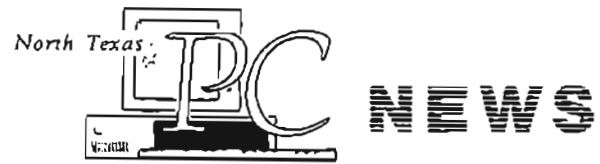


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Wednesday January 10th

Meeting Dates:

January Meeting - 2nd Sat (13th)
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(tentative)

*Keep those great
articles coming!*

Edlines

Welcome to the 1990's! With any new year, we all have new doubts, fears, hopes, and curiosity about the years to come. However, you have one less thing to worry about than many. You are a computer user and that makes you better equipped to face the changing world. By the end of this decade, most Americans will be computer users. Hopefully, in the year 2000, every high school student will have been exposed to computers since pre-school. In the interim, people without computer skills will be squeezed out of the job market. So worry not, you are ready.

While on the subject of fears, hopes, and curiosity, let me share some of mine. I hope

that the NT PC News is fulfilling your expectations of what it should be; I fear that it is not; and, I am curious about what we can do to be more responsive to your expectations. Please feel free to let me know. My mailing address and telephone number (no calls after 10:00 PM, please) are on the inside front cover. If you have a modem, send me a message on the club's BBS. A good portion of your dues goes to produce this newsletter. We are always open to your suggestions. If you want to see something in these pages, let us know.

Finally, the North Texas PC News has a new assistant editor. His name is Randy Lahti. Welcome, Randy.

'till we meet again,

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

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Program for January _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

No 9AM speaker.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Precision Inc.

Superbase 4: A Relational Database for Microsoft Windows

Speaker: Mark Leonard, Regional Sales Manager

This "GUI database for the 1990's" is a professional tool for relational databases.

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

Soft Systems Inc.

About Time: Centralized Scheduling in the Business Environment

Speaker: Sean Thakkar, Product Manager

This multi-user appointment scheduler works on a PC, network, or mini/mainframe system.

Prez Sez

VOTE - VOTE - VOTE

Each year through the membership at large and via a nominating committee, the NTPCUG nominates members for the positions of President Elect and three Board of Directors. It is at this time that the prior year's President Elect becomes the President. Your ballot for voting may be found elsewhere in this PC News. The December issue of the PC News included biographies on all candidates. This January 1990 issue of the PC News contains the biographies and a voting ballot - use your ballot to get the representation you want.

You Can VOTE By Mail

No, you can't wait and vote in this election in February. Yes, you can vote by mail, but you need to mail your vote as soon as you can to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 78066, Dallas, Texas 75378-0066.

InfoMart Contract 1990

Stuart Yarus, president of the Computer Council of Dallas, reports that we have a firm contract with InfoMart for 1990. Like the 1989 contract, InfoMart must advise us at least 120 days from the day of our scheduled Super Saturday meeting that they are requesting a change in the schedule. Stuart further advised that eleven of the twelve meetings in 1990 are scheduled for the second Saturday. The exception, the meeting for September, 1990, is scheduled for September 15, 1990, which is the third Saturday in September. Other scheduled meeting dates may move off the scheduled second Saturday. However, we should receive about four months notice of such a change.

Demographic Survey

Remember the Computer Use Surveys you completed during the meeting at InfoMart in September? Well, the demographics resulting from that survey are complete. There were 282 members who completed the survey - thank you membership for taking the time for this important information. Many thanks to Pete and Connie Testa who performed the data entry of surveys. After data entry was completed, Jim Hoisington performed the analysis using the version of Paradox which Borland International donated to the NTPCUG. Reagan Andrews performed a superb job of designing the survey form. Currently, Reagan is taking the output from Paradox and getting it ready to be published using Ventura Publisher.

New NTPCUG Brochures

The new brochures are in. We use these brochures to communicate to new and prospective members what the NTPCUG is all about. Copies are made available at the NTPCUG Information/Registration booth on the first floor of the InfoMart during our Saturday meetings.

A special mailing of 750 brochures was sent to people who have dropped out of the group over the past two years. Jim Hoisington, immediate past president, has mentioned here in Prez Sez that the NTPCUG "is now over 1300 members in size and approaching the 1400 mark." Efforts like the special 750 brochure mailing are an important part of this growth factor. Also, NTPCUG brochures are mailed to companies who express an interest in advertising in the PC News. So, these "documents" serve as our first line Public Relations. A very special thanks goes to Reagan Andrews for his design efforts on the new brochure.

Zack Porterfield

CIPHER LORE

John K. Taber

The Newsletter published two Cipher Lore articles of mine on crypto law (Arms Export and Import Control Act). In those articles, it was pointed out that even a Little Orphan Annie Decoder Ring is a "weapon" due to the overbroad wording of the law, and requires a State Department license before it can be exported. Is the law really that ridiculous in practice? Well, here's my personal experience...

As readers know, I'm the author of a DOM selection, CRYPT. My program all but automatically solves newspaper cryptograms. The only purpose of such cryptograms is to provide an entertaining puzzle. Nobody on earth can maintain with a straight face that simple substitution ciphers with proper word divisions, as published on the Saturday puzzle page of the Dallas Morning News, have any conceivable military use. The same goes for my program.

Also, neither the law itself nor the regulations (ITAR) implementing the law, mention cryptanalytic programs. So, I thought that my program CRYPT was not subject to the law, first because it can only solve puzzle ciphers, and second because cryptanalysis doesn't seem to be covered. However, a kind soul sent me a copy of the Office of Munitions Control Newsletter 80. The State Department interprets "cryptographic" to mean "cryptanalytic" as well. This is in spite of the NSA's very own training manuals which sharply distinguish between cryptography and cryptanalysis. I don't think that a mere department "interpretation" has the force of law, and I suspect that I could win this one in court. Although ignorance of a law is no excuse, the courts have repeatedly held nevertheless that a law must be clear enough to put one on notice as to what is forbidden. All the authorities, including the Government itself, agree that "cryptographic" is not the same as "cryptanalytic". The distinction is clear and sharp. At the very least, the law should state in its definitions section that "cryptographic" includes "cryptanalytic". Either the ITAR does not cover cryptanalytic devices and software, or it lacks the clarity required by the due process clause of the Constitution.

Now, Bruno Lienard, a French member of the American Cryptogram Association to which I belong, wrote me to ask for a copy of my program. What to do? M. Lienard is certainly a French citizen, and his residence is France. In other words, could this be according to law, an export of "cryptographic software", specifically covered by the Export Act? My little program a weapon? On the United States Munitions List, along with metal embrittling agents and nukes?

By the way, Bruno has started an amateur newsletter, Le Cryptogramme, devoted to cryptanalysis for fran-

cophones. Je le salue! I get a kick out of solving foreign language cryptograms, and have subscribed. If you are interested in French language ciphers, you may like to subscribe also. The address is:

Le Cryptogramme
c/o Bruno Lienard
39 rue Pierre Bourgeois
69300 Caluire
France

American rates are 60ff (payable in French currency, please) for four issues a year. Bruno also needs reviews and articles.

I suppose that a normal person would either have sent Bruno the diskette, or would have begged off. But I wanted to test the bureaucracy. You are allowed to ask the State Department (actually, the Office of Munitions Control) for a "commodity jurisdiction determination". In other words, you ask the Guvmint just which agency has jurisdiction over your contemplated export. There's a bunch of them (State, Commerce, Defense, Energy, at least - and you wondered about our trade imbalance?). So I duly prepared five copies of CRYPT and documentation and mailed them off to the OMC. I wrote Bruno to expect a delay.

I also took the precaution of asking my congressman, Dick Arney, for assistance. Since I'm just a private person, not a megagalactic corporation, I feared cavalier treatment at the hands of the bureaucracy. I thought it would help if Arney's office asked the OMC to please treat my request seriously. Arney's office was kind enough to help shepherd my request, but it was also careful not to commit itself one way or another. You should understand that most requests for help are about Social Security checks. Arney's office has never had a constituent request like mine before, and probably never will again.

You should know that the OMC itself actually doesn't determine anything. It's just a small office that routes requests and applications to various agencies, and does only what they decide. For crypto, the controlling agency is none other than the National Security Agency, the redoubtable NSA, which many people believe actually stands for Never Say Anything.

After a month, Arney's office informed me by phone that the NSA had reviewed my program and had no concerns about it one way or another. I was surprised, because everything I had heard about NSA made me believe that it was intransigent. I made it clear to Arney that I expected trouble from NSA, which has a history of arbitrariness regarding crypto, not from poor OMC. Anyhow, I supposed that OMC would return the determination shortly that my program falls under Commerce, not the State Depart-

ment. Crypto is NSA's bailiwick, and what it says pretty much goes.

Three more months passed. Nothing. I called Arney's office to initiate a follow-up. As a result, two weeks later I got OMC's reply. My program, humble CRYPT, has been officially classified as a defense article by the Govmint of the U S of A, a specific line item on the Munitions List, and cannot be exported without a license. Just like a nukel

However, the determination also contained the comment, by way of explanation, that my program contained the DES. Needless to say, my program doesn't. It's not designed for any sort of encryption, never mind the DES, and can only solve puzzle cryptograms. No other capability. There simply is no way that such a conclusion could have been reached from the material I submitted.

I suspected that somebody had determined that my program, because it was crypto, was a defense article, but that somebody else got mixed up and mistakenly used the DES as the reason. Some poor clerk, the only crypto he had ever heard of is the DES, probably. So, on to appeals.

I called around. Boy, they are a bunch of grouches at OMC! You'd think you were insulting them to call. You get switched to the wrong person. The right person is in a meeting all day. And so on. You finally get to the right person and are informed that you can call only from 2 to 5 (their time). I was informed that OMC could do nothing about either the determination or the materially false reason for the determination. The State Department can only do what the Defense Department tells it. Hmmum. Makes you wonder just who is in charge of foreign policy, doesn't it? The Arms Export Act is a foreign policy law -- not a Defense law -- under State Department jurisdiction.

I finally got through to a helpful lady at the Department of Defense who informed me that the determination was actually made by the NSA. Now I'm really perplexed. How did Arney's office get the idea that the NSA had no concern about my program? Was he snookered? Because, after my request supposedly cleared the NSA hurdle, Arney was told that the Guvmint would deal directly with me, and no more need for his benevolent watchfulness on his constituent's behalf. I suppose I'll never know.

From the DoD lady, I got the contact for NSA. It turned out to be a very nice, friendly and knowledgeable lady. Believe me, if you are talking crypto, it's a big help if the other person is knowledgeable, and a boon if he or she has a cheerful, helpful attitude. My guess was right; the NSA had determined that my program was a defense article for the sole reason that it was crypto, but that a non-technical clerk had mistakenly added the DES reason. The nice lady from

NSA informed me that NSA's official position is that ALL crypto is inherently military, and that it does not want crypto disseminated in an uncontrolled way.

I argued with her as best I could. I re-explained that my program only solves puzzle ciphers with dictionary lookups. She seemed relieved that my program isn't useful for simple substitutions without word divisions. And the use of a dictionary seemed to trigger something. She suggested that my program, although it solves cryptograms, perhaps is not really cryptanalytic, thanks to the use of dictionaries, and apparently on that basis, agreed to re-examine my program.

A program that successfully solves cryptograms but is not cryptanalytic is an interesting idea that should have wide appeal among theologians. It ranks with the great doctrinal disputes, like that of consubstantiation versus transubstantiation of the Eucharist. I wrote Bruno to expect further delay.

I'm still waiting, although I expect a decision soon. Naturally, if it is adverse, I will start formal appeals. But it may not be. Theology is more powerful than one may think.

Congressman Arney seems to have backed off, to judge from his last letter to me.

Until I get this matter straightened out with the NSA, NTPCUG members with copies of my program, CRYPT, should be careful about taking it out of the USA or Canada without an arms export license. If you contemplate export, you might like to consult your attorney. I can't tell you that it is illegal because I don't think it is regardless of the NSA's erroneous determinations, but I can't tell you it is legal either.

This is a true story.

John

■



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.

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Hordes, Masses & Crowds — 120,000 Weary Visitors Flood COMDEX/Fall '89

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

*Graphics, OS/2-PM and Dead 486's Lend Life to 'Land of the Empty Suits'**

COMDEX/Fall '89 was everything and nothing. All the crowds, glitz, glitter and notorious excess anyone could want marked the huge computer trade show in Las Vegas this Fall. But, that's what COMDEX/Fall '89 was expected to be.

People — huge crowds — were the real story at COMDEX/Fall '89. It "grew" again this year to more than 120,000 participants by Friday, November 17, the official end of the giant computer show. Friday — time of the glazed eyes and slowed speech of fatigued, partied-out, talked-out, demonstrated-out exhibit personnel. Friday — wandering participants with vacant stares suffering from obvious information overload.

Something else was obvious by Friday. Search for a COMDEX/Fall '89 major theme was proving fruitless to participants and media alike. By Thursday afternoon, scavenging packs of media types were hungrily stalking the exhibit halls. Prey for these salivating hunters? — participant quotes on what they thought was happening, particularly any interpretation of the various IBM and Microsoft statements concerning OS/2-PM, Windows and DOS.

Attempted interviews were often frustrated by language. Hordes of foreign visitors to the show increased COMDEX's international flavor this year with elevator rides punctuated by conversations in Spanish, Chinese, Japanese, German, French and a number of other exotic tongues. I didn't hear any

Russian, but thought I caught some Tagalog at one of the outlying exhibit areas.

Language, but no answers

In any tongue, "Answers" were missing. No major breakthroughs or emerging new trends other than GUI were apparent this year, particularly in the OS/2-PM vs Windows & DOS question(s) many hoped would be resolved here by Microsoft and IBM.

Microsoft and IBM cast omnipresent shadows during the show's presentations and seminars. Both giant players issued statements viz the future of OS/2-PM, WINDOWS and DOS. None of them apparently answered most participants' questions on the "future" of all three. IBM tried to kill speculation about "PM-Lite," the "small" version of OS/2-PM rumored for the past several months among media wags. Microsoft "assured" buyers that WINDOWS would continue to grow in functionality, but failed to confirm speculation that WINDOWS 3.0 would feature full protected-mode operation in 386 versions — or to deny this either.

COMDEX exhibit floors boiled with differing versions and interpretations of what each player "really meant when they said ..." Reality seemed permanently obscured by the resulting fog

In the absence of reliable information, conspiracy rumors take flower and COMDEX/Fall '89 was no exception. I heard fabulized combinations involving IBM & Microsoft, IBM & Lotus, Microsoft on its own, IBM on its own, Microsoft & Lotus, Microsoft & Borland, IBM & Borland, IBM, Borland & Lotus (Ha!), IBM & DRI (Ha!) and a number of other potential players, most of whom I didn't recognize.

Conclusion? No one knows except Microsoft and IBM — if they even know. Both seemed anxious to avoid the kinds of speculation that kills present sales in favor of future prospects. IBM did show lots of OS/2 applications running, though. ►

May open the door (slightly) for alternate OS's. *UNIX* was very much in view this time, as was *PICK* in their combined PC-supermicro-minicomputer display(s). *THEO+DOS* shone at the Bally. The multi-user system capable of running DOS applications was displayed supporting 32 terminals from a 386-powered PC. The Windows vs OS/2 question is starting to make these alternate OS's look better.

COMDEX/Fall '89's real message was subtle but GUI

This was the GUI year, the LAN year, the UNIX year, the year of integration, and a year of product evolution. MCA met EISA. Mass storage became more massive than ever. DAT (Digital Audio Tape) finally arrived. Resolution was higher. PC's were smaller,

faster, larger and cheaper. Software was even more feature-laden with resulting increases in size, complexity and cost.

Macintoshes were shown throughout COMDEX, often on LAN'S with PC's and definitely NOT segregated to some distant area (Cashman Field) as last year. Maybe the Mac really has arrived. Software publishers were anxious to display their products in both formats as integral components in office environments and systems.

This approach worked well in conjunction with the overall emphasis on graphical user interfaces (GUI) that seemed to dominate this year's show.

GUI, GUI, GUI... GLOP

Get ready for OS/2 and *WINDOWS*. All the "super" new software shown demands one or the other of the two GUI's. Hardware is following.

Lotus 1-2-3/G was up and running (carefully). IBM and Microsoft were showing applications. Real applications running under OS/2-PM. Standout here was the IBM/Microsoft cave with dozens of applications running under OS/2, manned by people who could put the software on display and answer real questions.

Saw Micrografx *Designer* looking pretty good -- and fast -- here. Did raise some questions though. Dropped by the Micrografx booth and saw *Designer* running under *WINDOWS* 2.11 -- a whole bunch slower on a 20 MHz 386. Didn't see any CPU's in the IBM room. Were these "hidden" PC's the first production run of 486-powered PS/2-70's?

Aldus *PageMaker* looked good on OS/2-PM. Ran smoothly with no crashes and wasn't any slower (or faster) than the *Windows* version.

GUI was everywhere at Microsoft's main display area. OS/2-PM, *Windows* 2.11 (no 3.0 identified as such) and many Macintosh products were being run by experts. Questions were usually answered by product managers who were demonstrating the software and knew the technical aspects of their products.

Finally saw what Microsoft has been trying to tell us with *WORD for WINDOWS* demonstrated in conjunction with *EXCEL* and active DDE (Dynamic Data Exchange) updating in both directions. Way the new *WORD* was shown looked more like DTP (Desk Top Publishing) than a word processor. Saw the OS/2-PM version of *WORD for WINDOWS* demonstrated at a later reception for APCUG people and looked just as good -- except for several crashes.

GLOP -- "Good Looking On Paper" was also very noticeable at COMDEX. Were lots of icon-based ap-

Life in the Land of Empty Suits

There were a lot of "Empty Suits" at COMDEX/Fall '89. You discovered this almost any time you asked a slightly technical question about some exhibitor's hardware or software. Response was usually a blank stare and a mumbled "Gee I'll have to see if anyone else here knows -- I'm in Marketing ..."

This was typically followed by a rapid vanishing act by the articulate, well-dressed individual who couldn't remember if his or her software needed to run under *Windows* or *GEM*. When you've got hundreds of other places to see and visit in just a few days, you really don't want to spend a lot of time waiting to get a fairly simple question answered.

Main Las Vegas Convention Center (LVCC) area seemed to be awash in Marketing MBA's who had just joined their exhibitor companies the day before, or had never bothered to learn anything about the products they were selling to a technical audience. These were truly the "Empty Suits."

I wish I'd coined this phrase. It came from David B. Rose, Systems Marketing Manager for Xerox Imaging Systems. He was demonstrating Xerox's new *Gray F/X* image enhancement software and answering technical questions at the same time -- without getting confused at either task.

David Rose is typical of the Marketing professional we'd like to see more of at COMDEX.

May be hope -- saw increasing numbers of women there this year, most of whom appeared to follow this model. Also saw many female product and technical managers who seemed to be doing a lot of the face-to-face interactions better than their male counterparts.

Quite a contrast -- having one of the male exhibitors calling a female expert over to answer thorny technical questions -- to several years ago when the vacant stares and mumbles came from the other side.

plications where icons actually made the software harder and more confusing to use. Looked good on big, 27" monitors, but impossible to differentiate on 11 - 12" screens.

Pointers, pointers and more pointers for GUI's

Can't have graphical user interface (GUI) without pointing devices. Mice were everywhere. Microsoft, Logitech, Mouse Systems, Mitsubishi and dozens of other makers had new models for COMDEX. Microsoft's new 400 DPI mouse was a standout. Fast, super smooth and at home with the new higher resolution monitors and software.

Mouse Systems' mice seemed to have been dramatically improved this year as have Logitech's offerings. On a sore point, Logitech folks "promised" their software drivers have been equally improved and won't crash certain Microsoft programs anymore.

Coming on strong were alternate pointing devices with trackballs almost equalling new mice on display. Still feels strange, but makers have discovered that larger balls help a lot. Digitizing pads and touch screens also appeared to be making a strong showing as well as alternate keyboards, keyboard add-ons and combinations of keyboards and trackballs, etc. Permutations seemed endless.

COMDEX "Standards" - Taste of the PC's future?

Standards? Most PC's used to *demonstrate* applications appeared to be 20 MHz & 25 MHz 386's with a very few 33 MHz machines that could be seen. Mostly running DOS 3.3X. Not much 4.0X seen again this year - still too "buggy" according to some techie exhibitors.

New PC's touted for the coming year were pretty much the same - except for EISA bus 386 and 486's. Saw lots of non-working 486 machines sprinkled around the exhibit areas, apparently victims of the reported flaws in Intel's initial production of the new chip. Those 486 machines that were running were staying away from the software they were designed to boost.

No "Hot Rods." Didn't see the number of "souped" 386 and 286 machines shown last year although at least one maker was "promising" 40 MHz 386's "real soon now," and was startled to see at least one board maker promising 33 and 40 MHz 486 boards next year.

Oxymoron heard at one of the really high-tech booths - "AMD is expected to release their first 25 MHz 8088 chip in the first quarter of 1990." This was denied (very firmly) by AMD people who failed to catch the humor here.

Not silly at all were the swarms of new laptops featuring CMOS versions of the 8088 and 80286 chips in ever more efficient configurations. Lots of 386 laptops as well, including Sharp showing their new series with color displays that were impressive, even without firm pricing announced. There were so many laptops that they are no longer exciting, and also appear headed for the same commodity fate as their older siblings.

New Excitement? Notebook PC's

One of the most crowded small exhibits (compared to their surrounding competitors) was the Poget booth. The notebook machines seemed to have really caught

'Miami Vice' Rehearsal? No, it's Asiatic COMDEX/Fall 89 Visitors at the Range

What was the most popular COMDEX/Fall 89 non-computer attraction for Asiatic visitors? Was it the fabulous dining, shining gambling palaces or top-rated Vegas shows?

None of the above, according to several Las Vegas cabbies. Biggest draw for Asiatic visitors, they claimed, lay on the outskirts of town and had nothing to do with the better-publicized Las Vegas entertainments during COMDEX/Fall 89.

Star at this "booth" was black, sleek and deadly - a 9 mm submachine gun - surrounded by a sisterhood of various calibers of handguns. Location was the indoor shooting range run by Las Vegas' Survival Store which offered visitors opportunity to shoot the submachine gun.

"That gun gobbles up money faster than any slot machine," the cabbie remarked. (At \$.35 per round, a 50-round clip costs \$17.50 and disappears in seconds.) Visitors could also shoot various handguns at the range while the busy submachine gun was in use by others.

One taxi driver remarked that this all happened via word-of-mouth among Asiatic visitors who "discovered" the attraction. By COMDEX's last day (Friday, November 17) there was a steady stream of cabs and rental cars bulging with Asians headed for the Survival Store range.

Reason for this offbeat attraction? It's two-fold - American TV series such as "Miami Vice" are quite popular in Asia, and "forbidden fruit." Most Asian governments don't allow private citizens to possess firearms of any description since WW-II.

Cabbies were happy with the situation - it's a \$20 ride. One driver even claimed it alleviated some of the traditional COMDEX traffic congestion (sometimes grid-lock) along Las Vegas' famous "Strip."

the imagination of the throngs of COMDEX visitors to the point that talking with the Poqet folks was nearly impossible until Friday.

Did get to play (very briefly) with one and it was very cute and very small. Too small in fact for my comfort with many resulting doubled key strokes, etc. Poqet wasn't alone in this deficit - none of the other notebooks on display at other vendors seemed comfortable to my hands either.

Judging by numbers of notebook PC's seen at various COMDEX exhibits, lots of PC makers are betting heavily that this is the wave of the future. May have been the "hot" product this year.

Bigger must be better - Monitors

NEC MultiSync 3D's seemed to be "the" standard COMDEX monitor. They were seen almost everywhere except at Microsoft and IBM, and except at the growing number of CAD/CAM, Desk-top Publishing (DTP) and graphics exhibits. There bigger was definitely better and 19" monitors were often overshadowed by 21, 25 and 27" high resolution color and monochrome monitors. Moniterm, Taxan, Hitachi and Seiko had some very nice looking, larger monitors as did Samsung.

Standout was a very high resolution Mitsubishi 37" monitor on display with stratospheric price to match. This beast was really too large to use as a personal monitor and most probably will be headed for demonstration and marketing display use.

Standard (and lower resolution) 27 - 37" (VGA) Sony, NEC and Mitsubishi monitors were seen throughout COMDEX in group demonstration roles. Absent were the embarrassingly fuzzy, out-of-focus big monitors seen last year at several exhibits.

Sour notes: Saw a lot of low-priced VGA monitors with outstanding output sitting side-by-side with same-label monitors that were very poor looking. There's a lesson here - see it before you buy it - low-price monitors are definitely not mail-order material.

You just might wear your next laptop screen

At the "small" end of the spectrum, paper-white, VGA (and 640 X 400) were standard on display laptop PC's. (Even on some models that aren't offered with this option according to their literature!)

Cyberspace Corporation was showing something completely different. Their new Cyberspace 286cx laptop came equipped with the Cyberspace headgear "monitor" that projects a hologram-like image that seems to "float" two feet in front of the wearer.

Comes in CGA (640 X 200) or 80 character by 25-line text modes.

Still saw some of the older, impossible to read, "standard" LCD displays, but these were mostly restricted to lowest-end and "commodity" machines. Gas plasma appeared to be fading from the main stream except for several of the 386 machines and "lunch box" models.

Graphics adapters? Still no 1024 X 768 standard

Flip a coin. Graphics adapter makers are. No (non-IBM) 1024 X 768 standard came out of COMDEX. Lots of makers were showing the high resolution, but all were proprietary. Drivers are going to make the difference here.

Both Renaissance GRX and Hercules were showing non-interlaced 1024 X 768 (and higher) boards with TI's TMS34010 coprocessors. Both performed very, very well in demos.

Renaissance proved they've got driver expertise (no glitches) while Hercules was demonstrating their Graphics Station Card with the *Hercules Art Department (LUMENA)* paint software. Paradise (Western Digital), Trident and others were also showing 1024 X 768 boards, and each manufacturer had their own standard(s).

GUI needs disk space - lots of disk space

Big hard disks are available from just about everybody, including Western Digital, IBM and Seagate (through their acquisition of Imprimis) this year. Gigabyte+ disks aren't news any more and most of the disk booths were pretty boring.

Not Plus Development Corporation. Their Plus Impulse 320 MB MultiDrive Cluster was star of a demonstration that must have been designed by a sadistic industrial psychologist. It was that hokey. It did show the system's speed, and participants did receive M&M's, and Plus did have drawings for systems, and "losers" did get really silly badges, and it was short.

Insite Peripherals and Brier Technology were showing their 25 M, 3.5" floptical and floppy (respectively) disk drives - again. Insite will ship "IQ-90," but no price(s) announced. This year, Brier Technology released shipping dates and prices (retail). Both are coming out with 50 M models "real soon now."

On the (real) floppy scene, TEAC was showing their 4 M, 3.5" floppy disk drive which is in production and shipping. Uses yet another media "standard" but several floppy disk makers announced media is available now.

No COMDEX without excesses

Most notorious excess? That would be hard to nail down this year. Last year it was easily the *WingZ* exhibit. They were more subdued this year, almost conservative in fact.

My personal candidate was Micronics' 24K (that's not short for "kilo"), gold-plated 80486 PC chassis – complete with guard.

Grumps might complain that category should be reserved for either the worse-than-usual transportation bottlenecks or the Interface Group's shoddy handling of room reservations for COMDEX/Fall '89 participants. (Yes, we got stung. But, the Hilton straightened it out.)

Excesses of display stupidity weren't rare this year. *TOPS*, Sun's network software for DOS, UNIX and Macintoshes, had to be the most insulting at COMDEX/Fall '89. Even kids wouldn't have tolerated this exercise in trivializing computers and the people who use them for more than a few seconds.

On the other hand, Intel PCEO's demonstration of their Inboard 386PC was also mind-numbing, but was offset by good humor. Part of this involved receiving (and wearing) "Hacker Monk" Amulets on string ties. If the wandering Hacker Monk found you with your tie on in the LVCC, you received an Inboard 386PC. (Yes, we did wear them. No, we didn't win one.)

Doing it right: Samsung. A really talented ventriloquist was featured in the Samsung demonstration. His top quality act blended well with the product(s) and the show was a bright spot in a sea of surrounding hucksters.

CalComp's WIZ (intelligent mouse/digitizer) display was probably most outrageous. Featured a working, full-size flight simulator capable of some extreme

gyrations. People stood in very long lines to ride in this thing – and get a chance on WIZ. More than one came out with a pronounced green cast.

Shortages and nice surprises

Short supplies? Less than usual technical expertise at most of the main exhibit area displays, taxis, places to rest your feet and tasteful, intelligent demonstrations at displays.

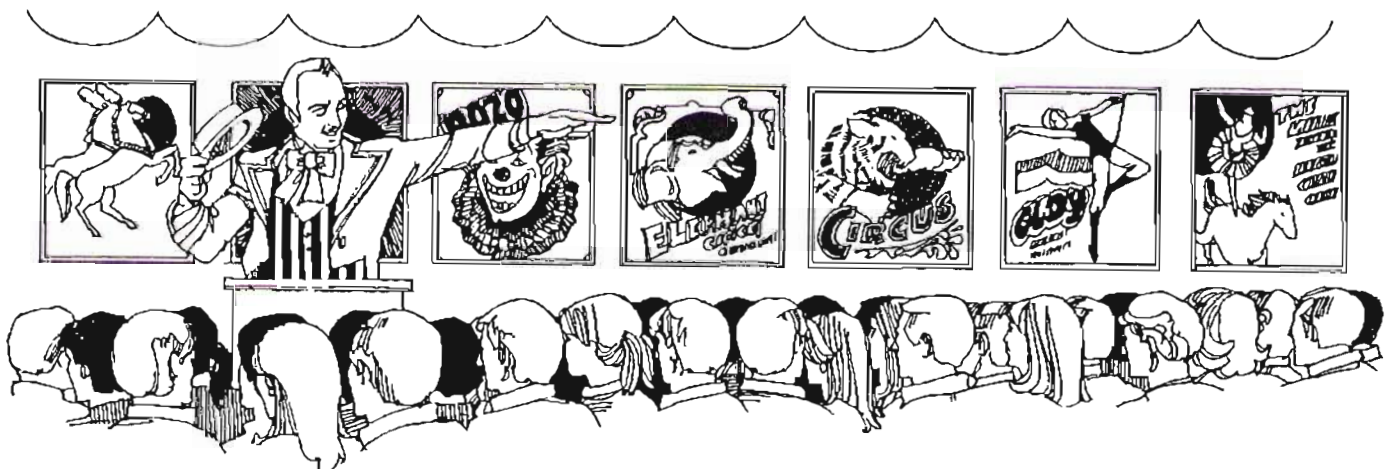
Really nice surprise here, though. IBM's exhibit(s) had real people with product knowledge and ability to communicate this year. The IBM exhibits were almost fun! Microsoft, as usual, did it right even though their "prime" exhibit area had been stolen by Xerox this year. (Really like to know how that happened – is Xerox getting sharper?)

Unexpected and very pleasant interactions were found at the Xerox Imaging Products display, the Agfa Compugraphic and Renaissance GRX display areas. As usual, the Canadians were out in numbers for COMDEX and were generally very good at showing their products in spite of very small booths.

Most fun, and information, was at the outlying exhibit halls. Cashman Field Center was furthest out, but worth the ride. Ran into Lucky Computers' booth there, across the way from National Security Agency (NSA) booth and down the hall from the Cumulus 386SX booth.

Cumulus was showing their 386SX card that replaces 80286 chips in PC/AT's, Compaqs and other 286 machines. Doesn't really speedup machines, but does allow use of 386 software. Special attraction here was a really good jazz and blues guitarist. Spent a long time just listening.

Reagan ▀



Q&A - VGA Cards

by Alan Lintel

This is the first in a series of articles focusing on various aspects of computing, each with a different guest expert in a question and answer session. This month's article examines VGA cards. The expert is Ted Carter, president of Micro-Labs, the maker of the VGA Solution. Since 1978, Micro-Labs has produced cards for the Tandy TRS-80, in particular, the Graphyx Solution add-in board; the VGA Solution is its first venture into the IBM compatible market. Micro-Labs is based in Dallas, and can be reached at 702-8654.

Q. *Micro-Labs is new to the IBM-compatible market. How do you distinguish yourself from the more familiar names like Paradise, Orchid and Video-7?*

A. Outside of the TRS-80 community, Micro-Labs is not yet well known as an IBM compatible vendor. We are working on getting our name known by placing new product announcements in all of the PC magazines and trying to get reviews of our board published in all of the magazines. We are also working with several distributors to get our name better known and the result of such efforts is a joint booth at Fall Comdex promoting us and our products. Additionally, we intend to become very well known in the Dallas area. We are attempting to contact every dealer and distributor and to promote our board at every opportunity. So, while we may not be known nationally, at least locally we will be able to make a name for ourselves. In order for us to succeed, we know that we must offer more features than any other graphics board available and offer it at a lower price. We must emphasize quality, local service, and local support.

Q. *When should a user seriously consider upgrading to VGA?*

A. Every person considering buying a color video board should purchase a 16 bit VGA card because the capabilities of VGA are so much better than EGA or CGA that it is worth the small price difference. Secondly, a 16-bit card offers up to 4 times the speed of an 8-bit card and the cost of these capabilities is very much worth it.

There are also several premium VGA cards such as the VGA Solution available now which go beyond the IBM standard to give you 1024 x 768 x 16 colors and 800 x 600 x 256 colors. If you have ever viewed Windows running at 1024 x 768 or seen a stunning 800 x 600 x 256 color almost photographic quality

GIF picture file, you could easily justify a little more money to obtain these capabilities. Not long ago EGA boards sold for the same price as today's VGA boards and were considered a bargain, so technology has come a long way very quickly.

Q. *Almost every VGA card offers 800 x 600 Super VGA capabilities, but apparently each needs a specific driver. Will this delay widespread support for Super VGA? Do you foresee a standard for Super VGA evolving?*

A. The fast progression of technology has created some compatibility problems in the extended VGA modes because different boards address the memory differently and some used different mode numbers for the same resolutions. For this reason, most video board manufacturers have been forced to write their own high-resolution drivers for the most popular applications programs such as Windows, AutoCAD, Lotus, etc.

Programs which are not as popular are left to support as many video boards as possible with their own built-in drivers. When it comes down to it, most programmers can not try their program with every video board available and some sort of standardization is needed. To date, most programmers have supported a number of video boards by writing their programs to go directly to the VGA Chip Set located on the VGA board. Luckily, three VGA chip vendors supply 80% of the market with their chips. These are Tseng Labs, Paradise, and Video-7. The buyer must beware of the large number of clone boards coming out of Taiwan which claim to support extended resolutions. These boards usually use a lesser known chip set which is probably not going to be supported by very many software vendors in the extended modes. Additionally, in the extended modes the screen may not be as stable or clear because they are not using the proper horizontal scanning frequencies.

There is an effort underway to standardize the Super VGA resolution of 800 x 600 x 16 colors. The group of vendors doing this is called VESA (Video Equipment Standards Association). I applaud the efforts of this group, but it may be too little too late as board makers such as us already have even higher resolution modes and continue to make improvements.

Q. *What added advantages does a 512K card offer over a 256K card? Is speed involved or just number of colors?*

A. With 256K of memory, there are absolute limits on the maximum resolution that can be displayed and the number of simultaneous colors at each

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 35 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

"User friendly"; "Ease of use"; "On-line Help". Almost every software package on the market today claims to have these features. They are portrayed as good and desirable things that every package should have. Yesterday I was reminded about the "dark side" of user friendly.

A client of mine installs high priced electronic gadgets in automobiles. He also sells theft insurance because these gadgets are usually not covered by the standard Texas automobile insurance policy. Last week he noticed an usually high number of theft claims.

A couple of queries against his database showed us that the thefts had two things in common - the model of the car and the gadget supplier. We suspected that somebody had gotten a listing of his sales and was stealing to-order for an illegal car parts operation.

The system I built for him is protected at two levels by passwords which are changed often. In addition, his wife and his son are the only two people that

VGA continued

resolution. With 256K the maximum resolutions are 800 x 600 x 16 colors, and 320 x 200 x 256 colors. By adding the extra 256K, you can then go up to 1024 x 768 x 16 colors, and 800 x 600 x 256 colors. However, many 512K boards only go up 800 x 600 x 16 colors and 640 x 480 x 256 colors because of limitations in the chip set, so the buyer must look beyond the amount of memory on board.

Author Comment: Being a monochrome user, I was naturally awed by the capabilities of VGA, particularly the high resolution modes with 256 colors. Clearly, until standards are set, the full capabilities of VGA will not be reached.

On the bright side, the lowest resolution VGA appears to be fairly concrete, and it is clearly better than EGA. For the higher resolutions, you just need to depend on demo programs to dazzle your friends.
Alan

Next month: Local Area Networks (I hope!)

Alan

■

have access to the network. We decided that it was possible for other employees to have gotten access to the data, but highly unlikely. It also would not explain why the thefts were only limited to a single make of gadget.

Upon further investigation, we discovered that all the people who had their cars stolen, had mailed in their warranty cards for the electronic gadget. A phone call to the gadget vendor turned up the fact that they send the local distributor a diskette with the warranty information for the Dallas area because the distributor is responsible for maintaining the units under warranty. We now suspect that somebody in the distributor's company is passing a copy of the diskette to an illegal car parts gang.

This experience has taught me two things: 1) we are collecting an increasing amount of information, 2) we sometimes make the information too accessible. Just because the information is being kept on a personal computer rather than a mainframe computer doesn't mean that we should be any less careful about what we keep in the computer and how we safeguard it.

A programmer who had spent his career working with the Oracle database on personal computers recently had a chance to work with the Oracle database on an IBM mainframe. He came to me complaining about how difficult it was to work with the mainframe version of Oracle. When I asked him to explain, he said that he had accidentally entered an incorrect value into the database. On the personal computer, he would have just used an editor to change the value in the Oracle disk file. His problem with the mainframe was that he had to run a program to do an update to the database to get the value changed.

I explained to him that the mainframe system was designed so that all updates to the database could be recorded. That way, if necessary, only authorized programs would be allowed to make documented changes to any data in the database. The system was designed to make it difficult to make unauthorized, undocumented, changes to the data.

Sometimes, data on personal computers requires the same level of protection. It needs to be protected from unauthorized changes and from unauthorized copying. One of the nice features of Novell's Netware 386 is that you can now mark a program as executable but not copyable.

The next time you look through your disk directories, think about the importance of your data. If it is important to someone either for legitimate or illegitimate use, spend some time thinking about how to protect it.

Jim

■

The Most Dangerous DOS Command

by Matt Mathews, M.A.

What program is lurking on your hard disk that can do about as much damage as a virus? When you first read the title you may have thought I was going to say that `FORMAT.COM` is the most dangerous DOS command. As you may well know, `FORMAT` can cause havoc, especially if you do not have a recent backup. But if you get into a panicky situation, you might assume (erroneously) that `RECOVER.COM` could help you out. Your DOS manual says that `RECOVER.COM` is used "to recover files." Do not mistake this to mean that it finds lost files. It does nothing of the kind.

`RECOVER` gets my vote for being the most dangerous DOS command. It can be easy to confuse `RECOVER` with `RESTORE` if you are in a hurry or have not read, and understood your DOS manual in its entirety. The benign `RESTORE` program puts files back on your hard disk after you have used the `BACKUP` program to copy them to floppy disks. On the other hand, `RECOVER` is supposed to be used when your files get scrambled due to hard disk damage. If you use `RECOVER` inappropriately, it will turn your hard disk into an anonymous mess. There is far too little warning of this in the DOS documentation. It is extremely easy to wipe out an entire hard disk with `RECOVER.COM`, and it is very difficult to recover from the effects of this command — even if you have Norton's Advanced Utilities or something similar. You would be better off to run Norton Disk Doctor and Disk Test.

If your hard disk suffers physical damage and a file can only be partially read, the `RECOVER` command can remove the unreadable part. Maybe you can use the rest of the file. Generally, `RECOVER` works best on text files; broken program files should be reinstalled after correcting the hard disk problem. You can enter `RECOVER filename.ext` to check a file for readability. But you should never run `RECOVER` on a file (or disk) unless you know that it contains damaged sectors. If you only enter `RECOVER`, then DOS assumes that you intend to use the command on your entire hard disk directory (or even worse, if you are at the root directory, it will act upon your whole disk!).

When `RECOVER` operates on a directory, it

- 1) Destroys the entire directory structure.
- 2) Saves readable data to a file with a nondescriptive name like `FILE0001.REC`, `FILE0002.REC`, etc. Your job

is to look in each file and figure out if it is useful or not. Good luck.

3) Places `RECOVERed` files in the root directory. Then you have to copy the usable files from the hard disk to floppy disk, and reformat the hard disk. Since the number of files that you can have in the root directory is smaller than the number that you can have on a hard disk that is subdivided by directories, you may have to run `RECOVER` several times in order to get all the files you are seeking. Of course you will have to erase the garbage files before you can run `RECOVER` again.

4) `RECOVER` writes bad sector (or cluster) information in the File Allocation Table so those areas are not used again.

Several writers recommend erasing `RECOVER.COM` from your hard disk. (Can't you use some extra space?) If you still decide that you have to use `RECOVER.COM`, run it from a copy of your DOS diskettes. If you insist on keeping it on your hard disk, at least rename the file to distinguish it from the similar-sounding `RESTORE.COM`. I use the name `$RECOVER.COM`, but you could just as easily call it `SCRAMBLE.COM` with an appropriate notation in your DOS manual.

In summary, do not use `RECOVER.COM`. If you must use it, be sure to put a filename after it on the command line. This is still a last resort. By the way, when was the last time you backed up your hard disk?

Matt

Matt Mathews is a Program Manager for Micrografx.





North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. Demographic Survey of Membership

September, 1989

The North Texas PC Users Group (NTPCUG) is an independent, nonprofit organization of approximately 1400 members who regularly meet to exchange ideas and facts about IBM and compatible personal computers. Beginning in February, 1987, the NTPCUG began conducting regular surveys of its membership characteristics. These surveys sample members' occupations, corporate and personal purchases, current hardware and software, expected future purchases and general user personal demographics.

The following results are based on a survey conducted at the September, 1989, meeting at Infomart. 283 valid surveys were collected during the meeting, representing a 22% sample of NTPCUG membership current at the time of the September meeting. All numbers are rounded to the nearest whole percent.

NTPCUG -- 1989 Membership Demographics in Brief:

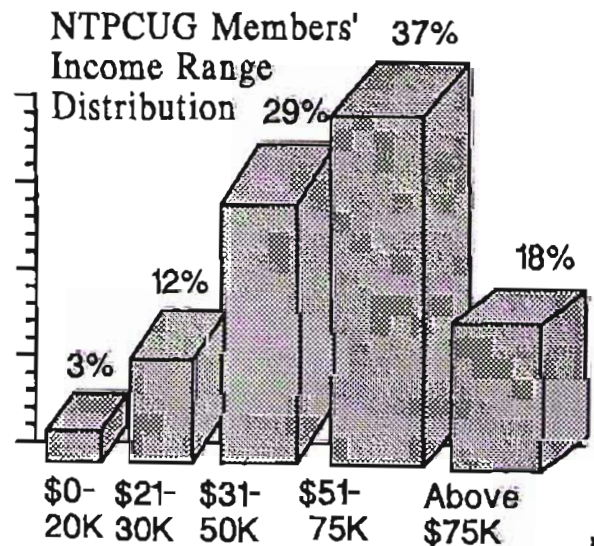
Based on the September, 1989, survey, the NTPCUG membership appears to be a group of people who are working in professional-level positions, and exert significant influence over corporate computer purchase decisions. Our members are evenly distributed in age, report median family income levels above \$50,000, are well-educated and invested in continuing education efforts.

Members appeared to be highly familiar with PC's, predominantly male, but with a growing female membership, and the majority are married or in a similar arrangement. These NTPCUG members reported they are interested in learning more about all aspects of PC's and software.

- 89% report they are the primary PC user at home
- 73% of the 1989 membership sample had 4-year Bachelor degrees or higher,
25% of members report degrees at the Masters level, M.A., M.S., M.B.A., etc.
8% of the respondents hold doctoral level degrees, including Ph.D., L.L.D., Sc.D., M.D., etc.
- 56% report that they regularly participate in continuing education
- 78% classify themselves as skilled or expert PC users -- 26% report expert-level knowledge
- 77% have and regularly use modems with their PC's, and 41% report two or more telephone lines at their residences.

Membership survey highlights

- 59% of NTPCUG members report a significant amount of their work involves them in evaluation, recommendation, design manufacture or sales of computer hardware or software:
44% of total sample in computer hardware
53% of total sample in software
- 61% of those members sampled who are not Computer Professionals state they are considered *PC Experts* in their area(s)
- 87% of NTPCUG members are males
13% of NTPCUG members are females
- 75% of our members are married (this figure is not broken down by sex)
- 18% of our members bring their spouses or significant others to meetings
- 61% use their PC's more at work than at home





NTPCUG -- 1989 Membership Demographics

NTPCUG Members tend to use PC's widely both at work and at home. 88 % of members report they use computers on the job, with 75% of this sample reporting primary use of desktop PC's.

Portables and laptop PC's accounted for 3% of members' primary at-work computing, and 11% of the sample reported mainframe computers as their primary work machines. Minicomputers were even with 11% usage.

NTPCUG Members' professional Roles

In their professional roles, NTPCUG members felt the most appropriate description of their jobs were:

A) Chairman/President CEO	5%	G) Software Engr./Programmer	16%
B) MIS Manager	7%	H) Representative	1%
C) Engr./Hardware	5%	I) Educator	5%
D) Consultant	13%	J) Mgr. (Non-MIS)	6%
E) Systems Analyst	5%	K) Scientist	3%
F) Data Base Supervisor/Administrator	19%	L) Other	19%

Home PC Use Patterns

Home PC ownership has shifted since the last survey. Largest group of members, 49%, said their primary home computer wasn't made by IBM or Compaq.

IBM accounted for 36% of the primary home machines. Of the total sample, 32% were PC's and 4% were PS/2's. (IBM PC's, PC/XT's and PC/AT's were grouped as "PC's".) Compaq accounted for only 7% of members' primary home PC's.

Broken down by CPU's, results of the survey indicate that a majority of members have either an 80286-powered PC (37%) or an 80386-powered PC (15%).

44% of members has 8088 or 8086 CPU's for primary home computing. "Other" accounted for 7%. A surprising 20% of the sample reported more than one home PC in this survey.

Home PC Purchase Patterns

Members personal home PC spending patterns reported for the year were:

Hardware: 224 members reported they spent an average of \$1,407 on hardware in 1989 for a total of \$315,500 in purchases.

Software: 247 members said they spent an average of \$798 on software during 1989 for a total of \$197,150.

Total: PC purchases averaged \$2,206 for 247 members responding to the survey. Total spent = 512,500

Planned Purchases: NTPC members state they are planning to upgrade their current systems by:

A) Adding a Hard Disk to a PC	8%
B) Adding a Larger Hard Disk	20%
C) Adding a (faster) Modem	25%
D) Adding an AT or Clone	9%
E) Adding Memory	34%
F) Adding an Impact Printer	8%
G) Adding a Laser Printer	19%
H) Adding Accelerator Board	4%
I) Adding 386 Machine	24%
J) Add high-quality color/graphics VGA+ etc.	27%
K) Add multiple scan-rate or high res monitor	9%

NTPCUG Members exert significant influence on computer-related purchasing decisions within their companies and organizations. Figures below are rounded to nearest whole percent based on survey responses.

NTPCUG Members report they recommend computer and software purchases, but have NO FINAL AUTHORITY OVER them, in the following amounts:

A) Below \$1,000.	21%
B) \$ 1 - 2K	8%
C) \$ 2 - 5K	15%
D) \$ 5 - 10K	10%
E) \$10 - 20K	14%
F) \$20 - 40K	5%
G) Over \$40K	27%
Other Code or No response	13%

HARDWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer hardware annually:

A) Mainframe/s	4%
B) Minicomputers	16%
C) Microcomputers [PC's]	66%
D) LAN's	33%
E) Laser Printers	46%
F) Impact Printers	52%
G) Monitors	61%
H) Modems	53%
I) Hard Disks	63%
J) Tape Backup	51%
K) Add-in Cards	40%
L) Video Projection Systems	14%
Z) Other	4%

NTPCUG Members report they recommend and HAVE FINAL AUTHORITY OVER the following amounts of computer-related purchases annually:

A) Below \$1,000.	41%
B) \$ 1 - 2K	13%
C) \$ 2 - 5K	14%
D) \$ 5 - 10K	12%
E) \$10 - 20K	8%
F) \$20 - 40K	2%
G) Over \$40K	9%
Other Code or No response	16%

SOFTWARE: NTPCUG Members approve, recommend, or purchase the following computer software annually:

A) Accounting	29%
B) Order Entry / Inventory	11%
C) Payroll	15%
D) Time Billing	11%
E) Spreadsheets	55%
F) Word Processing	62%
G) Communications	45%
H) CAD / CAM	19%
I) Project Managers	22%
J) Database	50%
K) Programming Tools	38%
L) Graphics	41%
M) Statistics / Analysis	21%
Z) Other	7%

Until now there was only one way to integrate C and Assembler.



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

1990 Flies in on a hardware note:

Well, it's not all devoted to hardware. First month in a long time that there's nothing from WordPerfect in Utah. Maybe they are all out skiing? But, did run across what a lot of folks thought would be out sooner than this, the 386SX replacement for the 80286.

Users ride 386SX thermals with Cumulus

Owners of "old" PC/AT's, Compaqs and other PC's powered by 80286 CPU's have an upgrade path to 386SX power. Cumulus Corporation released their Cumulus 386SX Card in October that is a direct plug-in replacement for the 80286 chip. Manufacturer states the card opens the path to Windows/386, DESQview 386 and 386-based software and operating systems.

The Cumulus cards are designed for "standard" PC's such as the IBM and Compaq models and produce best results in those running at 8 MHz and below. With these PC's, processor speed can be doubled to provide a significant boost in CPU-intensive tasks. The card also accepts an 80387SX coprocessor.

Although Cumulus reports that their card will work in "most" 286 machines, physical layout of some clones may preclude use of the Cumulus 386SX Card. Also, users with high-speed 286 machines, 10, 12 and 16 MHz PC's, won't notice any speed increase from the card

The Variety Store

since the 386SX is limited to clock speeds of 16 MHz and below.

Cumulus 386SX is expected to be available in the \$400 range from a number of sources.

Norton fights back with Backup

Peter Norton Computing will strike back at some of their competitors shortly with *Norton Backup*, the new hard disk backup program scheduled for release in January. Norton wouldn't comment whether the new utility was in response to 5th Generation's acquisition of the Mace programs in 1989.

Announcement of *Norton Backup* paralleled a similar new release of the *Norton Commander 3.0*, the widely praised DOS shell. According to product announcement comments at COMDEX, Peter Norton Computing will be focusing on development across a number of platforms including UNIX and Macintosh versions of current utilities software.

From Aardvark to Zorba SS, XenoCopy-PC reads 'em all

XenoCopy-PC is a program designed to solve file-transfer nightmares when users or organizations upgrade to PC's from older standards. Specifically, it copies files between disks of different computers, i.e. from TRS-80's, Wangs, Xerox 820's, etc., to standard PC's.

What's needed? A PC with a disk drive of any type, including RAM disks and hard disks, for DOS, and the appropriate drive for the "foreign" disks. Many "foreign"

disks can be read in standard 5.25" PC 40-track floppy drives (DSDD, 360K), but some will require 80-track drives (PC/AT 1.2M) or 3.5" drives. *XenoCopy-PC* also works with 8" disks if the appropriate drive and controller are installed.

The program is menu driven and simple to use. Xenosoft, publishers of the program emphasize several caveats. First, no Apple disks need apply. The Apple format is significantly different and standard IBM-style drives cannot read these disks. Second, *XenoCopy-PC* only transfers files -- it doesn't alter them and/or make incompatible programs run in the PC. It's primarily designed to allow access to text and data files. *XenoCopy-PC* lists at \$79.95.

Contact Xenosoft at (415) 644-9366, or write: Xenosoft, 2210 Sixth Street, Berkeley, CA, 94710.

distinct -- different from Windows GUI

If you must use *Windows*, but hate the *Windows* interface, maybe a *distinct File Manager* difference will be for you. *Distinct* is a utility set for *Windows* users that does away with the MSDOS.EXE file management garbage and replaces it with a much more efficient, logical and easy to use file manager.

In short, *distinct File Manager* is a shell. A replacement for the clumsy one that accompanies *Windows* as delivered from Microsoft. It does a number of things, including disk tree displays, file browsing, file searching, printing, encryption, copying and deletions, directory moves and backups -- all things most users develop a collection of

DOS utilities to accomplish.

distinct also seems to be somewhat faster and more intuitive for *Windows* users. That may be why they included the "Close Menu" and "Lock Screen" options that allow users to go off for a cup of coffee unafraid that someone might come along and "play" in their files. They'll have to enter a password to get back into the machine or reboot the PC.

distinct File Manager requires *Windows 2.03* or higher, 512K RAM, hard disk and DOS 3.1 or higher. Mouse is strongly recommended as is more memory if available. *File Manager* lists at \$99 and is available from *distinct Corporation* at (408) 741-0795, or write: *distinct Corporation*, 14082 Loma Rio Drive, Saratoga, CA 95070.

Power user to the rescue! *Word 5.0* gets RSA macros

Microsoft's *Word 5.0* is a nifty word processor, but many users haven't found *Word's* Help facilities give them all they want, especially in the area of macro's. Macro's still remain a mystery to many *Word* users in spite of Microsoft's continually expanding macro documentation with each new version.

Peter Rinearson, *Word* Style Sheet and macro guru, and Rinearson Support Associates (RSA) hope to change all that.

The Microsoft *Word Companion Disk* for *Word 5.0* was released recently as an update to the *Word 4.0* version, and includes a replacement Help file, hundreds of macro's, sample form letters and a utility profiling program that lists information about *Word* documents, style sheets and glossaries. This latter function, the profiling utility, is similar to that found absolutely necessary by users of *Ventura Publisher* in managing their desk-top publishing files.

For more information, contact: Rinearson Support Associates, (800) 345-9111 Ext. 36, or (206) 726-9200. Write RSA at: Rinearson Support Associates, 219 First Ave. N., Suite 410, Seattle, WA 98109.

I can't resist this name...

I ordinarily try to stay away from computer book puff. Just couldn't resist a flyer from an outfit named "Peachpit Press, Inc."

Actually, Peachpit Press is pushing three very, very good books at this time, one of which is essential to *Ventura Publisher* users. Leading the trio is *Ventura Tips & Tricks, 2nd Edition* by Ted Nace and Daniel Will-Harris. This book is not only an excellent reference to *Ventura Publisher 2.0*, but does a nice job of describing memory usage, laser printer foibles and non-Xerox utilities to make life easier with the DTP package.

The Nace book is followed by *LaserJet Unlimited, Edition II*, by Ted Nace and Michael Gardner, and *Looking Good in Print* by Roger C. Parker. Anyone who's tried to figure-out HP's documentation for the LaserJet II series will appreciate a direct, clearly-written reference on these printers. *Looking Good in Print* is a design manual for the lay person and a valuable reference for those with responsibility for making text look good and enjoyable to read.

If you are interested, contact Peachpit Press, Inc., at (800) 283-9444, or write: Peachpit Press, Inc., 1085 Keith Avenue, Berkeley, CA 94708-1633.

LTI - Laser power for dot matrix printers

Users still waiting for their first laser printer - or unwilling to forego the speed and convenience of their favorite dot matrix printer can take advantage of 100% HP LaserJet emulation according to LTI Softfonts International, Inc.

Publishers of the *LTI Master Library/LaserTwin*, LTI promises a memory-resident utility with 200 HP format fonts that facilitates downloadable soft font and 300 DPI graphics usage on dot matrix, DeskJet and Canon Bubblejet printers. They claim that users will be able to print from any program supporting the HP LaserJet II series printers.


LTI lists available drivers for *Ventura Publisher*, *PageMaker*, *WordPerfect 5.0*, *Word 5.0* and *WordStar 2000*. The Master Library includes 100 portrait fonts and 100 landscape fonts ranging from the ever popular Times Roman and Helvetica faces to Avant Garde, Garamond and Zapf Chancery in multiple sizes and weights. According to LTI, fonts from other publishers, Bitstream, Agfa Compugraphic and others, are also supported in the package. List price was quoted at \$399.95.

Contact LTI Softfonts International, Inc., 14742 Beach Blvd., Suite 440, La Mirada, CA 90638. Phone at (714) 739-1453.

Raster Devices ups the printer ante...

Just how far will the HP series II LaserJets go? Raster Devices upped the resolution ante in October to 1000 X 1000 DPI with their TrendSetter 1000 Plus package.

Although Raster Devices doesn't say so, this machine probably does best on high-quality paper. Listing at \$6995 for the PC version, the new printer uses a high speed imaging controller that boosts resolution to 1000 X 1000 TurboRes, and includes 35 outline type fonts and drivers for *GEM/3*, *Ventura Publisher*, *Windows*, *PageMaker*, *WordPerfect 5.1* and *Word 5.0*.

Contact: Raster Devices Direct, Inc., 9955 West 69th St., Eden Prairie, MN 55344, or Tel (800) 468-1732. 

Selected SIG Happenings

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

DOS SIG

Kicking off a new year with COMDEX/Fall 89 rumors should be a lot of fun at the January DOS SIG Meeting. All the IBM and Microsoft COMDEX announcements must mean something, but nobody there seemed quite sure what.

DOS' future is tied to a lot of this non-announcement maneuvering by the major players. We'll try to shed as much light as possible on the main "interpretations" lent by the media experts. To thread or not to thread in Windows X.X is at heart of a lot of the controversy. Jim Hoisington will shed some light on OS threads and what they may mean in future DOS and Windows versions.

After the wilder and more outrageous rumors (lies) have been spread about for member perusal, January's DOS SIG Meeting will settle into its usual, terminal Q & A format.

Reagan Andrews

Lotus SIG

Since this message was written on December 7th which is well before the December 16th meeting, no one really knows what really happened at the Lotus SIG in December. However, we can assure you that the long promised NTPCUG Lotus SIG Disk #1 was actually available at the December meeting and everyone hopes that the disk was well received. As many already know, the subject of the disk was the 1-2-3 menu structure. For the most part, all of the information on the disk was presented in the Lotus SIG over time.

The real benefits of the disks available are that all presentations are now available for all NTPCUG members, all presentations have been updated to include Release 2.2 and 3.0 commands. And perhaps more importantly, there are also 40 worksheet and other files designed to illustrate the 1-2-3 menu structure commands.

Well folks, the subject for the December meeting was to first discuss how to get started with the NTPCUG Lotus SIG Disk #1, show some of the worksheet files and their macros, complete the discussion of the database discussion from the November meeting, and discuss the non-database, non-Data Table Data commands. These other Data commands are often considered Database commands which is entirely false. Many of these commands are useful in many situations - particularly the Data Fill and Data Parse command. Others such as the Data Distribution, Data Regress, and Data Matrix are probably little used unless you know about the commands or statistics, or matrices. Mark also discussed the process of creating the disk set available at the DOM and really hopes that all who bought the disk will find the disk set well worth the investment.

Mark is VERY interested in hearing any comments that anyone has about the disks. To express your views, please send him a message on the BBS to the Mark Gruner mailbox or to the Lotus SIG mailbox so that all can read the comments. For those who do not wish to try the BBS or are not on the BBS, simply send a response to the address in the VENDOR or AUTHOR file on disk. Mark would also be happy to hear from you in person. We must also point out for you cynics out there that Mark is making NO MONEY from the sale of these disks and does not expect to make any. The primary purpose in preparing the disk was to distribute the presentations to the user group in a more effective manner.

Now for the January meeting of the Lotus SIG. It would appear that it is unnecessary to discuss any of the menu commands since the disk available in December covers all of the menu commands. Therefore, the presentation in the Lotus SIG will be macros. What kind of macros will depend entirely on the attendees at the December meeting. The possibilities include basic keyboard macros, categories of the macro command language, or menuing macros. The benefit of the macro discussion is that it presents Mark an opportunity to begin on the second NTPCUG Lotus SIG disk which is destined to cover the @ functions and macros which will probably be available sometime this decade. Well we just started a decade, but hopefully it won't be too long.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that any spreadsheet user has, so if you have a question come on by and ask.

Mark Gruner
and Pat Henley

WORD SIG

Where's WORD going? Is there a "future" for the text-based word processor in the rising tide of GUI's? Word for Windows may be an indication of Microsoft's plans for us. We'll discuss these at the beginning of the January Word SIG Meeting.

For the remainder of the meeting? Back to style sheets and macros. We'll step through (slowly) creation of a style sheet, and importance of developing an overall style approach across documents produced in Word on a day-to-day basis. Discussion of "canned" style sheets vs user-customized versions will focus on style sheets provided with Word and available through third-party vendors.

January's Meeting will close with member discussion of problems in Word and continued collection of "bug" reports.

Reagan Andrews

MS-DOS Utility Programs: Add-On Software Resources

A Book Review by Matt Mathews, M.A.

Typically, utilities are fairly small, inexpensive programs (compared to application programs like word processors, databases, spreadsheets, graphics programs, etc.). They serve a limited, but useful purpose. Ronny Richardson's *MS-DOS Utility Programs* is something of a cross between a product catalog and a collection of reviews. In it, he describes the features and operation of a raft of utilities for MS-DOS computers. Mr. Richardson reviewed nearly 200 utility programs and provides a good overview of utilities by category. Each chapter is devoted to a category of software that is meant to solve a particular problem users experience in using DOS-based computers.

Appropriately, the first chapter is devoted to learning DOS. The last section of each chapter contains "Ronny's Picks" — a list of his favorite programs in the category with a rationale. On the whole, his recommendations reflect good choices. Occasionally something stands out as odd though. I find it curious that he recommends Microsoft's *Learning DOS* over other DOS tutorials, since it has not received great reviews and lacks an automated installation program that would be a boon to new users. (Doesn't this sound like most DOS manuals? They are written for people who already know the answers.) He somehow missed reviewing an excellent set of training programs from Individual Software (*PC Instructor*, *Professor DOS* and others). Well, maybe he will see it before coming out with the next edition.

Although most of the book is devoted to commercial products, Mr. Richardson does not bypass some of the better shareware and public-domain programs. The book is easy to use. Its 665 pages contain an index and table of contents. Numerous illustrations represent screens from many of the programs. His reviews of documentation are very concise. I would like to have seen more than rare comments about the quality of technical support. A rectangle at the end of each review contains the product name, publisher and address, phone number, list price, memory requirements, and short notes. (I can't tell you how long it took me to learn to get the publisher's name when I found a review of a product I liked the looks of. Many catalogs still list products by the publisher's name rather than by the product's name.) With all this information in a consistent style, you can quickly find information on a product (or category) and get a pretty good feel for ease of installation, configuration, how the program operates, as well as its limitations. When a program come in two versions (like the Norton Utilities and the Norton


Utilities—Advanced Edition, or Windows 286 and Windows 386), Richardson clarifies the differences and usually makes a sensible recommendation.

Unlike many reviews in magazines (which depend on advertisers for much of their revenue), Mr. Richardson does not mince words when a program does not work as advertised or has severe deficiencies. Sometimes he tells you about a trick to get around a problem such as a program refusing to get install from drive B: to drive D: A short appendix explains the try-before-you-buy philosophy behind shareware, as well as where to obtain it. I'll bet it was the publisher's idea to include an order form at the end of the book. You can get a much better deal from almost any distributor of public-domain/shareware programs (that is, vendor or user's group). Windcrest Books wants \$17.45 per disk, whereas most vendors charge no more than \$5 per disk. The convenience may be worthwhile to some folks, but if you shop around, you will find the same programs for as little as \$2 per disk.

One of the difficulties in writing a book of this nature, is that many programs fit into more than one category. Others defy categorization. Mr. Richardson has overcome these difficulties with extensive cross references in the text and the index, and with a chapter on "Other Programs of Interest." I would like to see a chapter on utilities that assist with writing, such as spelling and grammar (or style) checkers, readability indices, high-bit strippers, and the like. (There is a chapter on file conversion programs, though.) Other utilities that are not covered include software that is "added into" an application, such as a "report writer" or database that runs inside a spreadsheet. Curiously, he covers a variety of file compression software, but omits even mentioning archive software (like ARC, PKARC, PKZIP etc.) that is very commonly used to compress files for transmission via modem. Richardson intends to update the book periodically. All of his reviews were conducted under DOS versions 3.3 and 4.01. (I admire his persistence.) While he found many incompatibilities (read this as "bugs") when running most utilities under DOS 4.01, he mentions that by the time of publication of the book, many software publishers will have updated their programs to work correctly. In most cases, publisher's upgrade policies are not mentioned. I hope you read an appropriate caution here if you are running DOS version 4.x (or are thinking of upgrading). Mr. Richardson likes DOS version 4.01, mostly because of its built-in shell program. However, I think I can make a pretty good argument for not using DOS version 4.x until it works as well or better than version 3.3 (or earlier) with your existing software. Product upgrades are not always free or cheap. I recommend calling your software publisher to find out if they recommend running their program with DOS 4.x, and what their upgrade policy is.

Mr. Richardson's book is a valuable contribution when you are trying to make sense of the rapidly growing category of utility software. His reviews are usually fair. He is careful to point out programs that every user "must have," such as a program to unerase a file and to backup your hard disk. Fortunately, he can truthfully tell you the weak areas of a program without being worried about offending an advertiser. If you are searching for a program to do a specific task, or have responsibility for purchasing utilities, I can highly recommend MS-DOS Utility Programs. I would expect future additions to fill some of the gaps that I found, but this "version 1.0" book does a decent job of addressing a rapidly growing field. It probably represents several thousand hours of research and testing. The information is up to date, and his opinions are candid. Tips, won through hard experience, are sprinkled throughout the book; they make an interesting diversion from the catalog-like listings and they are timely.

MS-DOS Utility Programs; Add-on software resources. Ronny Richardson. Blue Ridge Summit, PA: Windcrest Books, 1989. ISBN 0-8306-9278-9; publisher's price, \$34.95 in hardback; available in paperback.

Matt 

Topics Covered in MS-DOS Utility Programs

DOS Tutorials and Learning Aids
 Menu Systems
 DOS Shells
 File Maintenance
 Utility Sets
 Disk Maintenance
 Format Recovery
 Disk Optimization
 Speeding Up the Console
 Disk Caching and Hard Disk Enhancement
 Backup Software and Hardware Alternatives
 Document Indexing
 Data Translation Programs
 Data Security
 Dealing with Copy Protection
 Viruses and other uglies
 Memory Resident Aids
 Enhancing or Replacing DOS Commands
 Batch File Aids
 File Compression
 Expanded Memory Drivers
 Multitasking and Task Switching Programs
 File Transfer Programs

HIDDEN TREASURE

Within the AT clones

by Paul Presti

How would you like to have a 512k ramdisk inside your computer, without giving up any of your present memory to get it?

On different occasions I have read the complaint that you have to buy and install 1 meg of memory chips in an AT clone in order to have 640k of memory. Well I didn't care much for this waste of memory either, so I looked high and low for some utility that would let you use the wasted memory. What I did find were several Ramdisks that would use extended memory, but only above 1 meg. After some experimentation I found one that would work from 512k to 1 meg using the lost memory. The Ramdisk belongs to Microsoft, and their manual says it will only work in "extended memory" above 1 meg also.

The following is a list of the equipment that I performed this conversion on, I'm not sure it will work on all clones but its worth a try anyhow.

1. IDS pc-286 AT clone
2. Phoenix BIOS dated 03/31/87 VER 3.06
3. Microsoft Windows 'RAMDRIVE.SYS'
4. hard disk.

The computer I have has a jumper on the motherboard that changes between 640k of conventional memory and 0k of extended memory, or 512k of conventional memory and 512k of extended memory. This appears on the screen during the memory check. You will have to check your manual to see how to change your computer.

Change the jumper to show 512k main memory and 512k extended memory. That's the only hardware change you will have to make.

Next copy from your Windows disk the 'RAMDRIVE.SYS' program to your C: drive. Then add the following instruction to your CONFIG.SYS file: DEVICE = C:RAMDRIVE.SYS 512 /E. Include the path if the program is not in the root dir. The last thing you have to do is reboot the system. When the system comes up again you will find a D: or E: drive with 512k available. (you can do a chkdsk to verify this).

Paul 

Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator
 Andy Oliver, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

So, who is Bob Presley? And, in the alternative, what is a Bob Presley? We've been asked both questions more than once and have found the man and the energy source hard to define.

He's absolutely dedicated to shedding light on the world of personal computers to beginners, novices, and users advanced in some areas looking for enlightenment in areas not yet explored.

He has given much energy to the Personal Users SIG - founding it, staffing it, and nurturing it since its inception several years ago. A true visionary, ahead of his time and yet right on time.

Thank you, Bob Presley, for your energy and dedication and for all we've learned in your classes.

It takes a lot of work to plan and present four Personal Users classes each month and Bob could use some assistance. If you are interested in helping out, contact Bob at 867- 1679.

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers who served for the month of November. 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 Richman
 James Russell-Redman

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown
 Timothy Carmichael
 Tom Fowlston

Auditorium Tickets
 Pehl Lee

Information/Registration Booth
 Connie Andrews (Anchor)
 Mike Ashley (Anchor)
 K. B. Barton
 Mark Cook
 Lonny Cordell (Anchor)
 Eta E. Eta
 Dean Duncan

Lynn Fussell
 Rick Griffith (Anchor)
 Allan Harbough (Anchor)
 Hank Holt (Anchor)
 Anton Kurz
 Claudia McDonald
 Lloyd McKeethen
 Stacy Naftel
 Andy Oliver (Anchor)
 Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
 Douglas Scott (Anchor)
 Revis Smith (Anchor)
 Elaine Stephens
 Connie Testa (Statistician)
 John Trotter
 Jose Valenciano
 Paul Williams (Anchor)
 Betty Wright

Disk of the Month (DOM):
 DOM Central Committee
 Preston Brashear

Mark Gruner
 Howard Hamilton
 Kathryn Loafman
 Kenneth Loafman
 Ben Weatherall

DOM Volunteer Coordinator
 Bill Drissel

DOM Table
 Joe A. Allen
 Roy Bales
 K. B. Barton
 Richard Bauman
 Gene Carleton
 Charles Cashlon
 Bill Drissel
 Shawn Dunn
 Kent Haven
 Delbra Henderson
 Pat Henley
 Duane Martin
 Wade Mayfield

Bob Post
 Virginia Salter
 Tom Scurlock
 Jerry Stone
 Oscar Tyler
 Claude Walston

DOM Review/Presentation
 Bruce Buford
 Arnold Krusemark
 Richard Terreo

Newsletter Exchange
 Francis Bright
 Pehl Lee

Public Relations Committee
 Francis Bright
 Pehl L. Lee
 Elwood Lindell
 Charles Lucas
 Tony Noguerras
 Reagan Andrews

New Users Class Information

The Beginners SIG holds four independent classes for new computer users at each meeting. Check the overhead projector in the InfoMart on Super Saturday for times, room numbers, and presentation subjects.

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)

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 Dis-

order 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.

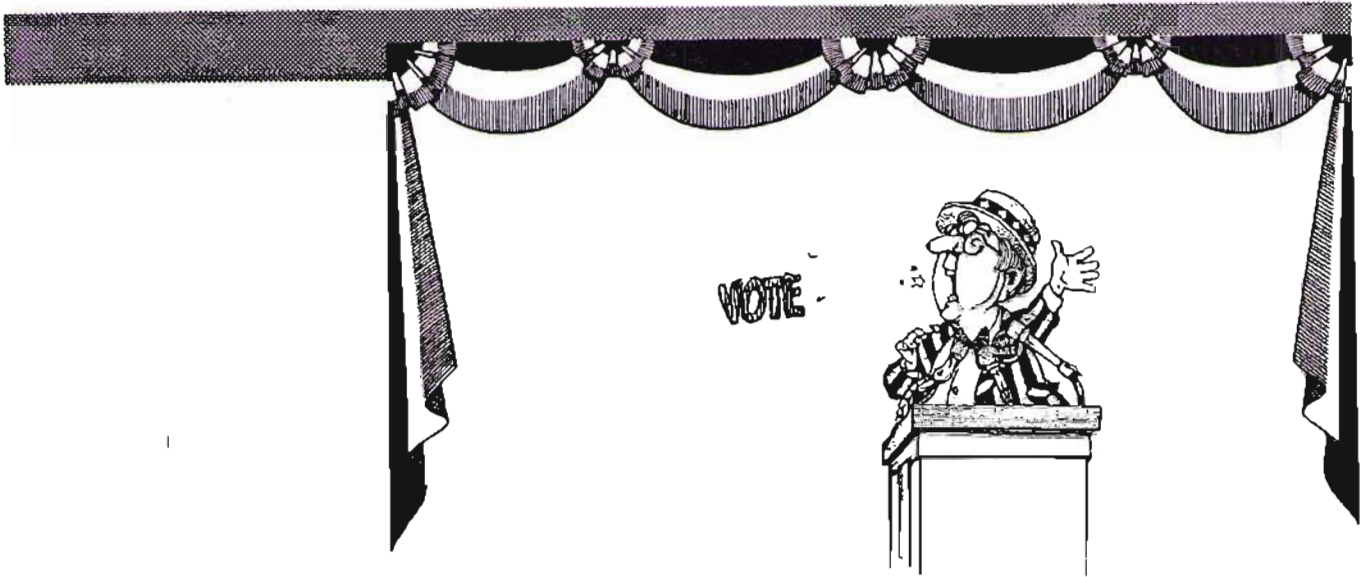


Mark Gruner

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.



Official 1990 Ballot
 North Texas PC Users Group, Inc



USER ORIGINAL BALLOT
 (Copies not acceptable)

For President-Elect

(Vote for one)

- Jim Hoisington Andy Oliver _____

For Board of Directors

(Vote for three)

- Reagan Andrews
 Phil Chamberlain
 Mark Gruner



Mail ballot to Secretary, North Texas PC Users Group, P.O. Box 78066, Dallas TX 75387-0066 or bring to January meeting. Mailed ballots must be received by the Secretary no later than January 15, 1989.



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 _____ Check _____ Credit Card _____	Membership Classification: Regular (\$24.00) _____ Student (\$12.00) _____ (full-time with ID)	Application Status: New Member _____ Renewal _____ Address Change _____
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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
---	---	---	--

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



No 9AM speaker.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Precision Inc.

Superbase 4: A Relational Database for Microsoft Windows

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

Soft Systems Inc.

About Time: Centralized Scheduling in the Business Environment

Speaker: Sean Thakkar, Product Manager

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

9:00 - 9:55

Assembler
Community Volunteers
DOS
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users

10:00 - 10:55

Graphics

10:00 - 10:55 (cont)

Local Area Networks
Personal Users

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

12:00 - 12:55

C Language
Communications

12:00 - 12:55 (cont)

Personal Users
RBase
Stock Mkt Investing

1:00 - 1:55

Business Applications
LOTUS
Personal Users
Turbo Pascal
WORD

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
Cryptanalysis*
DAC Easy Accounting
Databases

* Next meeting of the Cryptanalysis SIG will be in March 1990.

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 Holington, Chairman
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

Phil Chamberlain
Sid Noite, Ph.D.
Zack Porterfield

Officers

President: Jim Holington (214)418-3101 h
President-Elect: Zack Porterfield (214)434-1844 w
Program Chair: Timothy Carmichael (214)661-4626 w
Treasurer: Ken Conner, CPA (214)669-3377 w
Secretary: David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir.: Jim Holington (214)418-3101 h
Advertising Dir.: John Przybyl (817)275-4109 h
Disk of the Month Group Statistician: Kathryn Loafman (214)596-2539
Volunteer Coord.: Connie Andrews (214)828-0699

Member Emeritus

Stuart Yarus

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

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

SYSOP - Tom Prickett
Asst. SYSOP - Maggie Moomey
Technical Advisor: Fred Williams

Pete Testa
User Relations: Kent Cobb
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Address Changes, etc...

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