



North Texas PC Users Group

7.8

August 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.

Editor/Publisher
John Pribyl (817)276-4108
Newsletter Exchange Editor
Tom Prickett (214)690-9087

Software Review Editor
Dick Gall (214)234-8888

Advertising - Call the Editor (817)276-4108

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or its members. Copyright © 1988 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 advertising and other 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:

We would like to get more articles for publication in North Texas PC NEWS. Article submission is preferred via the Group Bulletin Board (to Mail, John Pribyl), or via Startext (to Mail Code 51563), or on disk (360K or 1.2M, 5 1/4 floppy). Prepare the material in ASCII format, unformatted. 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. Include special formatting instructions, if any, with the article or in a separate Mail transmission.

Please do not indent, right-justify, or otherwise code the copy. If column alignment is critical, send two copies, one formatted, the other unformatted. If sending a disk, send along a hard copy that has been printed in the right format, with written instructions.

Double spaced, typewritten copy is acceptable if you do not own a modem or cannot put the material on a floppy disk. This copy must be received at least two weeks before the deadline to allow time for keying.

Send all material to the Editor at the address shown above.

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation is 1475.

Member distribution is 1160; 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. Corel HEADLINE was used for some headings. Repro was printed on a NEC LC-890 Laser Printer. Typefaces include: Times, Palatino, Helvetica, and ITC Avant Garde.

DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for September
NT PC NEWS:
Monday, August 15th.**

Meeting Dates:

August Meeting - 2nd Sat. (13th)
September Meeting - 2nd Sat. (10th)
October Meeting - 3rd Sat.
(tentative)



Getting closer...

Super Hardware, Texas Made!

See you in September!

Table of Contents

President's Message	1
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	
On Complexity, No. 18	2
Jim Hoisington	
Simple Batch Files Reduce Keystrokes	3
Matt Mathews, M.A.	
Survival Guide for Hard Disk Users or What to do Before 3:00 a.m. Sunday	6
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	
The Critic's Corner (Reserved for Non-Snobs)	15
Christine Timchek	
New Dialing Sequence for Bulletin Board System	15
Software Report — LanSlave by LanSoft	16
Dick Gall	
Agenda	1
Personal Users Sched.	5
Officers	17
Membership Application	18
Meetings & Times	21
Features:	
Disk of the Month	8
SIG Reports	19
Volunteer Guide	20

Prez Sez...

Changes, Waiting, Learning and other Trivia

Changes in Club organization are coming. We hope you won't notice the difference. Except in the areas where significant improvement takes place that is. There will be new names and functions appearing from month to month in NT PC News.

There will also be new calls for volunteers in areas we don't presently serve as well as we'd like. We may call on you. If we do, please consider the positive impact a few hours of your time may have on the Club as a whole.

Waiting is the thing I do worst of all.

I'm probably not alone in this. Many Club members have asked about the "New DOS" due "real soon now" according to rumors. Although the "New DOS" isn't quite "Classic Vaporware," it's beginning to have that aroma.

Salvation may be on the way. President Elect Jim Hoisington believes it may be announced before you read this message in August. He said that in May too. And March as well.

Sharp-eyed visitors to the vendor area at the July meeting may have seen parts of the coming DOS version. (4.0?) Jerry Schneider, former president of the Capitol PC Users Group, came down for our INFOMART meeting from Boston and booted a disk in one of Kevin White's 386 machines. I didn't see the demo. Those who did reported a number of changes and added features. Was it the "New DOS?" Maybe.

More documentation, more learning

A disturbing aspect of a new DOS is the need to learn it. Although there are a number of things in DOS 3.3 I'd like to see changed - or fixed - I'm not ready emotionally to begin the task of exploring another multi-disk software package and associated documentation. IBM's PC-DOS 3.3 manual has approximately 300 pages (big type) and the Microsoft MS-DOS 3.3 manual is 370 pages long (smaller type), all of which demands close study.

Add to the above, Microsoft Word 4.0's approx. 600+ pages (Microsoft does like small type) with an anticipated update due in August or September (700+ pages?), Quattro's 880+ pages of documentation and Paradox 2.0's 600+ pages. Then, there are the privately published guides and handbooks to the above running 300 - 600 pages each and the task begins to remind me of graduate school.

Members who have been following Jim Hoisington's "Complexity" series have been presented with similar data. We are not just complaining about the mass involved, but the inability of an industry to develop

standards that would make this easier, less time consuming and more palatable.

All the on-disk tutorials in the world won't alleviate the irritation caused by poor documentation. Another irritation is each publisher's seeming insistence that their re-created version of the wheel is best for the user.

Unfortunately, we can't ignore the documentation if we really want to use the product as designed. We must read it. All of it.

Sometimes, late at night, it's both funny and tragic.

One of the Club's officers recently acquired a new 3.5" floppy drive. (The manufacturer who has acquired a fair degree of notoriety for packaging problems won't be identified.) The new drive came with the most extensive and complete documentation I've ever seen accompanying a floppy-disk drive.

Magnificent documentation! Alone, it could serve as a comprehensive tutorial on floppy-disk drive installation and application. There was no aspect of drive functioning or configuration ignored.

It wasn't the right documentation for the drive in the package.

Reagan

■

Program for August 13th Meeting.

9:00 AM to 9:45 AM (Auditorium)

• Financial Services Publications, Inc •

"Using the Microcomputer as a Business Planning Tool"

A tutorial presentation by Lane Kramer, with a demonstration of MAPS, a financial analysis and projection software package.

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM (Auditorium)

• IBM •

"An Overview of IBM PS/2 Hardware and OS/2 Software"

Speaker to be announced.

11:00 AM to 11:30 AM (Auditorium)

• NTPCUG Business Meeting •

Make your voice heard! Attend the business meeting.

No. 18 in a Series

ON COMPLEXITY

by Jim Hoisington

I have this belief that the UNIX operating system will not play a very big role in future personal computers. My reasoning is that UNIX was designed to be a multi-user operating system. What the PC needs is a multi-tasking operating system like OS/2.

First, let me explain what a multi-tasking operating system is not. It does not let the computer do more than one thing at a time. Doing more than one thing at a time is multi-programming and we won't see much of that on the PC in the near future.

Multi-tasking is the ability for the computer to have a list of several things to do. A multi-tasking operating system directs the computer to work for a while on one task, then on another, and then on an other. Because the computer is much faster than the human at the keyboard, this sometimes gives the appearance to the human that it is doing more than one thing at a time.

I sometimes like to use the example that the computer is a very fast and stupid robot that does work for you. With multi-tasking, you get the appearance of several robots in one box.

The simplest example of how a user would use multi-tasking is that they could be looking up a group of related items in a database while they were in their word processor writing a document that would include a table of the data that resulted from the database search after it had been processed by a spreadsheet.

The human at the keyboard could start the database search and direct the output to a spreadsheet template and ask for notification when the table had been created by the spreadsheet. The human could then return to creating the document in the word processor. When the computer had finished the other two tasks, it could notify the person by flashing a message or icon on the screen.

One of the capabilities of most multi-tasking operating systems like OS/2 is that tasks can "communicate" with each other. In the example above, the spreadsheet task can tell the operating system that it is waiting for the next piece of data from the database search. The operating system then knows that it doesn't have to give the spreadsheet task any attention until there is more data for it. It "suspends" the spreadsheet and doesn't reactivate it until it has some data for it.

This give rise to all sorts of applications where the computer has access to incoming data over a network

or a modem. A task could screen the data passing by and only activate other tasks when data appropriate to this user is seen. The data could then be copied and categorized and filed on the user's machine without stopping or interrupting the user at the keyboard.

By the same token, when the user completes a particular document or data package, the computer could follow a predetermined set of distribution instructions while the human starts on the next set of data.

One of the possibilities would be a task that would scan the user's electronic mail for "junk" mail. Imagine an electronic "file 13" that never has to be emptied.

The one thing to keep in mind in all of the above examples is that there is one user. Nobody else is sharing the computer. If the user turns off the computer, nobody else suffers.

UNIX is a multi-user system. To be multi-user, it must also be multi-tasking. However, it must go far beyond what a multi-tasking system does because it has to protect the humans from each other. A good multi-user system ensures that the programs run by one of the users do not interfere with the programs being run by the other users. It also accounts for the time used by each user so that computer operator can tell how much time each person is using. As you might suspect, this requires a lot of programming and effort on the part of the operating system.

Back when I got out of college and started working, people shared telephones. Generally, there was one phone to every 3 or 4 people. That was because telephones were expensive and they were not that useful. Everything was still done on paper.

Today the rule seems to be that if you have a desk, you have a telephone. The price per telephone is not all that much cheaper. It is the usefulness of the phone that has made the difference. Today, communication by memo or letter is a last resort. And when it is done, it usually documents something that was resolved by telephone.

I think the same thing will be true of personal computers in the workplace. As applications are developed that use multi-tasking to give each person several robots in the box, it will not make sense to have multiple people sharing the same desktop box that has a processor that cost \$150. One person will be able to use up the power of a 25 mhz 80386 machine and more.

The latest name for these boxes is "personal workstations" to differentiate them from "personal computers". The name may or may not last but a multi-tasking operating system like OS/2 or one of its competitors will become commonplace because we need it for all the work that needs be done.

Jim

▲

Simple Batch Files Reduce Keystrokes

Matt Mathews, M.A.

Let's face it: Navigating through your hard disk is not the easiest task in the world. You can make working with DOS much easier and more reliable by creating a few simple batch files so that DOS does more of the walking than your fingers now do. "Fewer keystrokes with accurate entry" is the name of the personal computer game as far as I am concerned. That's why I changed from using a typewriter to a word processor in the first place: The promise of increased productivity. Batch files are simply ASCII text files containing one or more DOS commands in sequence, just as you would enter them from the keyboard. Instead of having to enter many keystrokes when you use sets of frequently used commands, a batch file replays key strokes you have previously stored in a text file.

Let DOS Do the Walking

First, let's consider the frequent task of changing from one disk drive to another. It takes four keystrokes to do the job: Press the letter of the drive's name, shift, colon, then complete the process by pressing Return. How often have you missed typing the colon, typed a semi-colon by mistake, and had to backspace to correct the error (thereby adding more keystrokes to this "simple" task)? How often have you been chided by DOS's favorite expression, "BAD COMMAND OR FILENAME" after making a typo?

How would you like to accomplish the task of changing drives with half as many keystrokes? The

following batch file lets you log on to drive B: with only two keystrokes: Press B, then the Return key.

B.BAT Explanation

B:	Change to Drive B:
CD\	Change to root directory
CLS	Clear the Screen of previously displayed information.

You can write batch files similar to B.BAT (example, A.BAT) to log on to the drive identified by the filename. Thus, A.BAT is identical to B.BAT except that in the first line, you substitute A: for B:. Likewise, if you have a hard disk, you will want a C.BAT which substitutes C: in the first line.

Roving Through Your Directories

It is a good practice is to keep your batch files in a directory called C:\BATCH (or simply C:\BAT for those who like the practice of reducing their keystrokes). At the root directory, C:\, type MD BATCH, then press Return. Change to the BATCH directory by typing CD BATCH and Return.

You can run batch files from any directory on your computer by adding the following line to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file:

```
PATH=C:\C:\DOS\C:\BATCH
```

(Note that semi-colons separate one directory from another). Of course you can have the computer search through other directories, such as UTILITIES, by adding the directory name to this line in the same manner. The additional line,

```
PROMPT $P$G
```

A Fast Way to Write Batch Files

An easy way to create a batch file at the DOS prompt is to type COPY CON B.BAT and press Return. (DOS will recognize either upper-case or lower-case information. Upper-case is used here for clarity in showing what you actually type.) In English, this means: COPY the following information from the CONsole – the keyboard – to the file called B.BAT. Enter the commands shown at the left in this article, but not the explanation. Press Return after every line – except the last one. After typing the last command, press the F6 function key. The end-of-file symbol, ^Z, displays on the screen. Now press Return to write the file to your disk. In the event you make an error while

typing a line, simply backspace over the error and re-enter it correctly. With the COPY CON method, you cannot edit a line after pressing Return. However, these files are so short that if you really botch the job, you can complete the process (^Z, then Return) and start all over – the new file replaces the previous one.

An alternative method of creating these batch files is to use a word processor that produces ASCII text to enter the commands shown. Omit the step referring to placing a ^Z. Instead, the word processor places the end-of-file marker when you save the file.

will display the current directory instead of the usual C prompt. It helps you to know where you are while using DOS.

In addition to helping you change from one drive to another, which is accomplished by the first line in the A.BAT, B.BAT and C.BAT files, these batch files are useful to move you to the root directory from any directory on the currently logged drive. For example, when you exit from your word processor, DOS leaves you in the C:\WP directory. By running C.BAT (C, Return) you quickly return to the root directory in two keystrokes rather than four keystrokes — one of which is a potentially awkward reach. The net result of using batch files is fewer keystrokes with increased accuracy. You do less and accomplish more.

With your knowledge of batch files gained so far, you can write others to start your application programs (word processor, spreadsheet, database, communication, log you on to the GAMES directory, etc.), then return to the root directory after you quit using application program. In the following example, you may need to make substitutions in lines 1 and 2 to make it work with your word processor.

WP.BAT Explanation

CD\WP Change to the directory containing the word processor.
 WP This is the name of the .COM or .EXE file that starts your word processor, e.g. WordStar is WS, WordPerfect is WP, etc. The batch file is temporarily interrupted at this point; the word processor runs.
 CD\ After you exit from the word processor, control of the computer returns to the batch file. This line changes your location to the root directory (or, you could substitute CD\BATCH here to have a simple menu system).
 CLS Clear the screen.
 DIR|SORT
 Display the files in the directory in alphabetical order, using the DOS "sort pipe." The pipe symbol is the vertical symbol on your keyboard.

A Useful Command That DOS Lacks

Another simple batch command can move a file from one directory (or disk) to another. It uses "replaceable parameters" to stand for any DRIVE\DIRECTORY\FILENAME.EXT that you specify. Like most DOS commands, the syntax is COMMAND (From Where) (To Where).

MOVE.BAT Explanation

ECHO OFF Do not display the commands on the screen.
 COPY %1 %2/V
 Copy file from location 1 to location 2; Verify the

file was copied and can be read.

DEL %1 Delete file from location 1.

ECHO %1 has been moved to %2

Display a message stating what was accomplished.

You can use DOS wildcards (* and ?) to move a group of files with similar names. If you have entered the batch files in your root directory and you want to move them to the BATCH directory, you can use MOVE.BAT right now:

```
MOVE C:\*.BAT C:\BATCH
Return.
```

Safety First, Last, and Always

Have you ever reformatted your hard disk by accident? No doubt you have at least heard a sob story about someone who has. Do others use your computer and you would like to avoid a bad situation? FORMAT.BAT can protect you. First find your copy of FORMAT.COM (You are working from copies rather than the original disks aren't you? Never change anything on the originals.) Rename the file:

```
REN FORMAT.COM $FORMAT.COM
Return
```

Next, make a batch file, FORMAT.BAT, containing the following commands:

```
ECHO OFF
CLS
IF NOT EXIST %1 GOTO BAD
IF .%1: == A: GOTO CONTINUE-A
IF .%1: == a: GOTO CONTINUE-A
IF .%1: == B: GOTO CONTINUE-B
IF .%1: == b: GOTO CONTINUE-B
:BAD
ECHO You almost accidentally erased everything on your hard
      disk!!!
ECHO Start again and specify drive A: or B: to format a floppy
      disk.
GOTO END
:CONTINUE-A
$FORMAT A:%2%3%4
GOTO END
:CONTINUE-B
$FORMAT B:%2%3%4
GOTO END
:END
```

Explanation: The DOS "Computer Chinese" in most of this file tells the computer to make choices based on what the user of FORMAT.BAT enters at the DOS prompt. A typical error new users make is to not specify a drive to format. When a drive is not specified, DOS formats the current drive. Yikes!

With this batch file, it initially appears to the user that he is running `FORMAT.COM`. When this error is made now, `FORMAT.BAT` does not erase anything, because the renamed `$FORMAT.COM` is not run. Instead the user gets the two-line message displayed under the label `:BAD`. (A full colon precedes the label.) When the user correctly identifies a floppy disk drive (with upper-case or lower-case letters) that disk is formatted. The replaceable parameters `%2` through `%4` can stand for any of the optional "switches" that DOS permits with `FORMAT.COM`, such as `/S` to copy the operating system to the floppy disk after formatting it.

If you ever really want to format your hard disk (you might some day, after backing up the files you do not want erased), you can enter `$FORMAT/S` at the `C:` prompt. A better procedure is to put a copy of your DOS diskette in drive `A:` and enter `FORMAT C:/S`.

Batch files are named with the usual DOS limitations: Use up to eight letters or numbers in the first part of the name, however the extension must be `.BAT`. The file itself is not limited to any number of lines. At present, my `AUTOEXEC.BAT` file contains over 40

lines. I would not even think of trying to manually enter all that stuff every time I wanted to start the computer. Batch files increase your productivity by reducing the number of keystrokes required to do a DOS job. The number of keystrokes you have to make can be as few as two (for a one character file name), or up to nine at the most (with eight characters), depending on the length of the name you choose for the batch file name.

Your DOS manual contains more information on using commands that work within batch files. Some commands let you display messages to the user, pause during the execution of the batch file, or allow the user to make choices that affect the subsequent operation of the batch file. I hope the simple examples provided here prompt you to learn more about how batch files can help you become more productive with your computer. Attend the Personal User's and the DOS SIGs for more help with these useful tools. The Disk of the Month SIG may have a public domain disk containing batch file tutorials and additional batch file commands.

Matt ■

North Texas PC Users Group
**Personal Users (Beginners) 16-Class
 Revolving Schedule**

Schedule	Class	Class Title/Description
Aug 88	1.0	Start Up
	2.0	Diskette Sizes & Formatting Each
	3.0	Copying & Backing Up Files
	4.0	Hardware
Sep 88	5.0	Fixed Disk Directories, Batch Files & Paths
	6.0	DOS Menu Systems on Fixed Disk
	7.0	Installation & Setup of LOTUS 1-2-3
Oct 88	8.0	Running BASIC Programs
	9.0	Writing Your Own BASIC Programs
	10.0	NTPCUG Disk of the Month Library
	11.0	PC Graphic Modes
Nov 88	12.0	Bulletin Boards & Archive Programs
	13.0	Printer Setup
	14.0	Writing LOTUS Macros
	15.0	Major Categories of Software Applications Available Today
	16.0	PCs to the end of the 20th and into the 21st Century

Four Classes are offered each month (at 9:00, 10:00, 12:00 noon, and 1:00 pm). Across four months all 16 of the classes are completed, and the cycle starts all over again. Each class is independent of the others, thereby allowing people to begin attending classes any time their schedule allows. The classes are free and are open to all beginners, novices, new PC owners, soon-to-be owners and personal (vs. professional) users. Come join us as we cover the fundamentals!
 Bob Presley and Richard Terreo, Instructors

\$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

Survival Guide for Hard Disk Users or What to do Before 3:00 a.m. Sunday

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

Hard disks get sick. Hard disks also eventually wear out and die. First indication of trouble is all too often overlooked by the user as a minor "glitch," or blamed on something else.

Real signs of disk problems most often show themselves at inopportune times — when the user is scrambling to finish an important task to meet deadlines. Any failure to read or write to the hard disk, or even access the disk, comes under this heading.

This article is about preparing for such crises before they reach panic proportions. What the user can do to head off disaster at 3:00 a.m. Sunday.

Disaster planning only comes after user attitudes.

Hard disk users must acknowledge that hard disks are mechanical devices and will develop problems and/or just wear out. Users must realize that data is perishable and can be lost if the disk fails. A plan of action — before and after disk failure — is absolutely necessary.

Evil comes in innocuous disguises: Things that go bump in the night

Worst-case is physical damage to the disk media or heads that makes the disk completely unreadable. This occurs most frequently as a result of the mechanism being subjected to bumps or jarring while in operation.

Next would be loss of some component necessary to drive operation, but which doesn't affect the disk media, such as a burned-out spindle motor. The component can be replaced by a good repair facility and the data saved in most cases.

Further down the list is damage or corruption to data on the disk surface, but leaves the media intact. If this occurs on cylinder 0, head 0, the user may be unable to boot from the disk, but may be able to get to some data anyway after booting from a floppy disk.

Last on the list is actually most dangerous since it gives little warning and the user may not know for months that his/her disk is having problems due to gradual deterioration of data. This latter case is often preventable via a good preventive maintenance routine.

Survival Kits and Techniques

Impact of all the horrors above can either be eliminated or ameliorated via PM — preventive main-

tenance. PM starts when the computer or hard disk is purchased and installed.

Most important of all is a formatted floppy disk with the latest DOS system files, IBMBIOS.COM, IBMDSOS.COM and COMMAND.COM, in addition to DEBUG.COM (or equivalent) to use in case of emergency. Very frequently, failure to boot off the hard disk can be temporarily solved by booting from a floppy system disk — at least long enough to make a backup of important data.

The user should insist that any manuals for disk and hard-disk controller are included and delivered at the time the computer or hard disk is accepted. Clerks in computer stores often gloss over this, but the user should demand and see the manuals before delivery is accepted.

If any software is necessary to accomplish a low-level format on the hard disk, this should also be included in the package. IBM PC/XT had 10M hard disks that were formatted via a quite expensive Advanced Diagnostics program. IBM assumed owners would return the machines to the dealer for any service necessary, and the formatting routines wouldn't be needed by the user.

Many dealers buy hard disks in volume, not as kits, and these may not come with manuals. However, the dealer will have at least one manual available in order to accomplish setup, and the buyer should then insist that a copy of the manual(s) be included as part of the purchase. Users with already-delivered machines, but no manuals, should either return to the dealer/vendor for the manuals, or write directly to the disk manufacturer and controller manufacturer for the manuals.

Why are the manuals so important?

A number of the problems outlined early in this article can be solved, at least temporarily, by a new low-level hard-disk format. This applies particularly to those caused by data corruption without media damage.

The hard disk will eventually require a new low-level format to continue to operate properly. Disk media is magnetic media and the magnetic signals that are imposed at the time of formatting fade over time and need to be "refreshed." The time necessary may amount to several years before the disk displays significant corruption, but it will come. Good PM requires "refreshing" before this can happen.

That's why the user should have any necessary software and instructions available before hand.

How often should the disk be "refreshed?" Depends on the disk, but every two years may be on the long side. Some professionals do this on an annual basis with hard disks with MFM encoding. The newer, RLL encoded disks may require refreshing more

often. My personal practice is to do a new low-level format any time I update DOS versions or quarterly in the case of extended periods of "no new DOS."

Back-Ups are Boring, but Essential

Back-ups of programs and data are the most important category of PM. Frequent back-ups. Several backups, especially before doing a new low-level format.

How often to backup your data depends on how important it is to you. Weekly backups are probably the bare minimum for any machine used in business. Some users backup daily at the close of business.

Home users might go on a monthly schedule with more frequent backups when important software or data is involved. Any important record must be backed-up as soon as it's generated, though.

Special backup programs or DOS's BACKUP and RESTORE utilities? Most users tire of the DOS utilities quickly and purchase one of the commercial packages such as "Fastback", "Corefast", "PC-FullBack", etc., as a result of their user friendliness, speed and flexibility.

If the user chooses to use the DOS utilities – they are "free" after all – a few warnings are in order. DOS 3.0 quickly became notorious for bugs and problems in the BACKUP and RESTORE utilities.

Also, DOS's utilities are equally notorious for refusing to operate properly across versions of DOS. That means that users running DOS 2.1 who plan to change to 3.2 or 3.3 will have to make a new backup under the new version of DOS, using the new utilities, since the old, DOS 2.1, backups will no longer be recoverable in most cases. New backups are essential since the major reason for backups is to prevent data loss in event of disk problems and an unusable backup is worse than useless.

Image backups or file-by-file backups?

"Image" backups produce an exact image of the disk being backed up, including any bad tracks, sectors or other flaws. File-oriented backups, on the other hand, do a file-by-file backup, often with some form of data compression, and usually allow restoring individual files as well as the entire disk contents.

Users of antiquated, copy-protected programs usually have no choice in this area – they must do "image" backups because of the hidden copy-protection schemes. (Some backup programs do claim to make good backups under these circumstances, but many users do report problems after restoration anyway.) The DOS utilities BACKUP and RESTORE are image backups.

Other users are usually better off doing file-oriented backups since most allow restoration of individual files or directories, and can be set for incremental or differential

backups. Differential backups allow backing up only the files that have changed since the full backup which greatly reduces backup time and disks. Incremental backups backup files that have changed since the last incremental backup and are even faster than a differential backup.

Some general rules for backing up and re-formatting

KISS (Keep it simple stupid) is the best general rule for both situations. That means:

- (1.) Boot the computer using a "bare" DOS disk with minimal CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files.
- (2.) NO TSR's (terminate and stay resident programs) such as "SIDEKICK", etc.,
- (3.) No disk cache programs.
- (4.) Disable any DOS programs that alter/affect directory or file handling such as APPEND, FASTOPEN, etc.,
- (5.) Have any software necessary on hand and in sight before beginning the process,
- (6.) Have an adequate supply of backup media, disks or tape, etc., on hand before starting,
- (7.) Allow adequate time to complete the task.
- (8.) Have the backup software manuals at hand, and read the entire manual before beginning. Re-read the manuals as you go as a check.

If your goal is to backup and do a new low-level or DOS format on the hard disk, then make at least two (2) fresh backup sets before beginning. When making these backups, enable ALL the software verification switches for the backups. (Some backup software allows disabling some verification procedures to speedup the process.)

One (at least) additional step is necessary when doing a new low-level reformat assuming you've read and re-read the disk and controller manuals. Boot the computer from the prepared floppy disk and allow approximately 30 minutes computer "idling" before you start the re-format. This will allow the computer and hard disk to reach normal operating temperatures and should prevent temperature-related problems after formatting is completed.

Reagan



Computer Help

"Providing PC solutions
and training"

(214) 522-HELP

Disk of the Month

Howard B. Hamilton, Jr., Ph.D.

The Disk-of-the-Month for August 1988 (Disk 285) is **Pianoman 4.0, 4/88**, by Neil J. Rubenking. Pianoman is a music composition program for the PC.

Registration of this Shareware program is \$25. The following information is from Mark Gruner's review.

Pianoman lets you play your keyboard like a piano. Pianoman will run on an IBM PC/XT/AT or close compatible running PC-DOS 2.x or higher, with at least 160K of RAM. According to Rubenking, PC-DOS and not the generic MS-DOS is a necessity. Rubenking adds that Pianoman does not run consistently on PS/2 computers, though some PS/2 systems run it successfully. Version 4 shares the keyboard with RAM-resident programs (version 3 did not).

Version 4 of Pianoman stores files in a different format. The new extension is MUZ for MUZic. Use PLAYRPNO to convert old MUS files to the MUZ format.

Pianoman can record your music as you press the keys of the keyboard. Pianoman can handle a maximum of 63,488 of notes. Pianoman has a 9 octave range available for your music. You can also edit your recorded tune note by note or globally. Note by note editing includes inserting and deleting notes (and rests), adjusting pitch, length, and staccato. Global editing includes, octave shifts, tempo changes, and staccato. Global editing can also be limited to blocks of your music.

Pianoman can be used for single voice music, but can also merge up to four voices to create harmony and accompaniment. Pianoman can also "compile" single and multiple voice tunes into an EXE file so that anyone can enjoy your musical creation. One significant improvement over previous versions is that the EXE files will adjust for the speed of the PC it is running on. Therefore, a file "compiled" on a 4.77Mhz PC will play properly on an 8Mhz AT.

Also included on the disk is a speaker device driver that will play Pianoman tunes compiled for that device. Also included are several sample tunes including single and multiple voice MUZ files and some COMpiled tunes.

Other New Software for August.

While the list of software to be distributed this month has not been finalized (whatever that means), it will include some, if not most, of the following.

TURBO-LESSONS 1.01, 9/9/85 by Lyle M. Faurot, 1904 18 the Ave. South, Moorhead, MN 56560.

Turbo-Lessons is a Turbo Pascal Tutorial written in June 1985. The tutorial was written for Borland's Turbo Pascal versions earlier than version 4.0. It is an excellent tutorial for a beginning programmer and can be used with version 4.0 with some modification of the instructions and error codes. The program runs on any IBM PC, AT or clone. Memory usage is minimal, i.e. that required by your version of Turbo Pascal. Paul Van Dreal reviewed this software and provided the preceding information.

Fred's Checkbook - Programs with following Features

- o Up to 250 expense/income categories.
- o Allows for cash, credit card, & miscellaneous transactions.
- o Extremely easy to use balancing section.
- o Generates a variety of reports.
- o Menu driven
- o Brilliant color or monochrome.
- o Needs no installation.
- o over 2500 entries will fit on one disk.
- o Needs no manual. (but you can get one.)
- o Doesn't beep too much (usually gives you a hint)
- o Allows changes to be made easily.
- o Ready to run after un-packing of files.

A Buick Demo disk donated by Roy Bales, and maybe a Chevrolet demo to provide an alternative.

MasDir 3.2e (Moby Disk Master Directory System) from Monterey Bay Disk Data Systems.

MasDir 3.2, called SDL by its author, is a sorted directory listing program with the ability to type labels in small print on Epson printers. It is an expanded version of "DIR". It sorts the file listing alphabetically by name, extension, date, size or not at all. Listings can be presented in 2, 4 or 6 columns (up to 126 files on the screen). It is EVALWARE (shareware) and the author expects \$10 plus \$1 for shipping. The program is supposed to be unusable after January 1, 1989. This software was reviewed by Paul A. Van Dreal and Richard Bauman.

THE EXPERT (first release), 9/9/86, by Stephen Walton.

What does the program do?

- It reads rule databases, called rulebases which contain implications of the form: If A is true, then B is true.
- It reads and writes fact databases, called factbases which contain assertions of the form: "A is true" and "It is not the case that A is true".
- It allows the user to interactively assert or deny facts or to answer "don't know" (forward reasoning) with single keystrokes.
- It supports goal directed query (or backward reasoning)
- It allows the user to work around two kinds of blocked automated reasoning (stop asking and clear all "don't knows")

THE EXPERT provides a means by which the user can assert or deny facts by typing them in rather than using the single keystroke mentioned above. The user must type a string which matches letter for letter (except for case) and space for space the stored assertion. I found this hard to do in many cases.

Runs on: Computers "closely compatible" with IBM PC/XT/AT with at least 128K bytes of RAM (192K for DOS 2.x and up).

Reviewed by Bill Drissel. ▶

We hope to have another disk or two of useful utilities, including version 3.6 of the PKARC series of archival software from Paul Katz and LARK 3r1, a menu driver for archival programs, hoping(?) to compete with ArcMaster.

If you want to see the final list of the new disks, log on to the DOM conference of the club bulletin board the week of the meeting. Select (M)all, (O)pen "DOM" and (L)ist the messages in the conference.

Recently released Software Disks

Here are some extracts from the readme files for the software disks distributed in June & July, 1988.

Disk 269. The Gags Disk! A serious collection of non-serious software.

The Gags Disk! was collected and arranged by Mark Gruner, strictly for the amusement of the North Texas PC Users Group. The software on this disk has only one purpose: FUN. Liven up your day with a tasteful selection of randomly generated bugle calls. (Unarc PCBUGLE.ARC and read the documentation.)

Amaze friends and family by logging on to NORAD! Without a Modem!! SHOAX (requires BASIC) simulates a Logon to the NORAD computer network.

Tired of Technobabble? Translate those boring documentation files into something you CAN understand with JIVE or VALSPEAK.

Plumbing problems for the disk drive:

DRAIN - Finds water in Drive A: - Use on two-drive systems
DRAIN0 - Like DRAIN, but on Drive C: - Use on hard disk systems
DRAINH - Another version for Drive C: - Use on hard disk systems

Messages from nowhere:

HELPME - Someone inside your PC is calling for help
INSULTS - Generates insults directed at the PC user

These programs are NOT Trojan horses and will not destroy files, disks, or hardware. However, some programs may cause some systems to lock up; in which case you simply reboot your system.

Most of these programs do not require a registration fee.

These Gag files were collected and donated by Mark Gruner. The README file was prepared by Mark Gruner and edited by Kathryn Crawford.

Disk 270. Label Master 3.0 (1987) - A User Friendly Label Program from RKS Associates, 3820 North Dittmar Road, Arlington, VA 22207, 703-536-781.

While hardly the most sophisticated of label printers, this program is nevertheless a shareware gem. Ease of use is a major feature of

the program, which may be used successfully by a novice without reference to the manual.

Label Master creates labels and prints them in any format from 1 to 4 across. Old files written in ASCII or dBase III may be imported if they meet the following criteria: data sequence, field length, and proper punctuation.

The labels can be sorted either by last name or zip code. Automatic telephone dialing is another feature. You may print the entire contents of a data base, or select according to criteria of your choice (including every nth listing for generation of random lists). One line may be added for a temporary message preceding the name: e.g., "Regional Vice President", "Merry Christmas", "Resident". You may create up to 10,000 return address labels with a very few keystrokes.

Shareware registration fee for this program is \$40. This disk was donated by Kathryn Crawford, with readme file prepared by Pat Henley and edited by Kathryn Crawford.

Disk 271. SUPERMANdelbrot 2.0 (c1985) - Fractal Geometry Graphics in Color, (C) COPYRIGHT 1985 by Marshall Dudley, TriMark Engineering, 12402 W. Kingsgate Dr., Knoxville, Tn. 37922.

SUPERMAN is a color graphics illustration of fractal geometry. The program is an implementation of the Mandelbrot Set described in the August 1985 issue of Scientific American.

The Mandelbrot Set, named for Benoit B. Mandelbrot of IBM, is a subset of the plane of complex numbers (numbers having both a real and an imaginary component). This is an incredibly beautiful set with infinite complexity. Zooming in on part of the plot shows the complexity continues to grow, with old shapes reappearing and new ones come into view.

To start the program, at DOS prompt, type "SUPERMAN", then type "WHOLE" at filename prompt. WHOLE.PIC is an example of the picture file that this program generates of the Mandelbrot Set. HIGHMAG.PIC is an example of the zoom in views that this program can generate. Using a windowing approach from option "3" on the main menu, you can set up the coordinates of a new area of the complex plane to be magnified. Using this technique to zoom, it is possible to achieve magnifications in excess of 100 million times that of the area displayed in the WHOLE.PIC view.

HIGHMAG.ANI shows an example of the animation mode, with the colors changing to reveal the contours of the forms. Using a technique of varying colors along boundaries known as "level-sets" an animated view of a region of the Mandelbrot Set is created. Choose option "1" at the main menu, and the animated displays generated are nothing short of spectacular!

This is an impressive demonstration of fractal geometry. Although the algorithm is relatively simple, each point on the plane may require several thousand multiplications and additions to determine its value. Since the author has gone to the trouble and bother of constructing this program, even the non-mathematician can have hours of fun playing with the result. ▶

Super Hardware, Texas Made!

September
Meeting -
...Infomart.

To make 1-2-3 perform better than any other spreadsheet, enter a few simple keystrokes.



Lotus® 1-2-3® is the proven performance standard. The top spreadsheet in the world, with over seven million users.

It's the backbone of business, worldwide.

And now, with the added functionality of Value Pack, 1-2-3 performs better than ever. In fact, it's faster and more customizable than any other spreadsheet on the market.

Value Pack allows you to remove copy protection. And it gives you Lotus Speedup™, for minimum recalc, and the fast-

est spreadsheet available. And Lotus Learn™ for recording keystrokes, so creating macros is a veritable snap.

Value Pack also lets you take full advantage of EGA and VGA support for high resolution graphics, and PostScript® to access an even wider range of laser printers.

And, to top it all off, you can call us for six months of unlimited toll-free product support, the best in the industry.

To tap into this new level of 1-2-3 performance, just

key in the phone number of your Lotus dealer. Or better yet, stop by.

You can even call us at 1-800-426-7682,* and request part #AHR-450 for 5.25" media, or part #AHR-440 for 3.5" media.

We'll send you a Value Pack for \$15 for postage and handling.

Value Pack is available for a limited time only.



Value Pack for Lotus 1-2-3

*For phone orders, MasterCard, Visa and American Express accepted. Or, you can write us at Lotus Development Corporation, Center VP, P.O. Box 9168, Cambridge, MA 02139-9168. All written requests must be paid by check or money order.

© 1988 Lotus Development Corporation. Lotus and 1-2-3 are registered trademarks and Lotus Speedup and Lotus Learn are trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. PostScript is a registered trademark of Adobe Systems, Inc.

The program allows you to make your own zoom in pictures, but without the math co-processor version (available from the author for a Registration Fee of \$15) IT WILL TAKE A LONG TIME TO GENERATE THE PICTURE. The \$15 Registration Fee will also get you the Turbo Pascal source.

REQUIRES: IBM PC, XT, AT or compatible, 256K minimum memory, Dos 2.0 or higher, color graphics or compatible adapter, color monitor desirable.

This disk was donated by Kathryn Crawford; the readme file was prepared by Kathryn Crawford and edited by Ken Loafman.

Disk 272. WordCruncher DEMO 10/87, by Electronic Text Corporation, 5600 North University Ave, Provo, Ut 84604, (801) 226-0616.

The full WordCruncher software package contains both IndexETC and ViewETC. The program IndexETC prepares text for viewing with the program in this demo. Files must be DOS ASCII text. Sample types are business, legal, academic, literary, historical, personal & religious.

Files not already on magnetic media may be entered by scanner or keyboard. Related files may be linked together into a complete group. An example would be the Federalist Papers. 'Foreign' (non English) languages may be used when the sorting sequence of characters is provided by the user. German, French and Spanish can be displayed with proper fonts (with umlauts, tildes etc.). Texts are shown left to right, except Hebrew which will be right to left.

Material is retrieved according to user defined parameters from documents up to four billion characters in size. The parameters include specific references by word, phrase, list of words, two or more words in a defined context, a substring (for example a suffix or stem), tag words for text fields or any logical combination of these. Supplemental dictionaries and thesauruses (supplied by the user, though ETC plans to have its own later) which have been pre-indexed using indexETC offer additional abilities.

Selected references can be displayed in windows (these may be varied in size up to full screen) which show the reference in context, you may page forward or backward. You can create a printable book-style index or concordance of words or phrases. Help and other Function keys are available. The results can be printed, saved to DOS text files or WordPerfect interface files. Statistical reports are available (including z-scores and frequency distribution).

Hardware requirements: MS-DOS computer with a minimum of 512K memory (640 recommended). A color monitor is suggested but it works just fine on an amber monochrome monitor. DOS 3.2 is recommended but it will work with 2.1 or higher. A hard drive is recommended since the program is so big it requires two floppy discs. If large text files are used it is recommended that they be on something like a Bernoulli removable media. The system will run on floppies but requires a lot of disc swapping.

The ETC 'WordCruncher Bookshelf Series' includes at present the Constitution Papers, The American Bookshelf Series (works in progress) including Willa Cather, Emerson, Faulkner, Benjamin Franklin, Hawthorne, Henry James, Thomas Jefferson, Jack London, Melville, Thoreau, Twain, Whitman. Others are to be released later.

WordCruncher\$299(ViewETC and IndexETC) ViewETC170(with binder in box) IndexETC170(only if you own ViewETC) View-Jr99limited version of ViewETC

This software was donated by Ken Loafman. The readme file was prepared by Bill Holloway and edited by Harold (Hal) Horton.

Disk 273. Lotus 1-2-3 Copy Protection Removal, 5/88, for release 2.0/2.01 By Lotus Development Corporation, 55 Cambridge Parkway, Cambridge, Massachusetts 02142.

Since Lotus Development Corporation is no longer going to have copy protection on any of their products, They have created and is distributing the programs necessary to unprotect 1-2-3 release 2.0 or 2.01.

THIS DISK WILL ONLY UNPROTECT ONE LOTUS 1-2-3 SYSTEM DISK. TO UNPROTECT ADDITIONAL DISKS COPY THIS DISK AND USE THE COPY ON THE ADDITIONAL DISKS. BEFORE USING ANY OF THE PROGRAMS ON THIS DISK, READ THE DOCUMENTATION PROVIDED IN THE INSTALL.DOC FILE.

To print INSTALL.DOC, insert this disk into drive A: and type COPY A:INSTALL.DOC PRN at the DOS prompt. This file is basically copied directly from the documentation supplied with the Value Pack from Lotus Development and is described below. Permission was given to the User's Group by Lotus Development Corporation to copy these instructions. Jim Holsington of the User's Group began creating this file and Mark Gruner completed the file.

The file INSTALL.DOC file includes all needed documentation to remove copy protection from Lotus 1-2-3 release 2.0 or 2.01.

The typical way of acquiring the protection removal programs is to send \$15.00 to Lotus Development Corporation for the Value Pack. The Value Pack includes the copy protection removal programs, Lotus 1-2-3 Add-In manager including installation and deinstallation programs, Learn Add-In, Speed-Up Add-In, drivers for EGA and VGA monitors, and drivers for Postscript printers.

The two Add-Ins and the Add-In manager are already in the North Texas PC User's Group Disk-of-the-Month collection. If you have an EGA or VGA monitor, or a Postscript printer, the Value Pack may be worth the \$15.00. The Value Pack is available to registered users of 1-2-3 versions 2.0 and 2.01. Contact Lotus Development for details.

These files were donated by Lotus Development Corporation and delivered to the North Texas User's Group by Jim Holsington. The readme file was prepared by Mark Gruner and edited by Howard Hamilton.

Disk 274. Winframe -- A Window Manager for Turbo Pascal 4.0 by Stan Milam.

Winframe.Tpu is a window manager designed for Turbo Pascal version 4.00. Winframe includes 18 procedures and functions with a number of global variables that are designed to give you, the programmer, more control over the video screen. With Winframe you may 'Frame' text windows using different border types and title your windows all with different colors if you so choose. Also, you may save & restore text screens, locate the cursor, control the cursor size, hide the cursor and show the cursor; you may read characters from any location on the screen and fill the text screen with any character using any color.

Winframe is intended to be used with Turbo Pascal version 4.00 on IBM personal computers and true compatibles, to work in 80 by 25 text mode. It will not work in 43 line EGA text mode. Winframe automatically detects the monitor in use and configures itself to work with that monitor. ►

PROCEDURES & FUNCTIONS: Frame:Frames a text window. Explode:Makes and Frames an Exploding Window SaveTextScreen:Saves a text screen. RestoreTextScreen:Restores text screen saved previously on the window stack. Pullup:Restores text screen saved previously on the window stack. FillTextScreen:Fills an entire textscreen with a specified character. Locate:Locates the cursor at the specified coordinates. WindowPop:Pops the specified number of windows off the 'window stack' without restoring the screens. BorderColor:Sets the color attribute of the window borders. TitleColor:Sets the color attribute of window titles. Title:Centers a title in the border above a window. Center & Centerln:Centers text on the current row in a window. UserBorder:Defines a border type specified by the user. HideCursor:To make the cursor invisible. ShowCursor:Make the cursor visible or reset the size of the cursor. GetScreenChar:Read a character from a specified location on the screen. Initialize_Winframe:Initializes Winframe to the environment.

This software was donated by the author (and user group member) Stan Milam. The review was prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Crawford.

Disk 275. QVT_PC - a DEC VT220 Terminal Emulator for PC-Compatible Computers, Copyright 1988 QPC Software, P.O. Box 226; Penfield, NY 14526 .

QVT_PC provides emulation of the Digital Equipment Corporation VT220 Terminal for owners of PC-Compatible Computers. Terminal emulation permits you to run full-screen mini-computer or mainframe applications using your PC as a remote terminal.

QVT_PC provides emulation of all twenty VT220 Function keys as well as the VT220 Auxiliary Keypad. The Auxiliary Keypad includes the FIND, SELECT, INSERT, REMOVE, PREV, NEXT keys and a separate set of arrow keys. QVT_PC also emulates most text modes of the VT220. Bold appears bold, reverse is reverse, double-wide is spaced appropriately. 132 column mode is NOT supported. QVT_PC provides a pull-down help menu, set-up menu, and a modem menu for autodialing. QVT_PC will also emulate the VT100 and VT52 series of terminals.

QVT_PC requires a PC-Compatible Computer with at least 256K memory.

... supports Monochrome, CGA, and EGA displays.
... is designed specifically for the original 83-Key PC-Keyboard. However, other keyboards will work with this version. Other versions designed specifically for the 84-Key AT Keyboard and the 101-Key enhanced keyboard are also available.

QVT_PC operates at the following baud rates: 300, 1200, 2400, 3800, 9600, 19,200. QVT_PC supports KERMIT and XMODEM file transfer protocols, capture data, upload text, and screen capture. Multiple configuration files are supported. Automatic Dialing is provided for Hayes-standard modems. A simple script file may be created to LOGIN to the host once a connection has been established.

QVT_PC is shareware and requires a \$30 registration fee. Registration gives you a license to use the program, a copy of the full user manual, and two free upgrades for a period of one year. Copies of the alternate DOS versions are also available directly from QPC for \$30. Versions are also available to run under Microsoft Windows or for the Apple Macintosh for a \$50 registration fee.

This software was donated by user group member Kenneth Loafman. The review was prepared by Richard Terreo and edited by Kenneth Loafman.

Disk 276. AtomCC 7.1, 11/85 by Y. F. Chang. Create FORTRAN programs to solve ordinary differential equations.

The program was written by professor Y. F. Chang of Claremont McKenna College. Read the MANUAL.DOC file, it is very well done! The program appears to work as advertised. If you need to solve Ordinary Differential Equations (ODEs), this should be a standout.

This program is described in 'The ATOMCC Toolbox' by Y.F. Chang, BYTE, April 86 (V11,#4), page 215.

To be able to run ATOMCC on your MSDOS micro-computer, you must have the following hardware and software:-

- an MSDOS computer, with an 8087 co-processor;
- at least 256K of RAM memory;
- two floppy disc drives, or a hard disc drive;
- the Microsoft-FORTRAN77 version 3.30.

This disk was donated by former NTPCUG member Sam Leven. The review was prepared by Clifton R. Liles and edited by Howard Hamilton.

Disk 277A and B. File Express 4.15, 2/20/88, ExpressWare.

FILE EXPRESS is a database management program that allows information to be input, displayed, sorted, and printed in virtually any manner desired. This program works very well and is very easy to use. I would recommend it very highly for a novice database user. The menu system used makes it very easy to understand and define a database. It lacks some of the more sophisticated features of more expensive database programs but it should handle the needs of the average user. An evaluation guide is included on the disk as well as a sample database to get you started. The evaluation guide defines commonly used terms for new users.

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS: PC OR MSDOS version 2.0 or higher, at least 256K ram and two disk drives or hard disk, a printer to print reports or labels. Monochrome and color monitors are supported.

CHANGES FROM EARLIER VERSIONS: Capacities increased: Maximum field length from 60 to 250 characters, max. fields per record from 40 to 120, and max. records per database from 32,767 to 16,000,000 (limited by disk space). Sort routines are faster. New report writer allows reports to be defined in full screen edit mode and easily changed later. A formula handler has been added with If/Then logic and math and string functions. Headings and sub-headings can be changed and 2 subtotal levels permitted. Fields may be lengthened or shortened. Paint-the-Screen option allows input screens to be rearranged. Keyboard macros are longer and a "recalculate entire database" option added. Databases may be appended and multiple quick labels may be defined for a database.

The README file was prepared by Gerry Heine and edited by Preston Brashear.

Disk 278A&B. FANSI-CONSOLE 2.00M, 1/25/88, Screen and keyboard enhancer.

This disk contains the 2.00M release of the FANSI-CONSOLE screen and keyboard enhancer from Hershey Micro Consulting Inc.

Briefly, FANSI-CONSOLE (tm) is a fast ANSI X3.64 standard console driver for the IBM-PC. The name "FANSI" comes from "fast ANSI". Pronounce it the same as "fancy". The "console" means the screen and keyboard together. FANSI-CONSOLE is also called

"The Integrated Console Utility (tm)", because it integrates many little console control features into one program.

FANSI-CONSOLE runs under MS-DOS 2.0+, and performs the following functions:

- Compatibly replaces standard IBM-PC console software
- Speeds up screen writing
- Processes most ANSI X3.64 control sequences
- Emulates a DEC VT100 terminal
- Allows one finger pausing
- Allows more control over shifting and locking keys
- Allows recall of lines scrolled off the screen
- Allows much more type ahead
- Allows keyboard macro assignment during running programs
- Allows more memory for keyboard macros
- Turns displays off when not in use
- Allows one finger typing
- Allows keyboard generated breakpoints
- Eliminates screen flicker
- Provides support for displays with more rows and columns
- Supports MDA, CGA, HERC, EGA and most VGA modes
- Extends the IBM-PC ROM BIOS
- Provides some control over use of color
- Provides control over key repeat rate
- Provides control over key clicks
- Many other features

Later versions (2.10 and 3.0) of FANSI-CONSOLE are not Shareware.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Ken Loafman. The readme file was prepared by Charles Carter and edited by Ken Loafman.

Disk 279. FIFTH 2.2, 6/88, FIFTH Programming Environment, CLICK Software, P.O. Box 10162, College Station, Texas. 77840 (409) 696-5432.

Offered by Cliff Click and Paul Snow, FIFTH is made up of a compiler, a simple full-screen text editor, and a dictionary editor, all highly integrated to produce a programmer's interactive programming environment. It supports FORTH as a base language. Registration is \$40, and a professional version, capable of producing stand-alone MSDOS applications, is available.

FIFTH uses MSDOS (you need 2.0 or later) files instead of screens & blocks. It provides 32 bit integer and real arithmetic, automatic 8087 (required for real operations) support, direct instead of threaded code, access to all of memory, and a more interesting scoping scheme than FORTH's straight up global scoping.

FIFTH supports a concept of compile-by-demand. If an attempt to execute an uncompiled word is made, the word is compiled before execution. Exiting the editor will also compile the word being edited, thus in most cases the programmer does not have to specify a compile stage.

FIFTH includes two interesting commands: HELP and DIR. The HELP command provides on-line documentation for the calling parameters to the primitives in the system. The DIR command invokes a menu-driven dictionary editor. Using the arrow keys, the dictionary (which is a tree-like structure) may be traversed and modified. From the DIR command source files may be loaded, edited, and saved, compilations forced, etc.

"I'm not a FORTH guru, but I've enjoyed playing with FIFTH so much that I'm now a registered user!"

The review was prepared by John Puckette and edited by Kenneth Loafman.

Disk 280A and B. In-Control 12 Pack [TM] Version 2.64, 12/87, by ACS, 2116 E. Arapaho, Suite 226 Richardson, TX 75081,

In-Control is a Prospect/Client/Customer Activity Tracking System. The program was formerly called PROSPECT. The program originally supported 12 types of organizations hence the name 12 Pack. This version supports 19 different kinds of organizations from salesmen, bankers, CPAs, architects, churches, plus 14 others. You can select any one of the nineteen organizations programs from a menu. Select the program and terminology that is specific to your industry. This program was featured in PC World, July, 1987, page 308 and reviewed in 'PC-SIG', May, 1987.

Everything you need is on-line. The features of In-Control include 1) a Rolodex feature with appointment schedules; 2) a built-in intelligent, Speakerphone/Telephone Dialing System that distinguishes between local, local toll, and long distance calls; 3) a built-in proposal and invoice generator, that can clock and cost each activity in real time; 4) plus more. All reports fit into a standard briefcase.

In-Control will run on a color or monochrome IBM or IBM compatible system with a minimum of 448K of RAM. It will run on a two-disk floppy system, but works better on a hard disk. Networks are also supported.

In-Control will accommodate 1,000,000,000 records per file, 99,999,999 categories or "layers" of data; 1,000,000,000 phone numbers dialer, and 1,000,000,000 mailing label subsystem.

In-Control standardizes your prospect/client/customer data and follow up information and converts forgotten verbal commitments into a focused, daily appointments and callback list that nets you extra business and greater efficiency.

The readme file was prepared by Roy Bales and edited by Mark Gruner.

Inventory Reduction Sale

Over the past year and a half we have tried to provide a high service level of disk availability to members and guests of the North Texas PC User Group. Sometimes we run out, but not very often. Sometimes we order too many copies of some disks. Now in order to continue adding new software to the collection, we need to thin out some of the older and lower volume disks. So, as the successor to the Fire Sale carried out over the past few months, we introduce the IRS, Inventory Reduction Sale. Over 25 different disk titles offered at one dollar each, that's just a buck. We have at least 10 of each of these and some have many more. We ordered income tax software this year without the benefit of last January's sales figures or the knowledge of how many different publishers of income tax software there would be in 1988. So how about picking out one or two of these disks, maybe for your children or a friend. ▶

NTPCUG Inventory Reduction Sale

- [] 8610 PC-DIAL
Telecommunications by Jim Button
- [] 0047 TURBO PASCAL PROGRAMS
from PC TECH Journal
- [] 0056 UTILITIES for users and
PASCAL PROGRAMMERS
- [] 0062 APL*PLUS / PC SYSTEM DEMO
- [] 0081 JUNIOR MUSIC MACHINE
See & hear music on the PCjr
- [] 0108 TIMESAVER
- [] 0118 123/SYM VIRTUAL MEMORY SYSTEMS
TRYVM123/TRYVMSYM (HAL: 2-LO-182)
- [] 0124A FILE EXPRESS - Program disk
Information Management program
- [] 0124B FILE EXPRESS - Utilities disk
Information Management program
- [] 0131B FIDO COMMUNICATION - Document disk
Fourth Edition, August 1985
- [] 0136 123 TEMPLATES: WHITEROCK #1
Master menu and Macro worksheets
- [] 0138 SYM COMMAND LANGUAGE INSTRUCTION
- [] 0139 SYM INSURANCE INDUSTRY DEMO
- [] 0140 SYM MEDICAL INDUSTRY DEMO
- [] 0153 FORMGEN v1.2(86); mail-merge +
PLABEL.EXE(86), STAYRES.PAS(86)
- [] 0186 SmartForecasts II - TRAINER/DEMO
requires GCA/EGA
- [] 0191 Patches for Turbo C v1.0 (Jun 87)
- [] 0193 FREE TK (7/87) Evaluation version
of TK Solver Plus v1.0
- [] 0194 Advanced Pro-Path 8 DEMO (7/87)
Critical Path Management
- [] 0196 ChiWriter Scholar's Edition (8/87)
Multi-font word processing TRYWARE
- [] 0227A Phoenix BBS 1.00, 11/87, Disk 1/2
A replacement for Collie BBS
- [] 0227B Phoenix BBS 1.00, 11/87, Disk 2/2
replacement for Collie BBS
- [] 0229 AM-Tax 1987, 11/87
1987 tax preparation software
- [] 0241 Share-TAX/1040 87.1, 1/15/88
Tax preparation for tax year 1987
- [] 0252 Fed Tax 87, 1/28/88
Lotus 1-2-3 2.x template
- [] 0253 PC-Tax87 87.15, 2/5/88
Tax software from James Demberger

Please clip out this listing and use it as an order form at the DOM table in August—ONLY \$1.00 per disk.

Volunteers for the D-O-M Tables

We want to thank Dwight Neal, who has been coordinating the volunteers who operate the DOM tables each month at our meetings, for the past two years.

For the rest of the summer, Hal Horton and Howard Hamilton will coordinate these volunteers. There is a sign-up sheet available at the D-O-M table, so please stop by and pick your time for the succeeding meeting or the one after that. And—if you have to cancel out, please call Hal or Howard, or send us a message on the bulletin board. Last month, we have several no-shows who jeopardized the smooth flow of this highly coordinated volunteer operation.

REVIEWERS, We need reviewers!

We need volunteers to use and review the disks that have been donated to the Disk-of-the-Month library. If you would make the time to review and write a READ.ME file, please let me know your choice by sending me a message on the club bulletin board or by talking to me at the next meeting.

Here are some of the disks donated in the past few months:

BlackBeard 7.37, 1/88.— programmer's text editor
Cogent Prolog DEMO— Demo of commercial Prolog program
File Manager 4.30, 3/88— DOS shell/file mgr, self extracting .exe
Generic Adventure Builder— build your own adventure games.
FreeBase 1.0, 3/87— FREE dataBASE management software to
test and debug ideas.
PDLisp 1.10, 8/86— Dave Morein's (Cybermetrics) LISP. ae:hbh
SD-Prolog DEMO— Demo of commercial Prolog program
FCNPLT, 6/88— Function plotter
MLS, 10/86— Multi-Language Scholar
ABC Fun Keys 2.0, 2/87— Musical learning game
PIBTERM 4.1— (2 disk set)
DX-Dir Extended 1.60, 3/88
ZOO200.ARC/UU.ARC/SPLIT.ARC
Brown Bag Software:—
RamTest, Goal Seeker, Power Menu, and Homebase
As Easy As— Clone of 1-2-3
Sage— Calendar and Personal Datebook
Test Maker— Create multiple choice questions for the classroom

We need users of prior version of the following updates to the D-O-M.

CHASM 4.12S.— Cheap Assembler
Funnels & Buckets 2.0, 1/88— Educational math game(s)
GT 14.00— communications software
PC-Outline! 3.34, 11/87— memory resident mode does not work
PICNIX 3.0, 5/88— UNIX-like utilities
QEdit 2.04, 3/88— Programmer's quick editor
Telix 3.0— communications software
TheDraw 3.0, 4/88— Color/monochrome Screen Image Editor,
Ian E. Davis
WSSIndex 3.35, 5/88— Disk cataloger, 2 disks

For a current, up-to-date list of the disks available, log on the DOM conference of the club bulletin board. Pick a disk you would like to review and send me a message. I will bring the disk to the next meeting and written guidelines for preparing a review. The guidelines are also maintained in the DOM conference of the club BBS.

You will have one or two months (if you can't finish in three months, please return the disk so that we can get somebody else) to review the software and prepare an introductory README file. Our Area Editor will put the file on the disk and print copies to put in the notebooks that our members browse in helping to determine which disks they would like to purchase.

See you at the D-O-M tables.

Howard

■

The Critic's Corner

(Reserved for Non-Snobs)

by Christine Timchek

There are a few of us out here, rumor has it, who are totally unmotivated, happily ignorant of computerese and too lazy to get smart. We keep little cheat sheets under the CRT to prod gray matter long ago shriveled from too many Margaritas.

We write an AUTOEXEC.BAT only under the gravest of circumstances and then only with RUNNING MS-DOS propped up on the left and three back-up copies of the existing version on the right. An error message gives us the willies and JAWS or FRIDAY THE 13TH will never be as frightening as "Divide Overflow" or "Out of environment space."

So, if you program in "C" and consider "BASIC" beneath you, go away and plug something into your motherboard. I am talking to the real world here...

Run children, do not walk, to your friendly neighborhood disk pusher and buy yourself a copy of Quick-Dos, Version 2.0. (QD2). All these dozens of "must-know" DOS commands are only a cursor selection away. Show those little buggers who is boss!

It installs itself in a flash, and you are playing (excuse me: working with it) in minutes, without ever cracking the spine on the documentation.

Is the entire root structure of your hard disk a vague mystery to you? Consider it a thing of the past. You "M"ake or "R"emove a directory with one key stroke, "M"ove files to different directories or sub-directories by simply moving the cursor up or down the tree to the destination. Hit "Enter" they're moved.

If you copy a lengthy directory to a floppy, just "T"ag all the files and you are done in a second. The program stops obediently if the next file is too large for the remaining space on the floppy. So you "S"kip and it will transfer a few more smaller files to makes the most use of the disk. It tells you when to switch disks and dots the ones already copied. No ambiguities here!

People like us are not consistent in our use of extensions like .DOC, .TXT, .LTR, etc., which, unfortunately makes using DOS batch commands rather unproductive. (Creativity has it's own rewards!) QD2 doesn't care and will move anything, anywhere...and back again...

You can "V"iew files—a wonderful feature when you are cleaning up old mystery files after a backup of your hard disk. Scan through a few lines and you know which ones can be tagged for "E"rase. There is

a (newly added) safety feature so you don't get a little too fast on the trigger finger.

You can e"X"ecute files, evoke DOS without exiting, change attributes, search for and sort files by more parameters than I want to list, and all of this so fast you won't believe me unless you try it for yourself.

This latest up-date is another rare species: they left all the good stuff in (now isn't that special?) and since there was nothing bad to take out, they added a great text editor "QED" which is accessed from the command line or inside a directory. I can't fathom why anyone would ever even think of using Edlin again after the joy of QED.

I know you are tired of people pointedly telling you to "read the menu." But this one is child's play...and beats "Read the instructions."

Eventually, I know you will pick up the (eminently sensible) manual. By now, you are so comfortable with the program, the reading is actually enjoyable. You are not swearing and muttering under your breath, trying to learn a completely new program. You will pick up a few more "gee whiz" features you will enjoy (mostly in the editor) but it couldn't possibly make you love it more than you already do.

As a card-carrying, confirmed curmudgeon, it hurts me deeply to say this: but, I can't think of one critical thing to say about QuickDos.

Christine

■

New Dialing Sequence for Bulletin Board System

The telephone company metro dialing requirements were changed effective August 1st. If you do NOT live in Area Code 817 you must dial AC 817 as a prefix to the BBS number. This is not a toll call from AC 214.

From outside the 817 area code the numbers are:

817 461-0425 or 817 461-0506

SWAP  SHOP

Four lines free each month to members; 5th through 10th lines at 30 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.

FOR SALE

TI 855 Printer with accessories. Frank. 214 234-3600 Days.



Software Report

Dick Gall

LanSlave by LanSoft

The Made-in-Texas software theme continues this month thanks to an announcement in the July issue of PC Tech Journal and immediate response by the people at Dallas-based LanSoft Corporation to our interest in their LanSlave program.

Network Breakthrough

LanSlave is a job scheduling program for local-area networks (LAN) that lets users run a program on any PC in the network - or schedule a job for execution at a future date and time. This makes idle computing capacity available where it's needed, and improves productivity - especially in the program development environment.

For example, if you are on a PC LAN and need to compile a BASIC program, you now have to run it on your own PC - while you wait. In addition to this, LanSlave gives you additional options, which free you to do something else on your PC:

- run it now on another computer in your department or work group
- run it now on a high-powered (such as a 386) slave computer - anywhere in your network
- schedule it to run at a future, more convenient time

The Scheduler

Any workstation on the LAN can schedule a job using the LS program. Ten parameters are available on the scheduling screen to designate the job and how you want it run:

- DIRECTORY - Where the job is located
- JOB NAME - Job must be called with a ".BAT" file
- PARAMETERS - Command line parameters to be passed to the job when execution starts
- START DATE - Defaults to current date
- START TIME - Defaults to current time
- FREQUENCY - How often
to run the job: O = One Time; D = Daily; W = Weekly
- PRIORITY - Ranges from 1 (highest) to 9
- SLAVE ID - Option to designate PC to run your job
- SLAVE TYPE - Option to designate type of machine (such as 386) that can run your job
- SLAVE GROUP - Option to designate a named group of machines, any of which can run your job

The Slave

Any workstation on the network can be designated as a slave. The slaves run a special program which recovers jobs from the job queue and executes them according to slave, date, time, and priority. The

slaves periodically check the queue for available jobs to be run. Slave status displays are available to show whether a slave is waiting on work and the names of the last few jobs it has run.

Commonly the users of LanSlave arrange one or more 386 machines to act as dedicated slaves. They may be the only slaves enabled during the work day. At night, some or all individually-assigned PCs are also designated as slaves to make their program execution capacity available to run jobs for the entire system.

Inquiries & Audit Reports

An inquiry screen gives each user information about his scheduled jobs and those scheduled by all users. Job information listed includes date and time scheduled, user, priority, frequency, designated slave to the job (or "-ANY-" if the job can be run on any machine), job name, and command line parameters.

The system also produces an audit report which includes the inquiry information plus seconds of execution time required for each job that has run. Jobs started after their scheduled time are designated with an asterisk by the job name. The frequent appearance of asterisks indicates a possible need for schedule changes or another slave.

Lansoft

LanSlave has been in use by LanSoft customers of other software packages since 1986, and has just been released as a standalone product. We saw it run on the network at their offices in Dallas and also - for testing purposes - used it in a special mode to schedule several jobs to run on a standalone PC.

The program is written in assembler and C and is not memory resident. It is not tied to any specific network operating system. A 30-day money-back trial period is offered on a COD basis by LanSoft.

Price for the executable modules set is \$395, with a 40% discount applicable for purchases of the fourth and subsequent sets. The complete package of source code and executable modules is \$895, again with the 40% discount starting at the fourth package. For system integrators, LanSoft will furnish instructions (price \$100) for integrating LanSlave into your programs so that you can schedule jobs from your programs and store and recover job parameters for use in the slave mode.

LanSoft is located at 5440 Harvest Hill Road - Suite 126, Dallas 75230. Phone 960-9761.

Dick



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

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D., Chairman
Phil Chamberlain
Kathryn Crawford
Jim Holsington
Sid Nolte, Ph.D.

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.

Officials

President -

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)828-0699 h

President-Elect - Jim Holsington (214)416-3101 h

Program Chair. - John Ogle (214)869-2880 w

- Timothy Carmichael (214) 331-6303 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 Statistician - Connie Testa

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator

- Phil Chamberlain (214)243-5034 h

- Zack Porterfield (214)434-1844 w

Astrometry - Arlin Collins (214)351-5137 h

Assembler - Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. (214)226-3461 h

- Stan Milam (817)548-1573

Business Applic. Bruce Schubert (214)991-5967 w

C Language - Sid Nolte, Ph.D. (214)233-6178 h

CAD/CAM - Don Crockett (817)430-3606 h

Communications - Pete Testa (214)495-7506

- Wm. Bennett (817)346-0862 h

- (817)762-3059 w

Cryptanalysis - John Taber Metro 430-8173

- John Thomas (214)660-1823

DAC Software - Mike Macaulay (214)960-6656

DBase - David Hayden (214)644-0923 h

- Jack Altken (214)218-1346

DOS - Jim Holsington (214)416-3101 h

- Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. (214)828-0699 h

Genealogy - Minnie Champ (214)341-6507 h

Hdw Solutions - David McGehee (214)681-0202 h

- Gary Johnson (214)937-9676 w

- (214)937-5851 h

LOTUS - Mark Gruner (214)964-8174 h

- Pat Henley (214)229-9216 h

Personal Users - Bob Presley (214)867-1679 h

-Richard Terreo (214)307-1259

Programmers - Kent Cobb (214)343-3554

- Jim Holsington (214)416-3101 h

Stock Market - Cliff Murphy (214)279-7973

- Richard Holerman (214)341-4774 w

Turbo Pascal - Don Chick (214)276-2524 h

- Stan Milam (817)548-1573

Wordstar - Quentin Marshall (214)746-4880

- Cliff Knard (214)746-4880



NOTE: To access the BBS from
outside Area Code 817, use Area Code 817.
(This is NOT a toll call from Area Code 214.)

BULLETIN BOARD SYSTEM - (817)461-0425 (Metro)
(817)461-0506 (Metro)

SYSOP: - Tom Prickett (voice) (214)690-9087

Asst. SYSOP. - Maggie Mooney

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

P.O. Box 780066

Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

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



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.

NAME: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____

ADDRESS: _____ (Suite/Apt) _____

OCCUPATION/PROFESSION: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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

Do you want access to the Club Electronic Bulletin Board? YES [] NO [] Already Have []

The NTPCUG expects and encourages volunteer participation by members in helping put on the monthly meetings at 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:

[A] Working with NTPCUG Volunteer Committees?

Volunteer Areas from [A] above (Please check all that apply.)

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> [IB] [] Information/Registration | <input type="checkbox"/> [NL] [] Newsletter | <input type="checkbox"/> [FB] [] Financial/Bookkeeping |
| <input type="checkbox"/> [EL] [] Equipment Setup | <input type="checkbox"/> [DM] [] Disk of the month (DOM) | <input type="checkbox"/> [PR] [] Publicity/Public Relations |

[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) _____

Payment Received: Cash _____	Membership Classification: Regular (\$24.00) _____	Application Status: New Member _____
---------------------------------	---	---

Detach below for record of payment.

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

Payment: \$ _____ Check No. _____ Date: ___/___/___ by: _____

Selected SIG Happenings

News and Meeting Notes on Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to Phil Chamberlain, SIG Coordinator before the 15th of the month.)

Lotus SIG

Pat Henley, who regularly attends the Lotus SIG, has volunteered to be a co-leader of the Lotus SIG. Even prior to volunteering Pat has contributed to the SIG by reviewing Sideways, and Write-In (an add-in for 1-2-3). Pat has already started by distributing a questionnaire to determine what user's would like to learn about in future SIG meetings.

The subject for the July SIG meeting was a presentation of the financial "@" functions and how they can be used to solve typical problems in business and personal finance. Many users were unaware of the usefulness of these functions.

The subject for the August meeting will be a discussion of databases in 1-2-3. Many 1-2-3 users shun the thought of creating and using a database. However, 1-2-3 is very capable of handling databases to solve many problems. If you would like to learn more about databases, come by and join us in August. Pat will also present the results of his survey which will help determine future meetings.

At the Lotus SIG we always take time to answer questions that users have about 1-2-3 or Symphony. If you have a question, or just want to learn more, come by and see us.

Mark Gruner
& Pat Henley

Personal Users (Beginners) SIG

This SIG is for you – if you consider yourself any of the following:

..a Personal (versus professional) PC user ..a novice ..a beginner with Personal Computers ..a new PC owner ..a soon-to-be PC owner ..curious about PC's ..a PC user needing some review of "The Fundamentals"

We offer 16 individual, stand-alone classes covering the fundamentals of PC's. Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group. After four monthly meetings (four classes each), the entire 16-class curriculum is begun again. The classes are presented in numerical sequence. They always start at 9 A.M., 10 A.M., 12 noon, and 1 P.M. Since each class is "stand-alone", self-contained and does not require other classes as prerequisites, you can begin attending at any time convenient to your schedule. Each class has a set of handout notes to allow your review later, and to allow your undivided attention to the instructor during his presentation. There are no homework requirements, no pressures, no tests, and no dumb questions. You don't even need to be a member of NTPCUG before you start, although

you'll surely want to join after your first session! This 16-class curriculum on PC fundamentals is designed to be the kind of learning experience you always wished existed – where you would be accepted just as you are, and where you could gain knowledge without hassles – and best of all – where the classes are FREE.

We live in an age of exploding technology, and personal computers are no longer just expensive toys for playing arcade-type video games at home. Personal computers and computer technol-

ogy have found practical applications in almost all facets of our lives, and experts tell us that we have only entered the "Model T" stage of computing – only "just scratched the surface."

A new class series starts in August. See the schedule elsewhere in this Newsletter for the topics of the four sessions.

Bob Presley
& Richard Terreo

Business applications SIG

A new general ledger was demonstrated in the July Business Applications SIG. "TAS + Books" by Business Tools, Inc. of Bellevue Washington was quite an impressive product for its price tag of \$99. The demonstration diskette will also be available for copying during the August meeting if you didn't catch the demonstration.

At the July main meeting, a show of hands survey revealed that a majority of members attending were using Word Perfect. From this show of interest, a group of Word Perfect devotees met in a corner of the auditorium to discuss how best to obtain more coverage of Word Perfect in a SIG meeting. Some of the ideas reviewed were to create a new Word Perfect SIG, to hold one session a quarter in the Business Application SIG, and to start a new Desk Top Publishing/ Word Processing SIG. Phil Chamberlain, the SIG Coordinator, suggested the forming of an "application SIG" in which the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd month of each quarter would be devoted to a particular

product or subject which would be perhaps saturated if it were covered every month in its own SIG. This idea has particular merit considering the number of rooms available for NTPCUG use,

and it should be easier to find SIG leaders that would be available once a quarter versus every month. The agenda will include a discussion of what the members would like to see in Word Perfect coverage, and any problems/solutions that users would like to share with fellow users. These are just ideas, we would like to hear yours, so come to the August meeting.

Bruce Schubert

Turbo Pascal SIG

Debuggers for Turbo-Pascal 4.0!

Turbo Pascal 4.0 provided solutions to most of the things users of previous versions had been asking for. One thing NOT included, however, was effective de-bugging provisions. At the August meeting, Phil Chamberlain will review Turbo Power Software's T-DebugPlus 4.0. This is a superior piece of software that is almost a "must" for serious

Turbo programmers. People who had used the shareware version of TDebug with Turbo 3 will find the new version familiar but MUCH, MUCH improved.

Phil will also touch on the software-only versions of Periscope from The Periscope Company, offer some opinions about how it compares with T-Debug, and suggest where he thinks you get the most value for your money.

□

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Club. This is another in a regular series recognizing those Club members who have contributed their time and efforts as volunteers to assist in presenting the monthly meetings.

NTPCUG Volunteers are listed by area(s) served at the July 9, 1988 Club meeting. Some volunteers worked in more than one role, hence some names appear more than once.

SIG Leaders, officers and directors of the North Texas PC Users Group are also volunteers.

INFOMART Liaison:

Stuart Yarus

Presentation/Equipment Setup:

Timothy Carmichael
John Ogle
Tom Fowlston
James Rupert

Vendor Assistance/Setup:

Cecil Williams
Bob Russell
Kent Haven
Peh Lee
Chuck Mansfield

Information/Registration Booth

Connie Andrews
Robert Bibb
Rick Griffith
Allan Harbaugh
Danelle Harris
Grover Jones
Henry Kammlah
Charlotte Karam
Tom Krieg
Steve Lanier
John Mackoy
Tony Fogueras
Andy Oliver
Zack Porterfield
Connie Testa
Larry Tucker
Mark Weber
Don Young

Disk of the Month (DOM) volunteers:

DOM Table

Roy Bales
Richard Bauman
Gene Carlton
Charles Carter
Don Chick
Bill Drissel
Shawn Dunn
Patrick Flautt
Mark Gruner
Barry Haigh
Howard Hamilton
Carey Hardy
Pat Henley
Hal Horton
Gus Jones
Bob Karlebach
Ken Loafman
Don Mayfield
Howard McCalla
Donald McDonald
Robert Moren
Bill Petty
Bob Reynolds
Tom Scurlock
John Sheppard
Edwin Steane
Jerry Stone
Paul Van Dreal
Russell Walker

DOM Central Committee:

Preston Brashear
Kathryn Crawford
Mark Gruner
Howard Hamilton
Hal Horton
Ken Loafman
Dwight Neal

DOM Review/Preparation:

Roy Bales
Charles Carter
Kathryn Crawford
Gerry Helne
Ken Loafman
John Puckette
Paul Van Dreal

Club policy is that volunteers registered on duty at the time of a drawing on meeting day are eligible to win even though not in the Auditorium.

We have need for volunteers in all areas of the Club for various activities throughout the month as well as on meeting day. If you are interested in participating, please drop by the Information/Registration Booth or the DOM Booth at the next meeting and sign up. Or contact Connie Andrews on the Bulletin Board or at 828-0699. You can volunteer for as little as an hour, or more if you can spare the time. Our members have discovered that it can be quite rewarding in terms of getting to know our Club and its people.




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 the label on reverse side. It is valid through expiration date shown on the label.

When trimmed, the card will fit transparent badge holders available at your stationers.

Wear your membership card while attending meetings and other functions of the Users Group.



Membership Card
North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

This card valid only for individual named on label affixed to reverse side, only through year/month printed on the label, and only with proper identification.

Print Name: _____

Signature: _____

Trim card to wallet size.

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM to 9:45 AM

AUDITORIUM* Financial Services Publications, Inc *

"Using the Microcomputer as a Business Planning Tool"

10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

AUDITORIUM * IBM *

"An Overview of IBM PS/2 Hardware and OS/2 Software"

Speaker to be announced.

11:00 to 11:30

AUDITORIUM * NTFCUG Business Meeting *

Make your voice heard! Attend the business meeting.

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.*

<p><u>9:00 - 9:55</u></p> <p>Assembler DOS CAD/CAM Hardware Solutions Personal Users</p>	<p><u>11:30 - 11:55</u></p> <p>Orientation</p> <p><u>12:00 - 12:55</u></p> <p>C Language Communications Personal Users Stock Mkt Investing</p>	<p><u>1:00 - 1:55</u></p> <p>Business Applications LOTUS Personal Users Turbo Pascal</p> <p><u>2:00 - 2:55</u></p> <p>Advanced Programmers Cryptanalysis DAC Easy Accounting dBase Programmers</p>
<p><u>10:00 - 10:55</u></p> <p>Astrometry Personal Users</p>		

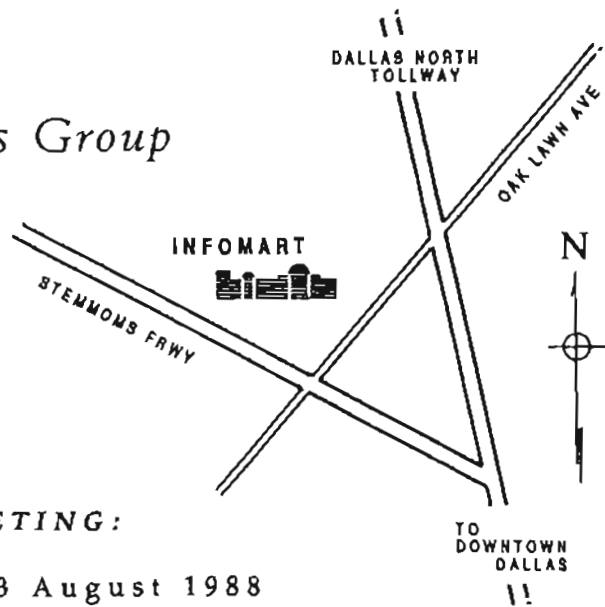
North Texas PC Users Group
P. O. Box 780066
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Address Correction Requested.

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

[REDACTED]

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

13 August 1988