

North Texas PC Users Group

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North Texas PC NEWS

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

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DEADLINE

Copy deadline for June
North Texas PC NEWS:
Thursday, May 10th

Meeting Dates:

May Meeting - 2nd Sat (12th)
June Meeting - 2nd Sat (9th)
July Meeting - 2nd Sat (14th)
(tentative)

*Join the greatest
group in the world--
our volunteers!*

EDlines

Most of you have heard the expression that it's not a question of whether or not your hard drive will crash, it's a question of when. Well, for me, "when" was March 26. I had been working intensively for about three days on a project. When I turned on my machine that Monday morning, imagine my surprise to see, "Hard Drive Failure - Press F1 ...". Did I have a back-up of my data? Nope. Do I have bruises on my posterior from kicking myself? Yep, although they've faded now. A healthy dose of reality that was. It was a lesson learned through pain. Why am I telling you this? Because I feel that I should share this with everyone who uses computers so that they might be spared. If you don't have a recent back-up of your data, go make one

today! Right now! If you want to gamble with your hard drive, be warned, the odds are in Murphy's favor. Nuff said.

Now here's the part where I ask you to write an article for the North Texas PC News. We always want to encourage you to write something for us. It doesn't have to be Pulitzer Prize winning material. If you have an experience related to computers, or know about a really great program that isn't very well known, or have discovered a really good book on hardware maintenance, or whatever ... share it with the group. It's not so hard to do and it's rewarding. However, before starting, please read the "Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS" procedure on the inside front cover. If you have any questions, feel free to call me at (214) 255-1732 (no calls after 10:00 pm please). The NT PC News is possible only through your efforts, so please contribute.

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. **Media.** All copy exceeding 10 lines should be submitted via the NTPCUG BBS or on floppy diskette(s) - (5.25" or 3.5" DOS formatted). If you want the disk returned please include a self-addressed return-postage-paid mailer. If you submit your article in hardcopy and expect us to transcribe it, bear in mind that we don't type so well. Most times, hardcopy- only-articles get filed in the Void.

3. **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 but only 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 three 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. Enter the filename (don't use drive or path name). The BBS will prompt you to begin the file transfer. (Refer to your communications software manual for instructions on transferring files.) After the file transfer has been completed, you will be prompted to, "press any key to continue..." You will then be prompted for a one-line description of the file. Enter the description. To exit the Article Upload Menu press ENTER until you get back to the Main Menu. (OPTIONAL - Send a BBS mail message to Douglas McQuaid regarding your submitted article.)

b) **Snail Mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service).** Put the article on a floppy diskette and mail it to: 4302 Rainier St. #111, Irving, TX 75062

c) **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 May _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

DacEasy Incorporated

Challenges and Solutions in the Software
Industry for Small Business

Kevin C. Howe, President and CEO

This presentation will discuss the trends and future challenges of software for small businesses. The need for good customer support will be stressed. There will be a drawing for attending NTPCUG members.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Southwestern Bell Telephone

Integrated Systems Digital Network (ISDN)

This presentation and demonstration of ISDN will deal with ISDN basics, applications and testimonials. From a PC user's standpoint, ISDN will eventually allow high speed transmission between remote PCs without the restrictions of a standard analog telephone line. For more info, read page 3 of last month's issue.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NT PC Users Group business meeting.

Come to the meeting. You wont know what you've missed unless you come!

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

International Business Machine (IBM) Inc.

IBM RISC System/6000
Product Excellence Presentation

*Nacho Dominguez, Advisory AIX Marketing
Support Representative*

Come see this executive overview of hardware and software features of the nine models of IBM's latest computer systems with a "true" UNIX (AIS) operating system environment.

Prez Sez...

BASIC SIG

Many of you have observed and partaken of "improved BASIC" in BASIC 7.0, QuickBASIC, and other forms. Kent Kingery has expressed interest in pursuing these new BASIC varieties and will begin a BASIC SIG as of our May meeting at 10:00 am. Check out the Selected Sig Happenings section of this PC News for further information and the May meeting schedule for the location of this new BASIC Special Interest Group.

Membership

Jim Hoisington advises that as of April 1, 1990, the North Texas PC User's Group has 1,362 active members.

Membership Referrals

A motion was made to your Board of Directors that the Group provide a form of payment (money, one year membership, ...) to those who make some quantity of referrals to the Group that result in new members. This motion failed to pass. The NTPCUG is a non-profit organization which depends heavily on volunteerism. The BOD felt that recruiting efforts on the part of our members should be recognized as much needed volunteer efforts in support of our continued growth.

Zack Porterfield

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 39 in a Series

by Jim Hoisington

Most people will stop using MS-DOS and start using some other operating system only when MS-DOS becomes unusable for what they want to do. Your average person does not find learning a new operating system interesting. In fact, they view learning an operating system as wasted time because it keeps them from using their computer for their own purposes.

Last month I covered MS-DOS's shortcomings in screen, keyboard and memory handling. This month, I will concentrate on the problems with disk(ette) files in MS-DOS.

DOS really only knows about 4 kinds of disk(ette) files. In the limited world of files with names of 8 characters + "." + 3 characters, DOS looks for files ending with the names ".EXE" or ".COM". These two types of files get loaded into the main memory of the computer using slightly different methods (".COM" loads in with less work) and then DOS passes control of the computer to the program in memory. If the module that DOS loaded is not a program, but merely a data file with a name ending in ".EXE" or ".COM", it's BRS time! (BRS = Big Red Switch as in Power Off switch.)

The third type of file that DOS recognizes is any file that ends in ".BAT". DOS assumes that a file ending in ".BAT" contains a series of DOS commands so it reads the file, record by record, and tries to use the records just as if you had typed commands in from the keyboard. If the file contains something other than valid DOS commands, you will see a lot of "Bad command or file name" messages on your screen.

The fourth type of file that DOS recognizes is any file not ending in ".EXE", ".COM" or ".BAT". If you enter the name of one of these files at the command line, DOS immediately passes judgment on the file and declares "Bad command or file name" even if it is a valid program or command file.

While this simple system was good enough in the diskette based 256K system days, it is becoming a hinderance to using our computers today.

Apple improved on the system by embedding in the file information, the name of the program that could process the file if it was a data file. That worked fine if you only had one program for each file, but in the modern world of computers, very few of us use just one program. In fact, what we really want to do is use several different programs to process the same data.

The problem with DOS is that it just doesn't store enough information about the file to let humans and programs deal with the files in an orderly and productive manner.

A human needs more information about the file than DOS stores. When diskettes were 160K, there were so few files that it was easy to remember the contents and function of each file. With 1.4M floppies and 300M or larger hard disks, it is almost impossible to keep track of all those files in your machine.

Products like Lotus Magellan and XTREE Gold do a very good job of helping us find our way through the masses of files, but if the computer would keep more information on who created the file, what the contents of the file represent, and which programs could use the contents of the file, our computers would be a lot easier to use.

Programs could also use more information about the files. Defining things like date of last access and date of last update and the point at which the file was last checkpointed would allow programs to be able to do more of the work in dealing with the data in the computer.

Finally, defining the class of the contents of the a file would allow the operating system to "suggest" several programs which could operate on the contents of the file. If you chose a program that could not handle the class of file, the operating system might be able to invoke a filter in order to make the data available to the program of your choice.

The information that the operating system keeps on the data files may not seem like much unless you are currently working with the megadisk drives on a file server. However, let me give you an example of how much you already need and rely on it.

For the first two years that I did consulting, I had one client that was still using the CPM operating system. I had been using MS-DOS for about 3 years and had fond memories of some of the nice features of CPM that were lacking in DOS. However, I had forgotten that CPM did not keep the date or the time that the file was created.

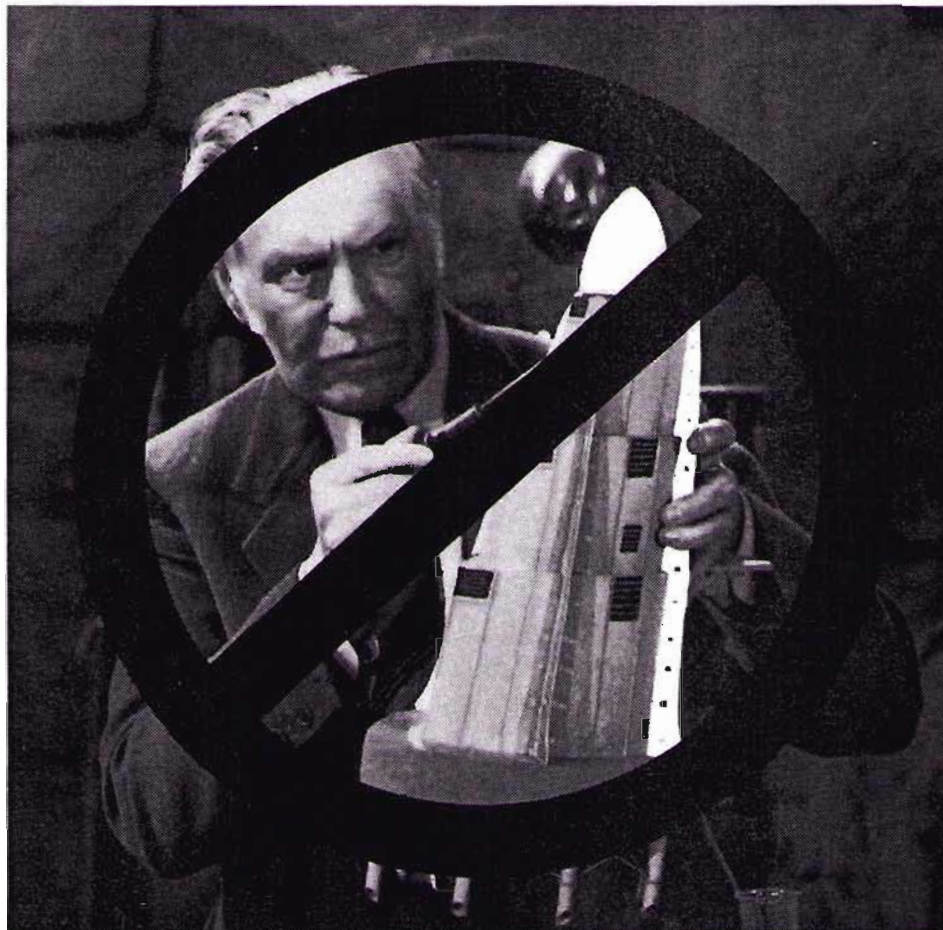
After one month of searching through the contents of the files with the Binary editor to figure out which file contained yesterday's sales orders, I would gladly have given all those other features back just to have a date and time stamp on each file.

Eventually the bother of keeping track of which programs can operate on which files and which files contain what data will become excessive. If DOS's lack of memory hasn't already convinced you that it's time to change operating systems, the file problem will.

Jim

□

You don't have to be a rocket scientist to program in BASIC.



Granted, with Microsoft's BASIC Professional Development System, rocket scientists can work wonders every day of the week.

But if you want to work better in this stratosphere, Microsoft® QuickBASIC is all you need.

Instead of an I.Q. test, you get a step-by-step printed tutorial that guides you through a complete working program. And our handy on-line electronic manual lets you put your finger on anything you want to know instantly, or copy and paste sample code into your program window.

Meanwhile, our on-line training and Easy Menus make you feel at home in your new environment in minutes — not hours. And to simplify things even more, our intuitive interface offers context-sensitive help. Plus a debugger that gets your program up and running in record time.

Naturally, this BASIC also turns out code at record speed — 150,000 lines per minute.

Not surprisingly, *PC Magazine* called it "... perhaps one of the greatest software programs ever written" and gave it their Editor's Choice Award.

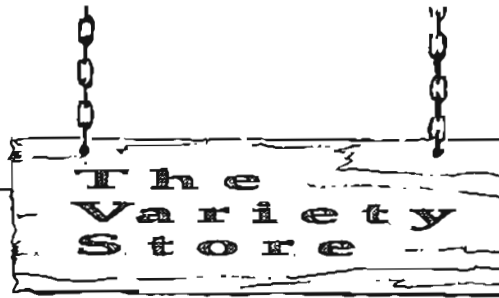
All of which only goes to prove one thing: you don't have to be a rocket scientist to conquer new frontiers.

Just smart enough to get a hold of our Microsoft QuickBASIC.



Microsoft
Making it all make sense

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

Just Under the Wire!

Japanese Find Clones Work Both Ways
AST Goes After Giant NEC – in Japan

What goes around just has to come around, and we sure hope it works this time. AST Research, Inc., unveiled plans to attack giant NEC with a "clone" of the massively popular (in Japan) NEC PC-9801 for sale in Japan.

AST's planned assault on the near NEC monopoly on NEC's home field was announced in several industry media April 10 (this journal's copy deadline.) AST's major weapon in the Japanese-homeland assault will be their "Dual SX/16", a 386SX based PC with capability of running software written for the NEC machine, and/or MS/PC-DOS software.

Lotus and Novell Merge – Goliath Microsoft Challenged?

Lotus Development Corporation, publisher 1-2-3, and Novel, Inc., the nation's leading network software developer and supplier, announced intentions to merge in early April. Combination of the two companies is described by industry analysts as directly challenging Microsoft's leadership position in the microcomputer software industry.

Estimates of the final merger's (scheduled for July, 1990) impact on Microsoft seems to vary with geographical location of the analysts involved, with Boston-area button-downs seeing this "as the beginning of the end" for the Redmond, WA, concern, while West Coast types describe the merger as an interesting challenge for Bill Gates, Microsoft's Chairman.

CPU Wars Continue ...

April Showers Rinse March's Gloom for Motorola – Maybe

Remember the question at the end of the April blurb on Intel's monopoly over 80386 production – Who second-sources Motorola's 68030 and 68040 CPU chips?

Hitachi may have an answer.

Federal District Court Judge Louis Bunton ruled in late March that both Hitachi and Motorola had infringed one another's patent rights, and each should stop selling their disputed advanced CPU chips. Chips involved are the Motorola 68030 and the Hitachi H8/532 microprocessors. Motorola's 68030 chips are widely used in small workstations and the newer Macintosh machines from Apple.

The Wall Street Journal reported April 2, that Judge Bunton stayed his March injunction and Motorola would be allowed (at least temporarily) to continue production and sales of the chip.

Motorola and Hitachi have been involved in a somewhat quiet, yet apparently very acrimonious struggle in Federal Court(s) over proprietary technology contained in CPU chips from both manufacturers. Each (no surprise) claims the other has illegally appropriated (used) their patented technology in designing and making advanced CPU chips.

Articles in late March and early April WSJ issues described the struggle as being highly ego-involved with both sides taking very rigid stands rather than negotiating over their differences. Judge Bunton wasn't happy with either side in the case, and was quoted as calling the case a "travesty of justice."

Sure, but that's the "other" CPU chip.

Right! But, the Motorola vs. Hitachi suit isn't the only CPU chip legal action playing right now. Remember, AMD? Makers of the *real* high-speed 286 chips? They claim some rights to the 386 chips as well as a result of their cross-licensing agreements with Intel some time ago.

This issue has been relatively dormant in the media these days, what with Motorola vs. Hitachi, Apple vs. Microsoft and Hewlett-Packard, Xerox vs. Apple, etc., grabbing all the column space. Did we miss something, or is the AMD vs. Intel issue still undecided?

Visualize a 50 MHz 80386 PC – without the 80486 EISA bugs.

Xerox's March Gloomy too ...

Xerox didn't fare much better in its March courthouse rulings.

Apple seems to have won the first round in the lawsuit raised by Xerox over the ownership and origin of major elements in the Macintosh GUI. It wasn't a "clear win" for Apple, however, with one of Xerox's five major contentions upheld by the court.

The preliminary rulings came as a surprise to many onlookers who felt Xerox had a pretty good case against Apple. Xerox's loss of the other four issues was seen as highly damaging to their case and many observers expect a quick appeal of the ruling.

Maybe This Month ...

Windows 3.0 Rumored for May 22 Release – Perhaps

Speculation over the pending release date for Microsoft's Windows 3.0 seems to be focused on

May 22 (in early April when this is written).

Anticipated by PC media for months (since it *wasn't* released at COMDEX/Fall '89 as expected), delay of the new *Windows* has worked to delay introduction of other major software products and upgrades to existing products. The wait is being compared by media observers to the two-year delay in release of the original *Windows 1.0*.

Part of the delay may be last-minute "fiddling" with *Windows'* built-in memory management routines that are "non-standard" and pre-empt use of several applications packages with 3.0. This includes a number of Microsoft applications as well.

Xerox Ventura Publisher Upgrade Among the Waiting?

Among major packages rumored delayed by the *Windows 3.0* delay, Xerox's *Ventura Publisher* for *Windows* catches a lot of interest. Xerox talked about the upcoming upgrade at COMDEX, but wasn't very specific.

Versions for OS/2 and, of all things, a Macintosh version destined to compete toe-to-toe with Aldus' *Pagemaker* on the Mac platform are also rumored for second quarter release. Xerox people are reported to be very excited about both the *Windows* and Macintosh versions.

More Hard-Disk Wars Coming? Bloodshed Over 100 MB+ Drives

Fun rumors. Looks like a blood bath at the 100 MB+ hard disk level may be brewing. Last of these wars was fought at the 70 - 80 MB and below level with MiniScribe an eventual loser.

What's happening? Major drive makers have released a flood of 100 - 300 MB drives in the 3.5" and 5.25" half-high format in AT, ESDI and SCSI interfaces over the last few months. Prices are falling rapidly, sometimes with price reductions announced before the

ink is dry on the original spec and pricing sheets!

Second factor in the coming war is substantial stocks of "older," 5.25", full height drives in drive makers' inventories. Combination of "small footprint" PC popularity and increasing penetration of the portables make these drives less desirable compared to the new 3.5" models in the secondary sales market. If prices weren't falling so fast on the *newer* drives, these might be an irresistible bargain.

Among the Early Casualties ... MiniScribe Bought by Maxtor

Maxtor Corporation announced in early April that it had acquired "substantially all the assets" of MiniScribe Corporation. Described by the Wall Street Journal as "a maker of data-storage products", Maxtor has long been reputed one of the top makers of high-end, high capacity disk drives.

MiniScribe, headquartered in Longmont, CO, has been subject of a number of less-than-favorable articles in industry media over the last several months and was forced into Chapter 11 in January. MiniScribe was also one of the major participants three years-ago in the bloody medium-size (70 - 80 MB) disk price war with Seagate, Priam and Micropolis.

Maxtor is better known for its larger disks, including the removable, erasable, optical disk "Tahiti" series and 700 MB+ drives. Impact of the Miniscribe acquisition by Maxtor may signal a new wave of competition at the lower end of the spectrum.

Maxtor Releases New 3.5" 200 MB Drives in March

Unrelated (we assume) to the above, Maxtor announced a 3.5" drive line, the LX-200 series, with 200 MB capacity, 15 ms average access times, and embedded AT or SCSI controllers.

Featuring very low audible noise (40 dBA), 50,000 hours MTBF and rotary voice-coil actuators, Maxtor's 3.5" drives are rated at 9.18 to 14.75 Mbits/sec. and approximately 10 watts power dissipation. Controller features include a 32 Kbyte buffering and 56-bit ECC.

The new Maxtor drives are available in a variety of configurations ranging from drive only kits to pre-formatted drives with SCSI and FD controllers, installation software and documentation. Prices at the time of the announcement from Storage Dimensions (a Maxtor company) ranged from \$1000 - \$1200 per drive.

Tape Backups Look Better as "Typical" HD's Pass 100 MB

Backups on 200 MB disks may pose a problem for even the most compulsive and devoted PC user. Juggling 100+ high-density floppies goes above and beyond most users - even with the best backup software. More and more users are looking longingly at tape backups as the solution to data security with the larger hard disks.

There's a question though. How long will the typical, high-quality data tapes last if used frequently? (Disks seem to last forever.)

Emerald Systems has an answer - at least for their *LifeTape* (c) QIC cartridges. A maker of very high-level backup systems for large networks and workstations, Emerald Systems published the following chart with anticipated life expectancies for their tape products.

LifeTape Useful Life Ratings (# of complete passes*):

2.2 GB Vast 8mm	600
1.2 GB DAT 4mm	600
525 MB 1/4"	200
320 MB 1/4"	200
250 MB 1/4"	275
150 MB 1/4"	275
60 MB 1/4"	550
60 MB 1/4"	400

* For 1/4" and 1/8" serpentine drives, a complete pass is equal to a complete read or write from

BOT to EOT through all tracks, or a complete capacity write (backup) or read (restore).

Still Hooked on FD Backups? *Fastback Plus 2.1 Released*

Fifth Generation Systems has released version 2.1 of *Fastback Plus*, with improved data compression, password protection and ability to restore Macintosh *Fastback II* backups.

Fastback was one of the early, high-speed backup programs designed to replace DOS' notorious BACKUP and RESTORE utilities and their subsequent problems for unwary users. Addition of password protection and PC - Mac interchange capabilities places the latest version squarely in corporate settings where data security and interchange is equally important as data integrity.

Fastback Plus 2.1 will run on PC's, PC/XT's, PC/AT's, PS/2's or compatibles, requires 335K RAM and MS/PC-DOS 2.1 or higher.

On the Graphics Front ... *Micrografx Ships Designer 3.0*

Just missed last month's issue -- Micrografx, Inc., Richardson, TX, began shipping *Designer 3.0* in March. Incorporating ability to autotrace color .PCX and .TIF images and convert them to editable color vector images and utilization of XMS support on 286 and 386 PC's, *Designer 3.0* marks a major upgrade from the previous (2.0) version.

Users who frequently work with large .PCX and .TIF bitmaps will appreciate the increased "room" 3.0's utilization of XMA in Windows allows with support of up to 16 MB of extended memory. (8-bit gray-scale, full-page .TIF scanned files can easily run beyond 3 MB).

According to the release from Micrografx, *Designer 3.0* also includes 1700+ ClipArt images, improved, paragraph-oriented, text formatting and handling

capabilities and 41 industry-standard Bitstream and URW (The Company) outline fonts.

Upgrades from previous *Designer* versions are available to registered users for \$99. Retail was listed at \$695 at the time of the release.

PostScript, My Kingdom for PostScript (On a non-PostScript Printer, of course)

Inexpensive (1,000) laser printers and very inexpensive 24-pin dot-matrix are spreading faster than rumors at COMDEX this Spring.

What next? Why, inexpensive *PostScript* interpreters to make the inexpensive laser printers and dot-matrix printers run just like the \$3,000+ products. Only, lots cheaper -- or faster -- or both.

GoScript 3.0 is one of these products. Produced by LaserGo, Inc., San Diego, CA, *GoScript 3.0* is a *PostScript* interpreter that includes 13 or 35 font editions at \$149 to \$299 (list) and supports a variety of laser and dot-matrix printers.

GoScript 3.0 allows export to .PCX or .TIF files and provides a menu-driven interface that features display of *PostScript* file execution on screen in conjunction with the Interactive Mode feature. According to the makers, *GoScript 3.0* supports LaserGo's 2000 typefaces from URW/The Company's library of typefaces in any size on printers ranging from low resolution, dot-matrix printers through high-resolution ink-jet and laser printers.

LaserGo's new product runs on PC/XT, PC/AT and PS/2 PC's running DOS 3.0 or higher with a minimum of 640K RAM. *GoScript 3.0* will utilize expanded memory for increased speed, but requires a fixed disk with a minimum of 1.5 - 3 M free space.

HITCHHIKER MEMBERS

With his thumb, a hitchhiker says "you furnish the gas, the car, attend to the repairs and upkeep, supply the insurance and I'll ride with you...But if you have an accident, I'll sue you for damages."

That's pretty one-sided, isn't it? But one wonders how many hitchhikers there are in our voluntary organizations.

Many members seem to say, "You go to the meetings, serve on the board and committees, do the paperwork and take care of everything, and I'll just go along for the ride."

What's more, these same members will also complain, criticize and probably get out and hitchhike to another group.

What kind of member are you my friend...a hitchhiker or a driver?
-Anon.

Printed in ASSOCIATION
TRENDS during January, 1990



Information - Obtaining it and Using It.

by Arthur English

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Gathering information is a critical task for any professional. You need to keep up with what's going on in your industry, to try to stay one step ahead of the competition. If you looked around your office, you would see how you are overwhelmed with information -- software and hardware user manuals, stacks of old magazines, and piles of computer listings. We are swimming in a sea of information, without the tools we need to find the information we need in a timely way.

One answer is CD-ROM. CD-ROM technology has been around for more than five years, and is getting more affordable each year as a way of acquiring and accessing information. Using CD-ROM, you can access an almost unimaginable amount of data (660MB per disk), including text, audio, and video using hardware that costs about the same as a floppy disk drive in 1982.

At my office we purchased the Microsoft Programmer's Library CD-ROM bundle. The CD-ROM bundle costs \$949. You can order it from Microsoft by calling (800) 227-4679. The CD-ROM bundle is a programming reference bonanza for PC programmers that includes the following:

Microsoft's Programmers Library with 72 reference manuals and guides that take up 278 MB of space on a single optical disk.

Denon's SCSI CD-ROM system that includes interface card and cables.

OPTI-NET software so three users can share the CD-ROM device on UNISYS, IBM, 3Com, and Novell local area networks.

Hypertext librarian software for searching and retrieving information from the CD-ROM drive.

The Programmer's Library CD-ROM contains reference information on OS/2, OS/2 LAN Manager, OS/2 SQL Server, Windows, MS-DOS, C, Macro Assembler, Pascal, FORTRAN, and Basic. You can use the library software to search for information, or treat the CD-ROM as a DOS disk drive. The library software can be run as a TSR program that can

pop-up inside your favorite program editor or word processor.

The Programmer's Library includes over 26 MB of sample code for OS/2, Windows, working with local area networks, and other applications. The sample code also includes programs from Charles Petzold's books on Windows and OS/2, and all the programs featured in the Microsoft Systems Journal.

Besides the Programmer's Library, I also use The Computer Library published by Ziff-Davis Publications. Ziff-Davis publishes PC Computing, PC Week, and PC Magazine. This CD-ROM includes the full-text for these publications for the past 12 months as well as many others. Abstracts are included from 125 other computer related publications. Some of the full text publications are: Communications of the ACM, Lotus Magazine, Government Computer News, Microsoft Systems Journal, and several Seybold Reports.

The Computer Library is easy to use, and gives you quick access to timely information. I have used the Computer Library to do research on an article I am writing about object oriented programming, to get the source code from several Microsoft Windows and OS/2 articles in PC Magazine, and to keep up on the latest gossip about the release of Microsoft Windows 3.0. The Computer Library costs \$765 for a one-year subscription updated monthly. The cost is not trivial, but the value of the information exceeds the cost.

Some other CD-ROM publications you might want to consider are:

Microsoft Bookshelf. This reference library includes a dictionary, thesaurus, zip-code guide, world almanac, style and usage manual, spell-checker, and a book of quotations. \$295.

The New Grolier Electronic Encyclopedia. All 21 volumes of the Academic American Encyclopedia are on this single CD-ROM disk. The encyclopedia does not use any graphics, but it does use an effective hypertext engine to let you navigate through the information. \$395.

CIA World Factbook. This world almanac, compiled by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, provides detailed political, economic, demographic, and geographic information about 249 countries and territories. \$99. Quanta Press, Inc. 612-641-0714.

At home, I use a NEC CDR-35 CD-ROM player, and highly recommend it as well as the Denon CD-ROM system. The NEC CD-ROM player is slower than the Denon, but it is portable and much more compact. The size and packaging of the NEC player is similar to the first portable CD player for music developed by Sony. The NEC player costs \$599.

Both systems are easy to install. I have yet to read more than 10 pages of documentation to learn how to use either system. You can use either CD-ROM player to listen to your favorite audio CDs by plugging in ear phones. Overall, I like the NEC CD-ROM player the best because of its size and portability.

Both the Microsoft Programmer's Library and the Ziff-Davis Computer Library allow you to extract text from the CD-ROM to include in your documents. You can even extract complete files of source code from the Programmer's Library to use for learning or to include in your applications. As a warning, you should be careful not to violate any copyright laws.

Arthur 

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The Vendor Area

by Andy Oliver

Hardware, software, diskettes, labels, ribbons, and other computer-related items are available every Super Saturday meeting, usually in the lower level of Infomart. The vendor area provides the individual with a marketplace, and vendors with a concentration of interested customers that might not walk through their collective doors in a week or a month. The vendors rent tables from the Computer Council of Dallas (CCD). The rent helps to pay for the use of Infomart on Super Saturday. The rents are as follows:

	PREPAID	WALK-IN ON MEETING DAY
For the first two tables	\$35/table	\$50/table
For the 3rd & succeeding tables	\$25/table	\$40/table
Electricity, if used	\$10	\$10

The prepaid (at least 1 week in advance of the meeting) vendors are assigned reserved tables. Tables can be rented until 11:00 AM on meeting day. The CCD has several rules that the vendors must agree to, and some of these are as follows:

- 1) Setup time is from 8:00 to 11:00 AM.
- 2) Vendors can not use the front glass doors at Infomart for loading/unloading.
- 3) Vendors can not bring their own tables. Merchandise must be sold from table tops.
- 4) Merchandise must be computer related.

The Vendor Manager can be reached at (214) 272-0515 x5684 or by writing to the Computer Council of Dallas, Vendor Manager, Box 277, 1950 Stemmons, Dallas, TX 75207. For the computer user, potential user, or business person, this market provides many bargains. Many of us wait till the Saturday meeting to buy ribbons and diskettes or to make a deal on a disk drive. Also in the vendor area is the NTPCUG Disk-of-the-Month table, with public domain software, shareware, and demo disks for \$2/disk to members and \$3/disk to non-members, as well as disk libraries from other user's groups. Come by, browse, talk to the vendors and don't forget the guy in the corner, I hear he may have a deal for you.

Andy 

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Ami Professional vs. Word for Windows

by Arthur English

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Considering one of the new Windows word processing programs— Ami Professional or Microsoft Word for Windows? These two programs are the best word processors available for the PC, but you need a PC that is adequately equipped —386 processor, VGA color graphics, and a speedy hard disk.

Ami Professional is a brand new Windows word processor from Samna Corporation, and has a list price of \$495. Ami Pro was selected as the most valuable product of the year in the word processing category by PC Computing magazine, and has received rave reviews in other magazines such as InfoWorld and PC Magazine.

Ami Pro is slower than Word for Windows and other DOS word processors. I recommend it only for an 80386 PC. Ami offers both a draft and layout mode for creating documents. The draft mode is faster than layout mode, but you lose the what you see is what you almost get (WYSIWYAG) display. It is easy to click on an icon to switch between modes.

What Ami lacks in speed, it makes up for in features. Judged by its features, Ami is an excellent word processor that also can do desktop publishing. If you have Ami Pro, it would be hard to justify using either Aldus PageMaker or Xerox Ventura Publisher for doing page layout.

Ami Professional has an easy to use interface. Ami style sheets are a powerful feature that is implemented better than any other word processor or desktop publishing program I have worked with. The Ami style sheet interface is something like PageMaker's, only better. Ami uses a window to list all your style sheet names. To apply a style to a paragraph, put the text editing cursor anywhere in the paragraph and then click on the name of the style in the style sheet window. To change style sheet attributes, double-click on the style name.

Ami Pro includes a spelling checker and a thesaurus. There is a glossary feature for creating, storing, and applying boilerplate text. Using Ami Pro you can automatically number paragraphs, define page breaks, non-breaking paragraphs, generate indexes, create a document table of contents, and define headers/footers for your document.

Ami uses a frame approach similar to Ventura Publisher and Interleaf Publisher for working with

graphics. If you want to import pictures, draw pictures, and create charts you must do them inside a frame. Yes, that right! I said draw pictures and create business charts. Ami is almost a Windows version of Interleaf Publisher.

Ami can format text as well as any desktop publishing program, has all the high-end word processing features, has a full-featured drawing program, has a business charting program, can hot-link Excel and Lotus 1-2-3 spreadsheets to Ami Pro tables, and can adjust the how gray scale images look with a variety of image processing tools.

It is difficult not to be impressed with Ami Pro. Ami Pro is an all-in-one program for working with text, creating drawings, building tables, and producing business graphics — all in the same document. Ami Pro has elevated word processing into another plateau. It is a complex word processor with many advanced new features that is straight forward and easy to use.

I have been waiting for Microsoft Word for Windows ever since I heard the first rumor about it over two years ago. I have used both Microsoft Word for DOS and WordPerfect, and feel Word is superior. Since I also use and write programs for Microsoft Windows, I wanted a full-featured word processor for Windows.

Last Spring, I was able to take Word for Windows for a controlled test drive at the Microsoft Product road show in Dallas. I was impressed Word's speed, features, and ease of use. While I was waiting for Word for Windows to be released, Samna introduced Ami Professional before Microsoft released Word for Windows and heated up the competition.

Word for Windows is an excellent word processor that has many of the same features as Ami Professional. Both programs have a consistent easy to use interface. Both programs have spell checkers and thesauruses. Both programs can import graphics, let you use style sheets to format documents. Both programs have a rich set of features that would satisfy my word processing needs better than any other program currently available. So which program is better? It depends on what you want your word processor to do.

Word is faster than Ami Professional. For Ami Pro to shine, you need at least a 20MHZ 80386 PC. Word could get by with a 16MHZ 80386SX PC. Maybe even a 12MHZ 80286. The computer basted tutorial that comes with Word for Windows is excellent. Ami Pro's documentation is very good, but Ami Pro does not have an on-line tutorial to introduce you to the program.

Word for Windows provides two optional ways to help you format your document called the Ribbon and the Ruler. They sit atop your screen and provide



quick access to text formatting functions, and make creating and using style sheets a trivial task. Just click on the designated buttons of the ribbon to format text for bold, italic, and underline. You also can change font or type size, add sub- or superscripts, and specify tabs and paragraph alignment.

To create a style just format your paragraph and characters to look the way you want, and then click on the style button on the Ruler. When the style selection drops down, type in a new style name, and you have created a new style. If you are modifying an old style, click on its name, confirm the change, and it's done. To apply a style to text, position the text cursor to the paragraph you want to style, and click on the style name you want.

Word for Windows tables let you organize sections of your document into rows and columns. You can use tables to organize text and numbers. You can even link the table in your document to a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet or Lotus 1-2-3. If the spreadsheet changes, the changes will be reflected in your document. Ami Pro offers static tables.

If the rest of your office has standardized on WordPerfect, your switch to Word for Windows does not need to be painful. Word for Windows can read and write WordPerfect files flawlessly. The on-line help system has a special section for WordPerfect users to help in their transition.

Word's outline processor is so good that it will make believers out of those who never use outlines. The outline processor comes with the Outline Icon Bar, that appears when you select outline view. Headings can be promoted or demoted, you can collapse or expand blocks of text, and move sections of your document by clicking on the appropriate buttons. You can use the same keystrokes found in the DOS version of Word to work with your outline, but using the mouse and Outline Icon Bar is much faster.

If you are a writer that wants a fast word processor and a built-in outliner to organize your thoughts, choose Word for Windows. Microsoft Word is an elegant word processor that executes almost flawlessly. It is my word processor of choice.

Ami Professional requires more PC processing power than word, but is easier to use and offers more graphic features. Word for Windows ease of use is excellent, but Ami Pro's is outstanding. Ami Pro also includes a drawing program, a business charting program, and image enhancement features. Word for Windows does not. Ami Pro is a great all-in-one program for creating documents that include tables, drawings, and business charts. Although I am now using Word for Windows as my word processor of choice, I also use Ami Pro for special projects. I have also recommended Ami Pro as the standard word

processor for the other people that work in my department.

Final word on Windows word processing: either program will make you very happy, if you have the processing power to run it.

Arthur

Arthur English is a computer consultant, programmer, and writer who is currently developing a Microsoft Windows imaging application for a company in Dallas, TX. Art started the Microsoft Windows SIG at the Philadelphia Area Computer Society before moving to Texas. Art has written numerous papers and magazine articles that have appeared in PC World, Byte, and Personal Publishing. Recently, he won the Society of Technical Publications Excellence Award for the training course he wrote for Micrografx Corp., Introduction to Designer.

PCTools Deluxe Version 5.5

by Randy Lahti

Anyone who uses a PC with any regularity needs a few good utility programs. However, those who use a PC frequently but chronically may put to good use a large variety of time saving utilities.

We all know that a backup utility is a must. A disk defragmenter or optimizer is a good idea, a basic full screen editor would be handy, and few good disk tools might save a few torn hairs. Not to mention the cumbersome and redundant methods available from DOS for file and disk management.

One trip to the semi-local volume software store will give you twenty different ways to spend your money. Think of all the registration cards you could fill out which will guarantee an opportunity to spend another 50 percent of your initial investment on each of the packages within six to eight months. Then imagine all the opportunities you may have to support your long distance company for increasingly popular customer paid technical support calls. Finally, think of all the new function keys and command sets you can add to your repertoire.

With all these thoughts battling in my mind I tried a combination package from Central Point Software Company (the makers of COPY II PC). I Picked up a the copy of PCTools 5.5. It looks pretty good from the brief descriptions outside the box. In addition to the disk and files management utilities, Cache and Backup found in version 4.3 and before, version 5.5 offers a new graphic user interface with a DOS Shell and many desktop utilities for a street price of about \$80. What a deal!

After the unveiling, I discovered a four disk set of 360K floppies which requires IBM PC XT, AT, or PS/2 compatibility and a minimum of 512K RAM. The package takes about 1.5 Meg of hard drive space if it's fully installed. For mouse support it requires a Microsoft mouse and driver 6.14 or higher, Logitech mouse and driver 3.4X or higher, or any 100% compatible mouse system. Most of the utilities can be launched from floppy (backup excluded), but I highly recommend a hard disk.

Running the installation program reveals installation options of one to three parts of the package with memory resident options for many utilities. One drawback to this procedure is it automatically updates your AUTOEXEC.BAT file and automatically renames the DOS file FORMAT.COM to FORMAT!.COM allowing PCTools version of format to run in its place. Although PCTools version of format is not destructive and can be rectified using a utility supplied, I like to reserve the right to make all modifications to other files or directories myself.

The package is basically split into three pieces consisting of Data Recovery and DOS Utilities, Backup and Restore, and Desktop Management. Documentation is ample and well illustrated totaling about 700 pages for the entire package. Online help is average.

The graphic user interface is very handy and offers a wide variety of color options with its pull-down windows. A summarized function key command line is also available at the bottom of the screen. I found the interface very intuitive with a mouse although sometimes confusing from the keyboard. The keystrokes to select options are not consistent in all parts of the package. Sometimes cursor arrows are used to highlight and select and option and sometimes the tab key. Some options are executed by pressing the highlighted mnemonic, but sometimes you must press the alt key with the mnemonic.

The Data Recovery/DOS Utility section is similar to Xtree and Norton Utilities combined offering a tree display for file selection with a host of DOS utilities along with valuable File and disk recovery utilities. Some of the ones I found exceptionally useful are: Directory Sort, Subdirectory Move, Subdirectory Prune & Graft, File Undelete, Sector Editing, Memory Usage Information, and Defragmentation. Other options under this section include PC Secure which allows password protection for program and data files, Data encrypted to DES Defense Department Standards, and File Compression for reduced storage space. Additionally, PCTools comes with a read-only Cache which supports Extended and Expanded memory. The only glitch I found in this section was disappearing directories in the directory tree if I create a subdirectory and then immediately sort its parent directory.

The Harddisk Backup and Recovery section again uses the same convenient and intuitive tree display and graphic interface. It offers good flexibility. Files and directories are easily tagged for inclusion or exclusion in both backup and restore modes. Media and disk type are selectable from all floppy types, and several backup methods are available. Backup conveniently allows the user to prioritize minimum disks or minimum time before backing up and estimates both disks and time necessary for the backup.

Although on my 286 machine the estimates were not very accurate with the minimum time priority, I found both the quickest and most compressed way to back up was with minimum disk priority. PCTools boasts a maximum backup speed listed is 10 megabytes in four minutes and 60 percent data compression. However, I found for common programs (wordprocessing, spreadsheets, databases, utilities, data files...) I could backup 40 megabytes in around 23 minutes with full verification and continuous reformatting using 23 high density disks (approx. 30 percent compression).

Backup flexibility and goof guard is good. A single file or directory to the an entire disk drive can be backed up or just the updated files since the last backup. The user can select a DOS compatible backup or use the more efficient proprietary PCTools format. The program keeps track of disk order and prompts you if you insert the wrong disk when restoring or a disk from the wrong backup set. I also liked the fact that the program keeps a backup index on the last disk in the set to speed up partial restores.

The only significant downfalls I found are: the program must reside on the hard drive to execute it, and a conflict with PCTools Cache. Even though it's a good idea to eliminate all resident or possible conflicting software in memory before any important disk functions, I thought that at least all the software under the same version of the same package should be compatible.

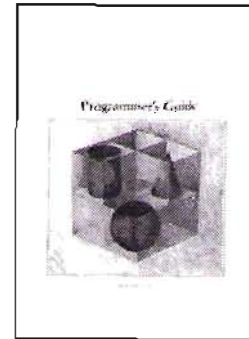
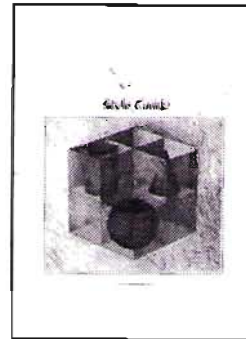
The Desktop manager offers a large variety of features. This includes a dBASE compatible database, a small word processor/editor featuring outlining, clipboard, and spell checking, an appointment scheduler/calendar, basic telecommunications functions and four calculators. Some of the features weren't of great interest to me because they duplicate the features in several stand alone packages. The most noteworthy feature here is probably the calculator or should I say calculators. Desktop emulates an HP-11C(scientific), HP-12C(financial), a programmers calculator (binary,octal, and hex functions) and an algebraic calculator. The algebraic calculator is rather unique in that it has an editable and printable 1000 line tape. From the standpoint of calculation

OSF/MOTIF SERIES

—FROM PRENTICE HALL—

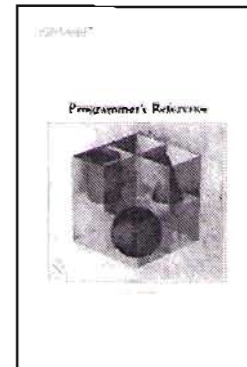
OSF/MOTIF STYLE GUIDE

Specifies the desired behavior of Motif applications and guides programmers in the design of user interfaces that conform to the behavior of the OSF/Motif environment. Discusses the use of windows, menus, dialog boxes, and controls.



OSF/MOTIF PROGRAMMER'S GUIDE

Explains how to write programs with OSF/Motif. Provides conceptual information and examples to guide programmers in using widgets, gadgets, the window managers, and the User Interface Language (UIL).

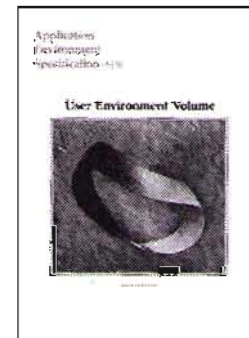
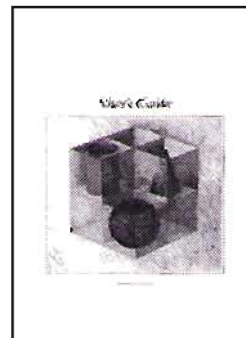


OSF/MOTIF PROGRAMMER'S REFERENCE

Describes the syntax and usage of all OSF/Motif commands and functions. Contains reference pages, arranged in alphabetical order, for each command or function.

OSF/MOTIF USER'S GUIDE

Teaches the fundamentals of working with OSF/Motif. Explains how to create and manipulate windows on the screen, use application programs written for the Motif environment, and personalize the Motif environment to suit individual needs and tastes.



APPLICATION ENVIRONMENT SPECIFICATION (AES) USER ENVIRONMENT VOLUME

Specifies the interfaces for the User Environment portion of OSF's Application Environment. Defines the AES and explains the rationale for the inclusion and specification of interfaces. Includes reference pages, arranged in alphabetical order, for each AES/UE interface plus tables of system services and their respective support levels.



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Accessing the NTPCUG Bulletin Board--for First-time Users

by Doug Gorrie

The February, 1989 issue of NORTH TEXAS PC NEWS contained an article describing how to access the NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS). That article, graciously authored by Andrine Stricherz, is the basis for the article below. Why print it again? Some procedures for accessing the BBS have changed, prompting revisions in the article content. Additionally, we have a lot of new (and old) members wanting to access the BBS, but whom did not have occasion to read the original.

Several NOTES have been added at the end of the article to clarify more involved material. When requested in the following text to "see NOTE x", review the appropriate note, then return.

PCTools continued

alone, Desktop offers a wide variety of functions. It can be loaded as memory resident and requires about 40K of memory.

Overall, is PCTools 5.5 a useful and effective timesaving collection of utilities? Without regards to price and without a mouse – probably; considering its \$80 street price, its vast collection of features, and mouse support throughout, absolutely. Although I expected more consistent keyboard commands and total compatibility from its own parts, I don't know that I would have any fewer complaints purchasing each of the options I use in PCTools 5.5 separately. I do know that the interface would not be the same throughout and I would spend probably three times as much money.

Additional Note:

Just as I finished this review, I received an update form for PCTools version 6. Briefly, the additions look real good. If all the features mentioned previously weren't enough, now try this. The DOS shell contains 30 fileviewers, an integrated version of Laplink, and programmable function keys the name a few. Data Recovery has been added similar to Norton's Disk Doctor. Backup now supports several tape drives. Desktop added yet another calculator, the HP-16C, Electronic mail support and Fax Board support. And the Cache includes optional write-caching.

Randy 

This article covers the initial installation and use of an inexpensive communications package on your PC, and how to establish your account on the BBS once you establish a connection. Be aware that, in order to use the NTPCUG BBS, you must be an NTPCUG member. Your membership will cost only \$24/year, helps support operation of the BBS, and is an extremely good deal for all the computer expertise and comraderie you will gain access to.

You, the BBS novice, may know that there are numerous commercial, "shareware" and "freeware" communications software packages available (see NOTE 1), and that you will need one of them in order to access the BBS with your PC. The package chosen for this article is PROCOMM 2.4.3 (referred to below as PROCOMM). PROCOMM is the shareware version of PROCOMM PLUS, a highly successful commercial package used by both individuals and in many corporations. PROCOMM is available at the NTPCUG Disk of the Month (DOM) table for \$2.00 (Disk number 364), so even if you decide later that you would rather buy a different package, it won't cost you much to try it (see NOTE 2).

The PROCOMM files on the diskette are contained in two separate archived, or compressed, files. They are "crunched" in order to fit onto a single diskette. Before using them, you will have to "uncrunch" the files by using a program called PKUNPAK.EXE, which is placed on the same diskette by the DOM group. (See NOTE 3.)

In the following paragraphs, I will describe the actual computer commands which you will need to key in to install and use PROCOMM. Sometimes you will need to key in exactly what I indicate—in that case, what I type will be in upper-case letters. I will indicate a Carriage Return (pressing of the "ENTER" key) by the phrase <cr>. Explanatory information and instructions will be in mixed uppercase and lowercase (like this sentence). Since most users today purchase systems with a hard disk, the following instructions will be based on your having a hard-disk system.

Okay, let's get started! First, we need to create a directory on the hard disk (Drive C, probably) to place PROCOMM into. Key in:

C: <cr>	(Go to Drive C)
CD\ <cr>	(Change to the Root Directory)
MD PROCOMM <cr>	(Make a subdirectory called PROCOMM)

Now, put your PROCOMM diskette into Drive A or Drive B. In my example, I'll use Drive A. We will "uncrunch" the software by keying:

```
A:PKUNPAK A:PRCM243 C:\PROCOMM<cr>
(Uses the PKUNPAK program to uncrunch the
diskette files and put them on Drive C in the
PROCOMM directory)
```

```
CD\PROCOMM <cr> (Change to the PROCOMM
subdirectory)
```

```
DIR <cr> (List the directory just
to confirm that the
files are there)
```

PROCOMM is now installed. NOTE 4, below, will describe how to uncrunch the documentation for use later. Or, do it now if you prefer, then return here.

Make sure your modem is turned on and ready to go. (We can't cover those procedures here, but see your modem installation manual. Also, see NOTE 5). Then, to set up your newly installed PROCOMM software to talk to your PC/modem/phone configuration, let's key in:

```
PROCOMM <cr> (This is normally all that is needed
to get into the program, unless your PC
has a menu system)
```

```
<cr> (Move to PROCOMM terminal screen)
```

As you learn more about PROCOMM, you will want to change various items, such as the sound effects, the "exploding windows", etc., but for now, let's take the shortest route to getting to the BBS. In the lower left corner of the screen, PROCOMM tells you that HELP is available by pressing ALT-F10. Request HELP now by holding the ALT key down, then simultaneously pressing F10. HELP can be requested almost anytime in this manner, and will remind you how to access PROCOMM functions. If you mis-key, pressing the ESC (Escape) key will get you out of trouble.

Select the dialing directory from the first column (Major Functions) by pressing ALT-D. The dialing directory is where you list all phone numbers you may want to call, and where you define their associated attributes. Let's describe the NTPCUG BBS lines to the dialing directory now.

```
R (to Revise or add an entry -
NO <cr> NEEDED HERE)
```

```
1 <cr> (select entry number 1)
```

```
NTPCUG-LINE 1 <cr> (enter any descriptive name)
```

```
817-461-0506 <cr> (enter the first BBS number, just as
you would if dialing a phone. Dashes
are for clarity, but ignored by the
modem)
```

PROCOMM now asks what BAUD, or transmission rate, you use. Our BBS's modems can use 300, 1200 or 2400 BAUD, and your modem may go to 300, 1200

or 2400 BAUD. At this time, change the displayed BAUD (1200) to the highest number your modem can handle (1200 or 2400) by pressing any keyboard key repeatedly until the desired number appears. Once set as desired, press <cr>. Then key in:

```
<cr> (leave PARITY at "N")
<cr> (leave DATA BITS at "8")
<cr> (leave STOP BITS at "1")
<cr> (leave ECHO ON at "N")
<cr> (leave Command File blank)
Y (*Y* to save this entry -
NO <cr> NEEDED HERE)
```

With this last entry, we have completed describing NTPCUG-Line 1 to PROCOMM. Now define entry number 2 to describe the second BBS line. Its phone number is 817-461-0425. Define it to PROCOMM now by repeating the instructions above, starting with ALT-D.

If you have a rotary phone rather than a touch tone phone, see NOTE 6 for an additional change needed by PROCOMM.

Now that PROCOMM is ready, let's place a call to BBS Line 1. To do so, you must be at the dialing directory (ALT-D). Merely key in the number of the entry you want to dial ("1", in this case), and press <cr>. PROCOMM begins to dial. If you get a busy signal, or want to cancel for some other reason, press the ESC (Escape) key. Then, to dial again, press ALT-D, followed by the entry number to call, and <cr>.

When you get into the BBS, you will initially see what looks like a large Doric column, along with some introductory information about future NTPCUG meetings, etc. On this same screen you will also see instructions for getting a new user established on the BBS.

For users who have previously been validated to the BBS (whether they have connected before or not), enter your NTPCUG name and password when requested. If your password came to you on a postcard some time ago, use it now. If you cannot find that password, or never had one, proceed as though you are a brand new BBS user.

If you are connecting for the first time, and have never been validated, the BBS will ask you for all necessary information. At the bottom of the screen, you will be asked for "Your full NTPCUG Name". Key your first and last name as you wish to be known on the BBS. This name MUST be legitimate - no ambiguous nicknames like "Honey Bunch", "Zippy Jones" or "Darth Veder". Although upper or lower case are accepted, it is best to use proper capitalization during this initial validation (i.e., Doug Gorrie, rather than DOUG GORRIE or doug gorrie.) Case is significant only for this initial validation.

(If, by chance, the name you enter is identical to one already on the BBS, it will ask for your password im-

mediately after your name has been entered. If this happens, see NOTE 7 for more further details.)

As a new user, the BBS should advise you that your name "is not on the subscriber list", indicating that it does not presently know whom you are. When then asked "Have you subscribed before(Y/N)", enter "N". When asked "Would you like to become a subscriber(Y/N)", Reply "Y".

When asked for "Password:....", enter a password that you will not later forget, but which others cannot easily guess. It may be up to 8 characters long, and may consist of any printable characters.

After entering the above, enter "V" to be Validated. When asked if "You are currently a member of the NTPCUG", enter "1" for Yes. Your NTPCUG member number will be requested (see NOTE 8). An additional <cr> will pass this information to the Sysop (System Operator). Then, enter "H" <cr> to hang up.

Actual establishment of you account will take 1-2 weeks to confirm if you have been a NTPCUG member for a while. It may take a couple more weeks if you have just joined, since a record of your membership must be passed to the Sysop. So, check back later. Try the first/last names and password as you previously entered, and Viola - you (hopefully) are in. Then follow the menus to browse through the BBS.

In the near future, I hope to expand on this article by describing use of BBS features such as sending and receiving of mail, accessing of SIG conferences, and uploading/downloading of files. After using the BBS a few times, you may want to change to "Expert" mode at the Main Menu--this will shorten the menus considerably. More on that later.

If you get the itch to try the Mail system now, feel free to send me your thoughts about this article. I plan to make it available through several SIG (Special Interest Group) groups, so would appreciate your thoughts about its accuracy, clarity, etc. Over time, it should get better and better, with your help.

Have fun!

Doug 

=====

NOTE 1: Software defined as "treeware" is generously written and donated by another computer user. You may use it for free, but typically cannot re-sell it.

"Shareware" is also written by another user (or company), and may be "tried" for free. However, if you elect to continue using it, the honor system requires that you pay a fee to the developer.

Commercial software is sold by an individual or a firm for a fee. No trial period is normally included - you want it, you pay for it.

NOTE 2: PROCOMM 2.4.3, as shareware, requires that you pay the developer a fee (\$50, in this case) if use continues. Interestingly,

the more advanced product, PROCOMM PLUS, sells for \$49 at SoftWarehouse, making it a better deal than its shareware cousin. My suggestion: Try PROCOMM for \$2.00. If you like it, consider purchasing PROCOMM PLUS as your permanent software.

A trial version of the above mentioned PROCOMM PLUS is also available at the DOM desk, under the name of PROCOMM PLUS TEST DRIVE. This software was Andrine's choice in her February, 1989 article, which describes its use. That publication may still be available for \$2.00 at the membership desk. However, TEST DRIVE, PROCOMM PLUS and PROCOMM 2.4.3 are all very similar, so knowing one gives you a good background in using the others.

NOTE 3: The file named PRCM243.ARC contains all of the files needed to run PROCOMM. A second file named PRCMDOC.ARC contains the complete documentation for this shareware product.

NOTE 4: To unarchive the documentation to the diskette, place the PROCOMM diskette into Drive A, and a blank formatted disk in Drive B, and type A:PKUNPAK A:PRCDOC B: at the DOS prompt. Alternately, the documentation may be placed on hard disk by keying A:PKUNPAK A:PRCDOC C:PROCOMM.

To print the manual after it has been unarchived, place the disk with the unarchived manual on it in Drive A and type COPY PROCOMM.DOC PRN at the DOS prompt. The 100+ page manual explains how to setup the program's parameters.

NOTE 5: There is an excellent 108 page modem primer available, for FREE, from your friends at USRobotics. Call (800)DIAL-USR and ask for a copy of "Data Communications Concepts".

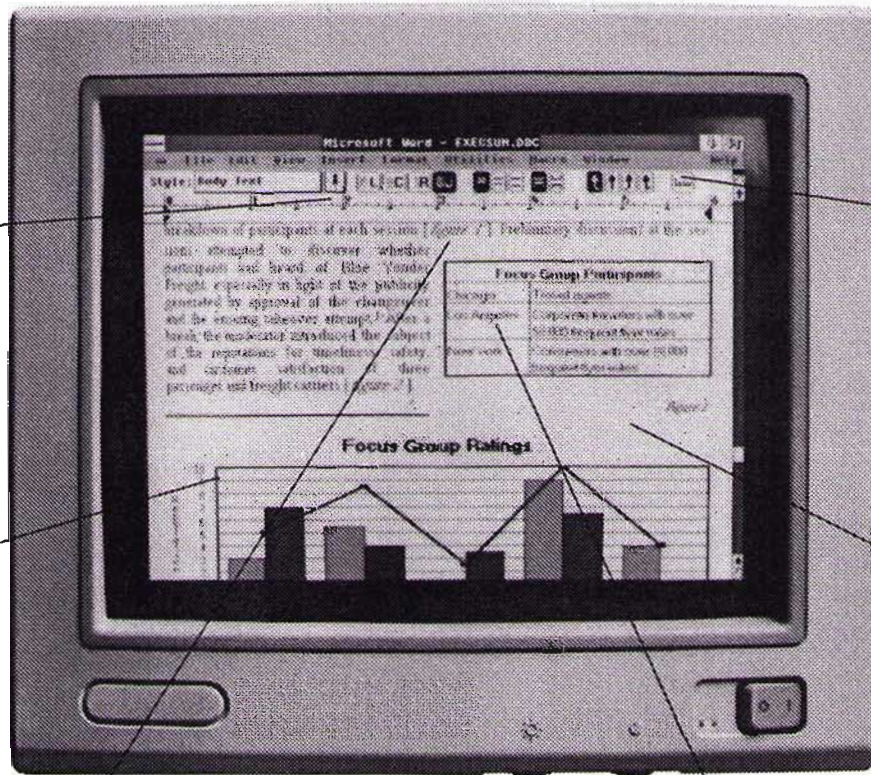
NOTE 6: If you have a pulse phone line rather than touch-tone, you need to change one setup option. Press ALT-S to see the SETUP MENU. Select "1" for MODEM SETUP. Then select "2" (Dialing Command), which currently displays "ATDT". Key in "ATDP" <cr> for a Pulse phone. That's all you need right now, so press the ESC key once, then enter "S" <cr> to save this change to disk, then ESC again.

NOTE 7: If the name you enter is already known to the BBS, it will immediately ask for your password. This indicates that there is already an account by that name in the BBS. If you think this account is actually yours, go ahead and try to enter the password. If this doesn't work for you, your NTPCUG name is probably identical to another existing user (i.e., two users named "John Smith). If this happens, hang up (by pressing ALT-H), dial in again, and use a different name (i.e., Jonah Smith, or Johnathon Smith, etc). Use this new name in the future when connecting to the BBS, along with the password you entered. This new BBS name and password will be unique to you.

Occasionally, even if you successfully get into the BBS, it may request Validation. If this occurs, validate yourself as requested with your name and member number. There is no harm in repeating a validation.

NOTE 8: You must know your member number before you can request validation over the BBS. Your NTPCUG member number will normally come from two sources, both of which are mailed to you. One is the label on your monthly North Texas PC NEWS publication, in the upper left corner (i.e., Member # 1234). The other is your membership card. Retrieve your number before attempting validation, as you cannot join the BBS without it.

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.



When it comes to word processing on a PC, new Microsoft® Word for Windows® isn't like anything you've ever seen. To see what we're talking about, call (800) 541-1261, Dept. K64.

We'll send you a free brochure or a fully-functional Working Model for \$9.95.* Making it all make sense

Microsoft®

For more information, call (800) 541-1261, Dept. K64. Outside the U.S. and Canada, call (206) 882-8961. © 1990 Microsoft Corporation. Microsoft and the Microsoft logo are registered trademarks and Making it all make sense and WYSIWYG are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. *The Working Model will save and print documents up to two pages in length; a charge of \$9.95 covers shipping/handling and is refundable upon acquisition of the product.



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator

We have something new for all you folks out there just hankering to give a little of your time to the NTPCUG. After all, there is no better way to say you're proud to be a member and committed to the continued existence of the Group than to volunteer. You don't have to be a computer whiz to help out. Drop by the Information Booth and pick up leaflets from the BBS, Personal Users SIG, Information Booth, DOM and others with more information.

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers who served for the month of March. Don't forget our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter publisher, editor, staff and writers, newsletter exchange and BBS SYSOP and staff are all volunteers; their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter.

INFOMART Liaison
 Stuart Yarus
 Robert Hilliard
 Archie Pinkney
 Katherine Johnson

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown
 Timothy Carmichael
 Tom Fowlston
 Christopher Carmichael

Auditorium Tickets
 Pehl. Lee

Information/Registration Booth
 Mike Ashley (Anchor)
 K. B. Barton (Anchor)
 Randi Boucher (Anchor)
 Jim Caraway
 John Dyer (Anchor)
 Eteta E. Eta (Anchor)
 John Ferguson (Anchor)
 Paul Fredd (Anchor)
 Rick Griffith (Anchor)
 Judy Griffiths
 Allan Harbough (Anchor)
 Hank Holt (Anchor)
 Linda Irby

Theresa Kelly (Anchor)
 John Mackoy (Anchor)
 Larry Matzek
 Stacey Naftel
 Andy Oliver
 Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
 Steve Saunders (Anchor)
 Andrine Strickerz (Anchor)
 Connie Testa (Statistician)
 Larry Tucker (Anchor)
 Jose Valenciano (Anchor)
 Paul Williams (Anchor)

Disk of the Month (DOM):

DOM Central Committee
 Preston Brashear
 Mark Gruner
 Howard Hamilton
 Kathryn Loafman
 Kenneth Loafman

DOM Volunteer Coordinator
 Bill Drissel

DOM Table
 Joe A. Allen
 Roy Bales
 Stan Berlin
 Gene Carleton
 Charles Carter
 Charles Cashion
 Bill Drissel
 Kent Haven
 Delbra Henderson
 Pat Henley
 Jo Johnston
 E. M. Kelley
 Duane Martin
 Donald Mayfield
 Bob Post

With Special Thanks to:
 Jay Chambliss
 Shawn Dunn
 Jerry Stone

DOM Review/Presentation
 Roy Bales
 Shawn Dynn
 Jerry Eubanks
 Rick Griffith (2 reviews)
 Mark Gruner
 Steve Lanier
 Robert M. Monaghan
 Richard Terreo
 LeRoy Thompson
 Paul Van Dreal



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)

Selected



SIG Happenings

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

BASIC Programming SIG

Our BASIC SIG is finally off the ground. I am truly hopeful that it will be a strong addition to the North Texas PC Users' Group lineup.

With the release of the Microsoft Professional Development System (also known as BASIC 7.0), the industry is experiencing a new interest in BASIC-language programming. Just as BASICA and GWBASIC made programming accessible to a larger group of computer enthusiasts, QuickBASIC and other new BASIC compilers are introducing a whole new group of users to the joys of creating their own software masterpieces.

Through our BASIC SIG, we hope to provide a forum for learning more about BASIC-language programming. We will examine compiler technology, the BASIC language (and all of its new extensions), add-on libraries, and application development using all of the above.

Join us for our first session at the May meeting of the NTPCUG. We will spend this session determining the directions we will take for 1990. I hope to see all BASIC programmers at the meeting.

Kent Kingery

Beginner's Pascal SIG

At the April meeting, we learned the difference between global and local variables, how to write PROCEDURES, how to pass either "value-parameters" or "variable-parameters" to a Procedure, and how Procedures can be used to help simplify the structure of a program, even if they are only called once. In May, we'll discuss FUNCTIONS and some of the considerations in deciding whether a sub-program should be written as a Procedure or a Function. Again, we

urge the attendees to use the club's Bulletin Board for questions or help with programming.

Phil Chamberlain

Communications SIG

If all went as planned, the Communications SIG has heard a talk presented by Co-Leader Andrew Laham about BBSs (Bulletin Board Systems) in the corporate environment. Of course, we did our usual Question and Answer session. And in looking to the future, be sure and stay tuned for the latest on the May visit from Southwestern Bell to talk to us about ISDN (Integrated Services Digital Network). Thanks,

Pete Testa

DOS SIG

What's all the news mean for DOS users? Start with media rumors that IBM has "handed" DOS development back to Microsoft after the PC-DOS 4.0 debacle. Granted, 4.0 has been, according to some wags, the worst selling major DOS release since 2.0. Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President-Elect, will expand on the rumors, and what they may hold in store for us in the next year or so. One question: If the WINDOWS 3.0 package is as "super" as advertised, how will this impact on future MS/PC-DOS development?

We'll also continue looking at ways to tame the DOS tiger for new users, focusing on how and why the CONFIG.SYS file should be custom built by each user to suit their own use patterns and needs. Basic interactions between CONFIG.SYS and the AUTOEXEC.BAT files will be explored in some depth with discussion aimed at those instances when the user has a choice between

using drivers in CONFIG.SYS or SET commands in the AUTOEXEC.BAT file. May's DOS SIG Meeting will be topped off by the usual Q & A free-for-all between SIG leaders Hoisington and Andrews and SIG participants.

Reagan Andrews

LAN SIG

Southwestern Bell Telephone will be doing an ISDN presentation in the auditorium at 10 to 11am and then be available for a Q&A session in the Communications SIG at noon. Since this will be a presentation of interest to us LAN-ers we will have a joint SIG meeting with the Communications SIG this month. See you in the auditorium at 10am and then at the joint Comm/LAN SIG meeting at noon.

Bernie VanRoekel

Lotus SIG

The subject for the April meeting was a presentation of the Macro Manager Add-in in 1-2-3 Release 2.2. The Macro Manager Add-in has been available in Lotus Symphony for years. The Macro Manager Add-in simply allows the user to have macros in memory all of the time regardless of which spreadsheets is on the screen. The presentation consisted of a brief description of the Add-in Manager utility and how to get the Macro Manager automatically installed when the program is loaded. The presentation then turned to discuss how to create macros for the Macro Manager. Finally, Mark discussed the macro library that he put together and made available to the attendees. All proceeds from the disk went to the NTPCUG. The disk has four macro libraries on it. All of the libraries are the same except that two are for 1-2-3 and two are for Symphony. The only other difference is that one of the program-specific libraries can call some of the macro routines individually instead of having to go through a menu. The disk that Mark made available in the April Lotus SIG meeting will be available in the Disk-of-the-Month library starting in May and is called ▶

Disk of the Month



Disks released at the April 1990 meeting

APRIL 1990 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 471. COPYQM Version 2.10, 2/90 Disk Duplicator by Sydex, 153 North Murphy Avenue, Sunnyvale, CA 94086 Shareware Fee: \$15.00

COPYQM is a utility designed for disk duplication and is an excellent replacement for the DISKCOPY command. The program will read a master disk one time and make as many copies as you need. Further it will format a disk if needed and can verify as it writes the disk. If you do not like the DISKCOPY command, you should like COPYQM a

great deal.

COPYQM requires an IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible, or PS/2. Since the program is only 25K in size when installed, minimal RAM is required.

COPYQM will read the data from the disk into memory and make multiple copies of the disk before returning back to DOS. If the data on the disk is larger than available memory, then the user can specify an overflow location that can include expanded memory, extended memory, hard disk, or all three.

Selected SIG Happenings continued

"NTPCUG Lotus SIG Disk #2 - Macro Library for 1-2-3/Symphony". The disk number will be disk number 485 and can be purchased for \$2.00 for NTPCUG members and \$3.00 for non-members.

The May meeting will be presented by Charles Suitt, who is a regular at the Lotus SIG. Charles will be presenting ALWAYS which is the spreadsheet publishing package that is included in 1-2-3 Release 2.2. The program is also offered as a stand-alone package for Release 2.01 as well as Symphony. Currently, there is no ALWAYS for Release 3.0 of 1-2-3. Charles will demonstrate how to use ALWAYS' capabilities, as well as show examples of some final products. The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer any questions about problems that users are having on any spreadsheet product. If you have any questions, please come on by and ask. We will be more than happy to see what we can do for you.

Mark Gruner and Pat Henley

Personal Users SIG

This Special Interest Group (SIG) is for you! ... if you consider yourself any of the following:

- ... a novice
- ... a new PC owner
- ... a beginner with PC's
- ... a person curious about PC's
- ... a soon-to-be PC owner
- ... a personal (versus professional) PC user
- ... or
- ... a PC user needing to review some "fundamentals".

We offer sixteen (16) individual, stand-alone classes covering the "fundamentals of personal computers." Four classes are offered at each monthly meeting of the North Texas PC Users Group (2nd or 3rd Saturday on the 7th floor of the Infomart in Dallas). After four monthly meetings (covering four classes each), the entire 16-class curriculum is begun again. The classes are presented in numerical sequence, but you can take them in any sequence convenient to your personal schedule. The classes always start each month at 9:00 AM, 10:00 AM, 12:00 Noon, and 1:00 PM. Since each class is a "stand-alone" ... i.e. self-contained and NOT requiring any other classes as prerequisites ... you can begin attending at any time convenient to your other priorities and schedule. In addition to receiving informative instruction from people very knowledgeable in their field and class topic, you also receive a set of handout notes for each class, to allow you later review. There are no homework assignments, no pressures, no tests, and no dumb questions. You don't even have to be a member of the NTPCUG before you attend ... ALTHOUGH YOUR ARE ENCOURAGED TO JOIN NTPCUG AND VOLUNTEER YOUR TALENTS.

This 16-class curriculum of PC fundamentals is specifically designed to be the kind of learning experience you always wished existed ... where you are accepted just as you are, and where you can gain knowledge without the hassles ... and best of all ... the classes are FREE!

Join us as we learn and review "THE FUNDAMENTALS."

The four classes for MAY 1990 will be:

- 9:00 AM - Class 5.1 - Fixed Disk Directories, Batches, & Path
- 10:00 AM - Class 6.1 - Creating D.O.S. Menu Systems
- 12:00 Noon - Class 7.1 - Fundamentals of Lotus 1-2-3
- 1:00 PM - Class 8.2 - Fundamentals of the "BASIC" Language

Bob Presley

Word SIG

Why WYSIWYG in office environments? Is the functionality worth the expense and overhead required? Would users be better off sticking with text-oriented editors/word processors for day-to-day use and going to a page-layout program such as Ventura Publisher or Aldus Pagemaker for the desk top publishing (DTP) chores? This is one of the questions we'll attack in the May WORD SIG Meeting as a result of Microsoft's introduction of WORD for WINDOWS and the coming release of WORD for OS/2-PM. WORD 5.0A already runs under OS/2, but Microsoft is pushing the GUI (graphical user interface) version. Problem for most WORD SIG participants is the hardware overhead necessary to run either WfW or WORD for OS/2, and the time necessary to learn another program. Latter portion of the May WORD SIG Meeting will be devoted to a continuation of our exploration of Word's Style Sheets and their use in day-to-day operations by our members.

Reagan Andrews

The best feature of COPYQM is that it is a no-hands program meaning that you tell the program how many floppy disk drives to use and how many copies you want and COPYQM will take care of the rest. Another good feature for software developers is the ability to put serial numbers at a user defined location on the disk.

There are 3 documentation files. The file COPYQM.DOC is the documentation for release 2.01 of the program and the file WHATS.NEW are updates for release 2.10. The file READ.ME are introductory remarks by Sydex.

This software was donated by the author, Sydex.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kenneth Loafman (4/90).

Disk 472. Fred's Checkbook 4.2 4/90 Easy to Use Financial Consultant By Jon Kolstad, 560 Norton Lane, Arnold, MD 21012. Shareware Fee: \$40.00.

Fred's Checkbook has the expected functions of entering checks and deposits, but includes the capability of categorizing each check or deposit for excellent reporting capabilities. This capability will help individuals to create or maintain a budget and is advantageous for small businesses. Another option when making entries is the ability to mark the transactions as having cleared the bank to help reconcile your checkbook. As entries are made, the current balance is indicated in a window in the corner of the screen. Moving through the entries with the cursor keys will cause the balance to update based on the entry currently being pointed to. The program requires an IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible, DOS 2.1 or higher, and 384K memory.

Fred's Checkbook also includes printing of checks on continuous form or preprinted checks, a database to maintain up to 500 regular payees including regular payment amounts, transaction reporting into user defined categories and families, sorting by check number, date, amount, ID, or combinations, easy bank statement reconciliation. There can be up to 99 accounts with 10,000 entries per account. There is also an option to backup data on exit.

Calculator and calendar functions are also available.

Users of version 3.0 will be disappointed to learn that you will not be able to copy version 3.0 files over to 4.0. The files will appear to transfer but the program seems to invoke the calendar function when you have to enter certain text information. This problem has been fixed in version 4.2 according to the author.

Balancing your checkbook is a snap. The program will display a list of all transactions that are not tagged as

having cleared the bank. You either tag a transaction as cleared or skip over them. The bank balance is maintained in the same window in which your book balance appears. When all entries have been tagged, the statement balance should match the balance in the window.

Printing features include complete definition of the check. To print the checks, simply mark the checks to print and they are printed. This feature is probably more useful in a business environment.

All of the documentation is included in a file called FC4DOCS.COM which includes several files.

Another really good feature is a file README.EXE which allows the user to read the documentation without having to print it out. This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Ed Frankenfeld, edited by Mark Gruner

Disk 473. Fun with Letters and Words, Wescott Software, 2316 Park Place, Evanston, IL 60201, (312) 328-1367. Shareware registration \$20. Word activities for ages 3-6.

Fun with Letters and Words is part of a pilot project sponsored by IBM using computers in Head Start classrooms. The shareware version, adapted for home use, features a six-level fun and educational program for your children.

Level 1 features the alphabet. The appropriate full color block letter or number appears on the screen as your child presses a letter or number key.

Levels 2 - 5 introduce your child to beginning words. The four levels have been designed with increasing difficulty to keep pace with your child's expanding capabilities. Every time a letter is pressed, a word beginning with that letter appears accompanied by a full color graphic and sometimes music.

Level 6 is for spelling. At this level, your child can type and watch as block letters appear at the bottom of the screen. As letters are typed, three lists of words are checked to see if a match is found. For a match, a graphic will appear to verify for your child that the word has been spelled correctly. If there is no graphic for the word being typed, that word will then be rewritten in the middle of the screen.

Fun with Letters and Words is like a first book - an activity for you and your child to do together for maximum benefit and enjoyment. How long should a session with Fun with Letters and Words last? Stick with the program just as long as your child shows enthusiastic interest. For younger children, this may only be three or four minutes.

This software was provided by the publisher, Wescott Software.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Virginia Salter.

Disk 474. CATDISK 4.50, 3/90 Disk Catalog System, by Rick Hillier, 405 Barrington Lane, Waterloo, ONTARIO, Canada N2T 1H9. ShareWare Fee: \$20.00.

HIGHLIGHTS:

- Can read and catalog directly the contents of all directories and the following 'archived files': ARC, .DWC, .LBR, .LZH, LZS, .PAK, .ZIP, and .ZOO. Files can be directly extracted from these if desired.
- 'CATALOGED' files can be viewed by dos wildcards, volume id, archive id, or by keywords or phrases.
- Reports can be sent to the screen, printer, or to a disk file.
- Customized printer or disk report output.
- Customized print strings, so should work with any printer.
- If RAM is a problem (ie. TSR's loaded), RAM requirements can be customized.
- EXTREMELY FAST cataloging and retrieval.

REQUIREMENTS: Runs on Hard Disk or 1 Floppy System, Hard Disk Recommended, 256K RAM, the more the better, DOS 2.0 or HIGHER, Any Monitor, Any Printer (Optional).

This review prepared by Roy Bales, edited by Kenneth Loafman.

Disk 475AB. DANCAD3D 2.0E, 1/89, 3D CAD/CAE Program, by Daniel H. Hudgins, 466 Diamond St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Shareware Registration Fee: \$35.00.

The program is fully functional with documentation, readme files, multiple printer drivers and two demo programs. One demo draws a pair of gears in twenty different positions. The second demo meshes the gears to test their design in a "movie". The program is relatively easy to use even without documentation since a menu bar is on-screen throughout operations. The program will accommodate 256 colors. It worked readily with a Microsoft Mouse for drawing. The programs allow drawing in two- or three- dimensions. Front, side and top views of three-dimensional drawings can be shown in a single window only. Objects may be rotated by any number of degrees, whole or partial, as the user selects. A .DXF translate utility allows exchange with AUTOCAD or other .DXF based drawing programs (one of its most valuable features). Demo and sales messages appear in color, drawing is in black and white only. Though it is not flashy and crisp like commercial programs this reviewer has used, it is recommended as an inexpensive way for a first-time user to determine ►

whether CAD is a useful tool or viable solution for a problem.

REQUIREMENTS: 512K with a minimum of 1M of hard disk storage just for the program and its demos.

Drivers are provided for IBM and Epson compatibles, Adobe PS, HPGL, linotype and plotters. It supports Monochrome, Hercules, CGA, and EGA.

DIR produces 99 files which include INSTALL.BAT; README.BAT; the program; the demo programs; printer, plotter, laser and screen drivers and the .DXP file transfer program.

The diskettes may be freely duplicated and distributed for \$3 each. The full package of 14 must be ordered using the information included in the README.BAT printout. A user is required to furnish information concerning hardware in use.

*This review prepared by Pat Henley,
edited by Kenneth Loafman.*

Disk 476ABC. PC-WRITE 3.03, 9/89, Full feature Word-Processor by Quickssoft, 219 First Ave N. #224, Seattle, Wa 98109, (206) 282-0452. Shareware Fee: \$99 full registration.

If you do not have a full feature word-processor and you do not want to shell out a LOT of \$\$\$, PC-Write is a good choice. I have been recommending it for three years now. Customer support is great.

For the current users of PC-Write, Bob Wallace and crew have presented us with an interim release of their word-processor/desk-top-publisher. This is primarily a bug fix release, but there are a few feature enhancements, also. The basic documented fix is to a problem arising when using PC-Write on a network.

The enhanced features are:

- New Ruler items
- Recognizes extended keyboard buttons
- Expands the printer definition table

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Since the text is kept in RAM, the more memory the better. With 640K memory and a harddrive, a large Help file and a 50,000 word spelling checker are available online. NOTE: For those without a harddrive or who are bewildered with all the features, there is hope. Quickssoft has just announced PC-Write Lite, also available as Shareware from the NTPCUG.

PC-Write comes on 3 diskettes. The main program, documentation, and support files can all be installed using the supplied installation program.

The source of this software was the publisher, Quickssoft, Inc.

*This review prepared by Richard Bauman,
edited by Virginia Salter.*

Disk 477AB. PC-Write Lite 1.01, 2/90, A Less Complicated Word Processor. PC-Write Lite 1.01, released 14-Feb-90, Quickssoft, 219 First Ave N. #224, Seattle, Wa 98109, (206) 282-0452. Shareware Fee: \$79 full registration.

For those who can not quite get their arms around a full feature word processor like PC-Write (tm), the folks at Quickssoft (tm) have just released PC-Write Lite, a trimmed down version of PC-Write. Several new features have been added to Lite, including a Preview mode, a new print menu, and a special formatting menu. The Preview mode (requiring a graphics display) shows you an image of each page of your document, with all margins and other layout elements visible on screen. Preview will be included in PC-Write 3.1.

The new print menu allows you to print a range of pages. And the new formatting menu makes page layout easy; it shows you the current page layout, including margins, tabs, and fonts.

The main features in PC-Write that are not included in Lite are: multiple columns, mail merge, and full proportional font support.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS - For those of you with NO hard drive, (or a lot of TSR programs) PC-Write Lite needs only 384K memory (256K without the spell checker). A graphics display board is needed to use Preview mode.

PC-Write Lite can be installed in the same directory as its parent, PC-Write, giving it the ability to utilize PC-Write's support files. The definition file and the spell checker's word list from PC-Write are compatible. PC-Write Lite comes on 2 diskettes.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Richard Bauman.

This review was prepared by Richard Bauman, edited by Howard Hamilton.

Disk 478AB. Fastbucks 4.10, 8/89. Home or Business Finance Manager by Dennis C. Lozen, Software Expressions, P.O. Box 301002, Houston, TX 77230-1002. Shareware Fee: \$47.75.

Fastbucks is a home or business finance manager that is easy to use and is packed full of features. It is completely menu driven. The basic premise behind the program is that all expenses are run through a checkbook. There are many options available within the program including reports, graphs, budgets, and financial calculations. The shareware fee is \$47.75 but for an additional \$17.25 (\$65.00 total) users will receive free updates for one-year.

Registered users will receive a typeset manual and are encouraged to distribute their registered copies because they will receive \$5.00 for each user

that registers for 1 year.

Fastbucks requires an IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible using DOS 2.0 or higher and at least 196K of available RAM. Also, the CONFIG.SYS must include the statement FILES=XX where XX is greater than or equal to 20.

Before Fastbucks can be run, it must first be installed. There is an installation manual and also a list of home and business expense categories that the user can change if needed. You can also install some sample files to work with.

Fastbucks includes the normal checking and savings account capabilities. Excellent additions over other financial managers is charge accounts and cash accounts (petty cash). Each transaction is given an expense category for reporting. Only one expense category per transaction is available.

Once the transactions are input, then it is a simple matter to print account balances, cash flow reports, or view a variety of graphs. Graphs include cash flow and category graphs.

Budgeting is also included so that you can keep track of budgets. You can create, update, and print budgets. Another nice feature is the inclusion of some financial calculations such as investment, depreciation, and loan calculations. The investment calculations include future value of lump sums and constant payments, and deposits to reach a certain future value. The loan capabilities include calculating payments and printing an amortization schedule. The budget and investment capabilities are nice additions.

There is a 226 page manual.

This software was downloaded and donated by Mark Gruner.

*This review prepared by Mark Gruner,
edited by Kathryn Loafman.*

Disk 479. EZX Pub Valneware, 9/89, EZ-FORMS, EZ-COPY, EZ-CRYPT by EZX Publishing, 917 Oakgrove Dr., Suite 101, Clear Lake, TX 77058 (1-800-873-2799 - CREDIT CARD ORDERS ONLY) INFO: 1-713-280-9900.

This diskette contains three programs, EZ-FORMS LITE, EZ-COPY LITE, and EZ-CRYPT LITE, each in its own self-extracting .EXE file. All three programs are well documented. They are also menu driven and have similar interfaces, which makes learning and using them quite easy.

EZ-FORMS LITE

Never be without the perfect form. Create/Fill-In/Print/Revise all kinds of forms. Print a perfect master for your copier or local printer. Or leave the master form on screen, fill in your data, and print the perfect form, error free. ▶

You can create the perfect custom form faster than your local typesetter can say ... **OVERCHARGE!** Supports most printers including Epson(tm)/IBM and compatible printers; also the HP-LaserJet(tm) and compatibles ("Y" cartridge).

EZ-FORMS LITE requires a minimum of 320K RAM, at least one double-sided floppy disk drive (two floppy drives or one floppy and a hard disk strongly recommended), and will work with any monitor and most printers. The quality of the printed forms, of course, will depend on the quality of your printer, but several printer drivers are provided, so one can be installed that gets the most out of your printer. The registration fee is \$59.

EZ-COPY LITE

Have you ever needed to make a number of copies of the same floppy? **EZX** developed this one for their own use! **EZ-COPY** allows you to make an unlimited number of 5.25" copies after just

one master disk read. **EZ-COPY LITE** supports 160K, 180K, 320K, and 360K formats.

EZ-COPY LITE requires 640K of RAM (It needs up to 360 just to store the contents of the disk being copied), DOS 3.0 or later, and will work with the IBM monochrome (MDA), CGA, EGA, and VGA monitors. Registration fee is \$39.

EZ-CRYPT LITE

Protect your sensitive files the easy, menu-driven way. Nobody can unravel them without your "key"! Three levels of encryption and decryption are provided. The program is menu driven, and quick and easy to use. Requires 384K RAM and DOS 3.0 or later. The registration fee is \$39.

This software was donated by the publisher, **EZX Publishing**, Clear Lake, TX.

This review prepared by John Puckette, edited by Jim Eckhardt.

Disk 480. Paradox Demo 3.0, 1/89, Demo of Borland's Paradox. Paradox v3.0 (Demo), Borland International, Inc., 1800 Green Hills Road, P.O. Box 660001, Scotts Valley, CA 95066-0001.

This demo is self-running with occasional user interaction required. The Paradox Information section gives general info about existing user companies, import/export abilities with other named programs, items included in the Paradox package (150 pp. tutorial, application generator, programming language, keyboard templates, sample applications and unlimited phone support), comments from reviewers, and general specifications. The Demo of Paradox 3.0 section gives an introduction and definition to Paradox and its terminology. It is described as a deceptively sophisticated relational database program more powerful than its competitors. The user is taken on a brisk tour of its traditional (2.0 and earlier) features. New features appear in a section of their own distin-



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

guishing 3.0 from earlier versions. New Query-by-Example choices are the main additions described. Multi-user features are demonstrated with two concurrent users showing how they may work in the same files and records simultaneously though only one may actually change the entry in a given field at a given moment. All users' screens are immediately changed to reflect the change made by one user on a network. The Paradox Application Language (PAL) is shown in the final portion of the Demo section. The Benchmark section of the Preview matches Paradox 3.0 feature by feature through 7 screens of information with Ashton-Tate's dBase IV. Paradox is the clear winner. The demo sells Paradox 3.0 convincingly against earlier versions of itself and against dBase IV. The demo considers no other competition other than dBase IV.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: Any display will run the demo on any PC/XT/AT or compatible. Though no minimum size RAM is specified, a hard disk is a must.

The demo searches its host drive to determine if 900K is available; if unavailable, it halts.

The source for this software was the publisher, Borland International.

This review prepared by Pat Henley, edited by Ben Weatherall.

Disk 481. Magic Utilities DEMO, Resident Appointment and File Mgr by Brian D. Whittle, Advanced Software Concepts, P.O. Box 150850, Cape Coral, FL 33915-0850. Shareware Fee: \$49.95.

This demo of Magic Utilities includes a sample of the functions offered in the full program which sells for \$49.95 by mail or phone. The program is memory resident and can be activated

with the ALT-U command. There is an installation program to change the hot-key among other things.

The demo includes some operating, useful features such as an appointment calendar which prompts the user by an optional beeper or highlight, a security lock which prohibits displaying of information to unauthorized users. The calendar feature allows for periodic meetings such as daily, weekly, monthly, or one-time meetings. Additional calendar features are included in the full registered version.

The registered version includes disk functions such as locating files, background formatting of disks, viewing files, creating your own on-line help, up to 255 appointments, and a printed manual are among the features that a registered user will receive.

The screens are very professional, useful, and attractive. There is no manual to print out. However, there is an extensive on-line help available once the program is activated. Just activate the program and press the letter "H" to view the manual.

This software was donated by the author, Brian Whittle of Advanced Software Concepts.

This review prepared by Pat Henley, edited by Mark Gruner.

Disk 482. HANDLOOK 1.0, 06/89, by Lee Meador, Box 3261, Arlington, TX 75080. Shows connections to open file handles.

Handlook is a programmer's tool that allows its user to determine what, if any, DOS file handles are open. This is especially important when chaining between programs and writing TSR's.

Two versions of Handlook are contained on this disk, one for use with

DOS, *.COM & *.EXE programs and the other for use by QuickBASIC v2.0 programs. Both of them look for open DOS file handles and display information about what files/devices are connected to them.

The output of Handlook is in three parts and requires a return after each:

1. A hex dump of the contents of the DOS file handle table. If a handle is unused it will contain a 0xFF, otherwise its value determines which file is assigned to the handle.

2. A list of all files/devices that are open. The order of the table is File Number, File Name, Process ID of process that opened the file.

3. A cross-reference between the two sets of information already seen. Each handle number is listed, followed by the associated File Name and the PID associated with it.

Please note that this program makes use of the undocumented DOS function 52H, and therefore may not work on all versions of DOS. Also note that the output of Handlook is directed to C's stdout, so the code could be easily modified to not require returns after each dump so the output could be redirected to a file.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: This should run as is on any PC compatible computer with 256k of memory and any graphics board, so long as the program calling Handlook is running in a text mode.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Lee Meador.

This review prepared by Ben Weatherall, edited by Kenneth Loafman.



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.

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9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	DacEasy Incorporated
10:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Southwestern Bell Telephone
11:00 AM - 11:30 AM	NT PC Users Group business meeting
1:00 PM - 2:00 PM	International Business Machine (IBM) Inc.

(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	11:30 - 11:55
Assembler Community Volunteers DOS Hardware Solutions Personal Users	Orientation
10:00 - 10:55	12:00 - 12:55
Basic Programming Cryptanalysis Graphics Local Area Networks Paradox Personal Users Unix/Xenix	Beginners Pascal C Language Communications 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 DAC Easy Accounting Databases

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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.

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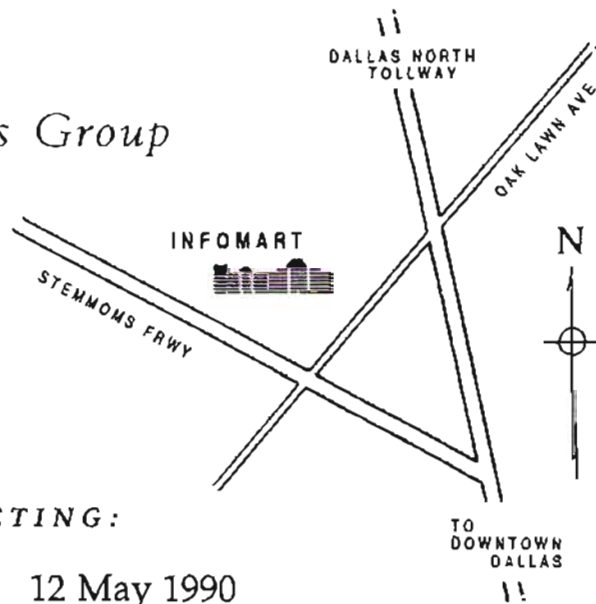


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