



North Texas PC Users Group

6.12

December 1987



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 Director in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to: North Texas PC NEWS, 2025 Rockcreek Drive, Arlington, Texas 76010.

Editor/Publisher
John Pribyl (817)275-4109

Assistant Editor
Calliste Phillips (214)348-2345

Newsletter Exchange Editor
Tom Prickett (214)690-9067

Software Review Editor
Dick Gall (214)234-8888

Advertising - Call the Editor (817)275-4109

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or its members. Copyright © 1987 by North Texas PC NEWS. (Articles without specific copyright notices may be reproduced by other User Groups if credit is given to the author and the publication.)

Deadline:

All ad material for publication in North Texas PC NEWS must be received by the NEWS staff by the 15th of the month. See copy deadline below.

Articles:

Please do not right-justify, indent or otherwise code the copy. If column alignment is critical, send along a hard copy, or written instructions. Article submission is preferred by NTPCUG BBS, StarText MC 51563, or disk in ASCII format, unjustified. If you send a disk, please include a printed copy of the article to assure accuracy. If sending to the User Group Bulletin Board, use 'mail' mode, to John Pribyl. Double spaced, typewritten copy is acceptable but must be received a week before the deadline. All material submitted will be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. The Editor reserves the right to edit as necessary to maintain standards of literacy, grammar, and length requirements.

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation is 1326.

Member distribution is 1132; remaining copies are distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Xerox Ventura Publisher. Repro was printed on a Xerox 4045 Laser Printer and Toshiba P351 dot matrix printer. Typefaces include: Times, Helvetica, Prestige Elite and GTHIC151.

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for January '88
NT PC NEWS:
Tuesday, December 15th.

Meeting Dates:

Dec. Meeting - 3rd Sat. (19th)
Jan. Meeting - 3rd Sat. (16th)
Feb Meeting - 2nd Sat.
(tentative)

May the True Spirit
of the Holiday Season
Stay With You all Through
the Coming Year



Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Jim Hoisington	
Dazed and Ensorcelled in PC Wonderland	
COMDEX/Fall '87 - Las Vegas	3
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	
The Industry at a Turning Point-COMDEX '87	3
David Hayden	
BOOLEAN - A tutorial Essay	
On the Subject of Boolean Expressions	11
Theodore L. Palmer	
January - Election Month	
Presenting Candidates for the Coming Year	16
Nominating Committee	
Talking With ProComm 2.4.2 -	
Starting From the Ground Up	22
Pete Testa	
Filling the Communications Gap - Microsoft	
Hosts Seminar On User Group Coordination	24
Jim Hoisington	
Agenda	1
Officers	2
Membership Application Blank	18
Meetings & Times	25
Features:	
Disk of the Month	19
SWAP SHOP	20
SIG Reports	21

December 19

Charles Kroboth, Program Director

9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

AUDITORIUM

*** MICRONYX ***

Our morning presentation will be given by Mark Goode, President of Micronyx, Inc. in Richardson. Mark will discuss his company's PC workstation management and security product, TRIAD Plus. This system is currently being used by the US Department of Defense National Computer Security Center and will soon be marketed by Novell under an OEM agreement.

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

AUDITORIUM

*** BORLAND INTERNATIONAL ***

Representatives from Borland will be here to discuss the virtues of their new Lotus killer, Quattro. The software appears to work well and you know it will be priced right.

Prez Sez**Volunteer Coordinator**

Connie Andrews has been serving in the unofficial position of volunteer coordinator for several years now. In order to recognize her service to the user group, we are making that an official position.

Connie spends the week before the meeting calling volunteers to staff the registration booth and other areas that need help. Between her volunteers and the Disk of the Month volunteers, we have over 50 people who donate their time to help make these meetings possible.

Thank you Connie and thank you volunteers.

Information Center

We have received a complaint that people are using the computers in the Information Center to look at their DOM disks. Please do not do this or the Information Center will not be available to us during the meeting.

Annual Meeting

Be sure to attend our annual meeting in January.

Elsewhere in this issue you will see pictures and short profiles of the candidates for president elect and board of directors. Other nominations will be accepted at the December meeting. You will have a chance to vote at our annual meeting in January.

End of the Year

Well, this is the twelfth and last PREZ SEZ column for this year. Next month Reagan Andrews takes over and I can go back to enjoying the meetings. Here are just some of the things that we have accomplished in the last year:

- We have a Bulletin Board with two Metro lines;
- We became a non-profit organization;
- We do our accounting with a general ledger package;
- We send out renewal notification letters to our current members;
- We have brochures to give to prospective members;
- We have a telephone number for the user group that will not change when we change officers;
- We have gone from 900 members to about 1,300 members.

There are still some things that haven't been completed yet:

- Getting a laser printer for preparation of our newsletter;
- Membership cards;
- Upgrading our video projector to EGA and possibly VGA capability;
- Getting the Disk of the Month group the capability to produce 3.5" diskettes.

As some of you know, I attended the Air Force Academy. We used to say, "The best way to see the Academy is in a rear view mirror." Looking back at this year in my "rear view mirror", it has been a lot of work and a lot of fun. I would like to thank the other officers and the board of directors for making it all come together.

And to Reagan Andrews, good luck!

Jim



North Texas Personal Computer Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Phone (214)746-4699 for recorded information about the User Group and meeting dates.

Board of Directors

Jim Hoisington, Chairman Jim Graham
Reagan Andrews Stuart Yarus
Kathryn Crawford

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM or any other Corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to 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 the Membership Director whose address is shown at the bottom of this page. 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 – Jim Hoisington (214)416-3101 h
President-Elect –
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)828-0699 h
Program Chair. – Charles Kroboth (214)746-5335 w
Treasurer – Joe Brophy (214)891-8187 w

Secretary – David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir. – Robert Kolodner (214)821-6015
Disk of the Month – Kathryn Crawford (214)596-2539
Group Purchases – Tai Tsou
Group Statistician – Connie Testa

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coord. – Phil Chamberlain (214)243-5034 h
APL – Jim Fiegenshue (214)539-9281 h
Artificial Intel. Arnie Strand (214)824-7894 h
Astrometry – Arlin Collins (214)351-5137 b
Assembler – Neil Bennett, Ph.D. (214)517-6854 h
Beginners – Bob Presley (214)867-1679 h
Richard Terreo (214)307-1259
Business Applic. Bruce Schubert (214)991-5967 w
Enable – Jack Lundberg (214)596-8160 b
– Susan Watts (214)416-0077 h
C Language – Sid Nolte, Ph.D. (214)233-6178 h
Communications – Fred Williams (214)492-1315 w
DAC Software – Mike Macaulay (214)956-7750
Databases – Chris Morgan (214)746-5335 w
– Bob Monaghan (429)3245 w
DBase – David Hayden (214)380-8172 h
DOS – Jim Hoisington (214)416-3101 h
– Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)828-0699 h
Genealogy – Minnie Champ (214)341-6507 h
Graphics – Mike Durbin (214)271-8779 b
Hdw Solutions – David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
LOTUS – Peyton Weaver (214)462-0552 h
– Mark Gruner (214)373-3147 h

Programmers – Neil Bennett, Ph.D. (214)517-6854 h
Science/Engr. – Sam Leven (214)991-7642
– David Lamb (214)931-3068 h
Stock Market – Cliff Murphy (214)279-7973
Turbo Pascal – Don Chick

**BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM – 461-0425 (Metro)
461-0506 (Metro)**

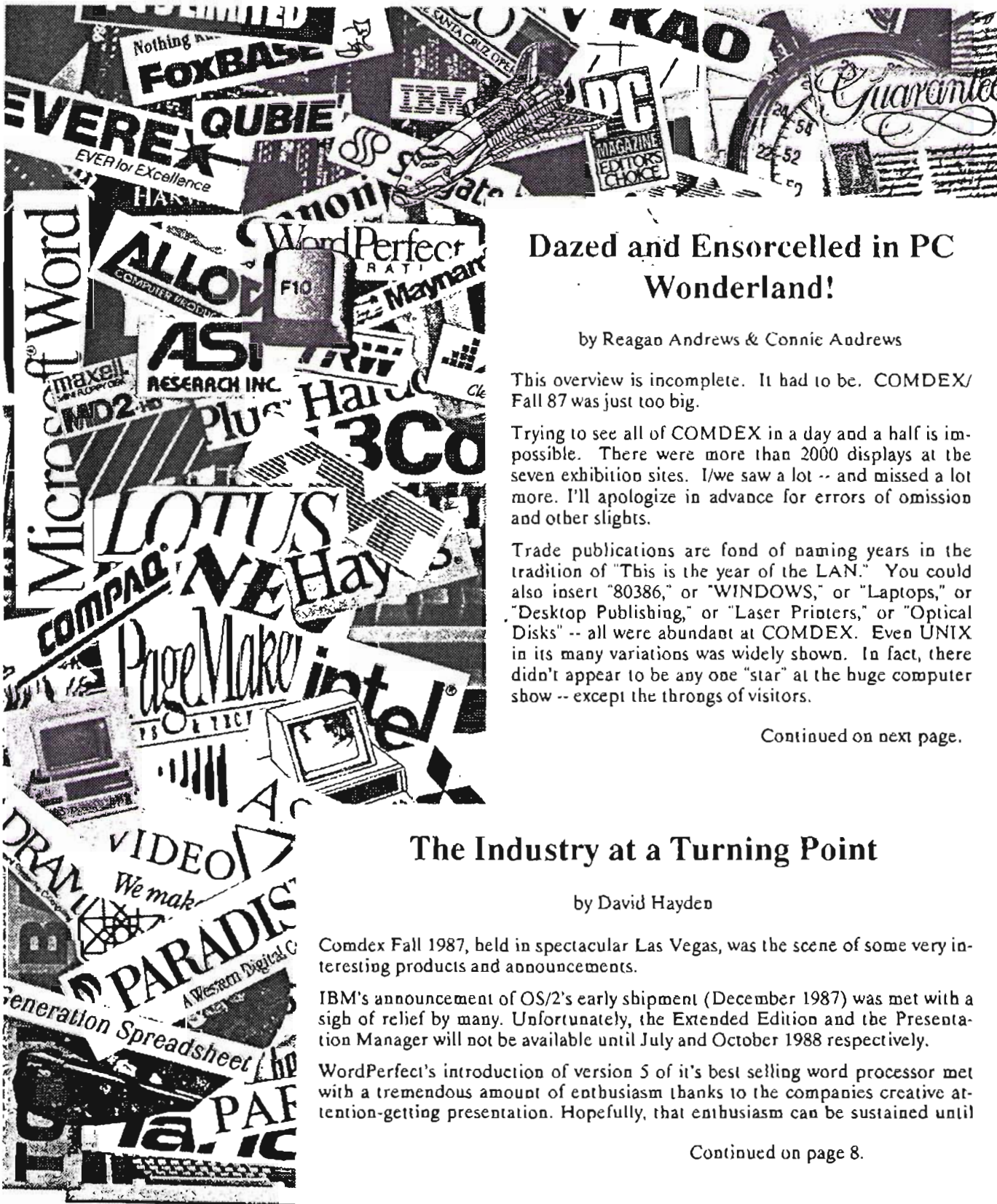
SYSOP: – Tom Prickett (voice) (214)690-9087
Asst. SYSOP. – Maggle Moomey
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa

Address Changes, etc...

Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to
NTPCUG Membership Director
6015 Belmont Ave.
Dallas, Texas 75206

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)

COMDEX/Fall '87



Dazed and Ensorcelled in PC Wonderland!

by Reagan Andrews & Connie Andrews

This overview is incomplete. It had to be. COMDEX/Fall 87 was just too big.

Trying to see all of COMDEX in a day and a half is impossible. There were more than 2000 displays at the seven exhibition sites. I/we saw a lot -- and missed a lot more. I'll apologize in advance for errors of omission and other slights.

Trade publications are fond of naming years in the tradition of "This is the year of the LAN." You could also insert "80386," or "WINDOWS," or "Laptops," or "Desktop Publishing," or "Laser Printers," or "Optical Disks" -- all were abundant at COMDEX. Even UNIX in its many variations was widely shown. In fact, there didn't appear to be any one "star" at the huge computer show -- except the throngs of visitors.

Continued on next page.

The Industry at a Turning Point

by David Hayden

Comdex Fall 1987, held in spectacular Las Vegas, was the scene of some very interesting products and announcements.

IBM's announcement of OS/2's early shipment (December 1987) was met with a sigh of relief by many. Unfortunately, the Extended Edition and the Presentation Manager will not be available until July and October 1988 respectively.

WordPerfect's introduction of version 5 of its best selling word processor met with a tremendous amount of enthusiasm thanks to the company's creative attention-getting presentation. Hopefully, that enthusiasm can be sustained until

Continued on page 8.

Biggest of the BIG -- Microsoft, IBM & Borland

From the PC users' point of view, Microsoft, Borland and IBM must occupy center stage at COMDEX/Fall. Well... two out of three isn't too bad.

Microsoft pulled-out all the stops. There were real people working their booth who knew something about the products they were showing. More important, they wanted to answer questions and help users get expert performance from Microsoft software.

OS/2 was here. Running Borland's new "Quattro." With a Borland rep explaining things. While Microsoft's "Excel" was running a few feet away. Windows/386 and 2.0 were here and running. So were "Works," "QuickC" and the CD ROM "Bookshelf." Very impressive. Couldn't get close to OS/2 area for the crowds. This was a real show stopper.

Microsoft WORD 4.0 and "PageView" were being demonstrated by David Moore, Applications Director, who showed what WORD can really do when used by an expert. "PageView" is a utility that shows exactly what formatted WORD files will look like before printing and is very close to real desktop publishing standards. Unfortunately, shown on a PS/2 - 50 with IBM monitor with significant distortion. Impressive in spite of the IBM gear.

Borland -- Quattro
Borland -- Quattro
Borland -- Quattro
Borland -- Quattro

Borland's display was so crowded, it was impossible to get close enough to really talk with anyone. Borland was also displaying "Paradox" and "Turbo - everything." But...

"Quattro," Borland's new spreadsheet contender, was the dominant focus of attention here -- just as at Microsoft. If this is any indication, Lotus better be on their toes 'cause there will be a real blood-bath in the three-way spreadsheet battle between 1-2-3, Quattro and Excel.

Question: Is Borland's founder's portrait included on Borland's giveaway bags? Someone said his was in the middle. Also, saw the same illustration used for another, very different, product from another manufacturer.

Big, Blue and Bland -- IBM

IBM -- used to be magic letters for PC users -- had a very nice display at COMDEX/Fall. It was real pretty. Obviously designed in good, corporate taste. IBM products. Lots of pretty hand-outs. And, lots of well-dressed representatives to explain all the IBM products. All the pretty, well-dressed representatives repeated what was in the hand-outs. Period.

IBM managed to make IBM pretty boring, including OS/2 and Presentation Manager, or whatever.

The Real Show -- WINDOWS, CAD/CAM & Desktop Publishing

There were some surprises. Microsoft's "WINDOWS" was being used as a vehicle for displaying CAD/CAM and other graphics by almost everyone. CAD/CAM, Desktop Publishing, video scanners and attendant support products were much in sight. It was almost impossible to go anywhere without seeing the omnipresent CAD.Space Shuttle on display.

Word-processing publishers, Microsoft (WORD 4.0), Word Perfect (Word Perfect 5.0), MicroPro (WordStar), and Samna (Word IV) were all pitching their programs with promises of WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get) modules and/or options/utilities with features remarkably like full-blown desktop publishing programs/systems. Both Xerox Ventura Publisher and Aldus PageMaker were well-represented with add-on utilities/modules at COMDEX/Fall.

Multi-synch monitors and big (19") monochrome monitors were used to highlight AutoCAD and Ventura throughout. After a few hours of these in high resolution modes, "normal" PC monitors looked like tiny toys. Several vendors also displayed projection monitors and adapters to allow use of PC graphics with overhead viewers as well.

Laser printers were omnipresent with almost every printer manufacturer showing at least one model. (However, this did lead to some interesting situations when the printers were shipped to COMDEX for display without any documentation. In more than one booth, personnel were highly apologetic since they had no idea how to set up the "strange" machines for demonstration.) Dot matrix printers with 9, 18 and 24 pin heads were still present in numbers, but didn't generate the interest attracted by the laser printers.

Optical disks were supposed to be a major feature at this year's COMDEX. There were lots around. But, excitement was lacking. Many drive makers talked about CD ROMS but not that many were on display and running. Data sheets available couldn't hide the very slow access times for these drives -- in the 100+ ms region with some quoting as high as 500 ms average access times.

Big, Bad and Beautiful -- Hardware Dominated by Fast 80386 Machines

Rare last year, 80386-based PC's were highly evident. Machines running at 16 MHz were "garden variety" products. Big news were the 20 MHz "screamers" displayed by COMPAQ, AST and Tandon. Although not yet certified by the FCC at the "B" level for home use, AST's 20 MHz 80386 was an outstanding performer. COMPAQ's 20 MHz machines were equally impressive although overshadowed by a very low-key, almost sub-

duced display. (COMPAQ's display almost out-IBM'd IBM's exhibit for understatement.)

Laptops, laptops everywhere, in every imaginable form and fashion. 80386 machines were stars here too. Toshiba and Grid Systems both showed 80386 models with hard disks. Most interesting machine wasn't a "screamer", but seemed the most practical -- Amstrad's C-cell powered PPC640. Getting away from expensive, rechargeable NiCAD's seems like a very good idea for a truly "portable" machine. This machine also has a keyboard large enough to be useful and a built-in 2400 Baud modem.

Amstrad, with local (Las Colinas) headquarters, also had one of the more useful "giveaways", a pocket appointment calendar-survival guide to COMDEX and Las Vegas.

80286-based PC's were the workhorses of COMDEX/Fall. Other than laptops and very low-end clones, 8088 PC's were rare. PS/2's (Model 50's) were common, although not too impressive when coupled with IBM displays. AST was showing their "Premium/286" series and new, very-small footprint "Smart Terminals" that were very interesting in concept. (They also reminded that PS/2's aren't the only small machines with power available.)

LAN-oriented, high-speed (80386) file servers were almost as common as other 80386 machines. If this wasn't

the "Year of the LAN" it came close. LAN hardware, software and interface systems were seen as frequently as any other product type. These machines appear to be driving the hard disk drive industry more than any other factor.

Small Hard Disk Drives -- Huge Capacities

3.5" has arrived. RLL (2,7) also arrived. In big numbers. Every major drive maker at COMDEX (except a few) had 3.5" hard drives on display ranging up to 100 - 200M, high-speed units. Most were also using RLL (2,7) encoding to boost drive capacities on portions of their lines.

CDC (Control Data Corporation) was showing their "SWIFT" series of 3.5" drives in SCSI, ST506 and ESDI interface models with capacities up to 200M (unformatted) and average seek times in the 16.5 and 25 ms range. CDC personnel on hand at COMDEX were among the most helpful and informative there in terms of answering user questions. CDC doesn't sell through retail channels, but seemed to be very concerned with end-user satisfaction and product quality.

Seagate displayed a line of 3.5" drives at more modest specs (and probably more modest prices) in one of the classier displays at COMDEX. Seagate showed their entire (extensive) line with transparent covers so that operation was visible during operation. (They started this trend last year, I'm told, which was copied by most other drive makers this year.) Unfortunately, Seagate has changed their numbering system so that drive size/type is no longer as apparent from the number alone.

Very-high capacity 5.25", 1/2-high and full-height drives were numerous and awe-inspiring. Remember when 10M seemed ostentatious? Anything smaller than 100M now is almost a "browaway." Maxtor's SMALLEST drive displayed was a 71.3M drive for ST506 interfaces. They topped the line with a 676.82M, ESDI interface drive with 18 ms average access time. (These are formatted capacities in full-height drives.)

Half-high, 5.25" drives dominated the medium-sized drive displays. Seagate's ST2xx series ran the gamut from 21M to 85M (formatted) and was split between MFM and RLL (2,7) drives. CDC showed WREN II's, III's and V's ranging from 51M to 209M (unformatted) with 28 and 18 ms access times. Every manufacturer, except PTi who only make 3.5" drives, had units in the 20, 30 and 40M range with access times ranging between 35 - 70 ms.

A Moveable Feast -- and Portable Drives

Removable and/or portable high-capacity drives were displayed by several vendors. Kodak was showing its 5.25", 10M floppy drive which can also read 1.2M and 360K floppies (they claim). Another 5.25", 10M unit

Computers on Skis?

COMDEX TV claimed that Aspen, Colorado, had more computers per capita than any other town in America. Maybe people in Aspen don't spend all their time skiing after all. Or, perhaps, computers pose a solution to "Cabin Fever" during the long winter nights.

However, Las Vegas must have been the most computer-intensive city in the United States during COMDEX. Computer per capita ratio in the city surely jumped appreciably with over 2000 exhibits, most with many PC's, on display during the huge five-day computer show.

Change "computer" to "micro-processor" and Las Vegas has to be the clear winner.

Some of the most striking graphics displays during COMDEX were seen on the newer slot machines. Even the seemingly "mechanical" slots are mostly micro-processor controlled now. Most blatant excess seen -- \$5.00 & \$25.00 slot machines in several downtown casinos. (Players have to purchase tokens in these denominations from the casino to play these monetary goliaths.)

was on display and claimed to extract this density from vertical recording on "standard" floppy media, but, unfortunately, not operating when I was at the maker's booth. I looked in vain for the 3.5", 10M drive reported in several publications as using "standard" 3.5" floppy disks.

SyQuest was demonstrating its SQ555 removable cartridge Winchester drive. The drive boasts a 40M formatted capacity with 25 ms average access time in a 5.25" form factor. In a slightly different approach, Tandon was demonstrating its "Portable Winchester" 40M, "fast-access" drive. (The whole drive is removed instead of a cartridge.) Omega continued their successful Bernoulli cartridge drive line with announced adapters to allow use of their drives with IBM's PS/2 series computers.

TEAC announced a 4M (unformatted) 3.5" floppy disk drive that sounds like it would place tape backups on the rear burner for awhile. This drive might also make hard drives for true portables questionable. At 2.8M (formatted) such a drive would make much otherwise hard-drive-only software useful for portable users. Will require yet one more DOS driver/modification.

Bummers -- Maxtor and CORE International. Neither of these manufacturers (CORE International is really a VAR (Value- Added Reseller)) seemed very interested in answering questions below the 10,000-unit order level. That's a shame because both are reputed to sell quality products. With CORE it's an even bigger surprise because CORE does deal with the end user, and was one of the first companies to publicly alert early AT owners to IBM's hard disk problems. Perhaps the CORE representative I met was having a bad day. I hope that's it and not CORE policy.

Media Madness -- Floppy Disk Phoenix

Floppy-disk makers rising from the flames? Everyone is on the media bandwagon. The expansion (and subsequent shake-out) seen three years ago among 5.25" disk companies seems fated for repetition by 3.5" floppy disk makers. Many new labels will/might appear on dealers shelves shortly if COMDEX/Fall 87 is a guide.

Color comes back with the introduction of KAO's new 3.5" floppy line. Some existing 5.25" labels are pitching other features that are somewhat hard to conceptualize -- such as Verbatim's new Teflon-coated floppies.

ADD-ONS -- Real Meat for the PC World

PC owners are always looking for ways to bring their machines up to state-of-the-art standards. COMDEX had a lot for them/us.

Microsoft was showing their 80286-based "MACH 20" accelerator board. What sets this apart from the others is memory and "no-slot" functionality. It does take a slot on the PC motherboard, but you can add 2M memory and a floppy-disk controller that will handle 1.2M, 5.25"

and 1.4M, 3.5" in addition to medium-density (720K, 360K, etc.) floppy drives. Prices quoted by Microsoft are a little steep, but destined for more reasonable realms via discounting.

AST was displaying both accelerator boards and a new, 80286, replacement motherboard for PC/XT's that looked super. Same caveat applies -- AST's quoted prices are high, but will probably drop via discounting to more reasonable levels. AST's exhibit had another distinction, and one I probably insulted.

Some background is needed here to understand my point. There is a large body of very pretty women who earn their living by "modeling", i.e., manning booths, etc., at conventions and trade shows. Usually, technical questions are handled by most via vacuous stares, shuffling feet and calls for "help" from one of the men present.

Mary Michaela Galvin is a Sales Representative for AST. She is also a very attractive woman. When I/we entered the AST exhibit area, she walked up to help us. I, in my usual smooth and urbane manner, asked if she could answer technical questions about AST products. She seemed somewhat taken back by the question. It turns out she could answer technical questions. Very well. My apologies.

According to Ms. Galvin, AST also has introduced a 80386 board that bring the AST Premium/286 computers up to full 80386 standards. This cannot be done with the 286 motherboard, however.

Intel -- designers of the 8088, 80286 and 80386 -- displayed versions of their Inboard accelerator series, including a 80386 board for use in PC's and PC/XT's. (See pricing caveats, above.) Intel's Senior Hardware Engineer, Robert Farrell, was available to discuss the new board.

Unlike Intel's 386 board for use in PC/AT's and Clones, the 386 board for the PC WON'T run straight "WINDOWS 386" and OS/2. Both have to be ported to the board in separate versions. Farrell was very pleased to answer "techie" questions and encouraged us to return the next day for further discussion. A real pleasure in spite of the late hour.

User-Oriented People at COMDEX/Fall

I want to begin this with another caveat -- we didn't see all of COMDEX/Fall, and didn't meet everyone there. We got there late in the show, and I'm sure missed a lot of good people as a result and bumped into otherwise helpful people who were simply exhausted at show's end.

I would, however, like to recognize those organizations/people who did take time to talk about their product/s with visitors who were not potential 10,000-unit customers that aren't mentioned earlier in this article. ►

Seagate Technology, Control Data Corporation and Western Digital -- All were well-represented by knowledgeable, friendly people who didn't seem to notice we were not OEM's (Original Equipment Manufacturers).

Mont Francisco, Vice President, Sales, of Quicksoft -- publishers of PC-Write which is available as a NTPCUG DOM -- and our source of bound documentation for PC-Write.

Richard Sterry, V.P, Product Marketing, Microcom, who took the time to explain MNP error correction protocol and give us references for a future article.

Larry Fels, Fifth Generation Systems (publishers of "FASTBACK PLUS") gave some hints on using 3.5", 720K drives with DOS 3.2 in a very helpful conversation while He was demonstrating Fifth Generation's slick and quite rapid new backup program.

Bob Fink of Xenosoft. Really fun to talk with about the problems of converting from one disk system/format to a second (IBM-PC). XenoCopy-PC is one of the few programs that will facilitate this exchange.

US Robotics -- Carroll McMahon, Marketing Communications Associate and Jonathan Zakin, V.P., Sales, who spent a lot of time asking about user groups, and how US Robotics could interface with us. (US Robotics has been very active in the PC user community and BBS building effort.)

Awards Time -- "Most" (or "Least") Categories

Most Crowded Exhibits: Microsoft, Borland, Quarter-deck Systems, IBM.

Least Informative Exhibit: IBM -- Nobody knows/says anything about products/bugs not already available in handouts. Why bother?

Most Appreciated Exhibits: Those with seating for foot-sore, weary visitors at COMDEX/Fall.

Looking at COMDEX from the foot up.

Question: *What had 180,000 legs, but could only crawl?*

Answer: *COMDEX visitors at 4:01 p.m. -- show's end -- Friday, November 6!*

According to COMDEX officials, over 90,000 visited the computer industry's premier show during its five-day run November 2 - 6, in Las Vegas, Nevada. I believe it.

Las Vegas was the center of the glassy-eyed stare and slurred, mumbled reply by Friday afternoon. Wrapping up a week of marching feet and innumerable questions directed by thousands of milling attendees, most of the people manning the display booths appeared somewhat dazed at the end.

Visitors to COMDEX didn't fare much better.

Transportation was the major problem with reported one-hour waits for bus and taxi rides between the various exhibition sites. COMDEX exhibits were located at the Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas Hilton, Bally's Las Vegas, Sahara, Riviera, Caesar's Palace and overflowed (?exhibitor- overflow error?) into trailers located outside the Convention Center.

Walking became the most efficient mode of transportation. Unofficial motto became: "If your feet are killing you, it must be Friday afternoon at COMDEX." Accepted dress (for almost everyone except IBM) appeared to be business suits and running shoes. Most popular exhibits for many were those that provided seating for visitors. Lots of people sat and watched demonstrations they probably wouldn't have paused for otherwise.

If visitors hadn't seen enough of COMDEX by daily closing, local TV Channel 11 was devoted to highlights of the day's conferences and interviews with computer leaders along with schedules of coming events. The Interface Group, the organization that runs COMDEX, also published the "COMDEX Show Daily" a newspaper containing vignettes and interviews of exhibitors, new product releases and updates on exhibitor locations with detailed maps. (COMDEX is so big, locator maps are necessary in order to find particular exhibits and product displays.)

Even with maps in hand, it was easy to get "turned around" or lost in the main exhibit halls. That meant even more walking.

Reagan

Nobody Leaves COMDEX/Fall Empty-Handed

Giveaways (apart from product description sheets) are the one constant at COMDEX/Fall, or any other trade show of this magnitude. Shopping bags (?COMDEX bags?) are ubiquitous at such events. They are necessary just to carry all the data sheets gathered from various exhibits.

Most appreciated Giveaways were from Chips and Technologies, Inc., Quantum and Amstrad. Chips and Technologies gave away small chocolates in the form of their logo that were exquisite and provided a much-needed, "sugar high" late in the afternoon. Quantum also gave away chocolate "coins" of equal caliber. Amstrad's giveaway was a pocket calendar/COMDEX survival guide with real info on Las Vegas restaurants.

Longest-lived, most useful giveaway came from Hayes. Hayes (modems) gave away combination flat-head/philips-head pocket screwdrivers that are exactly the right size for RS-232C connector screws.

Almost every other exhibit had giveaway bags. The best of the show were from: Hyundai Electronics -- large and

equipped with soft, comfortable handles; Microsoft -- almost as big as Hyundai's bags, but in a beautiful red; and, Borland -- "Quattro" logo on a very sturdy, if undersized, cloth bag that will outlast memories of COMDEX/Fall 87.

Second most frequent Show giveaway is pens, ball-point or otherwise. Two were standouts -- TEAC and Microsoft WORD both gave out fine-line pens. (what ever happened to the "Paperless Society" that was going to result from PC's and office automation?)

Most fun (from a distance) were small, purple rubber or plastic "bounce & pounce" discs from an unknown vendor. We saw a somewhat burned-out representative (late Friday) in one of the displays completely entranced and rejuvenated while playing with these.

Award for the most unusual giveaway has to go to the Canadian company that gave away full-size hockey sticks with their logo to Canadians visiting COMDEX.

Reagan



The Industry at a Turning Point

Continued from page 3

March 1988, when the product is scheduled for shipping. New features will include page preview, as well as the incorporation of graphics that can be moved and resized. Lotus previewed an interesting new product called Agenda, which is a text oriented information package that allows you to organize data in a non-structured format.

Quartz, a high performance relational data base with programability, promises to be a strong contender for dBase, because of it's graphical interface, and the ability to create OS/2 applications today. As a side note, Ashton Tate was again absent from Comdex. With over 100,000 attendees, it seems to me that all of the big players should be there.

The Microsoft booth monopolized a tremendous amount of my time. Product demonstrations included Word 4.0, which, in my opinion, is the most enhanced upgrade yet, PC-Excel, which many analyst speculate, will bring serious competition to Lotus as being the market leader for spreadsheets, Works for the PC, which is an all in one package, that includes word processing, file management, spreadsheet, and communication modules that are tightly integrated together, and Windows/386 which delivers today, some of the key features that OS/2 promises in the future. Also demonstrated was Microsoft's new ergonomic mouse, Quick Basic 4.0, the Mach 20, which will allow a PC or PC/XT to run OS/2, and a new product called Pageview,

which is a \$50 enhancement program that allows page preview and the ability to incorporate graphics in Word documents.

New laptops were seen by all of the big players including Zenith, Toshiba, NEC, and Sharp. A surprising \$799 laptop was shown by Amstrad. Many expansion boards for the new IBM PS/2 line were previewed, although the new boards that I saw were essentially the same old boards with connectors for the new bus. Byte showed off BLX, it's international electronic messaging system, that entertains conferences with the leading hardware and software figures. Intel showed it's new Inboard 386/PC, which converts a PC or PC/XT into a high performance '386 system for \$995.

The award for creativity goes to Microstuf, the makers of Crosstalk XVI, as well as the new Crosstalk MK4. In a theater setting, popcorn and coke included, in a room just off the main floor of the convention center, was a scene of a murder (a fictitious one of course), and you were given the opportunity to solve the crime. A character with the dress and accent of Sherlock Holmes, gave you the clues to solve the crime, with a few Crosstalk plugs thrown in, and at the end you were asked to choose the criminal. For those that solved the crime correctly, they were put in a drawing for a portable cellular telephone. This was the most enjoyable break from the 5 miles of exhibits. As usual, the parties were fabulous, with the exception of the Lotus party, which I was told was a private party, and I was not approved to attend. In my opinion, this is characteristic of Lotus Development's attitude, and one of the many reasons that you will find PC-Excel on my desk. ▶

A last day surprise was a small booth outside the main floor, occupied by Datran. This California based company displayed two products. One was a \$99 communication program with the claim of making your modem run four times faster, and a \$295 board, called Disk Doubler, which does exactly that; doubles the capacity of any hard disk. These are both truly innovative products. Unfortunately, that innovative spirit was not seen everywhere at Comdex. The new breed of products that have been promised to take advantage of the power of the new machines, and allow you to do that which was not possible before, has still not been seen. Maybe Comdex '88. I guess we will have to wait and see.

With exhibitors literally lined in the hallways outside the main convention center, and industry analyst concerned that the show may outgrow Las Vegas, it proves that Comdex Fall is still the number one computer show of the year. Make plans now to attend next year if you want to get a decent hotel room. I'll see you there!

David a

**OPERATE A FAMILY HISTORY
GENEALOGY DATA BASE**

for fun & profit-
sell recorded event files
of your research

Call Virgil Lowrie
(817) 382-9409 after 5

TURBO C AND MICROSOFT C USERS!

Introducing... C WINDOWS TOOLKIT

The ultimate Turbo C user's toolkit to develop fast, fast windows, menus, and help screens in your programs for monochrome, Hercules, CGA and EGA cards.

C Windows Toolkit contains 72 functions

- Generate pop-up windows and instantly recall them
- Create pull-down menus
- Create spreadsheet style menus
- Create context-sensitive help screens
- Use all 16 CGA colors for foreground & background
- Obtain fast, snow-free output on the CGA
- Handle keyboard input

EGA support

- Use all 64 colors with instant palette changes
- Use 43 line mode
- Use two fonts simultaneously
- Design your own custom fonts with FONTEDIT — the EGA font editor included with C Windows Toolkit.

Hercules support

- Detect the presence of a Hercules Card
- Switch between modes
- Detect Ramfont support
- Load a Ramfont

System support to make your applications reliable

- Detect how many video adaptors are present
- Detect the types of video adaptor installed
- Switch between video adaptors
- Detect ANSI.SYS
- Control the size and position of the cursor
- Detect the Enhanced Keyboard
- Disable the video signal

A complete beginner's tutorial on IBM video — lots of example source code.

**FULL SOURCE CODE INCLUDED — NO RUN-TIME ROYALTIES
30-DAY MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE**

Requires: IBM PC, XT or AT that will run Borland's TURBO C or Microsoft C 4.0/5.0/Quick C.

From: Magna Carta Software
P.O. Box 475594
Garland, Tx. 75047-5594
(214) 226-6909

Regular Price **\$99⁹⁵** + \$8.00 Sales Tax



Special to NTPCUG members **\$49⁹⁵** + \$4.00 Sales Tax
(limited time only).



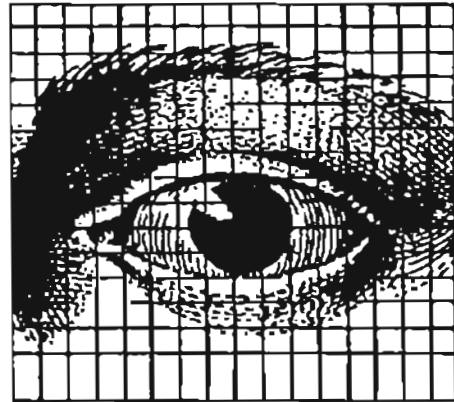
High Tech Christmas Gift Ideas!

ALR 386/2 Computers

- 16 or 20-MHz clock speeds
- Drive capacities from 40 to 760 Meg
- Mono, EGA, or VGA video options
- Phoenix Compatibility



Prices starting at 1990.00



DATAcopy
The Eye of the Computer™

700 & 800 Series Flatbed Scanners

- Graphics capture for Desktop Pub.
- Optional MicroFax card (Group 3)
- Superior OCR capabilities
- New lower prices!



Robotics

Courier 9600 HST Modems

- Up to 17,400 bps on regular lines
- Now includes MNP level 5
- 100% AT-command set compatible
- Fast, low-cost, accurate!

Now only 779.00

Hummel & Associates, Inc.

Advanced Electronic Products

12700 Park Central Drive #303 - Dallas, TX 75251

(214) 490-8048 (voice) (214) 490-8107 (data)

A tutorial essay on the subject of boolean expressions.

BOOLEAN

Copyright © Theodore L. Palmer 1987, All Rights Reserved

What follows is a tutorial essay on the subject of boolean expressions as they appear in IF statements of a computer program. It is a semiacademic statement of some very practical knowledge that was acquired in the process of writing a collection of computer programs that provided a computer based, on line, real time, information management operational support system.

All variables are represented by a single alphabetic character each of which can assume one of two possible values. The values are

(FALSE same as zero) or (TRUE same as one)

A variable is associated with one or more other variables by one and only one of the two logical operators OR and AND. These should not be confused with the relational operators less, equal, or greater some times represented by the single character tokens <, =, >. An expression is a collection of variables associated by logical operators. The only other logical operator is NOT. It does not associate variables or expressions with each other but has the effect of complementing (reversing) the value of a variable or an expression. Expressions (Boolean expressions) evaluate to FALSE or TRUE according to the rules of precedence for logical operators and the value of the variables at the time that the expression is being evaluated on less parentheses are used to group variables and override the rules of precedence. The rules of precedence for logical operators are

highest precedence is NOT
intermediate precedence is AND (single character token '*')
lowest precedence is OR (single character token '+').

When expressions are evaluated, NOT is considered before AND which is considered before OR unless parentheses are present.

The equal sign '=' in the following statements of DeMorgan's Theorem is used to indicate the condition of logical equivalence. Not as a relational operator.

DeMorgan's Theorem

1st theorem: NOT (A AND B) = NOT A OR NOT B

same as
NOT (A * B) = NOT A + NOT B

2nd theorem: NOT (A OR B) = NOT A AND NOT B

same as
NOT (A + B) = NOT A * NOT B

Restating the theorems using lower case characters for the variable names only might make it easier to grasp the relationship expressed.

1st theorem: NOT (a AND b) = NOT a OR NOT b

same as
NOT (a * b) = NOT a + NOT b

2nd theorem: NOT (a OR b) = NOT a AND NOT b

same as
NOT (a + b) = NOT a * NOT b

Relational operators are used to test for the condition of FALSE or TRUE as exists between two nonboolean expressions at the time of evaluation. The two expressions being tested should be of the same data type; i.e., character to character, numeric to numeric. Since two nonboolean expressions associated by a relational operator evaluate to the boolean condition of FALSE or TRUE, the entire expression thus created can be substituted for a boolean variable. For example, let x and y be two numeric variables and the combination of these two characters ':' and '=' be the assignment operator that can cause specific values to be assigned to variables x and y. Then if the following sequence of events occur (note: read ':' as 'becomes')

1st event x = 1
2nd event y = 2, then

boolean expression x = y will evaluate to FALSE. Now if

3rd event x := 2 occurs, then

boolean expression x = y will evaluate to TRUE.

The expression (x = y) is boolean because it evaluates to one of two possible values FALSE or TRUE. Variables x and y are nonboolean variables because they can assume more than just two values. An expression can be as small as one single variable. Variable names can be more than a single character and are easier to deal with if they are mnemonic.

Programmatic statements of conditional execution such as IF can make use of the above described scheme for expression of logical TRUE or FALSE to cause a device to automate the evaluation process of data objects that can be expressed within the limits of this scheme. For example:

```
IF <boolean expression >, then
    PERFORM process H
ELSE
    PERFORM process M.
```

When this IF statement is executed as part of a sequence of programmatic statements, the boolean expression is evaluated. If found to be TRUE, process H is performed. If found to be FALSE, process M is performed.

The following extensions of DeMorgan's Theorem are stated for the sake of convenience.

NOT (NOT a * b) = a + NOT b

NOT (a * NOT b) = NOT a + b

NOT (NOT a + b) = a * NOT b

NOT (a + NOT b) = NOT a * b

All the statements of DeMorgan's Theorem, including extensions, can be proven true by assigning all possible combinations of values for the variables in the above

statements of equivalence. Then evaluate the left and right side of each statement. If a statement is true, then the left and right side of the statement will evaluate to the same boolean value (both left and right sides evaluate to the same FALSE or TRUE) for all combinations of values assigned its variables.

The proof is made easier if all possible combinations of values of the variables are declared in the form of a table sometimes called a truth table.

a	b	a	b
FALSE	FALSE	0	0
FALSE	TRUE	0	1
TRUE	FALSE	1	0
TRUE	TRUE	1	1

1st case NOT (a * b) = NOT a + NOT b
 NOT (0 * 0) = NOT 0 + NOT 0
 NOT (0) = 1 + 1
 1 = 1

2nd case NOT (a * b) = NOT a + NOT b
 NOT (0 * 1) = NOT 0 + NOT 1
 NOT (0) = 1 + 0
 1 = 1

3rd case NOT (a * b) = NOT a + NOT b
 NOT (1 * 0) = NOT 1 + NOT 0
 NOT (0) = 0 + 1
 1 = 1

4th case NOT (a * b) = NOT a + NOT b
 NOT (1 * 1) = NOT 1 + NOT 1
 NOT (1) = 0 + 0
 0 = 0

QUERYGEN

I know that COBOL is a language that most PC users have no need to be familiar with, but it is the only computer programming language that I know of that is said to be self documenting. I guess some people say that because COBOL is so wordy. It is my hope that the simplicity of the algorithm presented will shine through all the text. If it looks complicated at first, it is only because the characters are so densely packed in the source code. That is because the comments that explain the program appear next to their referent in the source code.

All programming languages that provide I/O on external files must provide the applications programmer with the same features that are present in this program. A means of setting the current record pointer to the first record in the file; a way to read the next logical record; a way for the Operating System's (OS's) file management component to signal to the application program that the end of the file has been reached. Therefore it should be easy to use this program as a guide line to write a functionally equivalent program in any other language that supports external files.

A few pointers

If the language that you are using doesn't support data type boolean as does COBOL with the 88 level in the variable declaration, than use a simple boolean expression as a substitute; i.e.,

```
declare EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE as a character variable
EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE := "F"
start and priming read of file
WHILE EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE = "F"
DO MAINLINE.
```

The first read of the file is the priming read to be sure that it is not vacuous (there is something there--it has records in it).

Elementary Database Knowledge

See future article that will be copyrighted because I swear I'm gonna write a book some day.

Ted Palmer

(A listing for QUERYGEN begins on the next page.) ➤

\$49

**CUT LASER
PRINTING COSTS
IN HALF**



**Advanced Process Brings You The
Long-Life Recharged Cartridge**

- 100% guarantee
- 30% longer lasting
- FREE pick-up & delivery

LRS
Lazer Recharge Service

(214) 437-4837



```
00100* General Purpose Report Generator. Modify as needed. It's easy!
000200 IDENTIFICATION DIVISION.
000300 PROGRAM-ID.
000400     QUERYGEN. % Be sure to change this PROGRAM-ID (using the
000500*     Wang text EDITOR) so that it corresponds to
000600*     the name of the file you copy this to.
000700
000800* This is a general purpose COBOL program that can easily be
000900* modified to generate reports on a database. Reports on a
001000* database are based on a selection criteria. The selection
001100* criteria is implemented by composing a boolean expression
001200* that evaluates the attribute/value pairs for each field of
001300* a database record. If the boolean expression evaluates to
001400* TRUE, fields from the record are included in the output
001500* report. This program is so elementary that the output report
001600* is totally unformatted. It is a file of consecutive records with
001700* one output record per line. If the number of characters in the
001800* output record is kept to less than 71, the Wang text EDITOR can
001900* be used to enter comments directly into the output file. (Use
002000* language = PROCEDURE.)
002100
002200* Either the EDITOR or the DISPLAY utilities can be used to make
002300* a printed copy of all or just some of the lines of
002400* the output file. The data appearing in the printed output won't
002500* have column titles to inform the end users of the report what
002600* data items are in that column, but an experienced end user is
002700* assumed able to recognize the data for what it is by its values.
002800
002900* This is a crude tool that can be used to produce ad hoc reports
003000* as needed or it can be used as a starting point to build a much
003100* more sophisticated report program. The EZPRINT user aid could be
003200* used to design much more informative reports and the COBOL
003300* source code generated by it can be external copied into a file
003400* created by using the "cut and paste" or "cloning" method to
003500* combine this file with the results of EZPRINT into a third file
003600* that is the actual report program.
003700
003800* This program can be used as an outline or starting point to
003900* get ad hoc reports or create programs that can be run in back-
004000* ground by those who know enough about COBOL to use it. It can be
004100* faster and easier than using the Wang File Management Utilities
004200* like CONTROL, DATENTRY, INQUIRY, and REPORT.
004300
004400* Just create a new COBOL source code file by copying this file to
004500* another file (You assign the filename/library/volume.); External
004600* copy a FD/RD (File Description/Record Description) from another
004700* source code file that is correct for the database file to be
004800* reported on as the INPUT-FILE; Compose the OUTPUT-FILE FD/RD for
004900* fields that are to be included in the output report; Compose a
005000* well formed formula for a boolean expression in the IF statement
005100* that is the selection criteria; Compose a series (a linear
005200* process--no IF statements) of MOVE statements that move copies
005300* of each data value for each field that is to be included in the
005400* output from the INPUT FD/RD to the OUTPUT FD/RD;
005500* (Don't forget to WRITE the OUTPUT record!)
005600* Compile it; RUN it; and look at your report.
```

Listing for QUERYGEN.

```

005700
005800 AUTHOR.
005900     TED PALMER.  % (Theodore L. Palmer, Fort Worth, Texas USA)
006000 DATE-WRITTEN.
006100     09/17/87.
006200
006300 ENVIRONMENT DIVISION.
006400 INPUT-OUTPUT SECTION.
006500 FILE-CONTROL.
006600     SELECT INPUT-FILE ASSIGN TO "DATABASE", NODISPLAY
006700         ORGANIZATION IS INDEXED,
006800         RECORD KEY IS REC-KEY,
006900         ACCESS IS DYNAMIC.
007000     SELECT OUTPUT-REPORT-FILE ASSIGN TO "OUTRPORT", NODISPLAY
007100         ORGANIZATION IS SEQUENTIAL
007200         ACCESS IS SEQUENTIAL.
007300
007400 DATA DIVISION.
007500 FILE SECTION.
007600
007700 FD  INPUT-FILE
007800     VALUE OF FILENAME IS DATABASE-FIL
007900         LIBRARY IS DATABASE-LIB
008000         VOLUME IS DATABASE-VOL
008100     LABEL RECORDS ARE STANDARD.
008200 01  INPUT-RECORD.
008300     10  REC-KEY.  % Uniquely identifies a particular data object.
008400         15  REC-KEY-FIELD-1 PIC X(##). % Example field names.
008500         15  REC-KEY-FIELD-2 PIC X(##). % You make up your own.
008600         15  REC-KEY-FIELD-3 PIC X(##). % Field names are also
008700         15  REC-KEY-FIELD-N PIC X(##). % called variables.
008800     10  ATTRIBUTE-1      PIC X(##). % data-names, identifiers,
008900     10  ATTRIBUTE-2      PIC X(##). % attribute/value pairs.
009000     10  ATTRIBUTE-N      PIC X(##). % They describe the record
009100     10  ATTRIBUTE-N+1    PIC X(##). % Like adjectives
009200*                                     in natural language.
009300 FD  OUTPUT-REPORT-FILE
009400     RECORD CONTAINS      80 COMPRESSED CHARACTERS
009500*         ^- <--- Change this value if needed.
009600     VALUE OF FILENAME IS OUTPUT-FIL
009700         LIBRARY IS OUTPUT-LIB
009800         VOLUME IS OUTPUT-VOL
009900         SPACE IS OUTPUT-SIZ
010000     LABEL RECORDS ARE STANDARD.
010100 01  OUTPUT-RECORD.
010200     05  DATA-AREA      PIC X(71). % Can be > 71 if necessary up to
010300*                                     maximum length for a
010400*                                     consecutive file---2040 bytes.
010500*     05  RPT-REC-KEY-FIELD-1 PIC X(##). % Example field names.
010600     05  FILLER          PIC X(01). % [Field separator.]
010700*     05  RPT-REC-KEY-FIELD-3 PIC X(##). % You make up your own.
010800     05  FILLER          PIC X(01). % [Field separator.]
010900*     05  RPT-ATTRIBUTE-2    PIC X(##). % Also called variables,
011000     05  FILLER          PIC X(01). % [Field separator.]
011100*     05  RPT-ATTRIBUTE-N    PIC X(##). % data-names, identifiers,
011200     05  FILLER          PIC X(01). % [Field separator.]
011300*     05  RPT-ATTRIBUTE-N+1  PIC X(##). % attribute/value pairs.
011400     05  FILLER          PIC X(01). % [Field separator.]
011500     05  LINE-NUMBER      PIC X(09). % For Wang text EDITOR if needed

```

Listing for QUERYGEN. (continued)


```

011600/
011700 WORKING-STORAGE SECTION.
011800
011900*****
012000*
012100*      *****      External Files      *****      *
012200*
012300*****
012400
012500 77  OUTPUT-FIL          PIC X(08) VALUE "USEFUL-I".
012600 77  OUTPUT-LIB          PIC X(08) VALUE "NFORMATI".
012700 77  OUTPUT-VOL          PIC X(06) VALUE "ON-PRO".
012800 77  OUTPUT-SIZ          PIC 9(##) VALUE <approx # of recs.>
012900
013000 77  DATABASE-FIL        PIC X(08) VALUE "M-A-SEA-".
013100 77  DATABASE-LIB        PIC X(08) VALUE "-OF-DATA".
013200 77  DATABASE-VOL        PIC X(06) VALUE "VOLUME".
013300
013400* EOF = End Of File & SW = Switch [OFF or ON = False or True]
013500 77  EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE-SW PIC X VALUE "F".
013600 88  EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE    VALUE "T".
013700/
013800 PROCEDURE DIVISION.
013900 START-PROGRAM.
014000     OPEN  SHARED INPUT-FILE.
014100     OPEN  OUTPUT OUTPUT-REPORT-FILE.
014200     MOVE  LOW-VALUES TO REC-KEY.
014300     START INPUT-FILE KEY NOT LESS THAN REC-KEY
014400     INVALID KEY
014500         MOVE "T" TO EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE-SW.
014600     READ INPUT-FILE NEXT RECORD
014700         AT END
014800         MOVE "T" TO EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE-SW.
014900     PERFORM MAINLINE
015000         UNTIL EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE.
015100 STOP-PROGRAM.
015200     CLOSE INPUT-FILE, OUTPUT-REPORT-FILE.
015300     STOP RUN.
015400
015500 MAINLINE.
015600     MOVE  SPACES      TO OUTPUT-RECORD.
015700     IF <boolean expression>
015800* Example boolean expression that will evaluate to FALSE or TRUE.
015900*     IF REC-KEY-FIELD-2 = "Smith" % a common last name
016000*     [series of MOVE statements]--for example
016100     MOVE REC-KEY-FIELD-1 TO RPT-REC-KEY-FIELD-1 % Don't put
016200     MOVE REC-KEY-FIELD-3 TO RPT-REC-KEY-FIELD-3 % any periods
016300     MOVE ATTRIBUTE-2     TO RPT-ATTRIBUTE-2 % '.' here in
016400     MOVE ATTRIBUTE-N     TO RPT-ATTRIBUTE-N % middle of IF
016500* Move as many fields from the INPUT FD/RD to the OUTPUT FD/RD as
016600* you want in your report limited by the maximum size record
016700* allowed by the COBOL compiler.
016800     WRITE OUTPUT-RECORD.
016900     READ INPUT-FILE NEXT RECORD
017000     AT END
017100     MOVE "T" TO EOF-ON-INPUT-FILE-SW.

```

Listing for QUERYGEN. (continued)

January is Election Month.

Election of officers for the coming year will take place at the January meeting. Come prepared to vote. If you can't come to the meeting you can still vote -mail your ballot to the User Group Post Office Box- the ballot will be printed in the January newsletter. Nominees selected by the nominating committee are presented below. Other nominations will be accepted at the December meeting - just be sure your nominee has agreed to serve.

Nominee for President-Elect:



Jim Hoisington

Jim is the immediate Past President of the North Texas PC Users group. He also was treasurer of the Computer Council of Dallas for the past year. Jim has a MBA degree from Lamar University in Beaumont, Texas.

He is a consultant working with IBM mainframes and PC local area networks. Jim and Reagan Andrews teach the DOS SIG on Saturday mornings.

Nominees for At-Large Directors:



Dick Barr, Ph.D.

Dick Barr is a former Director of the NTPCUG and has been a member of the Group since its founding at SMU. Dr. Barr is a Professor of Operations Research at Southern Methodist University and is currently involved in research in parallel processing applications.

Dick has chaired the Business Applications SIG, contributed to NTPCUG Newsletter columns on "C" Language and has been a featured speaker on Linear Programming at NTPCUG main sessions.



Joe Brophy

Joe Brophy is the Treasurer of the NTPCUG, and has shepherded the Group through our application for non-profit status with the IRS. Joe has also been responsible for institution of an integrated accounting procedure for the Group, leading to enhanced fund controls over the past two years.

He is a native of Dallas and is a former faculty member of University of Texas at Arlington. Joe currently practices as a CPA and financial consultant, and teaches Continuing Education classes in Lotus 1-2-3 and Computer Literacy at Richland.

Nominees for At-Large Directors:



Phil Chamberlain

Phil is retired after managing the Eastman Kodak plant in Dallas, and 40 years with the company. For a number of years he taught color photography to Kodak employees and to the motion picture industry in Hollywood and New York. A native Iowan, he received a degree in Chemical Engineering from Iowa State University.

Phil has been involved with computers since 1962, and was one of the original members of North Texas PC Users Group. He has led several of the SIGs, including Turbo Pascal and Beginners. Currently he is the SIG Coordinator, and also our representative on the Board of the Computer Council of Dallas. His biggest interest is in helping the newcomers learn to use their computers productively.



Kathryn Crawford

Kathryn Crawford is currently both a Director on the NTPCUG Board of Directors and Disk of the Month Chairperson since early in the year. Kathryn has been a member of NTPCUG since the Group met at Jesuit High School.

She has been employed as a Librarian in academic institutions for her professional career and is on the staff at the University of Texas at Dallas where she has been active in development of microcomputer applications and software selection, both locally and with national professional organizations.



Sid Nolte, Ph.D.

Dr. Sid Nolte is currently "C" Language SIG leader and has been with the NTPCUG since 1983. A mathematician with degrees in Mathematics from the University of Iowa and Iowa State University, Sid was a Senior Member of the Technical Staff at Texas Instruments until his retirement in 1986.

Currently, Dr. Nolte is a Senior Scientist at SAIC and is an avid personal computer hobbyist. His background includes development of mainframe operating systems, numerical analysis and calculator software among others.



Pete Testa

Pete Testa has been with the NTPCUG since 1983 and is a Senior Field Engineer with Sorbus, a Bell-Atlantic subsidiary company. Most active recently in the NTPCUG BBS and the Comm SIG, Pete's major interests are in microcomputers, LANs and communications.

A native of Brooklyn, NY, Pete spent 10 years in the Air Force in electronics and technical maintenance prior to entering the computer service and engineering fields. He and his wife, Connie Testa, NTPCUG Statistician, are currently residents of Garland, Texas.



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

The NTPCUG is a non-profit, independent organization of individuals learning to apply personal computers to practical problems. For additional information about the Group, call (214)746-4699.

Application Status: (Check One)
>>> NEW MEMBER
>>> RENEWAL
>>> CHANGE OF ADDRESS

NAME: (Last) (First) (MI)

OR Company/Organization:

ADDRESS: (Suite/Apt)

CITY: STATE: ZIP:

PHONE: Home () Work () (Ext) (Check Preferred #.)

Do you want access to the Club RBBS? YES [] NO []

Please initial here if you wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the club's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

The NTPCUG expects and encourages volunteer participation by members in helping put on the monthly meetings at the INFOMART. This usually consists of a few hours of your time each year. If asked, would you consider assisting the Group with one or more of the following activities:

(Please check all that apply.)

[A] Working with NTPCUG Volunteer Committees? (Circle selections)

- [IB] Information/Registration [MM] Membership [GP] Group Purchase
[NL] Newsletter [ES] Equipment Setup [FB] Financial/Bookkeeping
[DM] Disk of the Month (DOM) [PR] Publicity/Public Relations [ST] Startext NTPCUG Column

[B] Giving a talk or demonstration to a small group?

[C] Giving a talk or demonstration to a large group?

[D] Being a volunteer, informal "consultant" in your area of expertise for NTPCUG members?

Would you be interested if the Group arranges instructional courses (at various levels) in any of the following areas at a cost per student of approximately \$5/classroom hour?

(Please circle or specify, indicating level preferred, i.e., beginning, intermediate, advanced)

- [A] Spreadsheet software -- Lotus 1-2-3, Supercalc4, etc. (Please specify)
[B] Data Base software -- dBase, RBase, Reflex, etc. (Please specify)
[C] Word Processing software -- Word Perfect, Wordstar, etc. (Please specify)
[D] Integrated software -- Framework, Symphony, etc. (Please specify)
[E] Programming Languages -- APL, Assembly, BASIC, "C", Fortran, Forth, Pascal, (other)

Do not write in this area -- for use by NTPCUG.

Annual Dues are: \$24.00 (Regular Membership) \$12.00 (Student Membership with ID)

Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
(Make checks payable to NTPCUG.) P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Received: \$ Check No. Date: / / by:



DISK OF THE MONTH

by Kathryn A. Crawford

DOM Disk 0213: PC Labs Benchmark Tests Series 4.02 (1987)

December's DISK-OF-THE-MONTH is the set of benchmark tests developed by PC Magazine. The disk was contributed by Mark Gruner, who downloaded the tests from the PC Magazine Interactive Reader Service Bulletin Board and prepared the readme file for the DOM disk.

PC Magazine, the renowned personal computer publication, developed the benchmark tests as an aid for writing reviews of computer hardware. The equipment is run through a series of standardized tests and the results are part of the magazine's review. Since the tests are standardized, this provides an objective method for comparing the performance of different brands of equipment. Having developed these tests, PC Magazine has released them to the public domain for non-commercial uses.

You can use these tests on your equipment to check the level of performance and compare your hardware with what is currently on the market. You can also use these tests as part of your evaluation of new equipment, an objective test of the performance to help you make a more informed decision about what to buy.

There is a menu on the startup screen that lists the tests. The Benchmark Test can be run from this menu. The tests are divided into five categories:

1. Processor/Memory Tests:
 - Processor Speed Tests
 - Instruction Mix Speed Tests
 - Floating Point and Co-processor
 - Expanded/Extended Memory Tests
 - Basic Interpreter Program Tests
2. Disk Drive Tests:
 - Disk File Access Test
 - Disk Sector Random Access Test
 - Hard Disk Track Seek Test
3. Printer Tests:
 - High Order Character Test
 - Control Character Setup Test
 - Quality Print Test
 - Printer Speed Test
4. Display Tests:
 - CGA Monitor Test
 - EGA Compatible Monitor Test
 - Graphic Display Test
 - Video Display Time Test
5. Timer Test

A record of the tests results can be printed using the file BENCH4.DOC. Another file, STATUS.COM, is the PC Magazine System Checkout Utility that outlines the equipment in your computer system.

Additional DOM Disks for December

As always, there will be a number of new disks for December. The number of disks will depend on the reviewers getting the readme files to Dr. Hamilton, our Production Manager.

After The Fire Sale; The WORN Sale

The DOM will have a number of WORN disks for sale at the December meeting. WORN stands for Write Once Read Never. These are the disks left over from the Fire Sale and other overstock disks that we need to move from the stock. The WORN disks are priced at \$3.00 for 10 disks.

(This does not mean the diskettes are worn out! Ed.)

The Catalog Disk

The DOM Catalog is now on one disk. The Catalog disk contains the readme files for the DOM disk, the Index, and other DOM information. Dr. Hamilton has managed to get everything on one disk by arcing the readme files, so what used to be a two disk set is now one disk.

Updating the Catalog Disk

You can get the latest version of the DOM Catalog Disk by returning the old Catalog Disk and paying a replacement fee of fifty cents.

Mail Orders

The DOM Mail Order has been reorganized, and has a new address:

NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP
DOM Mail Order
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

If you have any problems with current or past mail orders, please contact the DOM Chair, Kathryn Crawford. The best way to do this is through the club bulletin board. ▶

MAIL ORDER SALES ARE BACK!

Send your disk orders to:

North Texas PC Users Group
DOM Mail Order
P.O. Box 78066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

DOM Particulars

The North Texas PC Users Group copies these programs as a service to the club and its members. 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 yours. We will gladly and without question exchange an unreadable disk 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 disk of software contributed, you may select any disk in the club library in exchange. The contributions will be reviewed before credit is issued at the next meeting.

MAIL ORDERS: At prevailing prices plus \$1.00 for mailer and postage. Mail your orders to: NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, DOM Mail Order, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066.

PRICE: Members: \$2.00 per disk (if the program is on two disks the price is \$4.00). Non-members: \$3.00 each disk

CATALOG DISKS: Currently the catalog is on one disk and costs \$2.00. The catalog disk has all of the readme files from each disk in the collection.

MEDIA: DSDD 5 1/4" Formatted as 9 sector data disks. Public domain software only, standard full disclaimers

AVAILABILITY: Disks sold out or not available at the monthly meeting can be obtained through the DOM Mail Order.

DOM VOLUNTEERS: If you would like to work the DOM Counter for an hour during the monthly meeting, contact Dwight Neal (214)985-7929 (home)

SWAP PC SHOP

Four lines free each month to members; 5th through 10th lines at 15 cents per word. Larger ads at commercial space rates. Send check to the Editor for words exceeding the four-line limit. Free ads are on a space-available basis. Mail ads to the Editor.

PROPRINTER II \$369.00 including freight. - The Typewriter Shop, 82 W. Union Street, Athens, OH 45701. (614)592-2968

CHRISTMAS BARGAIN - Samsung monochrome monitor, a great Christmas gift for the children. Don Marquis, 528-1201. 4384 San Carlos, Dallas, TX 75205

FOR SALE: NEC Multisync Monitor and AST EGA card \$495. Hayes 1200B Internal Smartmodem \$150. Mouse \$35. Print Muffler \$25 AST Sixpak Plus with 384K \$150. Mannesman Tally Dot Matrix Printer \$125. Call C.S.A. 380-8172.

Hercules Color Card, IBM Color Card, IBM Mono Card with Parallel Printer Port. Frank Wolk 234-3600.

SUPERKLONE FACTORY PRICES

TURBO XT COMPLETE.....\$479

AT 286 COMPLETE SYSTEM + 20M HD.....\$1300

**ADD-ON MAIN BOARD WAREHOUSE
DEALER INQUIRIES WELCOME**

Application Software	\$200	
Video rental System (Customers, Tape purchases/sales records, past due surcharge, member discount, daily/monthly reports, mailing labels, 1 track reservations, multi-label password, flexible rental rates, automatic sales tax calculation.)		
Barcode (package)	CALL	
Restaurant Management System	CALL	

MULTIX, INC.

"YOU CAN COUNT ON MULTIX"
(214) 239-4989

Hours:
Mon. - Fri. 9-7
Sat 10-7

4203 BELTWAY, #8
DALLAS, TX 75234
25-72

Selected SIG Happenings

News and Meeting Notes on Special Interest Groups

Personal Users (Beginners)

This reorganized SIG has begun to settle down, with four one-hour sessions for each meeting, and an agenda that will repeat on a 4-month cycle. In future issues of the Newsletter, we expect to list the main topic for each of the four meetings for that month. In the meantime, you can expect that we will continue to cover the fundamentals of PC operations at a level that the newcomer can understand!

We hope to be able to schedule each of the four hours into the same room at the InfoMart. As you know, this is not always possible.

Bob Presley

Communications

Due to unforeseen difficulties our scheduled Qmodem Overview presentation did not occur at the November 14 gathering of the NTPCUG Communications SIG. None-the-less, thanks to our terrific membership the SIG meeting was a productive event.

Our RBBS Sysop, Tom Prickett was on hand and gave us a great impromptu pre-release description of the now-in-test/soon-to-be implemented Chairman Ver. 2.1 bulletin board software. Tom showed us the new menus and explained briefly how they work. He also pointed out a few of the enhanced features of Chairman 2.1. Thanks, Tom.

Of the several user questions which were discussed, connecting and controlling an IBM modem purchased at a "First Saturday Sale" conjured up several potential solutions for the user.

Another user question which sparked an interesting conversation was the case where a company

sends the same data files to an office in another city every day. The user wanted to find a way to make the process faster and less tedious. Several members contributed to this one, pointing out that since the updated files transferred every day have the same filenames, arc them into one large .ARC file. Then transferring them would not only speed up the process, but also reduce connect-time. The possibility of automating this entire process with macro or script files was also discussed.

Thanks to all for a great Comm Sig. See you in December.

Pete Testa

DOS

The November DOS SIG meeting was primarily devoted to reports by Jim Hoisington, President, and Reagan Andrews, President-Elect, on a recent meeting with Microsoft executives (Hoisington) and COMDEX (Andrews.)

Jim Hoisington and Neil Bennett were NTPCUG representatives to a meeting held by Microsoft, publishers of DOS, for user groups to discuss DOS's and languages. Microsoft's meeting was marked by discussions of future versions of DOS and other Microsoft products with opportunities for participants to communicate complaints, bug reports, and suggestions for enhanced DOS operations in the future.

COMDEX was discussed by Reagan Andrews in terms of probable future trends in hardware and software for PC's. Some discussion of hard-disk trends, CPU trends and software on display by exhibitors was followed by Hoisington and Andrews describing both events in terms of implications for current PC's, DOS and software.

Reagan Andrews

LOTUS

In the November meeting, worksheet Global settings were discussed as a way to streamline creating and editing a worksheet. We were also able to answer several questions that users had about 1-2-3 and Symphony.

The topic for the December meeting will be a review of two add-in application from LOTUS - Speedup, and Learn. Both of these applications are available on Compuserve's World of Lotus. These applications were written by LOTUS. Speedup will calculate only the cells that need to be changed based on the changes the user has made since the last Calc. Learn is a macro building facility that stores keystrokes as you type them.

Both of these programs will be available through the Disk-of-the-Month table in the near future.

Peyton Weaver & Mark Gruner

Stock Market Investors

This SIG is for the individual investor who uses a personal computer to enhance his ability and skill as a trader. Subjects of interest include the full breath of the market - stocks, bonds, options, mutual funds, commodities and trading systems. Serious software and data bases are finally emerging at affordable costs. This SIG will review these subjects.

The November meeting featured a review of VALUE SCREEN, a data base of the most 1700 active common stocks currently traded. This program permits the user to establish his own criteria then screen for issues meeting that criteria.

The December meeting will feature Donald Broone of E.F. Hutton speaking on options. Mr. Broone is an options specialist who uses OPTION VUE by Star Value Software of Austin, TX.

Cliff Murphy

Talking With ProComm 2.4.2:

Starting From the Ground Up

by Pete Testa

ProComm 2.4.2 is a very powerful communications program available as an North Texas PC Users Group DOM. ProComm has been a favorite with many NTPCUG members and the following is a brief advisory for new users in setting up and configuring ProComm for use from a DOM.

The files that come on the NTPCUG distribution disk are stored in a manner to fit all that's needed on to a single floppy diskette. This storage technique is referred to as "Arcing", or "Arc'd" which stands for "archived" and is a form of data compression.

The ProComm DOM directory listing of the files is as follows:

README	3699	3-11-87	12:19a
PRCMDOCP.ARC	121559	10-07-86	5:59p
PRCMUTIL.ARC	28837	1-11-87	8:55p
PROCOMM.ARC	140478	10-23-86	10:57a
ARCE.COM	4978	4-03-86	2:28p
READ.ME1	3818	3-01-87	5:23p

README is a short introductory description file by the NTPCUG.

ARCE.COM is the copyrighted property of Vernon D. Buerg and Wayne Chin. It is included on this disk through a special arrangement between Datastorm Technologies and System Enhancement Associates. It is intended for use by the bearers of this disk and not for separate distribution. The purpose of ARCE.COM is to extract usable files from the above mentioned files with the ARC extension after them.

READ.ME1 is an instruction file from Datastorm Technologies which tells the user how to "Un-Arc" PRCMDOCP.ARC, PRCMUTIL.ARC and PROCOMM.ARC using ARCE.COM on systems with a single floppy drive, two floppy drives, ramdisks and hard disk systems. This file also lists the filenames and descriptions of the files that should be created when the arc'd files are un-arc'd as follows:

PROCOMM.ARC, which contains...

PROCOMM.EXE	- The ProComm executable file.
PRCM242.NEW	- Changes and additions in version 2.4.2
CMDCNVT.EXE	- A .CMD file converter for previous versions
LICENSE.DOC	- The ProComm license and ordering info

PRCMDOCP.ARC, which contains...

PROCOMM.P.DOC	- ProComm reference manual.
READDOP.ME	- Info regarding the doc

PRCMUTIL.ARC, which contains .

TEF.EXE	- Timed Execution Facility utility program.
README.TEF	- Brief instructions for using TEF
PRCMSORT.EXE	- Dating directory sort utility
SOURCE.CMD	- Sample .CMD file for calling The Source.
COMPUSRV.CMD	- Sample .CMD file for calling CompuServe.
FIDO.CMD	- Sample .CMD file for calling FIDO boards.
RBBS.CMD	- Sample .CMD file for calling RBBS boards.
PCP-MENU.CMD	- Sample menu driven .CMD file for PC Pursuit

ProComm 2.4.2 Program Requirements

ProComm 2.4.2 runs under MS- or PC-DOS on the IBM PCs, XT's, AT's and close compatibles. It will run on monochrome or color monitors with screen characteristics set by the user on configuration.

Hardware requirements for ProComm are about average for a program of its size and capability. The program requires a bare-bones minimum of 192K of RAM memory and at least one floppy disk drive.

Modems that are fully Hayes compatible will be easiest to use with ProComm. An important point to note here is that the modems Carrier Detect (CD) must be set to follow the true state of the carrier, not "forced true" by dip-switch settings, nor should CD be forced to follow DTR (Data Terminal Ready). Also, DTR should not be forced by any means, but should follow its true state. All the above should be explained in the user's modem manual/s.

Getting ProComm Up and Running

Getting ProComm running is not difficult, but it is highly recommended that you print the manual with the filename PROCOMM.P.DOC before starting. The GETTING STARTED section of the manual has all the information one could need to get ProComm 2.4.2 up and running. First of all, the filespec conventions are covered along with parameters which can be used to set sound effects, monochrome operation, command file name to invoke at ProComm start-up, (more on Command Files later), screen display mode, (direct or BIOS calls) and specify color and monochrome monitors if you have both connected to your computer.

ProComm 2.4.2 places the user in Terminal Mode after startup. Most of your communicating will take place in Terminal Mode. When you stop to think about it, this is a logical place to do most of your work with ProComm, since emulating a very smart piece of Data Terminal Equipment is what ProComm gives your PC the ability to do.

Your screen will be initially blank with exception of a status line at the bottom telling you several things about the status of ProComm. First the "ALT-[F10]" says that you can press ALT-[F10] to activate the help screen.

What is currently occurring will replace the ALT-F10 while it is occurring. The rest of the information in the status line is also covered in the manual.

ProComm Setup Options & Terminal Emulations

ProComm has the ability to emulate ten different types of terminals, including IBM 3101, DEC VT-100 and VT-52, which allows your PC to communicate with many different types of host computers. To communicate with most RBBSs the default ANSI-BBS emulation is the one to use.

In addition to the Terminal emulation, if two systems are to communicate with each other the Line Settings must match at both ends of the communications link. Line Settings are specifications which include baud rate, (speed of data stream), number of data and stop bits, (sometimes referred to as word structure), whether parity checking is used or not and if so what type and the duplex setting.

One of the nice features of ProComm is that line settings can be changed while an active session is in progress, i.e. "on-the-fly" if need be. This is useful to prevent "garbage" (actually upper ASCII characters) from being received when logging onto another system, such as a minicomputer system, running seven data bits, two stop bits and even parity. Although most communications systems now incorporate some form of "auto-Bauding" and can adjust to different speed rates, data bit, parity and stop bit mismatches still need to be controlled by the communications software. Specifying the active communications port, (COM1, COM2, etc...) is another capability of the ProComm Line Setting screen.

Setup Functions Enhance Flexibility

A very powerful Setup screen feature in ProComm gives this communications software package a great amount of flexibility. The setup screen gives you the ability to determine how ProComm and your PC speak to your modem with the Modem Setup selection in the setup screen. The Terminal Setup screen starts out with giving you the option of which terminal of the ten ProComm supported terminal emulations you wish to select, followed by the type of duplex, flow control and then definition of keys that control transmission.

It has been my observation that flow control may need to be changed depending upon the way the host is supporting flow control. Keeping this in mind as you hop from RBBS to RBBS could solve problems while downloading large files. The Kermit Setup selection allows for control of a number of Kermit file transfer parameters.

General Setup, Host Mode & ASCII Options

Next in the setup screen is the General Setup. One option of the General Setup of particular value is the Editor Name. This gives you the ability to call an editor of your choice to edit text of messages, etc. while still maintaining an active session.

A "Host Mode" is provided by ProComm to allow callers to connect to a machine running ProComm in Host Mode. This forms the basis for a user-operated "mini-RBBS" for file and message transfer. The Host Mode Setup selection allows you to set up two levels of security, auto baud-detect and even a Host ID string to be displayed on the callers screen when they connect to ProComm in Host Mode.

The ASCII Transfer Setup Menu is used to determine the characteristics of file transfers in the ASCII mode. The last entry in the Setup screen is the choice which allows for saving your changes to disk. This will make the changes permanent until the next time you change and save again.

Dialing Directory, Command Files & File Transfer

Most users will find that a communications program's ability to dial one, or several telephone numbers in sequence, execute log-on sequences and transfer data and program files establishes the program's true utility for them.

One of ProComm's outstanding features is its dialing directory and Command Files use. With the dialing directory you can tell ProComm to remember 100 phone numbers, line settings and even Command Files written to automate logging into remote systems for you. Using the features of the Dialing Directory also allows you to dial numbers manually from the terminal mode.

Command Files are user-created text files that contain ProComm commands to perform automatic logons, perform unattended file transfers and many other tasks. A full section of the ProComm manual cover the Command File Syntax and usage. Sample Command Files are provided on the ProComm distribution disk.

File Transfer is a major reason why we buy modems and communications software. ProComm supports XMODEM, Kermit, Telink, MODEM7, YMODEM, YMODEM Batch, ASCII, COMPUSERVE B, and WXMODEM protocols. The use of these protocols to upload and download files is accomplished through the use of a series of prompts in windows.

Not All "Power Features" Necessary At Once

If this is starting to sound complicated, don't worry about it. It does to most people at first. Although there

are a goodly number of things the user needs to remember to utilize ProComm 2.4.2 to its maximum capabilities, they all aren't needed for start-up operation. You will probably want to use more of the advanced features of ProComm as time goes by. Fear not, for besides the manual, ProComm has a great Help screen which is always available if you forget command keystrokes by simply typing ALT-F10.

In summary, I must say that I think ProComm is an outstanding communications software package. With its

powerful setup features, excellent documentation, and well designed major functions, it is no mystery to me why ProComm rivals packages costing three to four times as much.

Pete ■

(ProComm is not public domain software... you may try it free, but if you use it on a regular basis, you are expected to register with Datastorm Technologies at a cost of \$25 to \$50, depending on whether you want a printed manual with new disk, or just authorization to continue using the disk you have. Ed.)

Filling the Communications Gap...

Microsoft Hosts Seminar On User Group Coordination

Jim Hoisington

On October 23 through October 25, Dr. Neil Bennett and I were guests of Microsoft at their seminar entitled "Focus on Technology." The two goals of the seminar were to give the president and a programmer-type from each of the 15 largest PC user groups a look at Microsoft and it's people. And, it gave Microsoft a feel for the leaders of the user group community. Both goals were achieved.

It was very helpful to meet the people that head up each of the major development groups in Microsoft. A press release about a new product or a new release of a product always leaves me wondering how much is real and how much is hype. Hearing the features explained by the project leaders or team members in their own words, gives you a much better feeling for what the product does and where it is going in its development.

We also got to meet Microsoft's Roger Shanafelt. He is the first person to fill the newly created position of User Group Coordinator. We spent an hour discussing ways in which he could best communicate with our user groups.

At the last moment, we persuaded Microsoft to a hold a session on DOS. It generated a "lively" discussion about

improvements that we would like to see in the next release. The list was a lot longer that they expected after one hour, and had just gotten started.

Finally, the people from the user groups got to meet each other. We found that we all faced many of the same problems and that we were each coming up with different solutions. The information that I gained from the other user group presidents was very helpful in planning for the new year.

We began a plan which will be finalized at COMDEX in Atlanta next spring to create a national confederation of user groups. This confederation will not have paid staff and it will not publish its own newsletter.

The function of the organization will be to provide a national registry of PC user groups. And, it will allow us to exchange information, ideas and newsletter articles. We hope to do this via a Bulletin Board System.

From the user group's point of view, the weekend was a success. I hope that the wonderful people that we met at Microsoft got as much out of our question and answer sessions as we did.

Jim ■

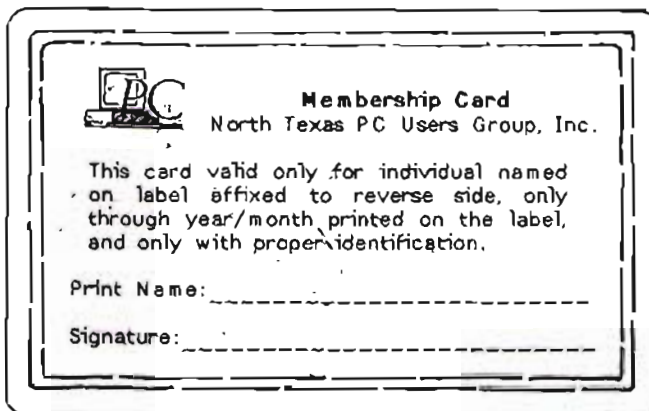
Season's Greetings



MEMBERSHIP CARD

This is your membership card in North Texas PC Users Group. You will need it for identification at Disk of the Month sales, group purchases and other activities. This card is valid only for you, the person named on label on reverse side. It is valid through expiration date shown on the label.

When trimmed, the card will fit the holders previously furnished for Infomart cards which are no longer required. Wear your membership card instead. Additional holders will be available - at a nominal charge.



Trim card to wallet size.

Meetings & Times...



Saturday, 19 December 1987

9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

AUDITORIUM * MICRONYX *

Our morning presentation will be given by Mark Goode, President of Micronyx, Inc. in Richardson. Mark will discuss his company's PC workstation management and security product, TRIAD Plus. This system is currently being used by the US Department of Defense National Computer Security Center and will soon be marketed by Novell under an OEM agreement.

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

AUDITORIUM * BORLAND INTERNATIONAL *

Representatives from Borland will be here to discuss the virtues of their new Lotus killer, Quattro. The software appears to work well and you know it will be priced right.

Special Interest Group Meetings...

Scheduled SIG times could change. Check the Bulletin Board just before the meeting. Check room numbers on the overhead display in the lobby at INFOMART.

9:00 - 9:55

Assembler
DOS
Graphics
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users
Science/Engineering

9:00 - 10:30

Genealogy (w/Apple)

9:30 - 9:55

Orientation

10:00 - 10:55

Astrometry
ENABLE
Personal Users

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

12:00 - 12:55

APL
C Language
Personal Users
Stock Mkt Investing

1:00 - 1:55

Artificial Intelligence
Business Applications
Communications
Data Bases
LOTUS
Personal Users
Turbo Pascal

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
dBase Programmers
DAC Easy Accounting

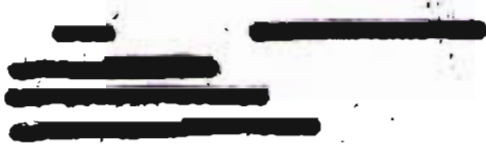
North Texas PC Users Group
P. O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Address Correction Requested.
Postmaster: Send address changes to:

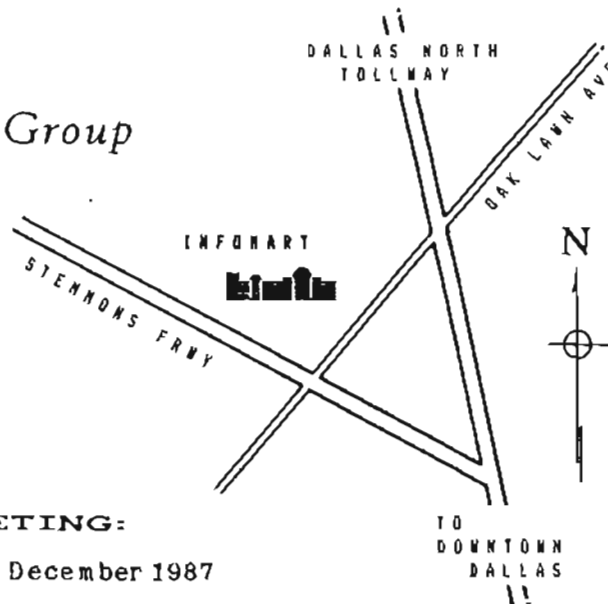


North Texas PC NEWS
2025 Rockcreek Drive
Arlington, Texas 76010

Non Profit Org.
U. S. Postage
Paid
Arlington, TX
Permit No. 823



North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:
19 December 1987