



North Texas PC Users Group

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North Texas PC NEWS

Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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Deadline:

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

Circulation:

North Texas PC NEWS circulation is 1634.

Member distribution is 1375; remaining copies are distributed to PC user groups around the country, and to advertisers, prospective members and others with common interests.

The editors of North Texas PC NEWS use Microsoft Word version 5.0. This issue of North Texas PC NEWS was composed using Xerox Ventura Publisher. Corel HEADLINE was used for some headings. Repro was printed on a NEC LC-890 Laser Printer. Typefaces include: Palatino, Helvetica and Zapf Chancery.

DEADLINE

**Copy deadline for October
North Texas PC NEWS:
Monday, September 10th**

Meeting Dates:

September Meeting - 3rd Sat (15th)
October Meeting - 3rd Sat (20th)
November Meeting - 2nd Sat (10th)
(tentative)

*Write an article this
month.*

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: 10429 N. MacArthur, #360, Irving, TX 75063

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 September _____ Timothy Carmichael _____

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

PureData Incorporated

PureData - PureFax

Speaker: Jack Slagle

PureFax is changing the way the world works with fax. The single slot card, which combines a 9600 bps fax modem and a 100% Hayes compatible 2400 bps data modem, allows you to use fax in ways that no dedicated fax machine can match. The support software is LAN and Windows 3.0 compatible.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Informix Software, Inc.

Wingz - A New Generation in Spreadsheet Technology

Speaker: Susan Marshall

Wingz, the graphical spreadsheet for your PC, provides maximum flexibility for manipulating numbers, text, 3-D charts and graphic images in any combination on one page, in one window with one product. HyperScript, Wingz' built-in development language, extends end-user programming to complete manipulation of the Windows 3.0 and OS/2 graphical environments. There will be a drawing for a free copy of Wingz-PC and other freebies. *

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Microsoft Corporation

Windows 3.0 and Daybook Software Demonstration

The latest Windows release will be shown along with Asymetrix' Daybook tool software which is included with Windows 3.0. A drawing will be held to give away several free packages. *

* Tickets for each drawing will be given out from 10 minutes before until 15 minutes after the start-time of the meeting to attending NTPCUG members who show proof of membership.

Prez Sez _____

Hi-Tech Job Fair in Dallas

Tim McCarty of National Career Centers USA, Inc., advised that there will be a job fair in Dallas on September 10 (4:00 pm to 8:00 pm) and September 11, 1990, (9:00 am to 12:00 noon). The fair will be held at the Park Suites Hotel, located at 13131 North Central Expressway, Dallas, Texas 75243.

The event was advertised (by the time you read this) in the September issue of Computer Currents and in both the Dallas Morning News and Fort Worth Star Telegram on August 26 and September 2 and 9, 1990. At this writing there are more than twenty companies signed up for the event. For example, Texas Instruments, Hitachi, MCI, Abbot Diagnostics, IBM, Dallas Semiconductor, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Texas and others, plan to attend.

Tim advised that the majority of these jobs are located in North Texas. The firms are looking for project leaders, consultants, Data Base developers... who have experience and/or degrees in Computer Science and Engineering. When we spoke, Tim stated that fifty-two percent of the demand was for

Computer Science, forty percent for Engineering and eight percent for Research & Development.

If you are interested in this job fair and want to get a jump on the competition send your resume to the following address:

Tim McCarty
National Career Centers USA, Inc.
P. O. Box 2347
Fayetteville, North Carolina 28302
Attention: Dallas Tech Center

You can reach Tim at 1-800-326-9111.

NTPCUG Membership

Jim Hoisington advises that the North Texas PC User Group membership reached 1397 in early August. Not bad for the summer doldrums.

Tickets for Drawings at User Group Meetings

There has been much discussion regarding the policies in force for the issuing of tickets for product

drawings at the 9:00 am, 10:00 am, and 1:00 pm presentations in the Alexandria auditorium, as well as the NTPCUG Business meeting at 11:00 to 11:30 am (same location). Your Board of Directors (BOD) has had considerable discussion on this subject. The following are the policies and procedures in force:

1. Membership – you must be a paid up member of the NTPCUG. This means that you have kept your membership up to date by paying your \$24.00 annual dues (\$12.00 for FULL TIME students).

2. Proof of Membership – burden of proof that you are a current member of the NTPCUG is on you. This proof can be established by presenting your current membership card or by displaying your copy of the latest PC News. The address label on the PC News includes your name, membership number and expiration date.

3. Time of Arrival –

Presentations at 9:00 am, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm –

You must arrive at the Alexandria Auditorium in order to be in the meeting no later than fifteen (15) minutes after the hour. i.e., no later than 9:15 am for the 9:00 am presentation, 10:15 am for the 10:00 am presentation and 1:15 pm for the 1:00 pm presentation.

NTPCUG Business Meeting at 11:00 am –

You must arrive at the Alexandria Auditorium in order to be in the meeting no later than ten (10) minutes after the hour. i.e., you must be in the meeting no later than 11:10 am.

Queueing Factors: In the event there is a long line waiting to receive tickets for the drawing, those NTPCUG members who are in the line by the time deadline above and meet all other requirements (proof of membership, etc.) will be issued tickets. Those NTPCUG members who do not arrive in line for issuance of drawing tickets within fifteen minutes after the hour (in the event of 9:00 am, 10:00 am and 1:00 pm presentations) or within ten minutes after the hour (in the event of the 11:00 am Business Meeting) WILL NOT be issued tickets.

Exception: In the event of a short meeting or presentation the issuance of the drawing tickets will be terminated at the beginning of the drawing even if this is before the normal cut off time.

Other: Your Board of Directors (BOD) will from time to time review the above parameters and initiate changes to them as is found appropriate. We will make every effort at that time to communicate these changes to the members of the NTPCUG.

Zack Porterfield ■

EDlines

Some of you noticed that the Selected SIG Happenings in the August NT PC News were a repeat of the SIG Happenings we ran in the July edition. Unfortunately, we goofed, and it was too late to correct the error before our mailing deadline. To all the SIG Leaders out there, you have my sincerest apologies. Rest assured, the error has been corrected and this issue contains news of the August SIG meetings.

For those of you who would like to read the Selected SIG Happenings that should have appeared in the August newsletter, I have uploaded the text to the User Upload Area of the NTPCUG BBS. The filenames are:

AUGSIG.TXT - ASCII text file, no compression
 AUGSIG.ARC - PKARC compressed ASCII text file
 AUGSIG.ZIP - PKZIP compressed ASCII text file

Once again, our apologies for any inconvenience this may have caused.

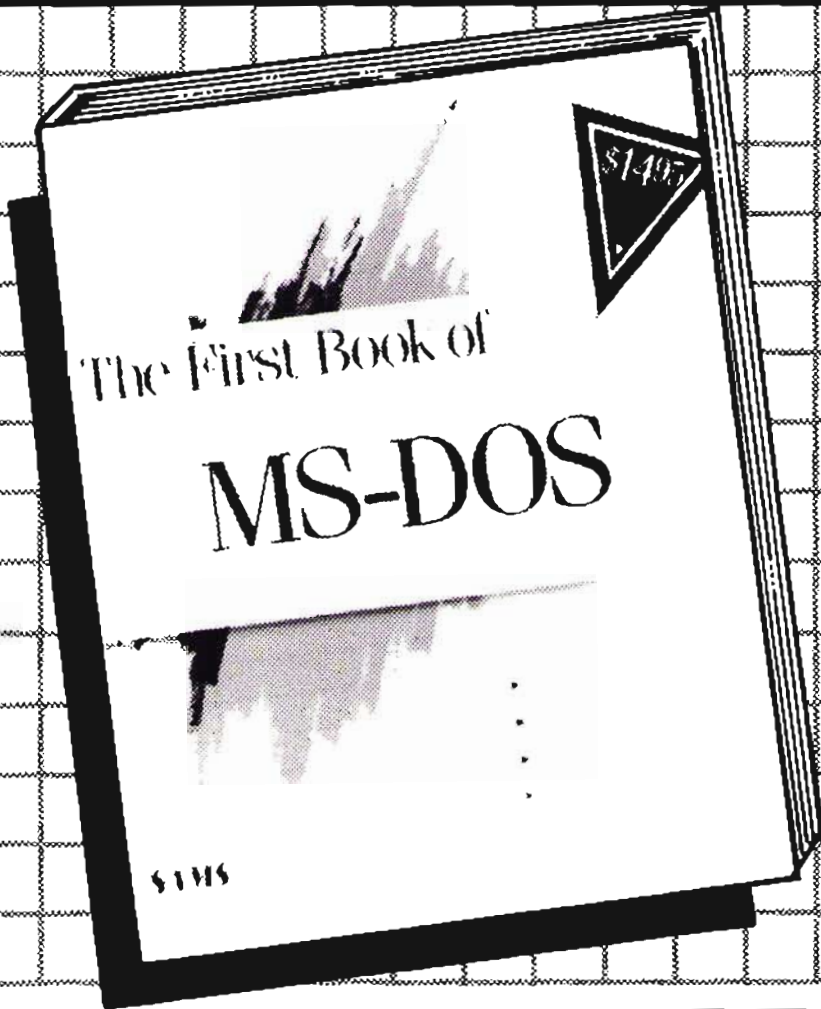
I have always asked for feedback on how we are doing. A few people have taken me seriously and have made suggestions or given compliments. Well to make it easier for you (and easier for me) to tell us how we're doing, North Texas PC News is conducting a survey. You can find the form elsewhere in this edition. We are attempting to find out what you like or dislike about the News and what you would like to see in future editions. So, please take a few minutes to fill it out and return it. If you don't want to rip up the newsletter, make a photocopy of the form and fill it out.

On other fronts, we're getting a lot of interesting articles from a lot of new writers. But we're always hoping that YOU will write something... a hardware or software review, helpful hints, amazing discoveries, anything on the subject of computers. We always want to encourage you to write something for us. Why? Because we want to fill these pages with articles written by a broad sample of our membership, not just a few. We don't want burn these people out. So, won't you try writing an article and share it with the group. It's not so hard to do and it's rewarding. The NT PC News is possible only through your efforts, so please contribute. However, before starting, please read the "Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS" procedure on the inside front cover. If you have any questions, send me a message on the NTPCUG BBS.

Thanks to all of you,

Douglas McQuaid ■

EASY DOS IT



Written specifically for the computer novice, this concise guidebook explains what DOS is, what it does, and how it does it. Helpful tutorials, screen illustrations, a glossary, and a quick reference index make *The First Book of MS-DOS* the most user friendly introduction available. (Sams, \$14.95)

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True Confessions of a Type Junkie

Learning to Love PostScript

--

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

After you get tired of *Times Roman* and *Helvetica* – and the clutter of hundreds of font files – you begin to understand why PostScript printers have become so popular. But, PostScript printers are pretty expensive and I already have a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet IIP.

One of the reasons I bought the H-P was its ability to use downloadable fonts. This was reinforced by possession of several Bitstream *Fontware* "starter" kits that came with various software packages and a copy of H-P's *Type Director* by Agfa Compugraphics. *Times Roman* and *Helvetica* (or their clones, Bitstream's *Dutch* and *Swiss*, or Agfa Compugraphics' *CG-Times* and *Univers*) were included in the kits.

Surprize. A full array of fonts (see "Fonts? What's a Font") and sizes quickly gobbled-up megabytes of disk space. Besides, additional typefaces, such as Garamond, Palatino and Century Schoolbook, list at close to \$200 from either Bitstream or Agfa.

PostScript add-on interpreters looked like the ideal solution. They are advertised as including the "standard" 35 PostScript outline fonts (or their equivalents) contained in most PostScript printers that are scalable on the fly. (That means the interpreter generates the desired font size at the time of printing.) Also, if you intend to send the finished document to a printer for final typesetting, PostScript has become the de facto standard in the industry. Ergo, you can do proofs at home and know what the printed document will actually look like.

Hardware vs Software Which PostScript is Best?

There are two approaches to adding PostScript capability to a non-PostScript system (excluding buying a new printer) that users may consider. First, is one of the software interpreters, such as *PreScript*, reviewed here.

Another alternative is via one of the plug-in PostScript cartridges, such as the Pacific Page cartridge, also reviewed here. Each has its benefits and its drawbacks. Both are useful and appropriate implementations of the PostScript standard.

The soft approach – *PreScript*

PreScript 1.2 is a software-based PostScript interpreter that requires approximately 1.4M of disk space and 1M of extended memory to run. That means, sports fans, only 286, 386 and 486 PC's need apply. This product runs in protected mode not available on 8088 PC's.

PreScript is produced by Pan Overseas Computers (POC) and is typical of most of the software-based systems. It's optimized for H-P and H-P-style printers, and emulates the Apple LaserWriter II NT/NTX printers. Unlike some of the other interpreters, *PreScript* only works with LaserJets (and clones) and DeskJets, and not with dot-matrix printers.

PreScript 1.2 does support all H-P models – II, IIP, IID and III, as well as Cannon laser printers. The version reviewed was 1.1, but the only changes to version 1.2 are in memory usage (down to 1M from 2M) and additional font capabilities (50 fonts instead of 35 fonts).

POC also makes a Laser Interface Card to speedup standard LaserJet II printing via the video port. Since the IIP lacks this feature, the card wasn't tested although POC claims a 10 - 30 fold increase in printer speed with this option. Another benefit obtained with the card is printer memory – with the card no additional memory above the H-P's standard 512K is needed to print full-page graphics in PostScript format.

Installation of *PreScript*

Installation was straight-forward and proceeded without any significant difficulty. *PreScript* comes in two versions, a Windows TSR, and a separate, non-windows interpreter that requires somewhat more effort to utilize.

Being essentially lazy, I stuck with the latter since the former requires re-configuration of *Windows 2.11* to include a PostScript printer. Same thing is true for *Ventura Publisher* and *Microsoft Word 5.0A*, but each of these had been installed with the appropriate drivers and would output PostScript files with little or no difficulty. All my graphics packages, *Arts & Letters*, *Corel Draw*, *Micrografx Designed* and *Gem Artiline*, also allow output as files, so it was the easiest course.

PreScript's documentation did a good job of helping the new user make the program work as intended. There are sections for most major software packages, including work-arounds for Word's well known difficulties with PostScript.

All this actually involved was concatenation of the *Microsoft POSTSCR.P.INI* to the print file produced by Word via the DOS COPY command. In these

days of menu-driven everything and almost complete automation, it may seem archaic, but it does work well.

The Real Test – Printing

Everything I sent to PreScript printed without difficulty. It does take a while to get used to speed differences between the H-P in its native PCL mode and passing files through the interpreter, though. PostScript doing graphics is slow. Go get a cup of coffee and relax if you're printing full-page, complicated graphics. Non-graphics are also slow.

Initial quality was less than stunning. Type in small sizes, 9-pt and below, seemed to fall apart and the absence of Adobe's hinting was very apparent. In more "normal" sizes, i.e., 11-pt and above, this was less of a problem although the POC version of *Palatino* didn't look sharp and crisp below 14-pt sizes.

In addition, Ventura *Publisher* test pages (SCOOP.CHP and CAPABILI.CHP) appeared to show uneven lines and some waviness in printed output. Word had its usual problems with line spacing in anything except 12-pt sizes in the autospacing mode.

Toner Control Solution

As soon as I remembered the IIP's toner control, some of the problems above were resolved. Type in 8-pt sizes looked acceptable, though not as good as Bitstream's downloadable fonts at 8-pts, and the *Palatino* looked less thready.

Lines remained slightly wavy in the Ventura test pages no matter what the toner setting on the IIP. Other typefaces in the POC package didn't improve noticeably, and their *Bookman* version actually got worse when the toner adjustments were made. This face in the POC version really looks like a bold-face

Fonts? What's a Font?

One of the most confusing aspects of moving into the printing world is the nomenclature surrounding type selection. Similar confusion exists in typeface-package advertising that stresses the number of type fonts available in the packages. Sometimes the advertising is confusing on purpose.

Even printers sometimes get confused, so don't feel bad if you do.

The major division is between **serif type** (often called "roman") such as *Times-Roman*, *Dutch*, *Century Schoolbook*, *Garamond*, etc., and **sans-serif type** such as *Helvetica*, *Futura* and *Gill Sans*. Sans-serif typefaces are occasionally called "gothic" typefaces as well.

Sometimes, typefaces are referred to as **families** although some type families are quite large and composed of many typefaces, both serif and sans-serif. A good example is the Stone family designed by Adobe's Sumner Stone which contains serif, sans-serif and "informal" styles.

The *PC News* articles are set in *Palatino*, a serif typeface designed by Hermann Zapf in 1950, for body text. Typefaces, then, are the next logical division. Typefaces are quite often named after their designers, but may be named after almost anything. *Bodoni* is a typeface familiar to most of us – it's the IBM

standard typeface – and was designed by Giambattista Bodoni in Italy. *Times Roman*, next to *Courier* the "universal" laser printer typeface, was designed by Stanley Morrison in 1931 for the *London Times* and was crafted to produce maximum readability across the narrow newspaper columns of the day.

Typefaces are broken down into **fonts** (finally) typically four to a specific typeface – roman (normal), italic, bold and bold italic. There may be many more fonts included with a typeface although these are the "basic four." Fonts are also broken down by size in the non-PostScript world. That's what creates so many files and eats up so much disk space.

Now, about those "35 fonts" found in most PostScript interpreters (and printers) available. What the buyer actually gets are four fonts in each of eight major typefaces, *Courier*, *Times Roman*, *Helvetica*, *Helvetica Narrow*, *Bookman*, *Century Schoolbook*, *Palatino* and, *Avant Garde*. Also included may be one or two symbol fonts, a "fancy" cursive style font such as *Zapf Chancery*, and the ubiquitous *Zapf Dingbats*.

Depending on the maker, each of these may have a slightly different name or spelling than the above. Bitstream's *Times* and *Helvetica* look-alikes are called *Dutch* and *Swiss* respectively. *Palatino* is often called *Zapf Calligraphic*.

type in its normal font. *Century Schoolbook* wasn't appreciably impacted by either setting and continued to look only marginally acceptable.

On the whole, I found the PreScript solution less than satisfactory. However, I've also seen the output from several other packages that take the software approach and PreScript is certainly as good as the others.

Would you recommend it?

Yes, with certain caveats, I'd buy PreScript. First of these would be restriction to larger type sizes, i.e., 12-pt or above in any documents for external use. It also does a good job of producing PostScript proofs of short documents intended for final professional typesetting. In that light, it does a very good job for the money involved and I have no difficulty recommending the package when usual area discounts prevail. *PreScript 1.1* has been available (with 35 fonts) from local discounters in the \$100 range.

Pacific Page Personal Edition – the Hardware Approach

Any new product that doesn't require extensive installation is my friend. Pacific Page Personal Edition fits that perfectly. Just plug the PostScript emulation cartridge into the Hewlett-Packard IIP, IID or III, and away you go.

Well, you could install the demo files and the two batch files that switch the H-P from PCL to PostScript mode operation and call that an installation if you wanted. Takes about 15 seconds.

Software has to be reset to PostScript output, with the Apple LaserWriter II NT/NTX the preferred option. This was no problem with Ventura, Word, or Windows 3.0., each of which does such re-configurations quite easily and quickly.

Microsoft *Word 5.0A* didn't have its usual PostScript problems with the Pacific Page other than difficulties with line spacing in larger type fonts. Ventura had no problems at all and seemed to make all the right assumptions in printing.

The Personal Edition cartridge does a good job of PostScript emulation with somewhat better initial output than expected once the lesson(s) learned with the software interpreter were applied. That is, the toner control had to be set to a heavier level than usual with Bitstream downloadable fonts without the cartridge.

Traditional 35 Fonts

Pacific Page's cartridge relies on the Phoenix Technology PostScript interpreter and on Bitstream scalable outline typefaces. The latter really makes a difference when compared to the no-name typefaces included in many of the software interpreters.

Bitstream equivalents of the "standard" PostScript typefaces were uniformly good – even the *Bookman*. *Palatino* also came across better than expected although their *Century Schoolbook* didn't look quite as good as some other publishers' versions.

One feature I didn't test was inclusion of downloadable Adobe outline typefaces. I would have liked to see how Gaillard and Bodoni would fare through the Pacific Page, but my versions didn't have the latest Adobe drivers which the Pacific cartridge requires.

When compared to output from a comparable PostScript printer such as the NEC LC-890, output from the IIP using the Pacific Page cartridge appears somewhat sharper with better-defined type and image edge contrast. I can't tell if this is a function of the IIP, the Phoenix interpreter or the Bitstream fonts. It just looks sharper and crisper than output from the NEC and Apple LaserWriters I have access to currently.

I have a suspicion it may be the Bitstream fonts. Although small sizes show some of the deficits seen in the software interpreter, they aren't as disturbingly apparent at a glance. Again, judicious advancement of the IIP's toner control eliminated most of the problem.

Speed a Big Problem

I've seen the Pacific Page for the LaserJet II run graphics. The Personal Page cartridge on the IIP is significantly faster. That's still not saying much. It's very slow, particularly printing .TIF or .PCX graphics instead of the preferred .EPS graphics. If you need speed, really need speed, don't stop here. ►

Lessons Learned ... Remember Toner Control

Careful adjustment of the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet's toner control can make lots of difference in the appearance of printer output using the PostScript interpreters reviewed here.

Both PreScript and the Pacific Page required somewhat heavier toner settings than the IIP uses with downloadable Bitstream typefaces in its native mode. Even in native mode, the "thready" Times equivalent (*CG-Times*) in the *Type Director* package from Agfa Compugraphics seems to respond positively to toner control adjustment.

Typefaces which have uniform stroke widths, such as *Helvetica* and *Swiss*, don't seem so sensitive as the more graceful, roman *Palatino* and *Bodoni* typefaces however.

1-2-3 WORKSHEET, alias BALER

By Charles Suitt

How many times have you wished you could inoculate your 123 formulas from prying eyes or those who would "improve" your work without understanding the logic and organization of your worksheet? Ever had someone just "plug in" a number in place of your formula, then wonder why the answers made no sense or resulted in scattered "ERR"s all over the place? ...and all this over your signature as the worksheet programmer! Ever wanted to give copies of your worksheet to a user or client who doesn't own a copy of 123 or a compatible program?

In 1983, these and other ideas were addressed by the folks at Baler Software Corporation resulting in a program which could compile a 123 worksheet into a free-standing program not requiring use of the 123 program to run. In the several releases of BALER since its beginning, the program has been greatly improved both in function and speed. We're looking at Release 5.0, which can appropriately be termed a

professional software development tool offering the worksheet programmer the means to produce software so different in appearance as to be unrecognizable as originating from a 123 worksheet.

BALER 5.0 requires a PC, XT, AT, PS/2 or 100% compatible computer, PC-DOS or MS-DOS 2.10 or higher, 512KB available RAM, supports EMS 3.2 or later, and requires a fixed disk with about 1.8MB of available space. If your machine runs the IBM version of Lotus 1-2-3, it can run Baler. Baler will compile worksheets produced by 1-2-3 or any closely compatible program (Quattro, VP-Planner, Symphony, etc.) Use of a fixed disk is strongly recommended for compiling a worksheet although the compiled worksheet does not require a fixed disk to run. BALER is installed by use of the INSTALL program provided which WILL NOT ALTER YOUR CONFIG.SYS OR AUTOEXEC.BAT files ... THANKS BALER! Baler automatically detects a math coprocessor and your video display adapter (CGA, EGA, VGA, monochrome and Hercules).

Baler's ring-bound manual totals 250 pages, 7 Chapters, 3 Reference sections, 4 Appendices and good Contents and Index sections. Generally, it is easy to read and understand. Its modest tutorials are adequate considering that Baler will be used by programmers familiar with Lotus 1-2-3 or compatible software. Two "Quick Reference" cards are included. Space is provided throughout for added notes.

After compiling your worksheet, Baler's CUSTOMIZ program can be used to "polish" your creation in several ways. You can create a startup screen fully customized to your wishes, change the familiar 1-2-3 menu system to pull-down or pop-up style, remove unused menu choices or those which you wish to deny to your user, eliminate the worksheet borders and make many other modifications. You can create a customized set of context-sensitive "Help" screens (up to 1600 screens!) and enable password protection at several levels if desired. You may allow or deny your user to make changes from the keyboard or macros.

Included with Baler 5.0 is BalerDRAW - a utility for drawing lines, boxes, shadings and other special characters while in Lotus 1-2-3. This is accomplished by creating a modified driver set making the upper level ASCII characters available through simple compose sequences. A test program is included to determine which characters your printer can print. BalerDRAW has its own installation procedure, well documented in its Appendix. BalerDRAW can be purchased separately by contacting the publisher. No price is quoted.

Another "extra" included is "CLEANWK", a utility enabling you to reduce worksheet size by removing leftover blank cells often created in programming a worksheet. Blank Cell: a cell having a format or

Love Postscript continued

Printing "normal", graphic-free text pages is also somewhat slower than the H-P in its native mode with downloaded fonts. Long jobs will take approximately twice as long as the native mode without graphics, and when graphics are added, everything seems to stop. Ventura doesn't tend to show as much speed degradation as Word for some reason.

Would I Buy It?

Yes. I did. Would I recommend other users buy the Pacific Page cartridge? Yes, if they need more capabilities than displayed by the software interpreters and will be doing a lot of PostScript proofing or printing.

Pacific's product is roughly three - four times the cost of the discounted software interpreters locally. Users should judge their needs against the price differences involved and make their decision accordingly.

Local price on the Pacific Page Personal Edition PostScript cartridge via discounters is in the \$350 - \$375 range.

Reagan



protection status set but no contents. CLEANWK would be used prior to compiling, or just to reduce the size of any worksheet whether you plan to compile it or not.

Baler 5.0 can produce Grid and X-Reference reports which aid you in analysis of the overall logic of your worksheet. At this writing Baler 5.0 is the only worksheet compiler offering data file locking, thus network compatibility. A compress utility is included for more efficient distribution of the compiled worksheets. Baler's RUN.EXE (324,614 bytes) is the engine to run the compiled worksheets. The RUN.EXE file can be combined with the compiled worksheet through the COMBINE command at your option allowing a one-word run command and single ".EXE" file to be distributed.

My larger test worksheet was a 136,791 byte amortization table. Baler 5.0 compiled it into 49,992 bytes in 3 minutes 41 seconds on an XT compatible running at 8 Mhz. The accompanying data file was 4,332 bytes. The compiled worksheet realized a savings of over 60% in size, and the data file is a startling 97% smaller. It's easy to see the disk space savings to your user. The ".WKB" data files produced by the compiled worksheet are compatible with 1-2-3 and can be loaded showing the contents of the "unprotected" cells.

As in any programming, pre-planning helps to produce a better end product. Baler 5.0 compiles your formulas into machine language effectively protecting them against intentional or inadvertent alteration and producing somewhat faster recalculation. Only "unprotected" cells from your original worksheet can be accessed in the compiled version. To prevent alteration of your macros, design them into columns which can be "hidden" in the original, thus invisible and inaccessible in the compiled version.

About a year ago, I worked with and reviewed Baler 4.0, which I managed to completely "choke" with one of my rather large and complex worksheets. Baler 5.0 is not merely an upgrade, but a completely new program which compiled the same worksheet with no problems. At \$495.00, Baler 5.0 is a bargain if you need to solve the challenges addressed throughout this review. I have not found Baler 5.0 in any of the discount houses or retailers. For further information, contact: Baler Software Corporation, 1400 Hicks Road, Rolling Meadows, IL 60008. (708)506-9700, FAX (708)506-1808, ORDERS ONLY: (800)327-6108.

Charles 

Really Lost & Sometimes Found

by Connie Andrews

It's amazing what people do when they are excited about computers.

For example, some guy who must have been really enthralled by a presentation in the auditorium left a software package behind in the men's room next door to the auditorium that was worth at least several hundred dollars.

And, then, there was the lady in the Word SIG who left behind a prescription set of glasses after a particularly interesting discussion in that SIG.

A lot of these "temporarily forgotten" possessions are turned into the Information Booth. Some have names on them and can be traced; some do not. We have to make a judgment call - whether to turn them into Infomart Security (maybe purgatory or, at the least, long-term storage if you don't know about them, and no guarantee about return of the item) or take them with us and find the owner on our own.

In the case of the gentlemen who "left behind" his personal checkbook, we took it into custody, found a match with David MaGehee's generous help, and it was returned the next day - Sunday after the meeting.

In the case of the lady with the prescription glasses, it was several days before we touched base and she already had ordered new ones. (Turns out, she didn't like the old ones, but still wanted them back.) Still, we spent time, with Stuart Yarus' considerable help, trying to track her down. And did, indeed, get the glasses back to her,

We have had what I would consider an "ordinary" list of things turned in at the booth - sunglasses, umbrellas, etc. We have also encountered personal notebooks with class notes turned in and other items that are probably held dear by their owners.

What prompts this short article is one more item left in July that probably means much to the owner. If you are missing something, please call me - Connie Andrews - at 828-0699 and identify the item. It will be at the next meeting for reclamation, or we can work something out.

We like to look out for our own. If you have lost something and can identify it, we'll do our best to get it back to you ASAP.

Connie 

Write an article this month.

Disk of the Month

Disks released at the August 1990 meetings.

AUGUST 1990 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 525. Mortgage Amortization Program, Mortgage and Escrow Tracker Version 1.0, by Mark H. Gruner, 2308 Twilight Circle, Plano, TX 75093. Shareware Fee: \$10 for non-NTPCUG members.

The Mortgage and Escrow Tracker is designed to keep track of your mortgage and escrow account. There are three letters that can be included with your mortgage payment. All letters include details on the mortgage, but include different information about the escrow account. The first letter has escrow detail including beginning & ending balances and 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 provide the user the opportunity to select the letter he/she wishes to include with their mortgage payment.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: Any IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with 640K of memory.

The Mortgage and Escrow Tracker is a 1-2-3 Release 2.2 spreadsheet compiled with Baler version 5.0 from Baler Software Corporation. Most of the 1-2-3 commands have been disabled in this model. However, there are sufficient commands to use the model.

The user simply inputs information concerning the mortgage, personal address, mortgage company address, and printer setup strings. The spreadsheet will calculate the amortization schedule. The Mortgage and Escrow Tracker also allows you to make additional principle payments.

The Escrow tracker feature must be manually maintained by the user. There are some sample escrow entries to aid in your understanding.

The program was donated to the North Texas PC Users Group by the author.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Kathryn Loafman (8/90).

Disk 526. Baler 5.0 DEMO, 12/89 - Spreadsheet Compiler for 1-2-3, by Baler Software Corporation

Baler is a spreadsheet compiler for 1-2-3 release 2.01 or 2.2. This disk contains a demonstration of the compiler. This demo was actually created using a 1-2-3 spreadsheet. As you watch and read the demonstration, just remember that this was once a 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: This demo will run on any IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with at least 512K of memory. The real Baler program requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with at least 512 of memory, harddisk, and DOS 2.1 or later. Users of compiled spreadsheets do not need a hard disk.

Compilers offer several advantages over spreadsheets created in 1-2-3 or other spreadsheet programs. One big advantage is that users of the program do not need 1-2-3 to run and use the spreadsheet. However, the biggest advantage is security and spreadsheet integrity. In a spreadsheet, it is very easy to "hardcode" or inadvertently change cell contents. But in a "compiled" spreadsheet, it can be stopped. Another big advantage is that formulas are hidden which would be valuable to 1-2-3 consultants among others.

The DEMO is very easy to run and see the capability of Baler.

The process of creating and distributing a compiled spreadsheet with Baler include creating a 1-2-3 Release 2.01/2.2 spreadsheet, compiling the spreadsheet, customizing the spreadsheet (menus, colors, display, title screen), and distributing the spreadsheet. The compiled spreadsheet is distributed with a run-time engine that provides the 1-2-3 functionality and compatibility as well as the customization.

Baler provides near complete compatibility with 1-2-3. All 1-2-3 menu commands are supported except Data Matrix, Data Regression, Insert Column, and Delete Column. All 1-2-3 macro commands and @@ functions are supported. Also 1-2-3's graph capabilities are supported.

The security features supported include compiled and hidden formulas which means that they cannot be seen or altered, 1-2-3 menu commands can be eliminated so that users cannot use them. Cells types can be protected and/or hidden, password protection, and others.

Customization options include customizing a title screen, turning off the column and row markers, drop-down and pop-up menus, and many additional macro commands supported within Baler but not 1-2-3.

For individuals, consultants, and business that distribute spreadsheets and want to have better security and integrity, try the compiler route.

The program was donated to the North Texas PC Users Group by Baler Software.

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

Disk 527AB. King Jaguar 2.2 DEMO, 1/90 - Spreadsheet Compiler for 1-2-3 by Sheng Labs.

King Jaguar is a spreadsheet compiler for 1-2-3 release 2.01 or 2.2. This disk contains a demonstration of the compiler. This demo was actually created using a 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: This demo will run on any IBM XT/AT or compatible with at least 512K of memory and a hard disk. The real King Jaguar program requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with 640K of memory, hard disk, and DOS 2.1 or later. Users of compiled spreadsheets do not need a hard disk.

For advantages of compiled spreadsheets, see Disk 526 review above.

The DEMO is very easy to run and see the capability and advantages of King Jaguar.

The process of creating and distributing a compiled spreadsheet with King Jaguar include creating a 1-2-3 Release 2.01/2.2 spreadsheet, compiling the spreadsheet, customizing the spreadsheet (menus, colors, display, title screen), and distributing the spreadsheet. The compiled spreadsheet is distributed with a run-time engine that provides the 1-2-3 functionality and compatibility as well as the customization.

King Jaguar provides near complete compatibility with 1-2-3. All 1-2-3 menu commands are supported. All 1-2-3 macro commands and @@ functions are supported. Also 1-2-3's graph capabilities are supported. King Jaguar also allows the developer to create their own User Defined Functions (UDFs) that can be incorporated into your compiled spreadsheets. UDFs are programmed in C or Assembler.

The security features supported include compiled and hidden formulas which means that they cannot be seen or altered, 1-2-3 menu commands can be eliminated so that users cannot use them. Cells types can be protected and/or hidden, password protection, and others.

Customization options include customizing a title screen, turning off the column and row markers, drop-down and pop-up menus, and many additional macro commands supported within King Jaguar but not 1-2-3. ▶

For individuals, consultants, and business that distribute spreadsheets and want to have better security and integrity, try the compiler route.

The program was donated to the North Texas PC Users Group by Sheng Labs.

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

Disk 528AB. Composa 1.0 DEMO, 6/90 - Application Compiler for Symphony by Sheng Labs.

Composa is the first and currently only compiler for Symphony release 2 or 2.2 from Lotus. This disk contains a demonstration of the compiler. This demo was actually created using a Symphony application.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: This demo will run on any IBM XT/AT or compatible with at least 512K of memory and a hard disk. The real Composa program requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with 640K of memory, hard disk, and DOS 2.1 or later. Users of compiled applications do not need a hard disk.

Compilers offer several advantages over applications created in Symphony or other application programs. One big advantage is that users of the compiled application do not need Symphony to run and use the application. However, the biggest advantage is security and integrity. In a traditional Symphony model, it is very easy to "hardcode" or inadvertently change cell contents. But in a "compiled" application, it can be stopped. Another big advantage is that formulas are hidden which would be valuable to consultants among others.

The DEMO is very easy to run and see the capability and advantages of Composa.

The process of creating and distributing a compiled application with Composa include creating a Symphony Release 2/2.2 application, compiling the application, customizing the application (menus, colors, display, title screen), and distributing the application. The compiled application is distributed with a run-time engine that provides the Symphony functionality and compatibility as well as the customization.

Composa provides near complete compatibility with Symphony. Most Symphony menu commands are supported. All Symphony macro commands and @@ functions are supported. Also Symphony's graph capabilities are supported. Composa also allows the developer to create their own User Defined Functions (UDFs) that can be incorporated into your compiled applications. UDFs are programmed in C or Assembler.

The security features supported include compiled and hidden formulas which means that they cannot be seen or altered, Symphony menu commands can be eliminated so that users cannot use them. Cells types can be protected and/or hidden, password protection, and others.

Customization options include customizing a title screen, turning off the column and row markers, drop-down and pop-up menus, and many additional macro commands supported within Composa but not Symphony.

For individuals, consultants, and business that distribute applications and want to have better security and integrity, try the compiler route.

The program was donated to the North Texas PC Users Group by Sheng Labs.

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

Disk 529. Compile 1 to C DEMO, 8/90 - Spreadsheet Compiler for 1-2-3 by Resource Analysis International.

Compile 1 to C is a spreadsheet compiler for 1-2-3 release 2.01 or 2.2. This disk contains a demonstration of the compiler. This

demo was actually created using a 1-2-3 spreadsheet. As you watch and read the demonstration, just remember that this was once a 1-2-3 spreadsheet.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: This demo will run on any IBM XT/AT or compatible with at least 512K of memory. The real Compile 1 to C program requires an IBM XT/AT or compatible with at least 640K of memory, hard disk, and DOS 2.1 or later. Users of compiled spreadsheets do not need a hard disk.

Compilers offer several advantages over spreadsheets created in 1-2-3 or other spreadsheet programs. One big advantage is that users of the program do not need 1-2-3 to run and use the spreadsheet. However, the biggest advantage is security and spreadsheet integrity. In a spreadsheet, it is very easy to "hardcode" or inadvertently change cell contents. But in a "compiled" spreadsheet, it can be stopped. Another big advantage is that formulas are hidden which would be valuable to 1-2-3 consultants among others.

The DEMO is very easy to run and see the capability of Compile 1 to C.

The process of creating and distributing a compiled spreadsheet with Compile 1 to C include creating a 1-2-3 Release 2.01/2.2 spreadsheet, compiling the spreadsheet, customizing the spreadsheet (menus, colors, display, title screen), and distributing the spreadsheet. The compiled spreadsheet is distributed with a run-time engine that provides the 1-2-3 functionality and compatibility as well as the customization.

Compile 1 to C provides near complete compatibility with 1-2-3. All 1-2-3 menu commands are supported except (1) Worksheet Insert, Delete, Window, Page, Global Zero, Columnwise or Rowwise Recalculation; Worksheet Global Default Update, Other, Printer Name; (3) Range Justify, File Erase, File Extract Formulas, Data Table, Data Matrix, and Data Regression. All 1-2-3 @@ functions are supported. All macro command are supported except DEFINE; however, there are a few minor differences. Also 1-2-3's graph capabilities are supported.

The security features supported include compiled and hidden formulas which means that they cannot be seen or altered, 1-2-3 menu commands can be eliminated so that users cannot use them. Cells types can be protected and/or hidden, password protection, and others.

For individuals, consultants, and business that distribute spreadsheets and want to have better security and integrity, try the compiler route.

The program was donated to the North Texas PC Users Group by Baler Software.

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

Disk 530. BDTOOLS1 1.0, 3/89 - Programming Productivity Tools. W.E. "Bill" Drissel, 805 NW 9th St., Grand Prairie, TX 75050, (214) 264-9680.

Shareware registration fee = FREE - Author appreciates your info on this software for future updates.

BDTOOLS1 is a series of small batch files/programs to increase the productivity of your hard disk by showing the simplicity of commands and their arguments in a routine work environment. These features are particularly helpful to those interested in learning or understanding the C programming language.

Simple batch files such as D.BAT, DN.BAT and DE.BAT are the most frequently used commands for directory usage. LC.EXE, CHANGE.EXE and DETWIN.EXE are the filters/tools with the C source code that help understanding this package. Usage of DOS command SHIFT is demonstrated in 2a.bat, fra.bat. FFF,FFF.BAT commands make it easier to find hard disk files using - DIR file for the search. UPDIR is the batch file that creates -DIR file. This batch file takes advantage of dirstrip, detwin and lc programs. You can find more detail information about these and other features of BDTOOLS1 in the IREAD.ME file. ➤

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: All DOS compatible operating systems would run these batch/programs.

The source for this software was the author and NTPCUG member, Bill Drissel.

This review prepared by K. B. Barton, edited by Kenneth Loafman.

Disk 531. DuangJan DEMO 1.3, 9/88 - Bilingual word processor: English/Russian. MegaChomp Company, 3438 Cottman Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19149.

This is an interactive demo of a bilingual word processor featuring English and Russian. The publisher offers English paired with other languages: Armenian, Bengali, Burmese, Czech-Slovak, European, Greek, Gujarati, Hindi, IPA, Khmer, Laotian, Punjabi, Sinhalese, Tamil, Telugu, Thai, Turkish, Ukrainian and Vietnamese. The demo works in Hercules or CGA graphics.

As word-processors go, it is adequate, but definitely not a desktop publishing program. It is not a translator, has neither a thesaurus nor a spell-checker. These programs are for people who need to print a document with text that includes two languages, one of which does not consist of ASCII characters.

The program will accept an ASCII file from any source which would allow the user to do word processing on the program of choice and then read it into DuangJan. The regular programs sell for either \$109 or \$79 depending on whether the purchaser wants drivers for laser and dot-matrix printers, or dot-matrix only. Printing can be done in text mode which is just as quick as English normally prints on a given printer. Text mode is available to IBM Proprinters, the whole family of Epson printers and compatibles for either system. The reviewer's Brother M-1709 in Epson mode printed Cyrillic along with English with no discernible speed loss.

The demo and the program provide a graphics mode to permit generic printers to print the text if they are unable to download the required fonts. Screen printing is the final option for printing. Italics, boldface, sub- and super-scripts, underlining and enlarged print are additional font variations. ALT-F10 produces a menu similar to Lotus 1-2-3 menus, but at the bottom of the screen.

The purchased versions provide keyboard re-arrangement, an 80 page manual and keyboard stickers for the second language, an RPN calculator and a touch-typing tutor also accompany the regular program. Totally interactive menu-driven screens take the user through the demo at the user's own pace. The demo has some sense of humor. One menu screen declares "All Printers are Not Created Equal." The same screen asks "What is Your Printer?"

The demo runs in 256K from A: drive by typing "DEMO" and pressing ENTER. The first screen asks whether Hercules or CGA video is preferred. No hard drive is required for the demo. Some of the menu screens suggest that English is not the native tongue of the person(s) who wrote it, but the program makes up in quality what the verbiage lacks in style. It is so delightful it makes one want to learn one of its supported languages just for the fun of it!

The source for this software disk is the publisher, MegaChomp.

This review prepared by Pat Henley, edited by Howard Hamilton.

Disk 532ABC. Rubicon Publisher 2.0, 12/89 - Publishing/typesetting program. Rubicon Computer Labs, 2 Ponniers, Hull, P.Q. Canada J8Z 2M2. Shareware License fee: \$89.

Rubicon Publisher is a good easy-to-use publisher/typesetter program. For the license fee you get the latest version of the program, a hard copy of the complete reference manual, and the right to acquire any updated version of the program for a year for a \$15 upgrade fee.

These shareware disks come with 2 complete families of LaserJet portrait soft fonts in sizes from 8 to 30 points. Landscape fonts are also furnished if you register. Rubicon Publisher has extensive fea-

tures such as kerning, multiple columns, headers, and footers. There is no provision for integrating graphics into the output. Style sheets make page layouts easy to do, and the furnished 32 style sheets give a variety of typesetting options. Any word processor that can produce ASCII text files can be used for text input.

Requirements: The program runs on IBM PS-2, XT and AT or clone computers with any monitor and 512K of RAM and DOS 2.1 or higher. A hard disk is strongly recommended. A LaserJet or compatible printer that can use soft fonts, or a Postscript printer or typesetter are required.

This software was contributed by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Paul VanDreal, edited by Preston Brashear.

Disk 533. TPN Labels 2.5, 6/89 - Make parenteral nutrition labels. TPN Labels 2.5, Consultant Pharmacist Services Inc., 5571 46th Ave North, Kenneth City, FL 33709-3601. Shareware fee \$95.

This program does an excellent job of printing multiple or single copies of Total Parenteral Nutrition labels. These labels are small enough to be put on Intravenous fluid bags or bottles and yet large enough to list all of the components. The database can be used to store IV fluid records and patient information. This program would be useful to physicians, nutritionists and pharmacists. Password protection is provided along with an extensive collection of 17 context sensitive help files.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: The program requires a fast IBM PC, AT or compatible clone, with at least 512K of RAM. The system runs best with a hard disk, but a version without help files will operate from a system with a 360K disk drive. DOS 2.1 or higher is required. The program supports dot matrix or laserJet printers.

This program was contributed by Mark Gruner. Reviewed for nutritional content by Laura Humphries, Registered Dietician.

Reviewed for NTPCUG by Paul VanDreal, edited by Kenneth Loafman.

Disk 534. Oracle for 1-2-3 DEMO 1.0, 1/88 - DEMO of the Add-in for 1-2-3. by Oracle Corporation.

This disk is a demonstration of the power and flexibility of the Oracle for 1-2-3 Add-in. Oracle is a leading database program for mainframes and mini-computers for several years has now become available to PC users in the form of a Lotus 1-2-3 add-in. Using a menu bar structure like the familiar 1-2-3 menus, it is easy to learn and use. Featuring on-line help with F1 makes it even easier. The demo contains five sections: "Why use ORACLE for 1-2-3", "Manage Data Inside 1-2-3", "Organize Data Logically", "Build Powerful Applications" and "The Complete Solution".

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: The demo can be run on any IBM or compatible computer. 1-2-3 is not required to run the demo.

The demo can be stopped anywhere along the way and reversed or ended. It can be self-running which would probably be too brisk to be of value since many of the concepts may be foreign to 1-2-3 users. Using ORACLE for 1-2-3 stores data centrally on a disk entering it once, allowing for sharing across worksheets and keeping it consistent and up-to-date.

Data is stored in tables similar to worksheets with rows and columns dividing types of information. Keys can be used to tie data together from one table to another. The combination of ORACLE and 1-2-3 permits unlimited amounts of data to be stored and managed while analysis and graphics are available to treat the data as the user requires. All of these processes would exceed the capacity of the computer in the form of a single worksheet.

The add-in allows direct data retrieval from ORACLE with automatic sorts and summaries. The database can be modified very

quickly. Three commands specifying the information required is typically all that is needed to get a rapid report. Entries in the database may be changed or deleted and undeleted with the ease of a word processor. Editing the database automatically updates worksheets since they are linked.

The add-in provides a true relational database with full network capability which allows the PCs to work with each other and/or with a mini-computer or mainframe. ORACLE for 1-2-3 uses SQL for all database tasks which simplifies communication with mainframes. SQL statements can be placed directly in a worksheet.

The program was donated to the North Texas PC Users Group by Oracle Corp.

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

Disk 535. FreePack, 8/89 - Hard disk file management programs. Stilwell Software Products, 1336 East Krista Way, Tempe, AZ 85284, (602) 820-4952.

System Requirements: 256K of RAM and DOS 2.0 or later, a monochrome or color monitor, and at least one double-sided disk drive (but you probably won't have much use for it unless you have a hard disk). It will work with any printer. The registration fee is \$39. The programs included on this disk are:

(1) Menu Master - an easy-to-use menuing program that allows you to set up menus for starting your application programs. Just highlight the name of the program you want to start and press ENTER. Menu Master will change directories and start the program for you. When you exit the application program, you will be returned to your menu.

(2) SeeShell - a DOS shell that will do everything the DIR command will do, but do it faster, and will give you a great deal more. Typing SHELL gives you a sorted listing of the directory. You can then copy, delete, execute, move, print, rename, view, or change directories from the sorted listing.

(3) Compare - compares two files byte by byte in two windows on the screen. It stops when it finds a discrepancy and highlights the discrepancy. You then have the option of continuing or halting the operation.

(4) CopyFile - is an intelligent file copier. It works much like the DOS copy command except that it copies only files that need to be copied; that is, it copies only those files that are not on the target disk (or directory) or that have been changed since they were last copied. This is very handy for making a backup of a given directory. Wildcard symbols can be used when copying groups of files.

(5) View - allows you to view an ASCII text file. This program is very fast since it only loads one screen of information at a time, whereas most text editors load the entire file before allowing you to move about in the file.

(6) Where-Is - searches each directory on your disk for a specific file. You can also use wild card symbols and also redirect output to either a file or your printer.

(7) FreePack - is a program that will allow you to start all the other programs from a menu. This program is not required, since all the other programs will run by themselves; it just makes everything a bit easier. It also requires additional memory. If you are a bit tight on memory, skip it; if memory is plentiful, it's a nice addition.

The source for this software was the publisher, Stilwell Software Products.

This review prepared by Jim Eckhardt, edited by Kathryn Loafman.

Disk 536. HyperDisk 4.03, 8/90 - Disk Accelerator Utility. HyperWare, 14460 Sycamore Avenue, San Martin, CA 95046 USA. SHAREWARE FEE = \$35.

What is a 'Disk Accelerator'? Exactly what it says! Hyperdisk speeds up access to your hard and floppy disks through a software mechanism known as disk caching. Disk caching allows the computer to access frequently used data at the speed of memory instead of at the speed of the disk. What this means is that hard disk system performance increases by 300% to 1000%, and floppy disk system performance increases even more.

HyperDisk is the ultimate disk caching utility that increases your computer disk drive's performance by implementing advanced features including support for Conventional, Extended, and Expanded Memory usage, interrupt-driven I/O for both read and write caching, and support for PC, XT, AT, 80386, and 80486 type computers. It also features advanced options such as Shadow RAM loading of all overhead memory [Shadow RAM load available upon registration].

One of the major benefits found in this package is that the memory usage of the cache may be dynamically reconfigured so that you can use all of the available memory for caching while running normal applications, release it in order to run a memory hungry spreadsheet, then reclaim it for cache when that application is complete. The use of write cache is optional (default Off), however, additional speedup is available with this option On.

SYSTEM REQUIREMENTS: HyperDisk requires DOS 2.x at a minimum, for TSR model, and DOS 3.x to be able to run as a Device Driver. Conventional RAM requirements vary from 10K to 35K depending on the model and size of cache selected.

The software was downloaded from the HyperWare BBS by Kenneth Loafman.

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

Disk 537AB. PC Magazine Labs Benchmarks 5.5 - Benchmark Tests for IBM PCs by PC Magazine.

PC Magazine Benchmarks Version 5.5 provides a standard comparison between PC systems. The benchmarks provide comparisons between an 8Mhz IBM AT, an IBM Model 70/25 Mhz, and your system. Speed benchmarks are provided for Processor, Coprocessor, Disk, Printer, BIOS, and Memory. A Compatibility benchmark is provided for VGA, and Quality benchmarks are provided for CGA/EGA hardware. This series of benchmark tests is remarkably easy to use, follow, and understand.

HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS: IBM PC/XT/AT or compatible with a hard disk. At least 512K of memory, however some tests require 640K of memory.

New features added to this release include a Variable Size File Access Test, a Battery Rundown Test for portable PCs, and Microscope. Microscope looks at your system and displays important information about its configuration. Items included in Microscope include Memory, device drivers, disk drives, processor types and speed, and others. Another major enhancement is the ability to write the results of the benchmark tests and Microscope to a file for printing. This print feature makes documentation much easier.

PC Magazine uses these benchmark tests in their review of PC systems and related hardware. By using these tests, PC Magazine presents a consistent and comparable review and analysis of hardware. This feature is particularly useful since hardware is constantly being reviewed throughout the year in the magazine. You can use the results of the tests to see how your PC at work or home stack up. You can also use them when evaluating future purchases.

The program was donated by Mark Gruner.

This review prepared by Mark Gruner, edited by Ken Loafman.



The Variety Store

by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

Windows 3.0 Waxes Strong —

PC Prices Wane In Summer Heat

Some media pundits are discovering the bitter taste of their own words. Microsoft's new *Windows 3.0* continues to grow in importance since its May introduction — despite their gloomy predictions.

Granted, *Windows 3.0* had one of the most lavish (and expensive) PR and advertising pushes in software history, but users are buying the product in numbers that surprise even Microsoft. Why? Nobody has a good enough answer to quell the question. My personal choice would have to be *Solitaire*. The game is so good, it's addictive. It may do for *Windows 3.0* what *Adventure* and *Zork* did for early micros.

Price also has to be an incentive. Locally retailing at \$90, *Windows 3.0* is also available from Microsoft's "upgrade" 800 number for \$50 — no questions asked. Match that with OS/2 1.2's \$250-\$350 price.

Power users aren't buying OS/2 in droves. Instead, they're either tempertizing with DOS and memory managers such as 386MAX, or opting for *Windows 3.0* — or both as interim measure(s) while they wait for the real OS/2 — version 2.0.

Prices Plummet as PC Makers Ply Individual & Corporate Buyers

Sharp-eyed readers may have noticed that the usual summer price wars are a bit brisker than usual with steeper than anticipated reductions across the board from all PC makers. A new, 25 MHz 386 costs less now than a 12 MHz 286 cost at this time last year. What's surprising is how well 8088-powered PC prices have held so far.

IBM's PS/1, although a 286 machine, may have helped this trend. Rumors have it that there are a lot of first-time

and cross-over buyers for the IBM machine (and its competing Tandy counterpart) abetted by a really good integrated software package (*Microsoft Works 2.0*) and advertising.

At any rate, name a PC maker, and I'll guarantee there are 15 - 25% discounts and price reductions available over prices a month ago almost across the board.

On the Database Front,

A-T (Finally) Delivers and... Faster R:BASE 3.1 Unveiled

Ashton-Tate finally delivered the "real" *dBASE IV* in August as remaining users applauded. Early media reports are that this one is "right." The long-awaited super-bug-fix version had been promised for months and its delay reaching production is rumored to have cost many (former) A-T folks dearly. After this long, it does seem somewhat anticlimactic.

More rumors indicate that lots of *dBASE* users have version IV packages gathering dust on their upper shelves while they've gone "back" to the old standard, version III, or jumped-ship entirely to competing products.

Microrim 3.1 Comes Out Fighting

Microrim has these folks in mind with their new release of *R:BASE 3.1*. recent press releases accentuate the Redmond, WA, product's ability to directly read, write and manipulate version III and III Plus files as well as update the A-T product's indexes.

In fact, Microrim claims that *R:BASE 3.1* is the "Only DBMS available today, including *dBASE IV*, that allows users on a network to access and manipulate the same *dBASE III* or *III PLUS* file concurrently with another version of any other product."

Available as a free upgrade to *R:BASE 3.0*, the new 3.1 version is touted as a smaller, faster product than its predecessor. Owners of "other" databases and earlier Microrim product (even *R:BASE 5000*) versions can upgrade to 3.1 for \$195.

Didn't Take Symantec Long ...

Norton Utilities 5.0 Announced

Sometimes larger is better. Symantec — new owner of Peter Norton Computing — announced their new version (5.0) of the venerable *Norton Utilities* in August.

The new version will include a number of features designed to place the Norton package ahead of the pack, including a cache, hard-disk interleave adjuster and a utility to "fix" corrupted *dBASE* and 1-2-3 files.

Symantec thinks the new features will place NU well ahead of current versions of *PC Tools* and 5th Generation's *Mace* packages in the race for DOS tool supremacy. According to media reviewers, the new package has been given a facelift with an interface that's designed to appeal to less experienced users.

Upgrade cost to registered users is pegged at \$49. (\$49??? Why not just say \$50 — supermarket pricing seems a trifle out of place here.)

We're Not Finished With Windows — for this Month

Remember *Sitka*? New name for SUN's *TOPS*? Seems lots of *Sitka 2.1* and *3.0* users have been having trouble running the peer-to-peer networking product for PC and Mac users under *Windows 3.0*.

Sitka officials blame *Windows* — of course — stating that version 3.0 came out "long before *Windows 3.0*" Printer set up incompatibilities between the *Sitka* network printing utility and that found in *Windows* are the culprits according to *Sitka*, and fixes will probably be available in the next version of the network.

Other Windows Topics Have Wider Audience

Microsoft writes at least one version of almost everything. Their disk cache program *SMARTDRV*, while reliable, has never been among the fastest.

Multisoft's *PC-Kwik* has.

Even Microsoft acknowledges *PC-Kwik* in its *Windows* documentation — one way to know whose products are selling — and suggests upgrading to the latest version for users who demand access to the faster cache.

Multisoft Corporation of Beaverton, Oregon, publishers of *PC-Kwik* have announced a *Super PC-Kwik* upgrade compatible with *Windows* "enhanced" (386) mode of operation. Unlike other publishers, Multisoft doesn't suggest "universal" upgrading. Only users who

plan to run in 386 mode should upgrade they advise.

Upgrade price wasn't announced, but Multisoft does offer to upgrade any other cache product for \$49.99 as opposed to suggested retail of \$79.95. (Again, how about \$50 and \$80?)

Shipping in September —

Adobe and Zenographics Announce Windows Fonts

Microsoft does neat Windows and crummy fonts. New *Windows 3.0* users with "super" VGA monitors and video boards may have noticed that the screen fonts from Redmond aren't what they might wish. Some say they even look bad on CGA and Hercules monochrome.

So, who knows fonts? Adobe, the newly user-friendly (since *True-Type* was announced by Microsoft and Apple) font and graphics experts, have announced that *ATM-Windows* (PC version of the Mac Adobe Type Manager) will be available in September. Adobe says this will allow real WYSIWYG for Windows applications.

The new PC Windows utility will cost \$99 (Again ...) and produce rasterized versions of 13 Adobe outline type fonts for both screen and printer.

Zenographics Promises A Lot

SuperPrint from Zenographics attacks the problem at its core — the notorious Windows printer driver level, while supplying Windows users with ability to incorporate scalable fonts as well as Bitstream, Agfa Compugraphic, Nimbus Q and Hewlett-Packard's SoftFonts, in *Windows 3.0*.

The new Zenographics font-driver package will also allow users to output scalable (Adobe Type 1 fonts) fonts to non-PostScript printers such as the Hewlett-Packard LaserJet and PaintJet printers with matching screen fonts. *SuperPrint* package comes with 22 scalable typeface outlines and costs \$195 at retail.

What's A Font?

What's a Face?

Users Confused

Both the Zenographics and Adobe packages can be upgraded with additional type fonts from the respective companies. Buyers may be confused though by the advertising.

Remember, 13 fonts is not necessarily 13 typefaces. Most typefaces come with four (4) type fonts, normal (or roman), italic, bold and bold-italic.

Question: Are *SuperPrint's* 22 scalable typeface outlines "fonts" or "typefaces"?

Non-Windows — But Lots of Fun Anyway

Gray F/X is almost an "underground" monochrome image enhancement treasure. It's super, but not many people know about this powerhouse. Folks who manipulate images for a living do.

Seen at COMDEX/Fall 89, *Gray F/X* was fun to watch in action. Now, Xerox has announced an upgrade to the program, version 1.1 available to users for \$75 and capable of manipulating 1200 DPI, 256 gray-level images. Package will be bundled with the Xerox Datacopy GS Plus Scanner for \$2150 (PC/AT Bus) and \$2350 (MCA Bus).

If you "play" with scanned images, *Gray F/X* is well worth a closer look-see. We're planning a review later in the year.

Priam Is Now ... Orca Technology

Orca Technology is building from the top up. Orca purchased the assets of Priam Corporation, premium hard disk drive makers, and plans to continue the line under the Orca name.

Leading product will be a 400M, 3.5" drive.

Priam had a reputation for excellent, if quirky, products, designed beyond the needs of the market and unyielding to "traditional" drive technologies. Chief players in the Orca organization know the market well and include former executives from Maxtor, Priam and Televideo. Orca expects to begin shipping before the end of 1990.

Meanwhile ...

Conner, Seagate Settle Thin-Film Head Controversy

Conner has been a leader in 3.5" drive marketing. They relied on Imprimis (CDC) for thin-film head technology though. When CDC (Imprimis) was bought by Seagate, another would-be major player in the 3.5" hard-disk arena, Conner's supply of thin-film heads seemed to vanish almost overnight.

Conner and Seagate headed to court. Lawyers signed contracts on BMW's and Mercedes.

They may have to go back to the dealers. Conner and Seagate settled and Seagate will continue to supply heads for Conner drives until 1991. Neither side will discuss the settlement.

Quantum Announces 425M 3.5" Drive in Production

These little drives are getting really big. Quantum announced a 425M, 3.5" drive

with 12-ms. average access time(s) in July. Price of the fast, new Prodrive 425 will be in the \$1600 range.

Quantum also announced a 330M 3.5" Prodrive 330 with average access time(s) of 14-ms. for writes and data transfer as high as 5 megabytes/second, depending on controller. This drive will list at \$1350 according to Quantum. Both drives feature Quantum's on-board caching technology, Discache, and will be available in either AT-bus or SCSI interfaces.

SCSI versions of both drives will be available in August, and are aimed at the workstation market and the Macintosh market(s) as well as the IBM PS/2 SCSI interface market.

It Had To Happen!

1486 Replacement Boards

Owners of 80386-powered PC's will soon be able to upgrade their machines to 1486 CPU's via a "simple" replacement module that "drops" into the 386 socket.

Available for \$486 (without 1486 chip), the Trans 486PX module plugs directly into the 386 chip socket and offers a simple, inexpensive upgrade path to 486 power. Claims are that users will realize a speed increase and a math coprocessor won't be needed since the 486 has a built-in coprocessor.

Problem here is the cost of the 80486 chip which is hovering close to the \$1000 level at the time that this is written. A \$1500 upgrade for the typical 386 machine is getting very close to many makers' advertised upgrade prices.

Who Reads This? And...

Who's Been Reading My E-Mail?

E-Mail (electronic mail) has taken the corporate world by storm. Whether it's a mail utility incorporated in a mainframe system, or on a LAN, E-Mail has become an increasingly important component in person-to-person communications in many large and small companies.

But, who has access to the users' "private" messages? E-Mail users might be surprised to discover who, and how many others, can read their mail.

E-Mail privacy has become a really hot topic and is subject of heated debates in computer and corporate media, and even the courts. Issues are far from clear-cut. Expect a lot of management and user confusion over "right to privacy" vs corporate security and "right to access" in the coming months.



Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator

Our folks who call to schedule volunteers for our meeting day spend lots of hours. Time spent depends on what need we're calling to fill.

For example, the need for hourly volunteers each month at the Information Booth and DOM Booth dictates that our volunteers call until those slots are filled.

Bill Drissel fills this job for the DOM folks - overworked at times and always underpaid, he's a stalwart. If you would like to help a stalwart out, give him a call.

The Information Booth is currently very fortunate to have a number of people who have volunteered to call. Andrine Stricherz has been calling for a number of years, as well as devoting time to BBS

projects. Randi Boucher is part of the team and a real ball of fire. Jan Frost recently signed on and has called for several of our meetings. And Martha Eickman, who has devoted a number of hours in other capacities, has offered to call for us at a moment's notice.

To Bill, Andrine, Randi, Jan and Martha - many, many thanks for being there for us.

In this issue we are acknowledging the volunteers listed below who served for the month of JULY.

DON'T FORGET - our officers, directors, SIG coordinators and leaders, newsletter publisher, editor, staff and writers, newsletter exchange and BBS SYSOP and staff are all volunteers; their names are listed in other sections of this newsletter.

INFOMART Liaison

Stuart Yarus
Archie Pinkney
C. D. Agee
Martha Eickman

Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown

Timothy Carmichael
Chris Young

Information/Registration Booth

Maxine Aaronson
Joe Aderhold
Conley Andrews (Anchor)
Mike Ashley (Anchor)
Lathan Baker
Charles Bay
Randi Boucher (Anchor)
Jim Donlon
Paul Fredd (Anchor)
Jan Frost (Anchor)

Lynn Fussell
Rick Griffith (Anchor)
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)
Jim Hall
Allan Harbaugh (Anchor)
Hank Holt (Anchor)
Bernie Mayoff
Fran Meines (Anchor)
Andy Oliver (Anchor)
Steve Saunders (Anchor)
Reavis Smith
Fred Steadman
Elaine Stephens
Andrine Stricherz (Anchor)
Conrse Testa (Statistician)
Larry Tucker (Anchor)
Paul Williams (Anchor)
Thomas Zabel

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
Mike Ashley
Roy Bales
Richard Baumann
Rob Bender
Neal Berkowitz
Stan Berlin
Preston Brashear
Gene Carleton
Jay Chambliss

Ed Conway
Judy Griffiths
Jo Johnston
Duane Martin
Bob Post
R. B. Reynolds
Oscar Tyler
Claude Walston

With Special Thanks to:

Joe A. Allen
Jo Cannon
Paul Corbett
Kent Haven
Pat Henley
Bob Karlebach
Jerry Stone

DOM Review/Presentation

Mark Gruner (4 reviews)
Pat Henley (4 reviews)
Charles J. Jacobus
Kenneth Loafman (2 reviews)

SWAP SHOP

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

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

BRAND NEW ITEMS FOR SALE - Maynard Mainstream 150Q Tape Backup \$1000; 2MB 80386 Memory Module 85ns IBM \$350; 2-8MB 80386 Memory Expansion 85ns IBM \$500; Intel 80387-20 Math Coprocessor \$300; Intel 80387-16 Math Coprocessor \$250; IBM Mouse \$60; Paradox 3.0 \$300; IBM PC-DOS 3.30 \$60. Call Francis Bright at (214) 256-1027.

Wanted - Part-time day instructor for Autocad, Wordperfect and Lotus 1-2-3. Phone (214) 986-6661

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION

1. Via BBS: (817) 461-0425 (metro) or (817) 461-0506 (metro). Sign up on the Volunteer Conference - make the subject matter your area of interest.

2. Meeting day: Sign up at the Information Booth or DOM Booth to work those areas in a coming month.

3. By phone:

Auditorium Presentations
Timothy Carmichael 331-6303 (h)
661-4626 (w)

DOM Booth Activities
Bill Drissel 264-9680 (h)

DOM Software Review
Howard Hamilton 644-5721 (h)

Information Booth and General Information
Connie Andrews 828-0699 (h)

Selected SIG Happenings

News and meeting notes of Special Interest Groups

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

Database SIG

At the August meeting we discussed lesson 6 of the dBase IV Workbook Lesson 6 explains how to design a data entry form. This included: creating a data entry form; rearranging the order in which fields are displayed on-screen; modifying the field template to control the display of that field; drawing lines and boxes on a form; saving and retrieving a form; and using a form to display and enter data.

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

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

October

Lesson 8 will show us how to report in a multifile application. The lessons will show us how to:

- * set up a view query to serve as the basis for generating multifile reports
- * create a tabular report that includes fields from more than one database
- * group a multifile report
- * generate a forms-based report

November

Lesson 9 will show us how to create form letters and labels. The lessons will show us how to:

- * use the word processor to design a mail merge report
- * run the report against a data file to create a series of form letters
- * use the options available on the Print menu to control printing
- * use the label generator to produce a list of name and address labels

Vincent Gaines and
Rodney Haas

DOS SIG

(Our apologies, but these are loosely adapted from the infamous, August, 1990, "lost SIG Notes." They were discovered in an ancient crypt and after translation from the original script, we felt like it would have been such a neat meeting that we couldn't help repeating the ancient promises of things to come.)

Don't know whether to keep calling this the "DOS SIG" in light of the many operating changes forced by Windows 3.0, 386 MAX 5.0 and QEMM 5.1. Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President-Elect and Reagan Andrews (returned from Austin and hopefully uncorrupted by proximity/association with all those legislators) will delve into the labyrinthine paths woven by recent announcements from Microsoft, Qualitas and the Pico Blvd. Bandits.

What do all these changes mean? Jim will know. Do the ominous warnings for PC users using Disk Manager to make larger than 32M disk volumes from Microsoft have bearing on lost files in Windows 3.0, and what can users affected by this scourge do? What about the "other" disk managers such as SpeedStor? Are they infected as well?

We'll end with survivors participating in the usual Q&A forum at the terminus of the DOS SIG August Meeting.

Reagan Andrews

LAN SIG

During the August LAN SIG meeting we went through the POWERLan installation and configuration procedure. I hope this was a helpful and informative session for those who are setting up their two-user POWERLan systems.

The September 15th LAN SIG meeting is just two days after "NetWorld

Dallas" so we will reserve most of the session for discussion. Who knows - there may be an earth shattering (LAN shattering?) announcement or two at NetWorld. So bring your questions, answers, comments, opinions, etc. and join us on September 15, 10am, at the LAN SIG.

Bernie VanRoekel

Lotus SIG

The subject for the August presentation was on spreadsheet compilers. Compilers take a worksheet and transform them so that they can be used and run without 1-2-3. The big advantages of compilers is that the user cannot change or alter the formulas, or organization. This feature is of tremendous value when distributing models throughout an organization. Another big advantage, is that formulas are not seen by the user, making this feature an advantage for consultants. Several compilers were discussed including Baler, King Jaguar, Compile 1 to C, @Liberty, and 3-2-1 Blastoff. All of these compilers are for 1-2-3 compatible worksheets. A new Symphony compiler named Composa was also discussed.

Made available in the Disk-of-the-Month selection in August were several disks supporting the compiler presentation. Mark created a compiled spreadsheet named Mortgage and Escrow Tracker which he used as a test drive for all of the compilers. This compiled spreadsheet was done with Baler and is designed to amortize a mortgage and keep track of the escrow balances. The model includes three letters that users could include with their monthly mortgage payments. Other compiler disks made available included a demonstration of Baler, King Jaguar, Composa, and Compile 1-to-C. The disk numbers and titles are shown below:

525	Mortgage and Escrow Tracker
526	Baler 5.0 demonstration
527AB	King Jaguar demonstration (2 disks)
528AB	Composa demonstration (2 disks)
529	Compile 1-to-C demonstration

The subject for the September meeting will be three @ functions that are often overlooked when building models. The three @ functions are CHOOSE, HLOOKUP, and VLOOKUP. These three @ function

can make model building much easier and are also very powerful commands that are great to use in a whole host of situations.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that users have, concerning 1-2-3 and other spreadsheet products. If you have any questions, or want to learn about CHOOSE, HLOOKUP, or VLOOKUP, come on by and see us.

P.S. Lotus Development may be coming to the October meeting and giving a presentation on 1-2-3 version 3.1, Agenda, and Magellan. Currently the plans are tentative at best, but all are working on the plans.

Mark Gruner and Pat Henley

Paradox SIG

Karen Findlay, Systems Engineer from the local Borland office was with us in August and gave an informal presentation on both the Paradox Engine, and the, as yet unreleased, Paradox SQL Client.

As the presentation was classified as "informal" the floor was open for any Paradox question or discussion. Karen did a "formal" presentation a couple of meetings ago and it was excellent.

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 September 1990 will be:

- 9:00 AM Class 5.1
- Directories, Batch Files, & Paths
- 10:00 AM Class 8.1
- Creating DOS Menu Systems
- 12:00 Noon Class 7.1
- Fundamentals of Lotus 1-2-3
- 1:00 PM Class 8.2
- Fundamentals of the "BASIC" Language

Bob Presley

Programmer's SIG

Kent Cobb, former Programmer's SIG leader, returned to the amazement of everyone present. When questioned about his absence, all he would tell us was that he had been working for a large software company on a new graphical user interface that would be announced at fall COMDEX.

Those of us who know Kent think that he and Pete Testa were "deer hunting" again near Laredo.

Come join us this month for more campfire tales.

Jim Hoisington

R:Base SIG

During the August meeting we had a demonstration of the mailing label

program to generate multiple-column reports using R:Base 3.0 label program. Most of the people in attendance either had upgraded to R:Base 3.0 or were about to upgrade to 3.0.

Microrim has announced an update to R:Base 3.0. R:Base 3.1 will be shipping the last week of August. Registered owners of 3.0 will receive a free upgrade. Some of the breakthroughs with 3.1 include a reduced memory requirement, speed improvements, and the capability to directly read and write to dBase files without having to import them. R:Base 3.0 requires approximately 520k R:Base 3.1 will require 490K. Hopefully, we should have a demonstration of 3.1 at the September meeting. If not, I will have a program ready on R:Base 3.0 index processing.

Microrim has released Technical Journals for June and July 1990. I have uploaded them into the public area of the BBS. They are called MRIM0690.ZIP (19950 bytes) and MRIM0790.ZIP (18173 bytes). I used PKZIP version 1.02 to compress them.

As always, an open question and answer period will be available for those wishing to participate or ask questions regarding any Microrim product.

Richard Hauslein

Stock Market SIG

We had a quick switch for the July meeting and were treated to a discussion of a database, courtesy of N-Squared Company, which is a comprehensive compilation of business indicators since 1945 from the Department of Commerce. The database has been updated by N-Squared and is available for market analysis of current business cycles.

A committee has been appointed to chart a course for the SIG in whatever direction you, the membership, wish to follow. Please come to the next meeting with your suggestions, whether they be for a roundtable on commodities trading or a how-do-I-get-started forum.

For August, one of our members (Nash Kapoor) will present several charts of companies which he finds interesting and will defend his

strategies for analyzing the stocks ... this will probably result in a lively open discussion.

Jo Johnston

Word SIG

Somebody will be glad they came to the WORD SIG in September!

September WORD SIG will present a chance for some lucky NTPCUG member to win a copy of Word for Windows. At the close of the September SIG Meeting, we'll have a drawing to give away a Word for Windows (1.0) package, courtesy of Microsoft.

Before that, we'll have a discussion of PostScript implementations via Word 5.0A using the new H-P LaserJet II cartridges from Pacific Data Products with overhead projections of typical Word 5.0A output. We'll use several styles of output including both graphics and type to illustrate points brought out during the discussion. One concern will be tips to implement the Pacific product gracefully in a Word 5.0A environment (It ain't as simple as the ads suggest.)

Focus will be on long, text-oriented documents vs. shorter, graphics-rich documents and the economics of various approaches to document production.

Reagan Andrews

WordPerfect SIG

During the August meeting, we had a spectacular presentation by WordPerfect Corporation on WordPerfect 5.1. (I'm writing this before the fact, so you WP people better be good.)

The September meeting will consist of a review, commentary, and/or questions and answers about the presentation in August.

Please stop by our 2:00 special interest group meeting.

K.B. Barton

ON COMPLEXITY

No. 43 in a Series

By Jim Hoisington

Excessive heat and changes in temperature are harmful to your computer. I was reminded of that this week when I was speaking with a representative of the SEAGATE corporation, the disk drive maker. He said that they were starting to see pre-mature failures of some of their larger disk drives due to excessive heat. That makes a lot of sense because your average PC was not built to dissipate the heat given off by these larger disk drives.

Very few people go out and buy a 300 megabyte hard drive for their personal computer at work. But, if they set up a Local Area Network (LAN), they are likely to install one or two 100+ megabyte drives in the file server within the first six months.

If you have ever been brave enough to remove the cover from your PC, the only cooling fan you'll find is in the top of your power supply. Its function is to pull cool air in from the front of your computer, over the circuit boards and over the diskette and disk drives, into the power supply, and then force it out the back.



This form of cooling works well for a couple of add-in boards, a floppy drive and a small to medium sized hard disk (under 100 megabytes). However, as the size of the disk drive or drives gets bigger, they generate more and more heat. Eventually, temperatures inside your PC start to overload the drive and the electronics on the circuit boards.

Some years ago, I decided that I wanted all the disk drives on my file servers mounted in external chassis. If you haven't purchased large drives, you may not realize that you can buy a chassis or rack complete with its own power supply and cooling fan just for the disk drives.

The external chassis has two benefits when attached to a file server: 1) it keeps the heat out of the computer because it has its own cooling system, and 2) if the file server needs to be serviced, it is easy to move the controller card(s) and the network card(s) to another computer to keep the network in operation.

Two other things that I always do with file servers is to put them on a uninterruptible power supply and leave them running 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I do this for the same reason that mainframes are left running all the time. Once an electronic component or disk drive is up to operating temperature, it will last longer if it is left at that temperature. Because file servers tend to be used from early in the morning until late at night, the 3 to 4 hours that they would be shut down would not make up for the benefit gained from leaving the computer running at its normal operating temperature.

I still recommend that the PC's on the network be turned on when they are first needed during the working day and turned off when they are no longer needed. Even if they are used 8 out of 24 hours, I doubt that the constant operating temperature benefit outweighs the extra hours of operation. However, I don't recommend turning the computer off during lunch or coffee breaks. If you really want to stretch the life of the computer, just turn down the intensity on the screen while you go to lunch.

Jim



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.

Meetings & Times



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

PureData Incorporated

PureData - PureFax

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Informix Software, Inc.

Wingz - A New Generation in Spreadsheet Technology

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

NTPCUG Business Meeting

We miss you when you're not there

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

Microsoft Corporation

Windows 3.0 and Daybook Software Demonstration

(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.

Special Interest Groups

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

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

11:30 - 11:55
 Orientation

12:00 - 12:55
 Beginners Pascal
 C Language
 Communications
 Personal Users
 RBase
 Stock Mkt Investing

1:00 - 1:55
 Business Applications
 LOTUS
 Personal Users
 Turbo Pascal
 Windows & OS/2
 WORD

2:00 - 2:55
 Advanced Programmers
 DAC Easy Accounting
 Databases
 WordPerfect

SIG Coordinator Andy Oliver (214)223-4044 h
 K. B. Barton (214)747-0209 w
 (214)891-0941 h

Assembler Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. (214)226-3461 h
Basic Programming Kent Kingery (214)458-9711 w
 (214)317-0125 h

Beginners Pascal Phil Chamberlain (214)243-5034 h
Business Applic. Bruce Schubert (214)233-8363 w
C Language Sid Nolte, Ph.D. (214)233-6178 h
 Andrew Chalk, Ph.D. (214)226-3461 h
 Stan Miliam (214)775-1503

Communications Pete Testa (214)495-7508
 Doug Gorrie (214)618-8002 h
 (214)464-7942 w
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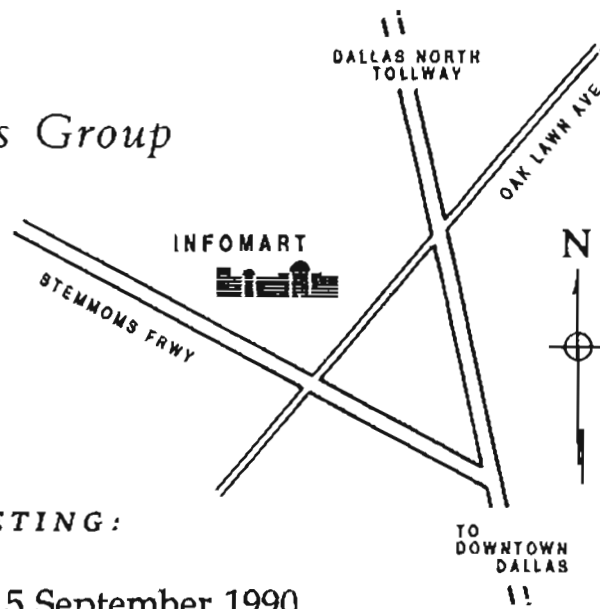
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