disk drives. Call Henry Shaw (817)451-0492.

Nominees for President-Elect and Board of Directors

A ballot for the January election is printed in this issue of NT PC NEWS. Use it! Fill in your choices and bring the ballot to the January meeting, or mail it to the Secretary, NT PC Users Group, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378 so that it is received no later than 10 January 1986. (Voting is limited to members.)

Nominees for At-Large Directors. (Three will be elected.)

Dick Barr

Dick Barr is a professor of Operations Research at Southern Methodist University, and has been a member of the NTPC Users Group since its first year. He has chaired the Business Applications SIG, contributed to the newsletter column "C Programmer's Notebook," and was the featured speaker at October's main session, discussing Linear Programming.

Walton Grayson, IV

Walt has been a member of the NTPCUG since its inception in February of 1982. He took over the Disk of the Month program in August, reconstituted the DOM Library, added 15 new disks of software, and was instrumental in reducing disk prices. Walton says "... I feel that I could bring new ideas to the Club... If elected, I will do my best to make NTPCUG the best user group in the country."

John Pribyl

John is the Editor of North Texas PC NEWS. He recently retired from Vought Aero Products Division of LTV Aerospace and Defense Corporation where he was active in Technical Writing, Administration and Systems Analysis.

John would like to encourage more member participation in the activities of the club.

Jim Janeway

Jim has been a programmer, systems analyst, and project manager in the mainframe world for the last seven years, the first two with Tandy in Fort Worth and the remainder with several Dallas companies. He currently has his own consulting business dealing in both mainframe and personal computer systems. He has been a member of the PC Users Group for about two years, and has been the leader of the Integrated Software SIG for about six months. Jim writes fine articles and is a frequent contributor to North Texas PC NEWS.

Jim would like to continue to contribute to the growth and direction of the group as a member of the Board of Directors.

Jim Rich

Jim has been an active member of our User Group for almost four years. He is always involved with the latest in hardware and software, and has contributed several articles to NT PC NEWS.

Rob Sanchez

Rob has been a member of the User Group for three years. He has been active in mainframe/mini/micro computer business, both hardware and software, for 20 years.

Rob is VP/Manager of Electronic Banking for Republic Bank Headquarters.

Nominees for President-Elect:

Jim Hoisington

Jim has been a member of the User Group since its third meeting in 1982. He has held the unofficial position of back-up SIG Leader for the Programmer's Special Interest Group for several years.

Jim is Systems Development Software Manager at Morgan Computing Company and does consulting on PC's and mainframes.

Stuart Yarus

Stuart is just completing a year of service to our Users Group as President. He has been President of the Southwest APL Users Group (1982-1985) and is a founding member of the Dallas Computer Council where he serves as Events Taskforce Chairman.


Stuart is an actuary with Dytronix Corporation, which develops insurance company software for non-traditional types of life insurance.

Ed Fries

Ed Fries is CEO of Communication Plus Adv/PR, a full-service marketing communication agency in Richardson. He has a degree in journalism from Texas A&M and an MBA-Management degree from the University of Dallas. He has been involved in electronics and the periphery of computing since the mid-1960's. He is active with the local Chamber of Commerce, Cotton Bowl Council and Dallas Businessmen's Association. A non "Techie," he joined the Users Group in 1983 and now leads the Business Applications SIG.

Ed says that "While I'm basically non-technical, I am most interested in helping businesses put computers to practical use, and... believe I can provide quality leadership if called upon."

VOTE ...

CUT HERE




Room Assignments

Saturday, 11 January 1986

Check room numbers in lobby at INFOMART



9:00 - 10:00
 Btrieve, a file management system will be presented by Nancy and Doug Woodward of SoftCraft, Inc.

9:00 - 9:55	Room
Science/Engineering	_____
Beginners	_____
Genealogy (w/Apple)	_____
Graphics	_____

9:45 - 10:10	Room
Orientation	_____

MAIN MEETING: 10:15 - 11:45

12:00 - 12:25	Room
Orientation	_____

12:00 - 1:55	Room
Eagle Users	_____

12:30 - 1:25	Room
Communications	_____
Investments (w/Apple)	_____
Integrated Software	_____
Turbo Pascal	_____
APL Language	_____

1:30 - 2:25	Room
Databases	_____
Advanced Programmers	_____
Assembly Language	_____

2:30 - 3:25	Room
BASIC Applications	_____
Business Applications	_____
C Language	_____



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

Board of Directors

Stuart Yarus, Chairman Jim Graham
Chris Morgan John Pribyl
Charles Kroboth

The North Texas PC Users Group is a non-profit, independent group, not associated 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)867-8012 h
President-Elect	Jim Graham	(214)245-4763 w
Program Chairman	Charles Kroboth	(214)245-4763 w
Treasurer	Bill Hood	(214)960-4754 w
Secretary	Jane Hughson	(214)262-0457 h
<u>Membership Director</u>	Bob Russell	(214)422-4269 h
<u>Disk of the Month</u>	Walton Grayson,IV	(214)369-3535 h
<u>Publicity</u>	Becky Rahaim	(214)385-8205 h

Special Interest Groups:

SIG Coordinator	Phil Chamberlain	(214)242-4187 h
APL	Jim Fiegenschue	(214)539-9281 h
Assembler	John Wolley	(214)238-9443 h
BASIC Applic.	- o p e n -	(214)690-8092 w
Beginners	John Hall	(214)495-2375 h
Business Applic.	Ed Fries	(214)783-8543 w
C Language	Dr. Sid Nolte	(214)233-6178 h
Communications	Chris Jacobs	(817)465-0807 h
Databases	Chris Morgan	(214)245-4763 w
Eagle Computer	George Norwood	() -
Genealogy	Minnie Champ	(214)341-6507 h
Graphics	Mike Durbin	(214)271-8779 h
Integ. Software	Jim Janeway	(214)349-0314 h
Invest - N-Squared	Greg Morris	(214)680-1445 w
Programmers	Dr. Neil Bennett	(214)422-5673 w
Science/Engr.	Arlin Collins	(214)436-7697 h
Turbo Pascal	Phil Chamberlain	(214)243-5034 h
<u>User Group Telephone (Answerer)</u>		(214)242-4187
<u>Bulletin Board SYSOP:</u>	- o p e n -	

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

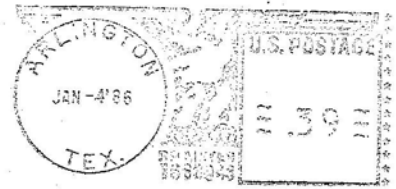
NTPCUG Membership Chairman
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Check newsletter mailing label for your membership renewal date. No separate renewal notice will be sent.

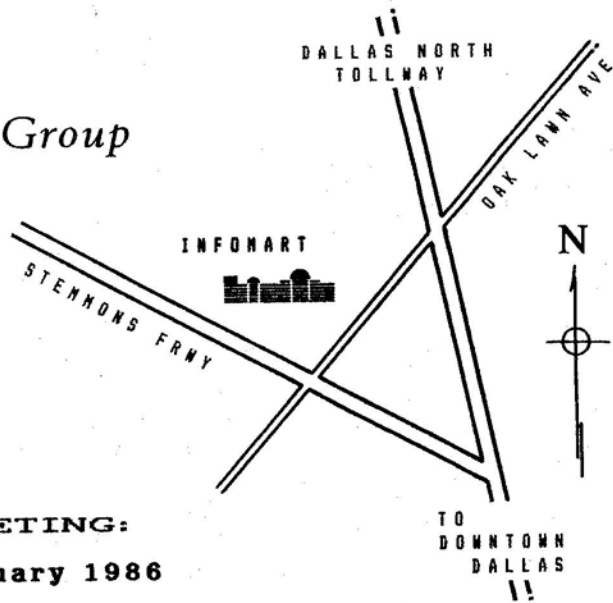


North Texas PC NEWS

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North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

11 January 1986