

North Texas PC Users Group

5.3

March 1986



North Texas PC NEWS
(STARMAIL ADDRESS 51563)

Published monthly by members of North Texas Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Members each receive a free subscription; for others, price of the NEWS is \$2 per copy. Members are requested to notify the Membership Chairman in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to:

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Deadlines:

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 850. Member distribution is 694; 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 March 28th.

...from the Editor's desk.

Hard Disks and other equipment purchased through the club will be available at the March meeting. Check at our reception desk Saturday morning for specific instructions on where to pick up the equipment you ordered.

Our main meetings will be in room 7011 instead of the auditorium this month.

Yes, there will be a "Disk of the Month" selection this month. Information was not available at press time, so check at the DOM counter for the latest and greatest in public domain software. You are encouraged to buy your PD software from our booth, since all profits from this sale go into our treasury.

This month we were fortunate to have a backlog of articles that were prepared for, but did not get in the February newsletter because of space limitations. Sharpen up your pencils (word processors, that is) and send in more: our backlog is used up!

February 28, 1986

Tax Bytes

By: Arf, Your Friendly Watchdog

Hear ye, hear ye, the tax man cometh...

The Tax Reform Act of 1984 included provisions adverse to you "hackers" that may affect your pocketbook.

If you use your computer solely at your place of employment and solely for business use, then you get full ITC benefits and ACRS depreciation.

However, if you are not self-employed and purchase a computer please take note of the following rules:

- 1) You are not eligible for either ACRS depreciation or Investment Tax Credit unless you use the computer over fifty percent of the time for job related uses. Depreciation is limited to straight line if your use is under fifty percent business and the production of income test for use is only permitted after you show that your use was over fifty percent for business.
- 2) Your employer must require you to have a computer at home for his convenience.
- 3) If you use the computer more than fifty percent of the time for your job you must have the ability to prove the business use percentage. The log requirements for usage was dropped but the burden of proof is still on you as the taxpayer so a contemporaneous log is still a good idea.

The Senate Finance Committee is now reviewing the "loopholes" pertaining to the use of computers at home so you may want to send your Senators a few bytes...

Joseph D. Brophy, CPA

March Presentations - Charles Kroboth, Program Chairman

9:00 AM, Room 7011

*** WINDOWS *****MICROSOFT.**
The High Performance Software

Microsoft will be represented by Michael Labanowski, Major Account Representative in Dallas. Michael will be demonstrating WINDOWS, which is a graphical extension of the MS-DOS operating system. WINDOWS offers a highly visual means for organizing your work. For example, you can work with multiple applications, switching from one program to another, or moving information from program to program. The Microsoft showroom (Room 3049) will be open for hands-on demos and questions. Michael has also graciously offered 3 packages as door prizes to be given away at the 9:00 meeting; WINDOWS, WORD, and PROJECT.

10:15 AM, Room 7011

*** Networking *** **NOVELL**

Steve Rucker, Regional Manager for Novell, will present his company's answer to information sharing between personal computers. Novell markets a line of network hardware as well as one of the best known operating systems for that environment, Netware. Steve will include an overview of local area network topologies with a focus on gateways to mainframes from LAN's, local area network software compatibility and networking networks. The Novell showroom (Room 3018) will be open after the presentation for questions and demonstrations.

12:15 PM, Room 7011

*** ROBOTICS *****fischertechnik**

Rone Lewis, President, and Mike Standley, Vice President, of Fischertechnik will be demonstrating a line of Robotic Computing Kits. The kits are designed so you can start off with a simple traffic-light control project and work your way up to a solar tracking system. Mr. Lewis will also be offering door prizes at this presentation.

1:00 PM, Room 7011

*** LOGO ***

Sid Nolte, one of our SIG Leaders, will be discussing LOGO - A PROGRAMMING LANGUAGE FOR CHILDREN. Sid was in charge of the project at Texas Instruments that implemented LOGO on the TI 99/4, the first such implementation outside mini and mainframe computers.

Coming Next Month:

Word processing using WORD from Microsoft

Artificial Intelligence from the makers of GURU, MDBS Inc.

Open Showrooms at INFOMART March 15:

Microsoft - Room 3049 - after 10:00

NOVELL - Room 3018 - after 11:45

Door Prizes - March 15:

WINDOWS, WORD and PROJECT from Microsoft (9:00)

A robotic computer kit from fischertechnik (12:15)

It takes more than one star to win the battle of the networks.



At Novell, we've often wondered why other local area network makers each offer a single LAN system that tries to serve the needs of everyone. The idea seems foreign to us.

That's why Novell offers four complete LAN systems. Every one features the high performance and security of NetWare. Each lets you link multiple LANs together using NetWare Bridges. All four are fully compatible with DOS 3.1, so you can run any application written for the IBM PC Network. And each offers its own strengths to meet your networking needs.



NetWare/S-Net features optimum speed and performance, the extra-large disk capacity of the powerful Motorola MC68000 microprocessor, best overall performance as workstations or workload increase, and a star configuration.

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The Four-Star Network.

With four complete LAN systems, Novell is ready to network your company no matter what your unique needs may be. Instead of trying to fit your company to someone else's LAN, let Novell show you a LAN that fits your company.

For more information, call us at 1-800-LANKIND, or see your local network dealer.



NOVELL

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Video Adapter Features

by Jim Hoisington

I've always been skeptical of product reviews. By the time they get published, they're obsolete. When one of our members approached me at a recent club meeting and suggested that we provide information for people buying hardware for the first time, I was ready to explain my reluctance to undertake product reviews. But, that wasn't what he wanted.

He wanted an explanations of the buzzwords and common product features. He also wanted an opinion on the desirability and undesirability of the various features. Armed with this information, he would feel comfortable entering the marketplace to choose hardware that met his needs. This is an attempt to provide that information for video adapters.

First, a couple of definitions. The capability of screens to display text or characters is usually rated by the number of characters across by the number of lines of text down the screen. Graphics screens are rated by the number of dots that can be displayed across the screen in one row by the number of rows of dots down the screen. You will sometimes see the term "scan line". Most of the time you can display one row of dots across the screen per scan line.

FEATURES

Monochrome screen:

A screen that will only show black and green (or amber). The monochrome screens are capable of doing graphics but only with video boards other than the IBM monochrome adapter. I have one of the non-IBM boards that does graphics on the monochrome screen and the screen is capable of very good graphics.

NTSC screen:

A color screen that is capable of doing graphics. It is less desirable than an RGB screen. I have forgotten the exact meaning

of NTSC but it is sometimes called "Never The Same Color". A television set is a NTSC screen. NTSC is sometimes referred to as a composite screen. A composite screen is cheaper and less desirable than an RGB screen.

RGB screen:

A color screen that is capable of doing graphics. The colors and resolution on an RGB screen are usually better than on an NTSC screen. The letters RGB stand for "Red Green Blue". There are also enhanced RGB screens that are capable of doing even better graphics.

IBM monochrome video adapter:

This adapter drives a monochrome screen. It will display 25 lines of 80 characters. It will not do graphics. However, it can display some special characters that when cleverly put together, will form shapes. This card also contains a parallel port commonly used to control a printer.

IBM color graphics adapter:

The IBM color graphics adapter is sometimes referred to as the CGA. In text mode, it can display 25 lines of 40 or 80 letters. It has three documented graphics modes: 160x100 dots with 16 colors, 320x200 dots with 4 colors, and 640x200 dots in monochrome (white and black). It can support either a NTSC or RGB screen. It does not have a parallel printer port. It is not a very desirable adapter any more. There are several non-IBM boards that copy its best features and not its bad features and provide the missing parallel port.

IBM enhanced graphics adapter:

The IBM enhanced graphics adapter is normally referred to as the EGA. It is modular and you have to buy all the pieces to get all the features. The EGA will act like the monochrome card and it will drive a monochrome screen. It also will act like the CGA except it does not drive composite (NTSC) screens. It does not have a printer port.



Software Report

by Dick Gail

FANSI-CONSOLE <tm>

The Integrated Console Utility <tm>

This device driver replaces the system software that interfaces programs with the PC "console" - the video display monitor and the keyboard. It enhances and extends PC performance in several useful ways.

The video display speed enhancement is the most widely useful function. FANSI's screen driver software speeds up the screen display by a factor of 1.2-3.0 for programs that use the standard DOS services or ROM-BIOS calls. We tested this function by using Peter Norton's TimeMark program to note the beginning and ending time for listing FANSI's 277K-byte "abbreviated" on-disk documentation file using the standard TYPE command. The time without FANSI was 8 minutes 16 seconds, and with FANSI the display listing took 5 minutes 47 seconds. The improvement was a clear 30 percent. FANSI cannot improve the display speed for programs that write data directly to the screen memory hardware.

FANSI extends the size of the keyboard type-ahead buffer from 15 to 255 characters, which eliminates the annoying PC beep and wait when a PC user temporarily demands more than the machine can process instantaneously. The PC can also be made to emulate a DEC VT100 (and some other terminals) by setting up the numeric keypad to simulate the VT100 auxiliary keypad functions.

Text that scrolls off the screen can be retrieved - and even stored in a file - upon command. The Scroll-Lock key can be set up to generate a one-finger pause in scrolling action, which is much more convenient than the synchronized two-hand keyboard gymnastics normally required. In fact, all multi-stroke keyboard operations can optionally be converted to single-stroke combinations, a real boon to some handicapped users.

Keyboard macros can be assigned while a program is running, and more memory is

available for storing them. Keyboard-generated breakpoints can be set up to assist assembly-language programmers, and software support is provided for certain displays and adapters capable of displaying 50 lines on the screen. The keyboard can also be redefined, such as to a Dvorak-type layout.

FANSI achieves the expanded console functions by using a more complete subset of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) X3.64 console driver definition. It contains additional "escape sequence" definitions over those provided with the PC-DOS "ANSI.SYS" program, and thereby provides programming support for separately scrolled windows. The IBM-PC ROM BIOS is extended to be AT-compatible, control over the bell time length is provided, and scroll blinking is eliminated for most non-IBM color display adapters.

The memory-resident driver requires about 25KB of memory for itself (4 KB extra when used with the EGA), and MS(PC)-DOS 2.0 or a later version and a display adapter equivalent to IBM's monochrome or color-graphics or enhanced graphics adapter. FANSI-CONSOLE has been tested with many programs and PC compatibles, and the lists provided in the documentation seem to indicate that it works with 80-90% of the available hardware and software. It is not compatible with the PC jr. The latest version (1.15) is fully compatible with the EGA and the SuperKey program.

The program and 325-page typeset manual (IBM-style cloth covered binder with slip cover) are available for \$75 from Hersey Micro Consulting, Inc., P.O. Box 8276, Ann Arbor, MI 48107, voice phone (313) 994-3259, 300/1200 baud BBS (313) 994-3946. Hersey offers a fully-functional trial system for \$25 (applicable to full purchase price) with an abbreviated, on-diskette manual.

FRAMEWORK II

This new version of Ashton-Tate's integrated software package provides several real improvements over the latest Version 1.1 of the original. The ones we like best are:

- Truly integrated communications. COMM looked so hard to use in the old version that I never tried it. Now it's as easy to call ►

up as any other function, and the many parameters can be selected in "point and shoot" fashion. This column will be uploaded to John Pribyl's STAR-TEXT mailbox using the FWII comm function. Last but not least - this COMM program truly functions in the background mode. I can request a large download (such as running a PROFILE on STARTEXT), exit the COMM frame, and execute the text editor while COMM continues and simultaneously receives the entire file requested.

- Spelling checker added to the word processor.

- Page breaks shown on the screen. The lack of page break visibility was one of the most frequent criticisms of the original.

- Easy keyboard macros. The macro definition facility is now much easier to understand, access, and use. With this version, it's worth the minimal effort to define a macro for a word or phrase used frequently even in a short document.

On the other hand, Ashton-Tate continues to use the same aggravating copy protection scheme. This means that floppy-based users must always have the system disk available at startup and hard disk users must be cautious never to attempt to run a backup on the FWII program files.

Framework II is available at many software outlets. Be sure not to buy the original Framework. Some dealers are still offering it, but A-T has explicitly stated that the original version is no longer supported since the upgrade period is now over.

Dick

▲

Learn the secrets of the network stars.



In the battle of the local area networks (LANs), the only four-star company is Novell. Now you can learn the secrets of Novell's four star systems - NetWare/S-Net, NetWare/ProNET, NetWare/ARCNET and NetWare/G-Net - at a Novell NetWare LAN System Seminar.

Learn the ins and outs of LAN systems from the networking experts at Novell. From setup and startup to input and output, find out why Novell and NetWare are on the leading edge of LAN technology.

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WHO IS CARRINGTON DIXON??
 (A Question by Phil Chamberlain)

Certainly, the NAME is well known to PC computer buffs in the Dallas - Ft. Worth area. I recently had occasion to try to meet Carrington to get a diskette from him. I asked a number of knowledgeable Users Group members, "Do you know Carrington Dixon?" Everyone knew the name, but I asked quite a few before I found one who could recognize him and point him out to me.

Obviously, he keeps a very low profile, and writes much more prolifically than he speaks! That being the case, we thought it would be worthwhile to learn more about him. At my request, he prepared the following article.

- Phil

Autobiographical Sketch

I am that rarity among Metroplex professionals, a native Texan. Indeed, I have spent most of my life in this area. I graduated from U.T. Arlington (Bachelor of Science with a major in physics and a minor in pizza), spent two years seeing the world (well, Oklahoma and Southeast Asia) as a lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps, and then returned here to go to work for Texas Instruments. I am still employed by TI as a mainframe programmer; thus, I find myself working with large, IBM 308X machines during the day and with my PC in the evenings as a sort of busman's holiday. I have been a member of the NTPCUG almost from the very first. My first meeting was, I think, the club's second, back when everybody could fit in one classroom at SMU and the club served coffee and doughnuts at the meetings.

I seem to have been able to combine an interest in writing with a knowledge of computers in such a way as to earn some local notoriety. My first article for "PC News" appeared in the fourth issue, and I have been making semi-regular contributions ever since. For the last year I have been the 'reporter' for the Advanced Programmers SIG; so, I have a couple of paragraphs in every issue these days. Two years ago,

I wrote an article on STARTEXT, the local videotex service, which so impressed the editors of that system that I was invited to write an IBM PC column for them. I have been contributing a column a week on STARTEXT ever since.

Some of my other interests include classical music and science fiction. I live in Garland with a five year old tom cat who chases dogs.

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- Compaq 286 Portable and Desk Pro... **CALL**
- Everex Internal 1200 B Modem **\$209.**
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- IBM XT, 640K, 20 MB HD, mon. **\$2449.**

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Accutax '86

Tax Preparation Software
1985 Tax Year

(This was written last month. Since we published Stuart Yarus' review of AccuTax last month, I saved this for March. Ed.)

In my opinion, AccuSoft has come out with a real winner. Their tax preparation software (AccuTax) for the 1985 tax year really does help get an obnoxious job done with a minimum of fuss and hassle.

AccuTax is basically menu-driven, but the menus do not get in your way as they do in some programs. The main menu, like a road map, is the overall 'director' and comes up when you boot the program; the other menus are "on call" for situations where they're needed. All of the most commonly used forms associated with Form 1040 are supported. Data entry is easy, and the documentation, which is also on the disk, is clear and appears complete.

All 'action' begins with Form 1040 on the screen. Data entry goes fast if you've done your homework; the sequence is the same as on the official Form, and you can make or change entries any time. It is not necessary to enter anything on fields marked on the screen with a "C". These are filled in or updated each time you punch F4, the recalculation key, or, at other times when changing forms. If the 1040 line contains an asterisk instead of a "C", pressing F6 when the cursor is on that line will put the current screen temporarily in limbo and take you to the supporting form for that line. There, you enter your dividends, or interest, or business deductions, or depreciation (depending on which 1040 line you started from), punch F10 and you're back on Form 1040, right where you left it. You now find that the total(s) from your data on the supporting form are already entered... fast!

Function keys are used extensively. Their current meaning, which changes with certain screens, is shown on line 25. Several other helpful features are incorporated in the program. Regardless of which form is shown

on the screen, line 24 shows the end product of your efforts; the tax refund or tax owed. Naturally, this changes at each recalculation as you 'refine' your data... This feature is fun, and it helps make your 'what-if' excursions virtually painless! You can make as many returns as you like; just pick which you want to review from one of the 'on-call' menus. Oh yes, there's also an override feature for any of the numbers calculated by AccuTax... if you need it. And last but not least, a pop-up calculator with several nice features of its own.

The program is offered as 'user-supported software' by AccuSoft, P.O. Box 16706, Kansas City, MO 64133. You are asked to register by sending \$35 which entitles you to product support and next year's version at a reduced price. A diskette containing the program should be available at our User Group's DOM counter beginning in February.

AccuTax requires an IBM PC or compatible with 192K, one 360K disk drive, DOS 2.0 or later, and an 80-column display. A printer is needed if you intend to file computer-generated IRS forms. Documentation is on the diskette.

I think you'll like this program if you do your own 1040.

John Pribyl

(About the penny error that Stuart reported on last month, Joe Accurso of AccuSoft provided the following statement:

"... Occasionally (and unpredictably), there is a penny rounding error on some dollar lines. Evidently when the program goes from screen display to internal storage and then back to screen display the result could be off by a penny. The error is never more than one cent and should have no effect on the final tax figure."

A review of tax programs in the February 25th issue of PC Magazine says, "... hunt down a free copy of AccuTax. You may be so surprised at its usefulness that you'll be pleased to send \$35 to the noble souls who put it together." If you do use it, remember your SSP's. Support your Shareware Programmers. Ed.)

Special Interest Program Reports

Advanced Programmers SIG

The meeting begin with Neil showing the group the calculator that he had recently purchased, a Casio FX-115 hexadecimal calculator, for around \$15. This led to a discussion of how far down the price-performance curve hand-held calculators have come. Neil discussed a few 'calculator' programs that he had thought of writing, a huge precision one and an engineering/scientific one that did units conversions automatically.

Keyboard problems seemed to be the theme of this meeting. One member asked about the 'sticky' keys that Neil had written for Professional BASIC (making the control, Alt and shift keys 'toggles' so that they can be used by the physically handicapped) as he needed to do something similar to help the handicapped owner of a TI Professional Computer. Another member recounted his experiences with rapid entry of data from the keyboard; it seems that it is possible to press the keys fast enough to cause the PC to 'lock up' -- even from the DOS prompt. This apparently also happens with those bar-code readers that use the keyboard interrupt to enter data. No one could say for sure what the problem was, but the consensus was that the keyboard handler in the BIOS has a window where an interrupt can occur in the interrupt handler with a resulting loss of return information.

Also discussed were the PC-RT and a method to 'unhook' resident programs from DOS. This coming meeting should be just as full of technical helps and wild rumors. Join Us.

Carrington Dixon

APL Language SIG

The February meeting featured a talk by Jim Fiegenschue on "Everything about Nothing". This covered the history of zero in

mathematical notation from Babylonian times to the present, and its particular importance in APL, which uses zero not only as a value but also as shape and rank. That APL attracts unorthodox thinkers and encourages unusual thoughts is evident from the fact that someone last month deleted from this space all reference to the talk about Nothing, apparently unable to take it seriously! At any rate, the format in March will be that of a round-table discussion covering a variety of topics of interest to those present.

Jim Fiegenschue
HOME PHONE: (214)539-9281

Artificial Intelligence SIG

During the February meeting, our first, the main topic of discussion was the direction that should be taken with the AI SIG. A list of AI topics was developed: expert systems, natural language processing, speech, vision, planning, robotics, knowledge representation, heuristics, the Japanese Fifth Generation Project, MCC, and cognitive models.

AI-related products were discussed, including both programming languages and expert system building tools. There are now several Prolog and Lisp interpreters costing less than \$100 and a public domain Lisp and Prolog.

Suggested topics for future meetings include: real AI applications; bibliography of books, software, and training courses; Prolog programming; expert system tools; demonstrations of TI PC Scheme and Personal Consultant; and the role of AI in the Strategic Defense Initiative. Joe Tatem will share his knowledge of expert systems at the March meeting. In April, I will present a tutorial on Prolog programming, and demonstrate a production rule system written in Prolog.

Jim Bender
HOME PHONE: (214)423-3470
WORK PHONE: (214)343-7842

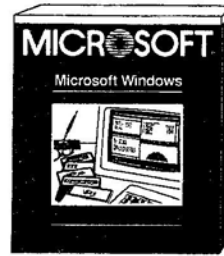
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We have Microsoft® Windows. And we're anxious to show off everything it can do for you.

Windows lets you put together your favorite programs. Work on several projects simultaneously. And easily move from one application to another. You can also consolidate information from different programs, even if they weren't written for the Microsoft Windows environment.

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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 regular 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
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really good product, we

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Special Interest Program Reports

BASIC Applications SIG

We had about 25 people at the February meeting. Since there were few problems presented, the sample Basic program was distributed and then discussed in detail.

The program computed the number of days between two dates and the day of the week for any given date. Although the full extent of the program may be of limited use, the program did illustrate a number of Basic programming principals for both the beginner and more advanced Basic programmers. One example illustrated was how to turn the Numlock and Capslock keys on or off from within a Basic program.

If possible, a Basic program listing will be distributed each month and then discussed during the meeting period. The program will be one which performs some function, but mainly will be written to illustrate Basic programming principals and commands.

Herb Wilson
HOME PHONE: (214)235-3364
WORK PHONE: (214)231-2112

Business Applications SIG

In February, Local Area Networks (LANS) were covered well by Ken Olson, VP of Computer Expertise, a Richardson-based systems integrator. He focused on the Ethernet and Novell networks, along with the one he is currently using, the incredibly-named Zuckernet. The main message was that there are pros and cons to networking in general, and to each of the different kinds/brands. It all comes down to the particular application and budget. Thanks, Ken, for getting us ready for the March main meeting on LANS.

For March, we'll look at "The Ways a Database Management System Can Help a Small

Business." The speaker will be Stacie Smith, CPA, President of Automated Business Solutions. While she will be working with dBase III, the emphasis is on finding applications that would be useful with any data base manager.

Following the presentation and Q/A, we'll cover other business application subjects of interest to the group.

Ed Fries, SIG Leader
W:(214)783-8543

C Language SIG

We were privileged to have Rex McAnally and Jim Wroten present the program at the February meeting. The topic was on the use of pointers in C. The turn out was very good, partly because of the new time and partly because of the excellent program. Thanks to both Jim and Rex for a good presentation on a difficult topic.

The topic is one that most people using C are interested in hearing about. The time was too short for Rex to finish his portion of the program, so he has volunteered to continue his presentation at the March meeting. See you all there.

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

Communications SIG

February's meeting was lightly attended but active. A "free form" discussion developed early in the meeting and touched on a variety of subjects, surprisingly mostly communications related, including among others:

Special Interest Program Reports

modems, full/half duplex, why protocols, the state of personal computer communications software, and, as always, the telephone company. March's formal presentation will be an introduction to modems. I will cover basic operation, understanding modem types (i.e. 103, 212A, etc.), what is "Hayes compatible", and whatever else we have time for. I would hope that there are those in the user group membership that will be available to share their knowledge of specific uses of personal computer communications if called upon.

My initial plan is to have a meeting format that will be split into two segments: a formal presentation and a general question and answer period. The formal presentation part of the meeting is where I would greatly appreciate help from those in the membership who have specific knowledge of computer communications. Also, like the medical field, more than one opinion is better in addressing a particular problem or question.

Fred Williams, SIG Leader
WORK PHONE: (214)492-1315

Genealogy SIG

This SIG probably has the most versatile group of users of any SIG. Eleven different brands of computers were represented at the February meeting. Joyce Jones presented the program, discussing FAMILY ROOTS, Version 3.0, that is now ready for shipment. This is an updated version, and much more versatile than previous versions. It is supplied for the Apple IIc and IIe as well as the IBM. It comes on 3 diskettes and runs on 5-1/4, 3.5, and hard disks. The manual has been completely revised. Upgrading directly from Version 1.0 to Version 3.0, without going through Version 1.2, creates problems.

Ms. Jones is the local representative for Quinsept, Inc., and will be happy to answer any questions about the program. She can be reached at telephone 422-7719, at 956 Wubby Mead, Plano.

Minnie Champ, Leader
PHONE: (214)341-6507
Judge N. L. Linebaugh, Reporter
PHONE: (214)350-1603

Integrated/Spreadsheet SIG

This month we are very excited to have a return visit by Ashton-Tate to give us a follow-up look at the new Framework II.

Most of our Framework users are now on the new release and almost all the reports we have heard border on fanaticism. It still seems to be a rather closely guarded secret, but it appears that A-T has redefined the standard for integrated packages with this one. To paraphrase one evangelist, "I used Framework(I) because I thought it was the best thing out there, but the things they've done in Framework II are just awesome. It is so smooth and logical, yet enormously powerful." If you missed Robert Carr a few months ago, don't miss this one. We'll also be discussing the possibility of establishing a Framework users SIG.

Last month we looked at a menu generating program called AUTOMENU. It should be available at the Disk of the Month table at this month's meeting.

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

Special Interest Program Reports

Investment: N-Squared Analysis SIG

Greg Morris was unable to attend the February meeting. Dick Hoierman was elected as the secondary SIG leader. In addition, a discussion about what to discuss at future meetings was held. Many of the members who own the N-Squared Analyzer software would like to see more detail on program operation and analysis.

A number of people showed up thinking this was a general investment SIG. This is not a general investment SIG, it is a SIG for people who own and/or are interested in technical analysis using the N-Squared Market Analyzer and Stock & Futures Analyzer. Of course, anyone can attend whether you use the software or not.

At the March meeting, Greg will both bring programs and field questions from the group on the software and/or technical analysis. Please come with questions.

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

Turbo Pascal SIG

At the February meeting, Rob Anderson of KYDOR Computer Systems, described a debugging program for Turbo Pascal. Warren Ferguson is getting together details for a group-purchase of this program from KYDOR.

We also discussed another similar debugging program, available through Compu-Serve, that should be on a Disk-of-the-Month for March.

These programs are similar in that they allow a programmer to step through a Turbo Memory (not .COM) program, or set breakpoints -- to examine and change the value of variables while executing, -- etc. The Turbo

source program appears on one "page" of the screen, and the normal output on another, so the programmer can toggle back and forth between them if he wishes. In the March meeting, Ray Quay will make a presentation on the use of "Sets" in Turbo Pascal. Pascal is one of the few high-level languages that implements the use of "Sets". They can be extremely valuable and helpful in program development and execution, yet they are probably not used to the extent they could, or should, be. Ray will help us all make better use of them.

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

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Room Assignments

Saturday, 15 March 1986

Check room numbers in lobby at INFOMART



Special Presentations:

9:00 - 9:55

A Microsoft representative will demonstrate WINDOWS, a graphical extension of the MS-DOS operating system.

12:15 - 12:55

Fischertechnik - Computer robotic kit demonstration.

1:00 - 1:55

LOGO Demonstration.

9:00 - 9:55

Science/Engineering
 Beginners
 Genealogy (w/Apple)
 Graphics
 BASIC Applications

Room

9:45 - 10:10

Orientation

MAIN MEETING: 10:15 - 11:45

Steve Rucker, Regional Manager for Novell, will present his company's answer to information sharing between PC's.

12:00 - 12:25

Orientation

Room

12:00 - 12:55

Assembly Language

APL

C Language

Turbo Pascal

12:30 - 1:55

Invest - N-Squared

1:00 - 1:55

Artificial Intelligence

Business Applications

Communications

Databases

Eagle Computer

Room

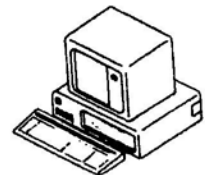
2:00 - 2:55

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North Texas Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.
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Board of Directors

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Jim Janeway

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:

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<u>Disk of the Month</u>	Walton Grayson,IV	(214)369-3535 h
<u>Public Relations</u>	Stuart Yarus	(214)867-8012 h

Special Interest Groups:

SIG Coordinator	Phil Chamberlain	(214)243-5034 h
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Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to:

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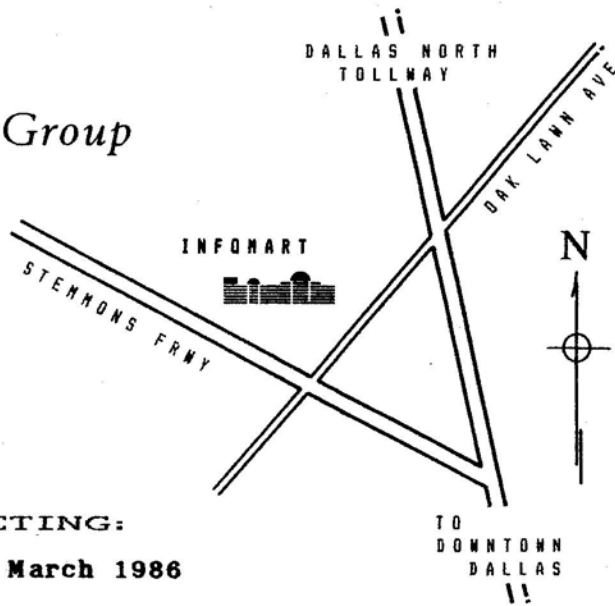


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NEXT MEETING:

15 March 1986