
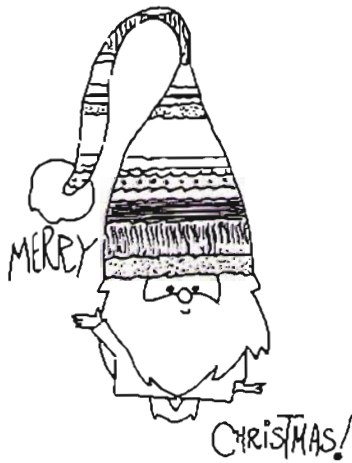


North Texas
PC NEWS



North Texas PC Users Group



7.12

December 1988



North Texas PC NEWS
(STARMAIL ADDRESS 51563)

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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, James Green), or via StarText (to Mail Code 51563), or on disk (360K or 1.2M, 5 1/4 floppy). Prepare the material in ASCII format, unjustified. If you send a disk, please include a printed copy of the article to assure accuracy. If sending to the User Group Bulletin Board, use @Mail mode, to James Green. 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.

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

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Member distribution is 1199; remaining copies are distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for January
NT PC NEWS:**

Thursday, December 15th.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS IS BEFORE
THE DECEMBER MEETING.**

Meeting Dates:

December Meeting - 3rd Sat. (17th)
January Meeting - 2nd Sat. (14th)
February Mtg - 3rd Sat.
(tentative)

Editor's Notes...

Beginning this month, James Green, our new Editor, will be filling this spot with sage advice, editorial plans, aspirations, kudos, pleas and all the other good things editors do and write about.

John

Have you looked carefully at the PC News lately? Notice the dramatic improvement? That improvement is due to the hard work and dedication of John Pribyl, until now the PC News's editor, publisher, add seller, floor sweeper, etc. John is a retired publishing professional who volunteered his time and expertise to edit and publish the newsletter. Unfortunately, as the user group and the PC News have grown, his job has become dreadfully time consuming. Recently, John has spent over 60 hours per month in this volunteer effort. In effect, the NTPCUG had a half time, unpaid professional newsletter publisher. It would not be fair or practical to ask John to continue as a volunteer at such a level of effort.

Please turn to page 3.

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December 17 _____ John Ogle & Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM to 9:55 AM

Auditorium

* Zortec Incorporated *

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10:00 AM to 10:55 AM

Auditorium

* Lotus Development Corporation *

" Lotus Agenda, The Personal Information Manager "

Presented by Gary Griggs, Marketing Specialist, who will describe and demonstrate this new software package, and will also distribute free gifts and software.

11:00 AM to 11:30 AM

Auditorium

* NTPCUG Business Meeting *

See what all the activity is about! Come to the business meeting.

Seasons Greetings

Prez Sez...

Fading Purple Prose, Choosing Sides, Stainless Steel, Glitter Rock 'n Roll and Vintage Years

This was going to be a "last" column -- begun by casting a fond good-bye to Purple Prose and followed by apologies for my complete disregard for any semblance of style in past writings.

On second thought...

Real reform doesn't happen that easily. Besides, there's still COMDEX/Fall 88 to come, and I know I won't be able to resist all that glitter, tinsel and professionally-styled B.S. Straight, descriptive writing for COMDEX?. Sure.

Choosing sides -- elections!

It's that time again. Club Elections. Opportunity to decide on the Club's future. Nominees for North Texas PC Users Group, Inc., Board of Directors and

President-Elect are listed (and shown) elsewhere in this issue.

A word of explanation. Candidates for the Board of Directors serve one-year terms if elected. The President-Elect will serve one year in that capacity, then a second year as President of the Club.

Listen to the candidates. Talk with them. See if they represent your views on how the Club should be run.

Vote early. Vote often (Chicago members only.)
Vote.

Stainless Steel -- new Club officials

Although it's bright and shiny, stainless steel really doesn't have much to do with new Club officials.

But, NIPCUG has a new Treasurer, a new Director of PR/Advertising and the *PC News* has a new Editor after the October Volunteer Meeting.

Ken Conner was named the Club's new Treasurer in November, filling the void left by Joe Brophy who resigned in October. Ken is a CPA, has a background that includes extensive experience working with volunteer, 501(c)(3) organizations, and is familiar with our style of operation.

Ron Kerr has volunteered to serve as Public Relations (PR) and Advertising Director. This is a new position made necessary by the Club's growth over the last three years. Ron will be primarily involved in establishing PR/Advertising goals and organizing the Club's efforts.

James Green was named the new *PC News* Editor in November and will be working closely with John Pribyl, *PC News* Publisher. Jim will be coordinating writing and editing efforts for the *PC News* while organizing a system for planning and review of submitted articles.

Glitter Rock 'n Roll -- COMDEX/Fall 88


President-Elect Jim Hoisington and I are headed for COMDEX/Fall 88. Actually, this column is being written the night before Jim and I leave for Las Vegas.

We have a full agenda of Club-related meetings and seminars to attend during the four days we'll be there, including invitations from Microsoft, Word Perfect, Lotus, Peter Norton Computing, *PC Computing*, *PC World* and other PC vendors. After looking at the schedule, we realized there wouldn't be much room for play in Las Vegas -- or we'd have to cut the exhibition areas short. What to do?

We'll fill you in at the December Meeting.

It Was a Very Good Year...

It's been a good year for the Club. We've continued to grow over the year and have solidified the gains in



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<i>Lotus 1-2-3</i>	\$269
<i>Lotus Agenda</i>	\$260
<i>Micrografx Graph Plus</i>	\$264
<i>Micrografx Designer</i>	\$229
<i>Microsoft Excel</i>	\$299
<i>Microsoft Windows/286</i>	\$69
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<i>Pinstripe Presenter new</i>	\$99
<i>Professional File v 2.0 new</i>	\$185
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membership with equal gains in member participation in the Club's operation.

Recognition of our vitality comes from major PC hardware and software vendors anxious to present their products at Club meetings.

New Club titles were mentioned earlier in this column. They are important, but are only a small portion of the increases in member efforts that have gone into making the Club a solid, vital, living organization. NTPCUG's volunteer roster has grown to the point that almost 100 members are involved in coordinating, organizing and staffing each Club meeting.

If the year has been successful for me as President, it's because of the Club's volunteers. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank some of the key people who make it all work: Jim Holsington, President-Elect, who will write this column for the next 12 months as President, Phil Chamberlain, SIG Coordinator and member of the Board of Directors (BOD), Dr. Sid Nolte, BOD, Kathryn Crawford, DOM Director and BOD, David McGehee, Club Secretary, John Ogle and Timothy Carmichael, Program Committee, Dr. Robert Kolodner, Membership Director, John Pribyl, PC News Publisher, Tom Prickett, BBS SYSOP, Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator, and, past NTPCUG President Stuart Yarus who is currently President of Computer Council of Dallas (CCD).

I've enjoyed this with you-all -- it's truly been a vintage year.

Reagan Andrews ▲

Editor's Notes...

Continued from page 1.

For that reason, John asked some of us to step in and share the work. I agreed to oversee the editorial tasks, that is, soliciting and editing articles and reviews for the PC News. Doug McQuaid, Gerry Heine, Archie Pinkney, and Alan Lintel have agreed to help. Another committee will oversee selling advertising to help foot the bills. John Pribyl will continue to do the publishing: the layout, style design, and printing of the master copies using Ventura and a laser printer. With this division of effort, hopefully John will begin to have a little spare time again to enjoy his retirement.

This is my first column as the newly appointed editor. Many of you may not know me very well. Let me introduce myself. I grew up in Atlanta more years ago than I care to remember. I received an A.B. in chemistry from Duke University, and after two years in Duke medical school and three in the graduate school, received a Ph.D. in neuro-physiology. But my real love was computers, and the promise they held in the mid 1960s. I joined the image processing laboratory at MIT as a member of the research faculty and for four years did pioneer research in medical image processing. After leaving the Institute in 1971, I established my consulting practice and spent a little time in the MBA program at Boston University. I designed and developed a hospital instrument that analyzed blood cell images. The tail end of that project brought me to Dallas in 1977. Since then I have developed image processing, image analysis, and pattern recognition systems that addressed such diverse topics as tactical anti-tank weapons and the compression and storage of digitized document images. Currently I'm president of Robot Vision Corp., my (one man) consulting and design services firm.

My first computer experience, in 1960, was on an IBM 650 which had 2,000 words of drum storage as main memory and a card reader and punch as its only I/O devices. We've come a long way since then. I've worked on almost every computer DEC ever made. I acquired my first PC, an AT clone, three years ago. I'm also president of the DFW Unix user group and a heavy user of Unix, currently on a 386 AT clone.

Beside computers, my hobby is automobile racing. Ernest Hemingway once said "There are three sports: mountain climbing, bull fighting, and motor racing; all the rest are games". While I was a driver (in a Lola-Cosworth), I held a national competition license. I now amuse myself driving a 1973 DeTomaso Pantera and a 1985 Corvette, almost always fast but always within my limits (the timid would say too fast; no guts, no glory, we racers say). If a red Corvette blows by you and sucks your headlights out, it's probably me.

I look forward to serving in this position. I will probably inject my personal style into the editorial content, and the newsletter will evolve to reflect this as time goes on. I have an open mind; I welcome comments and criticisms. I believe that this user group is here so we can *help each other*. My tenure may be short, as business may eventually take me away from Dallas, but while I'm in the job I will do my best. I will appreciate your support.

Jim Green ▲

The Great ARC Quandry

by Ken Loafman and Kathryn A. Crawford

The lawsuit between System Enhancement Associates (SEA) and PKWARE (PK) has generated a great deal of interest in the community and a great deal of comment. For those of you have not been following the story, some background is in order.

What is ARCing ...

ARCing is the process by which the size of a file is reduced. The term ARCing is like the term Xeroxing: the use of a product name to describe an activity or product. The Xerox Corporation would prefer you said "photocopy". System Enhancement Associates would probably prefer you said something other than ARCing.

Actually, the correct term is "data compaction." Some people use the term "data compression" to mean the same thing as "data compaction". Other people use "data compaction" to mean any technique to reduce the size of a file, and say that "data compression" should be used when you mean that the file was reduced by eliminating redundant data. Yet other people use "data compaction" to mean "file reduced in size by an irreversible technique," and "data compression" to mean "file reduced in size by a reversible technique." There is no standard, just the common usage of a particular place or occupation. The lack of a standard is a constant theme in this story, so it is just as well it crops up even at the level of terminology.

... and why should you care?

Reducing the size of a files is done in order to save time and space. The time is saved when uploading or downloading files. The space is saved when storing files. Many users don't consider either of these functions as being relevant to what they do on their PC. Many users regard a disk with arced files with the enthusiasm usually reserved for Bubonic Plague.

There was a time when I, too, considered an arced file a bother and not boon. I had been arcing files to upload them to the BBS, and thought that the sole purpose for the ARC program. It was pointed out to me that ARC is short for "archive", which is what my critic thought I should be doing with it. Files not currently in use are compacted, then left on the hard disk or moved to storage. This came as news to me. If a file is on my hard disk, I expect to be using it at some point. The concept of shrinking a file, leaving on the hard disk, and then unshrinking it when I wanted to use it sounded like an incredible hassle for

an insignificant benefit. Then came the day when my 20MG hard disk was 75% full. I experienced an attitude shift and got serious about managing my files.

Here is a reason you should care: a number of disks released by the Disk of the Month have used PKARC to compact the files. We do this to keep the number of disks for a particular program down to something reasonable. The Catalog Disks, for example, have the readme files and the subject and title indexes in compacted files. This has been done to keep the size of the Catalog Disks down to 2 disks. Disks that have compacted files also have the PKARC utility that will unarc the files on the disk, with instructions on how to do it in the disk's readme file.

Back at the dawn of time

(well OK, some time after that) ...

Back in the days when mainframes ruled the earth and data storage cost real money, data compaction techniques were very important. They were also very confusing. There are a number of techniques to reduce the size of a file, and they tend to work best if you use several in sequence to compact the file. The person uncompacting the file had to know exactly what was done to compact the file. The easiest thing was to make the whole process "transparent" to the user: in other words, to let the user select compact or uncompact off a menu. Since this was being done at the programming level, the result was a lack of a well-defined standard. Without a standard, "porting" a compacted file ("port" as in transport, import, export, etc.) could become a real experience.

Then came the 8-BIT era of microcomputer (roughly 1975-1981), and there were 8080 and Z80 machines. These machines had a RAM memory limit of 64k. They machines ran under the CP/M operating system, which took up 4K of that RAM memory. Many did not have hard disks, and the floppy drives were 180K on an 8" diskette.

Files had to be very small, too. In order to get around this limitation, a pair of utilities were written by Richard Greenlaw: SQ/USQ (Squeeze and UnSqueeze). These utilities could compress single files into smaller output files. SQ/USQ incorporated the Huffman code (also called variable-length character encoding). This is a technique of data compacting by assigning shorter codes to frequently used letters and longer codes to less frequently used letters. For example: E, the most frequently used letter in the English language, is represented by 100; and Z, the least frequently used letter, is represented by 1101000100.

In order to manage these compacted single files, another utility called LIB was devised. LIB (short for LIBrary Utility) takes a group of files —both compressed and normal — and collects them under one

file name. LIB had one drawback, the directory length was fixed when the Library was created and could not be expanded.

With SQ/USQ and LJB, BBS operators and users had the necessary tools, only they had to do the process in two steps.

Then along came MS/DOS with its memory rich environment. Alan Losoff rewrote Squeeze/UnSqueeze for MS/DOS, but it was still a two step process. Unfortunately, a number of versions of SQ/USQ were written for the MS/DOS environment, all mutually incompatible.

Thom Henderson of SEA (System Enhancement Associates) devised the first ARC program using ideas from Brian Kernighan and others, and incorporating the Huffman code. ARC also overcame the limitations of the fixed length directory of LIB by using a distributed directory: as a new file is added, the directory is automatically expanded.

ARC became an immediate success among users and BBS operators. It was easy to use, since it was a one step process. But more important, it could be used as a standard approach to the compacting and uncompacting of files. The user could be told that ARC had been used to compact the file, and then would know to use the same utility to uncompact the file.

Development on ARC continued with the addition of more compression options (such as Lempel/Zev/Welch (LZW)), the addition of encryption, and other improvements. This product generated interest in the commercial market and ARC became one of the few products marketed both commercially and as Shareware.

In an effort to make ARC available on many different computer systems, SEA made the source code available. They even supplied a BBS system from which to download the source code. The source code was copyrighted by SEA. Permission to port to a different computer system was automatic, but was restricted by three rules:

- The ported software may not be sold.
- The ported software may not be used commercially.
- A copy of the software must be returned to SEA for redistribution to the user community.

SEA even made the source code available for use in commercial products, under the condition that the product not be a general purpose archiver.

SEA vs PK, the Lawsuit.

A short time later PKXARC appeared, followed by PKARC. Both products were put out by Phil Katz of PK. Katz was not following the rules that SEA had

set forth; but SEA did not regard Shareware market as being particularly important, and Phil Katz had not addressed the more lucrative commercial market. SEA ignored PK.

Then last year an add for PKARC and PKXARC appeared in PC Tech Journal on the page facing SEA's. The cost was \$1.50 less than SEA's and comparisons were made to "the other archive utility".

After that, SEA sent a "cease and desist" order to PK listing the following demands:

- Withdraw commercial advertisements.
- Cease commercial distribution.
- Limit sales to Shareware only.

Katz refused. Possibly there were additional (private) exchanges, but the end result was the lawsuit mentioned above.

The suit addressed four major areas. (The actual text of the lawsuit can be found in a file named SEAPK.ORG, which can be found in the download area of the NTPCUG BBS.)

Copyright violation.

SEA claims that PK used SEA's copyrighted source to build PKxARC. Copyright covers the expression of concepts and ideas and if PK merely did translation of C to assembler then it would be comparable to translating an English play to German.

Trademark violation.

SEA claims that ARC is a trademark and thus they must defend the usage of the trademark. This is very much the same as the way Coca-Cola would defend the use of Coke if someone tried to market CCCoke or something similar.

Unfair trade practice.

SEA claims that PK is trading on product recognition of ARC to make sales.

Look and feel.

Basically what SEA claims is that the PK interface is substantially identical to that of SEA's.

The suit was settled out of court in a sealed agreement in which PK admitted no fault but did agree to the following (from the press release on August 1, 1988):

"Part of the agreement reached by the parties included a Confidential Cross-License Agreement under which SEA licensed PK for all the ARC compatible programs published by PK during the period beginning with the first release of PKXARC in late 1985 through July 31, 1988 in return for the payment of an agreed upon sum which was not disclosed. Additionally, PK was licensed, for an agreed upon

royalty payment, to distribute its existing versions of PK's ARC compatible programs until January 31, 1989, after which PK is not licensed and agreed not to publish or distribute any ARC compatible programs or utilities that process ARC compatible files. In exchange, PK licensed SEA to use its source code for PK's ARC compatible programs.

PK agreed to cease any use of SEA's trademark "ARC" and to change the names or marks used with PK's programs to non-confusing designations.

The Judgment provided for the standard copyright, trademark and unfair competition injunctive relief for SEA against PK, as well as damages and litigation expenses to be paid by PK to SEA.

Both parties agreed to refrain from any comment concerning the settlement of the disputes, other than the text of this press release. Also, the parties instructed all of their representatives to refrain from any such activity.

Any other details of the Cross-License Agreement were agreed to be maintained in confidence and under seal of the Court.

In reaching the agreement to dispose of the pending litigation and to settle the disputes that are covered thereby, PK did not admit any fault or wrongdoing."

Since the case was settled by mutual consent and not taken to trial there has been no true precedent set. The full extent of the damage has not yet settled out.

Nor is the story over yet. SEA filed a contempt suit against PK on August 2, 1988, saying that PK had violated the terms of the settlement by using the forbidden word ARC in a product release. The results of this suit have not been posted, with some rumors reporting PK out of business, and other rumors saying the opposite.

The Users React.

What does all this mean to the average user? Probably very little in the short run. In the long run, however, the feeling is that both SEA and PK will loose.

Much comment is still being generated by the litigation. In general, the feeling in the USENET and BBS community is ambivalent towards both parties. What the users really want is a standard, reliable program to compact and uncompact files. What they have is a lot of confusion over what they should be using now, and what they will be allowed to use in the future. PK may not be able to produce any further archiving utilities, but there has been no effort to keep the users from continuing to use ARC and PKARC for as long as they want. On the other hand, will SEA sue every vendor with a product that has ARC in the name? Inquiring minds want to know. Lurid scenarios are being set forth of SEA setting out to eradicate all competitors and forbidding the use of the word ARC as a verb or adjective in polite conversations.

A possible alternative to both ARC and PKARC is yet another Shareware product, ZOO, authored by Rahul Dehsi. This archiver is between ARC and PKARC in speed, handles the common compression method, and will handle the archiving of directory trees. This package will be reviewed and released by the NTPCUG DOM for the November meeting.

Another alternative would be the creation of a truly public domain disk compacting utility. SQ/USQ and LIB were public domain. When they were replaced by ARC as the compactor of choice for BBS and user group libraries, there was uneasiness over the possible complications of using a commercial product. With the lawsuit, SEA activated those latent fears and users are getting worried about it all over again. It will take a while for these fears to be quieted again.

Next month we will continue the saga of the ARC WARS and examine some of the alternatives we have as users.

Ken Loafman
& Kathryn Crawford



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ON COMPLEXITY

No. 22 in a Series

Jim Hoisington

Over half the boards going back to memory card makers are not defective. They are in perfect working order. That fact came out in recent discussions that I had with a couple of the major vendors of add-in memory cards for personal computers.

Something's wrong here. When a customer sends back a working board, both the customer and the company that made the board lose.

Early personal computer users were expected to get inside their computers to add boards and reset switches. The Apple II event came with a lift off panel on the top because it was expected that the owners would be working inside their computers frequently.

Occasionally, we ask the DOS SIG how many of those present are not afraid to open up their computers and to make changes inside. More and more frequently, the people in the DOS SIG do not raise their hands. That means that we have a problem.

As we all know, it is becoming more and more difficult to find a computer store that will install the board that they are selling you. And more and more business is being done via mail order outlets. So what are we to do?

Apple Computer completely reversed themselves when they came out with the first Macintosh computers. If you opened the covers on the Mac, you voided the warranty. They expected you to use the computer exactly as they sold it to you. You would never need any more memory or any additional devices. That policy didn't last long.

I think the answer is for the peripheral vendors to provide a diagnostic program with their products. I got this idea when I bought a hard disk from the Compuadd store. With every hard disk you get a floppy disk with setup program on it. When you run their setup program, the first thing it does is to check the installation of the hard disk controller and the connections between the controller and the disk. It then gives you the option of doing a low level format, setting the DOS partitions, and doing a DOS format.

The thing that impresses me about the diagnostic program is that it does a series of tests in a controlled, predictable fashion. I assume that if it found something wrong, it would give you a series of error codes and ask to call the Compuadd technical support staff.

I have sat in the technical support department of a board maker and listened to their support people answering the phone. A major portion of their time is spent trying to judge the character of the person calling and trying to understand what the problem is that they are describing. A diagnostic program cuts through all of that.

If you call in with the codes from the board vendor's own program, theoretically the technician would know exactly what conditions in the computer caused the program to give out those error codes. While it is not possible to write a program to check out all possible problems, it would certainly eliminate the time necessary to catch the more common ones.

I think that the board vendor would want to have you call their support, just to eliminate any possibility that the program may be giving out a false warning or that there may be more than one solution to the problem being reported. But, the diagnostic program would save a lot of telephone time for both parties.

Wordperfect Corporation, a software company, seems to be moving in this direction. With release 5.0, there is a program called WPINFO. When executed, it displays the hardware configuration of your computer, it lists the CONFIG.SYS file and the AUTOEXEC file. I'm sure this is used to help their technical support staff determine just what kind of environment their software is running in.

Finally, I think that the diagnostic program can provide a marketing function as well. If the program doesn't find any problems, it can come back to you with the message that everything is fine. And then, having assured you that you installed the product properly, it can give you a message to confirm in your mind that you made a good decision when you purchased their product. For example, "We hope you will enjoy using our product."

Jim

■





Disk of the Month

edited by Kathryn A. Crawford

Disks released at the October meeting

Disk 304. Financial Consultant 3.0 – Checkbook & General Ledger, By Jon Kolstad, Arnold, MD. Shareware fee = \$40.00.

Financial Consultant (FC, formerly known as Fred's Checkbook) is based on the idea that the easiest accounting system in one that funnels all funds through a checking account. While not a full fledged general ledger accounting system, FC is flexible yet powerful, easy to use, and may suit your needs quite well.

FC keeps track of your income and expenses, balancing the accounts with an easy to use statement reconciliation method. The reports are printed in a summary or detailed format, so that these reports can be given to your CPA or tax accountant.

Software downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner, who also prepared this review.

Disk 305. ON-SIDE 1.00 – A Sideways Printing Program, By Bill Willis, Expressware Corporation. Shareware fee = \$19.95.

Uses your spreadsheet and report files that are too wide for normal left-to-right printing and prints the report sideways – down the paper instead of across. Requires ASCII text files with a ".PRN" extension, which may be created using the "text" feature of your favorite word processor or by using the Lotus print-file command (/PF) to create ASCII files of your worksheets. Seven different font styles are provided, all of which can be "stretched" (magnified) both vertically and horizontally. By magnifying the fonts in all their sizes and shapes, you have 175 different style/size combinations to choose from.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Dan Marmion. Review prepared by Zack Porterfield.

Disk 306. WSSINDEX 3.35 – Disk Cataloging program, By Robert W. Babcock and WSS Division of DDC.

WSSINDEX creates and maintains a database with all the information about your disks available from the DIR command, plus optional descriptive comments and categories. You can search the database interactively, or you can print it with various sorting and selection options. An auxiliary routine allows printing disk labels and disk covers. The most common use of the program is to keep track of files on a collection of floppy disks, but you can index anything which looks like a disk to DOS, including hard disks, RAM disks and some tape cartridges. One option allows hard disk users to make a listing of all files on a hard disk which do not have backup copies on another disk.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Dan Marmion. This review prepared by Harold (Hal) Horton.

Disk 307. HDM III 1.05 – Hard Disk Menu System, By Jim Hass, Parma, Ohio. Shareware fee = \$25.00.

This is a programmable menu system for your computer. It allows you to make macros that automate otherwise tedious commands, and install passwords to protect your hard disk from the inexperienced or from prying eyes. HDM also has a screen saver that will turn off the screen after a certain amount of time (which is adjustable). HDM includes an auto-build facility to aid in menu construction. HDM can include over 10,000 menu entries with ten selections on each page. The menus can be constructed in tree form to simplify use. HDM also includes a phone dialer which is referenced like menu pages. Utilities are included to list ASCII text files and to send control codes to EPSON and IBM Printers.

This review prepared by Don Mayfield.

Disk 308. Wildcat 1.0 – BBS Communications Program (2 disk set), By Mustang Software, Bakersfield, CA

On first glance, WILDCAT! may appear to be just another bulletin board software program. This is by design. A lot of effort has gone into incorporating favorite features of other popular BBS programs, including many of the command options. It has to be the most operator friendly system that is available. This is where any similarity ends, however. Powerful extended features have been added to what at first appear to be familiar routines. Other features and utility functions are precedent-setting in a BBS environment.

This software was donated by Mustang Software. This review prepared by Harold (Hal) Horton.

Disk 309. Enchanted Castle, Release 2 – Text Adventure Game, By Michael Wilk, Ithaca, NY. Shareware fee = \$10.00.

An elaborate text adventure game. The purpose of the game is to escape the Enchanted Castle with two treasures: the priceless Star Diamond and a beautiful princess. Finally, as you escape the castle, you must also destroy it. In some respects the game is designed for a patient English scholar because it periodically refers to famous works of art and literature and occasionally includes phrases in a foreign language. The art, literature and foreign languages are for amusement and will not stop you from completing your mission.

Software donated by NTPCUG member Ken Loafman. This review prepared by Bill & Richard Bauman.

Disk 310. EGA Games #1 (10/88) – Games and graphics demos for EGA

The programs on this disk demonstrate the features of EGA (Enhanced Graphics Adapter)

- Kaleidoscope – Draws a symmetrical pattern that continuously fills the screen. Very dynamic and very pretty
- Lines – Another very dynamic display, this time in a non-symmetrical pattern.
- Bullseye – A bullseye display with a changing palette.
- Dazzler – A diamond shaped dynamic display.
- Geoclock 2.30 – Draws a map of the world, then show the current time, the position of the sun, and which portions of the world are

in sunlight.

EGA-ROIDS – Like the arcade game Astroids with really great graphics.

Solitaire – A card game just like the name says, with great graphics and an interactive mouse menu. **REQUIRES** a mouse.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Gene Carleton. This review was prepared by Harold (Hal) Horton.

Disk 311. Future86 The Language – Demo of a new language (2 disk set), By Development Associates, Santa Ana, CA

Simple and powerful, Future 86 is much more English like than C and Pascal, yet it supports Assembly language. This demo only comes in "scripts", i.e. examples of program modules. For people who want to experimenting, both the main and CGA library demo will NOT be satisfactory. the base system package includes Future 86 compiler, kernel, debugger, utilities, demo files and manual. The cost is \$349.00. The complete package's total cost will be \$ 1,438.00, a hefty amount to invest for a new language.

This software was donated by Development Associates. This review prepared by Peh L. Lee.

Disks released at the November meeting:

Disk 312. HDTest 4.41 – Disk Testing Utility, By Peter R. Fletcher. ShareWare Fee \$35.00.

HDTest will allow comprehensive Read/Write testing of Hard Disks and Floppy Disks WITH DATA on the disk. HDTest will NOT lose the Data contained on the Disk. HDTest will work with all versions of DOS through 3.3. The testing is extremely thorough and the test time will be quite long. Slow mode writes 20 different test patterns to every cluster on the disk and checks that each pattern can be read back correctly, while preserving (and eventually restoring) the contents of the clusters that contain data. If HDTEST finds a faulty cluster, it will attempt to relocate the contents of that cluster and mark that cluster as bad. HDTEST may even cure some intermittent problems simply by rewriting data that has faded with time. HDTEST writes a report listing any defects found to a specified drive. HDTEST will test Hard Disks and 5.25 Floppies on IBM PCs, XTs, ATs and most compatibles.

This review prepared by B.W. Haigh.

Disk 313. RamTest 3.0 – Hardware Test Utility, By Digital Mechanics, distributed by Brown Bag Software. Shareware fee = \$20.00 + \$5.00 shipping.

RamTest is a diagnostic RAM test for the PC XT/AT and clones. RamTest will also test Expanded Memory on all machines and Extended Memory on AT type Machines. When Ramtest is run and an error is detected the diagnostic message will display the row number, address, and chip number (if you specify chip size). RamTest is run through a window/menu line format. If you need

data to be of the utmost integrity, or you change out RAM chips often, or your system was struck by lightning, RamTest is for you.

Software donated by the publisher, Brown Bag Software. This review was prepared by Tony Noguera.

Disk 314. PowerMenu 2.15 – Hard disk menu system, Published by Brown Bag Software. Shareware fee = \$29.95.

"Easy-Menu" might have been a better name for this program. PowerMenu provides flexible sub-menus, and the opportunity to add parameters when executing a menu item. PowerMenu is a nice program AND it is easy to use. The menus are very attractive. If you have a color monitor you can adjust them as you prefer. PowerMenu works with RAM resident programs.

This disk was donated by the publisher, Brown Bag Software. This review prepared by Donald Mayfield.

Disk 315. BlackBeard 7.37 – Editor with Word Processing. Shareware fee = \$20.00.

This is a very fast editor with a host of powerful features including an external key binding file, paging of files larger than available memory, in-line help, limited anchoring and wildcarding, Microsoft mouse support, multiple file editing with horizontal or

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vertical windows, backwards searching, reference manual generation using current key bindings, text formatting (like RUNOFF or SCRIPT/VS) and can be installed as a "terminate and stay resident" (TSR) program! Overall, a very complex and comprehensive piece of work.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Bill W. Colton, who also prepared this review.

Disk 316. TBTree 1.0 -- Database/Programming Turbo Pascal, By Dean H. Farwell II, Montgomery, AL. Shareware fee = \$15.00.

TBTree 1.0 is a tree and database product for use with Turbo Pascal 4.0. It is intended to give a user the capabilities to develop Pascal applications for the creation and manipulation of databases. The source of these files was the Buffer Board BBS of Eugene, OR.

These files were downloaded and donated by NTPCUG member Dan Marmion, who also prepared this review.

Disk 317. EGA Games #2 (11/88) -- Games and graphics demos for EGA

The programs on this disk demonstrate the features of EGA (Enhanced Graphics Adapter).

Emiko - A very nice EGA graphic with great detail. This is an analog clock face with a drawing of a Japanese lady.

Splat - Globes of color hit the screen and drip down the screen.

Tell-Time 2.1 - Another world time teller that shows the current time at many cities around the world, which portions of the world are in sunlight, and shows the distance between selected locations.

PyroTech - Fireworks explode across your screen, fortunately without sound effects.

The Zero Hour 2.10 - An arcade interactive EGA game. You are a fighter pilot blasting the dreaded Vexx, hoping to make a negative environmental impact on their home planet.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Gene Carleton. This review was prepared by Harold (Hal) Horton.

Disk 318. Telix 3.10 -- Communications program (2 disk set), By Exis Inc., West Hill Ont. M1E 494. Shareware fee= \$35.00.

TELIX has been described as a combination of the best features of Procomm and Qmodem. Version 3.10 is a major revision of this popular BBS-oriented communication program that delivers on the promise put forth in earlier versions. Even with its new sophistication it still remains a program so intuitive in its interface that you can easily begin using it without even referring to its documentation.

This software was donated NTPCUG member by Ron Kerr, who also prepared this review.

Disk 319. ZOO 2.01 -- Zoo Archive Program, with supporting utilities

Zoo 2.01 archive program, along with supporting utilities Flz 2.0, Stuff 1.0, Sez 2.30, AtoZ 1.12, Looz 2.1, and source for Booz 1.02. In speed, Zoo is between ARC 5.2 and Pkarc 3.5. Zoo has the ability to archive entire directory trees, the ability to fix its own archive. Zoo supports all popular archiving methods.

Flz 2.0 - Should a transmission error result in a corrupted download of a zoo archive, you will likely be able to recover the data from most or all of the undamaged parts of the damaged archive.

Stuff 1.0 - List pathnames to allow you to archive one or more subdirectory hierarchies.

Sez 2.3 - Convert any Zoo archive to self-extracting form. Will recreate the original contents of the Zoo archive when executed on any MS-DOS system.

Booz 1.02 - Zoo archive extractor/listener.

Looz 2.1 - Extract, list, and execute files from Zoo archives. Allows you to have executable programs stored in compressed form and execute them by extracting directly into memory, with no net memory penalty, no need for any temporary disk space, and with the usual MS-DOS command-line arguments, I/O redirection, and piping fully available.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Kenneth Loafman, who also prepared this review.

Disk 320. PKPAK 3.61 -- The "Legal" Version of PWare's Archive Program.

PKPAK 3.61 is much the same as 3.60, except that the name of the program and archive file extension was changed to PAK instead of ARC.

Features:

-You can add 3,095 files to an archive in one sweep.

-Limited-disk-size handling to enable the update of archive files which are larger than 50% of your floppy disk storage area.


-An -n option which saves time by reconstructing only the most recent version of the file to be extracted when another same-named file already resides on your disk.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Kenneth Loafman, who also prepared this review.

DOM Particulars

The North Texas PC Users Group makes these programs available as a service to the club and its members. We try to test all the programs, but we do not warrant the programs in any way. You must decide if a program is suitable for your use and will run on your system. If you ask, we will tell you what we know about any program, but the final decision to buy and/or use these programs is yours.

PRICE: Members: \$2.00 per disk (if the program is on two disks, the price is \$4.00). Non-members: \$3.00 per disk. 3.5" disks: \$3.00 per disk.

MAIL ORDERS: At prevailing prices for the disks, plus \$2.00 mailing fee. Mail your orders to: NORTH TEXAS PC USERS GROUP, DOM Mail Order, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066. 

January is Election Month

Nominee for President-Elect

Zack Porterfield

Zack Porterfield has been an active member of the Club for three years and currently serves as SIG Co-coordinator with Phil Chamberlain. He also has worked at the Information Booth and DOM area at meetings.

A native of Tulsa, OK, Zack holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Business. He is co-owner of F & P Associates, and is primarily involved in systems software consulting. Zack reports that his interest in PC's began in 1979 when he acquired his first TRS-80 Model 1, followed by an Apple II, then an IBM-PC in 1981 and culminated by his current 80386 machine.



Nominees for At-Large Directors

Phil Chamberlain



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

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

Sid Nolte

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



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

Robert Hilliard



Robert Hilliard is an Applications Programmer for Texas Instruments, and has served in multiple Club volunteer roles since 1987. Currently he is working with Stuart Yarus in a combined NTPCUG/CCD role managing INFOMART room assignments and setup for monthly meetings.

Robert worked intensively at both the Information Booth and DOM areas before being selected to help with room assignments and setup earlier this year. He is a native of Houston, TX, has studied at the University of Pittsburgh and is currently completing a degree in Economics, Finance, and Mathematics at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Reagan Andrews

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D., is immediate past president of the Club (1988) and has been a member since January, 1983. He is currently Co-leader of the DOS SIG and is organizing an MS-WORD SIG to begin in January.



A Clinical Psychologist and Chief, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Program, at the Dallas Veterans Administration Medical Center, Reagan also has a limited private practice in treatment of stress-related disorders. He holds B.A. and M.S. degrees from SMU and earned a Ph.D. at the University of Texas Health Science Center at Dallas.

Photos by Fred Toulmin

The Family Tree of Personal Computers

Part Two of Three Parts

Tom E. Krieg, BSME, PE, MBA
Investment Management & Research

The Transition to Radio and from Radio to Television.

The first politician to take full advantage of radio was Franklin D. Roosevelt with his Fireside Chats. He used the radio as an extension of his personality to reach every American listening to his voice and charmed them right out of their gold teeth. He used the radio to take government policies directly to the people, convincing them it was good for them. Orson Welles also knew the power of radio and his Mercury Theater production of the "The War of the Worlds" broadcast Oct. 30, 1938 had people all over America in a state of panic—movies shut down and listened to the broadcast, people went to Church for the last rites... Yet every 10 minutes there was an announcement that everyone was listening to a play but no one believed—"The Martians had taken over the Radio Station" but we lived through it and can look back and snicker about it now.

The shift of attention from entertainment by radio to entertainment by television started by taking some of the key Stars of radio entertainment and moving them into the medium of television. Amos and Andy (playing all the roles) on the radio could be anybody's imaginary friend. On TV they had to fit the personality displayed by characters on the tube. Charley McCarthy on the Radio was a funny little chap who got away with insulting his guests and your imagination was free to fill in the situation. On TV the situation was supplied so all that was left was the humor. All the flaws were magnified by TV

The radio stars that had been successful in the movies were more at ease in television and could adapt to this new medium. Eddie Cantor and Al Jolson played early Television like it was vaudeville revived. Jack Benny thrived on TV because he played to it like everybody watching was in the audience with him. New modes of presentation had to be derived to work on TV.

What we have been describing here is the change that took place in radio as it matured from it's infancy to it's heyday of the war years - the big band sound, the Radio theater, the news and sports broadcasts,- it was a maturing for the industry and for those growing up with it.

The impact of change was very dramatic for those who were static. The actors who could only stand around the microphone in a radio studio and read their lines were left behind by those who could handle the dynamics of the television medium that required movement, memory, and in the early days, no retakes.

There was and is another side to radio that has not been covered and that is in the technical work. Three very large radio telescope antennas are at Jodrel Bank (250 ft. dia.), Effelsberg, W. Ger. (330 ft. dia) and Arecibo in Puerto Rico, (1000 ft dia.). Radio is being used to track weather balloons, animals, birds, and sea life migration, and even assist medicine when swallowed by the patient. Advances in the miniaturization of components have made transmitting devices (bugs) so small they can be disguised as pins, flowers, almost anything one can dream up. The breakthrough in the miniaturization process came about with the development of the transistor and then the integrated circuit chip.

There is still much that is not understood about broadcast and the earth's upper atmosphere. There are periods of blackout at the South Pole. This may be related to the magnetic storms on the sun but when the South Pole is blacked out, they send their messages to Palmer station for relay to the rest of the world.

Orbiting satellites allow signals to be relayed from one end of the country to the other, yet the signals

Footnote to Part One...

Mr Kerry Hauptli of Metroplex Digital Corporation has added to the background on the ENIAC and UNIVAC by sending me an article in the *Computer Systems News*, Anniversary Edition titled "Reflections." It reports an interview with J. Presper Eckert, codeveloper of the ENIAC and UNIVAC computer. The article indicates that Mauchly and Eckert met at the University of Pennsylvania. The ENIAC was developed using Army funding.

ENIAC is the acronym for Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer and UNIVAC is the acronym for Universal Automatic Computer. The University of Pennsylvania claims the honor of being the home for this development according to Mr. Kerry Hauptli. So another gap in the history of computer development gets filled - thank you Kerry.

Tom Krieg

that helped position those satellites were provided by telemetry - that's right, another form of radio.

The signals, sent to the Voyager, travel at the speed of light are radio telemetry in the form of coded instructions to the on-board computer. The data are transmitted back to earth via radio telemetry. The signals are picked up, decoded, then converted into pictures on earth with computers. So even in radio we see radio and computers working together.

Famous Firsts In Radio

- 1865 James Clerk Maxwell discovered that electrical impulses travel through space at the speed of light.
- 1888 Heinrich Hertz demonstrated the wave theory and established a relationship between electrical waves and light waves.
- 1895 Guglielmo Marconi sent radio signals more than a mile.
- 1900 R. A. Fessenden broadcast voice by radio.
- 1901 Marconi received the first overseas radio message, from England to Newfoundland.
- 1904 Radio was first used in war, the Russo-Japanese conflict.

John Ambrose Fleming discovered that a vacuum tube can be used to detect radio signals.
- 1906 Lee De Forest developed the triode, or three- element vacuum tube.
- 1909 Passengers and crew of the S.S. Republic were saved in the first sea rescue using radio.
- 1912 Edwin H. Armstrong invented the regenerative circuit increasing the sensisitivity of vacuum tubes as detectors.
- 1918 Edwin H. Armstrong developed the superheterodyne circuit.
- 1919 President Wilson became the first President to use radio when he spoke from a ship to World War I troops aboard other vessels.
- 1920 Stations KDKA of Pittsburgh and WWJ of Detroit made the first regular broadcasts.
- 1923 Frank Conrad pioneered short-wave radio.

The first permanent station hookup, or network, was established, and became the National Broadcasting Company in 1926.
- 1933 Armstrong invented FM Radio. He also constructed the first FM station sometime afterwards.
- 1941 The largest audience in radio history estimated at 90,000,000 listeners heard President Franklin D. Roosevelt address the United States two days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

- 1947/48 Scientists at the Bell Telephone Laboratories developed the transistor.
- 1952 The Federal Communications Commission and the United States Air Force established Conefrad.
- 1957 Scientists developed atomic powered batteries for use in portable radios.
- 1960's Stereophonic radio broadcasting began
- 1960 John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon held the first radio and television debates between two presidential candidates.
- 1961 Soviet space officials held the first radio talks with a man in space, cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.
- 1969 Radio signals carried to earth the first words spoken by man astronauts on the moon.
- 1982 AM radio stations in the United States began broadcasting in stereo.

Source: World Book Encyclopedia, 1958, supplemented by updates and cross checks within and from other documents. (Certain dates carried under the subjects were not in agreement with the table and this table was corrected to agree with the text.)

Television

It is difficult to believe that the roots of television go back 110 years to an invention of a tube that produced Cathode rays. But it is the ancestor of the television screen and computer monitor that we use on a daily basis. This invention is a tube called the Crookes tube after its inventor, Sir William Crookes in 1878. The first attempt at capturing moving pictures was done with a scanning disc and this was invented by Paul Nipkow in 1884 and was generally adhered to up until about 1935 before it was finally displaced.

The photoelectric cell was invented in 1888 but was not really perfected until the advent of the vacuum tube to keep the special photo sensitive plate clean.

In 1923 V.K. Zworykin applied for a patent on Dec. 29 on the Iconoscope, a device for taking and transmitting pictures electrically. The big problem was there was nothing to receive the signal.

In 1925, C.F. Jenkins used a scanning disc with vacuum tube, amplifiers and photoelectric cells to operate as a camera and send electronic signals.

The all-electronic television receiver, with the kinescope as the picture tube was demonstrated by Zworykin on Nov. 18, 1930.

Now, we had the complete system - the camera and the receiving unit. In 1930 The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) began operating W2XBS, an ex-

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Agenda will not only file these random items of information for you, it'll help arrange them any way you want.

So you can understand them better, formulate new ideas better and extract the answers you need better.

Which means, now you can concentr

Dump any random, unrelated thoughts or ideas into Agenda, and it'll help you turn that information into a stream of structured, actionable knowledge.

projects, and information with incredible efficiency. A tool that will help you avoid slumping into your chair, shaking your head, and asking, "How on earth will I ever get this done?"

We call it Lotus' Agenda, the personal information manager.

Agenda allows you to dump random facts, thoughts, and ideas into your PC without having to structure the information in advance.

Agenda's filing system is a more sophisticated version of this filing system. You can put items anywhere you want. View them any way you want. And have access to them anytime you want.

File	View	Item	Category	Print	Utility	System	Quit
New, Previous, Position, Assign, Discard, Undo/Redo							
Scratchpad				Who	Issues		
•	Forward	product comparison	articles to	Joan	•	Competitive	Joan
•	Can we	get the cost of	goods sold	under	Tom	•	Materials
•	Bob will	present ten-point	incentives	program	Bob	•	Bonus Dollars
•	Tom will	have his report	in by a week	from Friday,	Tom	•	Distribution
							Vendors
							Pricing
•	Decision	needed on	research budget	by	Jim	•	Research
					Joan		Joan

Items. Dump information in manually, import it our pop-up capability while in another program.



Everyone who's got any work done.

Issues	Product Ideas	Who	Department
• Packaging	• Accept packaging bids until the end of October.	• Liz	• Operations
• Materials	• Make sure synthetic materials are reliable.	• Sue	• Operations
• Research	• Have Tom break down market research results into best case/worst case scenarios.	• Tom	• Marketing
• Distribution Vendors Pricing	• Tom will have his report in by a week from Friday, make sure it covers pricing, strategy, distribution, and implications of using outside vendor for typesetting and printing.	• Tom	• Marketing
• Distribution	• Do Tom and Bob think we need to adjust distribution mix?	• Tom • Bob	• Marketing • Sales

Categories. Agenda files items in all relevant categories so you can always find the information you need.

Issues	Joan	Priority	When
• Research	• Decision needed on research budget by end of this week— discuss options with Jim and Joan.	• High	• 06/25/88
• Competitive Tracking	• Forward product comparison articles to Joan.	• Low	• 07/07/88
Issues	Bob	Priority	When
• Distribution	• Do Tom and Bob think we need to adjust distribution mix?	• High	• 06/22/88
• Bonus Dollars	• Bob will present ten-point incentives program at sales conference.	• Medium	• 06/29/88

Views. Looking at the same information through different views gives you a more informed perspective.

different ways so you can pinpoint information that's important to you. Or discover new relationships you hadn't considered before. And anytime you change an item in a view, Agenda will

more on using and acting on your information. And less on processing it.

How does Agenda work?

First, enter your items of information

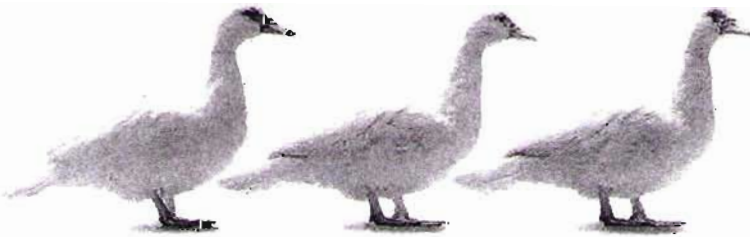
automatically update all other categories where the item has been assigned.

In fact, you could say that Agenda recalculates your text the way a spreadsheet program recalculates numbers.

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The whole idea behind Agenda is to get them all in a row.

into your PC and assign them to categories that you create.

Then Agenda will do all of your filing automatically. And thanks to Agenda's *multiple filing capabilities*, if the information is relevant in more than one place, Agenda will take it and put it in several categories at once.

This makes it easy to view your data in

Introducing Lotus Agenda



perimental television station in New York City. About a year later, The Columbia Broadcasting System started a regular schedule of television broadcasting on station W2XAB in New York City. That fall (Oct 30, 1931) NBC began experimental telecasting from atop the Empire State Building in New York City. These early receivers were very small screens with very large boxes with lots of electronics.

By 1939, commercial television had progressed enough that NBC introduced it as a regular service on April 30. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first President to be seen on TV. The New York Worlds Fair was a show place for television and caught the fancy of many fair goers.

Television was being shown in London, Paris and Mexico City. I was at a dance in a ballroom in Mexico City in 1940 where it was being demonstrated and we couldn't figure out how they were showing our friends on the dance floor and on the screen in that little box at the same time.

The next step was to link two cities and work started on a coaxial cable between New York and Philadelphia. By June 24, 1940, coaxial cable service was in use for television between New York and Philadelphia. The first two transmitters to receive commercial licenses and go on the air officially were WNBT and WCBW on June 24, 1941.

Then World War II essentially stopped television production and development. In 1945 the Image Orthicon tube was introduced. This was the first major design change since the Iconoscope was unveiled in 1923. A year later, in 1946 the first postwar TV sets went on sale. They were more readily accepted around New York than elsewhere.

In Ft. Worth, Texas, Station WBAP got the first TV license for commercial broadcast. The station was scheduled to officially start broadcasting on September 29, 1948. While making a last minute test of the system the opportunity arose to televise Harry S. Truman, who was making a campaign stop. The station went ahead and aired the broadcast on Sept. 27, 1948, two days ahead of schedule. The WBAP TV viewing audience was limited to about 400 TV sets and this probably included those that were working in display windows in TV specialty stores. TV caught on and in about one year there were about 9,000 TV sets per WBAP's mailing list for program schedules. (In those days that was the only way to get the TV program schedule.)

The big competition for television equipment boiled down to Dumont, RCA and one other competitor. Dumont argued for a separate black and white transmitter and color transmitter. RCA argued for one system that would transmit a color signal that could be received by either black and white sets or color sets. The standards came down in favor of the RCA

method and the Dumont system was scrapped. (As I recall, the Dumont broadcast had the clearest picture and the least snow. For a fringe area that was very important.)

The first post war TV sets had about six inch TV tubes. Very large cabinets, almost like a radio console. Then the tubes started getting larger. I remember the flurry a 12 inch tube caused when the store put it on display in the front window. They had a crowd all day long. When the 14 inch screen came out in a table model it got a little less attention. Our first TV was a 16 inch Philco table model, the cabinet was still 30 inches wide by 27 inches deep and took two people to carry it. The next was a 19 inch motorola and it had about the same size cabinet. The tubes lasted about 12 weeks (not the picture tube) and then you would pull them, go to the nearest tube wholesaler and run them through a tube checker to find the bad ones and replace them. If you blew one of the new tubes then you knew that you had a service problem on your hands. The electron tubes were supposed to be good for 10,000 hours but if we got 1000 hours of duty we felt lucky.

The color sets came in about 1953 but were slower to catch on until the transistor revolutionized the television sets. People at least knew how to fix their old black and white sets. 1953 to 1965 was not exactly a boom time for many people but we weren't going all out for color TV. The transistor probably contributed to overcoming the reluctance to invest in the new color TV after their experience with the little transistorized radios. This one thing convinced them that they didn't have to depend on those vacuum tubes any more and they could get rid of a service problem. The sales of color sets started to increase after 1965 and this is one explanation that has been offered for the acceptance.

Television—the Imitator, Innovator and Integrator

The power of Television to bring about change was given early recognition when the Congress established a supporting organization for Public Broadcasting. It was learned from Radio that people would listen to well written programs as evidenced by the wide following of the Radio Theater and the popularity of the soap operas. (Called soap operas because they were primarily sponsored by Soap Companies.) The same type of reasoning prevailed that only some form of sponsored broadcasting that was free of the advertisers restrictions could be brought to bear for cultural and educational programs. Suffice it to say that the effort to get the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through Congress has to be a story in and of itself.

Imitation may be the most sincere form of flattery but in the early stages of television everything done was taken from the Radio broadcasting experience. The soap operas, the kiddie shows, the news broadcasts, the adult evening programs. These were all modeled after the successful format of radio. Even the times for these presentations have been carried over to what was the prime time to get the best viewing or listening audience.

The innovative part of television has come along with advances in the computer age. The power of predicting the winner in elections using statistical models and sampling techniques is so strong that it is nearly forbidden to announce a winner before the polls have closed across the country. Television is also one of the biggest users of computer graphics and simulation and has been a driving force in pushing the state of the art in that particular segment. Cartoons for children are being done more and more by computer graphics and simulation models. It is now at such a level of refinement that instead of building elaborate movie sets that will be destroyed by monsters or crazed robots, it is all done on computer graphics.

Innovation in television hardware has also taken place with improvement in screen presentation, color control, remote selection and station control, reducing the parts of television that caused high service calls, increasing the reliability and on-line operability. Even ultra large screens are now in use.

Two changes that will be available in the near future involve the picture tube. One is the Flat Tension Mask (FTM) television picture tube that will be available for computer monitors. The FTM feature was developed by Zenith Electronics and will be featured on the Zenith Television Sets and Zenith Computer Monitors first. It is scheduled to be licensed to other American manufacturers shortly. The result of the technology enhances the readability of the computer screen or television screen - a technology we might not have had without Zenith's television experience. The other is a change from the 525 line scanning feature currently in use on all American TV sets and TV broadcasts. The so called high resolution screen will be a higher raster or scanning- close to 800 lines per second, which will result in a sharper more clearly defined picture. This will affect the broadcasters as well as those desiring to receive the new higher resolution pictures. This second change is somewhat "iffy" and is being "debated" as to whether it is worth incorporation. The European standard is already at a higher scanning rate so that broadcasters have to use special equipment to transmit broadcasts from the USA to Europe and vice versa. To a limited extent we have already been encountering the problem on an international level for several years.

Television as an integrating medium brings together the computer, radio transmission and television transmission into a single entity which we tend to take for granted. Without the television industry, our computer monitors would be much more costly than they are today if even available. We see the use of weather radar and computer enhancement of the satellite coverage on our TV screens. We can flip back and forth between competing stations to see who has the latest state of the art in presentation. Yes, it sounds like a promotion for television but it really is a technological achievement when you stop and consider everything that has gone on to get to where we are today. This brief insight just skims over the surface of an emerging giant.

Famous Firsts In Television

- 1878 Sir William Crookes invented the Crookes tube, which produced cathode rays.
- 1884 Paul Nipkow patented a mechanical scanning disc.
- 1888 The first photoelectric cells were designed.
- 1923 (Dec 29) V.K. Zworykin applied for a patent on the iconoscope, one of the first camera tubes.
- 1925 C.F. Jenkins used a scanning disc with vacuum tube amplifiers and photoelectric cells.
- 1929 (Nov 18) All-electronic television receiver, with the kinescope as the picture tube was demonstrated by Zworykin.
- 1930 (July 30) The National Broadcasting Company (NBC) began operating W2XBS, an experimental television station in New York City.
- 1931 (July 21) The Columbia Broadcasting System started a regular schedule of television broadcasting on station W2XAB in New York City.
(Oct 30) NBC began experimental television broadcasts from atop the Empire State Building, New York City.
- 1939 (April 30) NBC introduced television as a regular service. Franklin D. Roosevelt was the first President to be seen on TV.
- 1940 (June 24) Coaxial cable was used for the first time between New York and Philadelphia.
- 1941 Stations WNBT and WCBW in New York City were the first transmitters commercially licensed to go on the air.
- 1945 Image Orthicon tube was introduced.
- 1946 First postwar TV sets went on sale.
- 1947 (Jan 3) First telecast showing Congress in session was made from Washington.
- 1949 (Jan 20) Inauguration of President Truman was seen over 15 stations from Boston to St. Louis.
(May 11) First color telecast of a surgical operation was made from the University of Pennsylvania hospital in Philadelphia.

- 1951 The first coast-to-coast telecast showed President Harry S. Truman opening the Japanese Peace Treaty Conference in San Francisco.
- 1952 The Democratic and Republican Conventions were telecast to a nationwide audience for the first time.
- 1953 (Oct 31) First hour long program in electronic color was broadcast.
(Dec 17) FCC approved standards for commercial broadcasts in color.
- 1954 (Jan 1) Telecast of the Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena, Calif, was the first program to be broadcast in color on a nationwide network.
Television covered the Army-McCarthy hearings.
- 1955 (Jan 10) First motion pictures of a Presidential press conference were shown on television.
(May 12) A tape recording of a color TV program was transmitted over a closed circuit from New York City to Saint Paul, Minn.
- 1956 (Apr 15) World's first all color television station, WNBQ, began operating in Chicago. All live programs originating from the station were broadcast in color.
- 1960 Presidential candidates John F. Kennedy and Richard M. Nixon debated on TV before a nationwide audience.
- 1965 Early Bird, the first commercial communications satellite, relayed TV programs between the US and Europe.
- 1967 Congress established the Corporation for Public Broadcasting to help finance public TV stations.
- 1969 TV viewers saw the first moon landing by astronauts.
- 1973 Television covered the Watergate hearings.
- 1974 A nationwide audience watched Richard M. Nixon resign.
- 1985 A worldwide audience estimated at 1 1/2 billion people, probably the largest audience in the history of television, watched the "Live Aid" concert, a benefit for the victims of famine in Africa.

Source: World Book Encyclopedia - 1958 and Sub. Augmented with historical notes collected by the author.

Missing First: Magnetic recording of TV in lieu of kinescope film process—without this we wouldn't have our VCR's.

Tom a

(Next, in the final installment we will cover the solid state electronics evolution and check out future trends involving computers and people.)

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Selected SIG Happenings

News and Meeting Notes on Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to Zack Porterfield, SIG Coordination, before the 15th of the month.)

C Sig

Jeff Bauer will give a demonstration of the Norton Guides. It is a TSR program which pops up in response to a query concerning the C Language as well as other packages.

Sid Nolte

Graphics SIG

The November meeting was devoted to software packages that take advantage of the special video modes of the VGA (Video Graphics Array). Many programs support the VGA but few, as yet, take advantage of the 256,000 colors. We looked at several overheads that showed what is possible with the use of 256 colors at one time.

The December meeting will feature a discussion of Business Graphics packages. During the November meeting we passed out a set of sample data and invited members to make overheads with their favorite Graphics Software to bring to the December meeting. If you were not able to attend the November meeting but wish to participate, the data is available on the club's bulletin board in the Graphics SIG Conference.

To help plan for presentations for the coming year, each person who attended the November meeting was asked to fill out a questionnaire on what aspects of Personal Computer Graphics are of interest to them. During the next year, we plan to have a prepared presentation at each meeting followed by

a general question/answer or discussion session. If you would like to share your PC Graphics discoveries or experiences with club members, plan to attend the December Graphics SIG.

Richard Terreo

LAN SIG

The first meeting of the LAN SIG will be held on the NTPCUG January meeting date. The tentative scheduled time is 10:00 o'clock. Please check the posted schedule on the meeting date for the correct time and room assignment.

The first meeting will be somewhat organizational in nature. I am looking for a volunteer for the assistant SIG leader position.

I'm going to have to let at least the first couple of meetings be free form so as to develop a general direction in which to let the SIG proceed. The SIG has been established with the intent of meeting the needs of those who attend. I need your thoughts and suggestions as to what you want the SIG to be.

I have had a great interest in and appreciation for computer networking concepts since I first got involved with the Datapoint ARC Net in 1978. I have done more work than I care to remember on the ARC and have used Wang Net to a limited extent. I have also done some work on, and have studied various PC networks.

I feel that computer networking will be a key segment in the future of the computer industry, and that we are still early in the origination of what is to be computer networking.

So come join us. Let me know what you want to see happen in the LAN SIG.

Fred Williams

LOTUS SIG

The subject of the November Lotus SIG meeting was a discussion of string arithmetic and string functions. These capabilities of 1-2-3 and Symphony can bring significant enhancements to your spreadsheets. These enhancements can improve the layout, design, and documentation of your work. Many of the attendees had some very useful tips and suggestions for the others.

The subject for the December meeting will be a discussion of the Print capabilities of 1-2-3 and Symphony. There are many tips and tricks that can improve the quality of your print output from 1-2-3. The greatest spreadsheet can be tarnished by not looking its best when printed out. Many people are unaware of the basic options available within 1-2-3 or Symphony. Come by and see us in December.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions about Lotus products. If you have any questions, come by in December and join us.

Mark Gruner
& Pat Henley

Personal Users SIG

Richard Terreo has moved from assisting with this SIG to leading the Graphics SIG. We will sorely miss him here, because he developed the curricula for the majority of our sessions, taught several of the sessions, and assisted with anything else that was needed. Good luck with Graphics, Richard!

What's happening on the BBS

David Nail

The biggest reason for beginning this column was to generate more interest in the bulletin board among the NTPCUG members. It must be working! Kilobytes of informative and amusing messages have been posted since the last newsletter went out. So log on and share those tips and quips, or benefit from other's experiences. This board's for you!

From the C SIG conference

Message # 21 From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 10/21/88 1:09 am
Subject: C enigma

I am reading "C for Pascal Programmers" by T.D. Brown Jr. and came across a most interesting statement. He said that the C "newline" character is actually a combination of two characters: a carriage return and a line feed. Then to make matters worse he said that "The end of an input line can be determined in a C program by testing the last character read for the newline character." Adding further to my confusion, he showed an example using the 'getchar' function. Now tell me, how can you read a single character (which is my understanding of what 'getchar' does) and then test it to see if it is TWO characters - the carriage return AND line feed sequence? I feel like I have entered the Twilight Zone. One character is two and two is one. I may be religious but I am not mystical. Can someone please explain? Is the C compiler doing some magic here? A thorough explanation of how this wonder comes to pass would be much appreciated.

The confused newcomer ...

Message # 24 From: Ken Loafman Sent on: 10/23/88 10:38 am
Subject: Reply: C enigma

This one is fairly easy. It's historical. In the days of creation, C was on UNIX and a newline was signified by the presence of a single LF. Clean and simple. Since the roots of MS/DOS are deeply related to CP/M, and since CP/M used the CRLF combination as the line terminator, some mechanism had to be provided to make existing C applications run on CRLF combinations.

The solution was quite simple: on input in TEXT mode convert all CRLF pairs to LF-only, on output in TEXT mode convert all LF's to CRLF. This makes MS/DOS utilities happy. The ones written in BASIC and other languages are used to the CRLF pair and everyone could exist happily together.

This accommodation is not without cost however. In TEXT mode a binary file is useless. In BINARY mode a text file still has the CRLF pairs. The 'b' and 't' options on the open to specify text or binary are not standard. In reality the C programmer on DOS has to keep track of yet another set of parameters that others do not.

One thing to watch out for in TEXT mode... an lseek() in text mode will treat a single LF as two characters. That's consistent with text mode. Open the file in BINARY mode and the same lseek() will go to a different place. My rule of thumb when dealing with this problem is to use text-only functions on TEXT files and use [f]read() and [f]write() and [f]seek() only on BINARY files.

Confused? Good. I must admit it gave even me fits when I first encountered the problem on a CP/M system. It has not gotten better since then.

...Kenneth

From the COMM SIG conference

Message # 17 From: J.T. Walker Sent on: 11/10/88 6:23 pm
Subject: Reply: Anybody out there?

In the book that I got when I purchased my modem, there are references to some books to aid in the broader understanding of computer communications. These are Glossbrenner, Alfred, 'The Complete Handbook of Personal Computer Communications', 2nd edition, New York: St. Martins Press, 1985. Next: Goffon, Peter W., 'Mastering Serial Communications', Berkeley: Sybex, Inc. 1986. Finally, Widman, Graham, 'Computer Connection Mysteries Solved', Indianapolis: Howard W. Sams & Co., 1986. These books may or may not be helpful in easing the move into this area. I too have had an interesting time trying to figure out what I am doing. Has anyone read these books and would they be of any help or would they be far too technical?

Message # 18 From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 11/10/88 6:59 pm
Subject: Reply: Anybody out there?

The book by Peter Goffon is primarily of interest to programmers. It's really not intended for someone trying to figure out how to dial up a bulletin board. I can't comment on the other two.

For anyone writing communications software, Goffon's book is a pretty good one.

Rgds, Kent

Message # 19 From: Pete Testa Sent on: 11/11/88 9:24 pm
Subject: Reply: Anybody out there?

In February of this year Jerry McClurg gave a book review at the Comm Sig of Glossbrenner's 'Complete Handbook of PC Communications.' From what I recall it is a good book for the user new to communications and covered a lot of worth while material.

From the PROGRAMMER SIG conference

Message # 12 From: Ken Loafman Sent on: 10/29/88 8:20 pm
Subject: Looking for a Virus

I am looking for a virus. A REAL LIVE VIRUS. I am NOT looking for reports of viruses, confirmed sighting of the critters, or any of the hype that is going on in the media. I want something to autopsy. I cannot autopsy VAPOR and that's exactly what I think this virus hype is all about!

I DO NOT BELIEVE IN THE EXISTENCE OF VIRUSES !!!

Let me tell you why. I have never seen one and cannot get anyone to let me have one to look at. I think it is all HYPE. I have about 200k worth of mail from LeHigh and other Usenet mailing lists that talk a good line about viruses, but when asked to produce one for autopsy, no one can provide one for analysis. I think it's all part of a large CON GAME to sell anti-viral software.

So, if you have a virus to look at, produce it and let me run it under the gaze of a hardware debugger. It won't get past me to my system. Once I have verified that viruses do exist, then I'll be happy to support the anti-viral troops. Until then, I am unconvinced.

Please don't reply unless you can produce a real virus to observe. I've read more hype than I care to. I need to see the real thing, then I might get serious.

...Kenneth

Message # 13 From: John Taber Sent on: 10/29/88 10:06 pm
Subject: Reply: Looking for a Virus

My, such cynicism. I thought I was the only one. To the best of my knowledge, there have been exactly 3 viruses; the Christmas-EXEC, the Lehigh(?) Univ virus, and the Jerusalem virus. The Christmas EXEC I know was for real. It was tracked to a student in West Germany, who apparently intended no harm. The EXEC displayed a Christmas greeting, then propagated itself to anybody in one's NETLOG in VM systems. It started in the Technische Hochschule, I forget the town, it was something ..tal. From EURONET, it jumped to the US via BITNET. From BITNET, it entered IBM, and within 2 days spread all over the western world. The only harm it caused was to clog the networks. Also, some installations screwed up trying to eradicate the virus. I personally did not receive it, sigh, nobody loves me.

I don't have details on the Lehigh or Jerusalem viruses, but it seems they are real, and did occur. I don't know the extent.

In trying to track down where stories start it is helpful to remember the Roman saying 'cui bono?' - whose profit? One effect of the virus stories has been to almost kill public domain software. If that effect was intended, whom would it profit? hmmm?

Another possibility not to overlook is deliberate experiments in computer warfare. I have heard rumors that the NSA is experimenting in ways to screw up computers in case of war. Hopefully the enemy's, not ours. But it is possible that one or two experimental viruses escaped into the public. It would not be the first time - think of the accidents that have happened in other warfare experiments. ARPANET isn't supposed to contain classified projects, but it is possible that a university researcher, under contract to the DoD, accidentally allowed a virus on a secret system to get into ARPANET, to which many secret researchers have access. I don't think the purveyors of virus detectors started the rumors. I think they are just opportunists.

Message # 14 From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 10/30/88 12:03 pm
Subject: Stopping the blinking cursor

I seem to remember someone asking at the last meeting if there was a way to make the cursor stop blinking. Anyone still interested in this subject?

Rgds, Kent

Message # 15 From: Fred Williams Sent on: 10/30/88 1:24 pm
Subject: Reply: Stopping the blinking cursor

To show what a wizard I am, try this in "BASICA".

```
10 LOCATE ,,0
20 END
RUN
```

See, no blinking cursor!!!!

Fred

Message # 19 From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 10/30/88 5:44 pm
Subject: Reply: Stopping the blinking cursor

That's way too cumbersome and inelegant, Fred. If you really want a lowbrow solution, yanking the plug out of the wall is a much cleaner way to go.

Rgds, Kent

Message # 22 From: Fred Williams Sent on: 11/01/88 12:32 am
Subject: Reply: Stopping the blinking cursor

Kent,

Hey Kent! Great idea I think I'll try it right n

Message # 23 From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 11/01/88 8:24 am
Subject: Reply: Stopping the blinking cursor

You can stop typing now, Fred. It worked.

Kent

Message # 30 From: John Taber Sent on: 11/05/88 5:44 pm
Subject: Reply: AT&T

Doesn't the question of operating system depend on use? To me, UNIX makes sense in a multi-processing, multi-user system on one machine. I would have no need for it. OS/2 makes sense for a single user multitasking machine. Personally, I don't need that either, but business seems to feel otherwise.

Message # 31 From: Ken Loanman Sent on: 11/09/88 7:00 am
Subject: Reply: AT&T

Actually, the thought of multitasking without being multi-user is inherent in UNIX. It's free for the asking when you need it and is standard with the larger systems on the market today. The primary distinction I see between OS/2 and UNIX is that OS/2 will lock you into IBM shops with the need for external tools to look like the big boys and UNIX will give you that as an environment.

As far as graphical interfaces go, I have spent the last couple of months working on the X Window System. It's a marvelous tool and is becoming a standard in all the medium to big shops. With the X Consortium driving the development and production, X will be the windowing system that all the major players are going to be compatible with. One very nice thing about X is that it provides capability, not policy. Look and feel is not built into X. Look and feel is a value added 'feature' of the X client vendors.

It's very nice to sit at work with a Sun workstation, windows open to 4 different supercomputers, reading mail, notes and news from all over the world. That's the kind of trip you get with X and Unix together. Besides being a very productive environment (windows open on manual pages while you program), its ease of use makes first time users very happy. I've looked at OS/2, the Presentation Manager, and so forth. That's not the way to go. You are too locked in to one vendor (the big bad blue). I don't feel like being committed to any one company setting the look and feel for the foreseeable future.

...Kenneth

Message # 36 From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 11/10/88 8:23 pm
Subject: Reply: AT&T

Here about a week ago a number of people on Arpanet discovered what else you get with UNIX - a university community with immature hotshots who are educated beyond

their intelligence spending their time creating viri to infect everyone with. Just a curiosity question. Are there versions of UNIX which don't have the capability of sending C programs via the mail facility to somebody's operating system so that it can compile the thing and create its own little Chernoble box? The question in our office is "Isn't one of the best reasons to stay away from UNIX that the university community that comes along with it in the form of hackers, add-in programs of unknown integrity and, in general, too many people who know too much about its guts?"

From the LOTUS SIG conference

Message # 4 From: Steve Fleming Sent on: 10/26/88 5:11 pm
Subject: Lotus Copy Protection Removal

I don't know if anyone else had this happen, but LCPR gave me a nasty surprise when I tried to use it. I tried to remove the copy protection from the Backup System Diskette in a PC-AT that had the System Diskette installed on the hard drive. The LCPR removed the protection from half of the Backup and half of the installed version resulting in two copies of Lotus 123, neither of which worked. Subsequent efforts to redo the procedure were unsuccessful. The problem was fixed by using another set of diskettes. It seems that the installed version must be uninstalled and then have the copy protection removed. Or else do the work on a machine without Lotus 123. A warning about this might be included in the documentation or in the newsletter. Thanks, Steve Fleming

From the DOS SIG conference

Message # 12 From: Billy Pennal Sent on: 11/08/88 10:41 pm
Subject: AT floppy drives

Is there any way possible to install and use three floppy drives in an AT clone? I have a 1.2 meg, a 360K and a 3-inch drive. Is it even possible to get them all connected and working in one computer? Any ideas or information will be appreciated.

Message # 13 From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 11/10/88 11:34 am
Subject: Reply: AT floppy drives

Yes, it's possible to connect three (3) FD drives to an AT. You will need an additional FD-drive controller that allows multiple addressing of drive ports, interrupt lines, etc. Check with a dealer who knows something about the hardware, though, which means don't go to Softwarehouse. Lucky Computing, White & Associates, and probably CompuAdd could help you with this.

Reagan....

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From the ALL and WP SIG conferences

Message # 8 From: Matt Mathews Sent on: 11/09/88 1:04 am
Subject: Reply: New conference

Good idea for a new sig.

Shakespeare mused that a WP sig by any other name would generate puns just as well. Or something like that.

Anyway, who ever said WordPerfect is so perfect??? Their 5.0 documentation is AWFUL!!!! It is the most finger contorting program I have ever used. Documentation is full of spelling errors - don't these guys make a spelling checker? The one in ver. 4.2 gives you two, count 'em, two IDENTICAL choices (usually numbered 1 and 2) for a misspelled word. A quote from one of their Desk-Schlock Published manuals: "To run the program . . ."

Yuk! Pa-toqay! Shareware has better offerings than this. True, they do have good people on the tech support lines. But shouldn't instructions be clear enough that you don't have to call them a dozen times to get through once, just so you can install a printer?

Why are they selling so many copies is what I wonder. Anybody know?

Regards, Matt

Message # 9 From: Dan Marnion Sent on: 11/09/88 9:30 am
Subject: Reply: New conference

The reason they are selling so many copies is that it is a damned good word processor. Depending on your needs and preferences (notice the qualification), it is as good or better than offerings from Microsoft and MicroPro. Now, I can't quibble with your assessment of the documentation for 5.0 because I've not bothered to read it. But I don't use a particular word processor because of its documentation, I use it because it has the features I need and it does what I want. I think WordPerfect is the best word processor, but I know people who say Word is best and others who say Wordstar is best. And we are ALL right! The best one is the one that is best for you.

SayHey Dan

Message # 21 From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 10/20/88 11:31 pm
Subject: More on Sprint

The article in this month's BYTE magazine seemed like a fine piece of yellow journalism. The author complained about Sprint not having the look of the word processors it emulates when he should have known that doing so has adverse legal implications. He also complained about its look but then acknowledged that that was a problem with IBM world word processors (must be a MAC user). He also complained about problems he could not repeat. That in and of itself is pretty poor. Almost any product has instances when something strange, unexplainable and unrepeatably happens.

Now for the repeatable bugs. I am using the Word Perfect interface and have tried to get footnotes to print two ways with no success. I am using a Triumph-Adler printer definition. The "response" to the footnote is to act as if it doesn't exist. None of it is printed.

(Thanks for the fine comments on this series. I agree that this column provides a look at the "pulse" of the NTPCUG BBS community and we should continue it. Keep 'em coming, David... Ed.)

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Sched.	Class	Class Title/Description
Jan 89	1.0	Start Up
	2.0	Diskette Sizes & Formatting Each
	3.0	Copying & Backing Up Files
	4.0	Hardware
Feb 89	5.0	Fixed Disk Directories, Batch Files & Paths
	6.0	DOS Menu Systems on Fixed Disk
Mar 89	7.0	Installation & Setup of LOTUS 1-2-3
	8.0	Running BASIC Programs
	9.0	Writing Your Own BASIC Programs
	10.0	NTPCLUG Disk of the Month Library
	11.0	PC Graphic Modes
	12.0	Bulletin Boards & Archive Programs
Nov 88	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

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North Texas PC 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.

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 on this page, and send it with \$24 membership dues to the Membership Director whose address is shown below. A subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership. The Group meets once each month, usually on the second Saturday. See cover for date, time and place of the next User Group meeting.

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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.)

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CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

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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.)
 [REG] Information/Registration [NL] Newsletter [FB] Financial/Bookkeeping
 [EQL] Equipment Setup [DM] Disk of the month (DOM) [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) _____

Newsletter Article Submission

We would like to get more articles for publication in North Texas PC NEWS. Subject matter is your choice. We've had feedback recently that many members would like to see more articles for new computer users. If you can't write an article for some reason, send in your ideas for subjects you want to read about in the newsletter. We have some excellent writers out there who would write more articles if they only knew the topics you would like covered.

Article submission is preferred via the Club's Bulletin Board (to [M]ail, James Green), 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 via the User Group Bulletin Board, use [M]ail mode, to James Green. Include special formatting instructions, if any, with the article or in a separate [M]ail 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:
 Editor, NTPC Users Group
 5105 Swiss Ave.
 Dallas, Texas 75214
 All material submitted will be considered for inclusion in the newsletter. The Editor reserves the right to edit the articles as necessary to maintain NTPCUG standards, including grammar, suitability, and length to fit available space.

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) Dallas, TX 75378-0066

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A Little Knowledge ...

Jim Green

A sage once quipped "A little knowledge is a dangerous thing." How true! This phenomenon has recently surfaced as mis-information on disk read-cache programs for DOS. A variety of results of tests of disk cache programs have appeared, said results varying from no disk access speed improvement to dramatic improvements. How could different people testing the same software report such conflicting results? Is somebody lying? No, the "a little knowledge" phenomenon has surfaced.

Disk cache performance is extremely sensitive to your hardware and software configuration, how it is set up, and how it is used. Unless you understand how disk caching programs improve your disk access times, it is easy to mis-use the cache program and get no improvement or actual degraded disk performance. On the other hand, if you use the cache software properly, you can get dramatic access time improvements. Lets look at how a cache program tries to improve access time. I will also relate my experience with PCCACHE.SYS a public domain cache program in the DOM library, i.e.free, (not to be confused with PC-Cache from Central Point Software, not free; very similar names, different programs)

First, lets clear up one crucial point. If you do not have considerable *extended or expanded memory above 640K*, don't read any further, caching is not for you. This means you must have extended memory on an AT or 386 class PC, or (for some cache programs, but *not PCCACHE.SYS*) LIM expanded memory on your XT or AT. Memory below 640K is too valuable to squander in a cache or RAM-disk. Thank you for reading my article this far.

Second, lets clear up the confusion between read cache, read-write cache, and RAM-disk. All are things to do with extra memory above 640K. RAM-disk creates another virtual disk drive, usually D:, in extended or expanded RAM. It is accessed with no seek latency and DMA speed. If you *always* use the same program and data, and you have enough *extended or expanded* RAM above 640K to fit *everything you use* into a RAM-disk, create a RAM-disk D:, put D:\; as the first entry in your

PATH, and put copy commands into your AUTOEXEC.BAT file to load the software and data into D: at boot up time. You need read no further. Thank you for reading my article this far.

For the rest of us who have some extra RAM, but not 16MB, and use a variety of software, read on. Big computer OSs have read-write caches. This means that both disk reads and writes go to the cache first. This is fine unless the system hiccups between the time a block is written to the cache but before it has been written from cache to the disk, then you get a *corrupted disk!* OSs like VMS and UNIX have read-write caches and elaborate mechanisms to ensure that minimal data is lost when the system hiccups, DOS doesn't. As most disk accesses are reads, PC users will feel much more secure with a read-only cache.

Read-caches (or just caches hereafter) improve disk access time in two fundamental ways: saving disk blocks in memory (the cache itself) and block read-ahead on file access. Lets examine each of these in more detail.

A cache is an area of (extended) memory where recently read disk blocks are saved in the hope that they will be needed again soon. If one is, the second and subsequent calls to the disk to read the block are intercepted by the cache program and the disk block data is supplied from the cache RAM (a "cache hit"). Much faster! But eventually, as more disk blocks are read and saved in cache, the cache fills up. What happens then? Most cache programs have a least-recently-used algorithm - the next new block replaces the block in cache that has the longest time since it was last referenced. This usually works very well, but can fail miserably under certain circumstances. To see how, consider the following example:

Say you have a good bit of extra ram and have allocated 256K to the cache buffer. (For the moment lets ignore certain heavily used blocks, such as the disk directory structure, which will almost always be in the cache.) Sounds like a lot of RAM, right? Say your program has a large data file it reads repeatedly in a sequential fashion, block 1, block 2, etc. The 256K RAM will buffer 128 2K disk blocks. Say the big data file is 258K, or 129 disk blocks long. What will happen? The first block read, disk block 1, will be cached into cache block 1, disk block 2 into cache

block 2, and so on until disk block 128 is cached into cache block 128 and the cache is full. Now what happens? The program asks for disk block 129. There is no empty space in the cache. The least recently used cache contains disk block 1, so disk block 129 overwrites disk block 1 in the cache. Now say the program starts to read the file again. It asks for disk block 1, but it isn't in the cache anymore, so it reads it from the *disk*, and as disk block 2 in the cache is the least recently used block, disk block 1 overwrites disk block 2 in the cache.

By now you can see what's happening. Because the cache is *just one block too small* for the data file, the cache program is overwriting each disk block in cache *just before it will be accessed again*. Disk performance is actually degraded because the overhead of managing the cache is added to the disk access time, and there are *no cache hits*. A recently published review of caching software tested sequentially reading 256KB files with 204KB cache! No wonder the results were poor.

This brings us to the concept of the *working set* as applied to caching. Let us define *working set* as the size of the programs, data, and directory blocks that you will access in a given period of work time. This can be your word processor and all your document files, or Lotus 123 and all your spreadsheets, or your C compiler, editor, and your program files. You get the idea. From the above pathological example, it should be clear that, for a cache to perform properly, you must allot it *more* RAM than the *largest* working set you have. I recommend calculating your largest working set and adding 25%. Then for a given work session, you are guaranteed that your software will only have to access the disk once for each block in the working set, all other accesses will come from cache RAM.



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How much extra RAM is reasonable? On my 8MHz AT, which has a fairly slow 75 msec disk, I have 2MB RAM with 1.3MB allocated to the cache. Tests show that using PCCACHE.SYS cuts disk access time to less than 20% of non-cached time for the *second and subsequent* reads. I would suspect that 640K of cache would be a practical amount since only 640K can be loaded into DOS RAM at one time. However, if your working set is small, a smaller minimum applies. With Microsoft Word and reasonable size documents, I have obtained the same improvement with only 384K. If you have large data files to read you may need more.

But how about the first disk read, which must come from disk? The second way cache programs improve disk performance is read-ahead. When you ask for the first block of a file, the cache software actually reads it and the next 15 *sequential* disk blocks and stores them into cache RAM. It might as well, since the disk heads are there anyway. When the second block of the file is requested, *assuming the file was on contiguous blocks on the disk*, it is in cache RAM, and so on for blocks 3-16. Nice, uh?

However, DOS does not store files contiguously. In fact, the more you copy and move files around, the more your disk becomes fragmented. *Cache read-ahead on a fragmented disk has the same effect as a too small cache buffer, it degrades rather than improves disk performance.* To get the best results from PCCACHE.SYS or other cache software, you *must* run a program like Norton Speed Disk, Disk Organizer, or the like on a regular basis. I run Speed Disk about once every 3-4 weeks, but if you do a lot of file copying and extending, you may need to start it every evening when you leave work. On my AT with a re-organized disk, PCCACHE.SYS cuts the *first* read time of a file by 50% or more! Of course, the warning about cache size and working set size apply here too.

Now that you understand what a cache program like PCCACHE.SYS is doing, and if you have adequate extended memory above 640K and access to a disk reorganizer program, you may want to try it on your system. It should be available from the DOM by the time you read this. Note that PCCACHE.SYS will not work with LIM expanded memory, so if you have expanded memory, you will want to consider another cache program.

Jim

■

MICROSOFT WORKS (Ver 1.05)

A Review by Phil Chamberlain

"Integrated Software" packages combine two or more of the most frequently used applications into one software system. PCWeek (Sept. 19, 1988) recently tabulated 31 such packages. Those that contain applications similar to Microsoft's WORKS range in price from \$99.95 for PC Quintet (Timeworks, Inc) to \$6500 for Guru (Micro Data Base Systems, Inc).

Microsoft's "WORKS" (\$149) is an integrated package of the four most commonly useful PC applications — Word Processor, Spreadsheet, Database, and Communications programs, plus Graphics in the Spreadsheet and a Report Generator in the DataBase.

Two of WORKS major attractions are the consistency of commands among the applications, and the ease of moving information back and forth among them, including moving graphs from the Spreadsheet into the Word Processor.

Since I spend most of my time doing programming, I use some variety of these other applications only a relatively small percentage of the time. When I do, I'd like them to be effective, but relatively easy to use.

I've used, and occasionally struggled with, Wordstar, PCWrite, MultiMate, Lotus 1-2-3, dBase, Paradox, Reflex, PCTalk, ProComm, and SmartComm. I've switched almost entirely to WORKS, because while it's not quite as powerful as those more specialized programs, it's consistent, and it's easy to learn. Help is On-Line (if the help files are available) — and if the Tutorial files are also available, you can go through a lesson while you're in the middle of the main program!

The size of the manual may surprise you. It's the standard 7 1/2 x 9 inches, but at first glance seems smaller than its 600+ pages. It is well-organized and concise — one of the better manuals I've encountered (although I wish the index was in the very back of the book!)

WORKS comes on eight 5 1/4-inch diskettes:

- 1 - Program
- 1 - Setup and Utilities
- 1 - SpellCheck and Help files
- 2 - Printer routines (for a wide range of printers)
- 3 - Programmed learning

Copying onto either back-up diskettes or a hard disk is quite simple. None of the diskettes is copy-protected. The Setup program must be run next, to establish the operating parameters, but particularly to select the printer or printers that will be used. It operates with monochrome, CGA, EGA, and Hercules graphics boards — and VGA of IBM manufacture only, at present.

WORKS loads quickly, and uses from 140K of memory up, depending on how many files you have open. WORKS allows up to 8 open files of any type at any one time. (Your CONFIG.SYS file must provide for a minimum of 14 files).

Each of the applications uses the now common command line with pull-down menus. These vary somewhat from one application to another, depending on the needs of the application. The spreadsheet, for example, has a "Chart" (graph) command that none of the others has. The DataBase has "Query" and "Report" commands. Basically, all the applications are quite consistent.

"Macro's", for storing and playing back a sequence of simulated keyboard keystrokes, work with all the applications. However, the macros operate from a separate program — "MSKEY" — a TSR program that requires 58K additional bytes of memory.

If you use other TSR's, such as SideKick, you may need to run MSKEY whether you use Macros or not, in order to avoid problems with misinterpretation of key entries. Otherwise, WORKS doesn't actually require the use of MSKEY, but really runs quite well without it. Unlike many TSR's, MSKEY can be removed from memory when you are finished with it. I have found it convenient to run works from a batch file that installs MSKEY, run WORKS, and then removes MSKEY.

For the past several months, I have used the Database, Spreadsheet, and Communications applications with no need to use any other program — a positive testimony to its abilities. I have few criticisms or problems with their operation.

Despite my overall liking for WORKS, I do have a few problems with the Word Processor, so that I continue to use other text editors from time to time. The Word Processor is designed primarily for writing letters, reports, etc. and performs quite well on those tasks. The ability to include a chart or graph in the text is quite nice. However, the program is not easily used for such things as editing a source file for a program, or preparing a message to be transmitted to a bulletin board. For example, it ►

- operates only in "insert" mode, not in "overwrite".
- will not let me print in "compressed" type style without also going to 8 lines per inch instead of 6.
- will not let me print "draft quality", but insists on NLQ mode.
- completes a page with a series of line-feeds rather than a form feed.

SUMMARY — For the individual who has frequent (but probably not intensive) use for two or more of its applications, "WORKS" is an excellent program choice.

Phil

Merry Christmas

☆ AND ☆

ALL GOOD WISHES FOR

THE YEAR AHEAD

☆ ☆ ☆



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator
John Mackoy, Assistant 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.

Volunteers are listed by area(s) served for the November 19, 1988 Club meeting. SIG Leaders, Officers and Directors of the NT PC Users Group, the newsletter publisher, editor, staff and writers are volunteers, but are listed separately in other sections of this newsletter.

INFOMART Liaison:

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard

Presentation/Equipment Setup:

Timothy Carmichael
John Ogle
Tom Powiston

Vendor Assistance/Setup:

Claude McClure
Douglas McQuaid

Information/Registration Booth

Connie Andrews
Mike Ashley
Dean Duncan
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John Hardman
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Botter Reeves
Raymond Reyes
Douglas Scott
Connie Testa
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Scott T. Harris
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Maggie Mooney

BBS Steering Committee

Andrew Chalk
Kent Cobb
David McGehee
Pete Testa
Fred Williams

BBS Champion

Steve Fleming

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.

If you are interested in participating as a volunteer, either on meeting day or in other activities throughout the month, don't be bashful - let us know!

Sign up on meeting day at the DOM Booth for DOM activities or on the Bulletin Board in the DOM Conference area. For all other Club activities, sign

up at the Information Booth in the lobby on meeting day, or contact Connie Andrews on the Bulletin Board or at 828-0699, or John Mackoy on the Bulletin Board or at 291-0787.

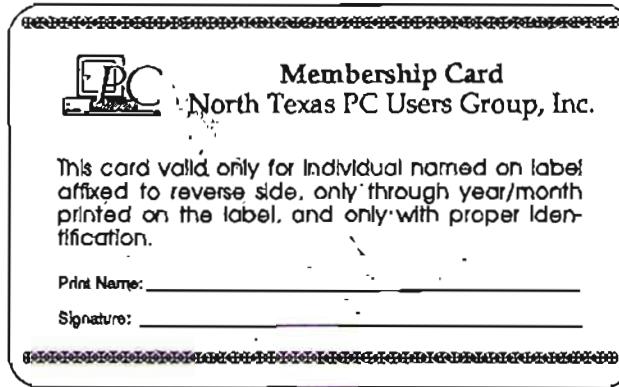
Our members have discovered that it can be quite rewarding in terms of getting to know our Club and its people. Let us hear from you!

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.



Trim card to wallet size.

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 9:55 AM

(AUDITORIUM)

* Zortec Incorporated *

" System Z: The Serious Software Developer's 4GL "

Presented by Jerry Fitzhugh, V.P. of Marketing. Learn how to develop software applications on your PC that will run on over 80 different machines and most operating systems. The first true 4GL that has no drawbacks, System Z greatly increases productivity and includes a comprehensive set of development tools, utilities, and execution system.

10:00 AM to 10:55 AM

(AUDITORIUM)

* Lotus Development Corporation *

" Lotus Agenda, The Personal Information Manager "

Presented by Gary Griggs, Marketing Specialist, who will describe and demonstrate this new software package, and will also distribute free gifts and software.

Special Interest Group Meetings...

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

9:00 - 9:55

Assembler
DOS
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users

10:00 - 10:55

CAD/CAM
Astrometry
Personal Users

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

12:00 - 12:55

C Language
Communications
Personal Users

RBase
Stock Mkt Investing

12:00 - 1:55

Stock Market Investing

1:00 - 1:55

Business Applications
LOTUS
Personal Users
Turbo Pascal

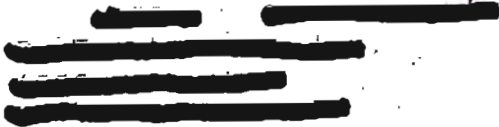
2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
Cryptanalysis
DAC Easy Accounting
dBase Programmers

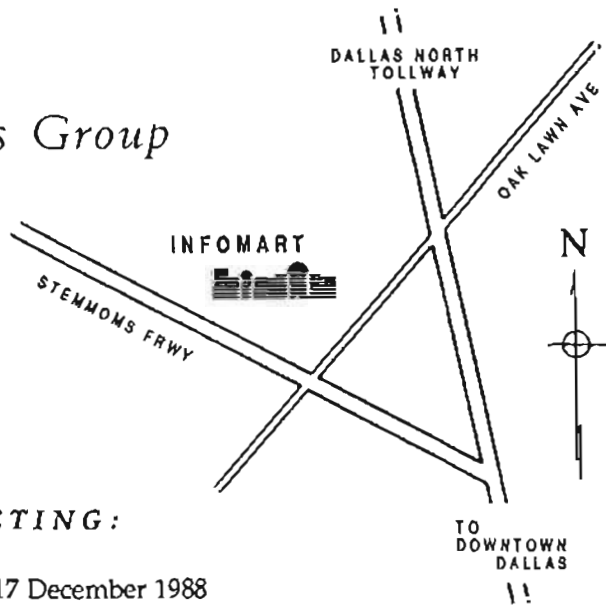
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NEXT MEETING:

17 December 1988