



North Texas PC Users Group

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North Texas PC NEWS

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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 deadline information below.

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North Texas PC NEWS circulation is 1550.

Member distribution is 1264; remaining copies are distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

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EDlines

When I agreed to become the Editor of the North Texas PC News, everybody jokingly said that they had found another sucker to edit the newsletter. I laughed along but secretly started worrying about what I had gotten myself into. Well, after a few issues under my belt I'm wondering when do I get to the hard part? I mean, this ain't so bad. Actually, things do get a bit hectic around here for a few days, but I find myself enjoying this more and more with each passing month. I'd like to say thanks to everyone for letting me do this - especially John Pribyl, the News staff, our writers, and the Board of Directors.

In the coming months, we will be bringing you the regular features along with many more software/hardware reviews and

stories of interest to all of the membership. Reagan Andrews has a few more installments to his Combining Word's and Graphics series. Peyton Weaver will have a review of Lotus 1-2-3 version 3.0. Also, we'll have book reviews from Matt Mathews and Andrew Chalk, a look at PC Tools Deluxe, and others. So stay tuned — same Bat-time, same Bat-channel. If you would like to see a particular subject, software package, or piece of hardware covered in these pages, send us a postcard or save a stamp and drop me a message on the BBS. After all, it is YOUR newsletter.

Finally, I would like to say Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Seasons Greetings, Happy Holidays, Bon Noel, ... to all of you and your families. See you in the 1990's.

Douglas McQuaid

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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. Leave a blank line between paragraphs.

2. File Formats. ASCII text files are preferred. Use .TXT extension for ASCII files. If formatting is crucial, Microsoft WORD and WordPerfect files will be accepted. Other word processor file formats may be acceptable, if the article is accompanied by hardcopy and an ASCII file version of the article. Word processor files create a lot of extraneous work for the editors. If the article can be ASCII-fied, please do so.

3. Submitting Articles. You may use one of two methods.

a) *NTPCUG BBS* (Preferred). Log-on to the BBS and select (U)pload from the main menu. Your default file transfer protocol will be displayed. If you want to change your default protocol, use the (P)rofile option. Once you have set the file transfer protocol, select the (A)rticle option from the upload menu. You will be prompted for the filename to upload and a one-line description of the file. Enter the filename and the description and begin the file transfer. (OPTIONAL -Send a BBS mail message to Douglas McQuaid regarding your article.)

b) *SneakerNet*. Track down one of the editors at the monthly meeting and give them a diskette with the article on it.

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for January
NT PC NEWS:
Sunday, December 10th

Meeting Dates:

December Meeting - 3rd Sat (16th)
January Meeting - 2nd Sat (13th)
February Meeting - 2nd Sat (10th)
(tentative)

*Thanks for the articles —
you're doing great...
Keep them coming!*

Program for December 16 _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM Mainframe Mandelbrot Animation with Zoom

This is a 30-minute videotape showing 12 zooms of particular points of the Mandelbrot set. The calculations were done on an IBM 3090-600S with the Vector Facility, providing very impressive displays. The zooms are from 10,000 to 100,000 times. There is a soundtrack with appropriate music.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Borland Corp.

Quattro Pro - Superior Spreadsheet Power

Speaker: Fred Felman, System Engineer

The newly announced Quattro Pro offers users 3-D spreadsheet linking, external database connectivity, spreadsheet publishing fonts, integrated draw features, and more. It runs on any PC with 512 Kb of memory. Borland says, "Come see the new balance of power." There will be a drawing for several free copies (for attending NTPCUG members only).

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

Come see us - we miss you when you're not there!

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM Computer Support Corporation (based in Dallas)

Arts and Letters Graphic Editor

This versatile software package can import many different image files, has a clip-art library, moves and merges images, fits text strings along any curve, has realistic airbrush and gradient effects with blending, and creates positive or negative color images for printer output or offset printing. There might be a drawing for a free copy (for attending NTPCUG members only).

Prez Sez

Elections

December is the month for the election of officers. It also means that I have survived another 12 months of being president. We are the only large user group that elects the president for a one year term.

During the past year, several other user group presidents have suffered burnout and had to resign. At least with a one year term, the end is always in sight. Please take time to vote for the new slate of officers. They need your support.

Board of Directors and Officers

While I'm on the year-end kick, let me say that I have enjoyed working with our board of directors and our officers. They are truly outstanding people.

Two years ago when I was President, I replied to a question at a Board of Directors and Officers meeting with the first half of a Russian saying in the Russian language. Now, you have to believe that most people in our country don't speak Russian. No less than three people around the table replied with the other half of the Russian saying in Russian! I hope that gives you an idea of the kind of people who I

have worked with for the last four years. (No, they're not all Commies!)

Thank you all for serving.

Caveat Dictus

I'm on the Board of Directors of the Association of PC Users Groups and have been trying to sign up for MCI Mail (a computer based electronic mail service) to help me communicate with the other board members. I called MCI Customer Service because they have done an excellent job for me with my long distance telephone service and asked the customer support representative, Melissa, if she had a listing for MCI Mail

Melissa insisted that MCI had no such product. Finally, in desperation, she transferred me through to the mail room at her office.

Caveat Dictus!

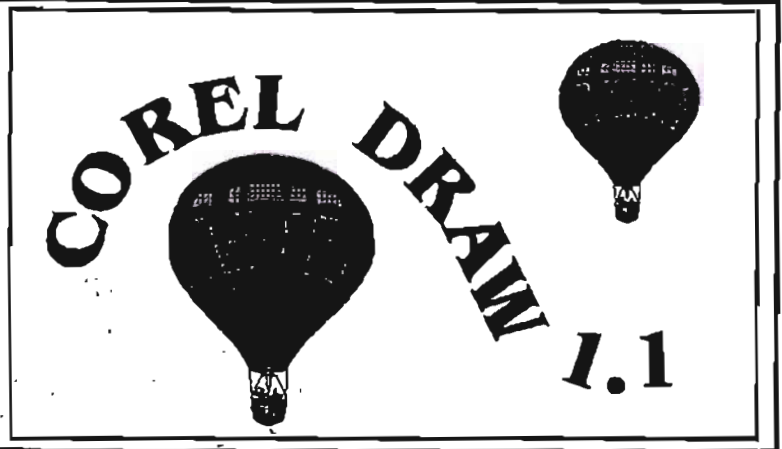
Believe it or Not!

I had to do a biography recently for the Association of PC User Groups. In doing the research, I uncovered some interesting numbers. I joined the North Texas PC User Group, then called the North Texas IBM PC User Group, at its second meeting in March of 1982. (The first meeting was held on

Combining Words and Graphics...

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

Second in a series on bringing graphics into modern, high-powered word processing



Corel DRAW 1.1 is one of those *Windows*-based programs you find yourself liking in spite of its flaws. I'm not alone in this feeling – *Corel DRAW* has probably gathered more positive magazine reviews in the last several months than any graphics software before.

Many of the reviews are filled with superlatives. Some are even deserved by this Canadian product. But there's a feeling present of bandwagon-hopping by PC journalists who may not have lived with this (or any other product) for enough time to tone things down a bit.

Make no mistake, this product is good. Much of the praise is well deserved and earned by hard work and attention to detail on the part of its publisher.

Corel DRAW Package is Complete

As received from Corel, the package is complete and ready to go with extensive type support and a modicum of clip art ranging from EPS (encapsulated PostScript) files to standard PCX, paintbrush style art.

Included in the *Corel DRAW 1.1* kit are several very handy items that make using the program much

Prez Sez... *continued*

February 20, 1982 at SMU.) There were 12 people at the second meeting.

By the time you read this column, we will have almost 1400 members. That's a long way from 12 members and double the approximately 700 members that we had when I first became President 4 years ago.

This group continues to exist and grow only because we provide something of value to you, our members. We, the officers and board of directors, constantly discuss new ideas for new programs. If you have an idea about a service or a program you'd like us to offer, please let us know.

Two Important People

John Pribyl has been the newsletter publisher as long as I can remember. Some people are surprised to learn that the articles in our newsletter are never put on paper until the printer makes the press run on the actual newsletter. Every thing is handled electronically until the very end.

Thank you John for our newsletter every month. One of my great pleasures was to set out 100 copies of our newsletters at Comdex last year along with the

newsletters of about 50 other user groups. Our newsletter was completely gone after about 5 minutes.

Thank you John.

(And thank you Jim Green, and subsequently, Doug McQuaid for coordinating the editing function this last year.)

Stuart Yarus has been President of the Computer Council of Dallas for the last two years. Stuart and I commiserate on the telephone a lot. I couldn't have made it without you buddy! (To a fellow programmer: Stuart, this bug's for you!)

Donated PC's.

Let me make one last appeal for PC's. If you or your company has some old PC's that they would like to donate to the NTPCUG, we have needy people and other non-profit groups that need them. Please contact any of the officers.

Happy Holidays to each of you.

Jim Hoisington

■

more enjoyable. Chief among these is a two-hour-plus videotape detailing Corel Draw's features that serves as a quite nice tutorial. I watched the tape three times, each time gaining a bit more feeling for the product and its approach to handling graphics details.

One problem with the tape though – it's narrated by Pat Burke, Corel's Director of Engineering, who has an extremely soothing, relaxing voice. I'm not sure, but I may have drowsed off more than once during my viewings as a result.

Also included in the package are some of the better written software manuals I've run across, a clip art catalog, character reference chart, process color chart and quick reference guide and a typescale that really works. There's also the usual pack of registration cards and disclaimers in addition to eight (8) 5.25," 1.2M floppy disks. Users who have 3.5" drives will receive 13 3.5," 720K disks in their packages.

Easy Installation – Quick Start

Installation of *Corel DRAW* into the users *Windows* directory requires just a few minutes time and only two of the eight floppies included. It loads into *Windows 2.0* or above easily with a minimum of fuss and automatically updates the WIN.INI file in the process. That's a major advantage of *Windows* applications – they don't sneak out and rewrite the user's AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS files without permission, and alterations to the WIN.INI file are easy to spot and/or change.

Once loaded, Corel DRAW starts up in default mode with all facilities readily available. It comes with 35 type families and the facility to convert a number of commercial downloadable type faces, including Bitstream, Agfa Compugraphic, DigiFont, Z-Soft Type Foundry and others via the WFNBOSS typeface conversion utility. This allows users with "favorite" downloadable type face families to continue using them in *Corel DRAW*. (Do users really need so many type faces?)

For Inexperienced Graphics Users

Corel's interface is about as good as anyone's *Windows* interface. Since I'm not an avid *Windows* fan, I didn't find that much to rave about here. I didn't dislike the interface as intensely as most GUI products and it is fairly intuitive. Working through the structure of the program should be easy for users, abetted by some of the best manuals in the field.

Corel decided not to include the usual tutorials, but this isn't a deficit as a result of the organization and layout of the manuals. If the user follows them, they

should be able, in time, to do almost anything they might wish.

Freehand drawing and editing is probably easier with Corel than any other product. Fine controls on line quality are adequate and easily accessible. Here again, the manual does an excellent job of explaining drawing tools and techniques to smooth the way for users learning the ropes of graphics. Also, mouse action appeared to be smoother and better controlled, once Grid Snap was eliminated, than most other graphics programs. Mouse-button action seemed more precise than usual with minimal annoying "chatter" or button-bounce.

Type is King in *Corel DRAW*

Corel has the reputation of handling type better than any of its competition. It does at the middle-user level. (And, this probably covers 99% of type usage.) Ability to handle individual characters and to modify type midstream is probably its most powerful feature and well covered in the manuals. Although Corel claims more than 102 fonts from 35 type families, this is misleading. Type can be manipulated so extensively and easily that possible variations approach infinity.

Fountain fills, textures and screening variations account for a substantial amount of the *Corel Draw* manuals, lending emphasis to the possibilities inherent in type usage. Manipulations available here were possible only with hand generated art just a few years ago and are seductive in Corel's implementation. That may become a problem with overuse, even in a graphics oriented population, with predictable application of headline styles to everything printed if the user isn't careful.

Type fit to curves is handled gracefully and easily in Corel. The process is quick, but not painless for the uninitiated. There's still a lot of manual manipulation required to produce visually pleasing results and many users may find the effort more demanding than they are willing to tolerate. They may also discover that producing smoothly flowing curves is more difficult than anticipated, even with Corel's excellent drawing and editing tools.

I would have found some templates helpful in this particular operation, and discovered why some other programs do include basic shapes as objects that can be brought in and rescaled.

Bitmap Tracing – Not Ready Yet

Corel touts its bitmap tracing feature as a solution for users who have bitmapped art they want to edit or convert. Since Corel is object oriented, bitmaps are essentially not editable. The bitmap tracing feature is

The best way to tell the Microsoft Word story. Numbers.

Accomplishments are adding up for Microsoft® Word 5.0.

It is now being used by 50 of the top 100 Fortune 500 companies. In 28 countries, spanning across five continents.

These favorable numbers are a direct result of another set of numbers:

PC Word boasts more than 100 features, supports 12 different graphic file formats and is on speaking terms with an incredible 200 printers.

With PC Word, you can easily mix three critical areas: text, graphics and numbers. In nine different languages, if you like. And PC Word can work all by itself, or in a network, while supporting DOS® and OS/2.

We don't even quit when we're ahead. PC Word gets an update every year, on the average. And to keep you updated, there are 150 authorized training centers and a

video primer. Plus complete phone support from 80 trained technicians, free of charge.

Fine, you say. But this is an *ad*. All of these facts and figures are, well, expected. That's fair. So here's an objective view: Word 5.0 received the best overall rating of any word processing program from two leading publications, *Software Digest* and *Personal Computing*.

To see what they did, call (800) 541-1261, Dept. K15 for a free demo of Microsoft Word 5.0.

You'll quickly understand why there's no other word processing program that comes close to it.

A claim we wouldn't make without the numbers to back it up.

Microsoft®
Making it all make sense



faster than other products – and produces equally terrible results. I have several, very simple bit-mapped graphics that I've used for testing this feature – one is the map to INFOMART found on the back cover of this newsletter.

Corel DRAW (and four other graphics programs tested to date) gets confused by this piece. Extensive editing is required to produce anything even vaguely

resembling the original. Redrawing the map is much faster.

Getting Finished Art into Print

Most users will probably use *Corel DRAW* to produce art for inclusion in other programs such as high-level word processors and page layout software. Corel ex-

Graphics Programs Under Review or Good Software Doesn't Guarantee Good Art

This isn't a series for power graphics users.

I approached each of the packages as a graphics novice, which I am. Each of the packages, where possible, was run under several versions of *Windows* on a range of PC's – an "early" PC, 4.77 Mhz, 8088, a "middle-of-the-road" 10 MHz PC/AT and a 20 MHz, 386-powered PC/AT clone. Reason for this approach lies in the premise of the series, that is, many PC users will be looking at these packages as supplements to their word processing software and hardware.

User questions often are: Can *XYZGraphics* do what I want on my existing equipment? Will the graphics files work well with my word processor? Can I print draft copies of my art on my dot matrix printer before going to a laser printer?.

First some generalizations. Upper-level graphics software will exercise any PC to its limits, especially if it's running under *Windows*. Speed is highly relative and where the publisher has suggested "speed-ups" they are implemented if feasible and reasonable. Adding an additional two megabytes of DRAM doesn't fall in that category, but altering existing resource allocations, i.e., RAM disk, cache, and/or spooler, usually does.

A second generalization falls in the area of tutorials. Always do all the tutorial exercises, and exactly as directed. Although they may seem oversimplified, they are important (if done well) in developing user skills and are building blocks to later, more complex exercises. Read all the documentation included with the software. While doing so, add section/chapter separators, if not already included, with brief descriptions of the section/chapter contents. This latter can save hours of searching later. I devoted a minimum of 24 hours to learning (and playing with) each of the packages prior to article submission.

Third, and maybe most often overlooked, these packages are BIG. Three megabytes (exclusive of

Windows or *GEM*) seems to be median size for the "stripped" versions without extensive type fonts and clip art. What isn't usually said on the package is that you'll need significant amounts of unused disk space for temporary files created during graphics manipulations by these packages. An additional two - three megabytes should be sufficient in most cases.

Most of these are also memory hogs, particularly under *Windows*. 640K system RAM is a real minimum. More RAM memory – extended or expanded -- doesn't hurt and can speed selected operations significantly via addition of RAM disks.

PC's used in the series had 640K system RAM and at least one megabyte of expanded RAM available. The 386 had four megabytes, three megabytes extended, managed by *Windows/386*, or as expanded memory. All three machines were equipped with mice and 60M, high-speed hard disks. Displays used were standard, Hercules-compatible monochrome (720 X 348) displays and adapter, and a "Super VGA" (800 X 600) color display driven by a 16-bit adapter. Other than CPU speed, equipment configuration didn't appear to have significant impact on package performance – or lack thereof.

Printing didn't present as much of a problem as anticipated, mostly thanks to *Windows*. Graphics were printed in draft form on my old Toshiba P351, a Panasonic 1091i, a HP LaserJet-II and for these articles, on the PC NEWS' NEC LC890 PostScript printer. This latter can present problems since PostScript printers usually handle shading and fill patterns differently than the other printers mentioned.

At the close of the series, graphics packages will be given to the PC NEWS staff for use in the Club's newsletter and other publishing efforts.

ports files as PostScript (EPS), Windows Metafiles (WMF), bitmapped .TIF and .PCX files, IBM PIF (GDF) and SCODL files for slide makers.

I ran into problems exporting .TIF files on occasion. When testing printing, I loaded one of the Corel illustrations supplied and discovered that my (early) Windows printer driver wouldn't work with Corel so I exported the file as a .TIF file and loaded it into WORD 5.0 which promptly refused to recognize Corel's .TIF format. However, the same file imported easily into Arts & Letters 2.0 (reviewed last month) and printed equally easily. It also went into Ventura Publisher 2.0 without problem.

Subsequently, I've been kicked out of Windows/386 to DOS while exporting .TIF files on two occasions, but retries met with success. This is a surprise since Corel seems to have very, very good error handling and never locked up the PC.

Corel Handles Printing Very Well

(Once You Have the Right Driver)

Although Corel states that their WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) interface reduces the need for draft copies, users will still want those draft copies in the process. If the user's printer(s) is/are supported by Windows, there probably won't be much problem here in getting draft prints. Users with PostScript printers should read the documentation very carefully, however, since these tend to present some special problems.

I've been in the habit of printing drafts on my old, reliable dot matrix Toshiba and going to a LaserJet-II for finished product. For these newsletter pieces, the process includes finished printing on the PC NEWS' NEC LC890, PostScript printer. Fills and patterns are "seen" differently by the NEC (and other PostScript printers) than the Toshiba or the LaserJet-II, often with unpredictable results. This is a common problem with all graphics packages and certainly not restricted to Corel DRAW.

A nice touch in Corel is the print option menu which allows printer setup without having to revert to Windows and CONTROL.EXE. Some of the early, multi-model drivers included with Windows "default" to the first printer on their list each time Windows is started and this is often not the desired printer model.

At the Professional Level, graphic artists will appreciate some of Corel DRAW's more advanced fea-

tures, especially the Pantone Color Matching System. Color separations are facilitated via inclusion of color for the page, crop marks and crosshairs, screen angle and density in the print menu, but are restricted to PostScript output devices. The files can also be printed as a negative for phototypesetters which image directly on film.

End User Support Generally Good

Corel is based in Ottawa, Canada. Therefore, user support is via long distance and long waits on hold are not appreciated. In several calls, my longest "hold-time" was approximately 90 seconds, and even then I had an earlier option to have tech support call back. Once I did request a call back, I received a response from Corel in about 45 minutes. That's good, very good.

On the down side, when I explained my problem - Toshiba printer driver - the technician suggested I put the P351 in IBM mode and use the Windows IBM Graphics Printer driver. This is very low resolution and really only acceptable for full-page "Happy-Faces." The Corel technician was unaware (as I was unaware until I contacted Micrografx and Toshiba) that there was a new Toshiba driver that solved the problem with Corel DRAW. Granted, I don't expect technicians to know other vendors' software, but this affected the Corel product...

Reagan a

**North Texas PC Users Group
Personal Users (Beginners) Special Interest Group**

"Fundamentals of Personal Computers"
16-Class Revolving Schedule

Informant Saturday	Class Number	Class Title/ Description
12 Aug 89	1.2	Start Up
	2.2	Diskette Sizes & Formatting Each
	3.2	Copying & Backing up Files
Classes 1 thru 4	4.1	Personal Computer Hardware
	<hr/>	
23 Sep 89	5.1	Fixed Disk Directories, Batches, & Paths
	6.0	DOS Menu Systems on Fixed Disks
	7.1	Fundamentals of Lotus 123
Classes 5 thru 8	8.2	Fundamentals of "BASIC" Language
	<hr/>	
14 Oct 89	9.1	Genesis & Overview of Computer Languages
	10.4	NTPCUG Disk of the Month Library
	11.1	PC Graphics Modes
Classes 9 thru 12	12.1	Bulletin Boards & Archive Programs
	<hr/>	
	11 Nov 89	13.0
14.0		Writing Lotus MACROS
15.0		Major Categories of Software Available Today
Classes 13 thru 16	16.0	PCs to the End of the 20th & Into the 21st Century

Classes are free and open to all beginners, novices, new PC owners, soon-to-be PC owners, and personal (vs. professional) users. COME JOIN US AS WE COVER THE FUNDAMENTALS!

Merry Christmas

January is election month...

Nominee for President-Elect



Jim Hoisington

Jim purchased his first IBM PC in September of 1981. Although he missed the first meeting of the North Texas PC Users group on February 20, 1982, he managed to join at the March meeting. Since that March 1982 meeting, the group has grown from 12 members to almost 1400.

In 1986, Jim became one of the four founding officers of the Computer Council of Dallas, an umbrella organization for user groups in the Dallas / Ft. Worth

area. The Computer Council of Dallas leases the INFOMART building in Dallas once a month and provides meeting space for it's 16 constituent user group members.

Jim has twice served as president of the North Texas PC Users group. His current term expires at the end of 1989. He is also a SIG Leader and currently fills the position of Membership Director. Jim is a consultant and works with Personal Computers and Local Area Networks.



Andy Oliver

Andy has spent the last thirteen years working with computers and of those thirteen years the last six with PC's. He works for Rosewood Resources, Inc., an oil and gas company, as Production Administration Supervisor. Andy is on the executive committee and is a founding member of a 60 member user's group at Rosewood. In addition to his production supervisory activities, Andy teaches Lotus 1-2-3 and DOS classes

at Rosewood. Andy holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Dallas Baptist University.

Many of you have seen Andy at the North Texas PC Users Group where he first served as an Anchor person at the Information/Registration booth. Others who have not seen Andy have heard from him on the telephone for he has been an active force in obtaining volunteers for User Group activities in his present role as Assistant Volunteer Coordinator.

Nominees for Board of Directors



Reagan Andrews

Reagan Andrews, Ph.D., was president of the Club in 1988 and has been a member since January, 1983. He is currently Co-leader of the DOS SIG and is Leader of the MS-WORD SIG which he formed in January, 1988.

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



Phil Chamberlain

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

Phil has been involved with computers since 1962, and is one of the original members of North Texas PC Users Group. He has led several of the SIGs, including Turbo Pascal and Beginners. Phil is currently serving on the 1989 Board of Directors. His biggest interest is in helping newcomers learn to use their computers productively.



Mark Gruner

Mark has been a member of the North Texas PC Users Group since 1985 and has used IBM PC's and compatibles for 5 years. Mark has been the Lotus SIG leader of the group for approximately 2 years. He has been giving presentations to the Lotus SIG since 1985, and also gives presentations on 1-2-3 to the Personal Users SIG. Additionally, he is a member of the Disk-of-the-Month Central Committee which is responsible for the preparation of the disks/software sold each month at the meetings. Mark intends to

continue in his capacity as Lotus SIG Leader and as a member of the Disk-of-the-Month Central Committee if elected to the Board of Directors.

Mark is currently a Supervisor in the Corporate Financial Analysis Department at Electronic Data Systems (EDS). He holds a Bachelor degree in Business Administration from the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, and a Masters of Business Administration from Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana.



Disk of the Month

Kathryn Loafman, DOM Chair

First off, let me repeat what it is that the DOM does: DOM provides access to software. We don't sell you the software; the software remains the property of the author/publisher. If the program on the disk is Shareware and you are using the program, then you need to register the software. In other words, if getting the latest version of a particular software package is important to you, then you must have a registered version. If the program is Public Domain, then you must contact the author for permission to use the software in a commercial application.

We look for the latest versions of the titles we have in the DOM. The decision to update a title is based on the frequency with which the author issues new versions, the degree of significance of the update, and the previous sales of the title. We have also learned that there is some sort of mystical relation between our decision to issue the update and newer version being issued by the author. Paranoia, you say? The long, hairy arm of coincidence? Little do you know.

(1) The Monthly Meeting. Howard Hamilton hands out disks for review, and (hopefully) receives completed reviews from the volunteer reviewers. Various well intentioned souls hand in disks containing software they would like to see in the DOM, remembering to include their name and phone number so we can credit their contribution when we write up the Readme for the disk. (We do check for viruses.) Between 1- 2PM, an inventory of the disks is made, and the results given to Dr. Hamilton.

(2) Between the Monthly Meeting and the DOM Central Committee Meeting the following week, Dr. Hamilton organizes a list of the finished reviews, the disks still out on review, and the disks nobody volunteered to review. He compiles the inventory count, so we know what we need to reorder, what is selling well, and what needs to be weeded out.

(3) DOM Central Committee Meeting. We look at the reviews that have been handed in, and we look at the version numbers and dates of the programs. Mark Gruner and Ken Loafman make note of the titles we need to check on the Bulletin Boards for updates. We look at what we have on hand that has not been reviewed. Programs written by NTPCUG members and software that will be featured at the next meeting get the highest priority.

We like to give the volunteers the first chance to do the reviews; but if the review copy of the disk is not picked up at the Monthly Meeting or if the review is slow in coming in, then a member of the DOM Central Committee will volunteer (Army style) to do the review.

Once we decide what will be ready for the next meeting, we assign a disk number and an Area Editor to each disk.

(4) Disk Prep. Bulletin Boards are checked for updated versions of the titles that will be issued. The Area Editor checks the review and the software. The review has to be edited down to fit the Readme file. A Readme file is no longer than 60 lines long, with header and footer. The header identifies the Readme as coming from the NTPCUG, gives the disk number, the title of the program, and a descriptive subtitle. The footer identifies who donated the program, the Reviewer, and the Area Editor. This is so that credit and blame can be fairly divided among the participants. The content of the readme tells what the software does, what it will run

on, how to get it started, and the names of the files on the disk. A check of the software to make sure all the necessary files are present, and that the software can be installed and will run as indicated. Blessings are called down for the software authors who provide a list of the files that should be on the disk, complete with file size and dates. A disclaimer file is put on the disk, the name of which identifies the disks as a product of the NTPCUG.

(5) Two weeks before the next Monthly Meeting: Drop Off Day. The Area Editors drop off the finished product with Howard Hamilton, who will deliver the master disks to Midwest Magnetics where the DOM disks are produced for the meetings. The disk numbers are revised, dropping the titles that did not make the deadline or have had a significantly revised version released.

(6) Between Drop Off day and the Monthly Meeting: PANIC. Dr. Hamilton assembles the update for the Catalog Disks. The new Readme files are added to Catalog Disk II. Kathryn Loafman updates the subject, title and cross-reference indexes, and sends copies to Howard Hamilton (for the Catalog Disk) and the Club Bulletin Board. Copies of the new Readmes and the latest index are photocopied for the DOM table. Ken Loafman, Mark Gruner, and total strangers report updated version numbers to the titles being produced. Agonizing reappraisals.

(7) The Monthly Meeting. Mark Gruner brings the boxes (and boxes) of DOM disks to the meeting. Howard Hamilton brings the disks to be reviewed, the DOM volunteers scheduled by Bill Drissell set up the DOM table, and we start all over again. Someone points out that there is a more recent version available for one of the titles just issued this month.

December Disk of the Month

What with the deadline for the monthly newsletter being the 10th of the previous month, and the monthly meetings hitting just after the newsletter deadline, getting information on the current month's DOM disks is not just difficult, it's impossible! BUT, since this is December and the season for miracles, we actually have a report on a Disk-of-the-Month that will be featured at the December meeting. The disk is the product of the presentations made at the NTPCUG Lotus SIG. The report is in the form of a Yuletide letter from the author, Mark Gruner, and is presented herewith. My wish for the season is that the other NTPCUG SIGs will take note, and consider what sort of disk they in turn could assemble for the DOM.

December, 1989

Dear North Texas PC User's Group:

First a brief introduction. For those who do not know me, I am on the Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) Central Committee, the Lotus SIG Leader, and have been a member of the North Texas PC User's Group (NTPCUG) for 3+ years. As a member of the DOM Central Committee, I help prepare the disks that are sold every month at the DOM table. As the Lotus SIG Leader, I give presentations on 1-2-3 and Symphony and various other related programs. I also give a couple of presentations on 1-2-3 to the Personal User's SIG. These presentations cover topics from the menu structure to @ functions to macros to add-ins just to name a few. Many non-1-2-3 and Symphony spreadsheet users also attend the SIG meetings since the spreadsheet package that they use is 1-2-3 compatible. So even non-1-2-3 users have benefited from the presentations.

I have enjoyed giving all of these presentations every month and have saved most if not all of them. If I do say so myself, the presentations I give are quite good and are well received by the novice and advanced users who attend the monthly

meetings. My personal opinion is that no one feature or capability in 1-2-3 is difficult and I try to make each of my presentations easy to understand and use by all - even the so called difficult topics.

Many members who attend the SIG have suggested that I compile some of the presentations and offer them to the NTPCUG through the DOM table. Well, preparing a disk has been a long-term goal of mine and I finally decided to bite the bullet and get one together. So available at the December 1989 meeting at the DOM table will be a disk or perhaps even a two-disk set with some of the Lotus SIG presentations.

The disk will concentrate on the menu structure of 1-2-3. The topics will include the Global Worksheet commands, the Worksheet menu, Titles and Windows, the Range menu structure (also includes Copy and Move), the Print menu structure, the Graph-menu structure, Databases and the related commands, and Data Tables. The only major menu structure that may not be on the disk is the File menu structure. The File menu structure may not be included since I have not given a presentation on it or have lost the presentation. However, if time allows, I might even be able to get a presentation put together on the File menu. If so, then all major Menu commands will be presented on the disk that will be available in December. AND, with any luck, I will be able to put together a disk early next year that will include my presentations on @ functions, macros, and other miscellaneous topics covered in the Lotus SIG.

The files that contain the handouts will be in straight ASCII text so that you can copy the handouts directly to your printer or even use your favorite word processor. Some of the handouts have two versions because they use some control codes in them to alter the print attributes. The control codes used are for an Epson FX printer or compatible. If your print is FX compatible and running in Epson mode, then simply copy the files with an extension of FX to the printer to get the special printing attributes. For example, TITLES does not include any special print attributes, but TITLES.FX does.

Also included on the disk will be the various worksheets that I have used in the presentations to illustrate various points. All of the presentations have been changed in one way or another. Many changes come from including comments as to which worksheet on the disk is applicable to which feature. Most of the worksheets have been changed to include some macros to perform some of the functions presented in the written material. And yes, I have corrected some of the errors such as misspelled words and poor grammar. One other aspect of the presentations on the disk is that I have updated all of them to discuss the new menu commands available in Release 2.2 and 3.0. As you might imagine, the preparation of this disk took some time and effort. I also think that all of this effort has paid off in the quality of the material.

I know what you are thinking, Mark is only issuing this disk so that he can get rich by asking for some money from those who use the tips, tricks, and new found knowledge that is discovered. How wrong you are! You see, everyone associated with the administration of the NTPCUG is a volunteer. Basically this means that we freely give of ourselves for the benefit of the other members. Therefore, I am simply offering this disk to the NTPCUG to benefit other members. Sounds too good to be true, huh? Well, to put it another way, volunteers are basically crazy.

Is this disk really free - well, sort of. First of all, the disk will cost you a few bucks at the DOM table. The DOM table is a primary source of income for the NTPCUG. Along these lines, if you distribute this disk to others, consider donating the equivalent proceeds to the NTPCUG. The DOM table will be happy to accept your donations. The money from disk

sales goes to support all sorts of NTPCUG functions and needs. There is one additional thing you could do to show your appreciation - support the NTPCUG by volunteering your time and/or expertise, by joining the group and paying the membership fee, by promoting the benefits of the group to others so that they also become members. The NTPCUG is only as good as the people who work for it and make it better. I have also copyrighted the material so that others cannot use the material to make money off of the efforts of a volunteer of the NTPCUG without getting consent and giving proper credit.

I have tried to make sure that all the information on the disk is accurate, but as those who attend the Lotus SIG meetings will tell you, mistakes do occur in the presentations and will likely always occur. If you find any major glaring errors, let me know. As for the misspelled words and the small mistakes - please try to overlook them and think about the good things on the disk.

I certainly hope that everyone who buys the disk finds the information on it to be valuable and to have some redeeming features. If you have any comments on the disk, I would be happy to hear from you. Simply send a message to the Mark Gruner mailbox or to the LOTUS SIG conference on the NTPCUG Bulletin Board.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mark H. Gruner

November Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 422. Wanderer 2.2. A Public Domain game by Steven Shipway.

Wanderer is a game that is played as the name suggests, you wander around collecting treasure. However, there is a twist, or several in fact. While you wander around collecting treasures, you will have to compete with falling boulders, shooting arrows, little monsters, big monsters, balloons that rise, land mines, and strategy.

Strategy is the challenging part: figuring out how to avoid a shooting arrow so that you can cause a boulder to fall, which will reveal a treasure, all the while remembering the 30 steps that are required before this so that when the boulder falls, it falls in the right place that will not cover up another piece of treasure. Altogether a most challenging game!

With 49 screens of increasing complexity, the game will keep one amused for many hours, days, weeks...

Wanderer will operate on almost any display including monochrome; however, if you ever get to see the EGA/VGA or Hercules graphics version, you may want to go out and purchase one just to play the game. When in the EGA/VGA/Hercules environment, Wanderer is able to use bitmapped graphics which are impressive. In the other environments, character graphics are used for the screens. The game of Wanderer will occupy about 260k of your memory, so most people with a 512k system should be able to play the game.

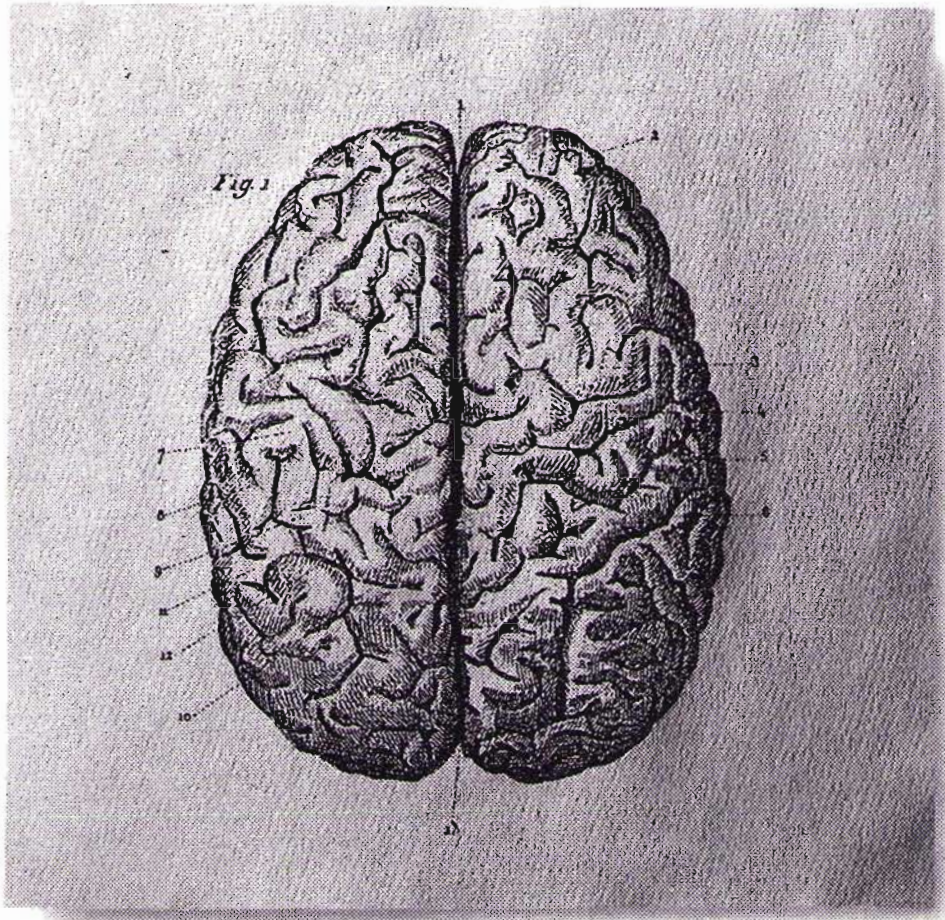
Reviewed by Kenneth Loafman.

Disk 423. SHEZ 4.81. The Compression Companion, by Jim Derr. ©1989 California Software Design

SHEZ is a shell program to make viewing and working with archive files user friendly. SHEZ will allow you to create archives, view archive, selectively extract, list, or execute files within an ar-



Now QuickPascal makes this software go even faster.



Even the quickest minds tend to brake suddenly when confronting new languages.



Enter new Microsoft® QuickPascal Compiler.

The first Pascal that is not only powerful but easy, intuitive and 100% headache-free.

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To accelerate your thought processes even more, all of our processes are seamlessly integrated; no other Pascal offers you easier

access to your editor, debugger and compiler.

What's more, QuickPascal is the first PC Pascal to offer Object Oriented Programming, or OOP. With objects, you can easily assemble whole programs from modular building blocks of code and data. And once you know Pascal, OOP is a snap. Which means, you get maximum productivity with minimum effort.

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chive. The menuing system SHEZ uses resembles many of the point and shoot directory scanning style programs, and SHEZ contains many of the same capabilities along with the ability to view archives and archive contents.

SHEZ is a necessary tool if you have many archive files. The response is fast and the user interface is very friendly. The SHEZCFG utility allows you to configure SHEZ to your system easily and quickly.

An option of the SHEZ program is to scan archives for viruses using the VIRUSCAN program of John McAfee. VIRUSCAN may be obtained from this User Group library, from BBS's, or from John McAfee's own board directly.

In order for SHEZ to function you must have one or more of the following archive programs:

PKZIP, PKUNZIP by Phil Katz for ZIP files.
 PKUNPAK, PKPAK by Phil Katz for ARC files.
 LHARC by Haruyasu Yoshizaki for LZH files.
 ZOO by Rahul Dhesi for ZOO files.
 PAK by NoGate Consulting for PAK files.

Plus LIST by Vern Bueg for listing files extracted from an archive.

Reviewed by Kenneth Loafman.

Disk 424. PC-Calc+ 2.0. ButtonWare Spreadsheet Program (3 disk set) ButtonWare, Inc., P.O. Box 96058, Bellevue, WA 98009-4469 Registration Fee: \$69.95 + \$5.00 S/H

PC-Calc+ 2.0 is the latest version of the popular spreadsheet program by ButtonWare. The program is very powerful and offers users many powerful features found in other spreadsheet packages. PC-Calc+ will run on any IBM XT AT or compatible with at least 320K of available memory, DOS 2.0 or later. It requires a hard disk or 2 720K floppy disks. Monochrome, CGA, EGA, VGA, or Hercules monitors are supported. Several printer drivers are also included.

Users of previous versions of PC-Calc+ will have to convert their old spread-sheets into the new format used by this version with the CONVERT program. The CONVERT program will also convert 1-2-3 and DIF files into PC-Calc+ format and PC-Calc+ files into 1-2-3 or DIF formats.

This version of PC-Calc+ is 256 columns by 8000 rows instead of the customizable columns and rows of the previous version. PC-Calc+ includes many built-in functions including 11 date/time, 11 financial, 17 math, 4 logical, 13 special, 11 statistical, 15 trig, and 4 string functions.

A host of cursor movement keys are available including several special keys to perform many common tasks. Pressing the / key will bring up the menu. Help is always available by pressing F1 for context sensitive help or F2 for general on-line help for commands or built-in functions. There is also an extensive macro language and a "learn" mode.

Reviewed by Mark Gruner.

Disk 425. Finance Manager II, 1.3e. Double entry general ledger from Hooper International, P.O. Box 62219, Colorado Springs, CO 80962 Registration Fee: \$49.95 plus \$3.00 S/H

Finance Manager II is a series of modules to perform the financial record keeping of a household or business. The main module is General Ledger Lite which is a complete double entry general ledger system. The other modules include accounts receivable, accounts payable, payroll, account reconciliation, and financial utilities. These additional modules are probably not needed for a household. By registering 3 or 4 modules you receive a 10% discount and a 15% discount for 5 or more. The total cost would \$178.70 for all 6 modules after the discount.

The program is well designed and smooth in operation. It will handle up to 1997 accounts. Sample chart of accounts are included for both home and business in the form of a tutorial. Budgeting capability is also included. The system is menu-driven and is capable of handling up to 20,000 transactions per company or household file.

Entering transactions is quick and easy. However, a bit confusing is that you "write over" the previous transaction when entering new transactions. Each transaction consists of a description, a check number (if needed), account numbers, and the amounts. The program will not allow you to save a transaction that is out of balance. When the account number is required, the chart of accounts appears at the bottom of the screen. One minor inconvenience is that the screen only shows one credit and one debit. Therefore, a transaction may require several screens.

Built-in reports include the General Journal, Account History, Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Sources and Uses, Budget Variance, Chart of Accounts, Budget Listing, and Trial Balance. Reports can be sent to the screen, printer, or disk file. All reports can be for a single month or for multiple months which is referred to as a trend report.

General ledger systems generally require some preliminary work before beginning to work with the program with live data. It is therefore strongly recommended that you print out and read the documentation before using the program.

System requirements: IBM PC/XT/AT PS/2 or compatible with 2 floppy disk drives or hard disk using DOS 2.0 or greater, and 256K in memory.

This review prepared by Arnold Krusemark.

Disk 426. Technojocks Turbo Toolkit 5.0 Turbo Pascal 4.0/5.0 Tools, by Bob Ainsbury. Shareware registration is \$49.95 + \$5.00 postage.

The purpose of the toolkit is to provide a library of easy-to-implement procedures for repetitive programming tasks such as windows, menus, user input, string formatting, directory listings, and mouse support. The toolkit is designed specifically to operate with Borland Turbo Pascal 4.0 & 5.0.

The hardware needed to use this software is an IBM compatible PC, XT/AT or PS/2 using DOS 2.X and up. A Microsoft Mouse or compatible is required for the mouse procedures. All of the standard display adapters are supported, including the monochrome, CGA, EGA and VGA.

The toolkit comes on one 360K disk. All of the files are in archives and will need to be extracted. Installation differs from previous versions. Only the source is contained for the units, NOT the units themselves. Instructions are included in the abbreviated documentation file for creating each of the units.

This review prepared by Richard .

Disk 427. UCC FORTH 200. Public Domain FORTH by M.F. Buchan, from United Controls Corporation Forth.

In a time when several commercial FORTH implementations and several more public domain versions are available, why consider a new version? quote Buchan, "I believe that UCC 4th showed an originality of implementation, and clarity of conception that is totally absent in virtually all other versions. Having bought, and struggled unsuccessfully for many months with other packages in 1983, opening UCC 4th was like a breath of fresh air in a world hidebound by tradition, conservatism, and a seemingly perverse pleasure in obscurity for its own sake."

Some of the more attractive features of the package include:



1. It has an excellent user interface with DOS.
2. The documentation is clear and readable.
3. Binary COM files may be loaded with UCC's CLOAD command.
4. The command language is extensible.
5. It is compatible with your current DOS. You can continue to use the editor you currently use. You can shell-out to DOS for file manipulation and other things. You can then return to FORTH where you left off.
6. The disassembler is a real disassembler. It maintains a linkage to your own dictionary, and shows mnemonics and addresses.
7. Although some of the more common FORTH words are absent, if they are really missed, they may be defined and included.
8. It allows the entry of numbers in decimal, binary and hex.

The source code for interpreter/compiler is not included but memory images KERNEL.IMG are provided which contain the Compiler/Interpreter, and from these a complete new system can be built up - as well as turnkey systems with the compiler/interpreter omitted.

This review prepared by Bruce Buford.

Fifty Yards of Computer Books

by Robert Monaghan CDP,CSP,CCP,CISA,W5VC

Our Dallas Public Library has a pretty fine collection of computer books. But I prefer another library for casual browsing. That library is also open to the public for longer hours (Mon.-Thurs. 8am-11pm, Fri. 8-6, Sat. 9-5 & Sun. 2pm-11pm). You'll find fifty yards of computer books and over 100 computer related magazines and journals. The library is open to everyone as a U.S. Government depository library. Have you guessed the library I'm describing? Yes, we're talking about the S.M.U. Science Library. The S.M.U. Science Library is readily accessible on the central quadrangle of the S.M.U. campus.

The fifty yards of computer books begin on your right, as you enter the library. Just go past the photocopy machines (10 cents/copy) and smoking area. Smokers, take heart. You can read and smoke in this library. The computer section starts in the book shelves labeled QA76. The section covers an enormous variety of topics and machines. You will find a heavy emphasis on computer languages, databases, and computer architecture. You will also find many more yards of computer books under topics such as telecommunications, graphics, and electronics. In all, more than a thousand computer titles await your inspection and use.

As you head up the stairs, you'll probably focus on the IBM PS/2 with optical drive and printer. The Wilson optical disk software lists all the articles published in hundreds of scientific journals and magazines. You can search by topics, authors, or titles. Enter a query on expert systems or artificial intelligence. You will get an instant database of over

Disk 428. TickleX 5.0. Tickler and calendar program, by R.A. Kelly. Integra Computing, Box 72063, Marietta, GA 30007-2063 Shareware Registration: \$50.00

TICKLEX is a tickler, scheduler, calendar, and to-do list. It can be used to track hours worked, expenses, and income. It can integrate those jobs with the ability to handle simple "project management" tasks such as docket control in an attorney's office. It can handle up to 8000 appointments, deadlines, trips, vacations, exercises, miscellaneous events, and reminders. A memory-resident alarm can alert you to as many as 20 scheduled items. You can print calendars and daily schedules and custom reports. An auto-execute function (using macros) is implemented. On-screen help is available.

TickleX will run on an IBM PC, XT/AT or compatible running DOS 2.1 or greater. Memory requirements not stated, but an earlier version of Ticklex required "enough memory to devote 350K solely to TickleX". A hard drive is "highly recommended". Most printers are supported, including Laser printers. Color and monochrome monitors are supported, as are LANs.

This review prepared by Preston Brashear.

1,000 matching "hits". You can page through these listings, print them, or further refine your selections. Best of all, there are no on-line charges.

Next to the PS/2, you'll find the reference section for computers. Are you are looking into purchasing software, hardware, or systems? If so, you'll find the independent user-survey based DATAPRO manuals useful. The DATAPRO Microcomputer Software, Small Computers, Dial-up Databases, Telecommunications, and Microcomputer multi-volume services are available on the shelves. I've also used algorithms from the Collected Algorithms of the ACM shelved here. You'll find Software Digest's Ratings Reports. Unlike the magazines, these reports rarely pull punches. Like the magazines, Software Digest often exhaustively covers the latest products in databases, spreadsheets, and so on.

Speaking of magazines, you'll find hundreds of magazines on the next floor. Back issues are shelved alphabetically on the top floor. The latest issues are on display in racks which wrap around



several reading areas. Many magazines are also on the shelves which are not on display. Many back issues of BYTE, PC, PC Magazine, and PC World are found in bound volumes on the shelves. You can simply grab, read, or photocopy as you like.

As a U.S. Government depository library, you'll find such resources as all of the NASA publications, geological maps, and all the rest paid for by your tax dollars. For example, I've used the Patent Office Official Gazette to do some legal research.

Finally, the science library has a wealth of current magazines, many of which relate to computer usage. Some topics which might prove useful to our diverse members' interests include:

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE, AUTOMATICA, CD-ROM LIBRARIAN, CAD, COMPUTER LANGUAGES, COMPUTER NETWORKS AND ISDN SYSTEMS, COMPUTERS AND BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, COMPUTERS AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING, COMPUTERS AND OPERATIONS RESEARCH, COMPUTERS AND PEOPLE, COMPUTERWORLD, COMPUTING, DATABASE, DESIGN ENGINEERING, EDN, ELECTRONIC DESIGN, ELECTRONIC NEWS, ELECTRONICS, ELECTRONICS AND WIRELESS WORLD, FUTURE GENERATIONS COMPUTER SYSTEMS, FUZZY SETS AND SYSTEMS, GEO-BYTE, IBM SYSTEMS JOURNAL, IBM JOURNAL OF RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, I.E.E.E. PROCEEDINGS, TRANSACTIONS, MAGAZINES INCLUDING I.E.E.E. COMPUTERS AND DIGITAL TECHNIQUES, I.E.E.E. OPTOELECTRONICS, I.E.E.E. DESIGN AND TEST OF COMPUTERS, I.E.E.E. ENGINEERING AND MANAGEMENT REVIEW, I.E.E.E. SOLID STATE CIRCUITS, NETWORK, INCIDER - APPLE II SYSTEMS, INDUSTRIAL ROBOT, INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND OPERATIONS RESEARCH, INFORMATION AND COMPUTATION, INFORMATION AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION EXECUTIVE, INFORMATION HOTLINE, INFORMATION PROCESSING AND MANAGEMENT (& LETTERS), INFORMATION AND SOFTWARE TECHNOLOGY, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GAME THEORY, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PARALLEL PROGRAMMING, INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF ROBOTICS RESEARCH, JOURNAL OF ALGORITHMS, JOURNAL OF AUTOMATED REASONING, JOURNAL OF ROBOTIC SYSTEMS, JOURNAL OF SCIENTIFIC COMPUTING JOURNAL OF STATISTICAL COMPUTATION AND SIMULATION, JOURNAL OF TIME SERIES ANALYSIS, LIBRARY SOFTWARE REVIEW, LIBRARY WORKSTATION REVIEW (GUIDE TO DOS, MACINTOSH AND OTHER WORKSTATIONS), MATHEMATICAL PROGRAMMING, MICROCOMPUTERS FOR INFORMATION

MANAGEMENT, MICROPROCESSING AND MICROPROGRAMMING, MICROPROCESSORS AND MICROSYSTEMS, NETWORKS, NEW GENERATION COMPUTING, ON-LINE - THE MAGAZINE OF ON-LINE INFORMATION MANAGEMENT, OPTICAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS, PARALLEL COMPUTING, QUALITY ASSURANCE, ROBOTICA, ROBOTICS AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS, SIAM JOURNAL ON COMPUTERS, SIMULATION, SIMULATION AND GAMES, SOFTWARE PRACTICE AND EXPERIENCE, SOLID-STATE ELECTRONICS, SOLID-STATE COMMUNICATIONS, SOLID-STATE TECHNOLOGY, SUPERCONDUCTOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TECHNOLOGY FORECASTING AND SOCIAL CHANGE, and TELECOMMUNICATIONS.

Many Dallas area corporations have arrangements to check out materials. Perhaps your employer is one of them? You can also have searches run by the dial-up database services office for a nominal fee.

Even if you don't want to read another book on computing at all, you'll still find a fine science library at SMU. Explore the many resources available in areas from astronomy to zoology. Consider the liberal hours. Why not plan on spending a few hours browsing through this Dallas community resource? You're sure to find something that will make your trip worthwhile.

Robert

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.

Taxes are coming...Get caught up NOW, Save on fees and avoid penalties. Special rates available before year-end. Call Bruce Schubert, CPA 233-8353

WANTED:
Binding Machine (for Newsletter Exchange) Call Francis Bright (817) 261-4542. Leave Message.

FOR SALE (OR TRADE) - PC-XT, 512K RAM, 360K / 20 Meg HD. Good CGA Monitor. NEC CP-3 Wide Carriage Color Printer. Irwin 40 Meg Int Tape Drive. Call Steve at (214) 466-3169 during work hours.

FOR SALE:
(1) Paradox 3 (new) Includes 3 Sybex books - \$325
(1) Sigma 640 x 480 Autoswitch EGA card - \$100
(1) Clarton Personal Developer - \$100
(1) Seagate 4038 30Mb hard drive (used) - \$100
** Take it ALL off my hands for \$500
Call Ed Conway (w) 227-5511 or (h) 780-8239

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 34 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

"Well, I've done that before and I've never had any problems." This month's column deals with the problem of computer "myths".

How many times have you found out that something that you have been doing all along isn't very safe? It happens to all of us. Just because it appeared to work, doesn't mean that it's the sensible or safe thing to do.

Sometimes we do things only because they work for us. We have no other information to tell us that what we are doing is useless or even harmful to our (computerized) health.

Ken Land told me about a course that he took in college. The professor started off with an illustration of "the problem of the unknown variable." In other words, "It's not what you know but what you don't know that will hurt you."

Take, for example, the person who never does backups of their hard disk. Their hard disk has never crashed. So, why do backups. What happens to this person when the hard disk finally takes a vacation?

One of the things that bothers me about MS DOS is the Backup / Restore program. I think these programs mislead people into thinking that they have a good copy of their data. There are two major problems with these programs:

1) The programs change from DOS version to DOS version and sometimes you cannot restore data backed up with another version of DOS.

2) The programs do not allow you to make sure that you have written to the diskettes correctly. Diskettes and diskette drives are far from perfect. They do not always record correctly what was sent to them by the computer. What Backup / Restore lacks is a Compare function that lets you double check the data on the diskettes against the hard disk.

One final thought on backups. A person with only one backup copy of their data is worse off than a person with no backup data. The reason for this is that the person that has no backup copy, knows that they have no backup. The person that has only one copy, thinks that they have a backup copy and the one copy may not be a good copy.

The next time you sit down at you computer to create that spreadsheet or work with a database or a word processor, plan for the unexpected. If you are programming or writing macros, check for the logically impossible. It happens more often than you

would imagine. If you are creating files, think about the time it would take to recreate them if your only copy went off into the bit bucket. Practice "defensive" computing and life will be a lot easier.

Jim

■

INVOLUTION – The act of involving or being involved.

by Andy Oliver

In order to help, we must get involved. In order to learn, we must get involved. In order for a volunteer organization to continue to function, we must have volunteers. The NTPCUG is fortunate to have so many volunteers, on the Board of Directors, in the newsletter, on the bulletin board, Disk-Of-The-Month committee, setup group, vendor area, information booth, and countless other areas who are involved, and who give back to the group as much as they get out of it.

Someone asks every month, "What do I get for my \$24 membership?" If you've been in the group long, you will find that you develop friendships, you get most of your questions answered, you get classes and special interest group meetings every month, you get hardware and software demonstrations by major vendors, the use of a facility as nice as Infomart, with an area for vendors to set up every month where bargains abound. This is a bargain for \$2 a month. Think about what \$2 will buy.

The question that we truly like to hear is "What can I do to help the group?" The group's growth depends on the involution of its membership. We appreciate the help, we want everyone involved. Believe me when I say that none of us are "hogging" the positions. One member put it to me succinctly when he said "Your most important job is finding your replacement." As a member, this is your group. You can help with as little as one hour of your time. Sign up for different areas each month. If you find a task that you enjoy doing, come back next month and do it again. This group will not turn down good help. Or mediocre help. Or any help that is breathing. Or any help that was once breathing.

And if you are tired of reading this drivel, write some of your own. Just join in the fun.

Andy

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What's Happening on the BBS



Message # 63 From: Jim Holsington
Sent on: 10/11/89 4:53 pm
Subject: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

I just got word today (Wednesday the 10th) that the Friday the 13th virus is alive and active in Dallas. A large corporation was infected by one user who downloaded software from BBS's.

Someone set the clock ahead on a machine (after carefully backing it up) and track 0 disappeared. CAVEAT DICTUS!

PS: I have a piece of C code that saves and restores track 0 that I think I'll find and make operational.

Message # 70 From: Ed Acklin Sent on: 10/12/89 10:48 pm
Subject: Reply: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

I got a reasonably reliable report that the Associates out in Las Colinas has detected a virus in one of their out of state offices and has taken extra precautions nation wide. If there is anything to the Smoke/Fire truism, it would seem that some Backup Programs should get work outs tonight.

ED ACKLIN

Message # 71 From: Leroy Tennison
Sent on: 10/12/89 11:49 pm
Subject: Reply: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

One of our best defenses right now is missing. WHAT IS THE NAME AND FUNCTION OF THE PROGRAM CARRYING THE VIRUS? I heard through Pritonix (a computer hardware service company) that the program was some kind of utility or "cutiesy" type of thing that people would run for fun. A technician told me that they had a lot of hardware service calls on their client company's equipment before the source of the problem was discovered. I realize that knowing the name of the program is no guarantee of safety, but at least it would help.

Message # 72 From: Leroy Tennison
Sent on: 10/12/89 11:56 pm
Subject: Reply: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

By the way, although backing up your drives is certainly a good measure, it is not a guarantee of safety either. If the carrier program already exists on your hard disk then great care needs to be taken in your operation even after a restore. I haven't heard whether this program can replicate itself but, just to be safe, any executable file on the hard drive needs to be examined carefully if you have any suspicion that your machine has been infected. Best policy would be to boot from an original DOS floppy and copy ALL programs back onto the hard disk from their original floppies if you have had a problem. Then you need to hope that the virus isn't tied in any way to the boot sector.

Message # 73 From: Ed Acklin Sent on: 10/13/89 12:50 am
Subject: Reply: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

True...Backup may not be all of the solution, but at least you would have a floppy with data on it that you stand a chance of salvaging. You first indication is going to be "SHE DON'T PLAY NO MORE!" and then it's too late for the hard disk to be revived. A floppy, even though infected, offers a chance for possible recovery...the virus hasn't triggered yet!

SIDE NOTE!!! While playing a game my computer locked up at the stroke of midnight!!!! It was interference from a resident program...I Hope.???

ED ACKLIN

Message # 74 From: Jim Holsington
Sent on: 10/13/89 8:03 am
Subject: Reply: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

The virus is the Datacrime or "Friday 13th" virus. It copies itself onto all *.COM files not starting with the letter C. The Dallas Times Herald had a good article describing the symptoms this morning (Friday).

I guess what was/is missing is the instruction NOT TO RUN USING THE BACKUP COPIES!

That seems to be the big mistake that first time users make. If you get bitten and have a backup:

- 1) Reformat your hard disk.
- 2) Restore your files.
- 3) Boot off a clean floppy.
- 4) Use the SCAN program contained in the SCANV40.ARC file found in the User area on this BBS to identify the infected .COM files.
- 5) Remove those files.
- 6) Replace them from the master disks. (Hopefully you can find your master copies.)
- 7) Run the SCAN program again to make sure that the masters weren't infected.
- 8) Put your backups away in a safe place.
- 9) Try booting off the hard disk.

Message # 75 From: Pehl Lee Sent on: 10/13/89 5:31 pm
Subject: Reply: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

OK, we've been hearing stories of detected virus. Why don't we all post actual virus attacks - what actually happened -- and the reported detection of viruses. At least by now, the virus should all be activated, right? If we keep a tab on what's happening, maybe we can use this info and pursue ways to get the government into punishing those virus programmers.

Whatddaya think ?

Pehl Lee

Message # 76 From: Jim Holsington
Sent on: 10/15/89 4:22 pm
Subject: Reply: Friday 13th Virus is alive in Dallas

A. A lot of companies don't want to admit that they've been hit. It hurts customer confidence. (Customers calling up claiming that they really don't owe this on this invoice. They paid up last week and the payment must have been wiped out by the virus.)

B. When I asked Saturday, a lot of people hadn't turned on their computers yet. Most people (even our members) don't always turn on their computers every week. The point is, there are still potential victims of the virus.

C. This last virus originated in the Netherlands. The police arrested a suspect last week.

=====
From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 10/01/89 11:51 pm
Subject: Integrated package recommendation?

I have been asked several times for my recommendations on computers by people who do not yet own one but are considering a purchase. I feel fairly comfortable explaining the hardware options. If they want powerful software then I have

some knowledge of what products to suggest as well. The problem is when someone wants software for home use, they have decided to make a purchase and want to know what buy. My thinking is to suggest that they get an integrated package to discover what they really want and need in software. When I recommend this I warn them that it may mean some extra expense because they may end up throwing away the integrated package once they know what their needs are. Because of this, I want to recommend something which is pretty cheap (less than \$100). I know that products such as Microsoft Works and Eight-in-One are integrated packages and I think Q&A has such a package but I could be wrong.

My question is which package to recommend. Eight-in-One is only \$39 but is it even minimally satisfactory? I suspect that Microsoft Works is pretty good as such packages go but the \$89 price tag makes me a little hesitant when there is the "throw away" possibility. I would prefer to stay under \$60. Are there any packages that have Word Processing, Spreadsheet and Database software in this price range which anyone out there would feel comfortable recommending in this situation?

From: Ed Acklin Sent on: 10/02/89 11:22 am
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

I received an integrated software package call "ZEN" when I bought my computer from Compuadd. It contained the Word processor, Spreadsheet, and Modem programs and the Database was added on for \$50. I used all of the programs and found them to be quite adequate for a long time and very easy to learn. I still use the spread sheet, and I'm using the word processor to teach my 13 year old the basics of that. I suspect the whole package can be purchased in the range you're talking about. My opinion of Compuadd is still high. I just returned a sticking keyboard after 11 months and it was exchanged--no questions asked.

ED.

From: Kent Cobb Sent on: 10/02/89 8:54 pm
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

If the difference between \$60 and \$89 is that critical, what are these people doing plunking down several hundred (at least) for the hardware? If making an \$89 mistake would mean they couldn't make next month's mortgage payment, I'd be hesitant to recommend anything. I'm resigned to the idea that I will make mistakes in purchasing both hardware and software -- and if my worst one only cost me \$89, I'd be happier'n a pig in slop.

Kent

From: Leroy Tennison Sent on: 10/02/89 10:29 pm
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

Kent, the difference is that I would just as soon keep it as cheap for these people as possible if there's a good chance its going to be trashed anyway. It's not so much an issue of "can they afford it". You're right, they are going to be out a grand anyway. It is simply a matter of "Why spend \$89 for an education if \$60 will do the exact same thing?" That is my only question, can I recommend something for less that isn't a piece of junk? I would personally like to recommend something that, if thrown away, costs the least amount of money. I would rather have their impression of the expense be "Well, that was about the least we could have spent anyway." rather than "That was kind of expensive just to learn what we needed." The only risk I'm running is that a slightly more expensive package that I could recommend would have met their needs. On the other hand, that might happen with anything I recommend. The other thing is that they may end up spending only \$200 more on software if they discover that all they really need is one of the three

programs. In that case, they have spent nearly a third of their software money just to get an education.

From: Stuart Yarus Sent on: 10/03/89 6:16 am
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

Seems to me that the education is the point. I agree with Kent - if 20 or 50 dollars is a problem, don't buy a machine at all. The point is the software, the hardware is just a platform to put it on. Paperback Software is offering VP-Planner Plus (a Lotus 1-2-3 v3.0 clone) for \$100 to NT PC UG members just by calling them up. Actually, it's not a clone, but has most of the features of V3.0 and runs in 512K, unlike V3.0 which won't run in 1M unless your box is IBM or Compaq...

Stuart

PS. Most people I know have spent more on software than hardware.

SY

From: Reagan Andrews Sent on: 10/03/89 9:01 am
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

Leroy, granted there's a throw-away factor, but you tend to get what you pay for. My vote would be MS WORKS -- for several reasons. Both Phil Chamberlain and I received copies of WORKS at MS in Seattle last year. I haven't used my copy, but Phil switched his PC use almost entirely to WORKS shortly after trying it. That says something.

Some nice aspects of the package are a "common" command syntax pretty much throughout all modules, eliminating the problems many folks experienced with other integrated software, works well in small, slow PC's, is frequently updated by MS at reasonable upgrade charges, and will be released shortly with somewhat expanded capabilities at the November meeting, perhaps, without significant price increases. It's available locally for less than \$100 and includes a good word processor, very good (small) spreadsheet, and good database, and a fair-to-poor communications package. (Has Microsoft ever written a good communications package?)

If the user decides to upgrade to more powerful (costly) software, most of the modules have equivalent MS packages that accept WORKS' data gracefully. (Try that with the old PFS low-level products!)

Reagan...

From: Fred Williams Sent on: 10/04/89 7:32 pm
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

I tend to agree with Reagan's recommendation. MS Works is a "clone" of Apple Works and anything implemented on an Apple product in a professional manner is light years ahead of the majority of MS_DOS products when it comes to true user friendly. A Salesman friend of mine uses Apple Works on his personal Apple IIC and Wordperfect on the office MS-DOS machine. Would you like to hear his choice comments about Wordperfect?

Fred

From: Jim Hoisington Sent on: 10/05/89 11:25 am
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

I can recommend Microsoft Works. My father wanted to get a computer now that he is retired. I really thought that after a month it would be gathering dust but it isn't. He uses Microsoft Works for all sorts of things. He keeps track of his medical

expenses with the spread sheet. He writes letters with the word processor and he creates mailing labels for the veteran's organization that he belongs to. He told me last week that he doesn't know how people can live without a computer and from his perspective, he means without Microsoft works.

From: James Dunn Sent on: 10/08/89 6:09 pm
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

Leroy, my wife teaches Computer literacy in the DISD. She evaluated several packages of the type you mentioned. The first package was called "Easy Working" "Tri Pack". It has a word processor and database and I think Comm., No spread sheet. It cost \$19.00 mailorder. It is from Spinnacker software. It looks good, until you try to do something real world. Then you run up against the limits, like 8 fields in a Record, too confining. Then she went to "Better Working" "Eight in One", about \$39.00 at Softwarehouse. This is also by Spinnacker. It is very much better. The evaluation package came from Programmers Connection via mail. The DISD bought the class set from Softwarehouse, and guess what. The class set is a later release. Revised manual and added features. Better yet. "Easy Working" has several "no prize" programs. Like calendar, clock etc. "Better Working" concentrates on Word Processing, Database and Spreadsheet. She looked at Works. It was also very good, but the DISD is one of those Lowest cost mentality, and wouldn't go the price. There were a couple of other packages she looked at. I will ask her and tell you later.

From: Leroy Tension Sent on: 10/09/89 12:05 am
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

James, thanks for your input, that gives me at least one option other than Microsoft Works to suggest. (Not that I am resolutely opposed to Works, I just prefer to have more than one option.)

From: Phil Chamberlain Sent on: 10/09/89 3:54 pm
Subject: Reply: Integrated package recommendation?

Here's another vote for Microsoft Works. Been using it for nearly a year now, and it's great for the person who has occasional need for spreadsheets, not-too-complicated data bases and word-processing. I can understand why your Dad likes it, Jim.

=====
Message # 6 From: Jerry Reno
Sent on: 08/15/89 12:00 am
Subject: Low level reformat

Have recently received message "Seek error" twice. Assume it refers to access problem with hard disk (Seagate, 20 .). Received several advises to perform low level reformat using Debug at August meeting (at Hardware SIG, desk in lobby and from vendor downstairs) but no specific instructions. My DOS Debug documentation mentions nothing which apparently has anything to do with its use as a low level disk reformatting tool, so I need some specific advise or a reference. Also heard about a S/W product called Spinwrite which I understand may (depending on my disk controller) do the job without the necessity of the low level reformat.

Controller is Western Digital but vendor indicated that was not specific enough. Advise?

Does Norton or Mace utilities include programs which do the low level reformatting?

Jerry Reno
 Thanks

Message # 7 From: Ken Loafman
Sent on: 08/15/89 12:00 am
Subject: Reply: Low level reformat

Jerry, Using the debugger to low-level format your disk is a bit of a misnomer. What the people were referring to was the use of the debugger to get access to the low-level format firmware built into a lot of the disk controllers. The procedure to do that is:

```
C debug
-g c800:5
```

where the 'g' command is the debug command to 'go' from c800:5. You will need to supply the drive parameters such as number of heads, number of cylinders, start of write precomp, start reduced write current, landing zone, etc., all of which are laid out in the manual that came with the drive. Basically a piece of cake.

Now then, given that I have answered a question, would someone mind answering one for me. When changing over to a Perstor ARLL controller the advice I was given was to lay down a low level format 'several times'. Given that a low level format defines the start and stop of a rotation and that each new low level format can potentially start at a different section of the cylinder, what is the advantage to doing several (their being no equivalent of a 'sector notch' on a hard disk drive)? Is it just to make sure that the old format is erased, or is there something else that happens?

...Kenneth

Message # 8 From: Reagan Andrews
Sent on: 08/17/89 12:00 am
Subject: Reply: Low level reformat

Your guess was the correct answer Ken.

Reagan....

=====
Message # 7 From: Leroy Tension
Sent on: 09/20/89 1:44 am
Subject: How long can a parallel cable be?

I am having trouble with a printer connection and am wondering if the combined lengths of the cables themselves could be the problem. I am coming out of the parallel port of an XT clone (CompuAdd) and going to a printer buffer (6' cable). From there I am going to an unpowered switch box (10' cable) and from there to the printer (10' cable). The switch box indicates that there is a printer error but, when I power up the system, the printer does respond to some kind of initialization string which is sent to it. If I remove the switch box from the loop the printer buffer no longer shows a printer error. Should I suspect the box or the cable length? How far can you safely run a parallel cable (or is that an answerable question)?

Message # 8 From: Ken Loafman Sent on: 09/20/89 9:15 am
Subject: Reply: How long can a parallel cable be?

My memory says that 15' is the upper limit. You are almost double that and the switch box does put some extra load on the line. I know that there are short-haul modems for serial applications over x feet, but I don't know if the same is true for parallel.

...Kenneth

Message # 9 From: Reagan Andrews
Sent on: 09/20/89 11:26 am
Subject: Reply: How long can a parallel cable be?

I remember when 12' was considered the practical limit for a parallel cable on the original PC (1). It's really a matter of cable construction, i.e., low capacitance vs low cost. I do have at least one 20' cable, purchased from CompuAdd, that's working fine with my dot matrix printer at this time. Data sent via parallel is high-speed and cable capacitance has a significant impact on ability to communicate legibly with device(s). Kind of a complex interaction between device impedance(s), signal "speed", cable capacitance and device types used at receiver end, as well as various mutual and parasitic inductances.

I do think you are probably "stretching" reasonable limits beyond 20' and actual devices used may play important role, i.e., one printer parallel port may function just fine, but a second might fail at the same (long) distance. Remember, most of these beasts were intended to be immediately adjacent to the PC, or at least very close by. If users were going to be at a distance, then RS-232 was the port of choice as far as manufacturers were concerned.

Reagan....

Message # 10 From: Leroy Tennison
Sent on: 09/20/89 11:27 pm
Subject: Reply: How long can a parallel cable be?

Thank you, Ken and Reagan, for responding to my question. I was afraid that cable length might be a problem. I had originally assumed that resistance was the only thing to contend with. Now that I hear that capacitance is a problem I am definitely going to use as short a cord as possible everywhere I can.

This brings me to the next question. Where can you get short cords at a reasonable price? Also, what lengths are available? I seem to recall that you could order 3' cables from Egghead software. Does anyone know of a better place? I would prefer to avoid custom fabricated cables. The installation where I am using these cables is a small town 40 miles from nowhere in Southern California. I don't get there much and therefore want as high a reliability as possible. My gut feel is that custom cables have a potential for more reliability troubles.

Message # 11 From: James Dunn
Sent on: 09/21/89 9:06 pm
Subject: Reply: How long can a parallel cable be?

Leroy, I have a 50 ft printer cable on my machine. I made it myself. I bought some expensive low line loss, heavily shielded cable and some metal, grounded connectors and put it together. It has worked for 3 years flawlessly. I needed to put the printer in the next room and run the cable through the false drop ceiling. I don't remember any data splattering. I feel the other way around. When I make a cable I know how good it is. When I buy a store bought one, who knows, especially a Cheap one. (yes the cable is parallel).

Message # 17 From: Jim Holsington
Sent on: 09/28/89 8:31 am
Subject: Reply: How long can a parallel cable be?

You can go out to 30 or 40 feet if you buy special "low capacitance" cable and make your own. I've got a serial printer running at 60 feet through an electrically noisy environment using the stuff. But, you have to roll you own cable. That is, buy the cable stock and affix the end connectors.

=====
Message # 42 From: Leroy Tennison
Sent on: 11/02/89 1:06 am
Subject: Memory parity errors

I wrote about this some time ago but had not had any problems again until recently. First time I received the "heart failure" message I opened the machine up and pressed down on the memory chips on the motherboard. One or two creaked and I made sure that they were seated firmly. Hadn't had any problems for months. In fact, I had almost forgotten about the incident. Then I switched modem cards yesterday. Immediately started picking up the dreaded message. Opened the machine again and pressed on the memory chips. This time SEVERAL creaked. Made sure that they were seated firmly. The problem has gone away so far. I am wondering why this is happening. Am I about to be in for a nasty surprise in having to replace the motherboard or is this "normal" for AT clones?

Second question. Do chips work their way out of their connections over time? I know that I seated all my chips firmly the first time I had the problem. I was really surprised to find that more chips didn't seem to be firmly seated this time than the last time.

Message # 45 From: Reagan Andrews
Sent on: 11/02/89 9:00 am
Subject: Reply: Memory parity errors

Leroy, what you are experiencing is age-related memory creep!

Actually, this is a fairly common phenomenon, and is related to effects of thermal expansion and contraction that occurs as a function of machine off-on cycling. Also, the various sources of vibration such as power supply fan, disk drives, etc., contribute their share here as well. DRAM socket type and DIP pin configuration are involved as well. Similar "loosening" can be seen in accessory boards in their sockets and is often the source of erratic operation.

It's not a bad idea, with one major exception, to check for this any time the PC is opened. Major exception is found in some off-shore motherboards that are not supported well by their stand offs (the little plastic thingies) and do too much flexing when chips are pressed into their sockets. Under this condition, marginal solder joints can crack, board traces can break, and the motherboard can crack. Best bet here would be to remove the motherboard and place it on a supportive surface that will prevent flexing when changing chips.

Reagan....

Message # 46 From: Ken Loafman
Sent on: 11/02/89 9:35 am
Subject: Reply: Memory parity errors

One other thing to do is get a can of the dry air that is used to blow out dust particles. I've run across the problem where dust has formed a bridge between pins and intermittently shorted the connection. A simple cleaning with dry air fixed the problem (and started my nose to running). Turkey had been on and not opened for over two years. Talk about filthy!

Then there was the time I had to remove mouse droppings from the motherboard of an old PC/XT. Mouse had found the opening in the full size floppy drive door to be just right to make a nice entry after everyone had left for the day.

...Kenneth

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

While Waiting for COMDEX/ Fall 89

Such a month! There's real excitement over several announcements that made the pre-pre-COMDEX rounds in October and early November. Most appear to be rumors and "trial balloons" with one or two major exceptions. First, the juicy rumors.

Return of TopView...

Oops -- I Really Meant PM-Lite

Remember the folks who brought a (very) few PC users TopView? In case you forgot (and most of us did) TopView, IBM has another "treat" in store according to recent media blurbs. IBM, the story says, has been listening to some "true compatibility" test software buffs (Lotus) who are disturbed about the gaining popularity of Windows. Lotus' anguish involves betting on the wrong horse (OS/2 PM) and not hedging their bets with Windows versions of their super hardware-testing software.

Speculation is that IBM will release a gelded version of Presentation Manager that will run under DOS and allow users to use both DOS and OS/2 application packages. Sounds great, no? Well, it really sounds like Lotus trying to recoup from the very slow acceptance by users of OS/2 and never mind the fact that IBM's reputation for OS development is somewhat less than shining bright.

Skeptics say it's FUD (Fear, Uncertainty and Doubt) being spread by one or both parties above to dissuade potential large-volume corporate buyers from choosing Windows. Some wags have estimated at least a year before the product could be released.

Microsoft's long-awaited Windows 3.0 wasn't out at press time. Meanwhile, Windows 2.11 seems capable of running on anything without too much effort.

Speaking of Rumors,

i486 Flaws Revealed by Intel

The i486 (80486), called Intel's flagship chip for the early 90's, has



been described as the final blow to the barrier separating PC's from Workstation performance and eagerly awaited by PC power aficionados. Intel announced in October that some flaws discovered in the new chip's floating-point unit by Compaq engineers could delay production.

Similar problems hit early 80386's resulting in a number of 386's that couldn't function in 32-bit modes. Intel exchanged the chips after the flaw was discovered, but, for several months, PC buyers had to visually inspect 80386 chips for the double sigma markings assuring full 32-bit operation.

Memory Markets in Future

Soy Beans, Pork Bellies... and DRAM?

Rollercoaster DRAM prices over the last two years have kept PC makers' (and users') heads spinning. Plans to update PC's by adding memory have often been placed on "hold" while the user waits for DRAM prices to drop, both at individual and corporate levels.

The Pacific Stock Exchange (PSE) would like to take advantage of the wild DRAM swings and filed application to begin trading in DRAM futures according to Infoworld. PSE stated in their application to the Commodity Futures Trading Commission an intent to begin trading futures contracts for 256K and 1-megabit DRAM's.

Infoworld's October 23 story reported that the manufacturers were not happy about the prospects of entering the commodities arena. SIMMs and SIPs were not mentioned in the account.

Does this mean we'll have to go to our broker now instead of "1st Saturday" when we want to upgrade?

Where Does All the BETA Go?

Speaking of "1st Saturday" at Ross and Central in Dallas, saw an enterprising individual hawking Beta-test versions of software after they'd been tested/reviewed. Not a good idea. Actually a very bad idea for the new or inexperienced user.

Test (Alpha or Beta) software is "buggy." Alpha more so than Beta. Software publishers distribute this software to individuals who are considered very good or expert in the area so that the bugs can be captured and (hopefully) exterminated prior to release.

Sale of this software is unfair at two levels. First, it's unfair to the maker who doesn't want a test version to represent the final package. It's also probably illegal in this case. Second, it's unfair to the unwary novice or beginner who probably won't be prepared for the difficulties that may arise from test software.

Definitely Not Beta

Pro-Search Narrow, but Excellent

Finding and extracting information from large commercial databases is a highly specialized area. Personal Bibliographic Software of Ann Arbor, Michigan, publishes software packages to facilitate these efforts, chief of which is Pro-Search for the PC. The package is designed to work with DIALOG 3.0 and the BRS databases.

Currently in release 1.08, Pro-Search includes communications protocols, predefined search strategies, and update services (Quarterly Category Disk Upgrade Service) to assist users in working with massive databases. Pro-Search has two sister programs, Pro-Cite, a database management system designed to handle bibliographic information, and Biblio-Link, a record conversion program.

For further information, contact Personal Bibliographic Software, Inc., 525 Avis Drive, Suite 10, Ann Arbor, MI 48108. (313) 996-1580

Wish We'd Had It In May...

Award POSTcard

After the May 1989 storms, we got to spend more time inside the PC than we'd like. Try something, then reboot. POST would return with some cryptic beeps then — nothing. Try again.

Award Software, Inc., maker of popular BIOS ROM sets for PC's and PC/AT clones, produces the POSTcard, which would have solved a lot of the problems above. It is placed in one of the PC's expansion slots and monitors the POST (Power On Self Test) during startup. It has both dual-digit LED display and 10 individual LEDs to track down system problem areas.

POSTcard is a little expensive at \$399, but worth its cost in time [and money spent on the wrong part(s)] saved for individuals who have to maintain a number of PC's from different makers. Saw this at COMDEX/Fall 88, and wish I'd bought one. Contact Award Software, Inc., 130 Knowles Dr., Los Gatos, CA 95030. (408) 370-7979

Newsletter Guidelines...

Unexpected Help from Bitstream

Seems almost impossible to buy a major piece of word-related software without receiving a set of type fonts from Bitstream or at least a very inexpensive Bitstream Fontware installation set coupon. Bitstream may be the de facto standard of downloadable fonts for the PC at this rate.

If the user returns the Bitstream coupon, they will also receive a bonus, Bitstream's Newsletter Guidelines. This is a straightforward, newsletter-sized guide to newsletter composition, layout and production with tips on type selection, graphics and achieving a newsletter "style." Of course, it does feature lots of information on Bitstream typefaces and their application, but in a helpful and non-obtrusive manner.

It's well worth a read and a \$.25 stamp. Write Bitstream, Inc., Athenaeum House, 215 First Street, Cambridge, MA 02142.

Houston Clone Maker & Japanese Producer Laptop Europe

Compaq Computer Corp., Houston, TX, and Citizen Watch Ltd., Tokyo, Japan, joined forces to produce laptop PC's for the European market in October. This marked Compaq's first shared manufacturing agreement and was called an effort to avoid time lag to move production to Compaq's plant in Scotland.

Citizen Watch Ltd. was described as co-developer with Compaq of diskette drive and display technologies in Compaq's new "notebook" PC's. Machines for the North American market will continue to be manufactured at Compaq's Houston, TX facilities.

October Microsoft Releases

Fly From Largest to Smallest Applications

Pre-COMDEX releases from Microsoft in October touched on products ranging from huge word processors to tiny ROM-based DOS versions. Not seen, but expected "Real Soon Now" was word on Windows 3.0.

Flight Simulator hits 4.0

Remember when Microsoft's Flight Simulator was a major compatibility test for PC Clones? It wasn't just for testing — it's continued popularity (and add-on market) attest to Flight Simulator's appeal at the recreational level.

Microsoft announced version Flight Simulator 4.0 with added realism and capabilities to design aircraft to user specifications, and a dynamic weather generator simulating random weather patterns. Aircraft are more detailed than previous versions and more realistically simulate physical characteristics of real aircraft.

Announcement from Redmond emphasized that pilots attempting Flight Simulator 4.0 with TSRs will crash, however.

Word for Windows Arrives

Microsoft surprised lots of people when they announced Word for Windows on October 31. Expectations were that release of the new word processor would wait for Windows 3.0.

News and descriptions of Word for Windows have been leaked by media for several months. What was not leaked was WW's size. This monster gobbles-up more than 5 megabytes of disk space with runtime Windows 2.11, tutorials and practice files. Lots and lots of features here, improved graphics handling, formatting, etc., but still hobbled with the terrible Windows "video-game" interface.

A note of hope — Microsoft didn't write a lot of the printer drivers with this version.

On the Notebook Front...

Mentioned last month (November), the Poqet "notebook" PC has several features that are worth mentioning here including ROM-based MS-DOS 3.21 from Microsoft. Lacking disk drive(s), all of the Poqet's applications will be ROM based.

ROM-executable DOS has several benefits for users that larger PC owners may envy. Since it functions directly from ROM, it's very RAM efficient — only 15K RAM overhead vs approximately 50K RAM overhead in traditional DOS.

Microsoft also notes the convenience of "instant on" in the ROM DOS as well as no need for end-user installation of DOS. (This latter is particularly appealing after struggling through a DOS 4.01 installation.)

And, A New Mouse

If Microsoft does one thing well lately, it's making really good mice. This time Microsoft doubled the resolution of its old mouse to 400 DPI, hence its name, Mouse 400 Series. Featured are increased resolution, an accelerator algorithm to make mouse movements more accurate, and inclusion of an OS/2 driver.

Increased resolution will be appreciated by users with high-resolution applications such as CAD/CAM, graphics and desktop publishing packages. Prices (suggested retail) for the new Mouse 400 Series are "same as current versions" -- \$150 for Mouse bundled with Microsoft Paintbrush and Mouse Menus, or \$200 for Mouse bundled with Windows/286 and PC Paintbrush for Windows.

Add Another MS Patent...

Microsoft was awarded a patent for serial mouse technology in September. The patent is U.S. Patent No. 4,866,602 and is titled "Power Supply for a Computer Peripheral Device Which Positions a Cursor on a Computer Display." I think

I'll stick with "mouse."

According to Microsoft's press release, the patent covers supply of power to the encoder circuitry in the mouse, eliminating need for an external power supply, and allowing direct connection of the mouse to PC's serial port. The patent also

covers different pointing devices such as track balls when attached to the serial port, but doesn't apply to bus mice or PS/2 mice.

Impact of Microsoft's patent may be extensive in other mouse colonies according to Microsoft President John Shirley.

■

Selected SIG Happenings

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Assembler SIG

At the October meeting of the Assembler SIG, Bill Drissel presented a proposal for the group to rewrite Kernighan & Plauger's "Software Tools" in 80x86 Assembler. Bill presented a set of primitives for early adoption.

At the November meeting, each member took responsibility for writing a primitive. These will be posted on the club's BBS in the Assembler SIG conference and will be discussed at the December meeting.

Andrew Chalk

Business SIG

'Twas the night before Christmas,
and all through the house
not a creature was stirring,
not a Microsoft Mouse.

The cables were hung
by the computer with care,
in hope that St. Nicholas
wouldn't trip there.

The children were nestled
all snug in their beds
while T V toy ads
ran through their heads.

With Dad in pink pajamas
and Mom in a mud pack
were both so tired,
we just hit the sack.

When off in the den
there arose such a clatter
I sprang from my waterbed
to see what was the matter.

When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
but a room full of software and peripheral gear.
The software made my color screen a jet lighter,
other programs made me laugh and fill lighter.

This program lets me write my own check,
so with my creditors, I won't catch heck!
That one there figures my income tax
even if with tax records, I am lax.

So many programs to run and do
much too many to describe to you.
I thought it must be a dream
nothing is so wonderful as it seems.

Suddenly, I awoke from my sleep
to hear my watches' electronic beep.
"It was only a dream," I said to myself,
"There is no Santa's sleigh or elf."

But wait, there is a meeting in December.
One you'll surely want to remember.
One to make shopping less tougher,
one for the Christmas stocking stuffer.

So come to the Business Application meeting
and make your fantasies seem less fleeting.
Never outgrew toys, it's my confession.
I'll be at the business SIG session.

And I heard him exclaim
'ere he drove out of sight,
"Merry Christmas to all users,
and to all a good night."

Bruce Schubert

Cryptanalysis SIG

At the Nov. meeting we made some fundamental decisions. First, the SIG will be on vacation until March. Second, we are splitting into two SIGs, starting when we meet in March. The first SIG will be Begin-

ning Cryptanalysis, led by Eleanor Joyner. Eleanor is very knowledgeable in cryptanalysis, and is an experienced teacher to boot. I was told long ago that the beginning class on any subject should always be taught by the best teacher. So Eleanor has been elected.

All you folks who told me that you would like to attend the Cryptanalysis SIG, but hesitated because we were too advanced, this is your chance. Eleanor is going to begin at the beginning in March with simple substitution, route and columnar transpositions, and as a special treat at the end, "cryptarithms".

The second SIG will be Intermediate Cryptanalysis, led by me. This will cover the Playfair, the Vigenere, and perhaps the Bifid. All of these are moderately sophisticated ciphers that were in serious use at one time or another. I will be introducing some important statistical concepts that you will need if you want to solve these ciphers easily. But these ciphers are still within reach of pencil and paper solving.

So, we have finished up the SIG for the year. Eleanor introduced us to cryptarithms, which turned out to be very popular. "Cryptarithms" are enciphered arithmetic problems. The digits are represented by letters, and you have to figure out what the real digits must be. Here is an example in multiplication:

```

      F I G S
    x   A L E
    -----
      S N F S
     E P F G
    N O L G
    -----
    P G S P F S
    
```


What digits do each letter stand for? Then, when you figure it out, arrange the letters in the following digit order: 1 2 ... 0 and see what words they spell. Try it, it's fun!

John Taber

DOS SIG

Who loves ya, Baby? Is it Lotus, IBM or Microsoft? Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President, will discuss the ramifications of the recent IBM "trial balloons" on "PM-Lite." What will a significantly reduced version of OS/2 Presentation Manager hold for DOS users who haven't switched to the Heavy? version?

Back in the real world, PC users still have problems with DOS and how to make some of their favorite applications run with the newest DOS versions. Jim and Reagan will focus on installation tips for users with the new applications packages and how to avoid SETUP pitfalls and pratfalls.

Special for users with "older" PC's who want to use the newer, "AT-only" software - do you really need a PC/AT to run "PC/AT" software? The answer is usually "NO" and Jim will explain how to install and run these newer packages on PC/XT's. Reagan will add some reasons why this may be some users' only alternative.

Reagan Andrews

Graphics SIG

The Graphics SIG for December will be devoted to an overview of the latest in Graphics Programs for creating and manipulating color and black and white images. Several companies with popular programs in this category have introduced new versions over the last few months which take advantage of the 256 color MCGA, VGA, and Extended VGA hardware that is now available for the PC and compatibles.

One of these programs include some very sophisticated utilities for improving the quality of scanned images. Another takes advantage of the 640 by 480, 256 Color screen format available on many of the new Enhanced VGA graphics boards. Many of the programs include utilities to convert between graphics formats and some have the built in ability to directly store and retrieve pictures in a

variety of formats. The meeting presentation will include a comparison of the most popular programs and example pictures.

In addition to a presentation, the Graphics SIG includes time for members to ask questions and to discuss the latest news in PC Graphics.

Richard Terreo

Lotus SIG

The subject for the November meeting was databases in 1-2-3 and Symphony. The presentation consisted of a brief discussion of databases in general and applicability of 1-2-3 and Symphony to database applications. The presentation then proceeded to show the benefits of looking at information as a database instead of a spreadsheet. Many people try to solve problems as a spreadsheet application when it is easier and better to use a database. Finally, normal database commands such as Sort, Find, Extract, and a few others were presented. Mark's presentation went a little long and will be completed in the December meeting.

The Lotus SIG disk which contains many of the presentations that have been given at the SIG will be available at the December meeting at the DOM table. The disk includes all of the presentations given on the 1-2-3 menu command structure. The disks also include the spreadsheet files that are used when the live presentations are given. So don't forget to go by the DOM table and get the disks if you are interested.

Also, if all goes well, there will also be a disk available from Lotus Development which includes the CHK123 program. The purpose of this program is to determine if your computer system can install and run 1-2-3 Release 3.0. As many of you know, there have been several problems concerning installation of Release 3.0 on IBM compatibles. There would be no error messages - just an installation failure. This program should determine if your system can run Release 3.0 and if not, should tell you why and what can be done, if anything.

The subject for the December Lotus SIG meeting will include among others, a brief overview of the Lotus SIG disk available at the meeting, a brief discussion of the CHK123 pro-

gram (if available), completion of the database presentation, and finally a discussion of the other Data command in 1-2-3. So far, the Data Table command have been discussed as well as the database specific commands such as Sort, Query, and External. The other Data command provide a wealth of other capabilities that warrant a discussion in the SIG. The commands will include Data Fill, Distribution, Matrix, Regression, and Parse. Come on by and join us this month.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that users are having with 1-2-3 or Symphony. If you have one come on by and ask and see if someone has the solution.

Mark Gruner
and Pat Henley

WORD SIG

Word for Windows will be reviewed at the December WORD SIG Meeting. Several WORD SIG members received Beta versions of Word for Windows and will share their impressions at the December SIG Meeting. Some of the Beta testers are undecided -- is Word for Windows a superset of Windows Write, a PC version of Word 4.0 for the Macintosh, or a logical progression of Word into the graphical interface arena? And, do you really need a 486-powered PC to run this program? Hint: Don't look for demonstrations of this version on the Club's PC/XT! This is really a word processor for the power crowd and too much for the 8088 machines - even 10 MHz Turbo-XT's.

We will, of course, devote time to general Q & A on problems users are experiencing with the "old" Word 5.0, 4.0 and even earlier versions.

Coming events: Although Microsoft reneged on the November SIG Meeting presentation to show off Word 5.0's advanced features (blame COMDEX/Fall 89 and Halloween Word for Windows announcement), we still plan to have Microsoft do a section on third-party products and add-ons during 1990. Look here for more details.

Reagan Andrews



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator
Andy Oliver, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

It's time, actually way past due, to pay tribute to three very special people who have put in endless hours, both for the NTPCUG and for the CCD.

Honors, first and foremost, go to Stuart Yarus. Stuart somehow found time to be our President-Elect and President during our second-stage years at Jesuit. (First stage being our formative years at SMU, where he was also involved.) He has more recently served as President and tireless worker on behalf of CCD in our third stage and present home at INFOMART. Stuart is at the heart of every meeting we have at INFOMART. And, except for the meeting a few months ago when he overslept and we all panicked, he has served tirelessly to make sure that our meetings on Super Saturday are scheduled and orchestrated with the least amount of hassle.

And as tireless as Stuart has been over the years, more recently as we have grown he couldn't have held up by himself to the rigors of Super Saturday without the undaunted assistance of Robert Hilliard. Robert worked many hours as a volunteer for the NTPCUG

before taking on the task a year or so ago of working with Stuart, and, among other things, covering for him when he oversleeps. We miss Robert a lot as an NTPCUG volunteer but bow aside for his service to CCD.

Another member of our group who has served a goodly amount of hours over the years is Bob Russell. Among other activities, Bob served as Membership Director for the NTPCUG for some years and is certainly a historian on growth and maintenance of a rapidly expanding membership database. More recently Bob has been serving as Vendor Manager for the CCD. Bob is a neat guy and a true teacher at heart. Visiting with him is like learning something new by accident.

Stuart, Robert, and Bob, our profound thanks.

In this issue, we acknowledge volunteers who have recently served. 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.

INFOMART Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Robert Hilliard
Bob Russell
Martha Eichman
C. D. Agee

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown

Timothy Carmichael
Tom Fowlston

Information/Registration Booth

Bob Anderson
Conley Andrews
Connie Andrews (Anchor)
Guy Andrews
Mike Ashley (Anchor)
Bill Bell
Stanley Berlin
Mark Cook
Eta E. Eta (Anchor)
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Lynn Fussell
Terry Gearhart
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Judy Griffiths
Allan Harbough (Anchor)
Scott Harris
Teresa Kelly (Anchor)
Janet Lowe
Ed Moreland
Tony Noguera (Anchor)
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Douglas Scott (Anchor)
Revis Smith (Anchor)
Elaine Stephens
Juanita Taylor (Anchor)
Gene Taylor
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)
Jose Valenciano

Diak of the Month (DOM):

DOM Table

Joe A. Allen
Roy Bales
Charles Carter
Charles Cashlon
Jay Chambliss
W. E. Drissel
Eta E. Eta
Kent Haven
Delbra Henderson
Pat Henley
Bob Karlebach
Bob Post
Virginia Salter
Jerry Stone
Oscar Tyler

DOM Volunteer Coordinator

Bill Drissel

DOM Central Committee

Kathryn Loafman (Chair)
Howard Hamilton (Review Manager)
Mark Gruner (Bundle of Energy)
Preston Brashear (Voice of Reason)
Kenneth Loafman (Pisces, Working for Scale)
Ben Weatherall (Puzzled Newcomer)
Pete Testa (BBS Liaison)

DOM Review/Presentation

Roy Bales
K. B. Barton
Jim Donlon
Bill Drissel
Steve Fleming
Rick Griffith

Bruce Lutz
Archie Pinkney
John Puckette
Richard Terreo

Bulletin Board System (BBS):

BBS Sysops
Tom Prickett
Maggie Moomney

BBS Steering Committee

Andrew Chalk
Kent Cobb
David McGehee
Pete Testa
Fred Williams

BBS Champions
Steve Fleming
Jim Holsington

Newsletter Exchange

Pehl. Lee
Francis Bright

Public Relations Committee

Francis Bright
Annette Hyde
Peh L. Lee
Elwood Lindell
Charles Lucas
Tony Noguera
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)



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 # _____

Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____

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 <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Check <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> _____	Membership Classification: Regular (\$24.00) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Student (\$12.00) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ (full-time with ID)	Application Status: New Member <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Renewal <input type="checkbox"/> _____ Address Change <input type="checkbox"/> _____
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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
---	--

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



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Mainframe Mandelbrot Animation

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Borland Corp.
Quattro Pro - Superior Spreadsheet Power

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting
Catch up on all the latest...

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Computer Support Corporation
Arts and Letters Graphic Editor

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 Community Volunteers DOS Hardware Solutions Personal Users</p> <p>10:00 - 10:55</p> <p>Graphics</p>	<p>10:00 - 10:55 (cont)</p> <p>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</p>	<p>12:00 - 12:55 (cont)</p> <p>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> <p>* Next meeting of the Cryptanalysis SIG will be in March 1990.</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 Hoisington, Chairman	Phil Chamberlain Sid Nolta, Ph.D.
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	Zack Porterfield

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 Moomey

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	(214)434-1844 w (214)243-5004h
Assembler	Andrew Chalk, Ph.D.	(214)226-3461 h
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)348-5700 w
C Language	Sid Nolta, Ph.D. Andrew Chalk, Ph.D.	(214)233-6178 h (214)226-3461 h
Communications	Stan Miam Pete Testa Wm. Bennett	(817)548-1573 (214)495-7506 (817)348-0862 h (817)762-3059 w Metro 430-8173
Cryptanalysis	John Teber John Thomas	(214)660-1823 ()
DAC Software Databases	Greg Cohen Rodney Haas	(214)255-4400 h (214)404-4812 w
DOS	Jim Hoisington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h
Genealogy	Minnie Champ	(214)844-8843 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)492-1915 (214)750-8130
LOTUS	Mark Gruner Pat Henley	(214)964-8174 h (214)229-9218 h
Personal Users Programmers	Bob Presley Kent Cobb Jim Hoisington	(214)867-1679 h (214)343-3554 (214)416-3101 h
RBase	Alan Alberts Con Branham	(214)242-1094 w (214)352-0888 h
Stock Market	Cliff Murphy Richard Holerman	(214)279-7973 (214)242-1094 w
Turbo Pascal Volunteers	Don Chick Jay Shastone	(214)278-2524 h (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w
WORD	Dan Marmion Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Bertine	(214)750-8130 (214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-9993 h

Member Emeritus

Stuart Yarus

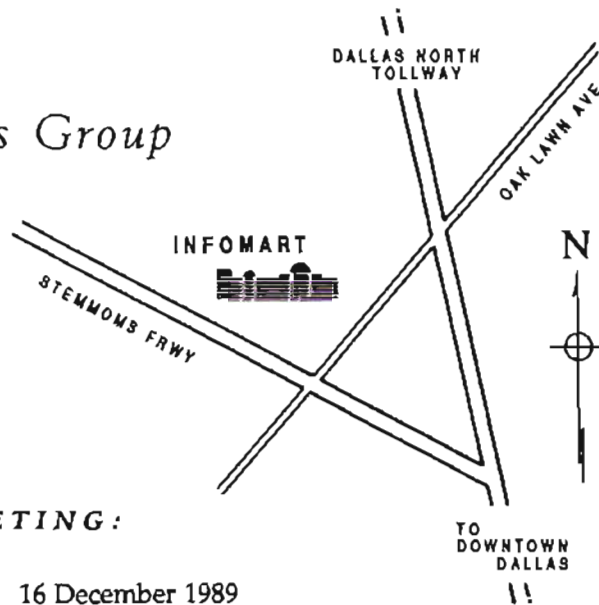


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NEXT MEETING:

16 December 1989