



North Texas PC Users Group

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North Texas PC NEWS

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Deadline:

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 August
North Texas PC NEWS:
Tuesday, July 10th

Meeting Dates:

July Meeting - 2nd Sat (14th)
August Meeting - 3rd Sat (18th)
September Meeting - 3rd Sat (15th)
(tentative)

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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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We would like to thank Microsoft Corporation for the donation of multiple copies of Word 5.0 for use by the editors of North Texas PC NEWS.

Program for July _____ **Timothy Carmichael** _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

Ashton-Tate Corporation

dBase IV Version 1.1 Presentation

Jim Ott, Senior Systems Engineer

This demonstration will cover the Control Center features (Browse, Report Generator, Forms Generator, and Applications Generator), advanced features (SQL, transaction processing, and new programming features), and future operating platforms (for Unix, VAX, and Macintosh). There will be a brief demo of Applause II, a presentation graphics program. There will be a drawing for two free copies of dBase IV V1.1.*

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Worldwide Technologies Incorporated

PC Users and Modems

Dr. P. M. Misra, President, and Mike Pearson, V.P. and Sr. Design Engineer

This will be a general tutorial of how modems can be used on a PC for FAX, Telex, and other applications. The company product line will be presented, including their 1200 and 2400 baud modems which have a reset feature which allows limited use of telephone call-waiting. There will be a drawing for one free modem and one 30% discount for a modem.*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting *

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

IBM Corporation

A New DOS Hardware/Software Product

Gene Barlow, Program Manager for

IBM PC Users Groups

Due to be announced in late June, this new IBM system is targeted for the basic DOS user (small business, home, students, etc.). The software bundled with the system is similar to Microsoft Works. The IBM presentation will be followed by comments from NTPCUG members who have evaluated the system.

*To be eligible for the drawing you must show proof of current membership in the NTPCUG.

Prez Sez

SIG Leaders - Submission of Selected SIG Happenings for the August PC News

Last month Andy Oliver, SIG Coordinator, was on vacation during the critical "due by the 10th of the month" period. Andy has returned and is ready to receive your SIG Happenings for the August PC News no later than the 10th of July.

Remember, your Selected SIG Happenings tell our members what is scheduled to happen at your SIG. If you change the agenda with a surprise visit from a vendor representative, for example, so much the better. Many current SIG leaders have an end-of-session discussion with attendees to determine what they would like to cover in the next session. This works well with the 10th deadline when we have a meeting EARLY in the month. Try to determine what attendees would like to cover for the next two or more

meetings so that you can keep ahead of the "dreaded 10th" deadline.

Donate your CGA Monitor to your Non-Profit User Group

Last month I made a plea for a CGA monitor the group could use for presentations. Remember, we are a non-profit organization and will issue you a receipt for your CGA contribution. Here is a reprint of my last month's plea:

The North Texas PC Users Group needs a CGA monitor. If you have moved up to EGA/VGA and have a CGA monitor collecting dust please consider donating it to the NTPCUG. We would like to use it with the ADTEC PC (the former BBS machine) so that SIG leaders and others making presentations to SIG attendees can view the screen AND the projected image from our LCD plates.

We have a WordPerfect SIG...

As of the July 14th meeting we will begin a WordPerfect SIG. It will meet at 2:00 pm. Check the overhead in the lobby on Saturday the 14th of July to determine the room number. Thanks to Jerry Conger, K.B. Barton and Andy Oliver for helping us get this SIG started.

Main Meeting Attendance

Many of you attend every NTPCUG Business Meeting at 11:00 am during our Saturday meeting. Many of you never attend a NTPCUG Business Meeting. During the June meeting we discussed how to encourage greater membership attendance. Several excellent suggestions were made including having a drawing at the conclusion of the meeting, changing the format to include more of the business issues and decisions made by the Board of Directors, etc.

There are indeed business meetings during which important subjects and issues are covered. For example, during the last quarter of the year nominations are made for President-elect and for three Board of Directors positions. Also, for the many who are interested in the Disk of the Month (DOM) reviews, come and hear Kathryn Loafman discuss the latest in reviewed software.

We can, and will, spice up this meeting. Until then I still want to encourage each of you to attend the NTPCUG Business Meeting despite its current flat file format.

Software Review SIG

Pat Henley has agreed to become the SIG Leader for the new Software Review SIG. Recall that the purpose of this SIG will be to provide a thorough functional review and demonstration of products like PC Tools, Lotus Magellan, etc. This SIG's first meeting will be at the July 14th meeting at 9:00 am. Be sure to check the overhead projector and/or Bulletin Board for the room number.

Additional information is available in the Selected SIG Happenings section of this PC News.

Membership

Jim Hoisington, Byte Magazine's roving ambassador, advises that our membership count as of June, 1990, is 1,375.


Zack Porterfield 

EDlines

Ahhh, the dog days of Summer. If you're like me, you'll find any excuse to avoid mowing the lawn or any other outdoor chore that threatens. On days like these, the only thing I want to do is nurse a tall glass of iced tea. But around here, I've got to have a pretty good excuse to put off my chores. That's why I'm writing this column right now - it's my excuse.

It could be yours, too. All you have to do is commit yourself to writing an article for North Texas PC News and you're halfway there. Write about the latest upgrade to Orchid 8-9-10 or Muftisoft Doorways 3.0. Write about the problems you encountered when you installed your Chung-King Labs VGA video adaptor. The audience is here. The purpose of this organization is "the exchange of ideas and facts about IBM and IBM-compatible personal computers." Well, I'd like to encourage you to exchange your ideas in the newsletter. Not every member has access to the BBS and sometimes they miss a meeting or two. On the other hand, every single member gets the newsletter. So, by writing an article for us, you can reach the greatest number of our members. Please consider writing an article for us.

I'd better finish up. My wife just walked in with some garden shears, and she's got a strange look in her eyes.

Douglas McQuaid 

The Story of Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody

Once upon a time there were four men named Everybody, Somebody, Anybody, and Nobody. There was an important job to be done and Everybody was asked to do it. But Everybody was sure that Somebody would do it. Anybody could have done it. But Nobody did it.

Somebody got angry about it, because it was Everybody's job. Everybody thought that Anybody could do it, and Nobody realized that Everybody wouldn't do it. It ended up that Everybody blamed Somebody and Nobody did the job that Anybody could have done in the first place.

At last report, these four men were still arguing and the job they were supposed to do still wasn't done.

Source Unknown 

The Cutting Edge of Object-Oriented Programming

Object-Oriented Analysis

Peter Coad and Ed Yourdon

Examines object-oriented programming techniques, focusing on all analysis requirements and relationships.

Designing Object-Oriented Software

Rebecca Wirfs-Brock, Brian Wilkerson, and Lauren Wiener

Provides a coherent, design-process model—responsibility-driven design—and offers the tools to help the designer every step of the way.

Also available:

Object-Oriented Software Construction

Bertrand Meyer

Object-Oriented Systems Analysis

Sally Shlaer and Stephen Mellor

Programming in C++

Stephen Dewhurst and Kathy T. Stark



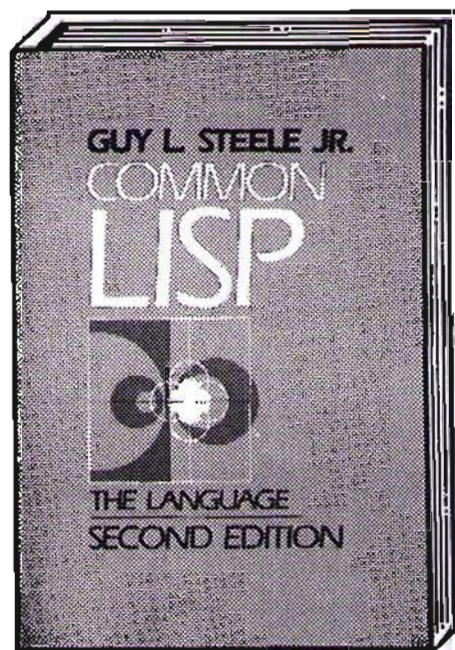
Prentice Hall

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Common LISP: The Language, Second Edition

Guy L. Steele Jr.

The authoritative reference to common LISP, written by the developer of the language.



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Graphics Editors Choice -- Wrap-Up

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.



**After seeing A&L, Artline and Corel –
A Question: Which is best editor?**

We've looked at three upper-level graphics editors since October – *Arts & Letters 2.02*, *Corel DRAW 1.1* and *GEM Artline*. These three are by no means all the available choices at this level, but each is representative and is capable of excellent performance. Both the A&L and Corel editors have been improved since the original stories were published.

So, which is best?

Like every other choice in PC use, it depends. Most of the graphics editors reviewed are very, very good at particular aspects of graphics production. Each of the editors has a "personality" – i.e., a look and feel – that distinguishes it from the others and will make it the "best choice" for many NTPCUG members, but a terrible choice for others.

That's why users should try several before settling on "the one, perfect graphics editor." Come to Club meetings and ask others what they like about specific

editors – and what they don't like, or loathe about the editors. Ask why they like what they say they like and why they dislike or loathe other aspects of the editors.

If video tapes are available – and they are for *Arts & Letters* and *Corel DRAW* – look at the tapes and see if editor operations seem "natural" for you. See if the tape is highlighting features you deem important, or ignoring them. If a demo tape ignores important features (for you), it may be because the program doesn't do these things well or they have been neglected by the programmers.

Editor choice on need basis

Before making a graphics editor selection, make up a list of what you would like to accomplish in using an editor. Look at it on the basis of editor features and price vs. needs and learning time involved. What are your goals, and what is attaining them worth to you? ▶

Occasional use of clip-art and headlines to illustrate a small, in house newsletter will pose far different needs than regular creation of full-page graphics design intended for final reproduction via 4-color process in multiple-thousand copy runs or billboard sizes.

What about the equipment involved? Range can go from a PC/XT (or PC) with monochrome graphics monitor to a "full-bore" 33MHz 386 or 486 PC with highres, large-screen graphics monitor outputting to typeset quality equipment. Needs, goals and budgets are quite different and affect choices.

For small PC's - *Artline* an easy choice

One choice is easy though. The user with an XT or slower PC/AT and limited memory and disk space who needs something to produce graphics for *Ventura Publisher* or a high-end word processor will probably be happiest with *GEM Artline*.

Actually, there isn't anything the user couldn't do with *Artline* (with enough patience and perseverance) that could be done with the other editors except some types of fills and fountains. One caveat - you will need to buy the "accessory" graphics filters in most cases.

This latter is reported to have been addressed in the 2.0 version which is scheduled for release "Real soon now" to quote Neil B. Digital Research (DRI) also reported that the new version of *Artline* would include an autotrace feature as well - pretty much evening the field between the *GEM* product and other editors covered. How much addition of these features will bloat *Artline* and slow it down remain to be seen though.

Power has its price and I'd hate to see such an excellent product lose its charm just to satisfy magazine reviewers and marketing flacks who need something to tout in their advertising copy.

Big Machines, Big demands, Big Programs and Type vs. Text

People who need lots of power and are coming at graphics from a commercial viewpoint where time is money may find *Artline's* current version lacking, though. These are people who do this for a living rather than dilettantes such as myself, and for whom graphics editor choice(s) turn on different criteria.

Such folks tend to fall into two categories (a dangerous generality) - word or text people who see graphics as subservient to meaning. That is, the meaning(s) transmitted by the text (words) may be enhanced by the graphics, but not replaced.

And, there are type people - those who are inherently more concerned with the appearance and style of the art and type than the type's content. For these people, the art conveys the meaning and any words are essentially superfluous unless part of the graphical gestalt.

I said this was a dangerous generalization. I'm sure I'll hear screams of indignation and outrage from both sides after the above.

Text-oriented may prefer *Arts & Letters*

People who are text-oriented (that's different than type-oriented) may find *Arts & Letters 2.02* more to their liking than *Corel DRAW 1.1*. *A&L* worked better with blocks of text than *Corel*, and I was much more comfortable using this editor in modes I find pleasing than the Canadian product.

Arts & Letters 2.02 is my first choice on a fast 386 or 486 machine.

As you should be able to guess, by this time, I'm predominantly text-oriented in my approach and see graphics as an adjunct to my golden prose. (For those still enraged by the graphs above, that's humor.)

That doesn't mean *A&L* can't do powerful art. It means that the editor seems more natural in handling words and



text than its competition. When it comes to looking at graphics as less than full-page, *A&L* also seems to come into play more adroitly than either of the other editors covered to date.

Nothing I produced in *A&L* failed to import into *Ventura*, *Word 5.0* or *Word for Windows* with about the expected size and characteristics I anticipated from the *A&L* screen. I only stumbled when exporting EPS (Encapsulated PostScript) files for production on the *PC NEWS' NEC LC890* printer for use in the newsletter.

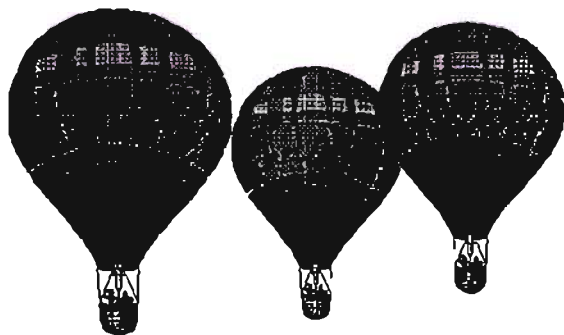
Corel DRAW 1.11 - When type is King

Corel DRAW, on the other hand, sings in colors. It should re-raise the right-brain vs. left-brain controversy in calculating vs. creative efforts. I have the feeling that *Corel* has captured the artist's eye and hand, or at least is one of the more Mac-like of the editors. ▶

There must be some reason Corel has become the darling of the media reviewers of late. A year-old, Corel really appeals to the senses that see graphics as art, as a wide sweep of color and form, and as the center of the media process. Corel users really feel they can do more with individual graphical approaches with Corel than with the other editors, particularly in the area of creative use of type.

Latest version, 1.11, has corrected a number of the problems I reported in my earlier foray in Corel Draw. Export capabilities have been expanded and improved – and .TIF files slide easily into WORD 5.0 and Word for Windows now. WordPerfect users will discover ability to export into WP's graphics format as well.

The Corel interface is playful: Still, I didn't get hooked, and this may be a function of how I "see" and create visualizations -- another reason for prospective users to live with the editors before making a final decision.



Impressions:

I can see the Corel screen as a blank canvas waiting for completion. Corel should appeal to the artist in all of us. Interesting paradox here. Why do the posters and clip-art for the A&L product seem to scream "art" when compared to the Corel clip-art?

As a child of the 50's, 60's, etc., I'm married to the poster medium. I've still got magnificent Bob Dylan and Aretha posters that are saturated with feeling and expression. A&L has the posters, Corel seems to have the interface. What else can I say?

May take two to Tango

All of which brings up another caveat. No single graphics editor will likely suffice for all projects in serious graphic production. Here we get to individual approaches to visualization and object manipulation(s).

This may apply to the less-than-terminally-serious PC user as well – for different reasons. Transportability. None of the editors reviewed do everything desired in producing art for all possible combinations of PC's, monitors and printers (output devices.)

Even in such a mundane area as preparing illustrations for the *PC News*, final "art" was often culmination of a series of trial-and-error attempts to arrive at the best combination of file transmission and output quality. Often, the "universal" output format was less than ideal. I.e., A&L's .TIF files came across fine while the .CGM files produced by both A&L and Corel seemed to experience problems when output through Ventura to the NEC LC890.

File size can be a problem

File size can be a problem if the user isn't careful. Most of the graphics editors default to full-page (8.5" X 11.0") dimensions, even when a large leading character or headline is all that's desired. This can mean the difference between a file of 700K vs. 25K for a bitmapped image exported by the editor. This isn't so much of a problem with object files, i.e., the editor's native format or object-oriented export formats such as .CGM or .EPS, and is a good reason for staying away from the image (bitmapped) formats when possible.

However, the bitmapped image is the "universal" format for many lower level word processors and WYSIWIG page-layout programs and can't always be avoided. Solution is to choose an editor that allows selective size output, especially when exporting as a bitmap image.

Tricks of the trade

Quick trick: A&L's *Diagraph* utility did a good job of translating any .EPS file into A&L's native .GED format for later output in .TIF format. With any two of the editors reviewed, almost any conceivable combination of output formats is possible and usable. Why is this important? See the next paragraph.

Another trick involves use of any of the resolution-limited output formats, .IMG, .PCX or .TIF for import into word processors and page layout editors. Most of these non-graphics editors allow manipulation (often quite clumsily) of image size in the final layout.

Be very careful. Editors take some translation "liberties" when altering image size and a bad case of the "jaggies" can result from injudicious selection of image scaling. Usually, according to the experts, users will be advised to stick with "even" scaling factors, i.e., 1:1, 2:1, 3:1 etc., to avoid the above trap. ➤

Since the graphics editors reviewed work with mathematical constructs of the "image", sizing and scaling are not resolution limited as above. This is the place to change graphics size, not at the bitmap level. That's why export sizing capabilities become very important.

Export sizing seemed more difficult in Corel than A&L for me. Answer was to create in Corel, then export as .EPS (to A&L) then translate to appropriately-sized .TIF image. Again, the latest version of Corel has improved this feature considerably.

The same can be accomplished with several of the image editors such as *Gray F/X*, *Rix-VGA Paint*, etc., but working with an image is much, much more difficult than with an object file. Period.

Apparent image resolution can be improved

If you are working with a dot-matrix printer, or forced to use low resolution output on a laser printer, don't despair. Access to a reducing copier can make almost any copy look sharper and more professional in print. Do the image somewhat larger than planned, but at the highest resolution possible with your equipment. Then, reduce the output via a reducing copier to increase apparent resolution and sharpness.

Example: Laser printers with restricted memory often won't print at their highest resolution (300 DPI) in full-page modes. Drop down to 150 DPI and print 50% larger than the final copy size. Reduce to 70% which should be close to desired output size and realize an approximate increase in resolution approaching 300 DPI.

This is much easier if your graphics editor allows "tiling" or separation of the graphic into individual tiles which can be pasted together for the final copy for reproduction. (Most will allow this operation for output.)

Reagan

Graphic Editors Update for Windows 3.0

Major revisions of two graphics editors mentioned were announced at the May 22 *Windows 3.0* unveiling. *Arts & Letters 3.0* was also shown at the June NTPCUG Meeting following the May announcement. *CorelDRAW 1.20* was announced May 22 as well. Both editors have been significantly improved since the versions reviewed here were originally evaluated, particularly in the areas of file import and export capabilities.

At the date of this writing, promised release of *GEM Artline 2.0* still has not been announced by DRI.


A fourth editor, also locally-produced, *Micrografx Designer 3.01*, was not available in time for the initial evaluation round, but will be reviewed in a coming article.

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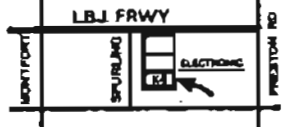
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Selected



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 SIG

At our June meeting, we discussed a variety of subjects including our scheduled topic of library usage. We looked at creating subprograms and functions in QuickBASIC and their similarity to GOSUBs in BASICA/GWBASIC. We then looked at using these subprograms and functions in compiled BASIC to create a user library.

During the next few meetings, we will be examining specific language elements and how they compare between interpretive and compiled BASIC. We will also be dissecting specific code examples that are designed to be not only instructive but useful as well.

In July, we will rewind to the fundamentals of BASIC programming and how to use the building blocks of the BASIC language to create programs. We will examine a simple encryption/decryption routine as well as a routine for creating light-bar menus for our programs. Source will be provided for these routines in both interpretive and compiler-ready forms.

The August program will be about user input - how to get it and what to do with it. We will create a password system to illustrate the topic. Again, source code will be available for both types of BASIC programmer.

While several books have been recommended as a text for this SIG, I am still attempting to find a book that is sufficiently generic to appeal to all users. Although QuickBASIC seems to be the compiler of choice, we do have a large number of participants that are using BASICA/GWBASIC.

See you at the July meeting...

Kent Kingery

Beginner's Pascal SIG

In June, we finished discussing the Boolean structures used for looping and program control.

Although there are still a lot of fundamental items to cover, we have spent five months getting a good foundation in the use of the Pascal language. It's time to start having a little fun!

In July, we'll begin to write useful programs (or at least program units). And we're going to begin using OOPs (Object Oriented Programming). This may be a somewhat radical idea, since a relatively small percentage of experienced programmers have started using OOPs. However, it is my opinion that new programmers should be introduced to it as soon as possible, so that it becomes the "normal" way to program.

Phil Chamberlain

Communication SIG

The June Comm SIG was a free form question and answer session during which e-mail, the BBS, MNP-5, remote access to systems, and office work group scheduling programs were discussed. It was a very interesting hour. Doug Gorrie distributed some Data Communications Concepts manuals he ordered for the SIG from US Robotics. Anyone wanting a copy may write to US Robotics at:

US Robotics
8100 N. McCormick Blvd.
Skokie, IL 60078

or call at 1-800-DIAL-USR.

The July Comm SIG meeting will feature a product demo by Dr. Misra from WTI (Worldwide Technologies Inc.) on their line of Modem products. Since we are in the process of firming up the WTI arrangements, we have a couple of

contingency demos in the wings in case scheduling WTI is a problem. These other plans include a remote access demo of some sort and a Windows based Shareware Communications package demo. The contingency plans will take place in successive months, none the less, since the July meeting will most likely go as planned.

Bring your questions, comments, and suggestions to the next meeting.

Pete Testa

Database SIG

At the June meeting we DISCUSSED lesson 4 of the DBASE IV WORKBOOK. Lesson 4 explains how to index and report information. This includes: generating a quick report of the current database or view; organizing a report by using an index; calculating new information in reports; grouping report details; and formatting a report with page numbers, dates, titles, and descriptive column headings.

This is the schedule we will use over the next 3 months, see you there.

July

Lesson 5 will show us how to build a multfile system. The lessons will show us how to:

- * set up a system that includes and manages two databases
- * use the structure of one database to design the structure of another database
- * modify the structure of a database by adding and deleting fields
- * edit a database using keyboard macros
- * append records to a database from a data list in a non database format
- * set up a file catalog to store all files that belong to an application

August

Lesson 6 will show us how to design a data entry form. The lessons will show us how to:

- * create a data entry form
- * rearrange the order in which fields are displayed on-screen
- * enter field headings different than the field names
- * modify the field template to control the display of that field
- * draw lines and boxes on a form
- * save and retrieve a form
- * use a form to display and enter data

September

Lesson 7 will show us how to query in a multifile application. The lessons will show us how to:

- * copy a file from one drive or directory to another
- * set up a view query with a field list drawn from more than one database
- * relate two databases together in a view query
- * report selective information from related databases
- * set up an update query to replace information in a database automatically

Vincent Gaines and
Rodney Haas

DOS SIG

June's DOS SIG Meeting was really monopolized by Windows 3.0 and its memory management features. DOS SIG Leaders, Jim Hoisington and Reagan Andrews, focused on questions raised by 3.0 and their meaning for all DOS users in the near future.

July should bring us back to DOS as more is revealed by Microsoft and others about the forthcoming DOS 5.0, and possible further inclusion of memory management features in the new version due before the end of 1990. Major question will be the DPMI (DOS Protected Mode Interface) recently endorsed by Microsoft, Intel, Lotus, Borland, Phar Lap, Phoenix and others.

Will the new DOS, DPMI and Windows 3.0 signal the beginning of real access to protected mode operation? Will the Programmer SIG's physical altercations bleed over into the DOS SIG? All these, and more, will be highlighted in July's DOS Meeting. Survivors will terminate the July Meeting in the usual Q & A free-for-all.

Reagan Andrews

Genealogy SIG

The June meeting of the Genealogy SIG featured an impromptu demonstration of Brothers Keeper Box Charts and other reports by Mr. A.C. Williams. He uses PAF to enter his data, then transfers it to Brothers Keeper using the GEDCOM utilities. (I do the same thing from The Family Edge.) BKBOX will print a six generation box chart. A new program, BKAA.EXE will reportedly print an 8 generation box chart. Brothers Keeper is a shareware program available on many bulletin boards. It runs on

IBM and compatibles.

The July meeting will feature Mr. John Beckett. Mr. Beckett has done extensive research in England and Ireland.

Please note that the Genealogy SIGs have been changed to 1 hour per meeting. The General Genealogy SIG meets at 9 AM; Roots III and Family Roots meet on alternate months at 10 AM; the PAF SIG meets at 11 AM.

Ronald Fairbrother

LAN SIG

The June meeting was an excellent session. Saber Software presented an overview of their LAN management and administration software offerings. If you were there you heard that 3Com was about to start OEM'ing the Saber Menu System, replacing their own menu facilities in the 3Com operating system. This was an informal presentation using a live demonstration of the Saber Software products with lots of questions and answers. Thanks again to Liz Bross and Saber Software.

We are still working on the details of the arrangements for the July LAN SIG meeting (as of the time of this writing - June 10th). We hope to have another representative of Performance Technology from San Antonio with us to do a live demonstration of PowerLAN. Remember when Jonathan Schmidt was with us earlier this year? Remember the mention of a possible free two-user copy of PowerLAN for everyone attending the next Performance Technology session? If we can get all the details and logistics worked out that will happen in our July LAN SIG meeting.

Please keep an eye on the LAN SIG area of the NTPCUG BBS. I will post a message there as soon as we have the arrangements finalized. This should be a good one!

Bernie VanRoekel

Lotus SIG

The subject for the June Lotus SIG meeting was application development. Hopefully, the Lotus SIG always helps members construct better applications. The June meeting

however, concentrated on two basic issues - general guidelines when developing applications of any kind and some specific comments on developing application in 1-2-3. Mark made some pointers on the development using a seven-step method. Then, Mark made several specific comments on 1-2-3 application development such as layout, use of formulas and several other little tips.

The subject for the July meeting will be a discussion on the File menu command structure. Mark will be concentrating on the File Combine and File Import commands. Mark also intends to discuss the file linking capabilities of Release 2.2 of 1-2-3. All of these features enable 1-2-3 to work with other files on the hard disk and bring those files into memory in the current worksheet.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that members have with spreadsheet programs. If you have a question, or want to learn more about the File commands, come on by and see us in July.

Mark Gruner and Pat Henley

Paradox SIG

May's sig meeting was a well presented technical overview of Paradox 3 courtesy of the local Borland office. If you missed it, you definitely missed a high water mark (Hmmm, not good choice of words, considering this spring I guess).

June's meeting was a general question and answer session with light attendance. With vacation season upon us things will be a bit slim attendance wise. I personally prefer to mow the lawn on a Texas summer Saturday, rather than attend a rousing good Paradox SIG meeting in a nice air-conditioned Infomart, but after all, I AM the SIG leader.

Still waiting to hear from those who are going to volunteer to present a program. I am investigating the technical possibilities of doing Paradox things using some of the NTPCUG PC hardware and an overhead projector. Should this come to pass, a whole new realm of presentation possibilities becomes feasible. As Randy Quaid would

say, "I'll get back to you as things develop!"

Meanwhile, the July meeting is planned as another Q&A session, that is unless I become covered up with volunteer program proposals.

Fred Williams

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 JULY 1990 will be:

- 9:00 AM Class 13.0
- Printer Setup
- 10:00 AM Class 14.0
- Writing LOTUS 1-2-3 Macros
- 12:00 Noon Class 15.0
- Major Categories of Software
- 1:00 PM Class 16.0
- PCs to the End of the 20th and Into the 21st Century (panel discussion of NTPCUG experts)

Bob Presley

Programmers SIG

A fist fight broke out between Fred Williams and Leroy Tension over the relative merits of parallel versus serial printer interfaces. Tempers are rising with the summer heat.

Come join us this month to see what vital issues will be "discussed"!

Jim Hoisington

Software Review SIG

This is a new SIG, that will have its first meeting in July.

It is our intent to spend each meeting reviewing one of the more popular software packages from the viewpoint of an experienced USER, not as a vendor. The things we discuss will include:

- the things we particularly like, and the things we don't like about the programs.
- the ease (or difficulty) of installation, and pitfalls to be avoided.
- how "well behaved" the programs are, particularly those that are TSR's.
- experiences, if any, we have had in dealing with the vendor.
- perhaps some comparisons with competitive programs, where applicable.
- the easiest ways to "get going" and run the "key" parts of the package (recognizing that these may depend on the interests and preferences of the reviewer!)

It is our plan to have different club members present a different piece of software each month. Some may "rave", some may "knock", but you'll get an opinion from a reviewer who is one of your peers.

SIG attendees will be able to "nominate" programs for review. However, we WILL try to stick with those used by a large number of the members. Early candidates for review are PC Tools DeLuxe, Quicken, Works, First Choice,

386^MAX, QEMM-386, Norton Utilities, ProComm Plus, and Quattro.

Pat Henley

Unix SIG

The June SIG featured Robert Reese of Robert Reese and Associates giving a presentation of SCO's Open Desktop. Robert Reese did an excellent job and kept the audience interested. The presentation was well attended and gave us a look at what you can do with graphics in Unix. Given the development of computers in general we may expect X.window systems like Open Desktop to become the way of the future.

Meanwhile, back at the programmer's ranch, we still have the traditional UNIX shells. At this month's meeting we are going to cover ways to configure these shells. If you have looked at the .cshrc, .profile or .login files you will have seen that they are something like DOS's AUTOEXEC.BAT file. They initialize the values of internal variables used by the system. Some of them, like PATH, have an exact DOS counterpart. But others like TZ, HOME, TERM or TERMCAP are alien to those brought up in the DOS world. At the July meeting, we will see what can be done by changing the values of these variables. This will include looking at how to use the 'tset' command with some of these variables to setup your terminal. Time permitting we will also take a look at /etc/termcap to see how entries in this file can be used to change the way the terminal responds to terminal commands.

Douglas Scott

Word SIG

The Word SIG Meeting for July will center on a demonstration of Word 5.0A MACRO creation and implementation in text conversion and preparation by Dr. Robert Kolodner. Dr. Kolodner will be stepping Word SIG members through MACRO development and utilization and will address question of MACROs vs Style Sheets in complex operations.

Brief examples of PreScript-generated, HP LaserJet PostScript

Using Computer Aided Design

by Mike Firth

When my wife asked me what I wanted for Christmas, I said Generic CADD 3.0, which was what I got. (Especially since I picked it up myself.) Lately, I have had some fun designing a swivel bracket for a box and since the process took advantage of some of the features of a CADD program, I would like to tell you about it.

CADD stands for Computer Aided Drafting and Design. The purpose of such a program is to allow creation of what most people would call drawing. Unlike painting programs which produce an array of dots, drafting programs deal in lines, which may be curved or straight. The lines each have a beginning and end and some have a shape. When things are to be done with two lines, the program calculates to find where the lines interact rather than simply looking at the dots on the screen. In other words, it is vector oriented rather than raster oriented.

Because of the calculations, CADD programs need speed and operate better with a math coprocessor. An 8088 machine is distinctly draggy unless it has a coprocessor. I use a 16MHz 386 with 4 MB of RAM and find the speed okay with a fairly messy drawing. I have a Hercules clone monochrome display.

Vector drawing is more clearly aimed at plotters than printers. Plotters can be sent start and end points while printers are raster devices. I do my output on an Epson LQ printer using DotPlot which converts to the raster and is included with Generic CADD. Plotters produce nicer and bigger drawings, but cost 700 to several thousand dollars.

When doing drawings, normally not all the lines are together, but are placed on different layers which may all be viewed together or by hiding or

displaying various combinations. By carefully selecting how the layers are used, the program becomes more convenient and powerful to use. In architectural drawing, the walls may be on one layer, the furniture on another, the wiring on a third. Normally all the dimensions are in one layer (10 by default) so they may be hidden, since they can take a long time to draw. Also, an option permits changing all layers or only one.

I have a VCR and TV/Monitor mounted on a cubic box that holds 33 rpm records. Currently, the stack is mounted on a lazy Susan bearing so that it can be turned to face into my office or back into the livingroom. For the remote control to work from the office, the unit has to be pulled out too far. I want to mount it on casters with a "hinge" attached to the wall, so that when facing the office it is out further and is pushed back when facing the livingroom. The arrangement of the livingroom places the box at 45 degrees to the wall.

I needed to locate the pivot point so the box would start in the storage position and swing out and around into the doorway, slightly clearing the frame, without intruding too far.

I began on layer 0 by drawing the section of the wall from above with proper dimensions for the wide door frame. On layer 1, I drew the general frame of the bracket that will be fastened to the wall. I put it on a separate layer to permit easy changing of the lines touching the wall. I made it as large as possible to permit future changes and to see my limits.

On layer 2, I started by drawing the box using the Draw Rectangle option, which produces a box with horizontal and vertical lines. I then it rotated 45 degrees and moved it over next to the wall, which is easy when working on one layer. I then fashioned a rough bracket beside the box, using my knowledge of the strength of plywood to place the pieces, knowing they would have to fit past each other.

I picked a spot where I thought the fulcrum should be and marked the point. I then rotated box 90 degrees around the point, since the program allows rotation around any point. Since I picked the point badly, the box swung out into the middle of the doorway. After marking the pivot on both layers, I moved the box up the screen so it just touched the door frame. I then picked a new pivot halfway between the first and shifted positions and rotated the box back 90 degrees. The corner of the box "crashed" through the wall. I shifted the box on the bracket and shifted the pivot point until I could rotate it back and forth without "damaging" anything.

I then trimmed the brackets, rounding corners, etc., so they would clear each other and printed it with a scale for cutting.


My continuing project with CADD is my house, adding details as I need them and plotting where wiring runs, framing, and planning kitchen remodeling.

Mike 

Selected SIG Happenings continued

printing were presented to members at the June Word SIG Meeting. Examples of Word 5.0A and Ventura Publisher files printed via PreScript where shown and examined in detail.

Formatting issues raised by the interpreter led to a general debate on when to abandon a text editor such as Word in favor of page-layout software such as Ventura. Members agreed that although promising, PostScript interpreters do have drawbacks in terms of day-to-day use with Word.

Reagan Andrews 



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

by Reagan Andrews

This marks the first of these columns I've signed. Why? *Variety Store* began over a year ago and was based on Publisher John Pribyl's comment that the *PC News* needed a place for brief articles and short takes on software and hardware developments. "Signing" a collection of edited PR releases seemed a little silly.

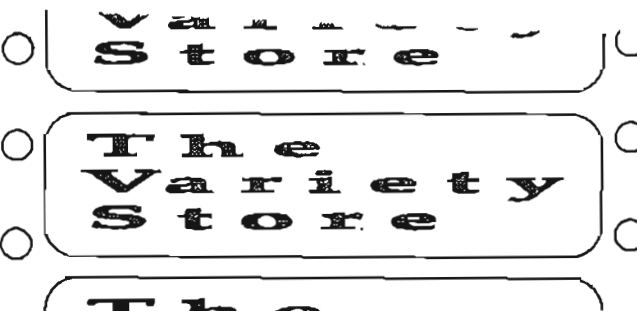
Variety Store rapidly evolved far beyond the original concept. Readers do deserve to know authorship when a lot of the material selection and treatment is based on the interpretations, personal views and prejudices of the writer. Now you know, for sure, who to blame ...

Windows 3.0 Bash -- Reallllly Big News

Microsoft went all out for their premier *Windows 3.0* roll-out May 22. Including advance issues of both *InfoWorld* and *PC News*. One standout -- the gala advertising/special *Windows 3.0* section that appeared in *Infoworld* on May 28.

Were we hallucinating? Overpowered by the outstanding presentation? Or, did Apple Computers really have a double-page spread in the *Windows 3.0* section with a message something like Coke's (tm) "It's the real thing?" Bet this got by a lot of readers -- and MS.

Another standout was the buffet spread at the Grand Kempinski. Genuine Tex-Mex, done with style, but, sadly, no boiled shrimp.



3.0 Continued... *Infoworld* kicks twice

In addition to the Apple ad mentioned above, *Infoworld* took another swat at *Windows 3.0* in the May 21 issue. They tested a pre-announcement, but shrink-wrapped, copy of 3.0 and ran tests with *Excel* and *Micrografx Designer* against 2.11 running with *Qualitas Inc.'s 386Max* memory manager. Results favored 2.11.

Very prominently-positioned piece (Page 3, upper right-hand corner) didn't specify whether *Excel* or *Designer* were run in recently released, 3.0 versions.

A-T Endorses 3.0

Ashton-Tate showed an unnamed, *Applause*-like, *Windows 3.0* product at the roll-out in New York. No mention of forthcoming database development(s) though.

Paradox Engine announced for 3.0

Borland, meanwhile, announced a new version of its *Paradox Engine* at the roll-out. *Paradox 3.0* runs fine in *Windows 3.0*, the new engine will allow programmers direct access to *Paradox* data via standard programming languages.

Micrografx Designer 3.01 ships

Micrografx quietly began shipping *Windows 3.0* compatibility updates for its *Designer 3.0* package to registered users. Already seen as a graphics powerhouse, the update, and the way it was handled, should place *Designer* at the top of the graphics-editor heap until the competition catches up.

Arts & Letters 3.0 closing the gap

Dallas' other premium graphics house, Computer Support Corporation, began showing off its new *A&L 3.0* graphics editor in May.

NTPCUG members saw this *Windows 3.0*-compatible package demonstrated at the June 9 meeting. Featuring significant enhancements to import and export file handling, *Arts & Letters 3.0* is shipping now.

Rumored, but not seen -- *CorelDRAW 1.2*

Corel of Canada has updated *CorelDRAW* for *Windows 3.0* with addition of improved bitmap tracing, type handling and expanded import and export capabilities. Corel also announced a *CorelDRAW* BBS, Compuserve access and a new Technical Support number, (613) 728-1990. Corel's new BBS is for registered *CorelDRAW* users only.

Bitstream's Facelift into font fray

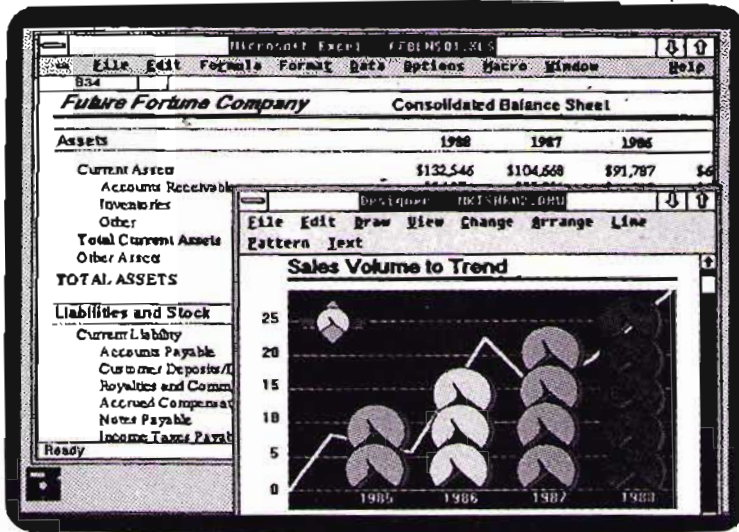
Adobe abandoned, True Type delayed, *Bitstream* rushes into the *Windows 3.0* font-scaling wars with announcement of *Facelift*. Scheduled for release in August, *Facelift* will provide on-the-fly font scaling for *Windows 3.0* and is claimed to support any printer supported by the new environment, including dot-matrix printers, HP Laserjet series and PostScript laser printers.

Missed in all the Microsoft roll-out activities ...

Lots of non-*Windows 3.0* news this month -- probably courtesy of Spring Comdex in June. Lotus and Novell contribute to non-news news while Norton and Symantec make real-news news as Microsoft reverses a long-held policy at \$2/minute and *WordPerfect* promises to delay a product upgrade. Hardware's back and DRJ's still trying to play catchup. ▶

Look familiar?

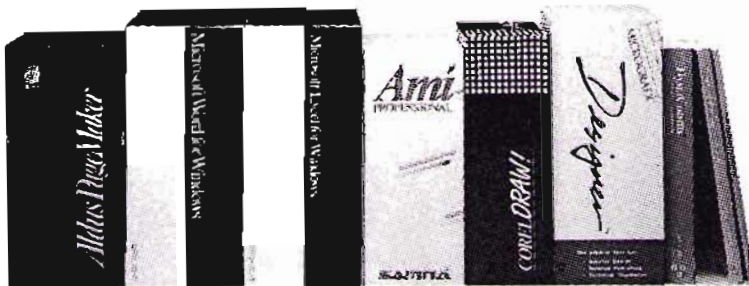
Then this \$50 upgrade will look great.



If this looks like your current version of Windows, you can upgrade for just \$50.



You may have received Microsoft Windows with your hardware. If you did, you can save \$99 with this upgrade offer.



Check out your software because if it works within a Windows environment, you're in luck.

If you are using Microsoft® Windows™, the best thing about this offer, besides the special upgrade price, is that you'll now have access to all the memory in your PC. Not to mention that you can keep using your existing MS-DOS® applications, multitask with other Windows applications, and network more easily.

All the popular Windows applications have already been updated to utilize Windows 3.0's powerful capabilities. And most are offering low-cost or free updates. So if you have any version of Windows — including runtime Windows — give us a call. We'll upgrade your copy of Windows, help you update your applications, and answer any questions you may have.

But make sure and call for your \$50* Windows upgrade before September 15, 1990. You'll save \$99 off the suggested retail price of \$149. And you'll be using Windows 3.0. Which will make you look great.

To get your Windows upgrade for just \$50, call (800) 323-3577, Dept. L73.

Microsoft
Making it all make sense

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Priam's loss is nobody's gain

Premier disk maker Priam is rapidly disappearing. Long-time, quality hard-disk maker is fading from sight via Chapter 11. Priam -- and their insistence on doing it their way in disk formatting -- will be missed.

Hard disk service companies won't miss the rigid Priam specs a bit, though.

Lotus - Novell Marriage crashes at the altar

Didn't think the proposed merger between the Orem, Utah, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, crowds would fare too well. Didn't expect a divorce over the prenuptial agreements though.

Ray Noorda and Jim Manzi -- together? Microsoft's Bill Gates must have been giggling just thinking about the whole affair.

If a proposed merger goes zap this early is it a divorce, an annulment or just a forlorn, weeping bride deserted at the altar?

Symantec gathers Norton to bosom

Symantec buys Norton. Real news, boosting Symantec (Q & A, etc.) into the top ten software publishers in the US, really wasn't that much of a surprise, given Peter Norton Computing's well-publicized management problems over the past year.

Both concerns have well-earned reputations for highly-crafted software aimed at users -- not Fortune 500 buyers (See "divorce" above) -- but Symantec is said by industry insiders to have paid dearly for the addition.

MS to support DOS -- at \$2 per minute

Reversing a long-held corporate policy, Microsoft announced they will provide DOS user support to the estimated 25 million DOS users in the US. Previously, Microsoft's policy was to refer DOS support to the OEM vendors who originally

sold the users their PC since DOS was only supposed to be sold with an attached PC.

Microsoft now has DOS technical support available at 1-900-896-9000, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. PST (10 a.m. - 7 p.m. Dallas time), Monday through Friday. Service will be billed to customers at \$2 per minute, but charges will only begin after actual contact with a DOS technician.

Hmmmmmm ... Makes the NTPCUG's DOS SIG look like a real bargain.

WordPerfect announces no new DOS version

WordPerfect 5.2 won't be available until 1991, if *WordPerfect* spokespeople are accurate in their forecast(s). Citing a "normal" 18 - 24 month release schedule for the Orem, UT, based wordprocessor, *WordPerfect's* Pete Peterson stated that only 25 -30% of version 5.0 users had updated to 5.1, and corporate efforts were currently focused on OS/2 and *Windows* versions of the product.

Peterson did warn that users of older versions of *WordPerfect* might experience difficulty with technical support, though. Support technicians, he added, were only trained in current versions of the product.

Motorola announces 165 MIPS chip

Gunning for the Intel i860 market, Motorola unveiled the 96002 in May, claiming faster-than-super-computer speed and functionality for the new chip. Motorola is aiming at the digital signal processing and multi-media market(s) with the new chip which Motorola says is faster than the Intel i860, and much lower in price.

Cost of the 96002 (sample quantities) is \$750 which Motorola claims is 65% below i860 production quantity prices. Neither chip is intended for general-purpose, CPU duties, as both have been designed for area-specific operation as adjuncts to existing systems.

Evergreen 386SX upgrade for 286 systems

Want to upgrade your 286-powered PC without changing out the motherboard? Evergreen Technologies, Inc. has announced (and says they're shipping) a 386SX, plug-compatible, replacement for most old 286 chips in existing systems.

Using the Evergreen Superchip replacement, your system will run at its original clock speed, with all existing memory chips and math coprocessor if installed, but will allow running in 386 protected mode used by *Windows 3.0* (Oooops -- another *Windows*-related story) and 386 memory managers.

Price of the Superchip was announced at \$295. Further information can be obtained from Evergreen Technologies, Inc., at (800) 757-7341, or (503) 757 7341.

Palm-sized, removable hard disk ...

Disk Technologies announced a 7-oz., removable hard disk for laptops, portables and desktop PC's with a 20M capacity. About the size of a pack of playing cards, the new drive is the Distec RHD 20 and features a 23 ms avg. access time and fits in many existing portables, including Compaq's and Zenith SuperSports.

Price of the 3.2 X 5 X .81" drives was announced at \$695. Drives require an IDE interface, either by motherboard port, or adapter card. Contact Disk Technologies at (407) 645-0001.

Thought Eastman would be first, but Pinnacle shipping 3.5" optical drive

A rewritable, 128M, 3.5" optical drive with removable media was unveiled by Pinnacle Micro, Inc., in May. According to an article in *PC Week*, the new drives will have 28 ms access times and run under SCSI (scuzzy) interface. Built on the standard 3.5" form factor, the drives are available for PC's, DEC's, Sun Microsystems and Macintosh machines. ➤

Prices were announced ranging from PC units at \$2995, to units for Sun's SPARCstations at \$3495. Dec MicroVAX II costs top at \$4500. Removable, rewritable disks will cost \$129. Call Pinnacle at (800) 553-7070.

DRI plays catchup with DR-DOS 5.0

No, it's not your imagination. A number of PC's are being delivered with a "strange" DOS these days. Digital Research, Inc. (DRI), of Monterey, CA, was one of the initial OS developers for the original (1981) IBM PC. PC-DOS won the first round(s) of the OS battle, but DRI hasn't given up.

DRI's MS-DOS competitor is DR-DOS, which is claimed to be highly compatible with the mainstream DOS, and has just been updated to version 5.0 with memory management, graphical user interface, file transfer utilities for laptop users and ability to load most of itself and other RAM-resident programs into memory above 640K.

DR-DOS 5.0 is claimed to be compatible with Microsoft's DPMI (DOS Protected Mode Interface) and will retail to end users at \$199.

On the legal front this month – PC's promise full employment for lawyers

Headline really isn't true. Probably are some unemployed lawyers, but recent PC happenings wouldn't verify attorney unemployment as a general rule.

From the top...

Federal Judge rules that investing in patents for the purpose of litigation has limits. Slapping Refac International Ltd.'s hands, U.S. District Judge Michael Mukasey (according to *the Wall Street Journal*)

called such arrangements "nothing but a hunting license," and ruled the practice "illegal" under New York law.

At issue was a Refac-owned, 5% interest in a patent claimed to cover aspects of Lotus' 1-2-3, Microsoft's Excel, Computer Associates' SuperCalc series, Borland's Quattro and other software spreadsheets from a variety of minor manufacturers. Case has been briefly mentioned over the past several months in various media, but has been very low-key otherwise.

Lotus sued for "look and feel"?

Windows 3.0 roll-out – dimmed by Apple's suit?

Apple Computer's suit against Microsoft, et al, is still very much alive. Windows 3.0 would appear to be covered under the "Windows 2.03 and all future versions ..." style of Apple's complaint claiming violation of Apple's copyrights on the Mac interface.

Xerox, real innovators of the GUI via PARC (Palo Alto Research Center) development of the Star system, recently lost their first round in court with Apple over ownership of the technology involved. Several critical components of the Xerox case were dismissed by Judge Vaughn Walker who is also hearing the Apple-Microsoft case.

Dallas' TI strikes PC patent gold

Dallas-based Texas Instruments (TI), on the other hand, says they have patents that cover practically every aspect of contemporary PC design and construction. That includes Apple.

Claimed to cover how data is moved between the CPU (central processing unit) and "any input or output device, including monitors, keyboards and disk drives," the TI patents have been estimated as potentially adding \$1 billion to TI's coffers over the next several years.

TI is asking 2.5% royalty on PC sales from PC makers utilizing covered technology – practically everybody who makes PC's – and has already signed agreements with Tandy and several other makers.

If you can't beat 'em, sue 'em ... 5th Generation vs. Norton Backup

Peter Norton Computing (?Symantec-Norton?) has gotten a lot of positive press for their recently-released Norton Backup software. Many software reviewers have written very good reviews of the product and stated a preference over the major competition – 5th Generation's *Fastback Plus*.

5th Generation isn't amused. Suit was filed in the New Orleans, LA, U.S. District Court claiming that the Norton product infringes on *Fastback* copyrights and trade secrets.

Media reporting the suit at about the same time as the acquisition of Peter Norton Computing by Symantec didn't comment on impact of the suit on the merger – or on impact of the merger on the lawsuit.

Privacy prevails in Pennsylvania

Caller ID service won't be playing in Pennsylvania after all. Pushed hard by Bell Atlantic (one of the "baby" Bell's) caller ID was ruled by the Pennsylvania appeal court as "violating the state's wiretap laws and constitutional rights to privacy."

Lots of folks have been upset by the technology that allows identification of any caller by name and number once a connection is established. Seen as having "vast commercial potential" by proponents, caller ID was viewed with significant alarm by consumer advocates, among others. ■



ON COMPLEXITY

No. 41 in a Series

By Jim Hoisington

A couple of years ago, Jim Rich predicted that, at some time in the future, PC's would be supported by a group of PC consultants working out of their homes. I'm not sure we've reached that point yet, but PC support skills are becoming a necessity in every company with more than a few computers. I have been reminded of that frequently this last month. Here are a couple of incidents that convince me that the world of personal computing has changed.

I ran across a company this last month that was trying to avoid the problem by buying all its hardware from one vendor and relying on the one year hardware warranty to cover all the problems. Very early on, the hardware vendor got tired of finding that what were "hardware problems" were, in fact, software or training problems. When I entered the picture, the hardware vendor was proposing a "service contract" for hardware maintenance to the company, even though all the equipment was under warranty.

In another situation, I found a hardware vendor that had gotten into the software business to supplement their hardware sales. Specifically, they had bought a

copy of Novell Netware and tried to install it in order to make a sale of a large number of PC's. After several weeks, they managed to get Netware running but when I wanted to bring it down to move a machine, they told me that it would take them at least 1/2 day to figure out how to bring Netware back up again. (Netware should come back up again automatically when the server is re-started.)

The interaction of software and hardware is a very complex problem. The typical business these days is trying to run some software that needs expanded memory and some software that needs extended memory. The differences in memory technologies are documented and easily learned. But, the average office worker wants to use their PC to get their job done. They don't want or have the time to keep up on the various memory and CPU models available today and the switch settings needed to make everything work. When a company gets more than five PC's, either someone gets designated as the PC support person or the company starts to have trouble. Either someone learns PC's well enough to configure memory, troubleshoot hard disk problems and install all the software updates or the PC's end up being expensive paper weights.

PC support is becoming a required set of skills for all companies that use PC's. Whether those skills will be found in each company or whether they will be "rented" from a group of PC consultants remains to be seen.

Jim

■

10 Sure-fire ways to sabotage your Association

No one purposely sabotages a group which he or she has joined. But a glance at this list reveals ways to work against an organization without being aware of it:

1. Don't come to meetings.
2. If you attend, find fault with the work of others.
3. If you are ever asked your opinion, say nothing; afterwards tell everyone how things should have been.
4. Do no more than necessary. If a few persons work tirelessly, complain that the group is run by a clique.
5. Don't bother to help get new members.
6. Don't tell the leaders how the group can help you or achieve certain goals...but if it doesn't, quit coming.
7. When you attend a meeting, vote for one thing then forget about it after you go home.
8. Get all the benefits your organization provides...but don't make a personal contribution.
9. Agree to everything at the meeting, disagree later.
10. Talk about contribution but don't practice it.

— from *NACE News, Natl Assn of Catering Execs*,
Los Angeles CA, Feb. '90

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Disk of the Month

Disks released at the June 1990 meeting

JUNE 1990 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 497. BREAKOUT and BANANOID - Breakout Games for EGA/VGA. BREAKOUT by Hal Strausberg, 102 Grove St., Lexington, MA. 02173. Shareware Fee: \$10.00. **BANANOID** by William Reider, 1620 Ohm Avenue, Eau Claire, WI. 54703. Freeware from BDI.

Both BREAKOUT and BANANOID are games where the player tries to remove as many bricks/objects as possible by bouncing a ball against a paddle. The more bricks that are removed, the higher the score. This type of game is often referred to as a breakout-style game. BREAKOUT is for EGA systems while BANANOID is for VGA systems.

BREAKOUT requires a PC/XT/AT or compatible with an EGA card and monitor. The game supports multiple players - even as high as 350 players. The game is designed to be used with a mouse but can be played with the keyboard. There is a documentation file on the disk.

BANANOID has fabulous VGA graphics including fades. It requires a VGA card and monitor, a mouse, and suggests a 10MHz 80286 or higher. You MUST have mouse to play the game. The game is Freeware from BDI. The author was simply interested in the graphical drivers. The game features a high resolution graphics and an oversized playing field.

There are seven levels of play and the player can play any level desired. The right mouse button advances to the next level. The left mouse button is used for all ball releases and laser fires. As you play the game, blocks will fall and change the paddle for mostly good effects. For instance, grey makes the paddle smaller, red adds lasers, green makes the paddle sticky, light blue slows the game, and there are others. To move the paddle, simply move the mouse. There is a short documentation file.

This software was downloaded and donated by club member Mark Gruner.

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

Disk 498. DesignCad 2-D 4.0 DEMO - 2-D CAD demo program. DesignCad 2-D Demo, Version 4.0, American Small Business Computers, Inc., 327 South Mill St., Pryor, OK 74361 (918)825-4844; FAX (918)825-6359

This demo is self-running. It does not allow for interaction by the user. It includes 14 screens describing its areas of use and features offered. As slide shows go, it is well paced. It is not as "slick" or informative as sales demos of this type should be in order to create enough interest within the user to encourage purchase of the genuine article. To get enough data to make a better informed decision, it is suggested that the user request literature from the publisher which is available in considerable quantity at no cost. The slide show does not, for example, state that the program won by a substantial majority in a live demonstration in a contest among five competitors of an identical drawing. The audience considered speed, ease of use, user interface, editing features, dimensioning, hatching, use of menus, drawing merge and geometry construction features. Obviously, the program is better than the demo. The program includes a symbol library of 500 symbols for several industries, a materials list program to generate an automatic bill of materials, file transfer utilities for IGES, .DXF, .PCX, HPGL, Postscript and GEM. The program allows six windows on screen simultaneously. The screen can be customized by

the user to include icons of functions and frequently used symbols. Drawings can be exchanged readily between the 2D program and the company's 3D program.

Any display will run the demo, though Hercules or EGA should be considered the minimum practical. No minimum memory is specified. It was tested on a 640K 286/10. It does not allow printing/plotting in the demo.

*This review prepared by Pat Henley,
edited by Charles Carter.*

Disk 499. DesignCAD 3-D 2.1 DEMO - 3-D CAD demo program. DesignCAD 3-D, version 2.1 Demo, American Small Business Computers, Inc., 327 South Mill St., Pryor, OK 75361 (918) 825-4844

The demo is self-running though it may be paused with the Pause/Break key and resumed with the Return key. Four major themes are promoted by the demo. According to the text, DesignCAD 3-D can:

1. do the job.
2. communicate with other software.
3. make you look good.
4. cost a fair price.

The first evidence of Item 1. is a 3-D rendered "modest house" which is viewed simultaneously in four views: front elevation, directly overhead, a side elevation and a helicopter view of the whole property of the front, one side and the roof. The next slide shows a "castle" in similar perspectives. Item 2. claims that the program translates to .DXF, GEM, HPGL, IGES and PostScript at no extra cost. Similarly, with utilities built-in, the program can use files created in .DC2, .DXF, HPGL, IGES, X,Y,Z and ASCII. Clause 3. is justified by the fact that the program operates with any of 200 printers, 80 plotters and can produce slides like the ones which constitute the demo. Additional drawings thrown in to display the value, attention-getting ability of 3-D include a Double Overhead Cam cutaway and four views of a turbocharged model aircraft engine. The final point is driven home by a series of screens which define the program's "fair price" (\$399.95 retail). The slide show emphasizes the company's pricing policy with the statement, "We believe CAD software should cost about the same as a good wordprocessor." The renderings are primitive at best, nowhere near the quality of top grade 3-D shading and rendering, but certainly in line with the minimum cost to generate the 3-D illusion.

No minimum memory is indicated to run the demo. It will run in EGA or VGA color, Hercules or EGA mono. The demo ignores the PrintScreen command.

Both the demo and the full program are available from American Small Business Computers, Inc. Local dealers offer the program at about half the stated retail.

*This review prepared by Pat Henley,
edited by Charles Carter.*

Disk 500. Scanner 2.06, 12/89 - System configuration reporter. SCANNER Version 2.06

The SCANNER program was written to answer the question, "What's inside the computer?" The program reads your hardware and software configuration and reports it to you on the screen. The output can be printed to give you a permanent copy of the computer's configuration by using the F8 function key to turn the printing option on. I have used the program on a variety of computers, IBM XT's, AT's, PS/2's and clones for more than 2 months and have only found it to be wrong twice. If the program finds itself on a clone with an off-brand BIOS Rom, it may report that the computer is a PC Jr. (Not a bad guess!) The only other time I've seen it fail was when I ran it on a machine that had a partial COM2 port. It did not issue a warning that the interrupt was in

use. Otherwise, this program is a useful tool when you want to know what is inside a computer.

As of December, 1989, SCANNER is at revision level 2.06. From time to time, as new hardware appears, it will probably be necessary to revise SCANNER accordingly. New versions of SCANNER will be posted on the MSSYS forum of CompuServe, and on the HAL-PC Bulletin Boards in Houston.

This software was donated by NTPCUG member Jim Hoisington.

*This review prepared by Jim Hoisington,
edited by Charles Carter.*

Disk 501. PRO-SCRIBE, WRITER'S CRAMP, LC, LETTERS - Writer's tools

PRO-SCRIBE is the premier shareware grammar analyzer. It offers features you won't find on the commercial competitors (e.g. Grammatik III). I especially liked the writing pattern analysis pop-up window. This feature lets you compare your writing pattern to an ideal writing pattern in terms of mix of complex versus simple sentences. Another unique feature is a running grade level (RGL) analysis of your writing. Each line of your file is scanned and assigned a reading grade level. The screen or printed output appends the RGL figure to each line. You can instantly locate the complex areas in your text and simplify them. Another unique feature is the graphical screen showing the complexity of your writing compared to education grade level. You can see if parts of your text bog down in complex writing instantly by the peaks shown on this display. PRO-SCRIBE is a faster updated version of MAXI-READ (in our DOM). There is a word wasters list which flags jargon or cliches. You can add your own cliches for constructive nagging from PRO-SCRIBE. Another option shows the complex words you used. Finally, PRO-SCRIBE provides a summary of your writing statistics. Even if you use the other commercial programs, you'll find unique features in PRO-SCRIBE you will want to use. Registration is \$25 (\$35 for manual and latest version) from R.W.S. & Associates, 132 Alpine Terrace, San Francisco, CA 94117.

WRITER'S CRAMP (version 1) is a compact 31k program which lets you convert (strip) files to ASCII, count words in any ASCII file, get a statistical analysis of your word use, a listing of the longest words you used (and how often), or a count of how often you used any word in the file. The menu takes you through the start up in sequence, then let's you pick the desired analyses. No donation requested, but the anonymous Dallas author may be contacted at P.O.B. 29581, Dallas, Tx 75229.

LC (Lowercase) converts an ASCII input file so all text is in lower case.

LETTERS takes an ASCII input file and counts the letters in it, displaying these in a nice graphical chart. You get a count of letters used versus total characters.

DOS 2.0 or higher needed. Text files (.DOC or .TXT) describe program operation and use. PRO-SCRIBE looks best when run in color (CGA/EGA) for best effect. Tested on XT clone/CGA and PS/2 models 25 and 30 under DOS 3.3.

Programs down-loaded from INNS of COURT BBS (Geffen) and LAWSIG BBS (Rice and Livingston) by Robert Monaghan (10/89).

Edited by John Puckette (5/90).

Disk 502. BIB-FILE 3.0, BIB-PERF, BABEL 1.90 - BIBLIOGRAPHY PROGRAMS

BIB-FILE Version 3 is a stand-alone program to handle bibliography tasks such as creating, updating, merging, or otherwise manipulating bibliography entries. Extensive use of menuing and windows complements a B+ tree searching method for speed. This program should appeal to anyone doing extensive professional

work that involves creating and using bibliographic data, e.g., publications, books, and articles. This program, along with associated documentation, is in the compressed file, BIB-FILE.ZIP. It requires at least 380K of memory, can work with a dual diskette system but prefers hard disks, DOS 2.0 or higher, and requires CGA/EGA/VGA/Hercules. Complete details on use are in file BIBFILE.TXT. Note the CONFIG.SYS requirements (files=20 etc.). Some features will be especially interesting to medically oriented researchers. The registration fee for Bib-file is a \$25 donation to Children's Hospital of New Mexico via Dean Madar, M.D./Ph.D., 1855 Girard NE #16, Albuquerque, NM 87106.

BIB-PERF is a more modest program designed to run with WORDPERFECT as an aid to creating and updating bibliographies within WORDPERFECT. Up to 999 references in a document can be accommodated. Each reference can be at most 2,000 characters. A particular record structure is required, with details on program use given in the ASCII file BIB-PERF.DOC. You provide a WP compatible input file and bibliography reference file. The program creates an output document and an output bibliography file. Note you may need to re-load the output document in WP to remove Z at the file end.

Requires DOS 2.0 or higher. The registration fee for BIB-PERF is \$25 to Physicians for Social Responsibility, 325 E. 25th Street, Baltimore, MD. 21218 via Arthur Milholland, Assistant Professor, Dept. of Anesthesiology, Univ. of Md. Hospital, 22 S. Greene Street, Baltimore, MD. 21201. No version of WORDPERFECT is specified in the documentation - BBS source indicates WP 5.0.

BABEL version 1.90 is a relatively short 35k ASCII text file listing just under a thousand common computer abbreviations and acronyms. The terms are widely drawn from PC, mini-computer, and mainframe environments. Some listings relate to communications and programming concepts. Each abbreviation (w/o periods) is first listed alphabetically, then spelled out and expanded on one or more lines. You must already be familiar with what the defining terms mean. In other words, BABEL isn't an electronic dictionary, but just expands abbreviations and acronyms for you. The listing is being maintained as a FREE!! service by Irving Kind. He does ask that you contribute additional computer related terms to be added to future updates (planned thrice yearly in Jan., May, and Sept.). Information on getting updates and contributing terms is provided in the file header.

DOS 2.0 or higher needed. Text files describe program operation and use.

Programs down-loaded from INNS of COURT BBS (Geffen) and LAWSIG BBS (Rice and Livingston) by Robert Monaghan (10/89).

Edited by John Puckette.

Disk 503. Grammatik IV Demo (11/89) - Demo Plus Writing Aids & Utilities

The GRAMMATIK IV demo was placed in shareware by Reference Software, 330 Townsend Street, Suite 123, San Francisco, CA. 94107 (ph:1-800-872-9933).

You may wish to compare this commercial program with PROSCRIBE (or the earlier MAXI-READ in our DOM) or other grammar analyzers. The demo is self-driven or you can hit any key to go to the next screen. Most people will want to hit a key to speed up the demo, as it is quite slow. The demo includes information on how the program works, the word processors that it supports, which word processors have a "hot-key" that allows you to start Grammatik IV from within the word processor, reviews of Grammatik IV and information on ordering Grammatik IV.

TEXT-CONVERT V 1.5 converts text from one format to another. The authors offer TEXT-DCA as an incentive for registering by sending \$25 to Cross-Court Systems, 1521 Greenview Avenue, East Lansing, MI. 48823 (517-332-4353).

FC and FCDOC are two file comparing programs. FC compares line by line. FC will be especially interesting to programmers whose source code changes between versions. Need to track add- ▶

tions or changes? Simply run FC. You can have a full listing of all lines, with changes flagged, or use the default and get only changes listed. FCDOS does the same thing, but works by sentences. FCDOS will be especially interesting to attorneys or others working with articles or text. The author, Mike Albert, asks a \$25 tax-deductible donation to the charity Oxfam America, be sent to him at Suite 42, P.O.B. 2100, Chelmsford, MA. 01824.

FOG-FINDER is a compact 15k program which scans the first 50 sentences in your ASCII file and computes a "fog-index". This fog-index is compared to the education grade level and various magazines and technical journals for reading difficulty. A \$15 donation for registration is requested by the program author, Joey Robichaux, 1036 Brookhollow Drive, Baton Rouge, LA. 70810.

WORDCNR is a short utility which counts characters, words, and lines in a file and reports these on one line (no donation or author provided in short WC.DOC file on disk).

DOS 2.0 or higher needed. Text files describe program operation and use.

Grammatik III demo should be run in color (CGA/EGA) for best effect. Tested on XT clone/CGA and PS/2 models 25 and 30.

Programs downloaded from BBS's and reviewed by Robert Monaghan.

Update from Grammatik III to IV obtained by Ben Weatherall.

*Edited by John Puckette (5/90),
and updated by Ben Weatherall.*

Disk 504. CLICHE FINDER - A Tool for Writers. CLICHE FINDER, R.K. West Consulting, P.O. Box 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346 Shareware fee = \$10.00

CLICHE FINDER helps you check your writing for old, hackneyed, trite, and overused words and phrases. It will produce a report listing the "cliches" found in a document. Hundreds of cliches are supplied in the program's data base. You may view and change the information in this data base, using the separate utility program, CLEDIT.

CLICHE-FINDER scans an input ASCII file for cliches, reporting any it finds to the screen, a file, or the printer (your choice). The program consists of two major programs, one to scan for cliches, the other to edit, sort and update the list of cliches. There are also files for cliches, and index files may be created during use. You can add any jargon (e.g., computerese), weak constructions, and personal cliches you wish to avoid to the list by using the CLEDIT program. You must use your word processor to locate the listed cliches and edit them out. Uses DOS 2.0 or above. A \$29 fee for registration is requested by R.K. West Consulting, P.O.B. 8059, Mission Hills, CA 91346.

Programs downloaded from INNS of COURT BBS by Robert Monaghan

Edited by John Puckette.

Disk 505. IFF 5.0a, 11/89 - Multifunction Batch File Utility, I F F, A Multifunction BATCh File Utility, Version 5.0a November 1989, Copyright (C) 1989 by John Knauer, Jr. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. CompuServe # 75236,1466, P.O.Box 747, Brookfield, CT 06804

IFF is a powerful BATCh file utility that performs numerous functions. IFF uses the DOS ERRORLEVEL BATCh variable to let your BATCh file know what it has or has not found for conditional actions. Each IFF Option can use a Sub-Option and Parameters with syntax such as: IFF parameter.

IFF performs the following functions:

Checks if amount of RAM you spec is in system.
Scans & changes to location of specified filename.
Checks DOS date against stored IFF date.
Checks for existence of a file in specific path.
Scans, but doesn't change to filename location.
Creates Environment Variable from string input.
Tests for Volume Labels on drives and diskettes.
Used to create menus with up to 36 options.
Prompt user for more than 2 options in menus.
Simply prompts for Y(es) or N(o) response.
Create a file with list of filenames to test for.
Test space on specified drive and if formatted.
Test for what disk drives available on system.
Stops BATCh execution for specified period.
Tests for EMS and amount of PAGES you specify.
Gives approximately 3 screen on-line references.

IFF was reviewed on a 80386 running IBM PC-DOS 3.3 and appears to do everything the authors documentation says it will. If you are looking to automate some processes and can live with some of IFF's commands not working in a multitasking environment, then IFF may be just what you are looking for.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

*This review prepared by Pete Testa,
edited by Kenneth Loafman.*

Disk 506. COOPER GRAPHICS, 6/89 - A collection of graphic images. Cooper Graphics, 5846 Highway 111 South, New Albany, IN 47150 (812) 945-3622

Registration fee is \$6.00 per disk (6 disks are packed on this DDM). Special discounts and additional graphics are available.

The images and clip art on this disk are for users of Print Shop. There are six sets of one hundred images each. The images average 88 x 54 pixels.

CGART 1 has a motif for each of the 50 states (Texas is a Longhorn's head), and 50 border designs.

CGART 2 is 100 signs, each with message and related drawing, ranging from "Get Well" to "War Games".

CGART 3 is signs with church related messages "Let us Pray", for example, and some general admonitions, "What, me worry?"

CGART 4, also signs, is mostly prohibitions - "No Admittance", "No Checks", "Bad Dog", "Reserved", and 96 more.

CGART 5 is 100 cartoon faces.

CGART 6 is all graphics - Two sets of Zodiac symbols, and numerous signs printed in inverse, suitable for non-verbal communication. Examples are symbols for "Poison", "Picnic Area", and "Stairway This Way".

Requirements are Print Shop software and a system that will run Print Shop. Printmaster and First Publisher formats are also provided on the same disk to registered users.

The source of this disk is the Publisher, Jim Cooper.

*This review prepared by Virginia Salter,
edited by James Mc Crain.*

Disk 507. SHEZ 5.5, 5/90 - Compression Companion. SHEZ 5.5, By Jim Derr, Copyright (c) 1989 - California Software Design

SHEZ is a program used to view and work with archived files. SHEZ is able to view archived files while still compressed. One can also extract selected files, compress files, create new files, move files, or edit files with an editor. With this version you can view .exe files that have been made to self extract. For quicker movement, a mouse can be used. You can also use pulldown windows to run the different functions. Another option is to scan archived files for viruses using John McAfee's VIRUSCAN programs. If you

have been using any version of SHEZ, you can do a write out configuration with one keystroke. If this is your first time, it is very easy to configure with an easy menu screen.

To use SHEZ you need one or more of the following archive programs:

PKZIP, PKUNZIP for ZIP files,
PKUNPAK, PKPAK for ARC files,
LHARC for LZH files,
ZOO for ZOO files,
PAK for PAK files,
LIST program by Vern Buerg.

This software was downloaded from The Oyster Stew BBS by Dale Carr.

*This review prepared by Dale Carr,
edited by Roy Bales.*

Disk 508. MS-DOS Reference Disk #2, 7/89 - Text files for Programmers

Use the supplied LHARC.EXE program to extract nearly a megabyte of text files on MS-DOS, BIOS, DOS Interrupts, a DEBUG tutorial, an Assembler tutorial, plus Gary Maddox's PCINFO system info program, plus LHARC ver. 1.13c with manual.

BIOSDOS.LZH — BIOS & DOS QUICK REFERENCE CARDS
INTERRUP.LZH — MS-DOS INTERRUPTS EXPLAINED
ASMTUTOR.LZH — ASSEMBLER TUTORIAL (J. AUERBACH)
MSDOSINT.LZH — MS DOS INTERRUPT INFO
DEBUG.LZH — DEBUG TUTORIAL
PCINFO.LZH — Ver. 1 by Gary Maddox - system info
LIST.COM — Ver. 5.68 by Vernon D. Buerg
LHMANUAL.LZH — LHARC MANUAL
LHARC.EXE — Ver. 1.13c by Haruyasu Yoshizaki

This software was downloaded from The Texas Twister BBS by Robert Monaghan.

*This review prepared by Robert Monaghan,
edited by Roy Bales.*

Disk 509. PC Windows 1.1, 5/90 - Text Windows Library for C. PC Windows, By Stan Milam, NTPCUG Member, Shareware Fee: None

PC Windows, or PCW, is a wonderful windowing library for C language programmers. Not only does it come with source code and a well-written user manual (a rarity these days, even in commercial packages), it's free. So what do you get for free?

First, you get some of the best windowing routines that this reviewer has seen for the C language. Popup windows, scrolling text inside windows, moving windows on screen (under both keyboard and mouse control), Lotus-style lightbar menus, all are possible with this package.

I would have been satisfied with the previous list of function. But the author was apparently not. So he added video functions such as INT24 error handling, adapter type detection, mouse functions, EGA/VGA font loading, and EGA/VGA palette manipulation. I'm not sure I had ever seen all 64 text colors on my VGA monitor until I saw the demonstration included with this package.

By now, I was sure that with all the time spent on the code, the documentation would be a terse, uninformative text file that caused more confusion than enlightenment. I was pleasantly surprised. First, the author takes great pains to instruct the reader on using his library with several popular C compilers: Microsoft C (v5.0); Microsoft QuickC (v2.0); Borland Turbo C (v1.5 and up); and Mix Power C (v1.1.6 and up). The documentation goes through a brief discussion of compiling and linking and then

spends a few paragraphs on each of the aforementioned compiler environments.

Frankly, I was exhausted by the completeness of this package. But then I started looking at the source code. There are over 300K of source files included with PC Windows, C and Assembler source for every function in the library. And it's all free. What is the world coming to! The final comment I would make is "Well done, Stan, well done!"

Software donated by the author, Stan Milam (NTPCUG member).

*This review prepared by Kent Kingery,
edited by Ben Weatherall.*

Disk 510. VOCAB30D, 10/89 - A vocabulary teaching program. VOCAB30D - A NO-DONATION SHAREWARE PROGRAM by Robert Monaghan C.L.A., W5VC

VOCAB30D is a set of vocabulary teaching programs with 8,000 sample words.

This disk will be of greatest interest to students or anyone who faces:

- 1) S.A.T. G.R.E. G.M.A.T. M.C.A.T. L.S.A.T. D.C.A.T. A.C.T. exams
- 2) employment examinations which include vocabulary tests - as many now do
- 3) the need to learn a foreign language, or set of facts and terms quickly
- 4) legal assistants studying for the N.A.L.A. Certified Legal Assistant Exam

Programs on disk are: FLASHCRD - a flash card program that displays a word and its definition, QUIZBOWL - a program that displays a word plus five definitions, WEEK1.COM - These .COM files contain a total of 30 days worth of study
WEEK2.COM - words consisting of the 4,000th to 11,500th most frequently
WEEK3.COM - used words in English - the ones most likely to be tested in
WEEK4.COM - a standardized exam - plus circa 500 terms of legal latin terms
LGLLATIN.COM - to impress your friends, co-workers, or use on the CLA exam.

Run the desired week's .COM file once to extract the seven day's of .WRD files. You will create DAY1.WRD, DAY2.WRD, DAY3.WRD... DAY30.WRD word files. Both QUIZBOWL and FLASHCRD contain full internal instructions on startup help screens. Simply read and follow the instructions. FLASHCRD is the teaching program. You can set display times, delete words from further display as you learn them, or mark words for later printing. Options allow you to print all terms, all undeleted terms, or just marked terms. QUIZBOWL provides you with a quick check on your learning progress and quick review of words you have learned. I suggest you use QUIZBOWL to review yesterday's words to help reinforce learning them.

The original 7,500 word file was cleaned up and sorted into stratified word lists (so each day's word file has words starting with letters from A to Z). Using any ASCII editor, you can easily add your own vocabulary word files. Simply examine any of the supplied .WRD files for examples (e.g., TYPE DAY1.WRD). You can also edit or modify the ones provided here. Feel free to delete terms from the provided daily vocabulary word lists using your ASCII editor. As you go over the word lists, you will want to pare them down to those you still need to learn. In any case, you can run FLASHCRD to review each day's terms in a half hour or so of concentrated learning. You can also use subliminal learning by using a faster display scan for high repetition rates, e.g., during breaks on other programs. More short sessions work better than a few mind-dulling sessions. Feel free to distribute your own terms

and word/fact lists using these programs if you like. Please observe copyrights.

The 7,500 word file was taken from an excellent four disk set offered by Potomac Pacific Engineering Inc., Box 2027, Gaithersburg Md. 20879 or phone 301-977-1489. They are supplied here under their (FREE!) open licensing agreement.

Note that in order to preserve their copyright interest: PORTIONS COPYRIGHT 1985 POTOMAC PACIFIC ENGINEERING INC., ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Programs and PORTIONS COPYRIGHT 1990 by ROBERT MONAGHAN, ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. Thanks to N.T.P.C.U.G. for program review and distribution assistance; Arthur Geffen of the Inns of Court BBS for access to file compression programs etc. Special thanks to BORLAND for a relatively compatible TURBO-BASIC compiler.

The source of this disk is the author, Robert Monaghan.

*This review prepared by Robert Monaghan,
edited by Virginia Salter.*

Disk 511. Paint and Libview (3/90) - Two Utilities From Sid Reed. Paint AND Libview by Sid Reed, 6845 Craig Street, Fort Worth, TX 76112

This disk consists of two programs which are primarily of use to programmers. The first of the two programs is Paint, a utility to make text screens. With Paint any character from the extended text set can be generated, placed anywhere on the screen, and assigned any screen attribute. The second program, Libview, gives a programmer the ability to view the contents of library and object files and to examine the attributes of the modules.

Paint permits the programmer to treat the screen as a canvas on which can be placed any character from the extended character set. Multiple screens can be drawn, and maintained simultaneously. Full editing of each of the screens is possible; areas of each screen can be saved, moved, or copied to other locations onto the same or a different screen. Boxes and filled areas can be created using any of the ASCII or special characters. Attributes of the areas can be modified so boxes or characters can be changed to any foreground and background color. An online help is available using the F1 key and an information box can be displayed to show current cursor coordinates, attribute information, and remaining memory.

One of the nicest features of this program is its user friendliness. A full help file is available listing each of the functions and how to use it, but in general the information available with the F1 key should be enough to use this intuitive program.

Libview is a programmer development tool to view the contents of library and object files showing the following information:

1. The name of the file that the module is in.
2. The name of the object module, as stored in its header (sorted alphabetically).
3. The total size of the code and data segments defined in the object module.
4. Whether or not debug information is included in the object module.
5. The public symbols (code and data) defined in the object module (sorted alphabetically).
6. Whether or not the size of the module is to be added to the sum of module sizes.
7. The sum of the sizes of all of the selected object modules.

Both programs also have a fairly descriptive documentation file which describe in full how to control the programs by using function and arrow keys.

This software was donated by the author, NTPCUG member, Sid Reed.

*This review prepared by Neal Berkowitz,
edited by Kenneth Loafman.*

Disk 512. About Time DEMO, 7/89 - Scheduling people, rooms, equipment, etc. About Time, Softsystems, 21308 Pathfinder Road, Suite 209, Diamond Bar, California 91765, (714)860-2070 FAX:(714)860-3001. SHAREWARE FEE = \$195

This disk contains a demo of About Time, a scheduling system for resources, whether they be people, things (overhead projectors, laptops, etc) or space (conference rooms). It's designed for the stand alone PC or LAN's.

This demo only lets you save at total of 4 resources (users) which makes it difficult to see how well it would handle the large number of items one would normally be scheduling. In addition, I could only get it to schedule appointments, etc. for the ADMIN, and not for the other 3 users it let me add. This was particularly annoying. However, despite these major limitations, the demo does give you a look at how it might work for you.

No text files or mini manual are included. However, rather elaborate HELP screens are included, and each has the option of printing them out.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS - A hard disk and a graphics board are probably required, but no information on the systems requirements to run the program were included. It was tested on an AT with VGA monitor. The graphics were excellent.

The source for this software was the publisher, Softsystems.

*This review prepared by Judy Griffiths,
edited by Kathryn Loafman.*

Disk 513. RapidFile Demo 1.2, 7/88 - File Management from Ashton-Tate.

The demo is divided into two major parts: the two minute, fifty second self-running, super-slick all bells and whistles, wipes, fades and dissolves sales teaser and the nuts and bolts item-by-item interactive portion which took this reviewer twenty minutes to view and digest.

The Main Menu of the interactive portion consists of five sections: "How to do Avery Laser labels with RapidFile," "Five Other Ways to use RapidFile," "Six Commonly Asked Questions," "Reviewers' Comments About RapidFile" and "101 Applications: Real World RapidFile." One of the major claims of the publisher is the speed of the product compared to its perceived competition, PFS:File (named) and Symantec's Q&A (unnamed). RapidFile docks from six to twenty-four times faster than "other products" in benchmarks shown.

Files may be created easily and quickly, then viewed in either table layout or in annotated form layout. A simple toggle changes instantly from one to the other in a highlighted record. Similarly a toggle changes menu operation style immediately. Users have the choice of menu bars, a la 1-2-3, or pull-down menus in operating the actual program. Labels may be generated from tables created by RapidFile or imported from dBase II, III, III+ or IV, all versions of FrameWork, Lotus 1-2-3 1A and 2.0, PFS:File or any ASCII text file. 64,000 records per file may be created. Word processing is included for simple operations with a lexicon of 80,000 words and a thesaurus with 470,000 entries. Mail Merge, generation of form letters, is a major feature of the program in conjunction with its own word processor and any data file, native or imported. Its calculation features may be unique among its competitors; besides the four normal arithmetic functions, it will produce item count, total dollar or unit amount, average of the amounts, minimum among the amounts and maximum among the amounts. RapidFile will export to the files it can import, including comma delimited ASCII files.

For non-hard disk users, the total program is on a single floppy eliminating the need to switch program disks in A:. A Help key, F1, answers most common questions without reference to the manual. The "101 Applications" are alphabetized from Abstracts Research to Video Store Inventory and Rentals and are by no means all inclusive of the myriad of possible uses. Ashton-Tate provides a ready upgrade path to dBase IV for users whose needs

MICROSOFT WORKS

by Mike Firth

Microsoft Works is a low cost (\$149 list, \$99 street) integrated program that provides the services the many users need on a computer. It also has some quirks that are downright irritating.

Works has been described as a clone of AppleWorks. It offers all the features of that easy-to-use program and adds more. The parts are Spreadsheet, Graphing, Word Processing, Database, and Communications. I was attracted to it because of its low cost and because I have used AppleWorks for years (and still do, since I favor putting documentation in the disk format of the programs I write). I jump from task to task and use all the tools, shifting data between them.

The interface provided is identical to other Microsoft products that I use, including QuickBASIC and QuickC. I use a mouse most of the time while still favoring some keyboard commands. The function keys duplicate most of the uses of 123 with logical extensions using the shift key.

The spreadsheet is very nice for a number of things I do, including hours billing from a BASIC data file. File format is 123 Rel1 compatible. I like the instantaneous importing of properly formatted text files (the quirk being that they must be TAB delimited.) The DOS/BASIC date and time formats are converted to values and formatted.

Graphics printing is part of the program, not separate, and graphs can be printed as part of word processing documents. It has some nice options that advance on 123 graphs (e.g. hi lo). (Quirk: The default graph settings produce an ugly graph that

looks like it was drawn by a third grader with a felt tip pen.)

The word processor can be used in either graphics or text mode. In graphics, Bold, Underline and Italic are shown on the screen. On my Hercules clone, sizes are not shown in all detail, although Pica and Elite are different sizes as are subscript and superscript, which are lowered and raised. (Quirk: Sometimes typing goes on off the edge of the screen, especially if the window is reduced in size.) A 43 line mode is available if you like small poorly shaped letters.

The most irritating "feature" of word processing is that while the program even knows about various modes of the Epson LQ, it does not use character sizes, but points, and only a few selected point sizes. This is especially confusing for beginners, because 10 point Elite is 12 characters per inch, while 12 point is 10 characters per inch, and because there is an options setting that chooses Inches or Points (among others) but the font settings stay in points. Further, while the program knows about the printer, it doesn't completely control it. If the printer is in condensed, the commands sent by the program produce tiny print widely spaced. Apparently, the program sends commands to locate the words on the line (incredible garbage in text files) but doesn't bother to control the character size.

Spell checking has an option to ignore capitalized words, which doesn't work. In checking this article, almost every name (Hercules, Microsoft) was brought up, even with the option on.

I think the Microsoft Works is worth having for the flexibility, the quirks being acceptable in a product costing about \$100 on the street.

Mike

■

Disk of the Month continued

become more complicated down the road. RapidFile can be run on at least three named networks. The demo is very professional and represents the company and presumably the product well.

No hard disk is required for running the demo. The demo and the actual program will run in a 256K PC/XT/AT or above machine in mono or color.

The demo is available from Ashton-Tate Corporation, 20101 Hamilton Avenue, Torrance, CA 90502-1319, 1-800-437-4329 or (213) 329-8000 nationally. The Southern District Office is in Las Collinas (214) 869-3600. A pamphlet providing considerable detail about file sizes and other features accompanies the demo disk furnished directly by Ashton-Tate.

The source for this software was the publisher, Ashton-Tate.

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

(The DOM order blank is on page 24)

THE DOOR IS CRACKED OPEN...

...if you want to get your foot in. Soft Warehouse is currently hiring inside telemarketing representatives. Candidates must have PC hardware and software knowledge, plus sales background. Organization and attention to detail necessary. Send resume to:

Inside Sales Position
15160 Marsh Lane
Dallas, TX 75234-2699

(No calls, PLEASE)



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator

There are some volunteers essential to our organization who have very quiet profiles. One of those is Ken Conner, our Treasurer. (If you don't know who Ken is, look for the guy at the meeting walking around with a puzzled expression - he's the one trying to figure out where his teen-aged son has disappeared to, again... His son, of course, is the one with the worried expression, knowing he has disappeared probably one too many times, looking for his dad...)

Ken is a CPA and has given to the group his time and expertise over the last several years in making sure our financial affairs are in order and that we comply with laws and regulations concerning our nonprofit status, including timely filing of any forms required by taxing authorities, etc.

As if that isn't enough, Ken has generously given of his time in other areas, such as coordinating the printing of our membership cards with our Membership Director and making sure they are available at the Information Booth.

We salute you, Ken, and MANY THANKS.

In this issue we are acknowledging volunteers who served in various capacities for the month of MAY.

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
Archie Pinkney
Katherine Johnson
Charles Mooney

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown
Timothy Carmichael
Chris Young

BBS Champion
Doug Gorrie

Information/Registration Booth
Joe Aderhold
Conley Andrews (Anchor)
Mike Ashley (Anchor)
Randi Boucher (Anchor)
Ed Brown
Joe Cannon
Lonnie Cordell (Anchor)

John J. Dyer (Anchor)
Eteta E. Eta (Anchor)
C. B. Francis
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Jan Frost
Lynn Fussell
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)
Hank Holt (Anchor)
Claudia McDonald (Anchor)
Fran Melnes (Anchor)
Carl Oehmann
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Vicki Olson
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)
Steve Saunders (Anchor)
William Stone
Andrine Stricherz (Anchor)
Connie Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)
Jose Valenciano (Anchor)

Disk of the Month (DOM):

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Preston Brashear
Charles Carter
Mark Gruner
Howard Hamilton
Kathryn Loafman
Kenneth Loafman
John Puckette
Virginia Salter

DOM Volunteer Coordinator
Bill Drissel

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Stan Berlin
Jay Chambiss
Charles Cashlon
Bill Drissel
Delbra Henderson
Jo Johnston

Bob Karieback
Duane Martin
Bob Post
Virginia Salter
Oscar Tyler

With Special Thanks to:
Joe A. Allen
Preston Brashear
Gene Carlton
Charles Carter
Shawn Dunn
Pat Henley
Jerry Stone

DOM Review/Presentation
K. B. Barton
Shawn Dunn ((2 reviews)
Mark Gruner (2 reviews)
Pat Henley (6 reviews)
Chris Nusbaum
Virginia Salter
Stuart Yarus

SWAP SHOP

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

NOW HIRING - Programmers & Analysts (All Languages). Also PC Software Trainers and Support Staff. Contract, Full, & Part Time Positions Available. Send Resume to: Revis E. Smith, The Chester Group, Automated Solutions Division, 14275 Midway Road, Suite 220, Dallas, TX 75244 or call (214) 239-7767.

DBase files damaged? No fix - no pay! On-site data recovery. Also custom reports, labels, validated data entry and calculation programs. DYNAMITE SYSTEMS. Metro 817-261-3334.

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)



Disk of the Month MAIL ORDER FORM

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

Sold To: _____ Ship To: _____

DOM Disk #	Number of disks in set	TITLE/DESCRIPTION

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

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



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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 Name: (Last) _____ (First) _____
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 Phone: (Check Preferred No.) Home ___ () _____ Metro? Y ___ N ___
 Work ___ () _____ Ext. ___ Metro? Y ___ N ___
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Check one from each column below:		
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Do you want access to the NTPCUG Electronic Bulletin Board? Y ___ N ___ Already Have ___
 Please initial here _____ if you do not wish to have your address included on member lists sold for the NTPCUG's benefit to advertisers of IBM compatible products.



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Ashton-Tate Corporation
dBase IV Version 1.1 Presentation

Worldwide Technologies Incorporated
PC Users and Modems

NTPCUG Business Meeting

(See page 1 for description of programs.)

IBM Corporation
A New DOS Hardware/Software Product

Special Interest Group Meetings

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

9:00 - 9:55
Assembler
Community Volunteers
DOS
Hardware Solutions
Personal Users

10:00 - 10:55
Basic Programming
Graphics
Local Area Networks
Paradox
Personal Users
Unix/Xenix

11:30 - 11:55
Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
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

Special Interest Groups

SIG Coordinator	Andy Oliver K. B. Baron	(214)223-4044 h (214)747-0209 w (214)891-0941 h (214)226-3481 h (214)458-8711 w
Assembler	Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. Basic Programming Kent Kingery	(214)317-0125 h (214)243-5034 h (214)233-6178 h (214)226-3481 h (817)548-1573
Beginners Pascal	Phil Chamberlain Business Applica. Bruce Schubert C Language Sid Nolle, Ph.D.	(214)226-3481 h (214)495-7506 (817)548-1573 (214)818-8002 h (214)464-7942 w
Communications	Stan Milam Pete Testa Doug Gorle	(214)680-1107 h (214)381-8053 h (214)689-8633 w (214)235-2559 h (214)255-4400 h (214)407-0070 w
DAC Software	Andrew Laham Greg Cohen Pati Shaw	(214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h (214)844-8643 h (214)307-1259 h (214)681-0202 h (214)937-9876 w (214)837-5851 h (817)451-4540 w
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DOS	Vincent Gaines Jim Holsington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h (214)844-8643 h (214)307-1259 h (214)681-0202 h (214)937-9876 w (214)837-5851 h (817)451-4540 w
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Graphics	Richard Terreo	
Hdw Solutions	David McGehee Gary Johnson	
Local Area Net	Bernie Van Roekel Francis Bright	
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Paradox	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315
Personal Users	Bob Presley Bob Russell	(214)887-1879 h (214)422-4268 h
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R:Base	Alan Alberta Con Branham	(214)352-8688 h (214)279-7973
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Unix/Xenix	Doug Scott Jim Stallworth	(214)827-5751 h (214)381-9681 h (214)279-1738 h (817)962-4596 w
Volunteers	Jay Shistone	(214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-6993 h
Windows & OS/2	James Dunn	
WORD	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Bertine	(214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-6993 h



North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

P.O. Box 780066, Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Phone (214)746-4699 for recorded information about the User Group and meeting dates.

The North Texas PC Users Group, Inc. is a non-profit, independent group, not associated with IBM or any other Corporation. Membership is open to owners and others interested in exchanging ideas, information, hardware, predictions, and other items related to IBM Personal and compatible computers. To join the Group, complete the application blank printed elsewhere in this newsletter, and send it with \$24 membership dues to the Membership Director whose address is shown below. A subscription to the newsletter is included with each membership. The Group meets once each month, usually on the second Saturday. See cover for date, time and place of the next User Group meeting.

Board of Directors

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

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

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Aast. SYSOP: - Maggie Moomey
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Disk of the Month	Kathryn Coatman	(214)598-2539
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Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699

Address Changes, etc...
Payment of dues, address changes, and inquiries about membership should be directed to

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal date.)

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Stuart Yanus	John Pribyl
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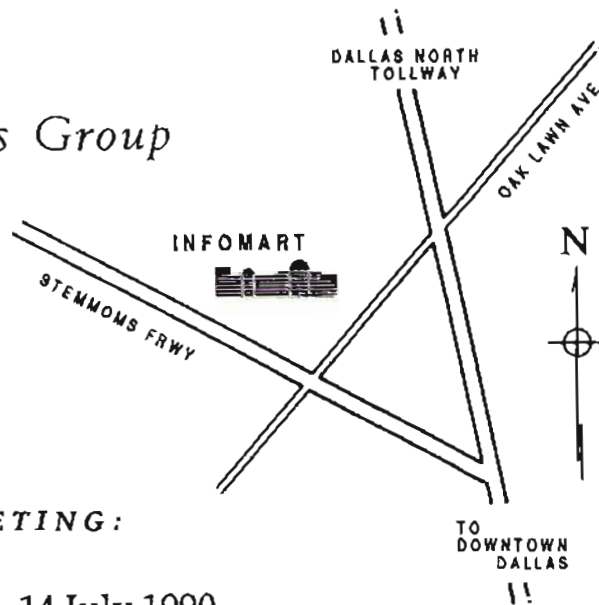
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North Texas PC Users Group



NEXT MEETING:

14 July 1990