



North Texas PC Users Group

7.1

January 1988



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.

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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 1480.

Member distribution is 1178; 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 P331 dot matrix printer. Typefaces include: Times, Helvetica, Prestige Elite and GTHIC151.

DEADLINE

Copy deadline for February
NT PC NEWS:
Friday, January 15th.

Meeting Dates:

Jan. Meeting - 3rd Sat. (16th)
Feb Meeting - 3rd Sat. (20th)
March Meeting - 3rd Sat.
(tentative)

Editor's Notes...

It's all Santa's fault!

I've got to blame it on someone. Everyone must be busy getting ready for holiday celebrations rather than writing articles for the newsletter. Lets get with it... start the New Year right... break out the word processors... write those articles...

the IN basket is empty again!

Jim Grabam gave a good presentation on Quattro at the December meeting. Quattro is Borland's new contribution to the spreadsheet wars. Looks much easier to use than the big "L" spreadsheet, but is still compatible. Thanks to Borland for the ten copies given away as door prizes.

Please send change of address to the Newsletter Editor or the Membership Chairman when moving. We get some address changes back through the mail system, but unless you notify us in advance, you will surely miss one or two copies.

NOTE: The February meeting has been changed from the second to the THIRD Saturday. Mark your calendar. The meeting date will be the 20th of February.

REALLY GREAT NEWS! The Board of Directors has approved purchase of a computer and laser printer for newsletter preparation. Using Ventura Publisher has reduced preparation time somewhat, and now, with the addition of a fast computer and laser printer, things should speed up even more. I really appreciate that!

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Prez sez...

Entrances, Exits, Revolving Doors...

Usually a new president's first column is bright, optimistic and broadly painted with plans for things to come. I'm going to break with that here — and focus momentarily on the immediate past.

Jim Hoisington is a really tough act to follow. I'm sure that few NTPCUG members are aware of the tremendous effort Jim's put forth in guiding the Club through the transition from a small cluster of individuals with a common interest — the IBM PC — to what has become (as far as we can tell) the fifth-largest PC user group in the US.

In many respects, Jim is a visionary. He orchestrated and nurtured changes that will greatly influence the Club's operation and structure for years to come, and also created an agenda for those of us who follow him to continue and consolidate the growth he shepherded. For the members, this should be like a good operating system — seamless and invisible to the user. For the Club, this assures continued functioning and an operating structure capable of maintaining both integrity and growth.

I agree with Jim's goals for the NTPCUG and the path he directed here. I'm also determined to perpetuate the Club's personality and quality that originally attracted us — and many others — to membership. We felt then, and still do, that this is a community, a place where anyone from beginner to advanced user can share knowledge, obtain assistance using the PC and get answers to the questions dealers can't resolve.

This is my goal for the coming year — to build on the concept of community.

A good users group, like the NTPCUG, is the one forum where real experts can relax, admit they also experience problems and are eager to discuss ways around equipment and software limitations. If they laugh with a beginner's question, it's from shared pain and memories of similar mistakes. We all share and benefit from the exchange.

How far has the NTPCUG come in six years? During Jim's Presidency, the Club grew by roughly 50% to approximately 1300 members. The membership listing published in the February, 1983 Newsletter, contained 111 names. A similar directory, published in May, 1985, listed 478 members. In December, 1984, there were five (5) SIG's scheduled. Compare that with the 22 SIG's listed this month.

NTPCUG's Presidents didn't do that alone. In an organization such as ours, much of the credit belongs to a strong cadre of dedicated volunteers who contribute their time and effort — often with little or no recognition — to make things work well and smoothly. They are the President's team.

If you are enjoying this Newsletter, it's because of the efforts of John Pribyl, Carlisle Phillips, Tom Prickett and Dick Gall... Use the Club's BBS? Then thank Tom Prickett, Pete Testa, Fred Williams, Jim Hoisington and Maggie Moomey.

Are NTPCUG's DOM's valuable to you — thank Kathryn Crawford, Howard Hamilton and the many members who review software and/or volunteer at the DOM booth each month... Are SIG's the most important part of Club meetings for you? You need to thank Phil Chamberlain and all the SIG leaders.

Do you get your Newsletter in spite of address changes? Thank Rob Kolodner... Is the Information Booth an important message center and meeting area for you? Thank Connie Andrews and the many volunteers who work at the booth.

If you enjoy gathering at INFOMART and meeting rooms for SIG's, thank Stuart Yarus... Do you look forward to presentations from manufacturers and software publishers such as IBM, Borland and others? Thank Charles Kroboth.

Finally, we continue to be financially solvent. Joe Brophy, Treasurer, and Jim Hoisington deserve much of the credit here.

Reagan Andrews

January 16

 Charles Kroboth, Program Director

9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

AUDITORIUM

*** ENABLE ***

Enable is an integrated software package including Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Graphics, Database Management, and Telecommunications capabilities. The presentation will be done by Michael Traver, Manager of Application Development, for The Software Group out of Ballston Lake, New York.

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

AUDITORIUM

*** WORDPERFECT ***

John Ogle, Manager of Regional Marketing for WordPerfect Corporation, will be showing us the latest and greatest new features in Version 5.0 of WordPerfect.

Elementary Database Knowledge

Theodore L. Palmer

The first of a series of articles about databases and related subjects to help those new to computers.

What is a database?

A database is a collection of records (data objects) individually and uniquely identified by a primary key.

What is a record?

A record is a collection of attribute value pairs that describe a particular data object (the record that they, the attributes, are associated with).

The above two definitions are the only ones you need to know about elementary databases. The only kind we are going to discuss in this article.

Let's clarify before we continue. A record is a data object and a data object is a record. They are two different terms for the same thing. An attribute is a quality that an object exhibits such as color, weight, height, or length. There are many possible attributes that a data object can have but for our elementary databases we will only be considering a subset of the many possible attributes.

Our definition of a database says that the records are "...uniquely identified by a primary key." Technically the

primary key is an attribute of the record also, but its function of identifying the record makes it special enough that we are not going to refer to it as an attribute. The primary key identifies the record and the attributes describe it.

Let's describe an elementary database so that we have something to talk about. Let's choose as objects for our elementary database things that are familiar to the life experience of all of us. People. It is not noble to consider people as data objects, but if that were not the current practice in this country, there would not be more than 250 million of us here today.

How are we going to uniquely identify these data objects? Consider that if you were to compile a list of all the first and last names in common use today, a separate list for males and females would probably cover 98% of all possibilities with less than 100 entries in each list. So first and last names will not satisfy the property of uniqueness that is a requirement of a database record. The IRS has taken over Social Security numbers and is in the process of renaming them as Taxpayer ID numbers. Kinda like Employer ID numbers. This utilizes the property of uniqueness of the integer numbers. These are not really numbers or numeric data values since no arithmetic operations are going to be

performed on them and they do not represent an amount or quantity of anything. So in recognition of the wisdom of the IRS we also will use Social Security numbers (abbreviated SS-#) as the primary key for the records in our elementary database.

Now what attributes shall we include in our database? Remember that a database is a sea of data from which we would like to be able to extract useful information. Therefore the attributes that we use in our database definition, sometimes called a data dictionary, must be qualities of the data objects that we would like to include in a report on the database. Let's keep it simple: gender, height, weight, eye-color, and hair-color.

A formal data dictionary would also include a range of values for each data object or an exhaustive enumeration of each possible value if the values were elementary members of a set like {red, green, blue, blond, brown, black}.

We probably all have seen at one time or another in our life experience a list of data objects on "computer printout paper." It is that long, wide, fan folded--usually with green bars--paper that is eleven inches high by 14 and 7/8 inches wide with sprocket feed holes along each edge. This paper is convenient because frequently it is possible to list one whole data record per line on this kind of paper. If you recall how the data on this paper looked, then it will be easy to picture in your mind's eye the data structure of an elementary database. Sometimes, quite often actually, there are too many attributes associated with each data record for it to be possible to have one record per line. But that is a physical limitation; not a logical one.

Usually the columns of data are separated from each other by one space and each column has a title above it at the top of every page that identifies which attribute of the record is displayed in that column. It is convenient if the primary key is listed in the first column but not a logical imperative. The columns of data are said to be fields of the record. The intersection of a row (a row in the database--a line on the paper) and a column displays the value of the column's attribute for that particular record.

How does this abstract image of a database relate to a computer? Computers are appliances, tools, or machines that lend themselves well to the task of storing and retrieving data. To accomplish this task, computer software is needed. Software is a generic name for computer programs written in any one of many possible computer programming languages. Therefore computer programming languages must relate to our abstract image of a database.

Computer Programs

Computer programs model the activity they automate. Often the activity has to be slightly modified to accommodate the limitations of computers, but that is only a concession. To the extent possible, limited only by economic considerations, the program must conform. There are certain terms and conventions that are common to all computer programming languages. Since computer programs model the activity that takes place on databases, the terminology of databases and programming languages become intertwined.

Niklaus Wirth wrote a book titled "Algorithms + Data Structures = Programs." Given the syntax of his programming language, Pascal, it should have been

"Programs := Algorithms + Data Structures."

This concept in notation is consistent with the idea of first stating a result, then enumerating the components required to obtain it.

Pascal, more so than other high level languages used to write applications programs, has a very well ordered statement of the data structures supported by the language.

Enough about Pascal. High level languages have as data types the record structure. A record is partitioned into fields. The fields of a record are called variables. For the sake of identity variables are given a name. Oddly enough they are called variable names (sometimes data names or identifiers). Since the attributes of a record get stored in the fields of a record, a good choice for a variable name for a field would be something that is mnemonic of the attribute that gets stored there. Since the syntax of computer programming languages require that variable names be all one word, some good examples of variable names would be FIRST_NAME, LAST_NAME, GENDER, HEIGHT, WEIGHT, HAIR_COLOR, and EYE_COLOR.

To be continued...

Ted 

(Ted planned this series of articles before his promotion and transfer to St. Louis. He will be changing from a WANG environment to IBM and will be extra busy for a while. He hopes to continue the series -- and we do too -- by long distance when he gets settled. Congratulations on the promotion, Ted. Ed.)

PCTOOLS

From Central Point Software

Reviewed By John Pellet

PC TOOLS is a collection of programs that tries (and just about succeeds) to be every disk tool you'll ever need. Basically, it combines the best features of the Norton Utilities and Fastback in one package, with a consistent user interface and style. At a price substantially less than either. But, always remember, TANSTAAFL (There Ain't No Such Thing As A Free Lunch - if there were the drinks would cost half as much {from "The Moon Is A Harsh Mistress" by Robert A. Heinlein}). In this case, thorough, comprehensive capability and low price cost you simplicity and a few extra features (JLP NOTE: A feature is hereby defined as a bug that survived beta testing!).

The major features in PC TOOLS include:

- * Copy files, directories, and disks,
- * Search files for text or bytes,
- * Change file attributes,
- * Recover deleted files,
- * View or edit file contents,
- * Map disk directories,
- * Hard disk format recovery,
- * Disk compression (defragmentation),
- * Fast hard disk backup, and
- * Memory resident if desired.

Starting with the last, PC TOOLS (PCT) will run as a memory resident (TSR) program, allowing you to "hot key," your way to file management from other programs. If you have it, PCT will use EMS memory, or overlay files to the drive you specify.

The file management functions duplicate almost all features of the common DOS functions, and often go considerably beyond. For example, if you wanted to copy a selected set of files from your hard drive to a floppy, from DOS this would require several repetitions of the "COPY" command. With PCT you simply scroll down the list of files in that directory, hitting the "Enter" key to mark your selections. Then hit the Copy key and PCT goes to work. Unlike DOS, if a file already exists on the destination, PCT asks you if it should overwrite it. This feature alone can save you much heartache.

Like several other software packages, PCT allows you to review and edit the actual sectors on the disk, including modifying file attributes or directory entries. You can also search a file or disk for a specific byte sequence. You can unerase deleted files. If you use any of these advanced editing capabilities, especially in their manual mode, you had better know what you are doing. It is VERY easy to irreparably scramble your disk. This is

especially easy if you are manually specifying clusters during a file unerase. BE CAREFUL!

One feature that I find very useful is the disk compression or defragmentation. This is via a separate program called COMPRESS that determines if fragmentation of data or free space has occurred, and if so allows you to optimize, or compress the disk. Why? If you use a disk for a while, whether floppy or hard, the disk will become fragmented (files stored in noncontiguous clusters). This will substantially slow the data transfer rate you expect. One of the ways to correct this is simply copy all of the files to a new, just-formatted disk. PC-DOS's XCOPY, that copies all files in subdirectories, or GEM (from DRI), which does the same thing, makes this a reasonably easy task for floppies. But I can't ever seem to find spare 40 megabyte hard disks at \$10 per box. So I use a compression program about once a week. There are several strategies that various software use in performing compression. For example, some programs move all large files to the inner tracks on the theory that large files are most likely programs, which will change rarely. Some programs put small files there on the theory that they are most likely data, which will be accessed more often, and so should be located where access times are less. I really do not know how PCT orders the files when it rearranges the disk, but I can assure you that it can compression can not only increase your system speed, but reduce the losses if part of your hard disk crashes. Any compression or optimization program has the possibility of corrupting your disk since it rearranges the file locations, the FAT, and the directories. And many of the programs released to do so have had bugs that could crunch your data. Early versions of PCT could do so, if compression was invoked without sorting the directory. I never had this problem with my copy (ver. 3.08), but since reading about it have made sure to always sort the directory, just to be on the safe side. PCT tries to minimize the damage for events like a loss of power by only manipulating one file at a time. You should make sure you have a recent backup before running any compression program. Because of these safeguards, you can expect compression to take about 1 - 2 minutes per megabyte. I would like to find a program that made full use of the free RAM and disk space in my system during optimization - I think it would dramatically speed up the process.

It is possible to recover your data from an inadvertent format of your hard disk. This is because the FORMAT program in most versions of DOS does not actually change the data area of the disk, but simply zaps the directory and FAT. (NOTE that some versions of MS-DOS are reputed to actually zap the data sectors. If your DOS does, programs like this are unlikely to help.) PCT uses a separate program set called MIRROR and REBUILD, the former saves a copy of all directories into a hidden file which REBUILD can find to restore your disk after you goofed. I can not tell you how well

this works - I've never HAD to use it, and have never been willing to format my hard disk just to try it.

If you have a hard disk, you need a backup program. PCT provides two replacements for those old Model T versions included in your DOS. They are named PCBACKUP and PCRESTOR. Like several of the other aftermarket programs, this set will back up your hard drive to floppies at greater than 1 megabyte per minute (on used or pre-formatted diskettes, almost 2 MB/min). It does this by several tricks: non-DOS disk format, format while writing, no verification (you verify with PCRESTOR), and writing to floppy while reading from the hard disk. PCT also allows you to backup onto both floppies to save time, but only if they are the same format. And it works well.

If you've stayed with me this far, you're probably asking, "What's the catch?" Or, "How much does it cost?" First the good news: PCT lists for \$39.95 and is available in the Dallas area for under \$20. I know of no greater bargain. But all is not lost for you nay-sayers. PCT suffers from the following problems:

* **Confusing Menus:** PCT uses several menus for selecting the various files and functions. In order to allow the maximum screen space for file display, these menu choices are compressed into the bottom of the screen. But the compression also obstructs readability. A two screen system, a la the Norton Utilities, would have been better in my opinion.

* **COMPRESS** does not take advantage of the free space on the disk or in memory. For example, the first time I ran it on my hard drive I had more than 50% free space. An efficient procedure would have been to simply copy all of the files into the free space, and then rewrite them in a contiguous form to the original space. A similar methodology could be adopted even if the free space were significantly less. In the same vein, COMPRESS has only one file in RAM at a time. Using all available RAM would allow multiple files to be moved at once. Each of these steps would significantly speed the process.

* PCBACKUP and PCRESTOR don't really like to back up partitioned or multiple hard drives (my 40 MB is partitioned into C: and D: at 20 MB each). In fact, when I use a single set of backup disks, PCRESTOR tries to restore drives C: and D: to C: Whoops! Also, PCBACKUP stores data on the backed up files on the hard drive. If that file is lost, PCRESTOR recreates it during the restore, slowing down in the process. And yet, am I not most likely to need PCRESTOR when the log file is not on the hard drive? PCBACKUP will not allow you to use a separate set of backup disks for each hard drive. When combined with the restore feature above, this gets serious. I solved it by having separate copies of PCBACKUP and PCRESTOR on each partition. This means that when I invoke PCBACKUP or PCRESTOR on C:, it sees a log file for that partition only.

* PCBACKUP also does not verify the backup disks it creates. As indicated in the documentation, it is highly recommended that you run PCRESTOR in the verify mode anytime you use fresh disks, to at least assure that they formatted correctly. I understand that this significantly increases the speed of the backup process, but I would strongly prefer that PCBACKUP permit you to verify during backup as an option. I think most users would prefer an automatic verification for the added assurance it brings. And I am wary about recommending this product to users who won't take the time to perform the separate verification step.

* Documentation for PC Tools adequately describes the basic operating characteristics of its functions. Barely. But it does not go beyond that. And it is very skimpy on problem solving or troubleshooting procedures if you have a problem.

In summary, if you don't have Norton or MACE or Fastback, then PC Tools can become your standard utility for file management and backup functions. Even if you have competing products, you should consider adding PC Tools to your utility collection. It has a wide range of features at a very reasonable price. (Last minute note: Central Point has announced and is shipping PC Tools Delux, adding an editor and disk cache primarily, plus other useful features, listing for \$79.95. It purports to correct many of the problems described above. My copy is on order.)

john pellet mc92019



Vote for the candidate of your choice.

Clip the ballot from page 9, pick the candidates you want to win, and cast your ballot at the January meeting, or mail it to the Secretary at the Club's address.

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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.

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ASSISTANT EDITOR WANTED: One part time and one full time, good journalism skills required, layout skills helpful. Mr. Smith, Southwest Computer News, P.O. Box 381998, Duncanville, TX 75138 Ph. 709-1800.

Using PC-File + with Still River Shell

Theodore L. Palmer

Have you ever been furiously leafing through a listing of data and had somebody ask you, "what are you looking for?" Which caused you to feel silly when you realized that your spontaneous response was "I don't know." Actually, given time to explain better, you probably would say something like, "I'm not sure exactly. But I'll know it when I see it."

Such phenomena gives cause for computer programs to be equipped with features that have names like BROWSE. dBASE-III has such a feature and so does PC-File +. The only problem with using the browse feature of PC-File + is that if you are using a plain jane 4.77 MHz XT clone, it is a little slow. The PC-File + program clears then repaints the entire screen. First painting on the double width line that separates the record numbers and column titles from the data. Then the single width vertical lines that separate the columns followed by the column titles. The data is then filled in very nicely in all the right places.


PC-File + will let you scroll up/down 20 records at a time and pan left and right one column at a time. Each time repainting the entire screen. If you have panned many columns (fields) to the right, the only way to get back to the left most column is one agonizingly slow column at a time.

There is a better way.

The abridged on-disk manual that comes with Still River Shell (SRS) describes how to create files SRF1 and SRF2. I presume that stands for Still River Functions 1 & 2. SRF1 allows you to use the SRS selector bar to execute (run a program) a file by pointing at it with the selector bar and pressing the F1 key. If you run PCF.EXE that way and output a report to a disk file, you can select just the fields you want to look at then drop back to SRS.

The SRS VIEW feature works much much faster than the BROWSE feature of PC-File +. You also can jump to the bottom or top; jump to the left most column; use the (F)ind function to look for a substring in your data.

How's that for a way to use a computer to find a data object that you don't know exactly how to specify?

Ted Palmer. 

(Note: One of the new shareware disks for December is Version 2.36 of Still River Shell by Bill White. Ed.)



DISK OF THE MONTH

by Kathryn A. Crawford

MANAGEX-I Ver. 3.3

The January Disk of the Month (Disk no. 220) is an office management system, personal version. It is intended to be used by someone who needs to keep track of the time spent on each client. The package includes bookkeeping, timekeeping, and billing. The "I" in "ManageX-I" stands for Series I; Series III and IV of ManageX track the activities of a large group of professionals (such as a law firm). The disk for ManageX-I was donated by the author, R.A. Kelly.

Additional Dom Disks for January

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

New Disks for November/December 1987

- 0205 - Solitaire ver. 1.10, a Klondike style of solitaire
- 0206 - BOYAN Communications ver. D2
- 0207 - Extended Batch Language ver. 3.05a, Batch Language programming
- 0208 - FINANCE MANAGER II - GL Module ver. 1.1a
- 0209 - SideFile (tm) v2.23, Memory/Disk-based Data Manager
- 0210 - Resident DOS Utilities, a collection of TSR programs
- 0211 - Q-MODEM SST ver. 3.1 (2 disk set), new version of QModem, the SST stands for Super Sonic Telecommunications
- 0212 - TCdebug ver. 0.00, debugger for Turbo C source code
- 0213 - PC Labs Benchmark Test Series 4.02, utilities from PC Magazine
- 0214 - Phrase Craze ver. 1.0, a phrase guessing game similar to Wheel of Fortune
- 0215 - LOTUS Learn ver. 1.0, LOTUS Speedup ver. 1.0, and LOTUS Add-in Manager ver. 1.1
- 0216 - KOPY ver. 1.1, Replacement for DOS COPY command
- 0217 - WAMPUM ver. 3.1B, Menu driven database system
- 0218 - Baker's Dozen ver. 1.04, 14 utilities from Jim Button
- 0219 - Still River Shell ver. 2.36, DOS shell and utilities

PC-WRITE User Manuals

PC-Write User Manuals have been ordered from Quicksoft, and will be available at the DOM desk. These

manuals are available to North Texas PC User Group members at the following rates:

PC-Write User Manual	=	\$25.00
PC-Write User Manual with PC-Write ver. 2.7/3 disks	=	\$29.00

Disk of the Month Conference on the Bulletin Board

There is a conference area on the club's Bulletin Board for the DOM. If you haven't found your way to the DOM conference, here is what you need to do:

- (1) At the Main Menu, type "m" for Mail.
- (2) Once in the mail area, select "o" for open.
- (2) When the BB displays the message "Open which mailbox?", type "DOM".

In the DOM conference area, Howard Hamilton posts a message listing the disks needing to be reviewed. We hope that people will look at the list and volunteer to review the disks.

Reviewing a disk is not like writing a book review. You are not going to get a grade. Howard needs some text that can be edited into a readme file, not the first draft of the Great American Short Story. For more details, see Dr. Hamilton's Guidelines for the Reviewer which is also a message posted in the DOM conference area.

Kathryn

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)

HARDCORE SOFTWARE

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We're serious about software design. If you are too, then apply right now for one of these opportunities.

Testing Managers

Help build a quality test organization in our graphics or languages groups. You will manage and organize a testing team, develop innovative test methodologies to shorten testing cycles, and manage the testing of an entire product line.

The ideal candidate will have 3-5 years' experience in technical management and experience in a quality control/development test environment.

Software Design Engineers

We're seeking senior software design engineers to develop graphics-oriented business applications for the Macintosh and MS Windows/Presentation Manager environments.

The ideal candidate will have a degree in computer science or related field and 3-5 years' programming experience in "C" or Pascal.

Program Managers

Instant responsibility. You select the features, you shape the product, you design the user interface for new generations of software. Guide product development from programming through documentation and testing. Keep your product at the forefront of technology by knowing your competition and product trends.

Convince us you're bright, motivated and knowledgeable of the microcomputer software industry. Project management experience and a BS/CS or related degree desirable.

CHOICE

We have these positions available in both our new graphics business unit in Sunnyvale, CA and at Corporate headquarters in Seattle, WA. Please indicate your preference, Microsoft South or Microsoft North.

To apply, please send your resume in confidence to: MICROSOFT CORPORATION, Dept. CD-0188NTX, 16011 NE 36th Way, Box 97017, Redmond, WA 98073-9717. We are an equal opportunity employer.

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Official 1988 Ballot
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

USE ORIGINAL BALLOT
(Copies not acceptable)

I vote for:

President-Elect:

Nominees for President-Elect:

Jim Hoisington

Board of Directors:

(Vote for 3)

Nominees for Board of Directors:

Dick Barr, Ph.D.

Joe Brophy

Phil Chamberlain

Kathryn Crawford

Sid Nolte, Ph.D.

Pete Testa

Mail ballot to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 78066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066, or bring to January meeting. Mailed ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than January 19, 1988.



Dick Barr



Joe Brophy



Phil Chamberlain



Kathryn Crawford



Jim Hoisington



Sid Nolte



Pete Testa



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 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: _____

Selected SIG Happenings

News and Meeting Notes on Special Interest Groups

Personal Users (Beginners)

If you consider yourself a personal (vs. professional) user, if you consider yourself a novice, if you consider yourself a beginner, if you have just bought or are about to buy your PC, this SIG is for you! Our 4-class per month, 4-month curriculum is beginning to fall into place.

IN REVIEW: Our December meeting included the first four classes:

1. Startup.
2. Diskette sizes and formatting each.
3. Copying and backing up files
4. Hardware.

IN PREVIEW: Our January meeting will include the following classes:

5. How to create and use directories on a disk, how to use DOS batch files, and creating a path for your PC to find files.

6. Setting up a DOS menu system on a fixed disk.
7. Installation and setup of Lotus 123.
8. Running BASIC programs.

Come join us as we learn and review the fundamentals.

Bob Presley
Richard Terreo

Stock Market Investors

This SIG continues to focus on the usage of Personal Computers as a tool to develop and enhance trading abilities of the Individual Investor. The cost of hardware and the increasing availability of good software and data bases, all at affordable prices, is making the process of analysis and decision not only easier, but more intelligent, and made within an environment and time period at a choice of the investor.

The holiday season is placing a strain on the timing for guest speakers. At this moment we are not sure of the sequence, but the

January meeting will be either electronic trading via your PC or an discourse on the usage of POINT AND FIGURE ANALYSIS. The February meeting will feature the second of the two subjects.

Electronic trading permits placement and/or modification of orders 24 hours a day, at any 7 days of the week. Just think, with a lap top computer, with an internal modem and the nearest Telenet number, you never need be out of touch. We think this is a method of trading that you will see become more common.


POINT AND FIGURE is a technical analysis process not normally associated with the individual investor and until recent has been a tool of the major houses with mainframe capability. It is not difficult, it is that you just have to crunch an awful lot of data for it to be of any use - enter the PC.

Cliff E Murphy

SUPERKLONE FACTORY PRICES

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

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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 h
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 h
 – 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 h
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. – Maggie 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

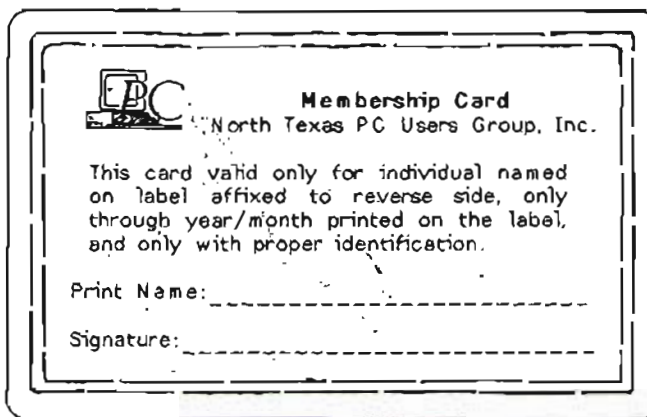
(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date..)



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 January 1988

9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

AUDITORIUM * ENABLE *

Enable is an integrated software package including Word Processing, Spreadsheet, Graphics, Database Management, and Telecommunications capabilities. The presentation will be done by Michael Traver, Manager of Application Development, for The Software Group out of Ballston Lake, New York.

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

AUDITORIUM * WORDPERFECT *

John Ogle, Manager of Regional Marketing for WordPerfect Corporation, will be showing us the latest and greatest new features in Version 5.0 of WordPerfect.

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.

<u>9:00 - 9:55</u>	<u>10:00 - 10:55</u>	<u>1:00 - 1:55</u>
Assembler	Astrometry	Artificial Intelligence
DOS	ENABLE	Business Applications
Graphics	Personal Users	Communications
Hardware Solutions		Data Bases
Personal Users	<u>11:30 - 11:55</u>	LOTUS
Science/Engineering	Orientation	Personal Users
<u>9:00 - 10:30</u>	<u>12:00 - 12:55</u>	Turbo Pascal
Genealogy (w/Apple)	APL	<u>2:00 - 2:55</u>
<u>9:30 - 9:55</u>	C Language	Advanced Programmers
Orientation	Personal Users	dBase Programmers
	Stock Mkt Investing	DAC Easy Accounting

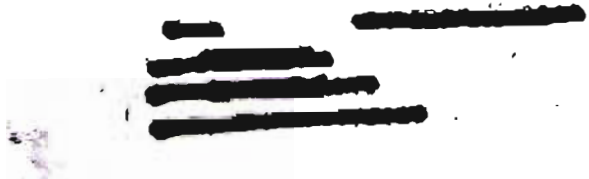
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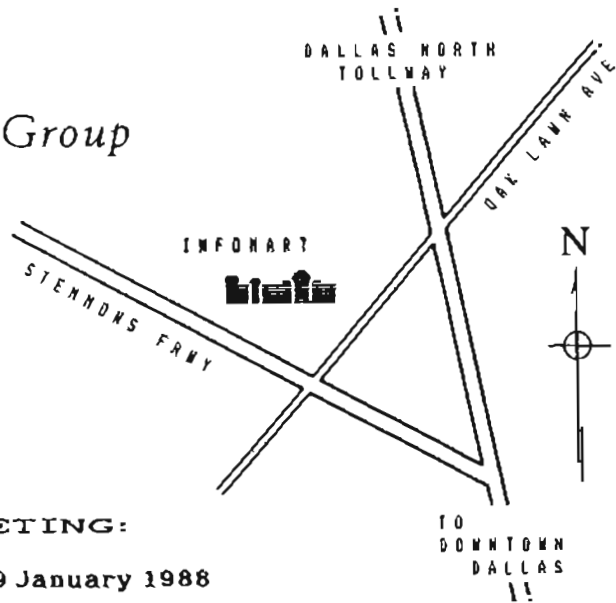
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NEXT MEETING:
19 January 1988