



North Texas PC Users Group

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February 1990



North Texas PC NEWS

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All advertising and other material for publication in North Texas PC NEWS must be received by the NEWS staff by the 10th of the month prior to publication. See deadline information below.

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DEADLINE
Copy deadline for March
North Texas PC NEWS:
Saturday February 10th

Meeting Dates:

February Meeting - 2nd Sat (10th)
March Meeting - 2nd Sat (10th)
April Meeting - 2nd Sat (14th)
(tentative)

*Keep those great
articles coming!*

EDlines

Things are going pretty well around Casa McQuaid these days. I finally pulled the Christmas tree down the other day. From my W-2, it doesn't look like the IRS is going to put the squeeze on me. Yessir, things are goin'... uh... wait a second... uh oh... I just remembered, it's time to reformat the hard drive. That may not seem like a problem to you, but I have turned this simple task into an excruciating ritual. I always try to streamline my system performance when I reformat. Unfortunately, running all the tests takes about 4 hours and then I tweak the parameters and re-run the tests. It usually pays off during day-to-day operations. But I do this three or four times a year, and you would think I would have the process down by now.

Speaking of streamlining systems, I frequently get calls from writers wondering why their article wasn't in the current issue. Well, we're working on the throughput problem, but there are a few things you can do to help. First, observe the deadline. It is

the tenth of the month. Second, use the BBS submittal procedure outlined on the inside front cover. If you send an article in hardcopy and not in electronic form, it's going to take a while before I get around to typing it in (I only use two fingers!). Finally, if you let me know that you are working on something, I can plan for it. If an article that I don't know is coming, shows up on the tenth, I have to shuffle the editing assignments. Also, please, please observe the style and file format guidelines on the inside front cover.

We're getting a lot of interesting articles from a lot of new writers. Thanks. But we're always hoping that you will write something... a hardware or software review, helpful hints, amazing discoveries, anything (well maybe not horoscopes, but almost anything). Also, we're always glad to get your feedback. Let us know how we're doing. You can contact me at the correspondence address on the inside front cover or by my telephone or by the NTPCUG BBS.

Thanks,
Douglas McQuaid

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

1. Article Style. Type all copy flush left without justification. This includes headings, bylines, and the first line of each paragraph. Place a credit byline (author's name) between the title and first paragraph. Leave a blank line between paragraphs.

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

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

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

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Program for February _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Corel

Corel DRAW for Windows

Come see a demonstration of the features of this highly-praised graphics drawing and editing software package which boasts 35 type families with over 102 fonts, combined with many versatile drawing and clip art tools.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Clarion Software Inc.

Clarion Professional and Personal Developer

Speaker: Dianne Anstine, Dir. Education/Marketing Support

The Professional Developer is a full-featured applications development system with advanced file management capabilities and the modern Clarion language with full LAN support. Quick and easy creation of a DBS application will be demonstrated and a copy of the Personal Developer will be given away in a drawing for attending NTPCUG members.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

Join us - you're missing the latest and greatest when you're not there!

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Software Science Inc.

Turbo Pascal as a Fourth Generation Language (4GL)

Speaker: Dr. George B. Rothbart

Dr. Rothbart has over 20 years of experience in the design and implementation of hardware and software systems for business, engineering, and scientific applications. He will discuss Pascal and introduce the SAYWHAT?! and TOPAZ software toolbox products.

Prez Sez

INCLEMENT WEATHER (Ice Storms, Tornadoes and other acts of God)

The User Group Board of Directors has considered ways of communicating to members the cancellation of Super Saturday meetings when faced with extremes of weather and/or hazardous road conditions. Radio stations in the MetroPlex often make public service announcements to school children and workers relating school and business closures. Unfortunately, these radio services seem to be readily available on weekdays but are scarce to nonexistent on weekends. Also considered for use in communicating meeting cancellation was our recorded information line on (214) 746-4699. However, this is a single phone line and would become immediately overloaded as members made inquiries. Unfortunately, we don't have a series of phone lines necessary to accommodate inquiries by a large number of our members over a relatively short period of time. So, if your scheduled to work as a volunteer at a booth, as a Sig Leader or whatever and we have some terrible weather conditions on meeting day then use your best judgement and please don't take unnecessary risks.

CCD ELECTIONS

The Computer Council of Dallas held their election for President and Vice President during the CCD meeting on Monday, December 18, 1989. You'll be pleased to know that Stuart Yarus, a Member Emeritus of the NTPCUG, has once again been named President of the CCD. Congratulations Stuart!!

VOLUNTEER MEETING

The Board of Directors is working to organize another Volunteer Meeting. In late 1988, a special mailing was sent to members who had expressed a willingness to volunteer their time and efforts to the furtherance of the User Group. Attendance at this 1988 meeting at the InfoMart was surprisingly good. Volunteers and their efforts are the lifeblood of this organization. Hopefully I'll have more information on this topic in the near future.

INFOMART MEETING CHANGES

Stuart Yarus, CCD President, relates that InfoMart has announced two second Saturday schedule changes for the User Group in 1990. The months of July and October are now scheduled for the third Saturday. So far, and I do mean so far, we have the

Plus Passport

by Bruce C. Lutz

I attended the presentation recently by Plus Development Corporation which showed and discussed among other things their removable hard disk which they have labeled Plus Passport.

Although they indicated that their system is too expensive to be used as a mere backup, I have thought seriously about purchasing such a system merely for the quick and convenient backup along with the fact that a test can easily be made to see if the data was correctly stored. What really intrigued me about their system was a switch on the back of their hard disk pack that would allow a user to boot the system from the removable pack. It appears to me that this feature would allow a user to easily test a new operating system such as DOS 4.0 or OS/2 by setting up the removable pack with the new software and wiping it clean if the user is not happy with the results. I have been led to believe that once DOS 4.0 is on your hard disk, low level formatting is required to reuse DOS 3.x. While I may be wrong on this last point, it still seems to me to be a neat way of testing new software.

The way I am presently using the hard pack is to download all the software, directory by directory, that I use only occasionally but don't want to be bothered with loading each time. Although I have a 71 Mb hard disk on my IBM Model 80 PS/2, I find that I have enough software that it remains too full to be able to test any large databases that I may bring home from work. Thus, I used the removable hard disk to download about 30 Mb of software, such as Quickbasic, old versions of Dbase 2.x through Dbase Plus, Borland's Quattro, Microsoft Word etc. that I

Prez Sez *continued*

second Saturday on all months of 1990 except July (the 21st), September (the 15th) and October (the 20th). Stay Tuned!

NEW SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Note on the inside back cover of the PC News that we have some changes in the SIG line-up. Phil Chamberlain has formed a Beginners Pascal SIG which will be meeting at noon. Fred Williams, former SIG Leader of the Local Area Network SIG, has moved over to form the new Paradox SIG. Bernie Van Roekel, as SIG Leader, and Francis Bright, as Assistant SIG Leader, now lead the LAN SIG. Also, recall that the Windows OS/2 SIG was begun in November by SIG Leader James Dunn.

Zack Porterfield

want to have easily available for a given occasional application without having to keep my main hard disk overloaded. After downloading, I used Mace to redistribute the files on my hard disk and it ran noticeably faster.

I ordered an external unit because at the time I did not realize that the front hard disk bay cover on my Model 80 could be removed for inserting the Plus Passport base housing so as to have a self contained unit. While an external unit is somewhat less handy, it does make a nice base for my monitor and allows me to more easily use the system with other computers if I so decide in the future.

The product was received in one well packaged box that came with good documentation including a warranty written in 9 different languages. The product came with all the instructions and parts to install it either in the Model 80 base unit or in the external passport unit. I had never had to insert a non-IBM MC (micro-channel) card in a computer before. For this reason I had a slight amount of trouble comprehending the installation instructions. However, since installing a WANG MC card and rereading the instructions that came with this unit, I find that they are comparatively very clear. I was not able to initialize the Passport hard disk from their instructions as I understood them. However, they had an "800" number listed. The technician answering the phone was very patient and we eventually determined that the config.sys file should contain only Passports device driver instead of all the other files I normally put in a config.sys file. (The documentation said to copy the config.sys file from the present system and add a specified device driver.) We talked for close to an hour before we decided on the solution and that I could finish the installation without further help. Before, we figured out the problem, he even offered to send a new bios chip at no charge, since some early Model 80 units had a defective chip.

While I have not tried to use DOS 4.0 or OS/2, I have booted from the removable disk and also used it the normal way. Although, I suppose I should always have the added disk turned ON, I often do not and the only detriment seems to be a temporary error message on booting. If I need information on the Passport disk, I merely turn it ON and reboot the system. This is much faster than trying to find the right floppies and remember how to install the software.

All in all, I am happy with the system as I presently use it. I should, however, mention that the documentation indicated that a special device driver needs to be used if Passport is to be used with DOS 4.0. I further learned from the technician that there is presently no driver available for OS/2. Thus, I could not presently use the system as I had planned to do at some future date.

Bruce

■

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 36 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

A lot of the PC literature talks about "connectivity" these days. Connectivity is generally used to describe computers communicating with other computers. I don't want to label 1990 as "The year of connectivity" but computer to computer communications will certainly be one of the growth areas for the next few years.

Computer communications is not new. I remember working with remote data entry devices based on IBM 026 keypunches in 1964. The application was to get the payroll information from the remote plants into the corporate data center in a timely manner. After the telephone connection was made, the payroll cards were read by the remote keypunch and a new payroll card deck was punched on the keypunch at corporate headquarters.

During the late 50's and early 60's, computer to computer communications were mostly custom made. The software and hardware was specially built for each installation. Then in the late 1960's, a communications program developed for NASA at the Johnson Space Center in Houston, became the standard method of telecommunications for IBM mainframes. The program was called HASP, an acronym for Houston Automatic Spooling Program. The program became so popular that IBM eventually incorporated most of its features into the mainframe operating system. Even today, most telecommunications messages in the MVS operating system are identified by the prefix "HASP000".

For the past three years, I have concentrated on learning about and using Local Area Networks or LANs. LANs let PCs in a small geographical area share data and printers. The biggest difference between the way most LANs operate and the way mainframe computers operate is that LANs have been built on the premise that all computers on a network are equal. Mainframe communications have usually been built around the premise of slaves communicating with the master computer. The LAN philosophy has allowed software developers to do some things with LANs that could not be done with larger computer networks.

Now that LANs have become accepted, companies are starting to build something called Wide Area Networks or WANs. These are a bunch of LANs connected together. By connecting them together, WANs remove the requirement that all the users on a LAN be geographically close together. Some corporate WAN's span the entire continent.

At first it may seem illogical for a company that has already established a mainframe network to all of its North American offices to also build a Wide Area Network connecting those same locations. But, the kinds of things that can be done on a WAN because of its "everyone is equal" design makes it worthwhile.

In addition to networks, more and more telecommunications services are being offered for personal computers. For example, we saw a demonstration of the services offered by PRODIGY at one of our meetings last fall. PRODIGY offers news, airline schedules and reservations, and shopping via your home computer.

I recently got an account on MCI mail. MCI mail is an excellent, economical way of sending and receiving electronic mail, FAXes, and TELEXes. It allows me to communicate nationally just as the electronic mail system on our Bulletin Board allows me to communicate with members in our local geographical area.

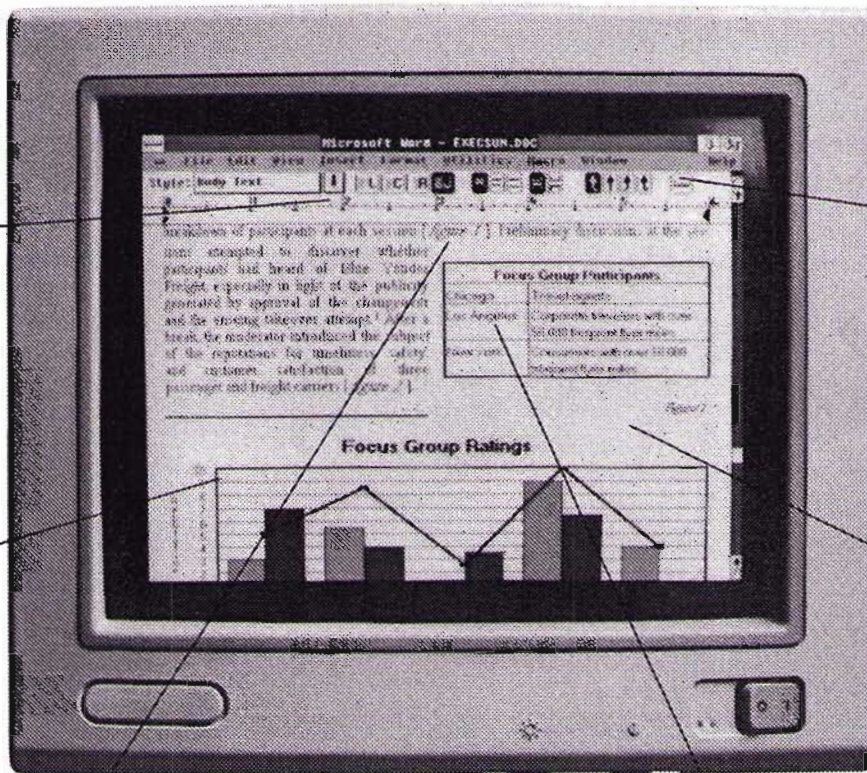
Keep watching for the word "connectivity". It's going to be mentioned a lot this year. The recent demographics survey of our user group says that 77 percent of our members own modems. To paraphrase poet John Donne, "No computer is an island."

Jim

Election Results



Word processing will evolve more on this page than it has in the last ten years.



Location, location, location.
Use the ruler to make everything flush left, or right. Or centered. Single-spaced. Double-spaced. Anywhere and any way you want it.

A symbolic gesture.
Icons on the ruler allow you to make format changes with a simple click of a mouse.

A dynamic exchange.
Through dynamic data exchange (DDE), any changes made to the original spreadsheet will show up here automatically.

What you see is what you get.
With WYSIWYG, you see exactly what your changes are the instant you make them, right on-screen. And through Page View, you get a full-size, fully-editable view of your page. You'll see headers, footers, multiple columns, and graphics in their exact locations.

It's a wrap.
You can move or resize any positioned object and watch the text automatically wrap the whole thing into a nice, neat package.

We've got tables covered.
This feature makes creating a table as easy as creating a spreadsheet. Sending the TAB key the way of carbon paper.



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A New User Buys a Computer

by Edward S. Brown

The November 1989 issue of the North Texas PC News had an excellent article by Andy Oliver: "New Users - What Kind of Computer to Buy?". The article's major points were:

1. Decide what you want to use the computer for. (This translates into deciding what types of software you want to run.)
2. Check out the software by talking to users and by reading about it in trade magazines such as PC Magazine.
3. Find out the hardware requirements for the software. This will show you if a 8086 or 80286 or 80386 - based machine is needed. Andy stressed that one should not be taken in by sales personnel who advise that anything not using a 80386 (for example) is either dead or dying.
4. Go look at the hardware.
5. Shop around, make an informed decision, and you will likely find out that the cost is less than you feared.

I followed Andy's advice closely. I determined that IBM compatibility was important to me, and I wanted to run the following types of software: word processing, graphics (for presentations), spreadsheets, program/schedule management (Gantt charts and the like), and video games. I decided a 286-based machine was fast enough for my current and planned uses, and 286's were now inexpensive. I selected a good dot-matrix printer that would print both text and graphics (couldn't afford a laser or color printer). Another thing I had to decide was whether or not to consider a mail-order firm such as Dell Computers of Austin.

I decided I needed: a 40 MB hard drive, two floppy drives (2 sizes), a multi-synch color monitor, a mouse, 2 joysticks, and a capability to install a modem later. Also, a key requirement was at least 2 MB of RAM memory, preferably with future expansion capability.

The hardware supplier I finally chose may surprise the typical new user and is most likely not for everyone. I chose a "no-name" IBM clone that was built up from known, reliable components by a local firm. For me, trust and confidence in sales/service people and their company, is very important. Also, service after the sale was of major importance. In my odyssey, searching for hardware, I learned a few things:

1. Some sales personnel previously sold used cars (or something else non-technical like clothing) and now think they can sell computers.
2. Some firms with fancy catalogs are obviously too well off to notice visitors in their showroom. (Not talking about Soft Warehouse here....that fine place is a warehouse first and foremost)
3. There are sales personnel who can identify a Panasonic KX-P1124 on the shelf for you, but can't turn it on nor can they describe its operation.
4. Sometimes sales personnel will try to sell you a particular type of computer because the sales commission is substantially greater on it, rather than one you can use equally well. And, they will create doubt in your mind about the other one by casually mentioning they have "had trouble" with some of the ones they've sold. When pressed, they cannot describe the "troubles", but they've heard of it.
5. Always ask about the support the firm provides for the computer you are considering. Are they an authorized repair center, or do they merely distribute the computers/components? I am personally not able to diagnose many of the potential problems with either hardware or software, at least not yet. So, I wanted to be sure of after-sale support.
6. Ask how long the firm has been in business. Bear in mind that 10 years is a very long time in the computer business.
7. Ask what type of documentation comes with the computer, and what software comes with it (if any). Sometimes you can wheel and deal here, and get some break on software prices when you buy the hardware at the same time.
8. A lot of information is available in the trade journals. Not only the articles, but the advertisements also will tell you a lot about who's who and what the desirable features are in the computers and in their components and accessories.

Overall, I am very pleased with my choice of hardware and the hardware supplier. The documentation on computer setup and operation is very poor, but there isn't a lot to learn. I buy well-documented software and good reference books like Que puts out, and I guess software documentation is more important anyway. I get a lot out of membership in the North Texas PC Users Group, by way of information and advice. Thanks for the article, Andy, and good luck to you fellow new users out there who are contemplating a computer purchase.

Ed

■

Arts & Letters does support coprocessors!

A&L 2.02 follow-up shows real XXX87 speed

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

When I wrote about *Arts & Letters Graphics Editor 2.0* in October (last year), I mentioned that I had negative response to a request for the coprocessor version of the editor. Mea Culpa! Annette Baker, Computer Support Corporation's Customer Service Supervisor, took me to task for that comment.

Seems I didn't note on the registration card that I wanted the coprocessor version. She returned the card - and she was right - I didn't mark the appropriate place. It wasn't hard to see, either. Oops! I had dropped by Computer Support's Dallas offices earlier to discuss a piece of clip art in one of their posters, but Mrs. Baker had been unable to find the card.

After we chatted a bit about some of A&L's clip art - I left and returned home. For the next month and a half, I received six (6) packages from Computer Support - three with non-coprocessor versions of the recently-released version 2.02, and three with the coprocessor version of 2.02.

Arts & Letters Graphics Editor version 2.02 seemed "cleaner" than the original version I reviewed in October. As a result, I decided to do a little more work on bitmap tracing with an attempt to differentiate tracing speed between the two versions. I used two bitmaps in the testing, an attractive "eye" supplied by Computer Support expressly for that purpose in version 2.02, and the INFOMART map on the back cover of this newsletter.

I also decided to compare tracing speed between both new versions of *A&L 2.02* and *Corel DRAW 1.1* since the Corel product is touted by several writers as the fastest graphics editor at tracing bit-mapped graphics images.

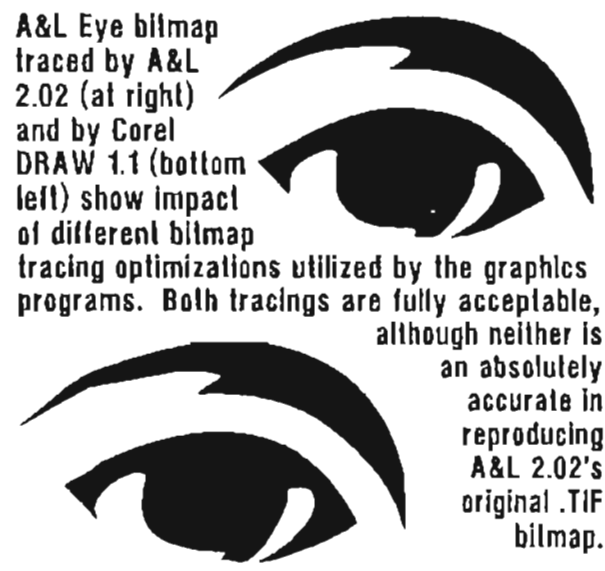
First, a word about bit-map tracing. All the higher-level graphics editors really are object-oriented programs that see the world as a collection of straight lines and bezier curves that are actually mathematical constructs manipulated by the PC. (This is why a math coprocessor can sometimes significantly improve tracing times - if the editor can utilize a coprocessor.)

The bit-map tracing process awfully complex, but is controllable to some degree, with the user specifying "accuracy" and curve interpretation. This holds for the editors reviewed to date. Selection of these parameters can have significant impact on tracing speed - and the "clean-up" editing necessary afterward. That is, the user can speed the tracing process, but may spend much more time editing the resulting tracing that was saved in the original tracing operation. See the examples for more clarification of this point.

Also, the image being traced can have significant impact on tracing speed. *A&L's* eye is easy. Both *A&L* and *Corel DRAW* handled this without difficulty, with Corel approximately twice as fast as *A&L's* non-coprocessor version. On a 20 MHz 386 machine with installed 20 MHz 80387, the *A&L* editor was an easy winner, at least three times faster than Corel. (These comparisons are unfair to both products! Each is "optimized" for somewhat different parameters and direct comparisons are impossible.)

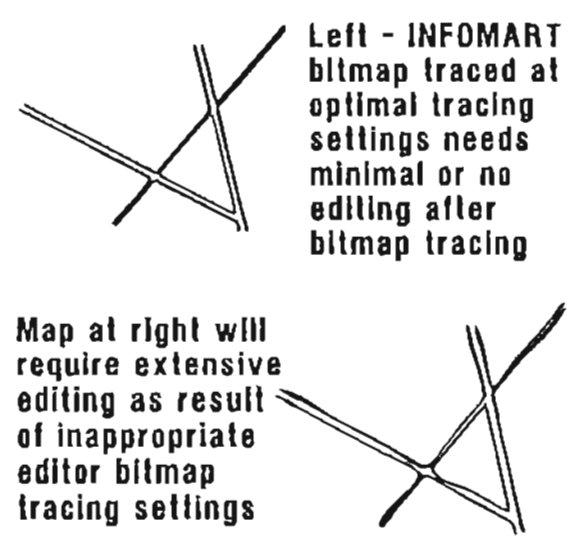
For example, on the second image, the map which was all straight lines, Corel (in its default configuration) was easily faster than either *A&L* version - but

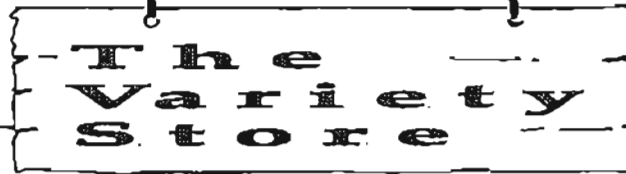
A&L Eye bitmap traced by A&L 2.02 (at right) and by Corel DRAW 1.1 (bottom left) show impact of different bitmap tracing optimizations utilized by the graphics programs. Both tracings are fully acceptable, although neither is an absolutely accurate in reproducing A&L 2.02's original .TIF bitmap.



Left - INFOMART bitmap traced at optimal tracing settings needs minimal or no editing after bitmap tracing

Map at right will require extensive editing as result of inappropriate editor bitmap tracing settings





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

The other shoe dropped...

Xerox Sues Apple Over GUI

Does Starlight grow Apples? Xerox says so. Early December saw the latest explosion of the "Icon Wars" when Xerox launched a \$150 million suit against Apple Computer Company. Xerox says Apple stole the Star's shine to polish their Lisa and, later, Macintosh, graphical user interface(s).

Many industry pundits expected this move by Xerox a lot earlier.

Crux of the suit centers on Xerox's PARC (Palo Alto Research Center) work on graphical interfaces in the 1970's - and visits by a number of Apple's upper-level designers - that led to the GUI displayed by the Lisa and Mac machines. An interesting sidebar here is that various Apple names linked to Mac development are engaged in a PR war disputing each other's relative contributions to the Mac design.

Most surprising of all - no screams of outrage from the media over this

legal foray. Does this mean that sometimes the "Big Guy" is right to protect their turf?

From the horses' mouths...

OS/2, DOS and Windows' future

IBM and Microsoft tried valiantly to ease users and developers' concern about betting the horses. Which horse to back?

OS/2, DOS and Windows are open questions in the eyes of many and both small and large software company fortunes are riding on picking the winner out of all the verbiage and rumor generated at Comdex. Betting on the loser will have severe consequences.

IBM released a joint "Programming Announcement" with Microsoft dated November 14, 1989, on the matter(s) with their (public) views of how future PC's should be configured. Some "highlights" or clarifications in the joint announcement follow.

IBM/Microsoft plan to deliver a 32-bit OS/2 in 1990 that will exploit the 386, 386SX and 486 32-bit "flat memory model." This 32-bit technology will be portable, i.e., will

run on other hardware, including RISC technology.

The announcement separates PC's into three groups - 4MB RAM and 30+MB fixed disk drive PC's running under OS/2, Windows - DOS equipped PC's with 1-2MB RAM or hard disks smaller than 30MB, and DOS-only PC's with 1MB RAM or less. Windows will support a subset of SAA (Systems Application Architecture), but won't be intended for server or multi-tasking roles, and won't support the 32-bit flat memory model.

That's pretty clear, no? Read the following blurb then.

Microsoft re-invents the wheel

Chooses DPMS over VCPI

We've known for a long time that Microsoft has never been happy with the LIM Interface, or with DOS extenders based on the Virtual Control Program Interface (VCPI) standard espoused by Qualitas, QuarterDeck Systems and others (including Lotus in 1-2-3 version 3.0).

PC Week reported in their January 8, 1990, edition that Microsoft is

Arts & Letters continued

at the cost of significant after-tracing editing necessary to produce a satisfactory image. A&L was slow, but allowed production of an image that required much less editing work afterward. The eye, almost all curves, required no after-tracing editing by either of the editors.

Results are much more dramatic when a 4.77 MHz PC/XT equipped with 8087 coprocessor is employed in the tracing process. A&L's coprocessor version took only 22% of the time required by the non-coprocessor version, and only 65% of the time required by Corel. Again, A&L's default settings re-

quired less after-tracing editing than those of the Corel editor.

If the user is knowledgeable about either program's "preferences" (read that optimization parameters), both can be setup to achieve bitmap tracing at somewhat improved rates. However, all the coprocessing power available doesn't get around the limitations imposed by an 8088 running at 4.77 MHz. These machines really aren't appropriate for heavy-duty graphics work with the large editors such as A&L and Corel except in an emergency situation.

Reagan

4

said to be "going their own way" with development of the "DOS Protected Mode Interface" (DPMI) with quotes from Russ Werner, Microsoft's manager over DOS and Windows.

Remember how concretely Microsoft/IBM described future DOS - Windows versions -- with no multitasking -- in the preceding article?

Werner was quoted later in the PC Week story as saying "VCPI was never intended for multitasking environments..." According to the weekly, he also commented that Microsoft's development shouldn't upset other software developers, since the "volume of extended applications is just not that large."

Lotus, who bet on a VCPI-based DOS extender to allow their notorious RAM eater, 1-2-3 version 3.0, to break the 640K barrier, was not pleased, and was credited with a quote they may (later) regret -- something having to do with relative numbers of VCPI users vs Windows users. (Lotus is actually very upset at how rapidly the ratios are shifting toward Windows, since they bet on OS/2 and DOS extenders.)

Oh well, Bill Gates never did like Cambridge much.

This is a Prize?

Armonk boosts OS/2 numbers...

IBM is still betting (mostly) on OS/2. They aren't happy at how slowly OS/2 is gaining market share, though, and the following may be an attempt to boost the OS/2 numbers.

Visitors to the IBM OS/2 applications area at Comdex were encouraged to enter a drawing for a "loaded" PS/2-70 with major hard disk, high-level display, oodles of DRAM, etc., etc., etc. Second prize(s) was/were copies of the newly-released OS/2 1.2. In late December, apparently lots of Comdex visitors received a large envelope from IBM.

Inside was a single-sheet form letter telling them how lucky they were to be a "Second-Prize Winner," and that they could expect their copy of OS/2 1.2 within a

month. The form letter looked like the tail-end of a very long printing run. A disquieting addition. It finished by stating OS/2 1.2's list value (\$340) and hinted that a 1099 had been sent to the IRS.

As far as I know, OS/2 is a highly hardware-specific operating system -- a PS/2 version of OS/2 probably won't run at all on the clones most of us use.


I wish I had won this...

AGFA Compugraphic Type Director

I like competition. Agfa's Compugraphic Division may give Bitstream a run for their money with the new Type Director scalable font system for H-P Laserjets. Demonstration of the Type Director system at Comdex focused on speed -- lots of it. The typefaces printed looked very good too. And, Agfa's advertised prices were competitive.

Packaging of the Type Director is quite similar to their competition (Bitstream). \$225 (list) buys the Type Director Font Management Program and three typeface families -- CG Times (Times Roman), Univers (a sans serif face) and a decorative typeface collection including Park Avenue, Uncial, Dom Casual and Brush. According to Agfa, other type foundries and publishers' Hewlett-Packard compatible soft-font typefaces can be used with the Type Director so that existing fonts are not made obsolete.

Surprisingly, Agfa resisted the temptation to make a Helvetica look-alike their Gothic (sans serif) typeface choice for this offer. The Univers typeface is somewhat more graceful, rounded and less Teutonic than the "standard" Helvetica. Initial typeface collection includes 20 typeface "volumes" (families) and individual volumes list at \$195. Agfa plans to convert their library of 1700 type faces to Type Director format.

For more information and orders, contact Agfa at 1-800-873-FONT. 

APL Mini-Conference

An Overview of APL in Use

by Stuart Yarus

Do you know that there are companies that try to keep it a secret that they use APL, because they consider it a competitive edge over their competition? Did you know that, because decisions and strategies change so quickly on Wall Street, APL is a favorite tool there? Did you know that an APL program managed an IBM plant for five years until the COBOL program was readied to replace it? Did you know that there are several free and shareware versions of APL available for most micro-computer systems?

The Southwest APL Users Group (SWAPL) will be sponsoring a symposium to help raise public awareness of the use of APL in business, industry, and education. Vendors of several APL interpreters and add-ons will talk about who uses APL and for what purposes, new editors and debuggers for APL, and some of the advantages that APL confers to its users. There will also be local APL users offering an introductory tutorial, a user experience round-table discussion, and a talk on linking APL2 and C.

Materials will be available to learn more about APL, SIGAPL (a Special Interest Group of the ACM), and local activities. The conference will be held at INFOMART on Saturday, February 10, 1990, from two to six in the afternoon. The symposium sessions will follow most of the user group meetings of the Computer Council of Dallas that take place that day. Look for room locations posted in the INFOMART lobby. There is no admission fee, and all are welcome. Bring your questions.

Stuart



Aids to Writing Well

by Robert M. Monaghan CDP,CSP,CCP,CISA

Isn't it amazing? Most people would rather do anything than write. Yet we all communicate. Most of us do so as part of earning our living. Communication skills are the number one quality sought by job interviewers. Are you a computer consultant or MIS professional? If so, then you are already acutely aware of the need to write well. Wouldn't it be great if your PC could help you communicate better? Good news! It can. I've recently collected some application programs which will help you do just that. We'll review and compare them extensively here. But first, let's take a brief look at what it means to write well in a technical sense.

Few people write badly on purpose. We simply don't know how to use words effectively. Studies have identified the common flaws in most poor writing. Many of these flaws are technical ones. Clear writing is brief. Long sentences with multi-syllable words make reading difficult. The passive voice is to be avoided. Avoid the passive voice. See how the second sentence has more impact? Finally, we fail to use personal words to help maintain reader involvement and interest. Use as many personal words - such as he, she, you, your, and I - as you can. All of these writing flaws can be analyzed by computer. Unfortunately, the computer can't do it all for you. You'll have to see to it that your writing has content, makes sense, and reads well. Your PC can help you avoid technical flaws that keep you from your goal. Strive for easy readability in your writing.

Where do you start? Begin with some books on clear writing. I would highly recommend Dr. Rudolf Flesch's books (see reading list below). Dr. Flesch's research uncovered the secrets of clearer writing. Flesch created an index which evaluates readability. The Flesch index is based on counting sentence length and multi-syllable words. Your score will go up if you use long sentences and multi-syllable words. Strive for a low Flesch score. Your writing will improve thanks to shorter sentences and shorter words.

Robert Gunning also contributed significantly by the development of a "fog-index". The "fog-index" estimates the clarity of your sentence structure. Long, burdensome, complex sentences get higher "fog-indexes". The "fog-index" is scaled against the educational background required to understand the sentence. Grades 1-12 correspond to the first through twelfth grade of high school. Grades 13-16 correspond to your college years. Grades above 16 relate to post-graduate education. A grade above 20 requires more education than a Ph.D. to understand.

The personal computer is an incredible aid to writing well. It's easy to revise and change our writing with a word processor. Start by learning all the features of your word processor. Statistics suggest that most users know only 15% of the available features. Are you one of these people? Begin by reading the manuals. Locate those other handy features you could use, if only you knew how.

The secret of good writing is editing. You should cut, and then cut some more. Stop only when further cuts would change the intended meaning of what you write. You should also organize your writing. The ideas should flow naturally from one section to the next. The word processor makes editing easy too. Other features such as spell checkers can eliminate errors from your writing. Do you also have an on-line thesaurus available? Use these tools. Your writing quality will improve significantly.

This review article is structured simply. First, I'll review the two top commercial products - GRAMMATIK III and RightWriter. Then we'll look at some SHAREWARE grammar analyzers. I'll introduce you to a number of other writing aids and utilities. Finally, we'll review some of the programs already in our DOM library. Each of these writing tools may be helpful to you. Each program may offer unique features or functionality that you need in your work.

Commercial Grammar Analyzers - GRAMMATIK III vs. RightWriter

Let's begin by noting that each of the commercial programs employs a different approach. Grammatik III uses an on-line approach. You have the option to correct errors in the original document as you go along. By contrast, RightWriter does its analysis by creating a marked up output file. You would expect GRAMMATIK III to be a bigger program than RightWriter. You'd be right. The new GRAMMATIK IV program is presumably even bigger. Want more features? You'll pay for them with more hard disk space and a larger program. With your own cliches and terms added, you might need as much as 500k to store your grammar analyzer files.

If you opt to buy GRAMMATIK III, be sure your word processor is one of those supported in on-line edit mode. Otherwise, you'll have to export an ASCII text document to be used by GRAMMATIK III. All of the programs reviewed in this article accept ASCII text file input. A few provide options to strip or convert files to ASCII as utility features. Most modern word processors provide an ASCII output option.

Both commercial programs supply a series of summary statistics. However, you can't compare the statistics from one with those of the other. For example, Grammatik III rated one article with a 46.284 on the Flesch Index and 30.557 on the Fog Index.

RightWriter reported a 43 on the Flesch Reading Ease statistic and a 16 on the Gunning Fog Index. Both programs agreed that the material was 12th grade high school level. These differences don't matter so long as you stay within one package.

The user is responsible for interpreting the recommendations of these on-line writing coaches. Some curious quirks remain within each program. For example, RightWriter flagged "Brokaw's" as a

< S21. CONTRACTION * >

problem.

A possessive is neither a contraction nor a problem. All analyzers have a built-in prejudice against some words. If you use these words, they will remind you of the potential problems. You'll have to go to the trouble of editing undesired prejudices out. A useful feature in Grammatik III allows you to toggle certain classes of rules off. You can kill spell checking, punctuation or any other nagging you'd like to stop. You can toggle these rule-checking features on or off in an options menu in both commercial programs. I prefer to filter and ignore bad advice rather than miss some of my errors.

If you don't use a spelling checker, GRAMMATIK III provides such an option on-line. If you do, then you may want to ignore this feature. Develop one spelling checker, supplemented by the words you use every day. The logical place for these spelling additions is in your word processor. I assume here that you won't do a grammar analysis on every document you write. Generally, you can delete these spelling checker files from all of these grammar analyzers. Save disk space for programs you use.

In on-line operation, Grammatik III opens two windows. Errors result in a highlighted error in context. In the lower window, you see why the program has stopped ("check"), the nature of the problem, and the advice for changes. In my experience, the program was right 1/3 of the time. Another 1/3 of the time, Grammatik III or RightWriter were both wrong. Usually, these errors occurred when there was some distance between subject and verb. The rest of the time, the program objected to words which were proper in their context, but often misused. Other recommendations were not generally relevant to the context. You can rely on these systems to catch misspellings, punctuation errors, doubled words (e.g., the the), and so on. You are still going to have to be the judge of the advice offered. I often grudging give in and change passive to active voices, if only to make the system "happy". My articles usually improve as a result. A little nagging is good for your writing.

RightWriter is a smaller program than Grammatik III. You supply an input file and output file name. You may also set options for analysis and statistical

reporting. Rightwriter creates a marked up copy of your original file. You can go in and review inserted comments. To edit, you must read the marked up file into your word processor. If you wish, RightWriter will delete the inserted comments for you. When I tried this feature, I got back a file that was 7 bytes shorter than the input file. I tried it again with another file. This time I got back a file that was 11 bytes longer than the original file. I'm not doing anything but analyzing text and then removing inserted comments. I'm using only RightWriter for this test. You'd think the removal of comments should leave you with the same size file as when you started. Isn't that strange?

Another aspect of RightWriter's operation is the on-line comments themselves. These comments tend to be minimal reminders of the error type. You do get some suggestions for replacement or deletion. The advice fits on one line. Multiple errors on a line result in multiple lines of error flags. A small tick mark (^) is used to indicate where in the line the error was detected. This system is workable. You can easily delete these insertions with most word processor's search and replace function. I did notice that I had to use extended margins to prevent word wrapping while editing. When words wrapped in my word processor, removing the comment line became more difficult. You may wish to locate the error and evaluate it first. Delete the comment lines in that paragraph. Now make the corrections. This procedure is harder than the on-line editing provided by Grammatik III. See what you think. A demo disk of the Grammatik III program has been placed in SHAREWARE. You may contact Reference Software, 330 Townsend Street, Suite 123, San Francisco, CA. 94107 or phone 1-800-872-9933 for a demo copy.

I feel that most users will prefer the on-line editing capabilities of Grammatik III, justifying the extra cost and hard disk space required. You may disagree. What I find more remarkable about these premiere commercial grammar analyzers is not the features they offer. Rather, I'm surprised by some of the features they don't offer which are available in other SHAREWARE programs. Let's turn to some of these SHAREWARE products for a review of the competition.

PRO-SCRIBE

Wow! You just have to try this writing aid. PRO-SCRIBE is a full featured grammar analysis application complete with graphics and on-line help. Several unique features combine to make this a "must-have" utility. Please note that PRO-SCRIBE is the updated program version of MAXI-READ, a program in our DOM library.

PRO-SCRIBE provides some really nice graphics, including both screen and printer compatible output. These graphs include a "running grade level" analysis

of your writing. What's that? Simply stated, PRO-SCRIBE reviews your text for complexity. A reading grade level is assigned to each line of your text. You can get a chart which shows you the dips and peaks of complexity in your writing. Another graphic shows how your writing pattern corresponds to an ideal writing pattern. You can track down the offending lines easily. PRO-SCRIBE also prints your text. In printing, PRO-SCRIBE attaches the running grade level figure to the end of each line. Now you can easily track down the offending lines and re-write them.

PRO-SCRIBE shows the complex words you used. The listing includes a count of how many times you used each word. Synonyms will be listed if you desire. You may turn off this feature by starting words with an "*". These starred words will be treated as one syllable. Is your audience familiar with your buzzwords? If so, you can add "*" to your jargon with your word processor. PRO-SCRIBE will quit nagging you about your use of these terms.

Editors will love the next feature. You can create or add to the existing word wasters list. Using words on this list will result in constructive nagging from PRO-SCRIBE. Want to eliminate jargon, cliches, or weak constructions from your writing? Simply start adding your favorites to the word wasters list. PRO-SCRIBE will remind you when you use them.

Finally, PRO-SCRIBE provides you with a graphical chart with your writing statistics. The top line is an overall summary of where you stand, from simple to very complex. The next box provides grade level and Flesch reading index. Personal interest words are scored next. Words such as you, me, I, she, and he are personal interest words. Using more of them in your writing raises the reader's involvement and personal interest. Sesquipedalian words are too long. Use shorter words instead. Shorter sentences are easier to read and more desirable. Statistics on all these writing elements are also shown on a horizontal bar chart.

At the touch of a key, a second graphics window pops up. Here, you'll see how your writing pattern compares to an ideal writing pattern. Again, this display is unique among the programs evaluated in this article. PRO-SCRIBE's strength is in showing you, numerically and graphically, the complexity of your writing patterns.

PRO-SCRIBE does not replace all of the features of either GRAMMATIK III or RightWriter. Both of the commercial programs have more extensive error types and advice on purely grammatical problems. But neither commercial program can help you monitor the pattern or complexity of your writing like PRO-SCRIBE.

PRO-SCRIBE should be a welcome tool to any writer. PRO-SCRIBE is also relatively efficient in using hard disk space. Even if you had both commercial programs, you'd need PRO-SCRIBE for its unique features. The running grade level feature is a great idea. Most of the PRO-SCRIBE statistics are presented both numerically and graphically. I recommend that you look into reviewing PRO-SCRIBE (formerly MAXI-READ) on your own system - especially in color. Contact R.W.S. & Associates at 132 Alpine Terrace, San Francisco, CA. 94117 for the latest version (\$35 + \$2 S/h, or \$25 to just register your own copy).

FOG-FINDER

FOG-FINDER is a short program which does one job, but does it well. FOG-FINDER reads a sample consisting of the first fifty sentences encountered in any ASCII text file. The program computes a "fog-index", based on the Gunning fog index. At first glance, the sampling technique seems like a limitation. In practice, it is a useful added feature. You can extract one section of your writing into an ASCII file with your word processor. Now compare it against the beginning of the document. Have you bogged down? If so, the "fog-index" on the later section will probably go up. The actual program displays a chart with various journals ranked from low "fog-indexes" to high ones. A floating bar indicator, in addition to a numeric value, shows you how your writing effort scored. In use, the program gives a fast fifteen second evaluation of your writing efforts. FOG-FINDER was one of the first writing aides available.

On the negative side, more recent analysis programs also compute the "fog-index" as part of an array of statistics. FOG-FINDER will be a duplicate program in such collections. But you can slip FOG-FINDER into a small 15k file without using up your entire floppy's file space. Be aware that non-ASCII characters (with high bit set such as might be used by WORDSTAR) may throw the fog index off. The requested registration fee of \$15 is somewhat high. Contact Joey Robichaux, 1036 Brookhollow Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. 70810.

PC-STYLE

Jim Button is a well-known and much-admired Shareware author familiar to most PC users. Mr. Button is best known for his PC-FILE, PC-CALC, and PC-DIAL shareware products. Writers will find another of his programs equally valuable. The PC-STYLE program is a fast, remarkably compact 24k program which analyzes your writing style. Bar graphs relate your readability, personal tone, and action. The program also shows graphically your readability level and syllables per word. One unique feature reports on the percent of action verbs. Using more action verbs will help put more "punch" into your writing. Personal words and long words fre-

quency are also graphed. Several other statistics are also reported. Both ASCII and WORDSTAR files are supported. The program rapidly reads your file, constantly updating its graphic charts as analysis proceeds. When compared with other programs which do less, you'll be amazed at how much so small a program can do. Registration fee is only \$29.95. Contact Buttonware, Inc. at P.O.B. 5786, Bellevue, WA. 98006 or call 1-800- JButton.

CLICHE-FINDER:

Cliche Finder does just that. Cliche-Finder just reads an ASCII file without altering it. Your output options are listings to the screen, to the printer, or to a file. The listing is simply a list of any "cliches" you may have used in the text. You may edit the cliché file to add your own foibles. A lawyer could add legalese. A computer person could flag computerese. All of us have word choices we should be nagged about. Cliche Finder will do it for you, automatically.

On the negative side, Cliche Finder does not come with as many built-in clichés as I might have expected. Operation is a bit slow. The program evidently sorts and creates disk index files during use. Unfortunately, the base program is just too large to fit on a single 360k diskette. I was somewhat surprised at how large the program was, given its single application area.

In use, you should create an ASCII text file. The Cliche Finder then lists the offending clichés it located in your text. You must reload your word processor and search for the listing of clichés. Now edit them out. These requirements are reasonably easy to live with, given the program's utility.

Cliche Finder meets a real need. You now have a tool to flag your use of clichés and poor terminology. For example, I often weaken my arguments by stating "I think,". Cliche Finder reminds me to weed these vacillations out of my writing. You should invest the time personalizing Cliche Finder so it will help you improve your writing.

One interesting feature is the bio-feedback you get from a few sessions of Cliche Finder. You quickly learn to avoid many of your clichés by self-editing, before you type them into your text. The result is a long-term improvement in your writing style well worth the \$29 investment requested for registration of Cliche Finder.

The features of Cliche Finder are incorporated into Grammatik III, RightWriter, and PRO-SCRIBE (MAXI-READ). Use their "wasted words", jargon, and cliché options instead. If you opt to use these programs, by all means supplement their listings with your own clichés. Use one program for many tasks, rather than several overlapping programs. But for an inexpensive, stand-alone utility, Cliche Finder will find an appreciative audience. Contact R.K.

West Consulting, P.O.B. 8059, Mission Hills, CA. 91346 to register (\$29).

I should point out that the bio-feedback writing improvement process comes from many other sources too. Using any grammar analyzer or spelling checker will improve your grammar and spelling. Seeing your mistake highlighted will soon cause you to abandon that error. But you must resist changes to legitimate elements in your writing. For example, the "But" in the last sentence draws flags from both Grammatik III and RightWriter. I like the usage. I may be wrong, but that's my privilege.

WRITER'S CRAMP

WRITER'S CRAMP is distinguished by its very clean design. I was impressed. Can this really be the first version? WRITER'S CRAMP reads a number of word processing text files. You can convert (strip) to ASCII via one utility. You can count words in any file. Another option performs a statistical analysis of your word use. You can get a listing of the longest words used in the file. Want to know the number of times any particular word was used? That's an easy one too. You also get a listing of the most frequently used words. Running WRITER'S CRAMP convinced me I need to hit my thesaurus more often. Have I really used the word "program(s)" twenty three times so far in this one article? Arggh! Intriguingly, the Dallas author prefers to remain anonymous. Most of us would be glad to claim credit for such a fine program! Writer's Cramp is definitely worth a compact 31K of hard disk space for its unique reporting insights. The menu-structure takes you through the required initial steps in sequence. Thereafter, you can perform repeated analyses using the menu. WRITER'S CRAMP can be run from the internal menus easily. That's a real plus over referring to pages of documentation as required by some utilities. Contact P.O.B. 29581, Dallas, Tx. 75229.

Once again, we find features hard to extract from any other utility. Some programs will list your longest words or provide word frequency lists. But they don't do so in as brief and ordered a sequence. You also get some overlap with the statistics produced in other programs. For a list of long words or frequently used words, Writer's Cramp will do the job quickly.

FILE COMPARE - Compare Files Line by Line

FILE COMPARE does just that. Two ASCII files are compared, line by line. Differences are flagged on screen, or optionally sent to a third file. You can list just the changes. Optionally, you can show all the lines with the changes and deletions listed by line number. FILE COMPARE is a very fast, relatively compact (25k) program. The tax-deductible registration fee of \$25 is sent to benefit the Oxfam America charity - a nice touch. Contact Mike Albert at Suite 42, P.O.B. 2100, Chelmsford, MA. 01824. ▶

To learn Microsoft QuickBASIC, you only need a manual this thick.



You're looking at something you won't see anywhere else.

It's called QB Advisor. A remarkable new hypertext electronic manual that can make you instantly more productive, even if you don't know the first thing about programming. QB Advisor actually lets you experiment by cutting and pasting useful sample programs right into your programming window. Only Microsoft has it. Only Microsoft could. And it's just one of the things you'll learn about new Microsoft® QuickBASIC version 4.5 for IBM® PCs and compatibles.

Another is the step-by-step tutorial that actually takes you through every stage of programming by working you through a complete program.

And QB Express—the interactive way to learn all about your programming environment in a matter of minutes—not hours.

Microsoft QuickBASIC also comes with Easy Menus that let you develop programs with

a minimum number of menu choices. Context-sensitive Help for immediate help with error messages and variables by simply punching a key, or clicking a mouse. And a built-in debugger that lets you see exactly what your program is doing, as it's doing it.

Best of all, Microsoft QuickBASIC is packed with enough power to handle whatever problems drove you to programming in the first place. Fact is, it translates your program into executable code at an incredible 150,000 lines per minute.

Microsoft QuickBASIC version 4.5. If programming is the only way out, this is the easiest way in.



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FILE COMPARE is a handy tool for programmers whose source code is often line by line code. You can readily compare revisions from one version to another, generating a list of changes, additions, and deletions. A software developer would probably want to use the option to list all the lines, with changes flagged. Up to 16,300 lines of code can be handled in each file.

On the negative side, line numbers and text are provided to vector you to the changed lines. Is your file or word processor line oriented? If not, you may find it hard to locate which SUB AX,AX instruction you changed in a long listing. Don't throw away that EDLIN editor yet!

FCDOC - Compare Files Sentence by Sentence

FCDOC compares two ASCII files, sentence by sentence. Differences are flagged to the screen, or optionally to a third file. Operation is similar to FILE COMPARE. Mike Albert of Chelmsford (MA.) programmed both FILE COMPARE and FCDOC. Again, Mike asks that a \$25 tax deductible contribution made out to Oxfam America, a charity, be sent to him for registration.

FCDOC is for writers, editors, students, and especially attorneys. Editors can send original and edited copies back to writers. Changes and editorial preferences will be obvious. Writers can perform the same task with published versus original copy. You can also trace your self-editing process by studying your own revisions. Attorneys can compare one document with its revised version, flagging changes, deletions, and additions. FCDOC is fast, small, and handy. If you work with revisions, you need one or both of these fine programs.

PC-INDEX

PC-INDEX reads text files and indexes them. PC-INDEX could be used to index any document or manual. You can add to "noise" words to be excluded from your listing. Alternatively, you can use an include file of words to be used in indexing, excluding all others. For example, you might first index all words in the document. Edit the listing to select only those words significant to your reader. Re-run PC-INDEX. The resulting index will have only those selected terms you judged significant in the index. The shareware version is one column output. The registered version offers two columns and other enhancements for a \$25 registration fee (\$35 with manual). Contact Help Software, 16706 Bradley Court, Belton, MO. 64012 (816- 331-5809).

The program requires two or more steps. First, you extract the words. Second, you index the word file created by step one. The output file is a nicely indexed array of words cross-referenced to the document by page number. The words are shown, followed by page number(s) separated by commas.

Where the term is used repeatedly across several pages, these page numbers are shown, e.g., "ASCII 1-3, 5".

An odd requirement is that you should print the input document to a file first. This operation enables the PC-INDEX program to count pages using the line printer codes. If you do not have the option to redirect your printer output to a file, here's a handy hint. Get our DOM disk titled "BAKER'S DOZEN". You'll find a handy program that will do just that!

You can set various features such as characters to include as sorting characters (e.g., Mail&fraud). A number of word processor options are supported in the registered version as well. This program would be useful to anyone wanting to generate an index quickly. The program is very fast, considering the amount of sorting and checking it has to do. The process scans for words to be excluded (or included, depending on your options). A model 30 PS/2 took 5 seconds to extract the words in this article. Another five seconds resulted in the sorted output file. Longer files take progressively more time.

Many word processors offer an indexing function. Typically, these features are cumbersome to use. PC-INDEX does only one thing. Programs which do just one thing tend to do so quickly and effectively.

Some unusual applications suggest themselves. I think law firms will want to consider indexing some of their depositions and other documents with PC-INDEX. PC-INDEX makes it fast and easy to index any document. You no longer have an excuse not to do it.

Other Programs in DOM

I would be remiss if I didn't mention other programs in our DOM library. I personally use the outline features in Wordperfect 5.0. But you may find OUTLINE!, by Brown Bag Software, to be useful (DOM #0167). The program permits you to have an on-line TSR outline function as one option. You can create an outline easily. Adding, deleting, or changing levels are supported. One nice feature is the ability to hide lower levels. You can show only the major headings to get the overall picture. You can then toggle the lower levels, up to nine levels deep, rendering them visible. An outlining utility may be especially useful if you are writing a long document. Procrastinators will find taking one section at a time helps get things done. You can also use the outline function for preparing talks or meetings.

You will probably also want to look into IDEA-TREE (disk 0385). The concept here is simply one of "ideas" which can be organized into a "tree" and "branch" approach. This program lets you tie thoughts together and re-organize them as desired. Although more complex, you overcome some limitations of other strictly outlining applications. ►

Instant Recall (disk 0163) is similar to TORNADO NOTES <TM>. You can store up to 80k of free-form text notes in a database (2 meg on the registered version). The program automatically sorts on each significant word. You can also use defined fields followed by free-form text. For example, you could define a reference field with author, title, publisher, date and so on. Next, you could enter your quotes or comments in a free-form text field. Later, you could sort or organize on the basis of the defined fields to produce an annotated bibliography file. Or you could simply search for a key word. Both TSR and on-line modules are available.

A full featured free-form text database can be had in 3x5 from our DOM. The 3x5 database can handle free-form text that you just type into ASCII files. Any ASCII files you have can also be used as a database. This feature makes it possible to search and perform complex sorts through correspondence files, documents, and other resources. You can also create defined fields, similar to standard databases. You can use the defined fields in many ways to control listing, sorts, key-word searches, and so on. If your resource is free-form ASCII text, then you need 3x5. You need at least one free-form text database, if only to see what you are missing with dBASE.

MAXI-READ (disk 0386) is another offering by the RWS & Associates people who provide PRO-SCRIBE. MAXI-READ is an earlier version of PRO-SCRIBE. The latest PRO-SCRIBE versions are evidently faster than any previous version.

NEWKEY (disk 8405) is a keyboard enhancer, similar to SMARTKEY <TM>. The NEWKEY program lets you edit your keyboard definitions. You can add or redefine features on any combination of keys (e.g., <alt> <function keys>). You can embed macros onto keys too. The utility of keyboard enhancers is a function of your word processor. Some word processors, such as WORDPERFECT, take over the keyboard themselves. NEWKEY will not work under such conditions. Where your word processor can co-exist with NEWKEY, you'll find it a very useful program. You can store long strings as macros onto some key combinations. Simply hitting those keys will cause the long string to be typed out, accurately and instantly. If you haven't used a keyboard enhancer, you're in for a treat!

Archivers are the final writer's tool I'll cover here. You will soon need an archiving utility. Select a good one. You want a system with a lot of options. Look for the ability to list, extract, test, update, and delete from archived files. Speed is more important to most of us, with storage efficiency a close second. Programs by SEA (ARC), Phil Katz (PKware), and L. Yoshi (LHARC) are all top flight archiving utilities. Try them all. Pick the one you like best. Use it regularly.

Look into self-extracting archiving options. You can compact an ASCII text file into under one half of its original size. Convert the archive into a self-extracting EXE or COM file. An extra 1-2 kbytes of overhead code is all it takes. To extract the file, you simply type its name as a command. The file extracts itself! No other utility need be present on the disk. You can also distribute your programs or off-load onto floppy disks without providing the matching version of archiving utility.

Not Reviewed Above, But Worth Noting

I have received several programs which would be useful to many writers which I have not reviewed here. Instead, I have donated these to the DOM. Will a user who more actively uses these features volunteer to review them? BIBLOG is a WORDPERFECT 5.0 bibliography aid with explanatory text. By contrast, BIBLIOGRAPHY is a full featured program designed to handle professional publication requirements. BIBLOG (Bibliography-Perfect) registration fee is only a \$25 donation to Physicians for Social Responsibility, 325 E. 25th Street, Baltimore, MD. 21218. Contact Arthur Milholland, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anesthesiology, U. of Md. Hospital, 22 S. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD. 21201. BIBLIOGRAPHY users are asked to donate \$25 to Children's Hospital of New Mexico via Dean Madar, M.D., Ph.D., 1855 Girard NE, #16, Albuquerque, NM. 87106.

PCTEXT is an interesting set of text analysis tools. The program uses a shell program to run a series of "user-unfriendly" utilities. In addition to other analyses, you can also run a mini-concordance analysis. Concordance determines how similar two passages of text are in terms of word choices. Other features in PC-TEXT provide counts of letters used (not words, letters). Again, these features are likely to be of interest to a more limited audience. If you are part of that group, I suggest you contact them directly. PC-TEXT Analysis Project, Humanities Program, West Virginia College of Graduate Studies (Morgantown, W.Va. 26506).

EASY-TYPE is a generic typesetting program. You can convert your WORDPERFECT, WORDSTAR, or generic ASCII files. The output file is compatible with many typesetting systems. For some writers and editors, this program may serve as a cost cutting technique. If you are writing a book for a small market, this program may be for you. Contact Advocate Enterprises, Ltd., 899 S. Plymouth Ct., Suite 504, Chicago, Il. 60605.

I'll try to squeeze a few odd utilities in here too. One program, called WORD COUNT, does just that. It provides a count and analysis of the words and sentence elements used in your writing. Speed and small size compensate for the minimal analysis provided. If you face text conversion problems, look

Selected SIG Happenings

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Database SIG

At the February meeting, the Database SIG will begin an 8-part series to teach beginning database developers to use the dBase III program. Hope to see you there.

Vincent Gaines and Rodney Haas

DOS SIG

Which way to go? Microsoft hints that Windows 3.0 is "super" and an OS/2 killer, while IBM and Microsoft together, talk about Windows and DOS as only suitable for PC's with two (2) megabytes of RAM or less. Meanwhile, Microsoft reports they are working on a DOS "extender" (memory management system for 286 and 386 PC's) that's completely different than everyone else's DOS extender (XMA) that's currently on the market.

DOS 3.3X seems to keep rolling along with no real competition from either version of DOS 4.0. According to informal surveys taken at SIG meetings, a number of PC users are still working with 2.1X and happy with their systems.

Jim Holsington, SIG Leader, will try to clarify the raging debates over DOS, Windows and OS/2 1.2 while attempting to make the OS decisions for users somewhat less complicated. One view is that 4.0X isn't the correct answer for almost anything at this time.

As usual, we'll end the February SIG Meeting with a freestyle Q&A session as Jim and Reagan try to make sense out of the issues.

Reagan Andrews

Lotus SIG

The subject for the January meeting

was an overview and introduction to macros. Macros always generate a lot of interest in the meetings and January's meeting was no exception. Macros are often heralded as the answer to all problems. While very useful and valuable, macros do have some limitations. The hard part about macros is how to get started. The January meeting stressed keyboard macros which simply replay commands and keystrokes available in the 1-2-3 menu structure, @ functions, and cursor movement.

The subject for the February meeting will continue the discussion of macros and concentrate on the interactive macro commands. The interactive commands include the getlabel, getnumber, and menuing commands. These interactive macro commands add a wealth of capabilities and are a good next step in learning about macros.

Just in case any member of the NTPCUG has not heard, the disk that Mark prepared was ready and available at the December user group meeting. The focus of the disk is the 1-2-3 menu structure. All menu commands are discussed including the new commands in release 2.2 and 3.0. Also on the disk are 40 worksheets and other files used to illustrate the commands. Mark used these worksheets in his presentations. If

Aids to Writing Well continued

into TEXTCON or TEXT-DCA. A \$25 donation will provide the latest versions of both programs from CROSS-COURT SYSTEMS, 1521 Greenview Avenue, East Lansing, MI. 48823. Call 517-332-4353 for details.

Acknowledgments

Obviously, our North Texas PC Users Group DOM (Disk of the Month) group deserves a great deal of credit. Their efforts have provided a continuing series of useful applications. My thanks to them again for the work they've done for all of us.

I'd also like to thank Arthur Geffen of the Inns of Court BBS. Similar thanks go out to Mr. Rice and Mr. Livingston of the LAWSIG BBS in Dallas. Most of the programs reviewed here were downloaded from their BBS in a recent period. Just imagine all you've missed if you aren't using these and similar BBS services!

Robert

PRO-SCRIBE MANUAL EXCERPT - RECOMMENDED READING

The following listing of recommended reading, taken from the PRO-SCRIBE manual, provides some excellent reading on the art of writing well. A surprisingly good guide to better writing can be found in the same PRO-SCRIBE manual.

AUTHOR	BOOK TITLE
Rudolf Flesch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * How to Write Plain English * Say What You Mean * The Art of Readable Writing * Rudolf Flesch on Business Communications * Why Johnny Can't Read -And What You Can Do About It * How to Write, Speak and Think More Effectively
Richard Lanham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Revising Prose
Robert Gunning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Take the Fog Out of Writing * More Effective Writing in Business and Industry
William Strunk Jr.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The Elements of Style
Joseph Williams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Style

you have not gone down to the DOM table and bought the two disk set, you really should.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that users are having with 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet products. If you have a question, come on by and join us in February.

Mark Gruner
and Pat Henley

Paradox SIG

The first meeting for this new SIG was held at the January NTPCUG meeting.

The initial meetings will be held with the primary purpose of gathering information from those who attend. What I'm looking for is input on where you want this SIG to go.

Please don't think that you have to be a Paradox wizard to attend. My past experience with running SIGs indicates that those who are most interested in the SIG subject are those who need introductory information or have specific questions for which they are seeking answers.

So, if you have an interest in Paradox, please attend our next meeting and let me know what will best help you.

Fred Williams

Turbo Pascal Beginner's SIG

This is a new SIG, starting with the February meeting. We expect the meeting time will be at noon. (See schedule elsewhere in this Newsletter).

The SIG will be directed entirely at those people who are novices in Pascal programming, will include ONLY

Turbo Pascal Version 5.0 and up, and at least initially will use only the Integrated Development Environment (IDE), not the Command Line system.

The next newsletter should have a tentative schedule of the topics to be covered for the entire year. The February meeting will include at least the following:

- Discussion on why you might want to use Pascal, instead of BASIC or C
- Installing Turbo Pascal
- Starting (and stopping!) the IDE
- Reserved words, and the order in which you'll learn to use them
- Steps in writing a very simple program

For the first meeting, the meeting notes will be on 5 1/4-inch diskettes. Bring a blank diskette and trade it in for the one with the notes on it.

Phil Chamberlain

Windows/PM SIG

The second meeting of the Windows and PM SIG was held at the December 12 meeting at Infomart. This SIG is primarily concerned with designing & writing programs for MS Windows and Presentation Manager (OS/2).

Since we meet only once per month for only one hour, we cannot present an all-inclusive class on Windows/PM programming. Therefore, we will focus on selected issues and topics that affect the design and coding of Windows/PM programs.

At the December meeting, the first presentation was given on DDE - Dynamic Data Exchange. J.P. Sims, one of our own members, showed sample code that she has been working on to implement DDE under MS Windows. I would like to take this opportunity to thank her for her effort and for the fine presentation.

DDE gives separate applications the ability to automatically exchange data. This is not the same as the Clipboard, where the exchange is manual and under the control of the user. Windows/PM programs must be specifically written to take advantage of DDE.

Members are encouraged to volunteer to present topics in which they have experience. Even simple topics would be appreciated, as we have both beginning and experienced Windows/PM programmers in attendance. If you wish to contribute, please call James Dunn at 279-1738, evenings.

James Dunn

Word SIG

February's Word SIG Meeting will focus on the new Microsoft Word Companion Disk for Word 5.0 recently released by Rinearson Support Associates. A gift from Microsoft, the new Peter Rinearson program features Advanced Quick Help, MACRO's, Style Sheets and Form Letters assembled by the Rinearson team to facilitate Word 5.0 users' production work.

Although Word 5.0 is very powerful, much of its power is very difficult for users to achieve. Rinearson's disk(s) make much of the cryptic Help messages truly helpful for a change while also making MACRO's easy to learn, create and implement to speed wordprocessing chores.

We'll end the February Word SIG Meeting with a general Q&A session terminated by announcements of planned SIG topics for the next several months. Among these is the return (promised) of Microsoft to demonstrate advanced Word 5.0 and Word for Windows features.

Reagan Andrews

Users Group Discount On Disk Technician

Prime Solutions is offering a 50% discount on Disk Technician Advanced (\$75, regular list price \$149.95) or Disk Technician Pro (\$30, regular list price \$59.95) through February 28, 1990. This discount will be given to all user group members who identify their user group and ask for the half-off user group discount. This offer is only good when ordering factory-direct. To order or for more information, call (800) 847-5000 or (619) 274-5000

Making your Word Processor Work for You

by Leroy Tennison

Ever find yourself doing something over and over when using your word processor? Wish there was some easy way to have the machine repeat those keystrokes for you? In many word processors there is a way.

The best name I have seen for this word processing feature is "Save Keystrokes". I first saw it called that on an IBM Displaywriter. The feature is more often called a "macro". "Save Keystrokes" really does describe the feature's function because it lets you "record" a group of keystrokes and "play them back" at a later time. The real power comes from the fact that you can "play them back" over and over again whenever needed.

Here's a simple example. Lets say you were writing something about the club but didn't feel that it was appropriate to use the NTPCUG abbreviation in your composition. You needed to refer to the club by name several times but got tired of typing out "North Texas Personal Computer User's Group" every time you made a reference to us.

With a "macro" you could tell your word processor to start recording your keystrokes, type in "North Texas Personal Computer User's Group" and then stop recording what you typed. Somewhere in the process you would tell the word processor to associate this series of keystrokes with a name or a simple keystroke combination such as Alt-N (how this is done varies with different word processors).

Now, every time you need to refer to the club you simply use the macro's name or keystroke combination and the word processor substitutes "North Texas Personal Computer User's Group" in the text. Although this example is trivial (you could have used one of the word processor's block functions instead) it illustrates the concept.

Macros are not limited to recording text. They will record and play back almost any sequence of keystrokes. For example, let's say you had the following list of club members but needed to have the list in first name - last name order. (Although mischievous thoughts crossed my mind concerning the selection of the names below, the list is really quite arbitrary: The first ten people who were unlucky enough to be remembered at the time or be useful in the example!)

Cobb, Kent
Andrews, Reagan
Prickett, Tom
Gifford, Rex
Krusemark, Arnold

Holsington, Jim
Chalk, Andrew
Williams, Fred
Lee, Pehl.
Van Slyke, Anson

To reverse the order of the names you could position the cursor on the first letter of "Cobb" and turn on the keystroke recording feature. Then you could:

- Use the word processor's "block move" feature to mark the start of a block.
- Use the word processor's search feature to locate the comma-space combination at the end of "Cobb".
- Tell the word processor to remove the block from its current position.
- Use the "End" key to get to the end of "Kent".
- Add a space with the spacebar.
- Tell the word processor to retrieve the block of text containing "Cobb, ".
- If needed, use the "End" key again to get to the end of the line.
- Use the backspace key twice to get rid of the comma-space combination.
- Down-arrow once to get to the next line (in this case the one containing "Andrews, Reagan").
- Use the "Home" or other appropriate key to get to the left margin.
- After this you would turn off the keystroke recording feature.

This relatively simple example illustrates both the flexibility of macros and the principles for writing them.

There are 4 principles which, if used, will help you write useful macros. They are:

- 1) Position the cursor where you want the macro to begin. Then start to record keystrokes.
- 2) Look for (and work with) consistently occurring text or attributes in your document.
- 3) Use the commands available in your word processor which produce consistent results in a variety of situations (more on this in a minute).
- 4) End your macro where you want it to start up again (if you are doing the kind of repetitive task shown above).

You can eliminate numbers 1) and 4) above if you begin your macro with a search.

Now let's expand on why each of these steps is important. ▶

The rationale for the first step is fairly obvious. You normally want to use a macro when the cursor is at the point where you need it. If you start a macro and the cursor is not at that point then you must first move it to that point. All the positioning keystrokes you used to get to your starting position will always be in the macro. In most cases, when you wanted to use the macro again you would have to compensate for these positioning keystrokes. That would pretty much defeat the whole purpose of having the macro.

The second step also seems obvious but could use some additional clarification. Since macros are simply a recording of keystrokes they are inherently "dumb". As a result, they must rely on some simple and consistent method of finding their way as they are played back. The consistent text or attributes provide "landmarks" for which they can look. In our example we wanted to move the last name. In this case it happened to always begin at the start of a line and end with a comma-space combination. This was important especially with the last person (Anson Van Slyke) because his last name has two words in it. Otherwise we could have used a "word right" keystroke combination to isolate the last name.

You may be wondering how the "attributes" part of my statement fits in the picture. I included it because there are times when the consistent characteristics in the text aren't "text" at all. For example, the only consistent thing about paragraphs is that they end with two or more "hard returns" (carriage returns entered from the keyboard as opposed to those produced by the word processor's automatic "wrapping" of text to the next line when the right margin is exceeded).

There may be other "hidden" attributes in your text as well. What about spaces, tabs, page breaks and unique combinations of these? Maybe even other codes inserted by the word processor itself. Look for these things when you are trying to figure out how to write a macro. They may end up being the only consistent things about the document on which you are working. "Seeing" them may make the difference between being able to write a useful macro or not.

Using commands which produce consistent results in a variety of situations is crucial. The kinds of commands I am talking about are ones which can move over a varying amount of text and still arrive at a location that has some consistent characteristic. Perhaps a list of these kinds of commands would help clarify what I mean.

Search functions: Find a given string of text (and possibly attributes depending on the word processor) regardless of the amount of intervening text between the starting cursor position and the "found" string.

Home, End: In most word processors, these commands will always put the cursor at the beginning

or end of a line regardless of the initial cursor position on that line.

PgUp, PgDn: Goes to top-of-page in either direction.

Ctrl-key combinations such as:

Ctrl-Arrow key	Place the cursor at the next or previous
Ctrl-Home	word or a variety of other places depending
Ctrl-PgUp/PgDn	on the keystroke combination and the
Ctrl-End	particular word processor being used.

There may be other possibilities but the above list probably covers the most common commands. Combined with consistent text characteristics, these commands make it possible for a "blind" macro to reliably "find its way around" and perform the work you want it to do.

Last, end your macro where it should begin again if you are working on anything that is list oriented like our last example. The reason for this is that some word processors provide the capability of allowing macros to automatically execute a number of times or restart themselves after they are done. I know that Word Perfect can do this, I learned from Reagan Andrews that Microsoft Word has these capabilities as well. There may be other word processors which have one or both of these capabilities.

At this point the major factor in determining your success with macros is your own creativity. In many cases the use of one positioning command is not adequate to locate the cursor in a consistent place to do the necessary work. However, the use of a combination of positioning commands may well be adequate. The same is true about the work to be done. It may take several steps to accomplish what you want to do. "Seeing" the consistent characteristics in a document and applying the consistent-result commands in an ingenious way is an art. Hopefully the concepts presented here will help you on your way in that process.

Leroy

NEW Pascal Beginners SIG

Starting with our February meeting at 12:00 noon Phil Chamberlain will initiate a new Pascal Beginners SIG. For more information see the Selected SIG Happenings column in this PC NEWS.



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator
 Andy Oliver, Assistant Volunteer Coordinator

Christmas was just last month, but you won't be reading this until February. No matter. It was a special time for us at the Information Booth. Very cold, the weather was. Hit our volunteers right between the eyes every time the front doors at Infomart opened. We were shivering, but really feeling the holiday spirit... (Next year we will have hot chocolate or hot cider to ward off the cold - we've been told this in no uncertain terms.)

For the second year in a row (tradition may be setting in here) Donald Young brought fudge to be shared with the Booth volunteers. It didn't last long. Thank you, Donald for sharing the lar-

gesse, and even more thanks to your wife, Janita, for remembering us again.

It's been a fun year. We've met a lot of people, made a lot of friends, and learned a lot. The returns seem to far outweigh time put in by our volunteers. Join us, and discover ...

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers who served for the month of December. 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
 Archie Pinkney

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown
 Timothy Carmichael
 Tom Fowlston
 Pamela Brown

Auditorium Tickets
 Pehl. Lee

Information/Registration Booth
 Robert Andrews
 Mike Ashley (Anchor)
 K. B. Barton (Anchor)

Mark Cook
 Lonny Cordell (Anchor)
 John Ferguson (Anchor)
 Paul Fredd (Anchor)
 Martin Gluck
 Rick Griffith (Anchor)
 Allan Harbough (Anchor)
 Hank Holt (Anchor)
 John Mackoy (Anchor)
 Larry Matzek
 Claudia McDonald
 Cara Mendelsohn
 (Official Booth Decorator)
 Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
 Douglas Scott (Anchor)
 Connie Testa (Statistician)
 John Trotter (Anchor)
 Larry Tucker (Anchor)
 Paul Williams (Anchor)

Disk of the Month (DOM):

DOM Central Committee
 Preston Brashear
 Charles Carter
 Mark Gruner
 Howard Hamilton
 Kathryn Loafman
 Kenneth Loafman
 Ben Weatherall

DOM Volunteer Coordinator
 Bill Drissel

DOM Table
 Joe A. Allen
 Roy Bales
 Gene Carleton
 Charles Carter
 Jay Chambliss
 Bill Drissel
 Kent Haven
 Pat Henley
 Jo Johnston
 Bob Karlebach
 Duane Martin
 Don Mayfield

R. B. Reynolds
 Virginia Salter
 Jerry Stone
 Oscar Tyler

DOM Review/Presentation
 Roy Bales
 Gene Carleton
 Bruce Lutz
 Randell E. Miller
 N. Nielsen
 Joh Puckette
 Bernie VanRoekel
 Steven Lanier

Newsletter Exchange
 Francis Bright
 Pehl. Lee

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

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

"Fundamentals of Personal Computers"
 18-Class Revolving Schedule

Infomart Saturday	Class Number	Class Title/Description
14 Apr 90	1.2	Start Up
	2.2	Diskette Sizes & Formatting Each
Classes 1 thru 4	3.2	Copying & Backing up Files
	4.1	Personal Computer Hardware
12 May 90	5.1	Fixed Disk Directories, Batches, & Paths
	8.0	DOS Menu Systems on Fixed Disks
Classes 5 thru 8	7.1	Fundamentals of Lotus 123
	8.2	Fundamentals of "BASIC" Language
10 Feb 90	9.1	Genesis & Overview of Computer Languages
Classes 9 thru 12	10.4	NTPCUG Disk of the Month Library
	11.1	PC Graphics Modes
	12.1	Bulletin Boards & Archive Programs
10 Mar 90	13.0	Printer Setup
	14.0	Writing Lotus MACROS
Classes 13 thru 16	15.0	Major Categories of Software Available Today
	16.0	PCs to the End of the 20th & into the 21st Century

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

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)

Q & A - Local Area Networks

by Alan Lintel

Jeff Farris is a Managing Partner of Saber Software Corporation, a Dallas-based company. Saber Software is a premier developer of LAN Administration software. Saber's flagship product, the Saber Menu System, is a combination methodology and menu system designed to make networks easier to implement and manage. It was voted LAN Magazine's Product of the Year in 1989.

Q *At what point should a relatively small user start considering use of a network to link computers and peripherals?*

A Networks only make sense if they solve more problems than they cause. For the small user, this typically means getting a value that is worth the "lost time" and dollars spent on installing and maintaining the network. This value is most often a shared or multi-user database of customers, leads, etc. that can contribute directly to the bottom-line of the operation. Buying a network for peripheral sharing very seldom has any payback greater than its cost in time and dollars.

Q *Which networking products would you suggest for a small installation of 2-10 stations?*

A There are many different criteria that should be considered before purchasing the network. I'm afraid that I must pull a "Dear Abby" and suggest that the future networker consult a professional who will ask them about growth, databases, personality, training, administration, business goals, maintenance, users, current hardware, current software, future software and many, many other issues which should all be taken into account before selecting a network.

Q *What do you see as the most serious shortcomings of present-day networks?*

A Networks are not just large hard disks. For networks to provide a return on investment, they require new concepts and new solutions. Unfortunately, networks are sold just as any other software product - unbundled from the necessary adapter cards, cabling, backup systems, UPS's, and training that they require. Since no one manufacturer provides a complete solution, these pieces must be selected, shopped and assembled in such a way that versions and manufacturers are all compatible and cooperative. This is a hair-raising experience for even experienced network installers.

Q *Is it practical for a user to install his own network, or should a firm which specializes in network installation normally be hired?*

A For smaller networks, fewer than 10 nodes, or for networks which are specialized towards certain functions, such as databases, it is probably more cost effective to hire a company to "turnkey" the operation. That is, take the requirements and provide a ready-to-run solution. This is essentially what large companies do through their MIS departments. Although this approach may seem expensive, the alternative of doing some or all of the work in-house is always underestimated by at least a factor of 10. Since there are many small firms in this area, be sure to thoroughly check references, since this initial purchase will most often continue as a long-term business relationship.

Q *Do any of the new products, such as LAN Manager, offer a quantum leap in performance? If you were intending on installing a network within the next year, would you install now, or wait for the new products?*

A There are two aspects of networking to consider, performance and administration. According to Novell, network performance is now limited by the bus speed of the servers and therefore quantum leaps are next to impossible to obtain. Most networks, now shipping or soon to be released, LAN Manager included, are stressing administration. That is, the ease of setup, maintenance, or future expandability. These products are typically geared towards very large multi-server network installations where these issues make or break the success of the corporate-wide venture.

If the requirements for networking exist and the network can contribute to the bottom line, there is no reason to delay a purchase decision. The current choices, although soon to be out-featured, have the advantage of being field tested, which means fewer, and better known, problems.

Q *Did you come across any exciting new hardware or software networking products at COMDEX '89?*

A COMDEX is such a zoo that it is difficult to find networking products that stand out among the noise. The Networld shows, held in the spring in Boston and in the fall in Dallas, are much better sources for network information and for administrators, I would stress essential.

So many of the new products are essentially new versions of existing products. Although much improved, exciting is not necessarily a term I would use. However, one that comes close is FoxPro, a dBase compatible database that, when combined with FoxView, their application generator, can provide bottom-line databases very quickly in a network environment.

North Texas PC Users Group Disk of the Month Catalog

Areacodes

442. PC-Areacode 2.0
DEMO version has area codes for Texas & Illinois. The registered version has most US cities, and many foreign countries.

Archive Programs

380. ARC 6.00
ARCE and MKSARC from System Enhancement Associates.
414. PKZIP 1.02
PKZIP, PKUNZIP, PKSFIX from PKWARE.
319. Zoo 2.01
With supporting utilities.

Archive Utilities

246. ArchMaster 2.1
Menu driven archive file management system. Works with ARC and PKZIP files.
423. SHEX 4.81
Menu driven shell program allows you to create or view archives; also selectively extract, list, or execute files within an archive.

Artificial Intelligence/Expert Systems

374. Cogent Prolog DEMO
Implementation of a large subset of standard Prolog.
85. ESIE 2.0
Expert System Inference Engine, a shell to build custom application with knowledge base.
8007. ELIZA
Short version of the Psychiatry expert system originally developed for the main-frame environment.
288. The Expert
Shell for developing expert system.
169. Expert System Toolkit
DEMO of a menu driven program for developing expert system application.
244. PD Prolog 1.85D
Public domain Prolog, with an introduction to Prolog and a brief tutorial.
375. SD-Prolog DEMO
DEMO of a Prolog software environment.
89. XLISP 1.6
Experimental programming language combining some of the features of LISP with object-oriented extension capability.

Astronomy

109. Astronomy Collection #1
Moonbeam, Optics, Solar, Storm, Sunset.
394. Cosmos 5.72L
Planetarium simulation, DEMO displays heavens from 1986 to 1988. For EGA and better graphics.
8411. SATELITE
Display elevation for 16 satellites/56 cities.
30. STARFINDER
View sky, see common or scientific names of stars displayed, locate stars and constellations.
437. Universe Analyzer 1.01
Generates random universes, checks key constants against cosmologically acceptable limits to determine if universe is capable of sustaining life.

Automobile Demonstration Drive

365. Build Dimensions 1989 (2 disk set)
Stick graphic demonstration from GM.

Bible

327. The Bible, (8 disk set)
King James Version, entire text.
322. GodSpeed 2.0
DEMO of a program that searches for book, verse, word, or combination to find references.

Bulletin Board Software

227. Phoenix 1.00 (2 disk set)
Replacement to Coble BBS programs, written in Turbo Pascal.
196. RBBS-PC CPC15.1B (4 disk set)
With source code.
306. Wildcat 1.0 (2 disk set)
Also written in Turbo Pascal.

Business applications

107. Business letters
100 sample form letters in standard ASCII text files.
266. EZ-FORMS Revision D.15
Create, fill-in, revise, and print all kinds of forms.
280. In-Control 12 Pack 2.64
Prospect/client/customer tracking system. Rolodex feature with appointment schedules; phone dialer that distinguishes between local, local toll, and long distance; proposal and invoice generator that clocks and costs each activity in real time.
151. LetterWriter 3.0
Address book and mailings manager. Prints letters, mailing labels, list of addresses and envelopes.
328. LOTUS Agenda Demonstration
Self-running demo of a personal information manager. Self-sorting notebook, decision making, project management, client information.
220. ManageX 1.3.5
Record management of the attorney/client relationship: timekeeping, billing, and bookkeeping.
199. ManageX III 2.5 (2 disk set)
Same as above, but for Law firm or group of associates providing professional services.
196. MARKUS PRESENTATION
DEMO of productivity aids for management of sales forces.
34. SWIFT-LOG
DEMO of program that monitor computer usage for tax or billing purposes.
139. Symphony Insurance Industry Demonstration
Symphony templates for client tracking, client policy analysis, home owners policy audit, business line forecast, office supplies inventory.
140. Symphony Medical Industry Demonstration
Symphony templates for medical research project, patient scheduling program, inventory control system, capital equipment purchase analysis, medical office budget.
30. TIMELOG
Log time, use, and users of PC for tax records.
356. WordPerfect Library and Office Demonstration
Slideshow style presentation: Work Log, File Manager, Calculator, Calendar, Notebook, Editor.

Caches

347. Disk Cache Utilities #1
A collection of five caching programs to speed-up system performance, plus a text file on caching in theory and practice.

CAD/CAM

387. PCB CAD 1.0
CAD program to assist in the layout of circuit paths on a printed circuit board. Input file created with a standard text editor, output can be pre-viewed before printing. Written in C, source code included.

Church Membership

404. Church Membership System 5.02
Church membership administration and visitor tracking system.

Communications Programs & Utilities

438. Boyan 4.01
Usage file logs all call, file transfers, script executions. Supports Zmodem, Kermit, SEALink, and Megalink file transfer protocols. Sort directory by phone number or name.
441. GT Power 15.01 (2 disk set)
Supports Kermit, Zmodem, SEALink, Megalink, CompuServe B file transfer protocols. Log keeps record of calls. Call progress detection (busy, voice, no dial tone). On-screen clock. Host mode to function as a BBS. DOS shell. Supports non-standard COM ports 3 and 4. Terminal Only version for those with limited disk space. ANSI and VT-100 terminal emulation.
46. HOST-III and HOSTCALL
Unattended telecommunication for your PC. EMAIL for CompuServe.
368. MS-DOS Kermit 2.30 (3 disk set)
Kermit File transfer protocol, with documentation and source code. Terminal emulation: VT102, H19, VT52, Tektronix 4010. NetBIOS support. MS-Windows compatible.
5610. PC-DIAL 2.0
General purpose asynchronous package from ButtonWare. Simple, straight forward approach.
21. PC-TALK III 5.00
The original user friendly communications package. Includes modified version that will run on PCjr.
364. Procomm 2.4.3
Shareware version of this general purpose communications program. Emulates a wide variety of terminals. Supports the standard file transfer protocols. Log records complete transaction, or selected portions.
282. PROCOMM Plus Test Drive 1.1
Functional DEMO of commercial version. Supports 13 standard file transfer protocols. Emulates 16 popular terminals. Context sensitive help screens. Host mode for unattended file transfers, electronic mail. Operates from 300 to 115,200 baud rate.
368. Q-MODEM SST 4.00 (3 disk set)
Easy communication package. Emulates terminal and host modes. On-line help. Powerful script language.
239. TAPCIS 6.1b
A complete program for accessing CompuServe. Will reduce your connect charges to a minimum.
318. Tdix 3.10 (2 disk set)
Combines best features of Procomm and Omocore. BBS oriented program.
342. FloTerm 4.1.3 (2 disk set)
Communications program requiring strong technical background. Developed to standardize communications at Northwestern U. Emulates DEC VT100 and other terminals. Extensive scripting support. Supports many file transfer protocols. Requires 320K RAM, 720K disk space.
276. QVT_PC
Emulates DEC VT220, VT100 and VT52 series of terminals. Supports Kermit and Xmodem file transfers. Runs at 300 to 19,200 baud rate.
180. Msg'Vu 1.21
Manage files of messages saved from CompuServe and other BBS/information utilities. Sort by message number or subject. Deletes or print messages. Search for messages containing certain text.

Database Programs

24. Concentric Information Processor (2 disk set)
DEMO of a database program, with 30 application and documentation.
344. DataPerfect Demo
DEMO of database management system with interface similar to WordPerfect structure.
277. File Express 4.15 (2 disk set)
Menu driven database management program ideal for the novice user.
420. PC-File- 3.0 (3 disk set)

- Basic general purpose database program, with easy to use menus and help screens. Can be used on systems with only two 360K floppy disk drives and 384K available RAM.
434. PC-FileDB 1.1 (3 disk set)
Still easy to use, but fully compatible with dBase; import dBase files to PC-File+ and export PC-File+ files to dBase. Designed for a system with a hard disk and 416K available RAM.
209. Sidefile 2.23
Fast data manager. Data can be displayed in a spreadsheet format. Operates on both data and text files. Ideal for maintaining small lists; includes an editor for updating the records. Non-registered version uses memory only and is restricted to a maximum of 1000 records.
217. WAMPUM 3.1B
A menu driven database program which operates in two modes: first, in a programming mode to generate an application; and then in a user mode to add/change records and print reports/forms/labels/etc.
142. WAMPUM Tutorial
A menu generator for WAMPUM.

dBase Utilities

143. dGENERATE 1.0
dBase III screen and code generator for applications development.
396. dUtil 1.0
Memory resident utility to extract information from any dBASE III compatible database, and then paste the information into the foreground application.
399. SnapJ 3.12a
Documentation and development system for use with dBase and dBase compatible programs.
409. SYCERO db DEMO 2.00 (2 disk set)
DEMO of an application generator for dBase and Clipper data bases, with its own comm and language.

Desktop Organizers and Appointment Calendars

284. ALT 0.5
TSR desktop organizer: address book, phone dialer, calculators, calendar, appointment book, notepad. Has user definable menus and full screen editor.
357. Ample Notice 1.22
Appointment calendar and pop-up alarm clock. Print out listings to carry with you. Includes a program which addresses envelopes sideways.
233. DDCat 1.00
Perpetual calendar (1905 AD to 2099 AD) and daily appointment diary, not memory resident.
200. MakeMyDay! 2.0
Appointment calendar, job scheduler, time log, and expense account manager.
201. PC-DESKTEAM 1.04
Resident or stand alone alarm clock, calculator, calendar, note pad, phone directory/dialer, and text processor.
- 660B. PC-TICKLE 1.0
Calendar and appointment scheduler from ButtonWare.
27. PC-WINDOW
Smaller version of SideKick.
237. PC Yearbook 2.00
Calendar, appointment scheduler, note pad.
- 42B. TickleX 5.0
A tickler, scheduler, calendar, and to-do list. Track hours worked, expenses, and income. Also handles simple "project management" tasks. Memory-resident alarm for up to 20 scheduled items. Print calendars, schedules, custom reports. On-screen help.
106. TimeSaver+
Calendar and appointment scheduler. Displays entire month.

Desktop Publishing

232. CityDesk 3.0
Produce documents with headings and two column format.

DOS Information

203. HELP!! 1.13, POP-HELP 1.13
Information on the use of DOS, either as a stand alone or as a memory resident program. Create help files on any other subject, as well.

376. Programming Technical Reference (9/88)
Information on MS-DOS and PC-DOS versions 1.0 through 3.3.
285. Tutor.COM 4.4
Interactive, menu driven tutorial on PC fundamentals, essential DOS concepts and commands.

DOS Shells and Menu Programs

[Run programs or perform DOS commands with a single keystroke or a "point and shoot" command. DOS shells execute the most commonly used DOS commands (view, sort, rename, edit, print, copy, move, and delete), and also function as disk/file management systems. Moving around the directories is much easier, as is listing the files contained in each directory. Menus create a structured environment, with users selecting DOS commands or programs from a list.]

8612. AutoMenu 3.01
Create your own menu. Define the menu files, options displayed, and DOS commands required to carry out each of the menu options.
407. Directory Scanner 3.30
Files displayed in outline format, user logs files to executes DOS commands. Great program for users with a limited knowledge of DOS.
385. Disk-O-Tech 2.00a
Powerful and easy to use disk management system. Use personal editor for listing files, "point and shoot" execution.
161. DOSamako 2.0
DOS shell and task-switching utility. Assign amount of memory for each task, program cycles to the next active task at a keystroke command.
307. Hard Disk Menu III 1.05
Programmable menu system: create macros to automate command. Install passwords. Includes screen saver and phone dialer.
436. Instant Access Menu System 2.3
20 branching sub-menus from main menu, with passwords. Notepad and editor. CGA/EGA/VGA graphics.
377. JADU 1.1
Just Another Directory Utility. Integrate your favorite file utilities, editor, archive programs, etc. into the menu.
408. Magic Menus 1.70A
Five pop-up windows range from a disk directory to a DOS window to a calculator, or define your own pull-down and pop-up menus. Can maintain ten different sets of AUTDEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS files.
416. Menu System 3.11
Programmable menu for DOS commands. Any DOS command or program can be put into the menu for single keystroke or "point and shoot" selection. Includes screensaver.
282. Overviev 2.01
Excellent directory tree display. Supports 1-4 windows giving up to 4 directories or disks at the same time. All files within a directory and sub-directory can be shown with the show-all command.
350. PC Dashboard 1.07
Performs repetitive tasks easily and quickly by placing the individual commands for each task in a menu format and then letting the menu program do the work. Submenus allow the creation of an almost unlimited multi-tiered system.
398. Point and Shoot 2.0
File management and program execution utility. Features user defined menus, pop-ups (calculator, disk stats, calendar, DOS command prompt, help screens). Supports CGA, MOA, and EGA displays.
314. PowerMenu 2.15
Nice program and easy to use. Works with RAM resident programs.
376. Scout 3.4
Memory resident DOS shell/disk manager designed to pop-up anytime within an application to do quick disk and system management. Easily customized.
6601. Shortcut 1.12
Memory resident program, execute DOS commands from menu.
219. Still River Shell 2.36
Powerful file/directory management utility with high performance command interface to DOS. Recall previous 20 DOS commands. Find files or text within files and view/edit/copy directly against the file lists. Pass a DOS command line for each file in a set of tagged files. Backup large directories onto multiple disks. Use directory as menu, selecting items for operation.
421. StupidDOS 1.60
Easy to use DOS shell and hard disk organizer. Deletes all BAK files in directory or entire disk. Makes move directories. UNZIP files. Display disk tree structure. A lot of features got packed into 91,000 bytes of program.
360. Wyndshell 1.1
Customize to run all your programs. First menu choice

is WYND-DOS, which performs DOS functions from menu options.

DOS Utilities

346. DOLIST 2.6
Multi-function command line utility that can be used as a resident shell program, or used to replay command key strokes.
100. DOS Interface Routines
Function calls and macros. From HAL-PC Assembler SIG.
406. Format Master 2.10
Floppy disk formatting in half the time of a DOS format. Formats 5.25", 3.5" and high density disks. Will warn if disk to be formatted contains data. Menu driven, and CANNOT format the C: drive.
23. FREECOPY
DISKCOPY function with assembly language source file (MASM 1.25).
216. Kopy 1.1
Enhanced DOS COPY command. When copying to a floppy, will prompt to change floppy when full.
359. Mark/Release 2.5
Remove memory resident programs from memory, without requiring a system reboot and without creating holes or leaving interrupts dangling.
- 830B. MEMDUMP, SYSTAT, VDEL, WAIT
Hex memory dump, tells you about your hardware configuration, deletes files (watch lit), DOS time delay.
368. NTPCUG DOS SIG Disk #1
Add or remove line feed at the end of a line of text to aid in importing and exporting ASCII text files. Make a map of what's in RAM memory with MCB.
99. RAM Disk & ANSH Device Drivers
Virtual disks 180K/360K, RAM Disk program 32-512K, more RAM drives than switch settings, ANSHSYS.
27. RECALL
Recall, edit, and execute any of the last 60 DOS commands.
210. Resident DOS Utilities
TSR programs to access DOS from within any program, monitor DOS service activity, note-pad, calculator.
6311. SDIR22, SORTDEMO
New LD for PC-DOS 2.0 (with source), comparison of different types of sorts.
8409. UTIL 1.63
Selectively copy/delete files, browse text files, sort directories.
179. Extended DOS (XD) 1.0
Change file attributes, remove sub-directories with files, combined copy/delete, rename files/directories, string searches, change file date/time, find most recent version of files. Menu driven.

Editors

316. BlackBeard 7.37
Fast, powerful editor designed for programmers. Minimal documentation.
38. Full Screen Editor
DEMO of package designed for people used to using IBM mainframe editors.
417. MicroEMACS 3.10 (2 disk set)
EMACS-style public domain text editor with source. Several different types of files can be worked on at the same time. Screen can be split into windows, and text moved between windows.
388. OEdi 2.07A
Fast multi-file ASCII text editor. Functions and interface can be tailored by the user.

Educational Applications

164. GRADE GUIDE 1.2
Store, retrieve, and analyze student's grades.
145. Nutrient
Analyze food intake for nutrient adequacy.
290. Tutor.COM 4.4
Build interactive tutorials on any subject. DEMO version is a series of tutorials on PC fundamentals.

Encryption

6307. CRYPT
An ASCII file encoder with documentation.
330. CRYPT
Interactively solve cryptograms of the simple substitution type. Requires 8087 chip.
38. SCRAMBLE

Scramble/Unscramble files for security, no password or key to forget.

Financial applications—Accounting

425. Finance Manager II 1.3a
Double entry general ledger.
236. MCBS General Ledger DEMO 4.1
DEMO of program that integrates general ledger, accounts receivable, accounts payable, inventory control and payroll.
268. NewViews Accounting System DEMO
DEMO of spreadsheet-like accounting system.
223. PC-Deal 2.0+
Double entry accounting ledger for individual or small organization.
177. PC-General Ledger
Complete ledger and record system. Writes checks.

Financial applications—Personal finance

326. CheckFree 1.12
Electronic banking program designed to be used with the CheckFree Electronic Banking Service.
332. CheckMate 1.70A
Interactive home financial package to keep track of up to 8 savings and/or checking accounts. Interfaces with CheckMate GL.
331. CheckMate GL 1.60
Easy to use general ledger program. Interfaces with CheckMate for data input.
387. Exchange 2.0
Checkbook and general ledger program. Prints reports in summary or detailed format, suitable for your CPA.
304. Financial Consultant 3.0
Checkbook and general ledger program. Prints reports in summary or detailed format, suitable for your CPA.
431. Managing Your Money 5.0 DEMO
Menu driven DEMO of Andrew Tobias's program. Covers appointment calendar, budget and checkbook, income tax estimator, insurance planning, financial calculator, portfolio manager.
184. Master Checkbook
DEMO of user friendly system for tracking checks.
255. MoneyMate 2.0
Menu driven personal finance system. Up to 10 bank accounts, cash, credit cards, unpaid and repeating bills, assets, taxes, budget planning.
151. MORTGAGE PLUS 2.0
Decision aid for financing real estate deals.
360. MyMoney 1.0
DEMO of a personal finance manager: check book, portfolio, assets, budget, and analysis.
341. Personal Inventory System 1.1
Simple to use program to make a list of everything you own. Very useful in case of fire, burglary, etc.
137. Symphony Personal Finance System (3 disk set)
Symphony templates for check register, savings account register, credit card register, account summary, financial statement.
33. TIME AND MONEY
Simple monitoring and planning program for controlling home finances.

Financial applications—Taxes

[Coming soon: Share-Tax/1040 for 1989 and the 1989 Federal Tax Lotus 123 Template.]

447. AM TAX 1989
Preparation of the 1040 Federal income tax form with schedules A through F, R, and SE.

Games and Entertainment

301. All About the States
Learning game for USA geography, history, industries and natural resources. Four levels of play.
281. Amanda's Letter Lotto 1.01
Games for young (18-48 mo.) children. Letter lotto teaches alphabet and keyboard. Color Wheel and Color Screen (require color monitor) will entertain the pre-alphabet set. Source code included.
295. Amy's First Primer
Six games for alphabet, numbers, counting, shapes, matching, problem solving, and pattern recognition. Requires BASICA or GWBASIC, CGAVEGA, and color monitor.

440. Blackjack Games
Ultima 21 Deluxe will run on monochrome or CGA systems. Blackjack requires EGA, VGA or Hercules.
361. Captain Comio
Arcade adventure game for EGA systems.
61. Castaways & South American Trek
Two novels in which you are the main character, from the ButtonWare Learning Game Series. Improve your geography skills, face new challenges, confront danger, and find unlooted treasures.
174. Cavquest
Adventure role playing game, requires graphics.
8409. Core War
Two player-written programs operate concurrently in a "circular" memory array. Program that has an instruction it cannot execute loses.
343. Cunning Football
Dynamic, interactive, menu driven football game tests both skill and strategy. Requires EGA/VGA graphics.
181. DND 1.2.1
Fantasy role playing inspired by Dungeons and Dragons.
8702. DRAW POKER 1.0 & BASIC games
Poker simulation game. BASIC games require BASIC, BASICA, or GWBASIC; some require CGA graphics.
370. Dungeons of Moria 4.87
Single player dungeon simulation. Requires 640K RAM.
296. Educational Games III
Numbers, letters and math tutors for kids 4-14 yrs. Three of the games require BASICA or GWBASIC.
310. EGA Games #1
Graphics demos: Kaleidoscope, Lines, Bullseye, Dazzler, Goodlock 2.30. Games: EGA-ROIS (arcade game, similar to Asterix) and Scitairs (card game).
317. EGA Games #2
Graphics demos: Emika, Splat, Tail-Time 2.1, PyroTech, Oamc: The Zero Hour 2.10 (interactive arcade game).
309. Enchanted Castle, Rel. 2
Text adventure game, does not require graphics.
144. Funnels and Buckets 2.0 & Math School 1.0
POP equations by solving them as they fall from a funnel. Math School is a fun drill of math problems and requires BASICA.
269. The Gags Disk
DRAIN, novel ways of clearing the screen, JIVE, VALSPEAK, messages from nowhere, bugle calls.
382. The Gags Disk II
Graphics: Max Headroom, a swarm of happy faces, one gigantic eyeball, Aquarum, STARFOD; PLUS, more messages from nowhere, TV theme songs.
419. Game of Life
Organize and manage a colony.
8402. Galaxy Trek 2.1
Star Trek type game (©1982) with 4 p. documentation.
7. Games that run under BASIC
PacMan, PacGirl, Towers of Hanoi, Hunt the Wumpus, Survival on the Moon, NIM, and some music. Plus, educational games: IQ-Builders, Mastermind, MATH.
26. Games that run from a BASIC menu program
PANCO, DIGGER, OBERIT, Alien, Manor, Trader, CIA, and more music.
43. Games, CGA graphics required
Stargate, Zaxxon, Ceade, Altrax, Roulette.
8411. More games that require BASIC (and graphics)
Falken, Smashbox, Survival, Blackbox, FireFire, Dominoes, Kangaroo, Huvada, Racecar, Snowfall, XWing, Barrio, Fly. Plus, educational games: TEACHKID (alphabet tutor), TELLTIME.
106. Hacker Games
Buglebeat, Craps, Dainicks, Dominoes, Football, Golf, Hangman, Logo, Match, Maze, Othello, Pegleap, Pyramid, Snake, Sub, TioTao, Towers, Wildcat. Requires BASIC, BASICA, or GWBASIC. CGA graphics.
3. LADYBUG
Implementation of LOGO Turtle. Requires CGA graphics.
422. Kid Games: Alphabet/Animat/Clock
Educational games, children 2-10 yrs., for alphabet, math, and time. Requires CGA graphics.
8311. MAP
DEMO of very good States/Capital educational quiz. Requires BASIC and CGA graphics.
80. Origami
Step-by-step introduction to the ancient art of paper folding. Requires BASIC.
439. Pinball Games
ASTROO and Pinball are standard pinball games. Rain puts 6 balls into play. Black-Eyed Monster has bumpers and flippers everywhere; traps balls for multiple play. Created using the Pinball Construction Set.
214. Phrase Craze 1.0
Fill in a series of phrases, just like Wheel of Fortune! Graphics not required.
188. Quantoids of Nebulus IV
Arcade action game. Requires CGA graphics.
263. Scitairs Disk #1
Five card games: Frog, Canfield, Grand Duchess, Gull Monte Carlo. Requires CGA graphics, but not color.
205. Scitairs 1.10
Klondike style solitaire card game. High quality graphics, but runs on non-graphics systems as well.
303. Time Travel in History

- Multiple choice history trivia game. Can be expanded to include your own choice of questions. Requires a BASIC interpreter. Runs on CGA and monochrome monitors.
410. Tommy's Toys I (3.5" disk ONLY)
Trivia, crossword puzzles, hidden word puzzles.
411. Tommy's Toys II (3.5" disk ONLY)
Wheel of Misfortune, TREK, GinRummy, Blackjack, Meteors.
419. Towers of Hanoi
Specify number of rings and speed factor. EGA/VGA graphics required.
422. Wanderer 2.2
Wander around collecting treasure through 49 screens of increasing complexity.
243. WORDSRCH
Generates hidden word puzzles.
389. WORDS*WORDS 1.1
A game, puzzle, and exercise in logical thinking. Word guessing game with a twist.
302. World 2.0
Display maps of Earth from different perspectives. Requires graphics (EGA).

Genealogy

390. Family Edge 8.03 (2 disk set)
Professional storage and retrieval system. Handles up to 500 people in shareware version, registered version handles up to 65,000 people in each file.
363. Family History System (2 disk set)
Linked random access database, handles up to 9999 people. Print charts, as well as blank worksheets for data input.
73. Family Tree 1.25
Menu driven system, handles up to 999 people.
127. Genealogy on Display 4.0
Prints lists of input information. Requires BASIC.
156. Notes and Sources ON DISPLAY 1.1
Create database of notes and sources. Comparison to Genealogy on Display.

Graphics

182. DANCAD 3D 1.30 (2 disk set)
Produce 2D or 3D drawings, Animation. Manual or automatic dimensioning. Produce drawing elements. Requires CGA, 640K RAM.
54. Draftsman
Easy way for converting data into graphic displays.
384. TheDraw 3.10
ASCII screen generator and animator for CGA or monochrome video. Design professional looking graphics for your software.
175. EGA graphics for Turbo Pascal/MSC- (2 disk set)
Source code in Microsoft C and Turbo Pascal to an extensive set of EGA graphics utilities.
245. Finger Paint 1.30
Draw pictures using icons to choose line width, shapes, and patterns. Runs on CGA, EGA or VGA. Prints on LaserJet, Epson FX or IBM Printer.
412. GREY 1.5
Display GIF image in greyscale. Converts colors to grey values, then displays using halftoning and dithering. Runs on CGA, MGA, EGA or VGA.
178. Iconmaker
Tool for programmers to include graphics in programs in a simple way. Requires CGA/EGA graphics.
225. Nostradamus software DEMO
DEMO of the products available from Nostradamus.
372. Opika 2.05
Ideal as a file conversion utility. Retrieve picture files created by this or other draw programs. Change or merge with other files. Save in one of 2 dozen file formats. Works with CGA/EGA/VGA (and others). Works with LaserJet and Dot-matrix printers.
338. PC-Draft II 3.2
Pixel oriented drawing and graphing utility. Use CGA high resolution graphics mode to produce drawings.
351. PC-Key-Draw 3.51 (2 disk set)
Graphics package that can be used by everyone. Really nice self-running DEMO included.
8408. PC Personal Graphics
Drawing system with text capabilities. Requires CGA graphics.
157. PROGENITOR 2.50
Paint a menu, data entry or file update screen, from which the program creates a BASIC program to process the data entered into the specified files.
154. Superstar 2.0
Easy to use graphics program with help screens.
448. VPC 2.2
View, enhance and convert EGA/VGA graphics pictures. Retrieve and save in several formats.

Hypertext

340. PC-Hypertext 1.1
DEMO of a method of organizing and displaying information in a branching network format.

Information Retrieval

50. 3by5 1.0
Information management system for entering, indexing, and retrieving free-form text.
385. Idea Tree 010102
Thought processor for brainstorming.
163. Instant Recall 1.54F
Free form database with text processor. Data entered without structure, all words indexed. Memory resident or stand alone.
258. LITGEX 1.0
Access, organize and locate information within a number of documents. Developed for attorneys. Related programs from the same author: ManageX and TickleX.
167. Outline 3.15
Thought processing by creating outlines. RAM resident or loadable.

Label production

270. Label Master 3.0
Create database, print labels in any format from 1-4 across. Import ASCII files. Easy to use, recommended for the novice.
373. MLabel 3.00 DEMO
Name and address mailing database program. DEMO doesn't save database to disk.

Language Instruction

- (Menu driven interactive tutorials to drill on vocabulary and the use of the conjugation forms.)
297. French Teacher 2.1
Beginning and intermediate French.
298. German Teacher 2.1
Beginning and intermediate German.
300. Italian Teacher 2.1
Beginning Italian.
296. Spanish Teacher 2.1
Beginning and intermediate Spanish.

LANs

435. Torus Tapestry DEMO
Self-running DEMO of a DOS based LAN operating system: distributed server system with icon based interface.

Lotus 123

138. Command Language Instruction
Menu driven tutorial on creating and using macros in a worksheet.
116. Lotus 123 Help Files
Menu driven information file with tutorials.
416. Lotus 123 Release 3.0 and 2.2 Self-Running DEMO
Release 3.0 requires 286/386 and 1 Meg of memory.
135. LOTUS 123 Tech Notes
Text files on macro, attributes, data link.
215. LOTUS Add-In Manager 1.1, LOTUS Learn 1.0, LOTUS Speedup 1.0
Products from Lotus to enhance performance of 123.
430. Lotus CHK 123
Analyze your system's hardware and memory to determine whether or not your system can install and load 123 Release 3.0. From Lotus Development Corp.
117. McGee's Beginning 123 Class Disk
Tutorial and worksheets from the Pacific NorthWest Lotus User Group.
50. McGee's Advanced 123 Class Disk
More worksheets from the Pacific NorthWest Lotus User Group.
429. NTPCUG Lotus SIG Disk #1 (2 disk set)
Tutorial on Lotus 123 menu structure. Presentations from Lotus SIG, examples and handouts (127 p.).

Math/Statistics

113. 123 Statistics Templates
Lotus 123 templates for decision matrix, regression analysis, Spearman's Rho, sampling, formulas, trends.
278. AtomCG 7.1
Create FORTRAN programs to solve ordinary differential equations. Requires 8087 chip. Microsoft-FORTRAN77.
13. EPISTAT
40 functions for statistical analysis of small to medium sized data samples. Requires BASICA.
155. SPC Professional 1.1
Statistical process control. Requires CGA/EGA graphics.
271. SUPERMANdibrot 2.0
Fractal geometry in color. Implementation of Mandelbrot Set described in Aug. 1985 Scientific American. Requires CGA graphics and color monitor.

Memory

336. LIMEMS Spec 4.1
Lotus/Intel/Microsoft Expanded Memory Specification. ASCII text with index.

Music

81. Junker Music Machine
Play and see music simultaneously. Enter and display music, select time/key/volume/temposholes.
285. Pianoman 4.0
Music composition program. Play keyboard like a piano. Enter and edit music. 9 octaves, 4 voices, speaker device driver.

Morse Code Tutorial

444. Super Morse 1.07
Teaches code as sound pattern recognition. A variety of exercises. Speed testing.

Presentations

224. PC Demonstration System
Design and execute video presentations. Will run on graphic or monochrome system.
121. SLIDE 1.0
Produces medium quality slides and overhead transparencies.

Programming

207. Extended Batch Language 3.05a
Command programming language to be used as a replacement for or in conjunction with DOS batch files.
185. Flowchart 1.46
Produces flowcharts using simple commands, which are then translated into actual flowchart symbols and output to a dot matrix printer. Edit with standard text editor.
311. Future65 The Language (2 disk set)
CGA DEMO of a language which is more English like than C or Pascal, yet supports Assembly language.
8. MONITOR
A series of routines that provide a consistent user interface for application development.
284. NDMAKE 4.5
Maintain programs composed of several modules. Similar in function to the UNIX Make utility.

Programming--APL

62. APL'Plus/PC
DEMO of the system that can be used for learning the fundamentals of APL.

Programming--Assembly language

171. A86 3.00 & D86 2.22
Assembler and debugger.
15. Beginning Assembly Language class examples
ASCII/binary conversion, arithmetic/logical/string instructions, memory size check, check for free space on disk, password setup.
106. BLUEBOOK of Assembly Routines for PC & XT
Example programs, binary conversions, routines, tips.
77. CHASIM 4.075
Similar to the IBM Macro Assembler, but cheaper. Simple methods for getting machine language routines into BASIC and Turbo Pascal. PRIMER.DOC text file for beginners.

Programming--AWK

405. AWK 2.10
AWK is programming language from the UNIX environment similar to C. Extremely good version.

Programming--BASIC

169. BASICAD, BrenBASIC, Tiny Basic
Compress/expand program, cross reference listing. Write a structured program, which is then translated into a standard line number BASIC using the Microsoft BASIC interpreter. Total 8086 interpreter.
160. FC 1.3, QBX 2.06, RB 1.58
Create MRG file from two BASIC source programs. Quick Basic program/label/symbol cross reference. Convert token BASIC file to ASCII file.

Programming--C language

419. C Cross Reference
Using/cross reference for up to 20 C programs: where symbols are assigned and modified by line number.
265. CDECL
Parses C language declarations and explains them in English. Builds declarations from descriptions of same.
104. ROBOTS & TINY-C
Robot written in C. 1988 version of TINY-C compiler.
294. C Tutor 1.0
Tutorial with examples. Aimed at the intermediate level.
260. C WINDOW Toolkit 1.03
Window routines and other screen input and output functions for Turbo C or Quick C.
212. TCdebug 0.00
Source code debugger for Turbo C.
168. Window Boss
C language support for creating applications. Requires MASM.

Programming--Forth

279. FIFTH 2.2
Interactive programming environment compiler, text editor, dictionary editor. Supports FORTH as a base language. Requires 8087 chip.
152. D85 Forth 2.1.0
Forth-85 compatible system with additional features: source code in text file format, execute external programs without leaving the development environment, develop larger application programs.
427. UCC Forth 2.00
Public Domain version with an excellent user interface with DOS. Command language is extensible.

Programming--Module

403. Fitted Module2 2.0A (2 disk set)
Compiler with editor, make (UNIX like) facility, program linker, makefile generator, and execution profiler.

Programming--Pascal/Turbo Pascal

261. Pull 2.0
Pull down menus for Turbo Pascal 4.0.
316. TBTtree 1.0
Aid in the creation and manipulation of databases.
426. TechnoLocks Turbo Toolkit 5.0
Library of easy to implement procedures for repetitive

- programming tasks.
- 445. Turbo-Lessons 5.0
Excellent tutorial for novice level Turbo Pascal.
- 274. Winkame
Window manager designed for Turbo Pascal 4.0.

Project management

- 194. Advanced Pro-Path 6
DEMO of a Critical Path Management program to schedule and report progress and costs for up to 250 related tasks.
- 42. CPM
Program demonstrates Critical Path Method analysis. Designed to be used by students in management or engineering classes.
- 67. GANTT
Produces Gantt chart transparencies for presentations, directly drives video projector from a PC, creates Gantt charts to be inserted in text files, directly view project status. Requires data from ASCII file.
- 235. Harvard Total Project Manager II 2.0 (2 disk set)
DEMO that allows the user to create, develop, modify, and monitor projects using the Critical Path Method. Produces PERT and Gantt charts, lists, and reports.

Science & Engineering

- 112. 123 Science & Engineering Templates
Lotus 123 templates. Bullet trajectory, race cars, geological templates for whole core descriptions, insulation definitions and tables, steam properties.

Spreadsheet programs

- 333. As Easy As 3.01B
Nice spreadsheet, compatible with most Lotus 123 1A and release 2 spreadsheets.
- 6. FreeCalc 1.0
Spreadsheet with 100 rows by 25 columns and 3 demonstration spreadsheets.
- 249. InstaCalc 2.0
RAM resident spreadsheet.
- 424. PC-CALC+ 2.0 (3 disk set)
Powerful spreadsheet from ButtonWare.
- 353. PlanPerfect Demo
Sideshow DEMO of spreadsheet from WordPerfect Corp.
- 231. CubeCalc 3.0
Three dimensional spreadsheet.
- 148. Spreadsheet Programming Language
Financial modeling language.
- 146. TurboCALC 8.01
Spreadsheet with text editor.

Typing tutors

- 55. FASTYPE
Typing tutor designed for IBM PC keyboard. Requires CGA.
- 840B. PC-TOUCH
Typing tutor, displays text for you to type.

Utilities Disks

- 218. Bakar's Dozen
14 Assorted utilities from ButtonWare.
- 160. Buarg Utilities
Assorted utilities written by Vernon Buarg, et al.
- 345. Directory Utilities #1
Manage directories: list, sort and display.
- 254. Disk Commands 2.0
Shareware implementation of utilities similar to the Advanced Norton and Mace for disk and file management.
- 71. Disk Drive Utilities
Speed up, simplify and improve standard DOS commands.
- 312. HDTset 4.41
Comprehensive read/write testing of hard disks and floppy disks WITH DATA INTACT.
- 221. Master Key Utilities 1.7C
Disk and file manipulation in a single package.
- 202. Open 256 Files Simultaneously! 2.0
TSR programs, source code, tutorial, and commentary.
- 400. PC Magazine Benchmarks 5.0
Standard for benchmark and comparison between systems.

- 172. PC Magazine Utilities Disk Vol. 1
32 assorted utilities to manage files, directories, etc.
- 382. PC Magazine Utilities Disk Vol. 2
Additional 37 utilities: set up different EGA displays, computer security, text handling, music, drawing, etc.
- 238. PCcrit 1.00
Emulate UNIX commands in MS/PC-DOS.
- 324. Powerkit 1.8
TSR keyboard utilities: reassign keys, blank screen, unlock locked up programs.
- 369. Professional Master Key 2.1a
Basic disk utilities. Alter file attributes/date/time. Change working drive. Examine/modify drive sectors. Examine/modify files. Visual map of space used on drive. Rename files/directories. Undo file deletions/directories.
- 313. RamTest 3.0
Diagnose RAM test. Will also test expanded memory, and AT extended memory.
- 18. UVa-Utilities 4.00
Direct modification of disk sectors, search for bytes, modify disk parameters, format of non-standard tracks, reformat of standard track without erasing old data, modification of system status or hidden status, restore erase files.
- 120. Utilities for Mavericks
Reduces disk clutter with 5 file management utilities.
- 413. Utilities from A to X
ASK, DOS Command Line Editor, Directory Navigator 1.2, Disk Navigator 1.3, SMOOTH, XEO.
- 391. Xanadu 2.0
HotDir 2.1, PC Status 3.2, Super File Find 1.02X, Speed up screen writes, cursor reset.

Utilities--6.25/3.5 Disk Organization

- 8600. COVER
Reads disk directory and prints a listing that will fit into the disk holder.
- 39. DISKCAT 4.31
Creates database by reading file names & disk names, allows entry of file descriptions.
- 123. Label Maker 6.03
Reads file names, handles sub-directories, allows entry of disk name. Prints 4-8 lines of comments, prints 1-4 different size disk labels, allows edit of file and comments for label.
- 306. WYSSindex 3.35
Creates/maintains database with information available to DIR command. Search interactively, print with sorting and selection options. Print disk labels/labels.
- 2. XDIR33
Disk library system. Reads directory information from disk, comment held for each file.

Utilities--File Management

- 120. CWEENP214
SWEEP-like file management with documentation.
- 358. DLEXE & DBLEXE 2.01
Graphical display of directories and files on hard disk. View files. Make/remove/rename/change directories.
- 53. DOS PATCH UTILITY 1.20
Disk based patches to DOS files.
- 162. File Friend
Memory resident. View files from up to 10 disks and subdirectories. Point and execute to copy, rename, delete, type, dump. Make/change/remove directories. Sort files alphabetically, by extension/date/time/size/path. Works with blocks of files as well.
- 381. File Manager 4.5
View files, copy/delete/print/move. Use your preferred text editor/word processor to edit files. Browse through hidden files. String searches. Add/extract files from archived files, using your preferred archiving program.
- 27. LBR utilities
Group datasets into one directory entry.
- 401. LOTUS Magellan DEMO
DEMO of an intelligent data exploration utility, fast access to view and use files without having to load the program that created them. Search for a word or phrase.
- 59. TOUCH
Change file time/date stamp. Accepts wild cards. With documentation.

Utilities--Keyboard/Screen Utilities

- 278. FansiConsole 2.00M (2 disk set)
Fast ANSI X3.B4 standard console driver. Integrates

- many console control features into one program. Emulates DEC VT100 terminal. More memory for keyboard macros. Blanks screen when not in use. Supports MDA, CGA, Hercules, EGA, and most VGA modes.
- 8405. NEWKEY
Simplifies entry of keystroke sequences by assigning them to a single key. Sample setups for assembler.

Utilities--Printer Utilities

- 433. 4Print 3.10
LaserJet print utility. Will print 4 pages, two on the front and 2 on the back per sheet.
- 336. Printer Utilities #1
Grab 3.7: memory resident envelope address printer with database system. ENVJL 5.10: envelope printer with data file, 5 envelope formats.
- 59. FPRINT
Enhanced print spooler replaces PRINT. With documentation.
- 160. LP 3.4, LP 1.6, OKI 1.1, OKSET 1.0
For Okidata ML82 & HP LaserJet
- 164. LO 2.11
Letter quality fonts for dot matrix printers. Memory resident or stand alone. Does banners.
- 8601. MPM-PRINT
Utility for Epson printers to print IBM graphics characters. Memory resident.
- 306. ON-SIDE 1.00
Prints spreadsheets and reports sideways, down the paper. Requires ASCII text files.
- 6311. SPOOLER
Specify amount of print spooling required.
- 4. SWPTR
Logically swap LPT1: and LPT2: defined printers.
- 8600. TINY
Epson printer will print VERY tiny: subscript at 144 lines per page.

Utilities--System Utilities

- 443. Slowdown Programs for Games
For 286/386 users. SLOW286, VARISLOW, and WHOA! will slow the game down so you have SOME chance of winning.

Virus protection

- 418. Flu_shot 1.7, VIRUSCAN 0.7V40
Flu_shot is installed TSR to catch viruses as they execute. Viruscan scans disks or systems and identifies virus infections.

Word Processing

- 334. Galaxy 2.4
RAM based word processor with spell checker.
- 58. INDEX
Builds an index for a document. With documentation.
- 366. MauRead 3.0
English grammar and readability analyzer. Analysis of document presented as chart, with grade level and Flesch Index.
- 363. MindReader 2.0
AI editor with Address Book and Calculator. Word processing for people who hate to type.
- 323. Multi-Lingual Scribe 2.0
DEMO of a word processor for ancient languages.
- 222. New York Word 2.2
Word processor with unusual interface that looks like a cross between WordStar and EMACS.
- 8608. PC-Style
Analyzes writing style, from ButtonWare.
- 146. PC-Type+ (3 disk set)
Good word processor for the beginner. From ButtonWare.
- 402. PC-Write 3.02 (3 disk set)
Spell checker and mailmerge. From Quicksort.
- 272. WordCruncher DEMO
DEMO of ASCII text word search and retrieval system.
- 355. WordPerfect 5.0 DEMO
Semi-automatic slideshow presentation.
- 183. Word Processing for Kids 2.1
Can be used by very young children with only a brief training period.

Zipcodes

- 392. Zipkey 1.0e
Generates city/state names from zipcode, or zipcode from city and state. Memory resident.



Disk of the Month MAIL ORDER FORM

North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.
 Mail form to: NTPCUG, DOM Mail Order, P.O. Box 780066, Dallas TX 75378-0066

Sold To:

Ship To:

DOM Disk #	Number of disks in set.	TITLE/DESCRIPTION

TOTAL disks _____	@ \$2.00 each	
	Shipping and Handling - \$1.00 for each 5 disks	
	TOTAL AMOUNT FOR ORDER	

Specify disk size: 5.25" 3.5" Unless otherwise indicated, 5.25" disks will be sent.

Protect that hard disk!

By Paul Presti

Has your C: drive ever been accidentally formatted by you or someone else? Or are you afraid of this happening to you? Well the following routine should protect you from this disaster.

First rename your FORMAT.COM:

```
REN FORMAT.COM IFORMAT.COM
```

Then create a batch file named FORMAT.BAT

```
ECHO OFF
if %1==c goto err:
```

```
if %1==C goto err:
if %1==C: goto err:
IFORMAT %1 %2 %3 %4
goto end
:err
ECHO YOU CAN NOT FORMAT THE C: DRIVE
:end
```

You can use COPY CON FORMAT.BAT, or any word processor that will save the file in ASCII. Add any paths that may be needed.

CAUTION: Back up your hard disk before trying this routine. You can substitute the A: drive for the C: drive to test the routine. (This is how I tested it)

Paul

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

Do you want access to the NTPCUG Electronic Bulletin Board? Y ____ N ____ Already Have ____

Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.

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

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

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bulletin Board (BBS) | <input type="checkbox"/> Information/Registration/Membership |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Disk of the Month (DOM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Newsletter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equipment Setup/Breakdown | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Relations/Advertising |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Financial/Bookkeeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Special Interest Group Coordination |
| <input type="checkbox"/> INFOMART/Vendor Setup | |

2. Working with Special Interest Groups? (Please check all that apply.)

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Astrometry | <input type="checkbox"/> Assembler | <input type="checkbox"/> Business Applic. | <input type="checkbox"/> C Language |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Cryptanalysis | <input type="checkbox"/> DAC Software | <input type="checkbox"/> DBase |
| <input type="checkbox"/> MS/PC-DOS | <input type="checkbox"/> Genealogy | <input type="checkbox"/> Graphics | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardware Solutions |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Local Area Net | <input type="checkbox"/> LOTUS | <input type="checkbox"/> Personal Users | <input type="checkbox"/> Advanced Programmers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> R:Base | <input type="checkbox"/> Stock Market | <input type="checkbox"/> Turbo Pascal | <input type="checkbox"/> WordStar |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Microsoft WORD | | | |

3. Being a volunteer, informal "consultant" in your area of expertise for NTPCUG members?

If so, list area(s): _____

Detach below for receipt.

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

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

Meetings & Times

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Corel
Corel DRAW for Windows

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Clarion Software Inc.
Clarion Professional and Personal Developer

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

Software Science Inc.
Turbo Pascal as a Fourth Generation Language (4GL)

(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
Paradox
Personal Users

11:30 - 11:55

Orientation

12:00 - 12:55

Beginners Pascal
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
Windows & OS/2
WORD

2:00 - 2:55

Advanced Programmers
Cryptanalysis*
DAC Easy Accounting
Databases

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

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Zack Porterfield	(214)434-1844w
	Phil Chamberlain	(214)243-5034h
Assembler	Andrew Chaik, Ph.D.	(214)228-3481 h
Beginners Pascal	Phil Chamberlain	(214)243-5034 h
Business Applic.	Bruce Schubert	(214)348-5700 w
C Language	Sid Nolle, Ph.D.	(214)233-6178 h
	Andrew Chaik, Ph.D.	(214)228-3481 h
	Stan Milam	(817)548-1573
Communications	Pete Testa	(214)496-7508
	Wm. Bennett	(817)346-0862 h
		(817)762-3059 w
Cryptanalysis	John Taber	Metro 430-8173
	John Thomas	(214)660-1823
DAC Software	Greg Cohen	()
Databases	Rodney Haas	(214)255-4400 h
		(214)404-4612 w
DOS	Jim Holington	(214)416-3101 h
	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)828-0699 h
Genealogy	Minnie Champ	(214)644-8843 h
Graphics	Richard Temco	(214)307-1259 h
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
	Gary Johnson	(214)937-9676 w
		(214)937-5851 h
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekel	(817)451-4540 w
LOTUS	Francis Bright	(214)964-8174 h
	Mark Gruner	(214)229-9216 h
	Pat Henley	(214)492-1315
Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)887-1679 h
Personal Users	Bob Presley	(214)343-3554
Programmers	Kent Cobb	(214)416-3101 h
	Jim Holington	(214)242-1094 w
R:Base	Alan Alberts	(214)352-0888 h
	Con Branham	(214)279-7973
Stock Market	Cliff Murphy	(214)341-4774 w
	Richard Holerman	(214)276-2524 h
Turbo Pascal	Don Chick	(214)827-5751 h
Volunteers	Jay Shilstone	(214)381-9681 w
Windows & OS/2	James Dunn	(214)828-0699
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)681-0202 h
	David McGehee	(817)387-9993 h
	Dorothy Bertine	

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

Zack Porterfield, Chairman
Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.
Phil Chamberlain
Mark Gruner,
Jim Holington

Officers

President Zack Porterfield (214)416-3101 h
President-Elect Jim Holington (214)434-1844 w
Program Chair Timothy Carmichael (214)681-4626 w
Treasurer Ken Conner, CPA (214)669-3377 w
Secretary David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir. Jim Holington (214)416-3101h
Advertising Dir. John Pribyl (817)276-4109 h
Disk of the Month Kathryn Loftman (214)598-2539
Group Statistician Connie Testa
Volunteer Coord. Connie Andrews (214)828-0699

Members Emeritus

Stuart Yanus John Pribyl

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 Advisors: Fred Williams
Pete Testa
User Relations: Kent Cobb

Information Mgt:
Technical Services: Leroy Tennison

Address Changes, etc...

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

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

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

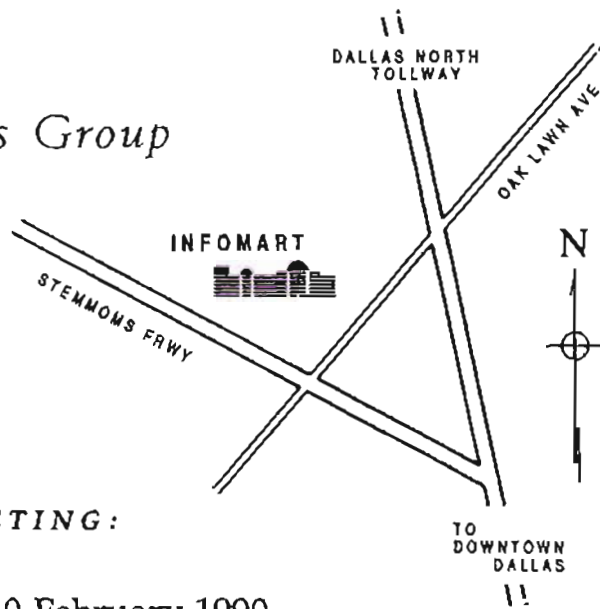


North Texas PC Users Group
P.O. Box 780066
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Address Correction Requested.

North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

10 February 1990