

North Texas
PC NEWS

The logo consists of a stylized computer monitor with a keyboard in front of it. The letters 'PC' are superimposed over the monitor. To the left of the monitor, the words 'North Texas' are written in a cursive font. To the right of the monitor, the word 'NEWS' is written in a bold, blocky font.

North Texas PC Users Group

8.6

June 1989



North Texas PC NEWS
(STARMAIL ADDRESS 51563)

Published monthly by members of North Texas Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Members each receive a free subscription; for others, price of the NEWS is \$2 per copy. Members are requested to notify the Membership Director in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to: North Texas PC NEWS, 5105 Swiss Ave. Dallas, TX 75214

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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 10th of the month prior to publication. See copy deadline below.

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation is 1550.

Member distribution is 1274; remaining copies are distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Xerox Ventura Publisher. Corel HEADLINE was used for some headings. Repro was printed on a NEC LC-890 Laser Printer. Typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica and Zapf Chancery.

DEADLINE
Copy deadline for July
NT PC NEWS:
Saturday June 10th

Meeting Dates:

June Meeting - 2nd Sat (10th)
July Meeting - 2nd Sat (8th)
August Meeting - 2nd Sat (12th)

We can use articles from a few more members out there...

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

Submit PC News articles to the newsletter exchange computer, or "Exchange" (for short. (Note—This is not the NTPCUG BBS.) To anyone submitting an article, the Exchange looks much like a multi-user DOS machine.

1. Article Style. Type all copy flush left without justification. This includes headings, bylines, and the first line of each paragraph. Place a credit byline (author's name) between the title and first paragraph. For ASCII text files, leave one blank line between paragraphs. For WORD .DOC files do not insert this blank line. Don't use tabs in the text; Ventura ignores imbedded tabs in the format we use for the newsletter. The < and > symbols must be doubled (i.e., << & >>) if they appear in your text.

2. Filenames & Extensions. When assigning a name to your file, be sure to use the filename extension for your wordprocessor. Use .TXT extension for ASCII files. The newsletter staff has standardized on Microsoft WORD as our word processor. If your article has formatting (i.e. bold, italics, underline, etc.) we prefer that you submit it as a WORD formatted (*.DOC) file. If it has no formatting, please send straight ASCII text (*.TXT).

3. Login Procedure. Call the Exchange at 214-830-6360 or 830-6361. Set your modem hardware and terminal emulator software to N-8-1. When you connect to the computer a Greek-looking prompt will appear. Transmit a break (Alt-B on Procomm Plus or Alt-F7 on Procomm). login: should then appear. Type ntpcug (all lower case). Immediately you will see password: Type news (all lower case). You will get a welcome message. The NTPCUG> prompt will appear. You are logged in and running.

4. Commands. Caution - All commands must be lower case only.

Familiar commands: dir, del, rename, copy, and type all work similar to the way they work in DOS. Other commands: mail, u modem, kermi, names, and submit are detailed elsewhere in this article. For help, type hints.

5. Submitting Articles. Log in to the Exchange and upload the file into the directory. Then move the file to the Editor's home directory simply by typing submit filename. (DO NOT submit articles to a mail address.) After "submitting" the file, it will no longer appear in NTPCUG> directory.

UPLOADING AND DOWNLOADING: Either the XMODEM (called u modem on Unix) or KERMIT protocols are available. For details type xhelp for u modem (XMODEM) help and khelp for KERMIT help. Examples of use are in each help file.

6. Mail. To send mail to assistant editors, you must know their login-name. Type names to see login-names of current staff members. To send mail type mail login-name. (Example: mail jgreen.) The cursor will be positioned on the next line. Type your mail message with <Enter> at the end of each line. When finished, type <Ctrl-d> to send the message. The NTPCUG> prompt will reappear.

7. Logoff. To log off the computer, type <Ctrl>-d. Do not disconnect from the computer without logging off, you will hang the modem. After typing <Ctrl-d> you will receive a logoff statement on the screen followed by the Greek-looking prompt. This is your signal logoff is complete and for you to hang up your modem. Note: Your telephone line will remain connected to the BBS number until you give the modem a command to hang up.

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Prez Sez ...

by Jim Hoisington

Member Badges

The procedure for member badges is that we will print you a new badge when you renew your membership. That badge will be available at the Information Booth at the next meeting. If you don't pick it up, we will mail it to you.

Some of you have asked about replacement badges. The Board of Directors established a \$5.00 fee for a replacement badge. You can sign up for them at the Information Booth and pick it up at the next meeting.

One other thing, because they are a hassle to print, we only run them once a month. If you renew within two weeks of the next meeting, you probably won't get your badge until the following meeting.

Win a Disk Drive!

After the business meeting, we are going to have a drawing for a Seagate ST-238. This is one of the two drives from the old BBS system. They were in continuous use for almost three years. That means there is no break-in period! The drive carries a "out of sight" warranty. When you are out of sight, it's out of warranty.

Donated PC's.

I would like to remind you again that the North Texas PC User's Group is classified as a charitable organization. You or your company can make charitable donations of used (or new) equipment. As I am writing this column, we have requests for PC's from a high school student who was paralyzed in a diving accident and from a prisoner in another state that allows prisoners access to personal computers and training.

Quick C versus Turbo C.

Since I'm writing this before the May meeting to meet the publication deadline, there isn't a lot of news. So how about a quick (pun intended) software review.

For the past month, I have been working on a small programming project using the C language. Since I

have Turbo C 2.0 and Microsoft C 2.0, I tried both of them.

It is important for you to know that this was a small project with only about 600 lines of source code. Also, while I did examine the "programming environment" of both products, I confined my development to using the compiler from the command line. (I use the same editor on IBM mainframes and my PC. I will do almost anything to avoid having to learn still another editor.)

The Turbo C compiler impressed me with its error handling. Most C compilers seem to point to the statement somewhere after the statement in error – not Turbo C. Another problem with compilers in any language is that one error causes the compiler to output many subsequent false errors. In the compiler building business, this is called "cascading of errors." Borland has done a superb job of eliminating this problem.

But, Turbo C is not without its faults. Like most Borland products, it seems to have gotten to market before all the testing was completed. I spent an afternoon trying to get an "at_end" function to work. I finally tried to compile the example in the Turbo C manual. It wouldn't work either. A call to their technical support confirmed that the final version of the product changed the way "at_end" was implemented.

The Microsoft Quick C compiler has a very good introductory manual to the C language called "C for yourself." The book gives plenty of examples and is well written.

However, none of the three manuals that come with Quick C list the functions that Microsoft has implemented. For those of you not familiar with the C language, the functions are important because

Agenda

Not determined at press time.

Small newsletter this month!

Dust off your word processors and write an article or two for the July issue.

they do a lot of the routine work that you need to do. As an example, I wanted to use an ANSI C function called SLEEP to delay execution of the program for a specified number of seconds. Turbo C has it.

Microsoft advertising says that you don't need manuals because everything is stored in a Hyper-text online help database. With that in mind, I brought up the Quick C environment (which is very difficult to use without a mouse.) I wrote a four line program using the sleep function, positioned the mouse cursor on "sleep(1);" and clicked. All I got was a low pitched beep. I guess that means they didn't implement it but it would have been nice to see something like "Unknown function."

To sum it up, I like both compilers. Turbo C has more functions and better error detection. Microsoft Quick C has fewer glitches and an online help (if you use their programming environment.) If you want to learn the C language, I don't see how you can go wrong with either compiler.

BBS Telephone Number Listings

I have asked the people at Texas Computer Currents and the User -To-User BBS not to publish our BBS telephone numbers. My reasoning for this is that when non-members dial either of the two BBS numbers, two things usually happen.

First, the people tie up the BBS phone line while they try to get past the first screen. Second, they assume that because the numbers were published, they should be able to use our bulletin board. Invariably, they call me and complain because we don't provide an "open" board.

While we're on the subject of the board, I would like to answer a couple of commonly asked questions. First, we don't have an "open" board because those metro numbers cost money. We currently have two lines and will soon need to add a third. If we opened the board to non-members, we'd need a couple of extra lines for sure.

Many of you have asked why we have metro numbers and why they happen to be in the 817 area code. We have metro numbers because our members are divided between the two area codes that make up the Dallas / Ft. Worth area. We checked out the rates for metro numbers and found out that the closer you get to the 817 / 214 dividing line, the cheaper they get. The current location of the bulletin board happens to be on the 817 side of the dotted line.

Many of you have asked why we don't have software for downloading. Basically there are two reasons. First, the software would compete with our Disk of the Month sales and those sales help pay the bills.

Second, we did a limited experiment with downloadable software and we had several complaints about software viruses. We just don't have the volunteers to check each piece of software out before it gets posted on the board. And, there are plenty of other boards in the area that already provide downloadable software.

Finally, the BBS committee is always looking for ways to improve the Bulletin Board. They have a conference set up for your suggestions and complaints. Please use it. Although it may not be obvious to some of you, they are a hard working group and they do read your messages.

Jim

a

PC Request

From time to time, the North Texas Users Group gets requests from individuals for computers. The most recent is from a young man named Derek Shipman.

He is a twenty-two year old quadriplegic injured in a diving accident in June of 1988. He was an in-patient at Dallas Rehabilitation Institute for six months and is at present completing an out-patient therapy program. Derek is now able to feed himself, hold the telephone and take photographs with an adapted camera. He is currently working on putting on a shirt, brushing his teeth, and pushing his wheelchair.

Derek was attending Brookhaven Junior college at the time of his accident. He would like to finish his studies at Brookhaven and pursue a degree in counseling at the University of North Texas.

A computer with some sort of pointing device like a mouse or track ball is essential to his college studies. If your company would like to donate a used PC that is being replaced by a newer model, please contact me or one of the officers of the NTPCUG. As I have mentioned many times before, we are a charitable organization so that the value of such a donation is tax deductible.

Jim Hoisington

Introduction To SQL

Part 3

by Fred Williams

I know I've been joking about the havoc we are about to raise by embarking on the "Update" segment of our SQL test drive, but this is a serious issue and must not be taken lightly. We are about to learn and do some things, if not properly applied, could cause serious problems for your Database Administrator, your employer, and in the end YOU! So, do not take this exercise lightly.

The safest way to approach this is to go to your Database Administrator and explain to him what you are doing and what you wish to do. If you are working for an intelligent organization that has their head somewhere they can see daylight, you will be pointed in the right direction to learn all you wish to know about relational databases and SQL. If you run up against heavy opposition, I would suggest brushing off your resume, you're working for a bunch of Neanderthals.

Now that we've got all of the administratia out of the way, we can get down to business. I'll let you in on a really nice secret, you have a "safety net" available to you when you're using SQL to update database tables, but more on that later. What is "updating" anyway? Updating is anything you do which changes the values of data stored in a database table or tables.

As an example, let's give the hard working clerks in our organization a well deserved \$100.00 raise! We do this by using the SQL UPDATE statement:

```
update emp
set sal = sal + 100
where job = 'CLERK';
```

ORACLE tells us that four records were updated with the following message:

4 records updated.

I can't say that every SQL vendor's product will give you this exact message, but I would venture to say, you will receive some similar indication of what action was taken.

With the UPDATE statement, we tell SQL the table that is to be updated. In this case, we updated the (EMP) employee table. The newly introduced SET clause indicates which data values are to be changed, and how they are to be modified. We changed the employee's salary (SAL) by adding

\$100.00 to the existing value of SAL (sal = sal + 100). The WHERE clause is used to qualify which employee's salaries are to be affected. We told SQL to change all of the employee's salaries whose job classification is "CLERK". You will notice that the UPDATE's WHERE clause serves the same purpose as the WHERE clause in an SQL SELECT statement. In fact, to check our, and ORACLE's, work we will use an SQL SELECT sentence with the exact same WHERE clause:

```
select ename, job, sal
from emp
where job = 'CLERK';
```

And here we have a list of our hard working clerks and their new salaries:

ENAME	JOB	SAL
SMITH	CLERK	900
ADAMS	CLERK	1200
JAMES	CLERK	1050
MILLER	CLERK	1400

Everyone on the sales force has been beating the bushes and bringing in "new names" so let's give them all an equal base pay. We will do this by setting all of their salaries equal to 1.1 times the average of all of their salaries. I hope you remember "subquery" from a previous article.

```
update emp
set sal =
(select 1.1 * avg(sal)
from emp
where job = 'SALESMAN')
where job = 'SALESMAN';
```

4 records updated.

The subquery embedded in the SET clause is used to compute the new value for each salary to be changed. As a refresher: The SELECT clause asks for a value that is 1.1 times (*) the average salary (avg(sal)) from the employee table (EMP), where the average salary is computed using the salaries of all of the employees whose job classification is "SALESMAN".

The WHERE clause following the SET clause determines which employees are to have their salary data values adjusted.

To see the result of our UPDATE statement, use the following SELECT statement:

```
select *
from emp
where job = 'SALESMAN';
```

EMPNO	ENAME	JOB	MGR	HIREDATE	SAL	COMM	DEPTNO
7499	ALLEN	SALESMAN	7898	20-FEB-81	1540	300	30
7521	WARD	SALESMAN	7898	22-FEB-81	1540	500	30
7854	MARTIN	SALESMAN	7898	28-SEP-81	1540	1400	30
7844	TURNER	SALESMAN	7898	08-SEP-81	1540	0	30

Rats! I just noticed TURNER has been dogging it and hasn't sold a thing. Now I wish I hadn't done that raise update. Good News! We haven't really done the update yet, even if our last inquiry results leads us to believe we have.

I told you earlier that SQL and relational databases have a built in safety net. In reality, any changes you make to a database table or tables do not become permanent or even visible to other database users until you explicitly tell SQL to "commit" your updates to the database. Until you COMMIT your database changes, you may request that all of your changes (beginning from your sign-on or last "commit" request) be "rolled back". In other words, ignored.

To request that our last salesman salary change be ignored, we merely enter the single SQL command ROLLBACK:

```
rollback
```

When we issue a SQL ROLLBACK command to ORACLE, SQL indicates the roll back request was properly completed by displaying the following message:

```
rollback complete
```

Once again, not every vendor's SQL product will return this exact message, but a good SQL driver should tell you in some way the end result of a requested rollback.

Now the old disclaimer! ORACLE, as well as most other SQL drivers I would guess, has an optional "auto commit" mode. The auto commit mode can be used to cause a completed transaction (for simplicity, consider a transaction to be a single SQL statement) to be automatically committed to the database immediately upon successful completion. It, therefore, should appear quite logical to Mr. Spock and most everyone else, that if the "auto commit" feature is "turned on" you will not be able to roll back a successfully completed SQL statement result.

The reasons for using "auto commit" mode are all very technical and related to transaction processing speed and system resource requirements. So you can expect the big mainframe based systems to lean toward "auto commit" more so than a minicomputer environment, a mini more so than a PC network, and, as you well know, on your own stand alone PC you do what you want anytime you want.

Check with your Database Administrator, and if at all possible, see about getting "auto commit" turned off for you for now. Once you feel more comfortable about SQL you can have it turned back on. With a little luck, and a good SQL driver, you

will be able to directly control "auto commit" from your own workstation with a special SQL or host system control statement. ORACLE allows you to "SET" AUTOCOMMIT ON or OFF with a special purpose SQL SET command.

Now that we have determined that life with relational databases doesn't have to be so scary, let's go on to some more table updating. In the next few examples, we will discover how to add new rows of information to a database table.

First, let's add a single row (new employee) to our employee (EMP) table. To add a row to a database table, we use the INSERT statement. The insert statement must tell SQL which table to insert the data values into, and must supply the values to be inserted in the new row.

Be forewarned, the INSERT statement is a little deceptive in its simplistic appearance. The tough part is not apparent when examining the sentence structure. The hard part is insuring that you have declared all of the required data element values to be inserted in the proper order, and that each value is of the proper data type. This is all in addition to ensuring you are inserting accurate data values. Both character and date data type values must be enclosed in apostrophes and all values must be separated by commas.

To insert a new employee "CARTER" into our employee table, we would use the following SQL statement:

```
insert into emp
values (7954,'CARTER','CLERK',7698,7-APR-84,
1000,NULL,30)

1 record created.
```

Now look at what we have done:

```
select *
from emp
where ename = 'CARTER';

EMPNO ENAME JOB MGR HIREDATE SAL COMM DEPTNO
-----
7954 CARTER CLERK 7698 07-APR-84 1000 30
```

Notice that there is no commission shown for Carter. If you look back at the INSERT statement we used to insert Carter's row, you will see the word NULL where the commission figure should be. This special reserved word, NULL, is used to indicate that a data column is to have no value. It is important to understand that NULL is not equal to numeric zero in this case, but means "no value present". NULL may be used in any data column that was not declared "NOT NULL" at table creation time. Any column which allows null values may be inserted with null values, or set to null with an UPDATE SET

clause, whether that column is declared character, date, or any number type.

When you have more than one or two fields for which you do not have a value, there is a shortcut method which you may use to insert a new row. Instead of having to enter NULL in each column (field) for which you have no value, you may alternately list only the columns and values you wish to fill.

You must enclose both the list of column names and the list of associated values in parentheses. You do not have to enter the column names in the order they are stored in the table, but the associated values in the value list must be in the same order as your column name list. In the next example we will insert a new employee "WILSON" using an INSERT statement which lists the column names to be filled and also contains a list of associated data values:

```
insert into emp (empno, ename, hiredate, deptno, sal)
values (7955, 'WILSON', '22-APR-84', 30, 1500);
```

ORACLE responds with:

```
1 record created.
```

Check the outcome of our latest INSERT with the following SELECT statement:

```
select *
from emp
where ename = 'WILSON';
```

And we find that Wilson's row has been added with several columns having no (NULL) values:

EMPNO	ENAME	JOB	MGR	HIREDATE	SAL	COMM	DEPTNO
7955	WILSON			22-APR-84	1500		30

You can insert several rows in a table using a single SQL INSERT statement. You may also use a SELECT statement imbedded in an INSERT

statement to extract selected data from an existing table and use that data to insert rows in another table. In our next example, we will use a SELECT statement to supply data from the employee table (EMP) for inserting rows in another (BONUS) table:

```
insert into bonus (ename, job, sal, comm)
select ename, job, sal, comm
from emp
where job = 'MANAGER'
or comm > .25 * sal;
```

ORACLE responds with:

```
5 records created.
```

To examine our new BONUS table, we can use the following SELECT statement:

```
select *
from bonus;
```

This displays the entire contents of the newly filled Bonus table:

ENAME	JOB	SAL	COMM
WARD	SALESMAN	1250	500
JONES	MANAGER	2975	
MARTIN	SALESMAN	1250	1400
BLAKE	MANAGER	2850	
CLARK	MANAGER	2450	

Since we will want to keep this table for some later exercises, we need to issue an SQL COMMIT command. This will cause all of our changes done since the beginning of our session to be made permanent changes. This includes the current Bonus table insertions, plus the two new employee rows we inserted in previous examples. Also remember that we rolled back the salesman's raise update so the effects of that statement will not be remembered.

```
commit
```

ORACLE responds with:

```
commit complete
```

AST Donates Machine to NTPCUG

AST Corporation has donated an AST 286/Premium machine to the North Texas PC Users Group. The machine has an 80286 processor, a 40 meg hard disk drive, a monochrome monitor and DOS.

We would like to thank the people in the Dallas AST office for their assistance in obtaining this machine.

Initially Connie Testa, the group statistician, will use the machine to work enter and analyze the results of our demographic survey from the March meeting. Following that, it will probably go to John Mackoy, our membership director, to be used in maintaining our membership database.

Remember your SQL driver may not respond with this exact confirmation message.

The last type of change to be covered is removing an existing row from a table. This is done using a very straightforward SQL statement, the DELETE statement.

As an example, we will use the following DELETE statement to remove employee Ward's row from the Bonus table we just filled:

```
delete from bonus
where ename = 'WARD';
```

The operation is confirmed by ORACLE with:

1 record deleted.

We can check ORACLE's work with:

```
select *
from bonus;
```

This lists all of the rows remaining in the Bonus table after Ward's row was removed:

ENAME	JOB	SAL	COMM
JONES	MANAGER	2975	
MARTIN	SALESMAN	1250	1400
BLAKE	MANAGER	2850	
CLARK	MANAGER	2450	

You may remove multiple rows from a table as well. In the next example we will remove all of the employee rows which have the same job classification as employee Jones:

```
delete from bonus
where job in
(select job
from emp
where ename = 'JONES');
```

3 records deleted.

To confirm our request was properly executed, we do the following query:

```
select *
from bonus;
```

And we are shown that only one row remains in the bonus table:

ENAME	JOB	SAL	COMM
MARTIN	SALESMAN	1250	1400

Since we may need the bonus table later, we issue a roll back command:

```
rollback
```

And ORACLE says:

rollback complete

That wraps up the updating of existing tables and their data. Like SQL queries, you may build much more complicated versions of UPDATE, INSERT, and DELETE statements than these we have used, and in the real world they will most likely be more complicated. But again, they will still just be more elaborate arrangements of the basic concepts and functions we have covered here.

So, go on out there and make a really dumb update, and discover that AUTO COMMIT was turned on! There are only two kinds of database users, those who have and those who will!

In the next installment I will cover how to create a new database table and how to make modifications to an existing database table.

Fred 

Fred Williams is the owner of Systems Consultants, a data communications software development, networking design, and consulting firm.

WE HAVE READERS EVERYWHERE...

WRITE AN ARTICLE

TODAY!





(New or unusual hardware/software/applications for IBM small computers and compatibles.)

Even "Experts" Miss Now and Then...

Expanded vs Extended Memory Confusion

Bill Gates, Chairman and CEO of Microsoft, is considered one of the true experts on matters related to PC's and DOS.

Sometimes, though, even Bill Gates makes mistakes. During similar presentations to that made at INFOMART May 20, he has had difficulty with the difference between expanded vs extended memory on PC's. and has referred to LIM 4.0 as an extended memory "Kludge" put together by Lotus, Intel and Microsoft (LIM) to utilize paged memory beyond the 640K DOS limit.— it's really expanded memory that LIM 4.0 provides.

Gates also usually has pretty good visuals to go with his talks. Sharp-eyed observers may see, and hear, "1985" given as the year IBM released the PC/AT with 80286 CPU chip. IBM really announced the PC/AT on August 14, 1984. Sorry 'bout that.

If You Can Afford the DRAMs

Intel PCEO Announces Bigger Above Boards

DRAM prices must be dropping. Intel's Personal Computer Enhancement Operation (PCEO) announced two new Above (tm) Board series May 8th. For PCs, XTs and ATs, Intel released the Above Board Plus 8 that allows users to add up to 14MB of either expanded or extended memory (AT) via 1Mbit DRAMs.

Second series, the Above Board MC32 for IBM PS/2 Models 70 and 80, provides up to 8MB of expanded or extended memory via 256KB or 1MB SIMMS.

According to Intel, suggested prices for the Above Board Plus 8 with 2MB starts at \$1445. Above Board MC32 lists at (OK) \$595 and \$2895 for the 4MB version populated with 1MB, 80 ns SIMMS.

A Feast for Hardware Hackers...

Upgrading and Repairing PCs Has it All

Scott Mueller's Upgrading and Repairing PCs, Que Corporation, 1988, is a "must" for anyone considering getting inside their PC. This is undoubtedly the most complete source of PC hardware material ever available to PC users. Mueller has put together everything from IBM ROM BIOS dates by model to complete disassembly details for IBM's PS/2 series machines.

If you've ever wondered what the "beep codes" in the POST (Power On Self Test) indicated, they're here. Explanation of the mysterious diagnostic messages are also here as well as the directions for finding bad DRAM chips after a Parity 1 error message. This latter is the only general circulation documentation I've seen on the parity check error codes.

Mueller covers everything: PC-1's, PC/XT's, PC Convertibles, Compaq's, AT&T's, PC/XT-286's, AT's, 386 machines, etc. This book could easily become the standard PC hardware reference.

A Long Day's Journey into May...

MS WORD 5.0 Actually Shipping

Microsoft finally got WORD 5.0 out the door. Press release announcing the latest PC version of the long-delayed word processor arrived May 8th, approximately six months later than expected.

Superstitious WORD users may notice that the new product is being shipped on 13, 5.25" floppy disks in its finished form, but a lesser number of 3.5" disks will be available. Everything seems to be working in this version, including users who will wade through approximately 1300 pages of new documentation with the release.

WORD 5.0 is much bigger than previous versions yet still runs on standard, 8088-powered PC's and XT's. It can also still be run from 360K floppys, but users will have to do some fancy disk juggling. ►

Ah! Sweet Competition..

Faster Math Co-Processor Challenges 80387

Intel and Weitek were joined by Integrated Information Technology (IIT) with their release of the IIT-NP-3C87 floating point processor (FPU). The 3C87 is touted by IIT as fully pin- and object-code compatible with Intel's 80387. The manufacturer reports improved memory load and store (approximately 5%) and register math improvements in excess of 200%.

IIT described the math improvements as a function of their use of double-precision internal data path and 32 internal registers instead of the single-precision path and 8 internal registers utilized by Intel in the 80387. A 25 MHz version of the chip is available now and IIT reports it will ship 33 MHz units in July. Price is comparable to the equivalent speed 80387's.

As UNIX Systems Catch MUMPS

Mini-World Continues PC Encroachment

I guess this belongs in a *UNIX/XENIX* section, but I'm not sure.

According to InterSystems, users can run spreadsheets, word processors, *UNIX* software,



"even DOS software" concurrently with *M/SQL*. *M/SQL* appears to run as a task under *UNIX*, and is a multi-user, multi-tasking PC implementation of a relational data base management system that combines *SQL* and *MUMPS* and runs on any 386 PC that runs *SCO XENIX*.

Running one operating system under another OS is a technique long familiar to minicomputer users, particularly in the *VAX* world. Seems like "overkill" on a PC. Prices for *M/SQL* start at \$695.

Dell Computing Releases UNIX for Their 310 and 325 PCs

Dell Computing of Austin, TX, announced release of *Dell UNIX System V/386 Release 3.2*. According to Dell, the new release is an optimized version of *UNIX* based on Interactive Systems' *386/ix*.

Intended for Dell's 25 MHz System 325 and 20MHz 310 PCs, the implementation supports *X Windows* and *VP/ix* developed by Interactive Systems and Phoenix Technologies. (*VP/ix* features simultaneous access to MS DOS and *UNIX* applications.)

System 310 prices start at \$6600 and range to the *Unix System 325* supporting up to 32 users at \$13600.

Microrim's Atlas Described as Universal Database Glue

Microrim Corporation of Redmond, WA, (remember the location, it may be important) publisher of the *R:BASE* database series released information on its *Atlas* database in March. *Atlas*, according to Microrim, will provide capabilities to cross the PC - Minicomputer - Mainframe barrier(s) for users in a variety of environments.

Atlas is described by Microrim as the "next generation DBMS" and will ship for *OS/2 Presentation Manager* in December, 1989. Versions to ship over the following 18 months will run under *DOS Windows*, *MS-DOS*, *Apple Macintosh*, *DEC VAX/VMS- DEC Windows*, *IBM's MVS* and *VM* (mainframe) and "the leading versions" of *UNIX*.

■

Selected SIG Happenings

News and Meeting Notes about Special Interest Groups

(Material for this column should be sent to Zack Porterfield, SIG Coordinator, before the 10th of each month.)

Assembler Sig

At the June meeting, Lee Meador will present a utility that determines which DOS files are open through inspection of the DOS master file handle table. This application has been used in a large database to establish if the application code inadvertently did not close files.

This promises to be an interesting discussion of DOS file internals. In addition to a discussion of the principles behind such a program, source code will be presented.

In July, I will present the source code for a function that permits you to access BP from Microsoft C. Sounds like a good month to go on vacation.

LAN SIG

Once again I am writing this as a Seer, as this has not yet occurred. Paul Williams, one of the group's members, gave a presentation titled "LANs What Are They" which was an introductory overview of LANs.

Dan Marmion, the Assistant LAN SIG Leader was kind enough to run things in my absence. Many thanks for a fine job.

We are once again lucky to have another "entry level" LAN presentation for the June meeting which will be presented by another member of the group, Bernie VanRoekel. His presentation will be "Overview Of LAN Access Methods", and will be an introductory overview of Token Ring,

(A)ttached (R)esource (C)omputer NET (ARCN)ET, and Ethernet.

Tentative plans for the July meeting is a presentation which will cover common problems to watch for when setting up and operating a LAN presented from a LAN Administrator's point of view.

Fred Williams

LOTUS SIG

The subject for the May meeting of the Lotus SIG was a discussion on macro commands that control program flow such as if/then statements and branching commands. Seeing as how this column is being written on May 10th, the deadline for inclusion in this newsletter and the meeting is not until the 20th, your guess is as good as anyone as to how the presentation went. However, Mark has assured us that his presentation will be worthwhile. Hopefully you attended the May meeting and can judge for yourself.

The subject for the June meeting will be a discussion on the use of titles and windows in Lotus 1-2-3. Titles and windows are somewhat related but quite different in many respects. The primary function of these two features is to display two different areas of the spreadsheet on the screen when they would not normally be able to. The convenience of titles and windows is worth learning more about them. Come by and see us in June.

Mark and Pat are beginning to run out of ideas for the SIG presentation. If you have any suggestions, please contact one of us. In fact, why not consider giving the presentation yourself.

There is a LOTUS SIG conference on the bulletin board that allows users to leave notes and questions

concerning the SIG and Lotus products. If you have a question, write to the conference and see if anybody can help.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer question users are have on Lotus products. If you have any, come on by in June and see what we have to offer.

Mark Gruner
and Pat Henley

DOS SIG

DOS 4.01 and DOS utilities will be featured at the June DOS SIG Meeting. Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President, will describe his experiences with the old, new DOS over the past month.

Hoisington says there are some surprises in 4.01, including known problem areas from DOS 3.3 that haven't been "fixed" in this version either. Jim will also go into several of his DOS utilities, released as a D-O-M in April, and how they can help PC users to untangle the twisted web of conflicting TSR's and other nastiness.

June's SIG Meeting will finish with the usual unbridled revelry of an open Q & A session.

Reagan Andrews

WORD SIG

Plans for the June SIG Meeting focus on a continuation of Style Sheet exploration. A parallel effort to incorporate layout techniques and tips with the Style Sheet discussion is contemplated if time allows.

Last month the WORD SIG left its scheduled discussion of Style Sheets and general layout hints for a roundtable discussion of SIG members' experience(s) with the Beta release (#40) of WORD 5.0

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 28 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

There is something new to consider when designing computer system. For want of a better term, I'll call it "work group culture". In the past it was not very important, but it has come to the forefront with local area networks.

With traditional computer systems, the computers themselves were locked away from most of the people in the company. They were kept in a guarded room and attended to by authorized personnel only. The only visible part of the computer system that most people saw was a terminal or two connected to the computer.

In each department or work group within the organization, there were one or two people that dealt with the data processing organization. They either knew how to run the terminal or they knew who to contact in the data processing group to get their data processed and their reports run.

Networks have changed all that. The computer has come to almost everyone's desk. Everyone has to interact with the computer. And that changes the way computer software systems are designed. If it is going to be used, the software system has to reflect the culture or structure of the work group it is serving.

Life is rarely so simple, but let's imagine two departments that are exactly opposite in structure. The first department is highly structured. Everything goes to the supervisor and nobody does anything without explicit instructions from the supervisor. Each person in the department specializes in one area and has little knowledge of how

to do the work of the person sitting next to them.

The second department is highly cooperative with everybody able to do every task and the next thing to be done is automatically taken by the next person that has time to do it. They have a supervisor only to represent them at company wide meetings.

In the traditional computing environment, the software design did not need to make much of a concession to the department's structure. Data arrived and reports went back. Who provided the data and who received the reports did not figure into the programming.

However, when everyone in the department has a terminal or personal computer on their desk, the issue of who has access to what data and in what form becomes an overriding factor in the design of the software. Imagine what would happen if a very "user friendly" system that made all the data easily accessible to everyone was installed in the first department. It would never get used after the first week. Employees in that department would be forbidden to power on their terminals or computers.

This month marks my third anniversary of working with local area networks. With each new system, I find that I am spending more time analyzing the interactions and structure of the work group before I even start on the software design.

Jim

▲

Volunteering makes sense... and friends too!

SWAP  SHOP

Selected SIG Happenings, continued

distributed to several (18) SIG members. General consensus was that 5.0 shows a lot of promise, but the version tested by participants didn't seem "ready" for release. Undaunted by our consensus, Microsoft announced release of 5.0 in May. Will the release version of 5.0 be bug-free as hoped? We'll compare notes in June and see.

Reagan Andrews

Four lines free each month to members; 5th through 10th lines at 30 cents per word. Larger ads at commercial space rates. Send check to the Editor for words exceeding the four-line limit. Free ads are on a space-available basis. Mail ads to the Editor.

Paper for Sale: 11 x 14 7/8, green-bar, tractor-fed, good-quality paper. \$18.00 per box. Contact Steve Fleming at (W) 466-3169 or (H) 817 387-3819



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator
Andy Oliver, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

Sid Nolte wrote an article for our April 1989 newsletter called "A Special Kind of Magic Square". It presented an intriguing numeric puzzle. Another numeric puzzle, much closer to home but equally intriguing, is the number of volunteers who work for our group. Last count had us at over 150 volunteers a month!

So, where do they come from? How do we capture them? Why do so many come back for more? Indulge your wildest dreams - come volunteer and get a look at the Inside...

INFOMART Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Bob Russell
Andy Oliver

Presentation/Equipment

Setup and Breakdown
Timothy Carmichael
Charles Kroboth
Tom Fowlston

Information/Registration Booth

Connie Andrews (Anchor)
Conley Andrews
Mike Ashley
K. B. Barton
Jo Cannon
Joe Daviner
John Dyer
Eta E. Eta
John Ferguson (Anchor)
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
William Glennon
Rodney Haas
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)
W. L. Harris
Hank Holt
Tom Krieg (Anchor)
Jim Laughter
John Mackoy (Anchor)
Claude McClure
Sarah McIntire
Bernard McLaughlin
Tony Noguerras (Anchor)
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Robert Richmond
James Russell-Redman
Douglas Scott

Elaine Stephens
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)
Paul Williams (Anchor)

Disk of the Month (DOM) Table

Joe A. Allen
Ron Anderson
Roy Bales
K. B. Barton
Stan Berlin
Paul Bushurle
Gene Carleton
Charles Cashlon
Jay Chambliss
Don Chlck
Mirv Conner
John Dally
Shawn Dunn
Kent Haven
Bob Karleback
Ron Kerr
Duane Martin
Bob Post
Bob Reynolds
Virginia Salter
Tom Scurlock
Jerry Stone
Oscar Tyler
Claude Walston

DOM Central Committee

Preston Brashear
Charles Carter
Kathryn Crawford
Mark Grunner
Howard Hamilton

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers who indulged for the month of April. Keep in mind that our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter publisher, editor, staff and writers are all volunteers; their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter.

Don't forget that one of the benefits of NTPCUG membership is the drawings for members only at the monthly presentations in the auditorium. Club policy is that volunteers scheduled and on duty at the time of a drawing on meeting day are eligible to win even though not in the Auditorium.

Kenneth Loafman
Pete Testa, BBS Liason
Ben Weatherall

DOM Review/Presentation

B. K. Barton
John Dyer
Wade Mayfield
Roy Minut
Richard Terreo

DOM Software Donators

Bill Dow
Jim Holsington
Roy Minut
Arnie Strand
Richard Terreo

Bulletin Board System
(BBS) Sysops
Tom Prickett
Maggie Moomey

BBS Steering Committee

Andrew Chalk
Kent Cobb
David McGehee
Pete Testa
Fred Williams

BBS Champion

Bill Cotton

Public Relations Committee

Francis Bright
Annette Hyde
Ron Kerr
Peh L. Lee
Elwood Lindell
Charles Lucas
Tony Noguerras
Reagan Andrews

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. **Via BBS:** (817) 461-0425 (metro) or (817) 461-0506 (metro). Look for details on the Volunteer Conference and reply to names listed. This is a fast and easy way for our volunteers to get your name and respond.

2. **Meeting day:** Sign up at the Information Booth or DOM Booth to work those areas in a coming month.

3. **By phone:**

Auditorium Presentations

Timothy Carmichael 331-6303 (h)
661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Activities

Bill Drissell 264-9680 (h)

DOM Software Review

Howard Hamilton 644-5721 (h)

General Information

Connie Andrews 828-0699 (h)

Information Booth

Andy Oliver 223-4044 (h)





MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

North Texas PC Users Group

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

Member # _____ Circle one:
 Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____ (MI) _____ Mr./Mrs. Ms.
 Address: _____ (Suite/Apt) _____

 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: (Check Preferred No.) Home _____ () _____ Metro? Y _____ N _____
 Work _____ () _____ Ext. _____ Metro? Y _____ N _____
 Occupation/Profession: _____

Check one from each column below:		
Payment: Cash _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____	Membership Classification: Regular (\$24.00) _____ Student (\$12.00) _____ (full-time with ID) _____	Application Status: New Member _____ Renewal _____ Address Change _____

Do you want access to the NTPCUG Electronic Bulletin Board? Y _____ N _____ Already Have _____
 Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

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

1. Working with NTPCUG Volunteer Committees? (Please check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Board (BBS) <input type="checkbox"/> Disk of the Month (DOM) <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Setup/Breakdown <input type="checkbox"/> Financial/Bookkeeping <input type="checkbox"/> INFOMART/Vendor Setup	<input type="checkbox"/> Information/Registration/Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Advertising <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interest Group Coordination
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2. Working with Special Interest Groups? (Please check all that apply.)

<input type="checkbox"/> Astrometry <input type="checkbox"/> Communications <input type="checkbox"/> MS/PC-DOS <input type="checkbox"/> Local Area Net <input type="checkbox"/> R:Base <input type="checkbox"/> Microsoft WORD	<input type="checkbox"/> Assembler <input type="checkbox"/> Cryptanalysis <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy <input type="checkbox"/> LOTUS <input type="checkbox"/> Stock Market	<input type="checkbox"/> Business Applic. <input type="checkbox"/> DAC Software <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Users <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo Pascal	<input type="checkbox"/> C Language <input type="checkbox"/> DBase <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware Solutions <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Programmers <input type="checkbox"/> WordStar
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3. Being a volunteer, informal "consultant" in your area of expertise for NTPCUG members?
 If so, list area(s): _____

Detach below for receipt.

Applications should be mailed to: North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
 P.O. Box 780066
 Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Received: \$ _____ Check No. _____ Date: _____ / _____ / _____ By _____

Meetings & Times



10:00 AM - 12:00 AM

Program not determined at press time.

Special Interest Group Meetings

For possible time changes, check the Bulletin Board just before the meeting and the overhead display in the lobby at INFOMART.

<p>9:00 - 9:55</p> <p>Assembler DOS Hardware Solutions Personal Users</p> <p>10:00 - 10:55</p> <p>Astrometry Graphics Local Area Networks Personal Users</p>	<p>11:30 - 11:55</p> <p>Orientation</p> <p>12:00 - 12:55</p> <p>C Language Communications Personal Users RBase Stock Mkt Investing</p>	<p>1:00 - 1:55</p> <p>Business Applications LOTUS Personal Users Turbo Pascal WORD</p> <p>2:00 - 2:55</p> <p>Advanced Programmers Cryptanalysis DAC Easy Accounting Databases</p>
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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 elsewhere in this newsletter, 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.

Board of Directors

Jim Holsington,	Phil Chamberlain
Chairman	Sid Nofte, Ph.D.
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	Zack Porterfield

Officers

President	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
		(214)931-4426
President-Elect	Zack Porterfield	(214)434-1844 w
Program Chair	Timothy Carmichael	(214)331-6303 w
Treasurer	Ken Conner, CPA	(214)669-3377 w
Secretary	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir.	John Mackoy	(214)291-0787 h
Advertising Dir.	Ron Kerr	(214)380-0866 w
		(214)223-6743 h
		(214)596-2539
Disk of the Month Group Statistician	Kathryn Crawford Connie Testa	
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	

Member Emeritus

Stuart Yarus

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

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

SYSOP - Tom Prickett
(voice) (214)690-9087
Asst. SYSOP - Maggie Moomney
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa
User Relations: Kent Cobb
Information Mgt: Dan Marmion
Technical Services: Dwight Neal

Address Changes, etc...

Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to

NTPCUG Membership Director
P.O. Box 780066
Dallas, Texas 75378-0066

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

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Phil Chamberlain Zack Porterfield	(214)243-8034h (214)434-1844 w
Astrometry	Arfin Collins	(214)351-5137 h
Assembler	Andrew Chak, Ph.D. Stan Milam	(214)226-3461 h (817)548-1573
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)348-5700 w
C Language	Sid Nofte, Ph.D. Andrew Chak, Ph.D.	(214)233-6178 h (214)226-3461 h
Communications	Pete Testa Wm. Banned	(214)485-7508 (817)346-0862 h (817)762-3059 w
Cryptanalysis	John Taber John Thomas	Metro 430-8173 (214)680-1823
DAC Software	Pur Shaw	(214)225-2559
Databases	Rodney Haas	(214)255-4400 h (214)404-4612 w
DOS	Jim Holsington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)416-3101 h (214)828-0899 h
Genealogy	Minnie Champ	(214)644-8643 h
Graphics	Richard Terreo	(214)307-1259 h
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee Gary Johnson	(214)681-0202 h (214)937-9676 w (214)937-5851 h
Local Area Net	Fred Williams Dan Marmion	(214)492-1315 (214)750-6130
LOTUS	Mark Gruner Pat Henley	(214)964-8174 h (214)229-8210 h
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)867-1679 h
Programmers	Kent Cobb	(214)343-3554
R:Base	Jim Holsington Alan Alberts	(214)416-3101 h (214)242-1094 w
Stock Market	Con Branham Cirl Murphy	(214)352-0888 h (214)279-7973
Turbo Pascal	Richard Holeman Don Chick	(214)341-4774 w (214)278-2524 h
WORD	Stan Milam Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Bertine	(817)548-1573 (214)828-0899 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-9993 h

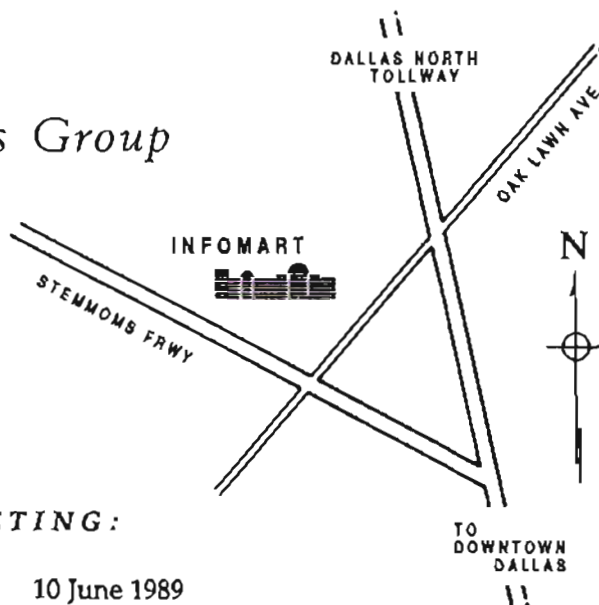


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Address Correction Requested.

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NEXT MEETING:

10 June 1989