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North Texas PC Users Group

8.11

November 1989

An Open Letter to Fred Williams

by G. Kent Cobb

Don't get me wrong, Fred. I don't have anything against assembly language programming, or even assembly language programmers. A fair amount of my own code is written in assembler. But there's a time and a place for everything, and simple utilities like "ASK" just beg to be written in a higher-level language like C.

In your article in last month's newsletter, you mentioned several reasons why you think an assembler implementation is superior. If I'm going to disagree with those points, it's only fair that I explain why, and offer an alternative. To make my point, I wrote my own version of ASK in C. (The source code is at the end of this letter, and on the NTPCUG bulletin board in the file ASK.ARC.)

The first point you make concerns the size of the program. Granted, my ASK.EXE is considerably larger than your ASK.COM. (5693 bytes vs. 591, to be precise.) This presents a potential problem in two distinct areas: disk space and memory usage.

I'll start with disk space. Thumbing through my CompuAdd catalog, I tried to find the most expen-

sive hard disk (in terms of dollars per megabyte) that they offer. The highest price I could find was \$14.95 per megabyte. Applying that price to the difference in file sizes, I come up with a cost of eight cents. I don't know about you, but I think I can live with that.

Second, there's the question of memory. Since ASK is not a memory-resident program, and does not allocate any memory to do its job, this really boils down to a question of "Do I have enough memory to run it?" And for purposes of comparison, a more precise question is "Do I have enough memory to run ASK.COM, but not enough to run ASK.EXE?" I think it's highly unlikely that this situation would arise.

Furthermore, if the answer is no, I've probably got much more serious problems to worry about. Since ASK will typically run in a batch file, and determine which of a number of programs is run, those programs will also be unable to run. (Unless, of course, they're smaller than 5K.)

Finally, there's the issue of speed. On my 10 MHz AT, ASK.EXE takes about four tenths of a second, plus the time it takes me to read the prompt, make up my mind, and press a key. I think I can live with that, too.

If there are no significant differences between the two versions, does it matter whether you write the program in C or assembly language? From a user's

Arts & Letters continued from page 7

by scanners. But, don't hold your breath. Simple bitmaps were traced slowly enough on the 20 MHz 386 to qualify for the "Molasses" category. Pain would be the best description of the process on the 4.77 MHz PC. (This really isn't fair. Computer support doesn't recommend A&L on the PC/XT-class machines.)

When I received the review package of *Arts & Letters*, I faithfully sent back the registration card sure that I would receive 1000's of clip art images and the version of the program for math co-processors. After three weeks (21 days) neither had arrived at the time of this writing. Computer Support is located in the Metroplex. Even the US Mail isn't that slow. A letter stating the registration had been received and some delay could be expected would have been appreciated, but also never arrived (if it was sent.)

A telephone call to Computer Support stating my dilemma, i.e., I wanted to see if the co-processor would indeed speed up the terribly slow bitmap tracing process, although initially encouraging, eventually proved fruitless. I'm not sure what this means in

terms of what typical users/purchasers could expect as support, but it is bothersome as well as irritating.

Summary

Arts & Letters 2.0 has a lot to offer users who have a need for rapid, painless access to an excellent and extensive clip art collection. It's the best I've seen so far. Type handling is very good, limited only by the imagination of the user. Using A&L's advanced features, however, can require significant discipline, determination and patience. An interesting note here: a marketing videotape was shown at a local store that could easily serve as a tutorial on the power features. It would be a good part of the overall package.

List price for the package is, as is typical for graphics packages, pretty steep at \$695. However, it was seen heavily discounted locally and is probably available in the \$450 range. If you are interested, and want more information, call Computer Support Corporation at (214) 661-8960.

Reagan

■

standpoint, there's very little difference. But to a developer, there are two significant differences: the time it takes to write and debug the program in the first place, and the ease of maintenance. I don't know how long it took you to write your version of ASK, but I'd bet it was longer than the 57 minutes it took me to write, debug, and test mine. (I know it would have taken me considerably longer to write an assembly language version.) And making changes to

very tight assembly language code is enough to make you pull your hair out. (Hmmm ... maybe we're on to something here!)

As I said earlier, I have nothing against assembly language. It's great for interrupt handlers, time-critical code, and those things that simply can't be implemented in a high-level language. But for most everything else, I think there's a better choice.

ASK (The Sequel)

```
/*
THIS PROGRAM IS MODELED AFTER ONE WRITTEN BY FRED
WILLIAMS, WHICH APPEARED IN THE OCTOBER, 1989, ISSUE OF
THE NORTH TEXAS PC USERS' GROUP NEWSLETTER. IT WILL
DISPLAY A PROMPT ON THE SCREEN, AND WAIT FOR THE
USER TO ENTER AN ACCEPTABLE RESPONSE. THE SYNTAX
FOR EXECUTION IS:
```

C> ASK "prompt string" responses

THE PROMPT STRING MAY CONSIST OF MULTIPLE WORDS, AS LONG AS IT IS ENCLOSED IN DOUBLE QUOTES. THE LIST OF RESPONSES CONSISTS OF A STRING OF ASCII CHARACTERS. IF THE USER PASSES ONE OF THOSE KEYS IN RESPONSE TO THE PROMPT, THE PROGRAM WILL TERMINATE WITH AN EXIT CODE EQUAL TO THE CHARACTER'S POSITION IN THE LIST. FOR EXAMPLE, IF THE COMMAND WERE

C> ASK "Do you want to access the network?" YN

THE EXIT CODE WOULD BE 1 IF THE USER PRESSED 'Y', AND 2 IF HE PRESSED 'N'. IF THE USER PRESSED THE ESCAPE KEY, THE PROGRAM WOULD TERMINATE WITH AN EXIT CODE OF 3. THE PROGRAM IGNORES DIFFERENCES BETWEEN UPPER AND LOWER CASE.

THIS PROGRAM WAS WRITTEN IN MICROSOFT C V5.1. IT WAS COMPILED WITH THE /W3 AND /O3 OPTIONS, AND LINKED WITH THE /EXEPACK OPTION. IT TAKES ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT MICROSOFT'S STARTUP CODE AUTOMATICALLY SCANS THE COMMAND LINE ARGUMENTS FOR DOUBLE QUOTES, AND CONCATENATES THE ARGUMENTS THAT THEY ENCLOSE. FOR THAT REASON, THIS CODE MAY NOT WORK AS INTENDED WITH OTHER C COMPILERS.

```
#include "stdio.h"
#include "conio.h"
#include "string.h"
#include "ctype.h"
#include "process.h"
```

```
#define FALSE 0
#define TRUE 1
```

```
#define SPECIAL_CHAR 0
#define BEEP 0x07
#define ESCAPE 0x1B
```

```
/* FUNCTION PROTOTYPES */
```

```
int main(int, char *[]);
void error_exit(void);
```

```
int main ( argc , argv )
```

```
int argc;
char *argv[];
{
char *ptr , *string;
int length;
int key;
```

```
/* THERE MUST BE AT LEAST TWO ARGUMENTS ON THE
COMMAND LINE, SO argc MUST BE 3 OR GREATER. */
```

```
if (argc < 3)
error_exit();
```

```
/* THE FIRST COMMAND LINE ARGUMENT IS THE PROMPT.
DISPLAY IT. */
```

```
puts("\n");
puts(argv[1]);
```

```
/* THE SECOND COMMAND LINE ARGUMENT IS THE LIST OF
ACCEPTABLE RESPONSES. CONVERT THE ENTIRE LIST
TO UPPER CASE. */
```

```
string = argv[2];
length = strlen(string);
strupr(string);
```

```
/* NOW WAIT FOR INPUT FROM THE USER, AND VALIDATE IT. */
```

```
while (TRUE)
```

```
{
/* CHECK FOR AN ESCAPE KEY FIRST. */
```

```
if ((key = getch()) == ESCAPE)
return(length+1);
```

```
/* MAKE SURE THEY DIDN'T PRESS A FUNCTION KEY,
CURSOR KEY, ETC. */
```

```
if (key == SPECIAL_CHAR)
```

```
{
getch(); /* FLUSH THE SECOND BYTE FROM THE
KEYBOARD BUFFER. */
```

```
putch(BEEP);
continue;
}
```

```
/* SEE IF THE CHARACTER IS IN THE LIST. IF IT IS,
RETURN ITS POSITION. */
```

```
if ((ptr = strchr(string,toupper(key))) != NULL)
```

```
{
putch(key); /* DISPLAY THE KEY, IF IT'S VALID. */
puts("\n");
return(ptr-string+1);
}
```

```
else
putch(BEEP);
}
```

```
} /* END OF MAIN */
```

```
void error_exit ()
```

```
{
puts("\n\nProper syntax for ASK is:");
puts("\n\nASK \"prompt string\" responses");
exit(-1);
} /* END OF ERROR_EXIT */
```

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Disk of the Month

Disk 414. PKZIP 1.02, 10/89 File compression system

PKWARE, Inc. 7545 North Port Washington Road Suite 205 Glendale, WI 53217-3442 Partial Registration Fee: \$25 Complete Registration Fee: \$47

This software is designed to run on any IBM personal computer or compatible, that is running MS-DOS version 2.0 or higher (MS-DOS versions) or OS/2 (OS/2 versions only). The program has two primary files - PKZIP and PKUNZIP. PKZIP is used to create and manipulate ZIP files. PKZIP requires a minimum of 85K memory to run. PKZIP is capable of compressing up to 3,900 files into a single ZIP file. PKUNZIP is used to extract files out of a ZIP file. PKUNZIP requires a minimum of 70K free memory to run. You can also create self-extracting files so that other people do not need PKUNZIP to extract the files. Version 1.02 fixes a few minor bugs and replaces version 1.01.

The following features are available with PKWARE Version 1.02 PKZIP/PKUNZIP/PKSFX Compression Programs.

1. Improved Compression! PKZIP 1.0 implements a new compression algorithm called Imploding, which averages 5% to 15% better compression than the maximal compression (Reducing) of PKZIP 0.92. Imploding is also faster at compressing and extracting than Reducing was.
2. Password encryption.
3. Automatic detection and utilization of 80386 CPU's. PKZIP and PKUNZIP test for the presence of an 80386 CPU. If present, PKZIP and PKUNZIP will use the 80386's 32 bit instructions and extended addressing modes for improved performance.
4. Special file handling capabilities will automatically recurse through subdirectories and store pathnames within a ZIP file. These paths can then be created on extraction if they do not already exist.
5. Extra compression options allow you to specify the method of compression (Shrinking or Imploding) to be employed.
6. A file that has been created as a self-extracting file can be treated as a normal ZIP file.
7. Files contained in a ZIP file can be viewed in several different ways.
8. A new option, -x, can be used to specify files to be excluded.
9. Special file attributes (hidden, read-only, system) can be masked during creation or extraction of a ZIP file. PKZIP can also be configured to include or not include hidden and system files.
10. ANSI comments may be enabled/disabled.
11. Expanded Configuration file options are available.
12. Individual file comments (up to 60 char) for each file in the ZIP file.
13. Automatic use of the best compression method.

The PKZIP files are in a self-extracting file named PKZ102.EXE. To extract the individual PKZIP files, put a blank disk in Drive B; and this disk in Drive A; and type A:PKZ102 B: at the DOS prompt. Then PKZ102 will extract the files to the disk in Drive B; and leave the original PKZ102.EXE in Drive B; intact. There are several documentation files included. To print out all of the documentation files, type COPY B:*.*DOC PRN at the DOS prompt.

This software was downloaded from Collectors Edition by Mark Gruner. This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Mark Gruner, 10/89.

Disk 415. Lotus 1-2-3 Release 3.0 and 2.2 Self-Running Demo Lotus Development

This disk is a self-running demonstration of the two new releases of 1-2-3 from Lotus Development Corporation. Release 3.0 will

only run on 286 and 386 class machines and requires at least 1 Meg of memory. Release 3.0 requires at least 384K of available extended memory to run. Release 2.2 can run on any IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible and is viewed as an upgrade to the current 2.01 version.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: THIS DEMO IS DISTRIBUTED ON A 1.2M FLOPPY DISK AND REQUIRES AN EGA MONITOR. When installed, the demo will require approximately 1.1 Meg of disk space.

There is a batch file that installs the demo. However, the batch file assumes that the 1.2M disk is drive A: and that you want to install the demo on Drive C:. All the batch file does is to create a 123DEMO directory on Drive C; and copy the files 123DEMO.BAT and 123DEM.EXE into the 123DEMO directory. It is just as easy to create a directory anywhere on your system and copy these two files onto your hard disk.

To start the program, just type 123DEMO at the DOS prompt. The program is strictly a demo with good graphics and requires only one user input which is what version of 1-2-3 do you want to see demonstrated. The program will ask which version to demonstrate. Simply press "1" for Release 3.0 and "2" for Release 2.2. After completing the demo of one of the releases, the demo will return to this two-choice option.

To temporarily stop the macro, simply press the space bar. To terminate the demo at any time, press escape.

In the demo of Release 3.0, several features are shown such as 3-Dimensional worksheets, hot graphs, linking to external databases, improved graphic capabilities, enhanced database features, and many others.

The demo of Release 2.2 presents many of the new features such as graph settings sheets, an Undo feature which can reverse the last command (even a /, Worksheet, Erase command), improved graphics, the built-in add-in manager, and a built-in Learn mode for recording keystrokes. The 1-2-3 Add-in Allways is included in the Release 2.2 package and is shown in the demo. Allways provides spreadsheet publishing capabilities to Release 2.2.

This software was donated to the User's Group by Lotus Development Corp. This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Howard Hamilton, 10/89.

Disk 416. Menu System 3.11, 12/88 Hard Disk Menu Program

Cottage Industries, Inc. P.O. Box 176 1025 Blueberry Lane Liberty, Missouri 64068 Registration Fee - \$49.95

Menu System 3.11 offers a no-nonsense approach to menus. It simplifies everyday operation of a hard disk on an XT, AT, PS/2, or IBM compatible by allowing users to create an unlimited number of menus. It allows users with a limited knowledge of DOS to run programs or perform DOS commands. Any DOS command or program can be put into a menu for single keystroke or "point and shoot" selection. By isolating the new or experienced user from DOS, the user environment can be more enjoyable and productive.

Supporting both color and B/W (mono), it is distributed as shareware for a 30-day evaluation period. Site licenses are available, as are multi-user versions for 4 to 1024 users. The optional password protection, should interest the corporate PC Coordinator.

Menu System 3.11 is a non-resident, batch file processor. Nearly any command you can put into a batch file or execute from a DOS prompt can be put into a menu for single keystroke selection. With this version, you can issue interactive DOS commands from a menu selection. After your commands are executed, or you exit an application, the Menu System returns you to the menu that you left, another menu, or to DOS, your choice. Designed for hard disk systems running DOS 2.0 or later, Menu System 3.11 requires 64K of memory which is released once a selection is made.

To protect your monitor, a screensaver function blanks the screen after two minutes of inactivity. Press any key and the menu

returns. No operational differences exist between the Shareware Version 3.11 and the licensed Version 3.11. However, during screensaver mode, the licensed version prints a copyright notice on the screen once per hour, where the shareware version prints a shareware copyright notice every 10 minutes; unobtrusive, but a good reminder that you are using the shareware version for an evaluation period. A color program gives you color choices for menu presentation. An editor program gives you an easy way to customize your menus. Installation is easy and straightforward, for the novice or experienced user. I like it!

Menu System 3.11 was donated to the club library by the author. This review was prepared by John Puckette, edited by Mark Gruner, 8/89.

Disk 417AB. MicroEMACS 3.10, 3/89 EMACS style text editor with source

Daniel M. Lawrence 617 New York Street Lafayette, IN, 47901

MicroEMACS 3.10 is a powerful, but relatively easy to use tool for creating and changing documents, programs and other text files. While it can be copied and distributed freely for any non-commercial purposes, MicroEMACS can only be incorporated into commercial software with the permission of the current author. MicroEMACS will run on almost any PC, AT, PS/2, or clone system with 256k or more memory and any of the MDA, CGA, EGA, or VGA monitors. Source switches allow you to customize MicroEMACS to almost any system. Support is also included for UNIX and VAXen in the source files.

MicroEMACS allows several files to be edited at the same time. The screen can be split into different windows, and text may be moved freely from one window to the next. Depending on the type of file being edited, MicroEMACS can change how it behaves to make editing simple. Editing standard text files, program files, and word processing documents are all possible at the same time.

There are extensive capabilities to make word processing and editing easier. These include commands for string searching and replacing, paragraph reformatting and deleting, automatic word wrapping, word move and deletes, easy case controlling, and automatic word counts.

For complex and repetitive editing tasks editing macros can be written. These macros allow the user a great degree of flexibility in determining how MicroEMACS behaves. Also, any and all the commands can be used by any keystroke by changing, or rebinding, what commands various keys invoke.

Special features are also available to perform a diverse set of operations such as file encryption, automatic backup file generation, entabbing and detabbing lines, executing operating system commands and filtering of text through other programs (like SORT to allow sorting text).

New Features since version 3.9 (top 22 of approximately 40 new features):

- Multiple Marks now supported
- Named macros are now bindable
- More function key support
- Hidden modelines???
- Crypt algorithm much better
- Smooth scrolling
- Foreign language text constants
- Recall last printed statement
- Upper/Lower case mapping
- VGA support
- Microsoft mouse support
- New Search Algorithm
- New user input function
- Partial Mouse support added
- Tab variables
- New mechanism for hooks
- New "safe" file saving
- select-buffer upgraded

- Horizontal window scrolling
- Prefix keys upgraded
- More Debugging features
- Completion routines rewritten

This software was downloaded from USENET by Kenneth Loafman. This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Ben Weatherall (10/89).

Disk 418. VIRUSCAN 0.7V40, FLU_SHOT+ 1.7 Virus protection systems, 9/89

VIRUSCAN 0.7V40 McAfee Associates 4423 Cheeney Street Santa Clara, CA 95054 Shareware Fee: \$15

FLU_SHOT+ 1.7 Ross M. Greenberg 594 Third Avenue New York, New York 10016 Shareware Fee: \$10

With the outbreak of viruses across the world, a couple of authors have shown major interest in virus protection programming and have put together two different packages with different approaches to virus protection. In an effort to make as much available to the NTPCUG member as possible we offer both of these on one disk.

VIRUSCAN version 0.7V40, by John McAfee, scans diskettes or entire systems and identifies any pre-existing PC virus infection. VIRUSCAN will indicate the specific files or system areas that are infected and will identify the virus strain which has caused the infection. Removal can then be done manually or, if the infection is widespread, automatic removal utilities are available which can disinfect each virus strain.

VIRUSCAN can identify 39 major virus strains and numerous sub-varieties for each strain. The 39 viruses include the twelve most common viruses which account for over 90% of all reported PC infections. These common viruses include (plus several from Europe not in the US, yet):

- Pakistani Brain
- Fu Manchu
- Jerusalem
- Vienna (DOS 62)
- Alameda
- April First
- Cascade (1701/1704)
- Lehigh
- Ping Pong
- Den Zuk
- Stoned
- Datacrime (Columbus Day/October 12th)

FLU_SHOT+ version 1.7, by Ross Greenberg, takes the approach that viruses should be caught as they execute, so installs as a TSR to monitor system activity in order to snare the viruses as they execute. This has the side effect of causing some of your more innocent programs to trigger FLU_SHOT warnings. Careful use of the FLU_SHOT+ parameters file (FLU_SHOT.DAT) will allow you to configure FLU_SHOT+ so that warnings are not given for these programs. In essence, it is up to the user to determine if the program that activated FLU_SHOT+ is a virus carrier or not. Commands in the FLUSHOT.DAT file can be any one of the following:

- P - Write Protect the file named
- R - Read Protect the file named
- E - Exclude the file named from matching P or R lines
- T - The named file is a legitimate TSR (no TSR warning)
- C - Perform checksum operations on the file named

Flushot was downloaded from First Edition by Mark Gruner. Viruscan was downloaded from Homebase by Kenneth Loafman. This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Jack McAlister, 10/89.

Today, the power a lot to do with the



Release 3's 3D design opens up all kinds of new possibilities to improve the efficiency of your work.

In business, more than ever before, power is a function of information. And nothing can help you exploit the power of data like the new Lotus® 1-2-3®: Release 3 and Release 2.2.

1-2-3 Release 3 lets you manipulate data, navigate through complex applications, and work with more speed, power and ease than any other spreadsheet.

In fact, *InfoWorld* recently was moved to say "...with this new release, 1-2-3 has instantly regained its long-standing position as the sheet to beat."¹

Much of the credit belongs to Release 3's

revolutionary, true three dimensional design, which lets you view and work with up to 256 worksheets and files simultaneously. And its sophisticated file linking capabilities are unparalleled, because you can link worksheets and files in memory, on disk or on a network.

But the advantages of 3D aren't limited to spreadsheets. It also allows you to use the new relational data management capabilities to analyze information from multiple data tables. Release 3's database is simply the most powerful available in a spreadsheet.

¹*InfoWorld* July 17, 1989. *In Canada call 1-800-668-1609. Ask for Department 23. © 1989 Lotus Development Corporation. Lotus and 1-2-3 are registered trademarks of Lotus Development Corporation. Hard disk and 1 Mbytes system memory required in DOS 3.0. Min. 4 Mbytes in DOS 3.2. Lotus certified compatible PC AT with 640K RAM.

behind a desk has power on top of it.

You can even bring data from external databases, like dBase III*, directly into your spreadsheet. Without ever leaving 1-2-3.

Equally impressive is Release 3's presentation quality output and its selection of advanced analytical graphics.

With the Lotus Add-In Tool Kit for Release 3, you can create a wealth of customized @ functions, macro key words and turnkey applications.

Release 3 is for DOS or OS/2* users. It's designed to fully exploit the 1 Mb of memory that's standard on today's 286 and 386-based PCs.

Those of you who work on all types of PCs in a 640K DOS environment, read on. Because we designed 1-2-3 Release 2.2 to maximize the power in your PC.

Release 2.2 offers remarkable speed and presentation quality output, as well as improved analytical power in the way of file

The New Lotus 1-2-3

The spreadsheet of choice

linking, minimal recalc and undo.

Of course, both Release 3 and Release 2.2

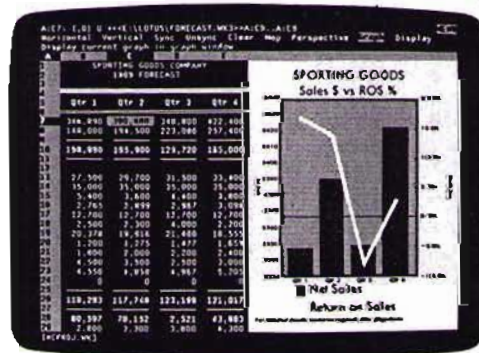
provide the highest compatibility with your present 1-2-3 files, macros and applications, and with each other.

There's never been a better time to upgrade to Lotus 1-2-3, because there's never been a better 1-2-3.

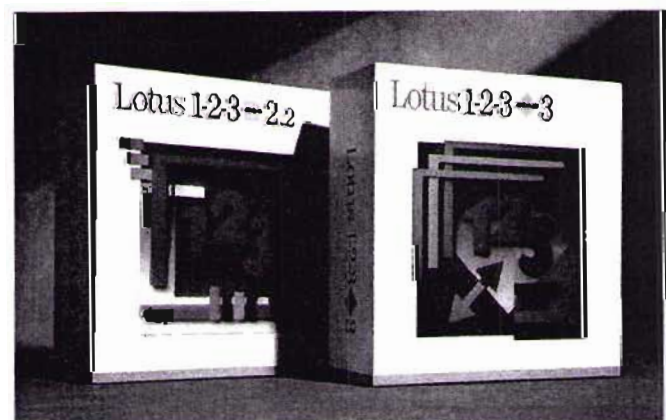
For more information, contact your Lotus Authorized Reseller. Or, if you're a current user, call 1-800-TRADE-UP.* Ask for Ext. 569 for upgrade information.

Then you'll see firsthand how the new Lotus 1-2-3 will give you more power than ever before.

On the desk and behind it.



Release 3's HotView graph window dynamically links your worksheet and related graph.



Disk 419. 3 Minut Programs 1.00, 06/89 Three Programs from Roy Minut

Roy Minut Route 2 Box 328-39 Frisco, TX 75034-9802 (214) 292-2333

CR - C CROSS REFERENCE Registration \$15

CR is a Listing/Cross reference program for "C" programs. It can handle and cross-reference multiple input files (up to 20). Wild card characters can be used on the command line. Cross reference provides a listing of where symbols are assigned and where they are modified by line number. The output can be to the screen, printer or a disk file. At this time only Epson, Toshiba, and HP Laserjet printer support is provided.

The CR program will run on any PC/XT/AT or compatible computer and requires MS-DOS version 2.1 or later. It also requires an Epson, Toshiba, Hp Laserjet Printer, or compatible to obtain printed output.

Memory requirements will vary according to the number of files, symbols, and references in the input files. Full details of the requirements are in the file CR.DOC. - I ran several sets of files through CR and did not run out of memory, even after reducing my machine to 512k base memory.

After running several files through CR, I found it to be useful in small projects, however, the limitation of 20 files meant that I could not use it on any but the smallest of my own projects. In addition, it will not recognize the commonly used typedef statements, or the older #define form of the same. For most projects, however, it will answer the frequently asked question, "Now where did I change that critter?", a question that has been plaguing programmers for ages and ages.

LIFE - GAME OF LIFE (no fee)

LIFE is an implementation of the game of Life as described by John Conway in Scientific American around 1973. The player may interact to set up the original colony, or may allow the program to do it.

TOWERS - TOWERS OF HANOI (no fee)

TOWERS is an implementation of the Towers of Hanoi from the old legend. The user may specify the number of rings and a speed factor. The program does the rest, in color.

Both LIFE and TOWERS have been tested on EGA and VGA monitors, but should work with CGA. There are no guarantees on MDA monitors, though. Source has been included; however, both LIFE and TOWERS require the vlib libraries from Pathfinder Associates.

Software donated by the author, and NTPCUG member, Roy Minut. This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Howard Hamilton, 10/89.

Disk 420ABC. PC-File+ 3.0, 7/89 General purpose database program c1989 by Jim Button

ButtonWare Box 96058 Bellevue WA 98009 Shareware fee = \$69.95 + \$5.00 shipping

PC-File+ 3.0 is a basic, general purpose database program. It is very easy to use with menus, help screens, and a quick reference card with a summary of the program commands. This is really all you need to get started. A beginner would have little trouble using this program to create a mailing list or an inventory. If you are interested in the more advanced features, you will need to use the Manual. Instructions for printing out the 169 page USER'S MANUAL are in the author's README file on Disk 1.

Version 3.0 has an improved editor with many more word processing features, such as word wrap, block operations, and a pop-up menu. The PC-Label printing program has been made easier to use. There is a program which will print a report for a database listing field names, lengths, constants, calculations, masks, etc.

PC-File+ 3.0 requires only two 360K floppy disk drives and 384K available RAM memory to run. If you have a system with a hard disk and 416K available RAM, ButtonWare recommends that you use their more powerful program, PC-File+db.

GETTING STARTED. First read the author's instructions in the README file on Disk 1. Then unarc DISK1.ZIP, DISK2.ZIP, and DISK3.ZIP to your hard disk (or to 3 floppy disks) using PKUNZIP.COM.

This software was downloaded from the Collectors Edition by Mark Gruner. This review prepared by Kathryn Loafman, edited by Mark Gruner, 10/89.

Disk 421. StupenDOS 1.60, 9/89 DOS shell and hard disk manager By Douglas Hay

Eclipse Technologies 1675 Berkshire Drive Elm Grove, WI 53122
Registration Fee: \$35.00

StupenDOS is a DOS shell and hard disk manager that packs a lot of features into 91,000 bytes of program. StupenDOS is easy to use and will help most people work in the DOS environment and organize/maintain your hard drive.

Simply copy the program SD.EXE onto your hard disk into your root directory or in a directory along your DOS path command. If you use SpeedDisk (SD.EXE) of the Norton Utilities you will need to rename one or the other of these files.

There is a 15 page manual distributed with the program. To print the manual, place this disk in drive A: and type A: COPY SD.DOC PRN at the DOS prompt. The manual is short but to the point.

To start the program, type SD at the DOS prompt. The program will ask a question the first time the program is loaded about your monitor. The screen layout is simple enough. The left half lists the files on the current disk and directory. The top line and the middle column are commands that can be executed by typing the capital letter in the word. The right column displays the number of files, bytes available on the disk, number of tagged files and the total size, and some help information.

The commands in the top line are pull-down menus. To display the pull-down commands simply press the tab key. The arrow keys are used to move the pull down menus from one command to another.

Some of the available features include the ability to delete all BAK files in the directory or entire disk, making/removing directories, sorting by extension, date/time, or size, finding a file, changing attributes of files, executing files from within StupenDOS, a built-in ability to unZip files archived with Phil Katz's PKZIP program, displaying the disk tree structure, a wide variety of setup options, and more.

Like most DOS shells, files must be tagged. To tag files, simply move the cursor to a file and press the space bar. Once a group of files is tagged, then StupenDOS can Copy, Move, Delete, or even execute the files.

The program easy to use and has so much information on the screen that there is little need to resort to the manual. However, the manual is quite helpful on some of the more subtle features of the program. The program packs all of these features in compact EXE file. The only other file that will be on your hard disk is the configuration file which will be created the first time the program is run.

This software was downloaded from the Collectors Edition BBS by Mark Gruner. This review prepared by Mark Gruner and edited by Jack McAlister, 10/89.

FASTBACK PLUS

by Bruce Lutz

Although Fastback has been around for quite a while, and I have been exposed to it in conjunction with various clients, I have never felt the need to examine its capabilities in detail before now. I have always been told that it was a great program by knowledgeable friends. After using it for several weeks, I am certainly inclined to agree. The package label refers to awards of excellence given the program by three January 1989 magazines.

This program retails for \$189.00 from Fifth Generation Systems, Inc located at 11200 Industriplex Boulevard in Baton Rouge, LA and having a phone number of (504) 291-7221. The version I am using is 2.09 and is not copy protected. The program requires DOS 2.1 or higher and can be run on IBM PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or a compatible having at least 330K of RAM according to the documentation. I used it on a Toshiba 5200 with a 100 Mb hard disk and 2Mb of RAM and only noticed one minor problem as mentioned later. The package comes with both 5.25 inch and 3.5 inch diskettes so that there is no requirement to send off for the right size, as occurs with altogether to many software packages.

All the information in the read.me file included on the diskette was contained on a printed addendum included with the package. Apparently the manual supplied is the one for version 2.0. The addendum only lists two improvements over 2.0 thus most of the intermediate versions must have been directed to minor bugs. The listed improvements in the addendum refer to (1) the present ability to add custom messages to a Fastback keystroke macro and (2) the ability to render menus invisible that would normally be displayed during a keystroke macro playback. For my uses, I think improvement (1) is of much greater importance than improvement (2).

The instructions for installation of the program were very clear. Information was provided as to exactly what was to occur in each of the four steps of the installation procedure and the installation program provided the option to allow manual editing of the buffer= portion of the config.sys or path= portion of the autoexec.bat file if you prefer. If you choose to let the program set the number of buffers, the program suggests a number of buffers based on the size of the hard disk. There is no listed distinction between partitioned disk volume size and total disk size in the instructions. Since undoubtedly there will be some novices using this program, I believe that this is at least a minor deficiency in otherwise excellent and comprehensive instructions.

If you have a good cache or disk accelerator program, having more than 3 or 4 buffers does not provide any

additional increase in speed and does use up more RAM by increasing the amount of memory used by DOS (disk operating system). Although my notes indicate that there was such a warning to this effect somewhere, I could not find the reference after rereading the documentation several times. Thus the warning is apparently so well hidden as to have no practical use to the average user. It does warn however that there is some possibility of interference between Fastback Plus and memory resident programs, keyboard enhancers, device drivers, disk caches etc. I did not have any problems directly on this score but I only have a few memory resident programs.

While the program was performing a DMA (Direct Memory Access) test to see whether the program could operate at high, medium or low speed while backing up, some pointers were messed up so I could not start-up Foxbase subsequent to the installation without first re-booting the computer. Subsequent use of Fastback Plus has not revealed any more interference problems. The installation asks for details as to all floppy disk drives both internal and external. If you want, you can set up the program to alternate which diskette of two is receiving backup data. With this setup, the data is written to the diskettes so fast that I am sure most people could not keep up with the computer if its DMA chip was operating such that the program could operate in the high speed mode and they were using the old 360K diskettes.

The program, in its default mode, will format a disk presented to it for backup if necessary. Since this program uses the normal DOS format, formatting by the backup program will often be unnecessary. (Although the program does make provisions to warn the user if a DOS data diskette is about to be overwritten, this option is only available for experienced and advanced users.) Thus the user does not need to be concerned about formatting the diskettes prior to backing up. The formatting by the program does increase the time necessary to back up by about 100 per cent. The program can be set to reformat prior to each backup if so desired, but I can not see any good reason to use this set up unless you are using such poor quality diskettes that they can't typically be trusted. Besides, the documentation includes a program for using DOS return error codes in conjunction with a batch file initiating the back up procedure which will provide one of three messages, (1) No error, (2) a correctable error condition or (3) a fatal error condition.

Before getting into the operation of the program in an actual procedure, I think I should mention that the program does have an error correction mode of back up which only adds 15 per cent to the back up time necessary. The documentation recommends retaining the error correction option which, in fact, is the default setting. The error correction can be removed only in the advanced user mode. ►

I keep mentioning the beginner, experienced and advanced user modes. The program starts in a limited option, beginner mode so as not to confuse and intimidate the novice user. As one becomes more familiar with the program or becomes more adventurous, the higher level modes can be selected from the menu and a startup.fb file can be generated having a list of attributes to be used in the initial menu shown the user. The alteration in experience level setting is clear from the documentation and the menus make it very easy to generate the necessary startup file.

One of the options listed in the backup menu is an estimate of the number of diskettes necessary to backup the desired directories or files selected. The estimate for one of my volumes having 753 files and occupying 9.76 Mb (Megabytes) of space was 8 diskettes and it was estimated that it would take 4 minutes and 33 seconds. The back up procedure used only 5 diskettes since the default mode of the program is to use the least time for back up and this approach uses a simple algorithm for data compression thereby reducing the time necessary to write data to the diskette while not burdening the CPU (central processing unit or main computer chip) with an undue amount of computing. Since none of the diskettes had been formatted prior to use in took 6 minutes 57 seconds to produce the first backup to 1.44 Mb diskettes. Subsequent attempts took only 2 minutes 55 seconds. It would therefore appear that formatting takes about as long as the writing of data. In observing the progress of the program via the continuously updated menu, it appears that the data compaction was placing about 2.5 Mb of data files on a diskette normally able to hold only 1.44 Mb. The data transfer rate stayed fairly constant at about 3.3 Mb per minute. From the above information, it can be easily ascertained that the user will have his hands full just changing diskettes even where they hold a large amount of data. If smaller capacity diskettes are used, I would find it hard to believe that a typical user could even keep up with the data transfer rate of this program.

The time necessary to restore data to a hard disk is only slightly longer (about 10 per cent) than the time required to perform the back up in the first place. I intentionally mixed up the diskettes in one of the restore operations and the program informed me of my error until I inserted the diskettes in the correct order.

I think it may be pertinent to mention that I do believe in backing up data. However, I have always used a utility program, operated by a batch file, which copies only files which have changed since the previous copy operation. Since a vast majority of my work pertains to only a few data files and the generation of new files is quite sporadic, I have not felt any pressure to change. I also believed that this approach was much faster than backing up all data files or

keeping track of the main backup file and the incremental or differential back up diskettes. I find, however, that with Fastback Plus, I can perform a complete backup to diskette of all 69 data files occupying 800,000 bytes of space on the hard disk, in nine seconds. This is exactly the same time as it takes the utility program to copy the two or three data files that get changed between my typical backup periods. Since Fastback Plus provides the program to give a message indicating the status of the backup procedure relative possible error conditions, and since it takes no more time, it would seem that using this program would be a better option. At the present time, I am still using both forms of back up. However, I fully expect to start using Fastback Plus exclusively in the near future if I don't find some problem with its use soon.

There are many features to this program which I have not even mentioned in terms of versatility and programing capability since files can be selected for back up by name, date range, directory, archive bit or can be marked using a shell directory listing. I am impressed with its speed and ability to be easily programed to automatically back up all my data files, in a compressed mode, to a single diskette. I can thus have about 3 times the volume of data before I need to use (and have to worry about keeping straight) two diskettes.

All in all, I would recommend this program to either a novice or an advanced user and I believe each one would find benefits suited to his or her specific needs.

Bruce

a

SWAP SHOP

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

WANTED - Tractor leads for the following printers: NEC Spinwriter 2000 & Okidata 82A Chuck Heasley, Dallas, 423-2588, leave message.

FOR SALE - TI 810 printer with serial interface, serial cable and printer stand. Make offer! See Prez Sez column on page 1 for further information.

EDlines



True Confessions of a Body Snatcher...

by Connie Andrews

At last September's meeting, a gentleman pulled me aside and gave me a disk containing an article that he had written. He then engaged me in a ten minute monologue concerning the editing of his article. In the end, he wanted me to promise that not one word would be changed or deleted without his permission. I told him that I would read the article and determine if it was suitable for the newsletter. A few days later, I popped his disk into drive and couldn't believe what I saw. This "article" turned out to be a glowing review of a "revolutionary new software product ..." What was painfully obvious was that this article was a canned press release. I called the guy and told him that we could not include the article in the newsletter due to its self-serving tone. I then told him that if he could send a copy of the software to us, we would be happy to assign an unbiased reviewer to review it. He insisted that he was not affiliated with the software company and hung up on me. A few days later, I received an official press release from the software company complete with camera ready art and excerpts from the "review" that I had turned down. Well, at least I got a free diskette out of the deal.

I've seen a few user group newsletters that use these type of "articles" as filler. I really can't see how they are serving their members by publishing a sales pitch disguised as a review. As hungry as we are for articles, it is painful to turn one down. But if we need filler, rest assured that it won't be a press release that stretches two or three pages. We have commercial advertising rates for that. OK, OK, I'll get down off my soap box now.

Did I mention that we are hungry for articles? We have some great writers who contribute every month. They are not professional writers; they are doctors, consultants, etc. But they have something in common with you. They are members of the North Texas PC Users Group and they are literate. Every now and then, they spend a few hours at the keyboard and upload an article. However, it's tough to ask these folks to do it every month. They do have day jobs. So help take the pressure off of our writers and write an article. We publish just about every article we receive. I've turned down a career planning article that didn't seem to fit, and the press release mentioned above, but if you write anything that relates to computers, it's highly probable that we'll publish it.

In addition, the North Texas PC News wants your cartoons or illustrations to liven up these pages. We would rather publish a member's art work than resort to clip art. If you have any artistic abilities and

I'm not new at this business or anything like that. Got into it maybe three or four years ago. Calling "cold" for volunteers, I mean. Body snatching. Still have a lot to learn, perhaps, as it certainly isn't what I do for a living.

Have to confess that being on the receiving end of a cold call sometimes leaves me very mad. Especially the computerized versions. Like I want to listen to a 3+ minute spiel about job opportunities and quick dates, or something... And if I'm not there to hang up on such a call, I have to hear it repeated every time I listen to the messages on our answering machine until the tape is erased. That really gets under my skin.

I think we're different, those of us who call for volunteers for the NTPCUG on meeting day. We're not asking you to buy a service or come see a tract of land in exchange for a car you'll likely never see...

We are asking for at least an hour of your time on meeting day or maybe some of your time during the month to help wherever we need you. There's no catch to it and you get the benefit of meeting other members and getting to know more about the group.

Being the caller on a cold call (or maybe not so cold if you signed up last month and this is just a reminder) is not easy. There is the approach and the landing. The approach is "can you" and the landing consists of your "yes" or "no". It feels real good when you can say "yes". Callers for the Information Booth and the DOM Booth can vouch for this. As a matter of fact, all the names listed on the Volunteer Conference in the first message can vouch for this.

Thankfully, we have many who want to give back to the group. And you guys keep coming through for us.

Which is why calling cold is not so bad, after all. It's not easy, but you, or your family members who answer the phone, are friendly and helpful. Thanks for the courtesy. Your reward will be ten-fold as a volunteer.

Connie

▲

are interested, give me a call at (214) 255-1732 or drop me a mail message on the BBS.

I'll see you next month.

Douglas McQuaid

▲

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 33 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

Those of you who made it to the 9:00 a.m. presentation in October saw a product that is part of a quiet revolution taking place in the information processing industry. The product, MicroSTEP is one of several products on the market that are classified as CASE products. CASE is an acronym for Computer Aided Software Engineering. The thing that all these programs have in common is that they generate the computer code for an application from a description of the application. That's important because our current method of having humans generate the code is not working. In most companies there is a backlog measured in terms of months of programs to be coded.

When I started working with computers, we programmed using wires on a large plug board. The computer read the computer card by passing a series of copper brushes over the face of the card. When there was a hole in the card, the brush made contact with the metal plate below the card and an electrical pulse was generated. It was the programmers job to do something with that pulse. The easiest thing to do was to count the pulses. You just ran the wire from the hole in the plug board representing the hole in the card that you wanted to count to a counting register called an accumulator. More complex programs required the programmer to count something only if two holes were present. Another programming problem was to count something if either or two holes were present. But, no matter how complex the problem, the entire program was always there in front of you and you could see it.

That all changed with the next generation of computers. The program was punched in a series of cards and the cards were read into the computer where another program compiled or translated those card holes into the native set of binary commands that the machine could understand. This change introduced two problems, the programmer wasn't speaking the same language as the computer and the programmer could no longer visually see the entire program.

Since that time, programmers have written code in one computer language or another and left it up to the computer to convert that code to the native machine language. (A few programmers programmed the computer in native language through the switches on the front panel of the computer. However, managers considered this form of programming to be similar to an evil cultic ritual and

eventually forced IBM discontinue the practice of putting switches on the front of computers.)

Coding programs worked very well at first. More complex problems could be solved using more sophisticated programming languages. If there was a problem with the program, changes to the program could be accomplished by changing some of the cards in the program deck instead of writing (and punching) an entirely new version of the program. But as the industry grew, two problems with coding became apparent.

The first problem was that there were more programs to be written than there were programmers to write them. Programmers were expected to work long hours, especially on weekends. This led to the myth of that all programmers lived on junk food from vending machines and high caffeine content colas. Let me say that although we all worked long hours, some of us brought our own health food and drank only enough coffee to keep us awake for 24 hours at a time.

The second problem which was not apparent at first. But, it has become an even larger problem than the shortage of programmers. We now understand that every program that is that is written has to be maintained. What we now know is that nothing is permanent; things change. If a program is written to solve a problem and the problem changes, then the program must also change. Today it is estimated that 80 percent of the programmers in this country spend their time changing existing programs rather than writing programs to solve new problems. As a result, there are more and more programs waiting to be written. What the computer industry needs is a way to automate the coding.

This is not the first time we have faced this kind of technological problem. Early in this century there was a very scientific study that conclusively showed that the total number of telephones in the United States would never exceed 26,000. You may wonder how they reached that conclusion. The study showed that the number of telephones would be limited by the number of telephone operators that would be available to place calls. It did a projection on the maximum number of young women who would be available in the population to work as telephone operators. That number then told them the maximum number of telephones that those operators could handle.

The technological breakthrough in the telephone industry came with direct dialing. Every person became a telephone operator and the limitation to growth was removed. CASE tools offer the same opportunity to the computer industry. It will still take a skilled systems analyst to design the computer system that solves a problem but the computer will do the coding. ▶

New Users - What Kind of Computer to Buy?

by Andy Oliver

The first rule in buying computer hardware is "Don't believe everything that you read or that you hear." Of course this applies to most things that you do in life. A professor taught me that when you read an article, look at the audience and consider the author's purpose to give some weight to the biases that might be present. My biases, I work for a company where we run everything from the fastest 386's to the original PC that we bought over 5 years ago, and I don't like PC journalists who tell users that certain equipment is "dead". The only dead computers, in my opinion, are those that absolutely will not boot up anymore.

ON COMPLEXITY continued

I do not expect to see long lines of computer programmers at the unemployment office in my lifetime. There are millions and millions of lines of computer code out there that will still need to be maintained. However, those people just entering the industry had better plan on becoming systems analysts because the demand for programmers will gradually decrease just as the demand for telephone operators decreased after the introduction of direct dialing.

I already know I'm going to get a lot of hostile E-mail from all you programmers who will disagree with this article. If it gets really bad, maybe Stuart Yarus will let you come over to his house and program his IBM 1130 with the front panel switches. I can personally testify that it does wonders for programmer stress.

Jim a

New SIG Forming

There will be an organizational meeting for a Windows / Presentation Manager SIG at the November meeting. Contact James Dunn or look for room number on the overhead projectors at the November meeting.

The major factor that you should consider when buying PC hardware is SOFTWARE. Yes, what do you want to do with the computer? Not, what hardware do the experts say will carry you into the next decade; because you may not make it to the next decade if you come home and tell the spouse that you have to spend \$3000, \$4000 or \$5000 on the latest 386 machine on the market.

The 286 (AT) class machines will do the job quickly for 90% of the new home and most small business users. And let's don't forget the 8088/8086 (PC/XT) class of machines. They are still being manufactured and used by many people. This article is being written on an XT clone.

Even if IBM stopped making 8086 and 80286 machines (which it has not), there are plenty of companies that will continue to make them far into the future. You hear and read that the 8086 and 80286 are dead. They are only dead to those salesmen who want to sell you an expensive machine, or to the columnists who are chasing bigger, better, faster. If you are just starting out and you have never used a computer before, you can start out on the low dollar investment side (see previous reference to spouse), and move up later. What I paid for my XT clone 4 years ago, I could buy an 80286 clone today. I started out with a two floppy drive system, and I have added a hard disk drive. Sure, it's not as fast as some computers, but most of us don't enjoy the luxury of trading our Chevettes for Corvettes because they're not fast enough.


There are between 16 and 20 million DOS-based computers in the world. You won't find many software vendors completely abandoning that market to develop software that only runs on the 386-class machines, and if they choose to, someone else will step in and pick up the established market. There is more software out there than you or I will ever have the opportunity to look at, much less learn to use.

So where are we, 1) Decide what you want to use the computer for. 2) Check out the software that does the job, talking to users at the User's Group meetings, and research in the trade magazines like PC Magazine. 3) Find out the hardware requirements for the software. 4) Then go look at hardware.

The User's Group is as the name states, a group of users helping other users. The advice comes from experience, but remember this is your money, and your decision. If speed is not a major concern, if your software doesn't require the hardware, and your wallet is thin, start your search at the bottom of the ladder. You may be surprised that this money pit is not as deep as you thought. Don't get discouraged, take your time, do your homework, and make the best informed decision for you.

Andy a


If you want better word processing, don't settle for Perfect.



REPORT TO THE FIELD


Shoe enough
Arbor Footwear conings and goings: Jim Dearing becomes V.P. Design for Arbor Evening and Dress wear. Greg Vroonaa moves from Peoria to marketing in Miami. Joan MacArthur and Lisa Doan become account supervisor and media planner, respectively. *1 photo*

Sales per region



Northwest	Southeast
Northeast	Southwest
East	West
Midwest	

Young professionals use Arbor Walker to commute.
Soon, young professional women will no longer be using Arbor shoes simply to climb the corporate ladder. They'll be using them to get there. This fall we're introducing the Arbor Walker — a shoe that goes quite a few steps further than the now-accepted but unattractive tennis shoes women have been wearing to and from work. Made of Italian leather with a rubber sole, the Arbor Walker is the perfect combination of style and durability. Look for promotional materials and carrying cases in early September. Our sales point is: "Women don't have to sacrifice looks for comfort."



Arbor Walker designed by Peter Dore

SALES FORECAST FOR 1989

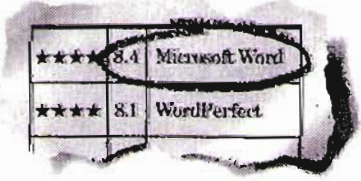
	Types of shoes: Summer/Fall/Holiday/Spring			
	1st quarter	2nd quarter	3rd quarter	4th quarter
Dress	95,000	87,000	130,000	60,000
Casual	60,000	80,000	60,000	90,000
Sport	120,000	85,000	75,000	60,000
TOTAL	350,000	314,000	345,000	310,000

*Sales to 9/27/89, 4:32 PM
lets discuss forecast for media department expansion.
** 9/27/89, 1:15 PM
Figures for Northwest and Midwest should be calculated separately each month
lets catch them before they fall with prices.

Text, graphics, fonts, annotations. Faster, simpler, clearer. Compliments of new Word 5.0.

Which requires fewer keystrokes?	Microsoft Word 5.0	WordPerfect 5.0
Copy Block	4	7
Delete Line	2	4
Italicize Word	2	5
Change Font and Size	6	9
Add Footer	1	7
Box Paragraph	5	12
Total	23	44

With new Word 5.0 you'll do about 50% less hunting and pecking than with WordPerfect.



Software Digest recently chose the best overall advanced word processor on the market. Who isn't? In a word, Word.

The trouble with WordPerfect® is, sometimes it isn't.

Not when you compare it to our new Microsoft® Word version 5.0. Not when you consider that with Word 5.0, you'll be able to pump out your day-to-day jobs quicker, easier, even smarter than you ever thought possible.

For example: With Word 5.0 you can choose commands by either using simple speed keys or just selecting from a menu.

You can create documents with about 50% fewer keystrokes than you-know-who. And now enjoy even more true WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) thanks to our Print Preview.



Introducing new Microsoft Word 5.0. When Perfect just isn't good enough.

Does WordPerfect give you the freedom to make annotations? Nobody's perfect. Does WordPerfect feature Outline View? Another imperfection.


New Word 5.0 also lets you list, search and archive files across multiple directories. And even link part, or all, of a Lotus® 1-2-3®, Microsoft Excel or Microsoft Works spreadsheet into a Word document. And then update it. All in a matter of seconds.

For a thoroughly convincing demo, first call (800) 541-1261, Dept. J63. Then call WordPerfect for a demo. Then run both, our Word against theirs, and then ask yourself:

Which one brings your word processing closer to perfection?

Microsoft
Making it all make sense.

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The Variety Store

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

Font Wars at Seybold Conference

OOPSI

We didn't really report that the Agfa Compugraphic "Intellifont" outline fonts would be "the" font(s) for the new OS/2 PM in October did we?

That was before this Fall's surprise announcement by Microsoft's Bill Gates that Microsoft and Apple had signed an agreement to use Apple font technology in OS/2 PM in the future. Seybold Conference attendees heard a response from Adobe's John Warnock that complete PostScript Type 1 font specifications would be placed into the public domain.

Although lots of folks have argued about (former) high PostScript licensing fees and some technical aspects of the language and fonts, PostScript was a (formerly "the") standard. Now there's one less for PC users.

The Great Connector Fight

SCSI-2 Standards?

SCSI - Small Computer System Interface - is rapidly becoming the small, large disk interface of choice for PC's, displacing ESDI and ST-506 as PC "standards." SCSI-2 will be a second-generation standard and is in the process of emerging from committee. That's not the point of this blurb, however.

In the process of setting SCSI-2 standards, many aspects have been debated by the committee, including connector design specifications. According to one committee member, the following ensued during deliberations on the new SCSI-2 connector.

First, some background. Connector design is usually proprietary to a single manufacturer, so the design chosen by the committee would have significant financial impact on the connector maker. A number of potential SCSI-2 connectors were presented to the committee, accompanied by the representatives of the makers at one meeting.

As the connectors were passed around the room, representatives of companies making competing connec-

tors actually tried to sabotage the samples passing through their hands by bending the pins, etc. After sufficient connector mutilation, they would then loudly expound on the poor design, shoddy workmanship and other drawbacks of the connector design in question. This apparently went on for some time before the committee reached its decision.

The SCSI-2 decision? SCSI-2 will emerge with no connector standard.

"The marketplace will decide," chuckled the committee member who related the anecdote above, "and that will probably be whatever connector design IBM uses."

Speaking of IBM and SCSI disks...

Big Blue's Cougar

Better known as a big-time consumer of other makers' PC hard disks, IBM has entered the 3.5" hard disk market and will be selling its 300+ MByte drives through national distributors. This places IBM squarely in competition with (former) hard disk suppliers.

The new drive line will feature fast access (12.5 ms), high capacity and reduced latencies according to IBM. In pursuit of increased data throughput, IBM is following a recent trend to higher spindle speeds (4300 RPM) to reduce latencies to 6 ms. Industry standard has been an 8.3 ms latency resulting from "normal" 3600 RPM rotation rates for 5.25" and 3.5" disks. Mentioned early as distributors for the new "Cougar" disks are Western Digital and CMS Enhancements. CMS prices are reported at the \$2,995 level.

IBM has long been a major player in the mainframe and minicomputer disk competition, but has not been very active in the 5.25" and (now) 3.5" PC hard-disk competition. IBM relied heavily on outside makers to supply PC/XT and PC/AT hard disks, but began reversing this practice with introduction of the PS/2.

Speaking Of Giants...

Maxtor's BIG Cat

Maxtor released specs on their new "Panther" series of 5.25" hard disks in mid September. These are some specs - 1.6 Gbytes (unformatted), 100,000 hours MTBF and a family member with 10.5 msec average seek time. In size, that's the equal of 36 "typical" 40 Mbyte disks found in AT-class PC's in business applications. That's also a lot of DOS 3.3 volumes.

Maxtor Corporation is known for their huge 5.25" drives and the "Panther" series lives up to their reputation. Panther 1's (ESDI interface) are already shipping according to the September release, and the

Panther 2 drives (SCSI-2 interface) will ship in March, 1990.

The Panther series represents Maxtor's attack on the mainframe and mini-supercomputer drive market dominated by 8" and 14" drives at present. Maxtor quotes evaluation sample prices in the \$3,300 - \$3,650 range compared to magnitude higher prices for the older, larger drives typically found in these applications.

Like Topsy, They Keep Growing

Imprimis' 1.5G Elite

Imprimis jumped into the big, fast 5.25" disk game with their new Elite drive series in September. Described as a new series of ultra-high density and very fast hard disk, the new series will feature up to 1.5 gigabytes (1,000 MBytes) of data storage.

Speed is highlighted with average access times in the 12 ms range, and increased spindle rotation rates of 5400 RPM. 256K on-board buffer for the imbedded SCSI controller contributes to high data transfer rates and reduction of SCSI overhead, Imprimis claims.

Formerly a division of CDC (Control Data Corporation) Imprimis was sold recently to Seagate. Seagate announced the acquisition of Imprimis as a step to fill out their product line with high-end capabilities. Some cynical industry observers have commented the acquisition might also help offset the company's publicized problems with quality control.

Toshiba Sings to Users -

First Rate HD Support

Toshiba makes a moderately-priced, fast, 3.5", 44 M drive that's sold by a number of dealers locally. They are very nice drives. Sometimes, though, they "sing" to their users via the anti-static tab.

This is a common complaint in many PC hard disks - not just Toshiba. It's becoming less common as new drives are being designed to eliminate the static tabs. Mentioned this to a Toshiba rep. at a local computer show. His solution: remove the static tab and the noise would go away. Given a technical support manager's number at Toshiba. Received following advice:

User can remove the static tab if they don't have problems with static electricity. Texas is "Iffy." During Winter, many locations have significant static buildup and data on drive would be at risk without static tab. Best advice to assure data integrity: DON'T REMOVE STATIC TAB.

Talking to an upper-level Toshiba technical person without difficulty was a pleasure. It's Typical of Toshiba end-user support available via both people,

and via a good BBS with support conferences covering Toshiba products.

WordPerfect Announces...

DrawPerfect

It wouldn't be a good month without some product release from WordPerfect Corporation. *DrawPerfect* is their new presentation graphics package intended to compliment *WordPerfect 5.1*.

Unlike competing products such as *Arts & Letters*, *Corel DRAW* and *Micrografx Designer*, *DrawPerfect* is seen as a companion product to *WordPerfect 5.1*, and is aimed at current users. Much of the command syntax is similar and users are expected to experience little difficulty in implementing the new package according to WordPerfect.

DrawPerfect would appear to have "won over" much of the media if early product reviews are any indication.

You May See at November Meeting...

WORKS 2 at 1

Microsoft will return in November. New product versions are expected from *WORKS (2.0)*, and possibly an early look at *WORD for Windows*. Maybe even a look at *Windows 3.0*. Both the new *WORD* and *Windows* are out in Beta versions and have been described by the media.

WORKS 2.0 may be the biggest news. Long (two years) a "sleeper" product, *WORKS* has slowly become a favorite integrated product for home and small office and educational use due to its ability to run well on "small" PC's with limited resources.

Microsoft has greatly upgraded the program with a new print preview feature, speller and thesaurus, and ability to work with multiple (eight) windows. According to *Infoworld*, the print preview function will display word processing, chart, database and spreadsheet documents "exactly as they will be printed." Although Bill Gates has been describing the 8088 (and 80286) PC's as "dead," Microsoft evidently hasn't ignored the huge installed base of 8088-powered PC's - the target for *WORKS 2.0*.

Mums the WORD on Bugs...

WORD 5.0 ain't clean yet folks. Continuing Bug Reports are being heard from the *WORD* community, not the least of which are tales of small documents generated in graphics mode that eventually grow to multi-megabyte size as the writer watches.

Other problems are being experienced in some *WORD 5.0* macros, pagination and in handling of documents with headers and footers created in version 4.0. ►

On a brighter side, Microsoft hasn't had the problems WordPerfect experienced with *WordPerfect 5.0* requiring multiple (at least three) bug-fix releases since its introduction. Yet. Rumors say a *WORD 5.0* bug-fix release will be coming.

Another Disk Drive Story

New 2.8M, 3.5"

Add another floppy-disk drive format to the game - Megamate 2.8. Microsolution's Computer Products announced the new, 2.8M standard for 3.5" floppy disks in September. That makes four 3.5" formats (so far) including 360K (SSDD), 720K (DSDD), 1.44M (DSHD) already in use.

Using the TEAC 3.5" drive shown at COMDEX/Fall 87, the Microsolutions 2.8M disks will be read/write compatible with the 720K and 1.44M standard 3.5" floppy disks. For the high data densities, however, a new disk type (?DSED?) will be required - at \$9.95 each.

Several other makers have announced 2.8M, 3.5" drives as well. Among them are Toshiba, TEAC, and Y.E. Data. And a rumored entry from IBM has been whispered in trade media over the past several months.

How Fast is Fast FORTRAN?

Ask Cray

Just had to have something about UNIX this month: KAP/Cray runs under UNICOS 5.0 and assists in restructuring and optimizing FORTRAN to tap parallel performance in large software systems. (UNICOS 5.0 is the UNIX for Cray X/MP and Y/MP supercomputers.)

KAP/Cray also runs on Sun - 3 and Sun - 4 workstations, as well as DEC VAX's. Developers using the software on the smaller machines can check for syntax errors prior to uploading to the larger (and much more expensive) Cray machines for compilation. Prices start at \$5,000.

And in this hand...

Poqet PC

PC users with big hands better forget learning how to pronounce "Poqet." Announced in early September, the Poqet PC (pronounced "pocket" according to the *Dallas Morning News*) is a one-pound, notebook-sized computer that runs for approximately 100 hours on two AA alkaline batteries.

The new machine is powered by a 7-MHz 80C88 with proprietary power management techniques and has a 80 character by 25-line LCD display. Several software publishers are supporting the ROM-executable system including Lotus, WordPerfect, Xyquest and Traveling Software, Inc, Infoworld reported.

Notebook PC's are expected at COMDEX/Fall 89 from GRiD, and Toshiba to compete with NEC's UltraLite laptop PC and Zenith's MinisPort PC and the new Poqet PC. All are reported to be DOS compatible, but a number of the smaller machines do pose problems for the large-handed user.

While Swinging on a Hinge

Tandy Scores

Tandy Corporation tacked up a significant "win" in September when Toshiba "agreed to make sizable payments on patents" Tandy acquired with the purchase of GRiD. Reported initially in the *Dallas Morning News* on September 29, the licensing agreements between Tandy and the Japanese company were seen as very important to the industry.

Toshiba has been a leading marketer of laptop PC's in the US, but several other laptop makers were also targeted by Tandy and are expected to view the Toshiba agreements with some alarm. Essence of the patents appears to be associated with how the screen folds over the keyboard in laptop PC design.

Details of the agreement between Tandy and Toshiba were not disclosed publicly at the time of the announcement. However, John Roach, Tandy's CEO, was quoted as saying "meaningful compensation to Tandy is part of the agreement." ■

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Selected SIG Happenings

THE BEGGED & PLEADED SIG (AKA the SIG Leader SIG)

Sometimes begging and pleading just doesn't work. Sometimes it's just a case of not having an inkling of what will happen as of the 10th of this month on a second Saturday in the next month. There are a lot of sometimes in this world. Sometimes special BBS messages asking for SIG Happenings are sent to SIG leaders and sometimes this prompts the SIG leader to write a short blurb for the next month's PC News Selected SIG Happenings section. Sometimes a member or visitor comes up to the Registration/Information booth and asks, "What's going to happen in your XYZ SIG today?". Sometimes the member-volunteers at the Registration/Information booth wish they could turn to the Selected SIG Happenings section of the PC News and show the person asking the question what is going to happen in that SIG. It's more than a sometimes convincing argument that the NTPCUG SIGs and their SIG Leaders are among the most important benefits that the NTPCUG provides. If you're a SIG Leader please take some time before November 10, 1989, to provide the PC News with your SIG's Selected SIG Happenings.

Zack Porterfield

DAC SIG

The new DAC Easy Accounting package version 4 is scheduled to be released in late November. All individuals and companies who have DAC versions 1 through 3 are encouraged to register their software package with DAC. With your registered DAC software the cost to upgrade to DAC 4 will be \$ 60.00, and for the DAC 4 with Telecommunications package your cost will be \$125.00.

This is approximately a 60% savings when compared to buying the package outright.

In the November SIG meeting, I will discuss more of the benefits and modifications of DAC 4 compared to DAC 1, 2, and 3. See you there.

Greg Cohen

DOS SIG

What's happening this close to COMDEX/Fall 89? DOS is overdue for an update, rumors are circulating that IBM/Microsoft will yield to the press for memory management at the 286/386 level, Microsoft will be at the November Meeting, the sun will rise in the North, and so on.

Rumors are heady, intoxicating and fun, but PC users are forced to live and work in the real world of DOS 2.1, 3.3 and 4.01. Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President for at least another month and a half, will bring us back down to earth with a focus on how to make the present DOS's work the way they should. Two old friends will get Jim and Reagan's attention - CONFIG.SYS and how to expand the DOS environment space when installing later versions of PC/MS-DOS.

If there is a new DOS or a new Windows (?3.0?) we'll give them some space and focus. Barring new versions of either, the November DOS SIG Meeting will terminate via the accustomed Q & A format.

Reagan Andrews

Lotus SIG

The subject for the October meeting was data tables also referred to as what-if tables in Symphony. This topic is one of Mark's favorite features in 1-2-3 and Symphony. The beauty of data tables

is that you can change inputs and display or print out the results quickly and easily. The presentation was lively and everyone enjoyed it. Hopefully, all who attended will now be able to conquer this powerful feature of 1-2-3.

The subject for the November meeting will be a discussion of databases in 1-2-3 and Symphony. Databases in the two programs are essentially the same but Symphony makes it much easier on the user by maintaining all of the relationships for you. The new releases of 1-2-3 make several improvements in this area and many of these enhancements will be addressed in the presentation.

Many people have asked Mark if there is going to be another SIG for some of the other spreadsheet packages out there such as Excel, VP-Planner and the like. Our response is that there may not be a need since every real spreadsheet product out there is basically 1-2-3 compatible to a large extent. Therefore, most if not all of what is covered in the Lotus SIG will also be useful and beneficial to the non-1-2-3 spreadsheet product users.

One last item. Mark has committed himself to supply the User Group with a Christmas present this year. The present is a disk at the Disk-of-the-Month table in December that will include many of the presentations he has given to the Lotus SIG. The disk will most likely be a disk concentrating on the command structure of 1-2-3. A second disk will soon follow that will include macros and @ functions and other presentations. Mark has been trying to get this disk out for a while and it will be available at the December NTPCUG meeting.

Mark Gruner
and Pat Henley

Volunteer SIG

As of the September meeting of the Volunteer SIG, we had 21 people express an interest in working with charitable groups. Quite an increase from the 4 we had 3 months ago. At this point, the hard part is connecting the volunteers to the charities. Many of the charities are only open during office hours. It is slow, but we are working on it with the Volunteer Center of Dallas.

At the October meeting, we started discussing basics of getting into a new computer - checking out the CONFIG.SYS file, AUTOEXEC.BAT, directories, batch menus and BACKUP, BACKUP, BACKUP. For November we plan on continuing our

discussions of shareware and public domain software that can be introduced at a low cost to the charities. We later want to get into low-cost integrated packages like First Choice and Microsoft Works. Anyone familiar with these programs and wanting to share their knowledge, please contact Jay Shilstone at 827-5751 (Dallas, evenings).

Jay Shilstone

WORD SIG

Microsoft promised to come to the November WORD SIG Meeting. Plans call for a demonstration of WORD's advanced features and a similar demonstration of add-on products for WORD.

We'll be competing with the Microsoft demonstration of WORKS 2.0 and other new MS releases, but this should be a good meeting. Save your bug reports and questions for the Microsoft representative(s).

I lied about the October WORD SIG Meeting last month. (This thing is usually written before the meeting before the meeting. Clear?) WORD SIG members at the September Meeting requested that the October SIG Meeting focus on Style Sheets and MACRO's instead of the planned discussion of using graphics in WORD.

Reagan Andrews

■

Convert Your 286 to a 386SX for \$99

by Robert Monaghan CLA/CDP/CSP/CCP/CISA

Surprise! You can convert your 286 machine to a 386SX machine for under a hundred bucks. Best of all, you won't need any additional slots. So don't get rid of that AT class machine yet. If you're looking to buy, you can also get a fast 286 clone at today's low prices. Later, you can upgrade to a 386SX processor when the software justifies the changeover.

Details on the conversion are contained in a design idea article in EDN magazine from April 13, 1989 (see page 212-213) by Al Weidner titled "386SX Interfaces with IBM PC/AT Chip Set". Essentially, a few latches, an inverter, and a PAL convert the 386SX chip signals to those expected from the 286 chip. Recently, the 386SX chip prices dropped in half (to about \$85/chip). I expect 386SX chip prices to continue to drop substantially as volume production continues. We'll shortly see drop-in replacements for our 286 chips when production of 386SX chips catches up with demand.

If Intel or the chip cloning types are listening, I'd like to propose a 386MX - the clone killer. Intel's 386SX chip design could obviously be adapted easily to make it plug-in compatible with the 286 chip, yielding the 386MX device. With tens of millions of 286 clone machines out there, I think there is an obvious market for such a 386MX clone killer chip. As far as Intel is concerned, we buy a 386SX or 386MX either way. As for software manufacturers such as Microsoft, they instantly acquire a huge 386 software compatible base by refurbishing our old 286s to run the new 386 software that we've been promised ("we're shipping any day now"). Of course, if Intel

Masked Prize Raider Strikes!

by Connie Andrews

Who was that masked man and where did he go with all the door prizes at our September meeting? Actually, he wasn't wearing a mask but many of you may not know who he is and why he was there. His name is Pehl. Lee, and he is the guardian angel of our volunteers who are working at the time of the drawing and thus can't be in the auditorium.

You've seen Pehl. at the table outside the Auditorium giving out tickets to our members for the drawings. He also pulls a ticket for each volunteer and writes their name on the back. If a volunteer's ticket is called, Pehl. picks up the prize and delivers it to them.

Happy volunteers at the September DOM and Information Booths were Joe Allen and Duane Martin (DOM) and Carolyn Bradford, Larry Tucker and Revis Smith (Info Booth).

Consider volunteering, you may get lucky...

Connie ■

doesn't jump at this market, I'm sure somebody at Weltek or another chip cloner will wake up. Let's let them know we don't want to abandon billions of dollars worth of perfectly good machines in our offices and homes simply to buy hardware for non-existent software.

Robert ■



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator
Andy Oliver, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

It's amazing how many of our volunteers go back to our beginning days as a user group. Phil Chamberlain is one of those. For years he took care of all of the coordination of the Special Interest Groups (SIG's).

A few years ago, Phil persuaded Zack Porterfield, our current President-Elect, to step in and help. Further arm-twisting on Phil's part last year produced a reversal in their roles: Zack is serving as SIG Coordinator now and Phil is his backup.

It's not an easy job trying to take care of so many people at onetime. Look at all the SIG's that are listed on meeting day. Available rooms have to be assigned and matched up by size of room to size of SIG and coordinated with CCD. Equipment also has to be tracked to fit SIG needs and scheduled in such a way it doesn't have to be moved around every hour. And when a SIG leader or his backup doesn't show up, guess who's been known to fill in as leader or find a substitute?

SIG Coordination takes a very patient and thoughtful masterplanner, organizer, juggler, arbitrator, persuader, listener - the list could go on forever. For taking care of us all so well over the years, Phil, and now you, too, Zack, we are most grateful.

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.

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers who served for the month of September.

Don't forget our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter publisher, editor, staff and writers, and BBS staff are all volunteers; their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter.

INFORMART Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Bob Russell
Martin Gluck
Claude McClure

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown

Timothy Carmichael
Tom Fowlston

Information/Registration Booth

R. C. Albury (2)
Connie Andrews (Anchor)
Guy Andrews
Mike Ashley
K. B. Barton (Anchor)
Stanley Berlin
Carolyn Bradford
Lonnie Cordell (Anchor)
Dean Duncan (Anchor)
John Dyer (Anchor)
Ets E. Ets
John Ferguson (Anchor)
Walter Foster
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Judy Griffiths
Chris Gullion
Allan Harbough (Anchor)
Hank Holt
David Kruse
John Mackoy (Anchor)
Cara Mendelsohn
Tony Noguerras (Anchor)
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Ken Ross
Douglas Scott (Anchor)
Revis Smith (Anchor)
Elaine Stephens
Andrine Stricherz (Anchor)
Conrle Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)

Disk of the Month (DOM):

DOM Table August
Joe A. Allen
K. B. Barton

Richard Baumann
Gene Carleton
Charles Cashlon
Jay Chambliss
Dawn Cupit
Shawn Dunn
Kent Haven
Pat Henley
Jo Johnston
Duane Martin
Bob Post
Tom Scurlock
Virginia Slater
Jerry Stone
Oscar Tyler
Claude Walston

DOM Table September

Joe Allen
Roy Bales
K B Barton
Richard Baumann
Gene Carleton
Charles Cashlon
Jay Chambliss
Shawn Dunn
Howard Hamilton
Kent Haven
Pat Henley
Bob Karlebach
E M Kelley
Kathryn Crawford Loafman
Ken Loafman
Duane Martin
Don Mayfield
Bob Post
Tom Scurlock
Jerry Stone
Oscar Tyler
Claude Walston

DOM Volunteer Coordinator

Bill Drissel

DOM Central Committee

Kathryn Loafman, Chair
Howard Hamilton, Review Coordinator
Pete Testa, BBS Liaison
Kenneth Loafman
Jack McAlister

Randell E. Miller
Charles Carter
Preston Brashear
Ben Weatherall
Mark Gruner

DOM Review/Presentation

K. B. Barton
Lonny Cordell
Rick Griffith
Scott Hudnall
Steve Fleming
Jerry Sanders

Bulletin Board System (BBS):

BBS Sysops
Tom Prickett
Maggie Moomey

BBS Steering Committee

Andrew Chalk

Kent Cobb
David McGehee
Pete Testa
Fred Williams

BBS Champions

Andrine Stricherz
Leroy Tennison

Newsletter Exchange

Pehl Lee
Francis Bright

Public Relations Committee

Francis Bright
Annette Hyde
Pehl L. Lee
Elwood Lindell
Charles Lucas
Tony Noguerras
Reagan Andrews

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (817) 461-0425 (metro) or (817) 461-0506 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

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 Drissel 264-9680 (h)

DOM Software Review
Howard Hamilton 644-5721 (h)

Information Booth and
General Information
Connie Andrews 828-0699 (h)

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Plus Development Corporation

Advanced Mass Storage Techniques for the 1990's
Speaker: David Shaw, Area Sales Manager

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Microrim, Inc.

ATLAS - A Complete Database Management System
Speaker: Dennis Comfort, VP of Development

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Microsoft Corporation

WORKS V2.2
Speaker: Brad Chase, WORKS Product Manager

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

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.

9:00 - 9:55

Assembler
Community Volunteers
DOS
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users

10:00 - 10:55

Graphics

10:00 - 10:55 (cont)

Local Area Networks
Personal Users

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

12:00 - 12:55

C Language
Communications

12:00 - 12:55 (cont)

Personal Users
RBase
Stock Mkt Investing

1:00 - 1:55

Business Applications
LOTUS
Personal Users
Turbo Pascal
WORD

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
Cryptanalysis
DAC Easy Accounting
Databases



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, Chairman
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.
Phil Chamberlain
Sid Nolte, Ph.D.
Zack Porterfield

Officers

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President-Elect Zack Porterfield (214)434-1844 w
Program Chair Timothy Carmichael (214)331-6303 w
Treasurer Ken Connor, CPA (214)869-3377 w
Secretary David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir. Jim Holsington (214)416-3101h
Advertising Dir. - O P E N -
Disk of the Month Kathryn Loftman (214)596-2539
Group Statistician Connie Testa
Volunteer Coord. Connie Andrews (214)828-0699

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 Moomy
Technical Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa

User Relations: Kent Cobb
Information Mgt: Dan Marmion
Technical Services: Leroy Tennison

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 data.)

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Zack Porterfield Phil Chamberlain Andrew Chalk, Ph.D.	(214)434-1844 w (214)243-5034h (214)226-3481 h
Assembler	Bruce Schubert	(214)348-5700 w
Business Applic.	Sid Nolte, Ph.D.	(214)223-6178 h
C Language	Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. Stan Milam	(214)226-3481 h (817)548-1573
Communications	Pete Testa Wm. Bennett	(214)495-7508 (817)346-0862 h (817)762-3059 w Metro 430-8173
Cryptanalysis	John Taber John Thomas	(214)660-1823
DAC Software	Greg Cohen	()
Databases	Rodney Haas	(214)255-4400 h (214)404-4812 w
DOS	Jim Holsington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h
Genealogy	Minnie Champ	(214)644-8643 h
Graphics	Richard Tarmo	(214)307-1259 h
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee Gary Johnson	(214)681-0202 h (214)937-9876 w (214)837-5851 h
Local Area Net	Fred Williams Dan Marmion	(214)492-1316 (214)750-6130
LOTUS	Mark Gruner Pat Henley	(214)984-8174 h (214)228-9218 h
Personal Users	Bob Prasley	(214)867-1679 h
Programmers	Kent Cobb Jim Holsington	(214)343-3554 (214)418-3101 h
R:Base	Alan Aberts Con Branham	(214)242-1094 w (214)352-0888 h
Stock Market	Cliff Murphy Richard Holsman	(214)279-7973 (214)341-4774 w
Turbo Pascal	Don Chick	(214)276-2524 h
Volunteers	Jay Shilstone	(214)827-5751 h (214)361-8681 w (214)750-6130
WORD	Dan Marmion Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Berline	(214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-6893 h



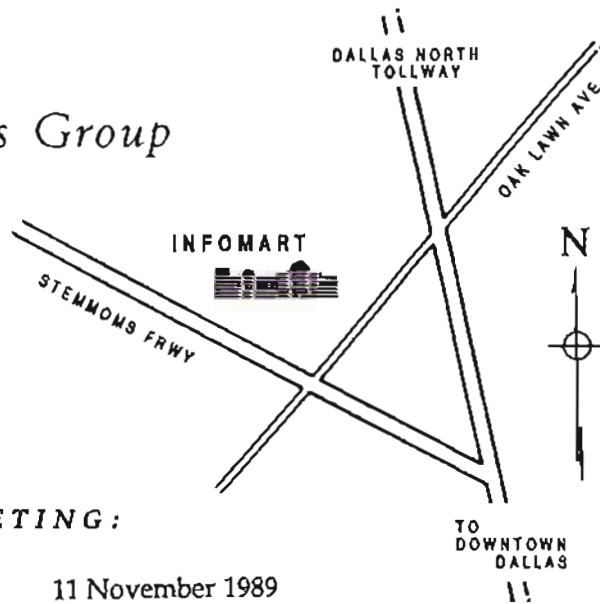
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NEXT MEETING:

11 November 1989