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*North Texas PC Users Group*

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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 September  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Friday, August 10th**

### Meeting Dates:

August Meeting - 3rd Sat (18th)  
September Meeting - 3rd Sat (15th)  
October Meeting - 3rd Sat (20th)  
(tentative)

*Write an article this  
month.*

# Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

3. **Submitting Articles.** You may use one of three methods.

a) **NTPCUG BBS (Preferred).** Log-on to the BBS and select (U)pload from the main menu. Your default file transfer protocol will be displayed. If you want to change your default protocol, use the (P)rofile option. Once you have set the file transfer protocol, select the (A)rticle option from the upload menu. You will be prompted for the filename to upload. Enter the filename (don't use drive or path name). The BBS will prompt you to begin the file transfer. (Refer to your communications software manual for instructions on transferring files.) After the file transfer has been completed, you will be prompted to, "press any key to continue..." You will then be prompted for a one-line description of the file. Enter the description. To exit the Article Upload Menu press ENTER until you get back to the Main Menu. (OPTIONAL - Send a BBS mail message to Douglas McQuaid regarding your submitted article.)

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

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

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# Program for August

Timothy Carmichael

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

## Fractals Galore! -

### Mainframe Mandelbrot Animation with Zooms

This is a videotape showing computer-generated zooms of Mandelbrot and Julia sets of fractals. The calculations were done on an IBM 3090-600S with the Vector Facility, providing impressive displays. There is a soundtrack with appropriate music. This tape is 75% new material, for those who saw a similar tape last December. Thanks to Stuart Yarus for providing these tapes.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## Poqet Computer Corporation

### The New Portable Poqet PC

This unique, fully IBM-compatible MS-DOS computer weighs about one pound and can run up to 100 hours using two standard AA alkaline batteries. It uses an 80C88 CPU, has an 80x25 character LCD screen with 640x200 pixel resolution, a 77-key keyboard, serial port, 512 Kb of RAM, and 640 Kb of ROM containing MS-DOS 3.3, GWBASIC, and applications software. Two credit-card size slots will accept RAM or ROM memory cards for file storage and programs. These and other additional features will be demonstrated and discussed.

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## NTPCUG Business Meeting

## Prez Sez

LAN Slam, RAM Cram, Interrupt Addresses, IRQ Blues, Cable Canards... and Other After Midnight Pastimes

Yes, the Prez Sez column is late and, yes, I'm tired. Why? Keep reading.

My partner and I successfully implemented a LAN system after several early-in-the-AM sessions. This LAN is one of those well advertised, easy to install, peer-to-peer, NET-BIOS/SMD compatible versions which we all know so well. You know, fifteen minutes installation per node and you have the network poaching eggs and frying crepesuzettes. Uh-huh, yeah...sure.

Seems there was a plethora of problems which, like a chameleon, imitated cabling and/or software anomalies. But of course, why leave out computer hardware problems! If elements of the above sentences were structured as a multiple choice question the answer to our installation woes would have been - d., all of the above.

This particular LAN product utilizes a linear topology and cabling segment Tom-to-Deloris which had an intermittent failure due to faulty connector(s). The cable segment itself was fine, the connectors were faulty. Yes, we have cable testing devices and yes, most times it checked out okay and eventually failed. Failure was brought on by continuous testing and moving, moving and testing ALL cable segments.

To complicate matters, the client desired a software implementation which included PC-Tools Version 6.0, other TSR software to allow pop-up windows for FAX transmissions, Microsoft Windows 3.0 (for windows, wallpaper and other in-house embellishments) and.....well, you get the picture. Throw in a few more "AUTOEXEC.BAT time" TSR program loads and you have a real witches brew destined for RAM Cram problems. These boot time programs are easy to "REM out" but when you have a LAN which appears, at first blush, to have installed easily and seems to have stabilized quickly, you just know you are ready to proceed to "Application Software Installation/Configuration

- Part I."

...WRONG!!



DAWG DAYS!

So, the possibility of application/utility software problems are set aside by jumping the AUTOEXEC.BAT and we proceed with a well planned attack. Finally, the culprit cable connectors betwixt Tom and Deloris fail more than semi-occasionally and now we're ready to get on with the implementation. But, gosh, sometimes the LAN boots successfully and sometimes not. Let's re-check those IRQ's and device addresses. After all, we only have eight slots filled on the main server, there are only five FAX boards and modems in the network, we only want to drive four printers on one computer - - could there be conflicts? For you folks out there who have enjoyed the benefits of software-setting and physically jumping addresses and interrupts to unique locations, here is where some real fun begins. After jumper changes, an endless series of adapter board musical chairs and interrupt vector determination with the likes of QAPLUS and Checkit all hardware acts like it will boot every time you power up. Marvelous! I can see and feel the warmth of the flames from the crepes as they are wheeled to our table by none other than the maitre d'.

To make an even longer story less boring, it turns out that the newest, latest version of the LAN software requires a heretofore unneeded local login to each redirected, local server. This provides consistent activation of each server across the network (i.e., a seemingly perfunctory login to make the server available to all users who themselves have servers of their own). This undocumented, unintentionally built-in, protector-of-the-server was the latest, and hopefully last, step in the solution to this otherwise picture perfect, trouble free, LAN installation.

By the way, I just received my percolation test license and earth core test equipment which allows me to certify appropriate geographical locations for septic tank installation. Please call.

From Andy Oliver

We are looking for those people who might be interested in a splinter group forming from the Windows OS/2 Special Interest Group. This group would be for Windows Applications while the existing group would concentrate on Windows and OS/2 development and programming. At the August business meeting, we will ask for those interested in this group to come forward after the meeting to see if we can get enough to start the group in September. Roy Cassas has agreed to lead the new group.

Zack Porterfield 

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## EDlines

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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 

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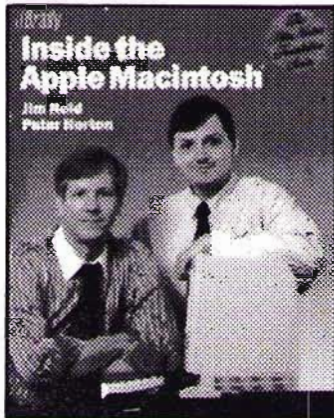
## SWAP SHOP

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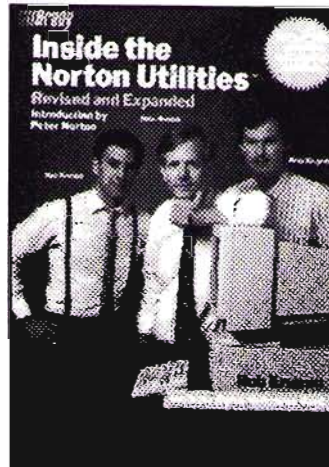
Four lines free each month to members; 5th through 10th lines at 30 cents per word. Larger ads at commercial space rates. Send check to the Editor for words exceeding the four-line limit. Free ads are on a space-available basis. Mail ads to the Editor.

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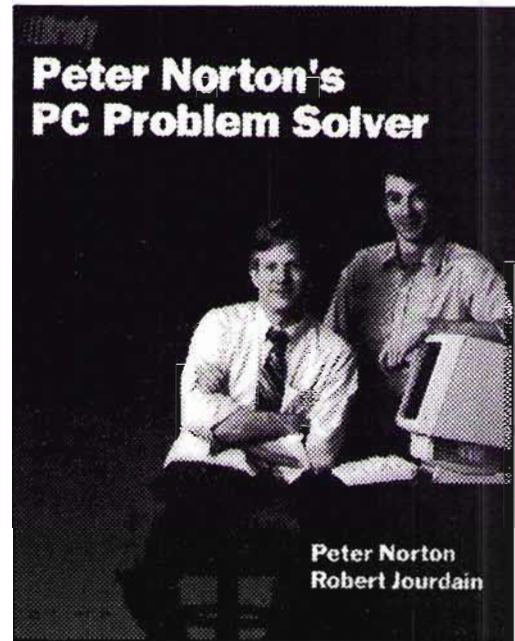
# PETER NORTON AND BRADY COMPUTER BOOKS— THE BEST THING NEXT TO YOUR COMPUTER



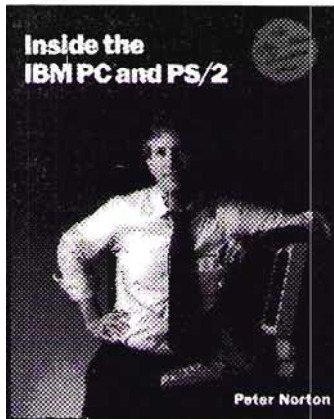
**Inside the Apple Macintosh**



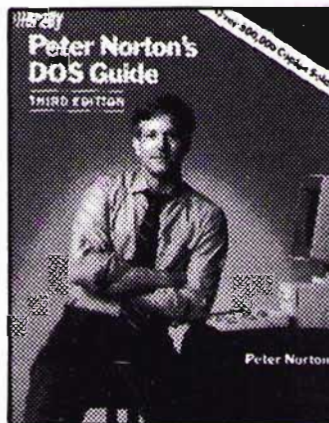
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Revised and Expanded**



**Peter Norton's PC Problem Solver**



**Peter Norton's Inside  
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**Peter Norton's DOS Guide**

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*Available August 1990.*

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# A Slice of Unix Life

by Michael P. Persons

An impression of Unix is what I'm trying to communicate here. When I was learning Unix, reading the manuals and tutorials didn't help me nearly as much as actually sitting down at the terminal and trying it myself. Perhaps it was because of the "expert-friendly" approach of the manual pages - they are more helpful as reference pages for experienced users. Or maybe it was because my brain couldn't take in all that information at once. In any event, I found that learning Unix was kind of a spiral event. I kept going around and around with the same commands, but each time I learned a little bit more about them and my level of knowledge got deeper. This article is meant to give you a first (or second) impression of Unix, so that next time you see it you'll be able to pick up a little more. Because of this "impressionistic" approach, I won't be incredibly precise. Experienced Unix users may complain that I'm leaving out details, or that I'm not being totally accurate. They are right, but I don't want to confuse people with elegant but cryptic commands. Unix has a bad enough reputation for that already.

## What You Should Know Before We Get Into This

Unix is a multi-user system. Each user has a specific logon id and a home directory where all their files reside.

The command output shown here is from the Sun version of Unix. Other Unix versions may look slightly different.

The command line arguments use "-" instead of "/". The command "ls -l" means "execute the ls command, passing it the 'l' flag."

One of the most useful features of Unix is the concepts of pipes and filters. Commands can be seen as filters, taking input from a pipe attached to the previous command, changing it somehow, and passing it down the pipe to the next command. The pipe itself is the character "|". The command "ls | wc" means "execute the command 'ls' and send its output to the input of the 'wc' command, whose output goes to the screen since there's not a pipe for it to go into." Of course DOS has an implementation of this too, but not as extensive, I think (I haven't used pipes very much in DOS).

Unix has a philosophy of providing many small commands that do a few things each, then allowing the user to put them together using pipes to do big and complex things. The following command is a good example of this.

## The Command Itself

Suppose you have a Unix system with a home disk for all the users - /home/bob, /home/jane, etc. The /home disk must be managed, and everyone has to be conscious of the amount of space they take. You want to send a nice mail message to everyone, telling them how much of the disk they're using, and who is using the most space. You can do this with:

```
du -s /home/* | awk -f scriptfile | sort -r | mail <list of users>
```

<list of users> is a substitute for a list of all the users to whom the mail message is to be sent ("bob sue bill sindbad ..."). Each command will be explained in detail, but here is the overall story:

1. du Get a list of how much disk space each user is taking.
2. awk Format the list into a little report.
3. sort Sort it so the biggest user is first.
4. mail Mail the message to every user in the list.

## The "du" Command

The "du" command tells how much disk space is taken up by files. Given a list of files or directories, it will give you back the amount of space the files take up in disk blocks. Disk block sizes can be different depending on what flavor of Unix you use (mine uses kbytes). So the first part of our command is

```
du -s /home/*
```

The "-s" flag tells us to give only the grand total for each directory listed, rather than a list broken down by subdirectories under that directory. For our mythical system, /home/\* contains all the users of the disk /home, and the output of du will be:

```
1      /home/bob
52511  /home/sue
36943  /home/bill
81652  /home/ann
1      /home/kilroy
8      /home/sindbad
18036  /home/samson
4794   /home/fred
35053  /home/wsd
16393  /home/nappy
```

This gives us the raw data we need - the amount of disk space used by each user. However, it's not a very attractive display, and it doesn't list the users in order of most usage to least. Also, it lists users who are taking so little space that we really don't care about them. What we'd really like is a listing with the amount of disk used in one column and the user's name in another column. And a line announcing the biggest user.

Just this sort of text reformatting is one of the reasons why "awk" was created.

## The "awk" Command

Awk is more than a command, it is a language in itself. Given an input file and a script of commands it

can reformat text, do all sorts of calculations related to the text, and a host of other miscellaneous useful activities. I won't go into a lot of detail, just enough to explain what we're doing here. Remember, the philosophy is to keep the new information small enough to digest.

Awk is a pattern or condition matching language. It reads a line of text, tests for a match of a pattern or condition based on the text, and performs some action associated with that match. This is repeated for each line of text in the file. For example,

```
/kilroy/ { print }
```

would scan each line of text read in, and if the text "kilroy" is found in that line the whole line would be printed; otherwise awk would proceed to the next line, until the whole file has been scanned. The text is separated into fields, separated by spaces (by default; this field separator can be changed). These fields can be accessed by number, with a \$ in front of them, i.e. \$1 is the first field, \$2 is the second field, etc. For example,

```
$1 > 100 { print }
```

would print every line in which the first field is a number greater than 100. Notice that the action taken in the event of a match is enclosed in curly braces.

So, our command up to now is

```
du -s /home/* | awk -f scriptfile
```

which says "pass the output from du into awk, using the commands in scriptfile to process the input." The contents of scriptfile follow. I have added line numbers for convenience in explaining it - they are not in the script file itself. (Note: all awk variables are automatically initialized to zero.)

```
1) BEGIN {
2)     print " - kbytes  --- user -"
3)     FS = "/"
4) }
5) $1 > 100 {
6)     if ( $1 > max )
7)     {
8)         maxuser = $3
9)         max = $1
10)    }
11)    printf( "%8d    %s\n", $1, $3 )
12) }
13) END {
14)    print "biggest disk user is " maxuser
15) }
```

Awk has special "patterns" BEGIN and END. Whatever action is associated with these patterns is always done. The BEGIN pattern action is taken before the file is read in, and the END pattern action is taken after the text file has been read in and processed.

A header is printed in line 2. Line 3 sets the field separator character to "/". Recall the format of the du output. Since we want to pick out just the user

name without the "/home/" before it, using "/" instead of spaces is the answer. Thus, with "/" as the field separator character, the first field (\$1) is the number of disk blocks used, the second field (\$2) contains "home", and the third field (\$3) contains the user name. Now we are ready to start examining text. Line 5 is the pattern associated with the actions of lines 6-11. A match occurs if the first field is greater than 100 (recall that we don't care about users whose disk space is tiny). Thus users bob, kilroy, and sindbad are ignored.

Lines 6-10 are a simple algorithm to find the largest disk usage number and the user (field 3) associated with it. Line 11 prints the disk space usage and the user of each line. The disk space usage is printed right justified, which will be important when we sort. C programmers will recognize this statement - awk printf syntax is identical to C printf syntax.

After we have processed every line of text, the END "pattern" is executed, and the largest user is printed on line 14. So our output from awk is

```
- kbytes  --- user -
52511      sue
36943      bill
81652      ann
18036      samson
4794       fred
35053      wsd
16393      nappy
biggest disk user is ann
```

Now this looks better. We've gotten rid of the small users, we have a nice heading line, and we have the largest user. The only thing left to do is sort it from biggest to smallest, and mail it to all the users.

### The "sort" Command

Sort works the same in Unix as it does in DOS. The input file is sorted according to the ASCII collating sequence and written out. The "r" flag indicates reverse order, since we want our biggest disk hogs to be listed first. So our command to this point is

```
du -s /home/* | awk -f scriptfile | sort -r
```

which produces the output

```
biggest disk user is ann
- kbytes  --- user -
81652      ann
52511      sue
36943      bill
35053      wsd
18036      samson
16393      nappy
4794       fred
```

Note that the biggest disk user line is moved to the top, since "b" > "-" in the ASCII collating sequence.

Our report is now complete. All that needs to be done is send it out to the users with "mail". ▶

## The Real Cost of Windows.

by Leroy Tennison

This article is a result of a question which was raised at a previous Windows SIG. The question concerned some "trouble" with a CGA monitor not producing color with Microsoft Windows. Hearing the question, I realized that I was not alone in my experience with the product.

Many people feel that Windows will overtake DOS as the primary operating system for PC's. If this is correct then the hardware cost to support the package becomes an important consideration. It occurred to me that a number of members might benefit from what both of us discovered: There is a lot more to the cost of Windows than just the package price.

In a group as large as ours there must certainly be a wide latitude in what would be considered an acceptable cost for the benefit of using Windows. Therefore I will try to present as accurate a picture of the total cost of the product as I can without too much "editorial comment". Hopefully this will be helpful to you in making a decision appropriate to your situation.

---

### A Slice of Unix Life continued

#### The "mail" Command

Mail, like awk, is more than just a command. Mail has its own user interface. When it is executed, a whole new command processor is entered, where mail messages can be read, written, forwarded, copied, and deleted. There is much more to mail than that, but for the purposes of our example it will suffice. The completed command looks like this:

```
du -s /home/* | awk -f scriptfile | sort -r | mail <list of users>
```

You have just seen some of the useful features of Unix, most importantly the ability to connect small commands together to get big results. There are other nifty enhancements that could be done, like listing the percentage of the disk that each user is taking, and sending the message automatically at a regular predetermined interval, but those are for future articles. If you have any questions or comments about this article, feel free to send me a mail message on the BBS.

Michael

■

Windows itself costs less than \$100 at local discount computer stores (I will be using "local discount store" prices throughout the article). However, as I implied earlier, there are a number of other pieces of equipment you may want or need for satisfactory performance from the product.

I will start with the machine. The version 2.11 manual (I haven't upgraded to 3.0 yet) says that Windows requires "A personal computer running the DOS operating system..." Although Windows can run on a PC or XT, keep in mind that it is a graphical (as opposed to text) based environment.

This kind of environment tends to be power hungry. Running Windows by itself may produce satisfactory performance on a PC or XT but applications which run under Windows may be intolerably slow.

For example, I am using the "Arts & Letters Graphics Editor" on an 8Mz AT and get quite satisfactory performance in most situations. Having experience with PC's and XT's as well, I am sure that I would quickly tire of waiting for Arts & Letters on either of those platforms. From what I have heard and seen, I am pretty sure that I would become impatient with my AT if I attempted to use Microsoft's "Word for Windows" on it.

At minimum, a clone AT costs around \$700 for the machine alone with 512K, a keyboard and a floppy drive. For more capable platforms the sky is the limit as far as the cost goes.

The second item is a hard disk. Windows apparently can be run from a two floppy drive system but the manual indicates that a hard drive is recommended. I haven't run Windows from a floppy drive but I suspect that doing so is possible but not reasonable.

A hard drive costs, at minimum, about \$220 with an additional \$80 if you don't already have a hard disk controller card.

Next is a mouse. Although Windows can technically be used with just a keyboard, this method of operation is probably not reasonable or desirable in most situations. These little rodents will cost anywhere from \$35 (for a "Genius" serial mouse) to \$110 for a Microsoft bus mouse. Although serial mice are cheaper they require an available serial port on your machine. If you don't have that then the serial mouse has only a slight cost advantage.

A third item is the monitor. Windows will work with a monochrome graphics monitor or color monitor. However, Windows is not able to use the color capabilities of a CGA monitor because the resolution which is required is higher than the



CGA delivers. An EGA monitor will deliver color in Windows but.... Based on the consensus of what I heard at the Windows SIG, it appears that a VGA monitor is really the preferable choice.

Fortunately this is not a big issue (unless you own an EGA and want/need a VGA) because VGA monitors are currently selling for about the same price as EGA monitors. The minimum cost for either is about \$280 for the monitor itself and between \$110 and \$120 for the card.

A fourth item may be a printer. Windows will work with many kinds of printers. You can print graphics on dot matrix printers with Windows-supplied drivers. The only situation where a new printer might be needed is if you require high quality graphic output. Since Windows is a graphically oriented product this is more of a possibility than it might be in other situations. A few "bottom-of-the-line" laser printers cost around \$1000.

Last but certainly not least on the list of additional equipment is memory. Again, the manual states that Windows requires "At least 512 kilobytes (K) of memory (to run multiple applications, 640K of memory is recommended)." While that may be true, there is sufficient reference to extended and expanded memory in the manual to cause you to believe that either (or both) may be desirable. (I am not going to try and explain the difference between extended and expanded memory here. Just be aware that the distinction is important at least with Windows 2.11.)

I mentioned earlier that I ran Arts & Letters on my AT. What I didn't mention was that it has 3 Megabytes of extended memory on it (purchased primarily because of the Windows environment). With 3 Megabytes there is only occasional disk access while using Arts & Letters. I have also run the editor on another 8Mz AT with no extended memory. The disk access was almost constant, degrading performance to unacceptable levels. I then switched to a 12Mz AT with 384K of extended memory. That helped considerably until my document became large and disk access again became significant.

Since it is practically impossible to say how much additional memory is "reasonable" (it depends on the applications you want to run and the performance you desire) I will arbitrarily use 1 Megabyte as a minimum. In this case there may be an additional hidden cost in the memory board itself. Reading the documentation (including the README files on disk) carefully and thoroughly surfaces two important issues.

Windows (to be specific, Windows 286 version 2.11) can make only limited use of extended memory. It can only use expanded memory if it meets the L.I.M. 4.0 standard. Again, for the purpose of this article it

is only necessary to understand that "L.I.M 4.0" is a standard and that there are other standards. (Windows 3.0 appears to be able to make full use of extended memory but requires a 286, 386 or higher processor.)

This becomes an issue if you don't currently have an expanded memory board or own one which doesn't meet this standard. The L.I.M. 4.0 standard is fairly recent. Many older "L.I.M. standard" memory boards only meet the L.I.M. 3.2 standard. You can still buy boards meeting different standards.

You will need to consult your memory board's manual (hopefully it has the needed information) to find out what L.I.M. standard is supported. If you need a new board then the least expensive board L.I.M. 4.0 board I have been able to locate costs about \$100. The price range goes up to \$410 with boards in the \$100-\$120 bracket and then, for some unknown reason, jumping to the \$300 to \$410 range.

Back to the memory itself. Memory prices vary significantly depending on the source. Furthermore, the prices tend to be volatile. Because of this I have decided (rather arbitrarily) to use \$4 per chip (256K) for this article. This would mean that a Megabyte of memory would cost \$144 for the chips alone (1 Megabyte chips appear to be in the same price range).

This concludes my list of additional equipment you may want or need to support Windows. The true cost of Windows will vary enormously depending on what you already own and what you intend to do with the product. The following list summarizes various possible additional purchases you may deem appropriate and their respective costs.

IF YOU NEED	ADD THE FOLLOWING \$ AMOUNT
A new machine	\$700 - ???
A hard disk	\$220 - ???
A mouse	\$35 - \$110
A monitor	\$400 - ???
A laser printer	\$1000 - ???
A memory board	\$100 - \$410
1 Megabyte of memory	\$144(*) - ???

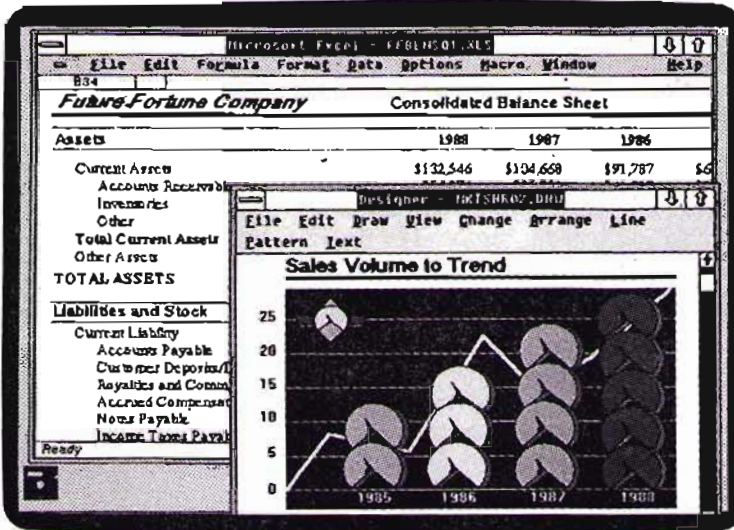
\* Keep in mind that this price is very arbitrary and may or may not be valid when you are ready to make a purchase. If you want to buy memory right now and are wondering where to shop then call several "discount" stores or post a message on the club BBS asking for sources and prices.

I have attempted to cover all of the potential added costs you might incur to get satisfactory performance from Windows but I may not have succeeded. The only general comment I can make is to consider your situation carefully and count the cost before you make that initial \$100 investment.

Leroy ▲

# 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.

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© 1990 Microsoft Corporation. All rights reserved. Microsoft, the Microsoft logo and MS-DOS are registered trademarks and Making it all make sense and Windows are trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. \*Offer good only in the 50 United States. Payment in U.S. funds plus a \$5.50 shipping/handling fee and applicable sales tax. Please allow two to four weeks for delivery.

# The PC Variety Store

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

(A personal view of new or unusual hardware, software, and applications for IBM small computers and compatibles.)

Wish they'd make up their mind(s) ...

## Accolade pushes Vietnam PBR, Super Boats, Androids and Harmony

Accolade is heavy into PC games. Received a recent packet of flyers on new Accolade games, headed by a replay of *Apocalypse Now's* star PBR (Patrol Boat Riverine) river combat in Southeast Asia (Vietnam and Cambodia) during the 1960's - 1970's. Claiming this is the first "realistic" combat game that puts PC users in charge of a fully-functional, high speed, PBR, *Gunboat: River Combat Simulation* features 20 realistic missions ranging from rescuing POW's in Vietnam to "busting cocaine runners in Columbia."

*Harmony* was last game touted in the packet and was hyped as a game that "rewarded players for not blowing things up." *Harmony* is evidently aimed at the newer, less aggressive, "New Wave" PC users somebody at Accolade believes must exist in numbers.

It was "guns & butter" 25 years ago - maybe "Stealth" & tofu" now?

Lotus comes out fighting...

## (Sauron awakens as a black cloud rises from the East)

Unlike their abortive attempt to merge with Novell, Lotus came out a clear winner in the early rounds of their great "Look and Feel" crusade with a decision over Paperback Software in June. The court victory was seen by the media as the first of many, many such trials

sure to follow the win over Adam Osborne's 1-2-3' Clone, *VP-Planner*.

Trial was held in Boston, close to Lotus' home turf (Cambridge), and presided over by Federal District Court Judge Robert Keeton.

## Mordor's reach widens

Next on Lotus' roster for legal conquest appears to be Borland's *Quattro Pro*. July 3, 1990, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that Lotus had leveled its legal guns on Borland, but with an unexpected twist - the Santa Cruz Operation, Inc. (SCO *Xenix*, etc.) was included in the foray against more formidable opponents than Paperback Software.

Borland actually struck the first blow by filing a countersuit before the Lotus suit was served on the Scotts Valley, CA, concern. Some analysts speculate that will move the major trial to the West Coast and away from the Boston-based courts.

Inclusion of SCO in the suit was a surprise. SCO is focused on the UNIX world which has little (if any) Lotus penetration. Object here is SCO's *SCO Professional*, a spreadsheet for UNIX marketed since 1986 and aimed at the multi-user UNIX arena only recently noticed by Lotus.

Microsoft's *Excel* was not targeted. Is Lotus' Manzi shying clear of Bill Gates for the present? Come to think of it, Gates would make an excellent Gandalf.

(Sharp-eyed readers will note that Vietnam resurrected memories of J.R.R. Tolkein's *Lord of the Rings* trilogy, carried forth to the Lotus clip(s).)

Closer to home—

## CSC Claims SPC stole their art

Dallas-based, premium PC-graphics group, Computer Support

Corporation, publishers of *Arts & Letters* graphics editor, filed suit against Software Publishing Corporation (SPC), publishers of *Harvard Graphics*, for "stealing" some of its clip art. At issue are images Harvard Graphics includes in its clip art collection.

Filed in the Northern District of California, CSC's suit claims that more than 100 of their copyrighted images were copied and (in some cases) slightly modified for inclusion in the *Harvard Graphics* package developed by SPC. "Sordid" seems best description of Software Publishing's behavior in this matter, especially as described in CSC's current series of ads in trade journals. Do I smell Orcs in California?

Story was featured in the July, 1990 issue of *Computer Currents*, and in somewhat earlier editions of the *The Wall Street Journal* and *Info-World*. Graphics-using PC publishers will find the *Computer Currents* story well worth a read.

No Summer doldrums for OS's

## OS/2 "light", DOS 5.0 and Rumors of multi-user OS/2 seep into the news

GeoDOS Brings up the rear...

Remember speculation that IBM would announce a "PM-Lite" in response to *Windows 3.0*? Armonk did just that in late June with unveiling of OS/2 1.X, a much smaller and faster version of the slow-selling operating system. Microsoft officials quoted in *Info-World* and *PC Week* articles seemingly weren't that impressed.

OS/2 1.X will run in just 2 megabytes of RAM (down from 4 M) and is approximately 5 - 10 percent faster, IBM claims. 1.X also includes built-in *Adobe Type Manager* (ATM) fonts which may fan the type-war flames into life again. ▶

### Multiuser OS/2 to take battle to UNIX?

This should be fun. One of the UNIX-fanatics' strongest criticisms against OS/2 has been its lack of multiuser capabilities. A non-IBM, non-Microsoft, independent company, Citrix Systems of Florida, says they are working on a multi-user version of OS/2.

Citrix expects to deliver in a multi-user OS/2 version in 1991. Source code was licensed from Microsoft and Citrix' founder, Ed Iocobucci, was involved with the original OS/2 development.

### Beta testers like DOS 5.0

MS-DOS 5.0 is at beta. Reports from beta testers are very positive citing its memory use advantages over earlier DOS versions, improved utilities and increased execution speed.

Most impressive is lack of early bug reports. Beta testers quoted in media during June and early July felt the product was much closer to delivery than Microsoft claimed, but also reported several features including rumored multi-tasking capability were missing from the version(s) they saw.

At this rate, 5.0 may be out by the time you read this. COMDEX/Fall 90 still looks like a better bet, though.

### GeoDOS— 1981 redux ...

GeoDOS is a graphical, multi-tasking environment. Ho hum, so's *Windows*. And, it's fast on 8088-based PC's with 512K and monochrome graphics.

Fast? 512K? Monochrome graphics? That describes an awful lot of the estimated 50 million PC's in use, most of which don't have the muscle to really run *Windows 3.0* or *OS/2*. GeoWorks, Inc. is gambling that's enough market potential to make their new graphical environment fly successfully.

Allusion to 1981 refers to competition for OS supremacy between PC-DOS, CP/M-86 and the UCSD P-system. Now, we've got four (4) possible graphical environments -- *OS/2-PM*, *Windows*, *GEM* and *GeoDOS*. Media "experts" are betting on *Windows/PM* -- they also bet on DRI's CP/M-86.

### Another multi-tasking alternative

#### *Desqview 386 2.3* debuts in June

How's this for moxie? Quarterdeck Office Systems announced the latest version of their multi-tasking environment, *Desqview 386 2.3*, and suggested that *Windows 3.0* run as a task under their product.

Claiming enhanced speed and a somewhat larger environment for DOS-based programs than that allowed by *Windows*, Quarterdeck Office Systems also announced *QEMM 5.1*. The new *QEMM* is the latest version of their memory-management software and scheduled to ship July 15.

#### Qualitas replies with *386 MAX 5.0* in July

Update notices are in the mail. Qualitas announced that their new *386 MAX 5.0* will provide more RAM access, easier installation and less user reliance on technical manuals than the competition.

*386 MAX* runs on 386DX, 386SX and 486-powered PC's. Qualitas is "up front" in reporting problems with *Windows 3.0's* enhanced mode, but does report they are consulting with Microsoft about bridging the gap between DPMS and VCPI standards for PC users.

Owners of *386 MAX Professional* purchased before May 15, 1990 will be able to upgrade for \$25, while users of *386 MAX Professional* purchased after May 15 will receive the upgrade at no charge. Retail for the new program is listed at \$130. Contact Qualitas at (301) 907-6700.

### *Tops* becomes *Sitka*—

#### New name to protect the innocent?

*Tops* used to be a nifty, inexpensive networking system that allowed simple connection(s) between PC's and Mac's. In 1990, when Sun Microsystems spun off *Tops*, it changed the name to *Network Bundle*. Now it's named after an Alaskan town.

Nobody associated with Sun/*Tops*/*Network Bundle*/*Sitka* Corp. came forward with any explanation behind the reasons for the name change. I can think of

one -- "Network Bundle" is both clumsy and stupid -- and reminds the reader of generic beer and cigarettes at the supermarket bargain bin.

### REXX as procedural King?

#### Lotus chafes at MS BASIC "standard"

Cambridge folks just can't stand anything from Redmond, WA, it seems. Lotus is pushing IBM's REXX (a procedural language) as the "standard" for cross platform enhancement of off-the-shelf software. They definitely don't want Microsoft's BASIC to become the standard for embedded, global macro language applications.

Lotus folks cite more versatility and power inherent to REXX as reasons for their choice, but ignore the established familiarity of BASIC among PC users. REXX is real familiar to old IBM mainframe and mini hands, but has never penetrated the PC ranks in substantial numbers otherwise in spite of its power.

Lotus, a corporate icon, has never enjoyed a reputation as "friendly" to PC users at the individual level, and this foray may be doomed as a result. Enough Lotus for this month.

### On the hardware front—

#### AMD tackles Intel

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), maker of super-fast CPU's and digital signal processors, announced they will be selling an 80287 compatible math coprocessor chip for \$99.

AMD also makes very, very fast 80286 chips. They are aiming at the installed base of approximately 20 million 286-powered PC's currently in use. Selling for about a third of the Intel 80287 chips, the AMD 80C287 will be available directly from AMD through a toll-free phone number.

Intel, definitely not amused, claims the microcode agreement with AMD doesn't cover consumer release of the 287, while AMD, naturally, disagrees. Relations be-



tween Intel and AMD have provided significant attorney employment in the recent past. AMD's latest announcement may sell a bunch of BMW's.

### 680XX's Keep Motorola On media pages in June

Apparently (at time of this writing) Motorola and Hitachi have reached some sort of agreement over the 68030 CPU chips that have been heart of some very acrimonious litigation between the two semiconductor houses. Wait two weeks and it may all fall apart, though.

Motorola's super new CPU chips — the 68040's — reportedly have been delayed and won't reach production in large quantities as soon as anticipated by Motorola executives. The 68040 is not involved in the litigation between Hitachi and Motorola — yet.

Why so much attention to the CPU beloved by Macintosh hacks in a PC journal? One reason is all the anguish over Intel's "sole source" role as producer of 80386 and 80486 CPU's by some media critics who ignore a similar role by Motorola with the 68030 CPU's.

### Xerox announces Ventura for Windows — Simultaneously Insults existing VP users

Xerox's Ventura Software announced updated versions of *Ventura Publisher* for GEM, Windows and OS/2-PM in June. Now called the *Ventura Publisher 3.0 Gold Series*, the DOS/GEM version will be first of the new *Publisher* versions available to users and upgrades from previous versions will be \$160 (from 2.0) and \$210 (from 1.0 and 1.1).

Flagship of the *Publisher* fleet will be the *Windows* version which of-

fers significant enhancements over the DOS/GEM version of *Publisher*. Also announced by Xerox was a Mac version of *Publisher* due in the third quarter of 1990.

On the down side... Xerox just can't shake some of its old (and very outdated as well as insulting) habits. VP users are told to include one of their original disks in the upgrade application. This seems somewhat degrading at first glance and an awful lot of bother in what is rapidly becoming a very, very competitive page-layout market.

### Two for one with Informix' Wingz Windows-OS/2 release

Informix is giving a bonus for some users with its new *Wingz* for Windows and PM release shipped in the same package. Informix's graphical spreadsheet first made waves in the Macintosh market and a port to the Windows and PM environments seemed logical to many media critics.

This version packs some features that are impressive even if the COMDEX *Wingz* exhibits aren't. *Wingz 1.1* takes advantage of the DDE (dynamic data exchange) capabilities in OS/2, and has ability to read Lotus (I lied about enough Lotus) 1-2-3 WK1 and Microsoft Excel (BIF) files.

Dual packaging isn't new. Microsoft's *Word 5.0* is available in both formats from one package, but doesn't need two sets of disks. The *Wingz 1.1* PC Bonus Pack is listed at \$499 and requires 2M RAM in Windows and 4M RAM in OS/2.

### GoStyles style sheets Enhance Word 5.0 Documents Library

LaserGo announced in June they were shipping the GoStyles Professional Document Library for Word

5.0 users. According to LaserGo, the package includes eleven basic business document designs and makes use of PostScript printers or PostScript interpreters such as *GoScript*.

GoStyles requires a PC with at least 640KB, MS Word 5.0 and a graphics adapter capable of running Word's Print Preview feature and PostScript printer or interpreter. Four graphics styles are included in the package; *Classica*, *Medici*, *Romana* and *Contempra*, each of which features combined typographical and layout features setting the "tone" of the completed documents.

Contact LaserGo at (619) 450-4600 for more information.

Ending on a fun note

### Seiko's Smart Label Printer ...

Seiko's cute little triangle solves some weighty problems. First saw this gem at COMDEX and immediately knew it had a future. How many times have you needed a quick address label for a letter or package and had to change printer stock?

Labels are all the Smart Label Printer does. But it does them well and quickly. It's abetted by a nifty TSR (at last, a TSR that's worth the hassle) that can be called from within other applications, such as *MS Word*, and quickly print the appropriate label.

Although the Smart Label Printer lists at \$250, local discounters have it available for a somewhat lower (and more affordable) price.





# Disk of the Month

edited by Kathryn Loafman

At the August meeting, the Lotus SIG will be looking at spreadsheet compilers. These spreadsheet compilers will also be available through the DOM. In order to compare the compilers, Mark Gruner developed an application spreadsheet, titled "Mortgage and Escrow Tracker." This was fortuitous, as there have been some requests for a program to manage mortgage payments. Mark will release this program as a DOM disk at the August meeting. The MORTGAGE AND ESCROW TRACKER will be distributed as shareware to NON-members of the NTPCUG, with a \$10 registration fee. Members of the NTPCUG are exempted from the shareware fee.

**Mortgage and Escrow Tracker, Copyright August, 1990**  
By Mark H. Gruner, 2308 Twilight Circle, Plano, Texas 75093

The purpose of this spreadsheet is to keep track of your mortgage and/or escrow payments. This spreadsheet was written in Lotus 1-2-3 Release 2.2 and then compiled; in other words, you don't need Lotus 1-2-3 in order to run this application. Most of the 1-2-3 commands have been disabled, leaving only the commands you need in order to use the application. To access the menu, just press the slash "/" key. To calculate the model, press the F9 key.

There is an input screen for the basic information needed for the calculations and printouts. Information required on this screen includes the following:

**MONTH FOR LETTER:** This input is used to "look-up" the information needed for the three letters to send to the mortgage company.

**ADDRESSES:** You can use up to five lines for both your personal address and the bank's address. If you want to use your personal letterhead, just erase the space for the personal address.

**AMOUNT OF MORTGAGE:** Enter the amount of the mortgage.

**NUMBER OF MONTHS - 360 MAX:** Enter the number of months in the mortgage.

**YEARLY INTEREST RATE:** Enter the yearly interest rate.

**MONTH OF FIRST PAYMENT:** Month of first payment (1=Jan, 12=Dec).

**YEAR OF FIRST PAYMENT:** Year of first payment - i.e. 1990.

**PICA SETUP STRING:** Setup String for your printer for pica print and 6 lines per inch. The default is for an Epson FX printer.

**COMPRESSED SETUP STRING:** Setup String for your printer for compressed print and 6 lines per inch. The default is for an Epson FX printer.

## ADDITIONAL FEATURES

The MORTGAGE AND ESCROW TRACKER also has two additional features that many users will find helpful. The first option is to make additional principle payments. To use this feature, simply move the cursor to the "ADDITIONAL PAYMENT" column and enter the additional principle payment in the row corresponding to the month of the payment.

## THE ESCROW TRACKER

The second feature is the ESCROW tracker. This feature must be manually maintained by the user. In general, the bank will tell you what your total payment is and how much of that payment is an escrow payment. The bank will also send you information on the amount and timing of the payments made from the escrow

account, which makes it fairly easy to keep track of the escrow balances.

Escrow payments are generally set once a year. All you have to do is put the escrow payments in the "ADDITIONS TO ACCOUNT" column for the appropriate months. Disbursements from the account are entered in the "PMTS FROM ACCOUNT" column. At the top of the Escrow spreadsheet section is a list of codes to help keep track of disbursements. You can change these codes to meet the needs of your escrow payments. These codes can be entered in the "CODE" column, and the ending balance will be calculated for you.

To help your understanding, there is a sample year of escrow payments and disbursements. The escrow area of the worksheet is to the right of the mortgage amortization.

## LETTERS AND OTHER PRINTOUTS

The spreadsheet will also printout three letters that can be included with your mortgage payment. All the letters include details on the mortgage, but include different information about the escrow account. The first letter has escrow detail including the beginning and ending balances and the disbursements. The second letter only includes the addition to the escrow account included with your payment. The third letter does not include any information on the escrow payment or account. These three letters are included since many do not know the balance of their escrow balance (or do not want to) and some companies do not require escrow accounts.

The printing of the three letters, the mortgage amortization, and the escrow account detail are done through the ALT-P macro. Just hold down the ALT key, strike the letter "P", then select the desired print option.

## Disks released at the July 1990 meeting.

**Disk 514. Mah Jongg -V-G-A- 2.2, 6/90 - Chinese Game of Mah Jongg for PC by Ron Balewski, 412 E. Ridge Street, Nanticoke, PA 18634. Shareware Fee: \$15.00.**

Mah Jongg -V-G-A- is a re-creation of the Chinese game of Mah Jongg for the IBM PC. Mah Jongg is a difficult game to describe, but could be described as a Chinese Solitaire game. The comparison to the card game Solitaire is appropriate since not all games can be won. Mah Jongg has been dated back to the time of Confucius which is over 25 centuries ago. It is believed that sailors and fisherman played the game to pass the time on long voyages.

The graphics are great. Mah Jongg -V-G-A- is full of features including help to show possible moves, undoing as many moves as you want, changing tile sets, saving games, checking what tiles are left, x-raying to find the locations of a particular tile, and many others. There is even a utility to create your own customized tile sets. Three tile sets are included with the game and you can change sets even while playing a game. Additional tile sets are being created. There is also a Hall of Fame for the ten best times.

There are 144 tiles in each Mah Jongg game. There are several types of tiles including three suits, dragons, winds, Flowers, and Seasons. The tiles start in a formation called a dragon and are in stacks from 1 at the edge to 5 at the center. The object of Mah Jongg is to remove all of the tiles by matching pairs. To match tiles, simply click the left button on each tile. However, there is a catch. A tile must be free before it can be removed. A tile is free if there is nothing on top AND it can be slid out to the left or right. The only exception to matching are the Flowers and Seasons which can be matched with any other tile from the same tile type.

There is a fair amount of strategy involved in the game since there are four matches of most tiles. By matching one set of tiles, you may lock in other pairs making it impossible to remove all of the

tiles. The game is both challenging and fun which make it quite addictive. To match two tiles simply click the left button on each tile to match. If the match is invalid, the program will disallow the move.

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Mah Jongg -V-G-A- has pretty specific hardware requirements including an IBM XT/AT or compatible with at least 512K of memory, VGA monitor, VGA card, and a Logitech compatible mouse. A mouse is required to play the game.

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

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

Disk 515. Mah Jongg 3.3, 3/90 - Chinese Game of Mah Jongg for PC By Nels Anderson, 92 Bishop Drive, Framingham, MA 01701. Shareware Fee: \$15.00

(See description of history of game for Disk 514.)

Mah Jongg 3.3 is full of features including help to show possible moves, undoing as many moves as you want, changing tile sets, saving games, and many others. There is even a utility to create your own customized tile sets. Four tile sets are included with the game and you can change sets even while playing a game. The disk also includes 12 additional tile sets developed by registered users of the program.

There are 144 tiles in each Mah Jongg game. There are several types of tiles including three suits, dragons, winds, Flowers, and Seasons. The tiles start in a formation called a dragon and are in stacks from 1 at the edge to 5 at the center. The object of Mah Jongg is to remove all of the tiles by matching pairs. To match tiles, simply click the left button on each tile. However, there is a catch. A tile must be free before it can be removed. A tile is free if there is nothing on top AND it can be slide out to the left or right. The only exception to matching are the Flowers and Seasons which can be matched with any other tile from the same tile type.

There is a fair amount of strategy involved in the game since there are four matches of most tiles. By matching one set of tiles, you may lock in other pairs making it impossible to remove all of the tiles. The game is both challenging and fun which make it quite addictive. To match two tiles with a mouse, simply click the left button on each tile to match. If no mouse is being used, then you select tiles using a column and row system much like a spreadsheet program. The game is certainly easier to play with a mouse. If the match is invalid, the program will disallow the move.

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Mah Jongg 3.3 requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with at least 512K of memory, an EGA or VGA monitor. A mouse is supported but not required to play the game. However, a mouse makes it easier.

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

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

Disk 516. Diagnostic Imaging Program, 2/90 - Database for Doctors. Diagnostic Imaging Program (2-22-90) by K.T. Dockray

This is a nice, clean, reliable program for limited use by medical professionals. The philosophy of the program is to have patient

records with treatment history, doctors' names, x-ray or other specialty service vendors, department (room) codes, and code names of various examinations or services performed on the patient. Address, phone, vital statistics, for each of the clients, vendors, departments, and verblage for each service code name, are also written into databases so they can be called and printed into composite reports with the least amount of typing. Indexes (of database keys) are provided in the Menus for reference.

The cascade menu system is very usable, and as close to intuitive as one could expect. The tutorial text (printout the file DIP.TXT) nicely carries one through the steps of adding one's own example data to the database and printing a report. The screens are clean and responsive to the keystrokes. The default keystrokes are the same as those used by most programs today, nicely eliminating that learning problem. Color would be nice, but we could add that by use of a batch file start-up with color code in it.

The program would be useful for many medical type organizations, I believe. But Dr. Dockray's claim, "Anybody who has to make records can use it. Put anything you wish into the code cache to print anything you need. (Even) parts numbers for a '38 Ford are all the same to memory" or his calling it a "generic" Record Maker is not exactly accurate. The Menus are laced with phrases such as: Patient database, Hospital database, Room database, Doctor report. And he even explains that the program name, DIP, stands for: Diagnostic Imaging Program.

It is not clear to me whether Dr. Dockray plans to "support" the program for more general use, or whether he plans to offer the source code for alteration when necessary by each user. If he is interested, how about changing the program's name to "Data Integration Program"? How about providing a start-up .CFR file that can be altered in a word processor to include a color choice, and operator designed menu words that suit that person's business?

The source for this software was the author, K.T. Dockray.

*This review prepared by Charles J. Jacobus, edited by Kathryn Loafman.*

Disk 517. Glossary 2.4, 11/89 - Computer Language Reference by Disston Ridge, Inc., 4915 22nd Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL 33710. Shareware Fee: \$29 for registration, \$79 for 1-year subscription - 4 updates, \$89 for multi-user system on a network.

Glossary is an excellent reference program for PC terms and other information. The program is easy to use and full of information on the language of computers. There is very complete dictionary, and a host of tables.

The dictionary portion of the program includes 418 words from "32-MByte Barrier" to "Zmodem", plus 416 more in between. If you want to look up a specific word, press the first letter of the word and the program will jump to the first word starting with that letter. Then all you have to do is use the up and down arrow keys and/or the PgUp or PgDn keys to highlight the word. Next, simply press return, and the definition is on the screen.

The information in tables include the standard (lower) ASCII characters, the Extended (upper) ASCII characters, Microprocessors Clock Rates, Data Transfer Rates, Network Transfer Rates, IBM PS/2 Models (basic information), Floppy Disk Specifications, Bytes to Terrabytes, Computer Organizations, Registered Trademarks, Video Display Standards, and DOS Filename Extensions. As you can tell, this is quite an extensive list.

The program also includes some other features such as basic help, the ability to change colors, and some information about the program in the "Lookup" function. The program is not memory resident, which would have been a useful feature for many users.

The information in the program is always being revised and updated. You can register and receive a one-year subscription for \$79 which will include 4 updates in a year. ▶



## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS :

Glossary requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with 512K of memory and a monitor. A hard disk is required.

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

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

Disk 518. CHASM 4.12, 2/88 - Cheap Assembler for the IBM PC by David Whitman, P.O. Box 1157, North Wales, PA 19454 (215) 234-4084 (evenings/weekends only). SHAREWARE FEE = \$40.00

Why go to the trouble to write an assembler, when one already exists? The IBM Macro Assembler is a very powerful software tool available off the shelf. It supports features such as macros, multiple segments, and linking to external procedures. Unfortunately, the cost of all this power is complexity. The Macro Assembler is so complicated that IBM warns beginners it is only suitable for "experienced assembly language programmers".

CHASM is a more reasonable compromise between power and accessibility. CHASM is simple to use and understand. Unlike the Macro Assembler, CHASM doesn't require a second LINK step to produce a working program. CHASM also produces fast loading programs without the use of the utility EXE2BIN.

CHASM is released in two versions. The two versions vary in their capabilities and method of distribution. The subset version is the budget release. It may be freely copied by individuals as "user-supported" software, and is available from user groups and bulletin boards across the country. Every time the subset runs, it prints a banner page suggesting a payment of \$40 to the author. As its name suggests, Subset CHASM does not support all the features of Advanced CHASM.

Advanced CHASM is the deluxe release. It runs twice as fast, and has a number of features not supported by the subset:

- macros
- include files
- conditional assembly
- structures
- 8087 support

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

IBM PC or true compatible, 128K of memory (some systems need 192K), 1 disk/diskette drive, 80 column display, DOS 2.0 or later.

The source for this software was NTPCUG member Ben Weatherall.

*This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman.*

Disk 519. A86 & D86 3.22, 1/90 - Assembler and Debugger for IBM PC by Eric Isaacson, 416 E. University Ave., Bloomington, IN 47401-4739. SHAREWARE FEE = \$50

A86 accepts assembly language source files, and transforms them directly into either: (1) .COM files executable under MS-DOS, starting at offset 0100 within a code segment; (2) .OBJ files suitable for feeding to a linker; or (3) object files starting at offset 0, suitable for copying to ROMs. A86 is a full featured, professional quality program. A86 was designed to be as closely compatible to the standard Intel/IBM assembly language as possible.

The A86 package consists of the four programs A86.COM, XREF.COM, EXMAC.COM, and FAKE.EXE; a collection of source, batch, and library files used by the demonstration contained in Chapter 2, and a sequence of DOC files that, when printed out in order, make the manual.

D86 is a screen-oriented program that allows you to troubleshoot faulty computer programs written for the IBM-PC and all compatibles, Wang-PC, TI-PC, Tandy 2000, DEC Rainbow, and Sanyo computer. It "freezes" the state of your program, and allows you to investigate the values of registers, flags, and memory. You can monitor your program's execution by stepping it one instruction or procedure at a time; or you can start your program running, telling D86 to stop it when it reaches certain locations. D86 recognizes the symbol-table output of the A86 assembler.

The D86 package consists of the three programs D86.COM, A86.COM, and D86CHECK.COM, a source file HEXOUT.8 used by the demonstration in Chapter 2, and a sequence of DOC files that, when printed out in order, make the manual.

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

256k of memory, IBM BIOS compatibility for D86, A86 uses only DOS calls so there is no incompatibility with any machine that runs DOS 2.0 or later.

The source for this software was NTPCUG member Ben Weatherall.

*This review prepared by Kenneth Loafman, edited by Kathryn Loafman.*

Disk 520. PC Globe Demo 3.0, 3/90 - Instant profiles of 177 countries. PC Globe, Inc., 4700 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282. Info: (602) 730-9000. Orders: (800) 255-2789. Fax: (602) 968-7196. Suggested list price for program is \$69.95.

This program is "the" way to study geography. It is a world atlas on a diskette providing in a very friendly format an enormous amount of information.

The initial screen asks the user to "Select a Country". From that point the user can learn from 11 categories of demographics, 8 of economics, 17 of vital/health statistics and 46 of commodity production about that country or others in comparison. Each country is shown on its own map with major cities, elevations, features (major lakes, rivers, mountains, deserts, rain forests, etc.), population history and projections, age/sex distribution, literacy rate, urbanization rate, gross national product distribution, languages, ethnic and religious mix. Major cities' populations, international telephone and telex access codes, latitude and longitude, ham radio prefixes and time zones (related to Greenwich Mean Time) are immediately available on a series of screens for the country being studied. Continuing with those screens produces more data on natural resources, agricultural products and major industries, major imports and exports, '87 balance of trade, current ('89) government leaders and a narrative on culture and tourism. Displays appear in bar graphs or on maps. The maps can be national, continental or global.

16 colors are offered in VGA display making for a vivid, interesting picture. The colors can be user-controlled though the defaults are quite enjoyable. This is a "must" program if there are school agers, international travelers, international investors or just plain intellectually curious in the household.

Updates are offered at \$20-30 as the publisher sees a need to make them. The upcoming one should be significant with the changes in the Eastern Bloc.

## SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Will run on any display from Hercules to VGA on a PC, Jr. through PS/2 25 or 30 including all the PC/XT/ATs and compatibles along



the way. 512K is the minimum memory for the program, no memory minimum is stated for the DEMO.

The source for this software was the publisher, PC Globe, Inc.

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

**Disk 521. PC USA Demo 1.0, 3/90 - Instant profiles of the states.** PC Globe, Inc., 4700 S. McClintock Drive, Tempe, AZ 85282. Info: (602) 730-9000. Orders: (800) 255-2789. Fax: (602) 968-7196. Suggested list price for program is \$69.95.

Seldom is it pure joy to review a demo, but such is the case with this one and its companion, PC Globe. The demo may run itself (use 4.77 MHz), be user-paced with the left mouse key or any keyboard key or be interactive functioning nearly identically to the regular program. The demo is educational in and of itself. The suggested list price of the program puts it in a must category for anyone who travels, has school agers or has any interest in demographics, economics or geography.

The first graphics screen shows the USA, including Puerto Rico without names. A toggle produces names on all of the locations. The next selection isolates the Mountain Region. Latitude and longitude are toggled into view. Moving through the options permitted for a given state allows the user to select a full screen of the state declaring its population and area. The example state is Arizona. Additional screens display AZ's 15 major cities; 4 elevation zones; 12 features (Grand Canyon, lakes, mountains, rivers); population history and projection through 2000 AD; male and female age distribution within the population; ethnic groups; vital/health statistics; education statistics; crime statistics; natural resources, agriculture and industry statistics; gross state product; annual pay by industry; taxes by type and total receipts; major cities' and SMSAs' populations; major cities' area codes, zip codes, latitude and longitude; major cities' income per capita, authorized construction and retail sales per capita; highway statistics; government; history from 1539 (beginning of territorial exploration) through 1988 (Impeachment of Gov. Evan Mecham); state trivia (flower, bird, tree, etc.); tourist attractions; monthly precipitation and temperatures (high, low, average). The only item missing in the demo is the state flag, which is also excluded in the full program. (There is an area for future augmentation which might include historical flags to date.) Comparisons can be made between or among states and/or regions in any combination in 15 categories of demographics, 20 of vital/health stats, 16 of economics, 4 of elementary education, 6 of secondary education, 2 of higher ed, 5 of government, 13 of crime, 13 of highway stats from auto registrations to fatalities, 12 of manufactured goods, 12 of minerals, 4 of energy products and 32 of agricultural products. Comparisons may be displayed in bar graphs or in map form.

The program is captivating in 16-color VGA! The maps and graphs are drawn very quickly making viewing and comparing a very pleasant experience.

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

Will run on any display from Hercules to VGA on a PC, Jr. through PS/2 25 or 30 including all the PC/XT/ATs and compatibles along the way. 512K is the minimum memory for the program, no memory minimum is stated for the DEMO.

The source for this software was the publisher, PC Globe, Inc.

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

**Disk 522. Traveler's Guild Spanish DEMO 1.01, 10/89 - A Spanish tutorial by Dan Oja.** A GuildWare, Inc. Division, 315

W. Washington, Marquette, MI 49855. (906) 228-5030. Program lists at \$139.00, direct from the publisher.

This is an interactive demo which features two major divisions of the program: the Language Reference and the main program. The reference section includes a hypertext module which shows verb conjugations, adjective use and sentence structure. Full contents of the section includes: "Introduction" (basically address and phones of the publisher), "Using the Program" (mouse and keyboard control, editing and special Spanish character generation) and "Language Topics" (the Spanish alphabet with spellings of the letters' names, a pronunciation guide and regional differences, not actually offered in the demo). The exercise program consists of 99 "pages" including "Using this Program", "Phrase Book", "Translation" and "End". "Phrase Book" includes the titles: "Useful Phrases" (the only one active in the demo), "Greetings", "Personal Condition", "Counting/Numbers", "Shopping/Money", "Food/Eating", "Going Places", "Making Friends", "Clothing", "Household Items", "Time" and "Weather/Seasons". A Pop-Up Dictionary is available during most of the exercises to provide definitions of any highlighted word. The lessons in the program are expected to take an hour each and are divided into segments with suggested times allowed for each segment.

The Phrase Book exposes the student to popular and necessary phrases for everyday use and requires the student to learn and recognize them in various types of drills. "Flash Cards" asks for immediate translation of a word using a "Now you see it, now you don't scheme". "Matching" involves a multiple-choice translation of brief phrases. "Fill-in" requires single word completions of translations. "Sentences" is a multiple-choice translation of short sentences. "Sentence Recall" is the essay test wherein a sentence is given in one language with the student being required to translate it letter perfect with proper diacritics and punctuation.

The "Translations" section starts with a brief conversation between two speakers; then the translation is shown on demand. Another "Sentences" and "Sentence Recall" drill related to the conversation follows. A pronunciation tape accompanies the actual program, none with the demo. The full program comes on four 5-1/4" disks or two 3-1/2" disks, containing "thousands of words and hundreds of phrases", suitable for hard drive operation.

Of the PC language training aids this reviewer has seen or used, this is by far the best. Its spelling and punctuation demands are merciless; the student can nearly feel the ruler across the back of the hand. In future revisions this reviewer would hope to see EGA and VGA mono or color added to the display choices since they are so popular at this time. The program runs most comfortably in TURBO mode.

#### SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:

384K RAM is required in any PC/XT/AT/386 or compatible with DOS 3.0 or above.

The source for this software was the publisher, The Traveler's Guild.

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

**Disk 523. OfficeWriter Demo 6.1, 5/89 - Word processor DEMO.** Software Publishing Corporation, P.O. Box 7210, 1901 Landings Drive, Mountain View, CA 94039-7210.

This demo allows considerable interaction, including a trial size program which allows printing of a 2K document the user can create. It also allows import of a graphic which comes with it or one the user furnishes. The first screen of the demo describes a list of seven features omitted or reduced in the demo. The user is then advised of what may be done with the demo which is plenty to make a determination of the program's value. OfficeWriter is a respectable competitor in the mid-league of word processors. It has the easiest and best graphics handling systems this reviewer



has used or reviewed, which includes all of the top selling packages except Microsoft Word.

A brief tutorial is included in the demo to familiarize the user with major features. You can import, clip, crop, reverse graphics with great ease. The tutorial did not include word wrapping around graphics which leads one to believe that is not a feature of the program. Preview is also a real plus. Zooming by small stages allows a view from the exact perspective desired. A small window appears during zooming to permit the whole page to appear in the upper left corner of the screen while the part under scrutiny (half-page, quarter-page or ?) dominates a rule-marked screen. The x and y axis rule markings are extremely helpful in placement of text and graphics which makes this a package to consider for newsletters, house organs, etc. HELP is readily accessible anywhere within a document with the ESC key.

The normal word processing features are handled with function keys and in combination with ALT, SHIFT and CTRL keys. A math function enables on-screen four-function arithmetic. Tables of contents and indexes may be created from the regular program. The thesaurus includes synonyms as one would expect, but also antonyms, compared, contrasted and related words, functioning much like an on-board dictionary which is very useful. The spell checker produces several options for handling the word or document being questioned, including several possibilities for the spelling of a specific word being questioned. The spell checker has 80,000 word plus custom dictionary capability. The thesaurus has 470,000 entries. The program has limited outlining and numbering ability, certainly enough for its target audience implied in its name. The percentage of memory consumed by the current document is constantly displayed at the top of the screen. An UNDO feature works easily to correct mistakes in mistake correction, very handy for experimenting with word combinations.

The product comes network ready for 3COM, Banyan, Novell and IBM nets. Screen colors may be adjusted on individual PCs with no effect on other units of the network. OfficeWriter is compatible with 200+ printers including dot matrix, daisy wheel, laser jets and PostScript.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**

The demo requires 256K, the program needs 384K. DOS 2.0 or higher is required on a PC/XT/AT or compatible. Monochrome, CGA, EGA and VGA are supported. A graphics adapter appropriate to the monitor in use is required for display of graphics.

The source for this software was the publisher, Software Publishing Corp.

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

**Disk 524AB. The Animated Alphabet, 5/90 - Educational Game on the Alphabet, by Tom Guthery IV, Rt.1, Box 601, Del Valle, TX 78617. Shareware Fee: \$7.95.**

The Animated Alphabet combines colorful graphics with appealing animation to teach the letters of the alphabet. It is designed for children from pre-school to the first grade. Registration will entitle you to a copy of this program in which your child's name will appear, plus a NEW educational program with more animations.

A picture will appear on the screen and the child is asked to press the key representing the first letter of the picture. When the correct letter is pressed, the picture moves around the screen - becomes animated.

The program has excellent graphics. The only real problem with it is the large hard disk requirements - 1.2 meg.

**SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS:**

Requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with 640K memory, EGA and a hard drive to run this program. The program will require 1.2 meg of hard disk space.

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

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

## Call For New Software.

We still need user group members to donate the software to be offered to the group by the Disk-of-the-Month. If you have just downloaded the latest version of your favorite program or utility, why not copy it onto a disk. Then put a label with the program name, version, date, and brief description (30-40 letters), plus your name and evening phone number at the bottom. Bring it to the DOM table and leave it for me. If the software is your own product, please include a documentation file on the disk. If your documentation file is longer than say, fifty lines, please provide an introductory file of approximately fifty-sixty lines that summarizes the program and tells the user how to get started using your product, i.e., how to print out the documentation

To encourage submission of software, the DOM committee will provide the person submitting software that is distributed with a token good for one free DOM disk, any disk in our library, and a WORN disk to replace the one used to submit your software. A WORN disk, in case you have forgotten, is Write Once, Read Never. They are created by our zealous efforts not to run out of the disks we prepare for our group members. If you have had your contributions used to distribute DOM disks lately, please see me for your token, WORN disk, and my personal thanks.

### Call for Reviewers.

The disk submitted to the DOM committee do not get distributed to the user group until a second member selects that disk for review. The reviewer's responsibility is pretty clear. Use the software, to make sure it works, in the version on the disk. Here are the guidelines for reviewers, which have been recently updated:

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**North Texas PC User's Group Disk-of-the-Month - EVALUATION COPY**

Please USE the programs on this disk. Then write an introductory README file in 50 lines or less that lists (in ASCII-no JUSTIFY): (1) program title, version, date, and author, and a description--up to 34 characters, (2) the registration fee amount (if shareware) (3) what the programs do (and how well/poorly), (4) known hardware and software requirements, e.g., CGA/EGA, min memory, 1-2-3, etc (5) how to install/get started using the program or what files provide that information, (6) an (annotated) directory of the files, and (7) the source of the disk (if known). Please put YOUR NAME and PHONE NUMBER at the end, so the area editor can contact you, if needed.

Please keep the disk, but bring your readme file to the next NTPCUG meeting, or submit it (please provide a meaningful name (not README) to my NTPCUG bulletin board



# ON COMPLEXITY

No. 42 in a Series

By Jim Hoisington

I ran into a new form of software piracy last month. A form of fraud that preys on small businesses that have just gotten their first personal computers.

I found that a hardware/software dealer had sold a company several expensive software packages. The software was up and running on the company's network. But the dealer never delivered the diskettes or the manuals. By doing this, the dealer was able to sell the same software again and again. This is a very profitable business for the dealer and very bad business for your company.

When you buy a software package, you should receive both diskettes and manuals. And, the manuals are normally printed, not copied on a copier. If you don't have the diskettes and manuals, don't pay the bill!

Not having the manuals makes it very difficult to use the software in any way other than the way it was originally installed. Want to add a report, change a menu? You'd better be good at guessing. In the case of the company that I was working with, they had paid the dealer "consulting" fees to come back to make modifications to the packages.

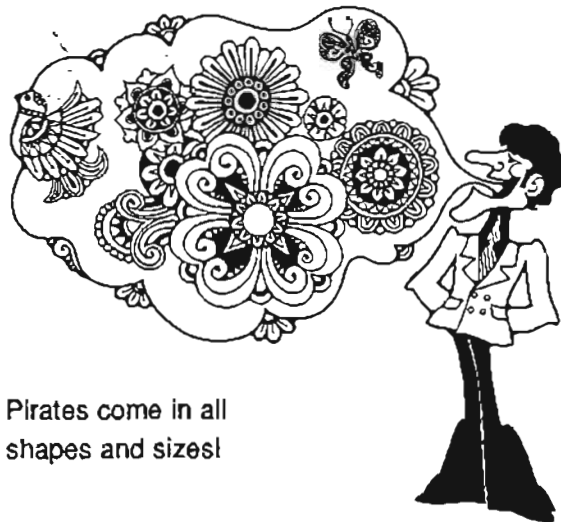
Even if you are happy with the product as delivered and installed and don't ever want to learn more about the software or use any more of its features, you might want to be eligible for updates. Sometimes updates allow you to run on new computer hardware. If you have an illegal

copy, even if you have a receipt, you'll probably have trouble getting the update without paying full price.

In the case of the company that I was helping, I had to fill out an affidavit and enclose a copy of the invoice to qualify for an upgrade on one product which saved them several thousands of dollars over purchasing the new version outright.

Watch out for this fraud. Don't let your company get taken in by some fast talking salesman. If you don't have the diskettes and manuals, then you haven't received the package and you shouldn't pay the bill.

Jim ▲



Pirates come in all shapes and sizes!

## Call for New Software continued

mailbox: Select (S)end message, then (S)end file; you will be prompted for a Subject; send the file; then enter my name, Howard Hamilton, or mail it to me,—Howard Hamilton, 1410 Forsythe Drive, Richardson, TX 75081 644-5721 (6:30-10:30) or 996-7139 (office).

=====

### D-O-M Information On The Bulletin Board.

In the DOM conference on the bulletin board, I maintain several messages with "current" Disk of the Month information.

For potential reviewers, there is a list of software to be reviewed. I hope that reviewers will select the software that they want to review and send me a message on the BBS. It makes for a much more orderly distribution of the disks for review at the meeting when I have those disks already marked with the reviewers name. If you wait to pick a disk to review at the meeting, you only get the leftovers. I usually update this list within a few days after each monthly meeting, adding the new software contributed at the meeting and deleting the software distributed to new reviewers.

A few days before each meeting, I provide a message listing of the new disks to be published at the next meeting. This listing provides the information that we put on the

disk labels: Program name, version, date, and a 34 character or less description of the program. I also provide the name of a file, in the user download area, that contains the README files for these new disks.

I also will maintain a current list of disks available at reduced prices, such as the "fire sale" and the "inventory reduction sale."

### Shareware

The disks that the D-O-M sells contains very little free software. Except for the DEMO disks, at least 95% of the disks that we sell contain software that is Shareware. If you try the software and want to continue using it, you are expected to register by sending the requested amount to the author or distributor of the software listed in the documentation on the disk that you have purchased.

Most authors of Shareware do not cripple their software or use programmatic means to prevent us from using their software beyond an evaluation period. Not many products allow you to try the actual product before you buy. Most Shareware is fully functional. If you do continue using Shareware, please register it with the author or publisher.

See you at the D-O-M tables.

....Howard ▲

## Tech Support Advice

by Emil Flock and Dan Rocha

*Reprinted from the article "Blue Sky" in Blue Notes, the newsletter of SFPC Users Group, June, 1990.*

As you know by now, we handle tech support for a variety of different companies. Each of our technicians solve literally hundreds of problems each week. Some simple, some extremely complicated. Occasionally we speak to hostile users and a mis-directed user, but the vast majority are cooperative. I thought it would be helpful to give some tips on how you can get better technical support, since I have a little experience in this area.

**First:** Focus on the actual problem. For example, calling and saying "my printer is not printing" is not very helpful (to say the least), when the problem is really "when I hit <Control-P> the program says it's printing, the printer light flashes and nothing comes out." Even if you're not technically inclined, you can still observe what you did and what the computer did before the problem occurred. Just take a look and see what happens before you call. Know what you did, and how the computer and whatever else is involved responded.

**Second:** Call when you're in front of your PC, and it's turned on.

This may seem basic, but it's worth stating. If you call when you're not at the machine, a technician will be unable to do any detailed troubleshooting. Consequently, you will receive a general answer. The better we understand your setup, the more specifically we can answer your question. Having your machine and printer powered up is just a time saver. It can get frustrating for a technician to wait for your machine to warm up. It's never to your advantage to deal with a frustrated technician.

**Third:** Cleanliness is a virtue. Keep your machine clean, or in other words, free from TSR's, device drivers, etc... You may need some of these to work with your computer, but when it comes to troubleshooting, they have to go. If you have strange problems on your machine, try this: Rename AUTOEXEC.BAT and CONFIG.SYS to any other names, and re-boot the system. Try what you were doing one more time. Did the problem go away? Did the machine act any differently? TSR's are a major source of problems, and they interact in ways that no one can predict. Use sparingly.

**Fourth:** Remember who's problem this is. Unfortunately we don't have enough time to call other software and hardware manufacturers to look into potential problems. The best any technician can do is help to find out where the problem lies. We are there

to answer technical questions that aren't answered in the documentation. If you need more help than that, you need a consultant, not tech support. A consultant can sit down with you, examine your setup, and help you in ways we can't.

**Fifth:** Leading the Blind. All we have is your voice on the phone. We can't see your system, and don't know how it's configured. Many a problem can be solved quickly by simply describing your system. Don't go into too much detail, we don't need to know every setting of every piece of hardware and software. What a technician needs to know is if there is anything special about your system which makes it different than a plain vanilla computer. A technician may not ask if you have an accelerator board, a printer sharing device, or are running on an Amiga in IBM emulation, it's up to you to let us know.

**Sixth:** Know your version numbers. Every application program and most utilities have version numbers. They are crucial for software support. If you don't know what they are, ask the technician how to find it. Don't ask the technician to hold while you search for your manual, version numbers are rarely there. Just ask.

My last points are on telephone etiquette. It's not uncommon to run into problems installing a new piece of software and calling tech support to answer a few questions. However, once some people learn how to get the tech support line, it's as if their manuals vanish into thin air. For every little problem they call, even problems with other companies software or hardware. Don't fall into this trap. If you have a problem, READ THE MANUAL. If that doesn't solve the problem, call. It's only too rare a pleasure to answer a question for someone who has actually read the manual.

One pet peeve of mine is people who presume to know the answer before they call. They are invariably wrong, and I end up spending most of my time convincing them of that. If you're so smart that you know all the answers, don't bother calling, just rewrite the program or something.

I hope these suggestions will help you to get better technical support next time you need it. If you have any questions about what I've written here, read it again, there's no tech support number.

(Emil Flock is President of Computer Hand Holding, Inc., Dan Rocha works with him as a technical support specialist.)



# 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 60076

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 multifile 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 alterations 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 Tennison 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, Quick-en, Works, First Choice, 386^MAX, QEMM-386, Norton Utilities, Pro-Comm 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 at-

tended 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 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, Post-Script interpreters do have drawbacks in terms of day-to-day use with Word.

Reagan Andrews





## Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator

Recently one of our volunteers mentioned that his name failed to appear in the list acknowledging volunteers for the month he worked. I was distressed because we don't like to overlook a volunteer's service.

On checking, I found that his name was indeed on the list, it just wouldn't appear until the NEXT issue.

Our newsletter deadline does cause confusion because it's on the 10th of the month. For instance, this column must be submitted before July 10 so that it can be included in the August issue. Our July meeting, however, will not occur until four days after the deadline. So July volunteers won't see their names in print until September.

What it all boils down to is that names appearing in this column belong to volunteers who worked TWO months previous. You will notice, then, that in this August issue we are acknowledging volunteers who served in various capacities for the month of JUNE.

**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  
Arlie Pinkney  
Martin Gluck  
Charles Mooney

Presentation/Equipment  
Setup and Breakdown  
Timothy Carmichael  
Chris Young

Information/Registration Booth  
Joe Aderhold  
Conley Andrews (Anchor)  
Mike Ashley (Anchor)  
Randi Boucher (Anchor)  
Ed Brown  
Jim Caraway (Anchor)  
Jim Donlon  
Paul Fredd (Anchor)  
Jan Frost  
Lynn Fussell

Rick Griffith (Anchor)  
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)  
Jim Hall  
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)  
Hank Holt (Anchor)  
Glenn Hunt  
Claude McClure (Anchor)  
Fran Melnes (Anchor)  
Stuart Potter  
Bob Richmond (Anchor)  
Steve Saunders (Anchor)  
Fred Steadman  
Andrine Stricherz (Anchor)  
Connie Testa (Statistician)  
Paul Williams (Anchor)  
Wayne Woody

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

Mark Gruner  
Howard Hamilton  
Kathryn Loafman  
Kenneth Loafman  
John Puckette  
Virginia Salter

DOM Volunteer Coordinator  
Bill Drissel

DOM Table  
Joe A. Allen  
Mike Ashley  
Roy Bales  
Rob Bender  
Stan Berlin  
Jay Chambliss  
Gene Carleton  
Mike Comer  
Bill Drissel  
Pat Henley  
E. M. Kelley  
Bob Post

R. B. Reynolds  
Virginia Salter  
Jerry Stone  
Oscar Tyler

With Special Thanks to:  
Joe A. Allen  
Charles Carter  
Vincent Gaines

DOM Review/Presentation  
Neal Berkowitz  
Dale Carr  
Judy Griffiths  
Mark Gruner  
Pat Henley (3 reviews)  
Jim Hoisington  
Kent Klingery  
Robert Monaghan (4 reviews)  
John Puckette (2 reviews)  
Virginia Salter  
Pete Testa

### Selected SIG Happenings continued

#### WordPerfect SIG

Our first Wordperfect SIG was very successful. SIG attendance exceeded our expectations, and we had people standing in the halls! We'll continue to use an interactive format to encourage more participation. During the session, we unanimously agreed to limit the SIG to Wordperfect version 5.0, or higher, because earlier versions are so different.

Our next meeting will cover; - Macros - printer definition - Bitstream font package (downloadable and printer fonts) - Graphics importing (portrait and landscape) - HP laser printer limitations - Creation and usage of tables

If you liked the last WP SIG meeting, plan to attend the August session and join in on the fun and learning.

K. B. Barton

### 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)



# North Texas PC News - Informal Survey

In order to better serve you, North Texas PC News is conducting a survey of its readership. We are attempting to find out what you like or dislike about the News and what you would like to see in future editions. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey below (or a photocopy). Drop it in the box marked "PC News Survey" at the Information Booth at the August and September meetings or mail it to:

**North Texas PC News Survey**  
P.O. Box 780066  
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

**I. Regular Features** - Please rate the following on a scale from 1 to 10 (a "1" being your most favorite and a "10" being your least favorite):

- \_\_\_\_\_ Agenda - upcoming program notes
- \_\_\_\_\_ Disk of the Month listings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Edlines
- \_\_\_\_\_ Meetings & Times - inside back cover
- \_\_\_\_\_ On Complexity
- \_\_\_\_\_ Prez Sez - President's message
- \_\_\_\_\_ SIG Happenings
- \_\_\_\_\_ Swap Shop - member ads
- \_\_\_\_\_ The Variety Store
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inside the NTPCUG Community - Volunteer Guide

## II. Feature Articles

1. **Software** - Please indicate with check-marks the types of software that you would like to read about. Check all that apply:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A) Word Processing
- \_\_\_\_\_ B) Spreadsheets
- \_\_\_\_\_ C) Database
- \_\_\_\_\_ D) Programming Languages
- \_\_\_\_\_ E) Desktop Publishing/Graphics
- \_\_\_\_\_ F) Utilities
- \_\_\_\_\_ G) Other - Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

From the software categories listed above, which would you most like to see an article about (A-G): \_\_\_\_\_

2. **Hardware** - Please indicate with check-marks the types of hardware or hardware specific issues that you would like to read about. Check all that apply:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A) 8088/8086/V20
- \_\_\_\_\_ B) 80286
- \_\_\_\_\_ C) 80386/80486
- \_\_\_\_\_ D) PC/XT/AT - ISA Bus
- \_\_\_\_\_ E) Micro Channel Architecture
- \_\_\_\_\_ F) EISA Bus
- \_\_\_\_\_ G) Hard Disks
- \_\_\_\_\_ H) Graphics Cards/Monitors
- \_\_\_\_\_ I) Printers
- \_\_\_\_\_ J) Modems/Fax-Cards
- \_\_\_\_\_ K) Other - Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

From the hardware categories listed above, which would you most like to see an article about (A-K): \_\_\_\_\_

3. **Operating Systems & Environments** - Please indicate with check-marks the operating systems/environments that you would like to read about. Check all that apply:

- \_\_\_\_\_ A) MS-DOS/PC-DOS
- \_\_\_\_\_ B) OS/2
- \_\_\_\_\_ C) UNIX
- \_\_\_\_\_ D) LANs
- \_\_\_\_\_ E) Windows/PM
- \_\_\_\_\_ F) GEM
- \_\_\_\_\_ G) Other - Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

From the operating systems/environments listed above, which would you most like to see an article about (A-G): \_\_\_\_\_

III. **Technical Level** - Please indicate with a check-mark your level of understanding regarding personal computers. Please check only one:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Beginner/Novice User
- \_\_\_\_\_ Average User
- \_\_\_\_\_ Advanced/Expert User

IV. **Comments** - Please include any additional comments that you would like to make:

\_\_\_\_\_

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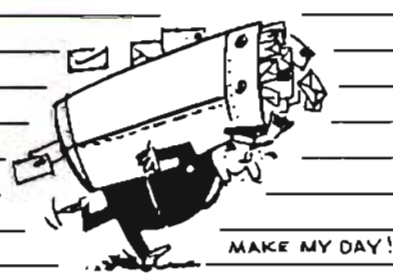
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## Disk of the Month MAIL ORDER FORM

*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.

Member # \_\_\_\_\_

Name: (Last) \_\_\_\_\_ (First) \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Check Preferred No.) Home \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Metro? Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Work \_\_\_\_ (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ Ext. \_\_\_\_ Metro? Y \_\_\_\_ N \_\_\_\_

Occupation/Profession: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

**Fractals Galore!**—  
Mainframe Mandelbrot Animation with Zooms

**Poqet Computer Corporation**  
The New Portable Poqet PC

**NTPCUG Business Meeting**

(See page 1 for  
description of  
programs.)

## Special Interest Group Meetings

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

<b>9:00 - 9:55</b>	<b>11:30 - 11:55</b>
Assembler Community Volunteers DOS Hardware Solutions Personal Users Software Review	Orientation <b>12:00 - 12:55</b> Beginners Pascal C Language Communications Personal Users RBase Stock Mkt Investing
<b>10:00 - 10:55</b>	
Basic Programming Graphics Local Area Networks Paradox Personal Users Unix/Xenix	



## 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

<b>Zack Porterfield,</b> Chairman	<b>Phil Chamberlain</b>
<b>Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.</b>	<b>Mark Gruner,</b> <b>Jim Holsington</b>

### Officers

President	Zack Porterfield	(214)434-1844 w
President-Elect	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
Program Chair.	Timothy Carmichael	(214)661-4628 w
Treasurer	Ken Conner, CPA	(214)669-3377 w
Secretary	David McGehee	(214)681-0202 h
Membership Dir.	Jim Holsington	(214)416-3101 h
Advertising Dir.	John Prybyl	(817)276-4109 h
Disk of the Month Group Statistician	Kathryn Loafman Connie Testa	(214)598-2539
Volunteer Coord.	Connie Andrews	(214)828-0699

### Members Emeritus

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

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

**SYSOP** - Tom Prickett  
**Asst. SYSOP** - Maggie Moomney  
**Technical Advisors:** Fred Williams

Pete Testa  
**User Relations:** Kent Cobb  
**Information Mgt:** Dan Marmion  
**Technical Services:** Leroy Tennison

### Address Changes, etc...

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

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

(Check newsletter mailing label for your renewal data.)

## Special Interest Groups

<b>SIG Coordinator</b>	Andy Oliver K. B. Barton	(214)223-4044 h (214)747-0209 w (214)891-0941 h (214)226-3481 h
<b>Assembler</b>	Andrew Chalk, Ph.D.	(214)458-9711 w (214)317-0125 h
<b>Basic Programming</b>	Kent Kingery	(214)243-5034 h (214)233-8353 w (214)233-6178 h
<b>Beginners Pascal</b>	Phil Chamberlain	(214)226-3481 h
<b>Business Applic.</b>	Bruce Schubert	(214)776-1503
<b>C Language</b>	Skj Nolie, Ph.D. Andrew Chalk, Ph.D.	(214)495-7506 (214)776-1503
<b>Communications</b>	Stan Milam Peta Testa Doug Gorrie	(214)618-8002 h (214)464-7942 w (214)680-1107 h
<b>DAC Software</b>	Andrew Laham Greg Cohen Puti Shew	(214)381-8053 h (214)669-9633 w (214)255-4400 h
<b>Databases</b>	Rodney Haas	(214)407-0070 w
<b>DOS</b>	Vincent Gaines Jim Holsington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)416-3101 h (214)628-0699 h
<b>Genealogy</b>	Minnie Champ	(214)644-8643 h
<b>Graphics</b>	Richard Tarroo	(214)307-1259 h
<b>Hdw Solutions</b>	David McGehee Gary Johnson	(214)681-0202 h (214)937-9678 w (214)937-5851 h (817)451-4540 w
<b>Local Area Net</b>	Bernie Van Roekel Francis Bright	(214)964-8174 h (214)229-8216 h
<b>LOTUS</b>	Mark Gruner Pat Henley	(214)682-1315 (214)867-1879 h (214)422-4269 h
<b>Paradox</b>	Fred Williams	
<b>Personal Users</b>	Bob Presley Bob Russell	
<b>Programmers</b>	Kent Cobb Jim Holsington Richard Hauslein	(214)416-3101 h (817)487-4581 h (214)352-0888 h
<b>R:Base</b>	Don Branham Pat Henley	(214)229-8218 w (214)436-1670 h
<b>Software Review</b>		(214)279-7978 (214)341-4774 w
<b>Stock Market</b>	Cliff Murphy Richard Holzman	(214)276-2524 h (817)287-0758 h (817)878-0387 w
<b>Turbo Pascal</b>	Don Chick	(214)240-1065 h
<b>Unix/Xenix</b>	Doug Scott Jim Stallworth	(214)827-5751 h (214)361-9581 w (214)278-1738 h (817)862-4596 w
<b>Volunteers</b>	Jay Shilstone	(214)804-3683 w (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9581 w
<b>Windows &amp; OS/2</b>	James Dunn	(214)278-1738 h (817)862-4596 w
<b>WORD</b>	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Bertine	(214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-9993 h



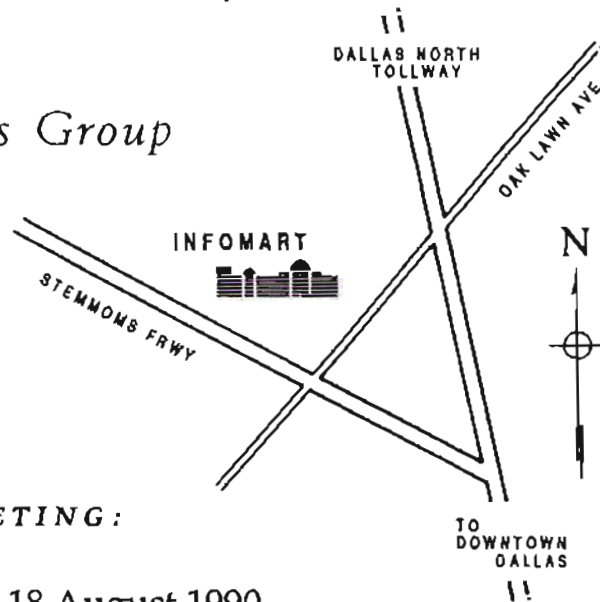
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*North Texas PC Users Group*



**NEXT MEETING:**

**18 August 1990**