



*North Texas PC Users Group*

9.10

October 1990



# North Texas PC NEWS

Published monthly by members of North Texas Personal Computer Users Group for their use. Members each receive a free subscription; for others, price of the NEWS is \$2 per copy. Members are requested to notify the Membership Director in writing of address changes. Send all editorial correspondence to: Editor, North Texas PC NEWS, 10429 N. MacArthur, #360, Irving, TX 75063.

**Publisher**  
John Pribyl (817)275-4109

**Editor**  
Doug McQuaid (214)402-0538

**Assistant Editors**  
Gerry Heine (214)937-7268  
Alan Lintel (214)220-8285  
Randy Lahó (817)861-1979

**Newsletter Exchange Editor**  
Pehl, Lee

**Advertising Director**  
John Pribyl, (acting) - (817)275-4109

The opinions expressed herein are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect those of the Group or its members. Copyright © 1990 by North Texas PC NEWS. (Articles without specific copyright notices may be reproduced unchanged by other not-for-profit User Groups if credit is given to the author and the publication.)

### 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 1667.

Member distribution is 1420; 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 November  
North Texas PC NEWS:  
Wednesday, October 10th

### Meeting Dates:

October Meeting - 3rd Sat (20th)  
November Meeting - 2nd Sat (10th)  
December Meeting - 2nd Sat (8th)  
(tentative)

*Volunteer to help at the  
monthly meeting.  
We need you!*

## Submitting Articles for Publication in North Texas PC NEWS

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

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

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

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

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

b) **Snail Mail (a.k.a. U.S. Postal Service).** Put the article on a floppy diskette and mail it to: 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.

## Table of Contents

President's Message . . . . .	1
Zack Porterfield	
File Linking through Formulas in 1-2-3 Rel. 2.2 . . . . .	2
Mark H. Gruner	
A New Home for the BBS . . . . .	3
Kent Cobb	
Using the NTPCUG BBS Mail Facility . . . . .	5
Doug Gorrie	
Windows Setup . . . . .	8
Neal A. Berkowitz	
On Complexity, No 44 . . . . .	16
Jim Holsington	

### Special Items:

Agenda . . . . .	1
The Variety Store . . . . .	10
Swap Shop . . . . .	13
Volunteer Guide . . . . .	13
SIG Reports . . . . .	14
Disk of the Month . . . . .	17
DOM Order Blank . . . . .	20
Member Application Blank . . . . .	20
Officers, Meetings & Times . . . . .	21

# Program for October \_\_\_\_\_ Timothy Carmichael \_\_\_\_\_

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

## MCI Mail

Connect Your PC to the World with EDI and MCI

*Mark R. Haley, MCI Mail Agent*

Many companies, such as GM and TI, are requiring that their suppliers send invoices and PO's electronically using the Electronic Data Interchange (EDI) X12 and X.400 EMail standards. This talk will inform you of what these standards are and how to use them. A limited special \$20 offer for MCI Mail with free communications software and word processor will be available.

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

## Lotus Development Corporation

Lotus Agenda 2.0

The Most Ambitious Personal Information Manager

*Paul Paget, Agenda Marketing Director*

Agenda 2.0 guarantees user productivity in thirty minutes or less. It is an easy-to-use personal information manager with an improved interface and data integrity. The demonstration will cover its four starter applications: Activities Planner, for managing schedules, people, and projects; Account Manager, for tracking sales activity; People Manager, for setting employee performance objectives and completing evaluations; and the Information Sifter, for organizing textual information. There will be a drawing for several free packages. \*

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

## NTPCUG Business Meeting

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

## Quarterdeck Office Systems

DESCview 386 with QEMM-386 and Manifest

*Gary Saxer, Dir. of Technical Services*

This demonstration of Quarterdeck's latest memory management tools will cover the multitasking capabilities of DESCview, the extended memory and high-memory management possibilities of QEMM-386, and the memory analysis and optimization techniques provided by Manifest. This should be a very informative talk about how to get more from your limited memory. There will be a drawing for several free packages. \*

## Prez Sez

### BBS Moving

The NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS), currently located in Arlington, will be moving soon. The new location is an office near the Addison airport. The new phone numbers are provided below. However, please note that these numbers are not yet in effect.

Line #1 - (214) 387-2751 Straight Dallas Line

Line #2 - (214) 387-2752 Straight Dallas Line

Line #3 - (214) 263-9036 DFW Metro Line

When the new lines are activated we want to encourage those of you in the Dallas area to use the two "Dallas Only" lines. Those of you outside the Dallas area will want to have the Metro line (Line #3, above) as your primary number to avoid long distance charges.

Meanwhile, the two Metro numbers (817-461-0425 & 817-461-0506) published on the inside back cover of

the PC News are still active. The date to transfer to the new numbers has not been set. Note that the old numbers will be good for a month AFTER the transfer to the new numbers.

Also, on that inside back cover you will find the name of Maggie Moomey as Assistant SYSOP. For years Maggie has graciously provided space in her home for the User Group BBS computer. Thank you Maggie Moomey!!!!

We'll be back to you with further information on the BBS as soon as it is available.

### Thanks to Sid Nolte--

I first met Sid while he was a member of the Board of Directors (BOD) of the User Group in 1988. He remained as a member of the BOD through December of 1989 and has been the C Language SIG Leader for many years. ➤

Sid has initiated many changes in the C SIG and felt that impending changes (see below) presented an opportunity to turn over the C SIG reign to others in the User Group. For the many of us who have had the privilege and pleasure to work with Sid we give a grateful thanks for his efforts in furthering the organization.

#### Special Interest Group Changes (from Andy Oliver, SIG Coordinator)

**C Language SIG becomes Beginners C SIG**— As of our October 20th meeting the C Language SIG moves to the 1:00 pm time slot and becomes the Beginners C SIG with Stan Milam as the SIG Leader.

**C++/Advanced C SIG**— This new SIG is scheduled for 12 noon. Kent Cobb is the SIG Leader with Tom Cook as Co-Leader.

**Business Applications and DAC Software SIGs Combine**— These two SIGs will be melded to form the "Business Apps/DAC Software" SIG scheduled for the 1:00 pm time slot. The SIG Leaders, Bruce Schubert, Greg Cohen and Putt Shaw have agreed to rotate the program emphasis each month. This will allow each group an additional month of preparation time, will prevent leader burn-out, will provide a backup for the resulting groups and expose the attendees to a variety of subjects. Sounds good to me!!!

**Windows & OS/2 for Developers**— From the first meeting of the "Windows & OS/2" SIG, emphasis has been on development under these environments. So, we tacked on "for Developers" to this SIG's title and created two new SIGs for those interested in applications under these environments. Time slot remains at 1:00 pm.

**Windows Applications**— This is a new SIG which will emphasize the running of applications under the Microsoft Windows environment. Meeting time is 9:00 am and Roy Cassas is the SIG Leader.

**OS/2 for End Users**— This is another new SIG which begins with our October 20th meeting in the 1:00 pm time slot. Like the "Windows Applications" SIG, this SIG will focus on the subjects that the non-programmer, non-developer wants to know. For example, what off-the-shelf products can I run under OS/2 and how will they make me more productive under this operating system? Bob Fermier is the SIG Leader.

#### User Group Membership Count

Jim Hoisington, Past President(s), President Elect(s) plus Membership Director, plus APCUG representative, plus Alternate CCD attendee and on and on, indicated that the membership of NTPCUG was 1431 as of September 1, 1990. What in the world would we do without you Jim?

Zack Porterfield      ▲

## File Linking Through Formulas in 1-2-3 Release 2.2

by Mark H. Gruner

Prior to 1-2-3 release 2.2 and release 3.0, the only way to work with other worksheet files was to use the File Combine or File Import commands within 1-2-3. There were also a host of add-in programs that provided enhanced capabilities. Many of these add-ins worked quite well, but all had limitations including the need for all to purchase a copy of the add-in. But now with release 2.2 and release 3.0, users can refer directly to other spreadsheets through formulas and never have to remember to update a spreadsheet through the Combine or Import commands.

The focus of this handout is linking spreadsheets in 1-2-3 release 2.2. The linking capabilities in 2.2 are fairly rudimentary but very effective in many situations. The most important thing to remember when linking files is that you CANNOT perform any other function in that cell other than linking that cell to another spreadsheet. For instance, suppose that you wanted write a formula to multiply the quantity in one spreadsheet times the price in another spreadsheet. The only way to accomplish this feat is to link one cell to the quantity, one cell to the price, and a third to multiply the two together. Even a "simple" calculation such as multiplying a linked cell times 2 requires more than one cell in the spreadsheet.

The syntax for a formula that links a cell to the current spreadsheet is simply `+<FILENAME.EXT>CELL` where the `<FILENAME.EXT>` is the name of the spreadsheet to be linked and `CELL` is the single cell to be linked into the current spreadsheet. If the extension of the file is `WK1`, then no extension is necessary. If you have multiple directories and/or disks, then simply include the drive and directory with the `<FILENAME.EXT>`. For instance, to link cell `C10` in the `SALES.WK1` file in the `C:` drive in the `LOTUS22\FILES` directory, use the formula `+<C:\LOTUS22\FILES\SALES>C10`. That's about it as far as the mechanics go, but there are several other items to be aware of when linking files which are discussed below.

One nice feature about formulas that link to other spreadsheets is that they can be copied just like any other formula. For instance, copying the above formula to the next column would refer to the same spreadsheet but link to cell `D10`. Similarly copying the formula to the next row would refer to cell `C11` in the same spreadsheet.

The restrictions on file linking are fairly straight-forward. One major restriction is that you cannot link to a range of cells through the `@SUM` function. Each individual cell must be brought in to the current

worksheet and then added in the current worksheet. A second approach would be to sum the cells in the source worksheet and link to the summed cell. Basically, perform the math in the source spreadsheet before linking.

Another major restriction happens when rows or columns are inserted or deleted in the source file. If the formula is setup to refer to a specific cell such as C21 and then three columns are added "before" C21 making the new address F21, the cell which contains the linking formula would still refer to C21 and would be incorrect. The way to avoid this problem is to give the cell to be linked in the source spreadsheet a range name and construct the linking formula to refer to that name. The only problem with this approach is that if the formula is copied, then the duplicate formulas refer to actual cell addresses and not the range name of the cell even if the cell is named.

This shortfall leaves you in the same predicament and you will have to edit each formula individually if range names are used for each cell. If the range name is more than one cell, the upper left cell of the range will be the cell to be linked.

Another important consideration concerns linkages on a network. It is entirely possible that while you are working on a spreadsheet that links spreadsheets to other spreadsheet, that someone else could retrieve a file included in your linking, edit the file and re-save the file. To control the updating of these linkages, use the /, File, Admin, Link-Refresh.

I hope that this brief overview of linking has been helpful. While the linking capabilities could have been better in release 2.2, the capabilities are present for those who need them.

Mark ▣

## A New Home for the BBS

Kent Cobb

The NTPCUG BBS has found a new home. After several years in Arlington at the home of Maggie Moomey, the board has been moved to an office near the Addison airport. We expect this move to result in better service for those of you who frequent the board. Most of the volunteers who keep the board running live in North Dallas, and as a result, many worthwhile improvements never advanced past the idea stage – implementation was just not practical with the BBS so far away.

If all went according to plan, the move took place on the weekend of September 15th. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused you, but we think the future improvements will more than compensate for the current disruptions. We appreciate your patience as we settle into our new surroundings.

Before the move took place, we installed call forwarding on the old BBS phone lines, so the old numbers should still be valid for a couple of months. They will eventually be disconnected, at which time you'll have to use the new numbers:

(214)387-2751  
(214)387-2752

These numbers are not metro. We have a metro line on order, but as of September 10th, Southwestern Bell could not tell us what that number would be. When it's installed, we'll post the number on the BBS signon screen, and in the newsletter. Barring any un-

foreseen disasters, those of you in Tarrant County will always have at least one metro line to call.

As the BBS moves into its new home, it's a good time to recognize the excellent job that Maggie Moomey has done for us over the past I-don't-know-how-many years. In addition to donating the space in her house, Maggie has taken care of the routine maintenance, and always been on call whenever we had a problem. Thanks, Maggie – we couldn't have done it without you.

Kent ▣



Academic • Addison-Wesley • Ashton-Tate • Bantam • Brady • Cambridge • Compute! • Digital

ADAR TRANSMITTERS • ELECTROPLATING • SIMULATION

MICROESTIMATING • OPTOELECTRONICS • HYDRAULIC

8000 • COGENERATION • PLASTICS ELASTOMERS • LA

ROBOTICS • TURBO PASCAL • FRACTURE FATIGUE • JO

OXBASE • APL2 • FLUID MECHANICS • CONSTRUCTION

THERMODYNAMICS • AMIGA • PERTURBATION • SYN FUELS

HYDRONIC SYSTEMS • ALGORITHMS • SEISMIC DESIGN

OPTICAL F

INTERFACIN

PICK • CLONE

SUPERCALC •

HEURISTICS

PAGEMAKER

ENABLE • SQL

PL/1 • COBOL

CLIPPER • DO

DIGITAL EL

VGA • EXCEL

QUEUEING N

MACROS • ADA

WELL LOGGI

AC 11 • EGA

AGENDA • PFS

QUATTRO • 80

DBASE 4 • PR

HAZARDOUS WASTE REGULATION • CRYPTOGRAPHY • MS

COMPILER • MICROLITHOGRAPHY • HVAC ESTIMATING

SOILS FOUNDATIONS • VENTURA • SPREADSHEET • CMOS

PARSING • MECHANICAL VIBRATIONS • STEAM PLANTS

WATER TREATMENT • CAS CAM • POWER LASERS • XLIS

CS PHYSICS • STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING • JAVELIN

CHEMICAL PROCESSING • GEO METRICS • IEEE • OCCAM

Howards W. Sams • Scott, Foresman • Springer • Sybex • Van Nostrand Reinhold • Wiley • Wordware

• Dow Jones-Irwin • Digital • Compute! • Cambridge • Brady • Bantam • Ashton-Tate • Addison-Wesley • Weber Systems •

• Gulf • Longman Trade • M&T • Macmillan • McGraw-Hill • MIT • MIS • Osborne McGraw-Hill • Prentice Hall • QUE

# IF YOU WANT TO GET TECHNICAL...

COMPUTER SCIENCE + ENGINEERING +  
ELECTRONICS + CONSTRUCTION +  
ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE + PHYSICS

## ...TAYLORS TECHNICAL BOOKS IS THE PLACE TO DO IT.

The second floor of TAYLORS Bookstore in Prestonwood Creek is a 3,000 square foot full-line technical bookstore with over 5,000 different book titles, computer magazines, public domain software, and the courteous, knowledgeable customer service that has been a TAYLORS trademark for the past 21 years.



TAYLORS TECHNICAL BOOKS, Second Floor, 5455 Belt Line Rd., (214) 239-TECH  
Monday-Saturday 9:30 a.m.-9 p.m., Sunday 12 Noon-6 p.m.

# Using the NTPCUG BBS Mail Facility

by Doug Gorrie

In the May, 1990 issue of PC NEWS, I described how to install a shareware program, ProComm 2.4.3, for use in accessing the NTPCUG Bulletin Board System (BBS). If you are new to PC communications, that article should have helped you establish a connection to the BBS, and to request an ongoing subscriber account. If you are NOT new to communications, it was enough to advise you to use 300/1200/2400 baud, 8 Data Bits/1 Stop Bit/No Parity. NTPCUG BBS phone numbers are inside the back cover of PC NEWS, and remember, you must have your valid NTPCUG membership number to initially register.

What is a BBS? It is a clearinghouse for several kinds of information, such as electronic mail, software uploads/downloads, passing PC NEWS articles to the editors, etc. Users can retrieve information left by other users, or initiate new information for use by one or more users.

There are several bulletin board systems out there, such as TBBS, RBBS, and PCBoard. We use Chairman, Version 3.0.

When you initially enter the NTPCUG BBS and provide your name and password, you will be presented with Chairman's Main Menu (Novice version):

```

NTPCUG Bulletin Board
=====Main Menu=====
Enter
(I) -- Information on current events
(M) -- Mail and conferencing
(G) -- General conference select
(S) -- SIG conference select
(D) -- Download files
(U) -- Upload files
(H) -- Hang up and terminate session
=====
(E) -- Expert mode select (terse screen)
(N) -- Novice mode select (full screen)
(P) -- Profile changes (permanent)

```

Enter letter for selection:

Choices generally appear within parenthesis, as above. Again, both upper and lower case are acceptable when choosing an option.

As you can see above, three of the options deal with mail and conferencing. The (M)ail option is used to read and send group mail, conference mail, and your personal mail. The (G) option centers your read/write activity to only the contents of the general-purpose conferences (SIGS-Special Interest Groups), and the (S) option reviews several of the SIG group conferences which meet on Super Saturdays.

After getting the Main Menu above, enter <m>, the letter in parenthesis for Mail. The BBS then informs you of the total number of messages currently in your personal subscriber

An electronic mail system is one of the more important functions of any BBS. Chairman provides a mail facility allowing users to send mail to three categories of users: individual subscribers, groups of subscribers, or "conferences". Each of these three "users" has a mailbox, an area within the electronic mail system that contains incoming and outgoing messages.

A conference is a special mailbox, usually a collection of messages about a particular subject. Any subscriber can read the contents of a conference mailbox, as well as send mail to the conference. On the NTPCUG BBS, the conference areas are very active. For both new and experienced users, they allow the sending of questions and comments for review by all members. This is a great way to get answers to your PC related questions.

This article is intended to help you use the mail and conferencing portion of the Chairman BBS. (Other facilities will be covered in later articles.)

In the following paragraphs, I will designate the entry of commands and data by placing the entry between left-right arrows, as in <m>. Upper or lower case are always acceptable. A carriage return <cr> follows virtually all such entries, so will generally not be denoted unless used by itself. Also, menu examples below assume you are operating in Novice mode. Abbreviated menus are available to experienced users by changing to Expert mode.

mailbox, along with the number of messages not yet read. The Mail Menu is then displayed. (New Group Mail is also indicated if you are a member of any groups containing mail that you have not read.) Example:

```

-- Mailbox Status --
There are 0 messages in your mailbox.
New messages: none

(L,LS) List (R,RS) Read (S) Send (D,DS) Dump (T,TS) sTatus
(O) Open (K) Kill (W) Who (Q) Quit, or (?):

```

In the example above, the user has no previously read messages in his/her mailbox, and no new messages to read.

As you can see, there are several options available within Mail. Entering <?> will display a summary of these options and their meaning, as follows:

```

Mail Menu Help
L - List message numbers with subject, sender's name and
  date sent. The message content is not listed here.
LS - List message numbers with selection criteria
R - Read messages
RS - Read messages with selection criteria
S - Send messages to another mailbox
D - Dump messages using XON/XOFF protocol with no
  pausing between messages
DS - Dump messages with selection criteria
K - Kill (delete) messages
O - Open another mailbox, possibly a conference or
  group mailbox
W - Who: lists names of other members, conferences or
  mail groups

```

- T - List status of messages sent to other subscribers
  - TS - List status of message sent to other subscribers with selection criteria
  - Q - Quit mail system and return to main menu
- MORE (Y/N)?

A reply of <y> above will display a more detailed description of each option.

The <?> option appears frequently throughout the Chairman BBS to offer you HELP. Use it frequently as you learn to utilize the BBS.

From the two-line mail menu (above the MAIL MENU HELP display), let's ask the mail system to SEND a mail message by entering <s>. To make it easy on all concerned, plan to send mail to yourself; that way, you can see what it's like at both ends of the mail pipeline.

After entering <s> to (S)end mail, Chairman displays:

```
(T)ype a message, (S)end a message with XONXOFF
protocol, or
(Q)uit ?
```

(T)ype indicates that you want to type a message into the keyboard. (S)end indicates that you have previously typed your message into a PC disk file, and want to send that file as mail rather than typing your message from scratch. (Q)uit will exit you from the Mail system.

Enter <T> now. When asked for the message subject, enter a meaningful title for the message, such as :

```
Subject: <Upcoming BBS article on use of Mail system>
```

Now, type your message. It may contain up to 75 lines of 60 characters each. When you are through typing, press <Ctrl-Z> or enter END. Example:

```
1: Fred,
2: I have begun working on the BBS article that will
3: describe use of the Mail subsystem. I hope to have it
4: done in time for the October issue of the PC NEWS. I'll
5: keep you informed.
6: Thanks
7: Doug
8:
9: cc: Tom Prickett
10: <ctrl-Z>
```

At this point, I'd like to make two suggestions to Mail users. When creating a message for mailing to individual users, put the primary recipient's name as the first part of the message (i.e., Fred). This helps "Fred" know that the message was intended for him. It also helps anyone being "CC"ed to know who received the message originally. Additionally, if you plan to "CC" others, place their names at the bottom of the message. This helps "Fred" know who else will see the message, and might deter him from forwarding it to them a second time.

After entering <ctrl-Z> at the end of the typed message, Chairman displays:

```
(A)dd (C)hange (D)elete (I)nsert (L)ist (S)end (Q)uit or (?):
```

Here, you may (A)dd to the end of the message just typed, (C)hange the content of a line in the message or its subject by overtyping that line, (D)elete individual lines from the message, (I)nsert new lines within the message, (L)ist the message and its title, or proceed to (S)end it to one or more subscribers. Later, when you have finished with the message, enter (Q)uit to terminate the mail message function. Help is also available by entering <?>.

For now, enter <L> to see how well you typed your message. The subject and entire message are displayed, followed again by:

```
(A)dd (C)hange (D)elete (I)nsert (L)ist (S)end (Q)uit or (?):
```

Play around if you like. (D)elete a line, then (I)nsert the line back in. When inserting, specify the line AFTER which you wish to insert the new line. For HELP, enter <?>.

Now, (S)end the message to yourself. Chairman asks:

```
Send message to ? (<Enter> quits, ? lists):
```

Chairman is asking to whom the message should be sent, or to enter <cr> to discontinue sending this message to others. Enter your own subscriber name now, to send yourself this mail. Chairman responds:

```
Message has been sent to Fred Jones (<== YOUR NAME
HERE !)
```

```
Send another copy to ? (<Enter> quits, ? lists):
```

Here, you could send the message to additional users, such as Tom Prickett. Note the '?' option. Using '?' allows you to obtain a list of users when you are uncertain of a subscriber's name. Enter <?>, and Chairman displays:

```
(G)roup (C)onference (S)ubscriber (A)ll or (?)
```

Selecting <S> will display a list of ALL subscribers, but it is usually quicker to enter <Sxxxxx>, where 'xxxxx' is the first few characters of the desired subscriber's last name. The resultant list will begin with the first subscriber whose name starts on or after the letters 'xxxxx'. From this list, you can determine the desired subscriber name.

If you wish your message to go to a conference, enter <C> above, and a full list of conferences will be displayed, such as:

Name	Description	Mgs	Last Msg
1: BBS Dir	Suggestion box for SYSOPS	4	09/04/90
2: DOM	Disk of the Month-Information	10	08/13/90
3: Humor	Anything goes (keep it clean)	6	08/30/90
4: DOM INDEX-D	Archived DOM INDEX	1	08/14/90
5: Politics	Express your political opinion	22	09/06/90
6: Reviews	Software, movies, etc. reviews	0	05/31/90
7: Swap Shop	Items to buy, sell or trade	8	08/21/90



8: C SIG	"C" Programming Language	59	09/08/90
9: Assembler SIG	Intel Assembly Language	46	08/28/90
10: Beginners SIG	Introduction to PC's	1	06/18/90
11: DOS SIG	Disk Operating System	17	08/02/90
12: Business SIG	Computer business appl	0	
13: Comm SIG	Computer Communications	4	09/04/90
14: Database SIG	Database Management Sys	5	08/16/90
15: Graphics SIG	Computer Graphics Appl	3	09/08/90
16: Lotus SIG	Lotus 1-2-3 and Symphony	7	09/09/90
17: Pro SIG	Adv. pgmr. gossip & Innuendo	89	09/06/90
18: Pascal SIG	Turbo Pascal Language	1	06/09/90
19: Unix SIG	UNIX operating sys followers	2	07/11/90
20: Hardware SIG	Hardware issues	26	09/10/90

Send message to ? (name or #; <Enter> quits, ? lists):  
 comm sig  
 Message has been sent to Comm SIG

From that list, enter the conference name that you wish your message sent to. Above, we chose to send to the Comm SIG.

Experiment now by searching for your own name, using only the first few character s of your last name. However, once found, press <cr> to terminate this mail message. Chairman again displays:

(A)dd (C)hange (D)elete (I)nsert (L)ist (S)end (Q)uit or (?):

Enter <Q> to discontinue this message. Now, as earlier, we see:

--- Mailbox Status ---  
 There are 0 messages in your mailbox.  
 New messages: 1

(L,LS) List (R,RS) Read (S) Send (D,DS) Dump (T,TS)  
 sTatus (O)  
 Open (K) Kill (W) Who (Q) Quit ,or (?):

Note that you now have one new message, the one you just sent yourself (or two, if you sent yourself another). Whenever anyone sends you a message, the "New Message" counter increases by one. As each message is read, "New messages" count is reduced by one, and your mailbox count is incremented.

(R)ead the message now by entering <r>. You are prompted:

(A)ll, (N)ew or (S)electd messages.

Your responses have the following meaning:

- (A)ll: read all messages in the mailbox, both new and old, starting with the oldest.
- (N)ew: read only messages that you have not already read. If this is a group mailbox, only messages sent after the last date you read from this group mailbox are shown. If this is a conference, messages added since the last time you signed on the BBS will be read.
- (S)electd: Subsequently asks you to respond to the following prompt, "Enter message number(s) to read." Your response will indicate which messages are to be displayed. For example, the response: "3-6,10" will cause

messages 3 through 6 and 10 to be listed. As each message is offered, you are asked if you wish to read it.

Enter <n> now to review only the (N)ew messages. Chairman retrieves the first new message, and displays:

-----  
 Message # 1 From: Doug Gorrie Sent on: 09/16/90 7:33 am  
 Subject: Upcoming BBS article on use of Mail system

-----  
 Would you like to read this message (Y)es (N)o (Q)uit ?

Reply <y>, and Chairman lists the message, followed by a list of available responses.

-----  
 Fred,  
 I have begun working on the BBS article that will describe use of the Mail subsystem. I hope to have it done in time for the October issue of the PC NEWS. I'll keep you informed.  
 Thanks  
 Doug

cc: Tom Prickett

-----  
 (K)ill (F)orward (R)eply (C)ontinue or (?):

After reading the message, you may delete it by (K)illing it, (F)orward a copy to another user, (R)eply to the sender about this message, (C)ontinue on while keeping this message, or get help by entering <?>.

TO CONSERVE DISK SPACE, IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOU (K)ILL ANY MESSAGE THAT IS NO LONGER NEEDED, EITHER AT THE TIME READ, OR DURING A PERIODIC REVIEW OF ALL YOUR MAIL MESSAGES.

Enter <C> to (C)ontinue, for now. Your message will be saved for later reading, forwarding, etc.

One last item. Review the Mail Menu below, and note the (O)pen option.

--- Mailbox Status ---  
 There are 0 messages in your mailbox.  
 New messages: 1

(L,LS) List (R,RS) Read (S) Send (D,DS) Dump (T,TS)  
 sTatus (O) Open (K) Kill (W) Who (Q) Quit ,or (?):

In the same way that you can read personal mail with the <r> option, you may also open other mailboxes by selecting <o>. Upon request, you then enter the mailbox of the desired user/group/conference. Access to user and group mailboxes requires you know their password. Access to conferences is unlimited. When through reading or sending mail in the "opened" mailbox, (C)lose it to return to your own mailbox. (The (c)lose option appears only after (O)pening a mailbox.)

ONE FINAL REMINDER !! There are currently three phone lines accessing the BBS. Although you are encouraged to use the BBS, please attempt to be considerate of other users' needs. For instance, BBS access will increase in the week preceding each "Super Saturday", as members know that the BBS will display a schedule of activities. Also, members authoring articles and "SIG Happenings" will be uploading their material prior to the monthly dead-

# Windows Setup

By Neal A. Berkowitz

While a lot has been said about the new Windows, one additional feature of the package bears attention. The installation process is one that should be followed by other programs due to its simplicity and ease of operation. A very complex operation is simplified to the point where even the most naive of users can install it, but it is also flexible enough to allow experts to customize it to their own needs.

Installation begins by having the installation disk in the default drive and entering the command "SETUP" as stated on the setup disk. The attention to detail appears almost immediately when Windows brings up the first screen of options. The operator has the option of immediately exiting from the setup, continuing setup, or getting more help on the setup program. If more help is requested a series of help menus are displayed that are extremely detailed and which present an exact description of what the setup program will do. The help program further leads the novice by the hand by stating that at any stage the operator could request further information. The help basically states that the operator need only enter "RETURN" or click on the button to proceed when prompted. For the more experienced user, all of this is transparent since these users would have immediately entered return to continue without thinking about assistance.

The program begins by examining the hardware installed on the system. What is noteworthy at this point is that the configuration is displayed for the operator to either accept or to correct. In general the program selected parameters are correct. Having installed Windows several times on several different machines, the only mistakes made were

when it did not recognize a Mouse Systems mouse on serial port 2 and when an invalid choice of LAN was made. Instead of recognizing the Mouse Systems mouse, the program thought that no mouse was attached to the system. The LAN problem appeared when Windows interpreted the LAN as a Microsoft based LAN, not as a 3 Com + 3 Share. The mouse problem was noted immediately, unfortunately, the LAN problem was not detected immediately and resulted in an hour of debug since the incorrect installation only manifested itself when the operator tried to access DOS within Windows and ended up hanging up the system. All in all, considering the many permutations of systems the basic guesswork was fairly good, Windows's request for verification provides the more knowledgeable user - who generally has the more complex configuration - a method of making any necessary changes via a menu system and would have immediately revealed the LAN problem as it did the mouse problem if only I had been more attentive.

Upon selection of the configuration, Windows continues reading the contents of the disk in the default drive, keeping the operator informed of each file being copied. This is comforting to both the novice as well as the experienced individual since an idle screen has a tendency to make the user a bit impatient and try to correct the "problem".

When the data from the first disk is fully processed, Windows puts up a display that is most unusual. Instead of arbitrarily assuming that the operator is going to continue using the same drive for the installation, a request is made for the drive to search for Disk 2 and subsequent disk. Personally I do not see the need for this request but it shows that Microsoft is trying to compensate for all contingencies in installation.

It is during the installation of disk two that the Microsoft marketing staff must have entered the picture. The installation process which began at the DOS prompt goes into high gear with a blanking of the screen, the display of the hourglass, a short pause, and finally by the autoloading of Windows in its full glory. On a VGA monitor the windows logo comes up with a gradient background ranging from a bright blue to black with the Windows logo in yellow. While the screen is impressive, so is the care given to the novice user. The screen gives full instructions for how to proceed including a help button for further help which in turn leads the novice by the hand.

The person installing the program has a full set of options including setting up printers, setting up applications and reading on-line documents. Any of these can be selected or deselected by clicking the indicated button. When the options are selected, or in the case of a beginner, no selection is made, the start button is indicated to continue the installation process.

For subsequent disks the user is prompted to insert the indicated disk in the appropriate drive. Between any disk the user can decide to change disk drives, but in the simplest case, the user only needs to click to continue. Once again, Microsoft has managed to provide a maximum set of options for the experienced person while minimizing the complications for the beginning user. It should also be noted that Microsoft again follows the rule that the user should be continually informed of progress by keeping a sliding bar of the completed percentage moving across the screen. There is a fine attention to detail. The bar is initial-

---

## NTPCUG Mail System continued

line (10th of each month). During these times, please limit your use to 30-45 minutes at a time. You are normally limited to a maximum of 90 minutes per session.

To help reduce time connected to the BBS, you may find it useful to "record" your session. That way, you can peruse your mail, as well as any "Help" messages, in a leisurely manner, AND have them available for printing if desired. New users are encouraged to use this approach to create a "Help Library", either printed, or in files on your PC. Most communications programs have the capability to record text data displayed across your screen - see your manual.

This completes your introduction to use of the NTPCUG BBS. Should you have problems using the BBS, use the Help facility by entering <?> wherever available. If problems/questions remain, send a mail message to the Sysop, or to another experienced user. If you have problems getting onto the BBS initially, such as by forgetting your password, such BBS access problems may be placed on a trouble log at the registration desk on Super Saturday.

Have Fun!!

Doug 

ly white. As files are read the finished percentage is shown as that percentage of the bar turning blue. What is interesting is that the completed percentage is also shown as a blue number on the initially white background. The numbers turn white as the blue percentage increases and passes behind the percentage figures. A minor point but it does show the fine attention to details.

When all disks are read in, the program manager pops up followed by the accessories and games, and the program permits modifications to the CONFIG.SYS and AUTOEXEC.BAT files. Like the previous phases of installation, these operations are designed to simplify matters for the novice but permit the expert to fine tune his system. If the operator decides to let windows try to make changes in these files, Windows presents both the initial file and the modified file for inspection in two scrollable windows. Lines that Windows desires to delete from the AUTOEXEC.BAT or CONFIG.SYS files are indicated by blank lines further highlighting changes. Overall, the Windows program is fairly intelligent. In an effort to add the windows directory to the path, the program is smart enough to not duplicate the directory in the path if it is already there. It does have a slight prejudice in that it wants to put the windows directory at the start of the path list and will move it there if it is already in the path list. One slight glitch is that the program is not smart enough to look through the AUTOEXEC.BAT file to see if there are more than one PATH statements. Windows places the windows directory in the first PATH statement, not in the last one. In defense of the program, it is not a general practice to redefine the path twice in AUTOEXEC, but in this particular case I got lazy. Windows also got a bit confused in the CONFIG.SYS program adding extended memory device drivers. This only happened in one case, however, and could not be duplicated on other computers. Once again, in Windows defense, the situation occurred in a complex file. CONFIG.SYS files like that one would not occur on a basic system and people who have files like that one would be able to resolve the conflicts.

The final phase of Windows installation involves setting up applications on the disk as Windows icons. The procedure is straight forward and, in general, the beginner needs only click when indicated. Windows searches through a selectable set of drives and find what it thinks are the applications on the drives for inclusion in its icon list of applications. A few minor notes involve the quirks in the installation. First, if drives are defined using the SUBST command the program duplicates the applications in the list of programs stating that two distinct programs are found, one on the main drive, one on the substituted drive. Second, while the program was smart enough to find some of the more unusual applications, it did not recognize Borland's Turbo C as being a valid application. Turbo Pascal was recognized, but Turbo C wasn't.

When all else is done, Windows brings up the notepad to provide final instructions. The fine attention to detail is not ignored here. The first line of the notepad file that is displayed gives instructions for enlarging the window to fill the full screen. For the total novice instruction like this is invaluable. Even the most obvious operation is not taken for granted and the beginner is carefully lead each step of the way, a policy that more software should follow. Another example of this is that after the notepad is observed the operator is instructed to reboot and then run Windows by "Typing WIN at the DOS prompt". Clicking on the reboot option displays the message to the operator to reboot the system. All in all, a full explanation.

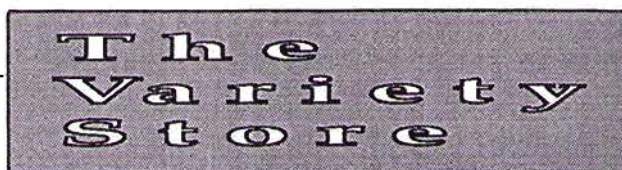
In retrospect, the Windows installation program is a masterpiece. Provisions are made for keeping things extremely simple for the beginner while providing full scale hand-holding and not scaring the beginner with too many technical terms. For the expert, Windows provides ample opportunity to fine tune and flavor the program to individual taste. The program does not talk down to the advanced user and does not hinder him using his knowledge of DOS. More programs should strive to reach this level of perfection in being all things to all types of people.

Neal



*Coming Soon...*

Elections will be here soon. Notify the nominating committee (Jim Hoisington, Chair) if you would like to recommend someone for office (President-Elect or Board of Directors) for 1991.



by Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.

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

## Thumbs Up -- Hewlett-Packard Thumbs Down -- Xerox Updates

also

### Chip Makers Guarantee Attorneys Full Employment

#### A Big "Thumbs Up" to Hewlett-Packard For II-P Power-Supply Replacements

I've got a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet II-P. Very popular, but early versions have been plagued by power-supply problems. Some printer makers might respond with a "Who, us?", but H-P has "owned up to" the early design flaw.

H-P responded with installation of an "800" number that worried II-P owners could call to find out if they had one of the flawed machines. Next step was coordination of efforts up and down the distribution pipeline. Call the H-P 800 number and you are given three choices: replace the machine for a new machine (H-P handles the shipping), take the II-P to a dealer for repair, or, if you are lucky enough to live near an H-P service depot, make an appointment for the power-supply replacement.

I chose the latter in Dallas. Called H-P's Dallas depot and was given an appointment for power-supply replacement and cleaning. Took a little less than one hour while I waited (actually drove over to Lucky Computers, a few blocks away, to look at tape backups). That's service.

If you've got a Hewlett-Packard LaserJet II-P with a serial number below 3xxxxxxx, call 1-800-233-5153 for more information.

#### Bigger "Thumbs Down" to "Gold" Xerox Ventura Upgrade Policy

I reported earlier on Xerox's *Ventura Publisher Gold Edition* for GEM, Windows 3.0 and OS/2 upgrade policies, which I called "shoddy". Jim Hoisington, NTPCUG President Elect, pointed out some aspects of the Xerox policy I hadn't stated.

First, as stated earlier, the user must include the VP Disk #2 in the upgrade application. If the disk isn't included, upgrade cost is the full \$895 product list price. Second, the address given is a P.O. Box, which precludes use of UPS or Federal Express. Only the USPS (Post Office) will deliver to a P.O. Box which means the VP user must mail via USPS and insure the package for the full cost of the retail package!!!

Got news for you, Xerox. I've dropped software I really liked because of similar upgrade policies which tacitly assume users are thieves and cannot be trusted. In my business, that's called "projection" and says a lot more about the vendor than the user.

Why worry? At almost \$200 per upgrade copy, you're going to make out pretty well as it is, in spite of some of the poorer end-user support currently existing for software packages in this price range.

Think I'll look into *Aldus Page-Maker*. 4.0's due out pretty soon, now.

#### Another "Thumbs Down" -- To the Cobb Group

Cobb Group is synonymous with product-specific newsletters, books and other invaluable product information usually unavailable from the software publisher. Or, it used to be.

They've got real "marketing consultants" now. That may be the beginning of a long path down to used-car sales techniques. Recently took advantage of a flyer for one of their newsletter "free copy" offers and had the pleasure of receiving an invoice for full-cost subscription to newsletter with no option to refuse - as advertised in trial offer.

Next newsletter I received was a poor rehash of existing documentation for the product. Hardly worth a fraction of the amortized subscription cost. Caveat Emptor - Cobb Group. And, that's a pity since they've consistently published some of the better add-on software books in the business.

#### Did I Choose Wrong Profession?

Next few blurbs concern the increasing role that patents, licensing agreements and attorneys have taken in PC development. Each of the following promise to provide significant employment opportunities to torts and patent attorneys from coast to coast. It's a shame, since it means that the best attorney(s) win - not the best designer(s) or programmer(s) in coming months and years. ▶

## Who's Gilbert Hyatt?

### Microprocessor Makers About to Find Out

Microprocessor makers and PC lawyers were stunned in September when the US Patent Office granted a patent for what the designer, Gilbert Hyatt, claims is the first microprocessor. According to PC-oriented media, impact of the patent is unknown at this time, but "insiders" in the industry are either "nervous" or "unimpressed" depending on who you read.

Hyatt advocates in the media claim the patent actually covers much contemporary CPU design and will net Hyatt multiple millions of dollars in license fees when the dust settles. No comment was forthcoming from Intel, TI and Motorola. Intel has been widely regarded as "inventor" of the first commercial microprocessor chip, the 4004 produced in 1971. TI recently won recognition for their early patents covering PC's and microprocessors (see below).

According to *INFOWORLD*, the Hyatt patent "could affect shipments of more than 10 million microprocessors and more than 100 million microcontrollers shipped each year in personal computers."

## Meanwhile, Tandy Cries "Foul" Over TI License Fees ...

Tandy, on the other hand thought over their licensing agreements concerning the TI basic patents, and decided to sue on the basis that TI "improperly held" several of the PC patents in question. Suit was filed in Northern California (San Francisco) and accuses TI of forcing Tandy to pay royalties "on patents TI does not rightfully hold," according to the *Dallas Morning News* of September 8, 1990.

Interesting note here is that Tandy claims the TI patent came in the face of TI knowledge that the CPU device had actually been invented by an Intel employee, Edward Hoff. Does that mean Tandy is anxious to pay Intel instead of TI? Probably not.

Tandy is anxious to recover treble damages from TI, however, for the payments made to license technology that really belonged to somebody else. That raises a number of

interesting question concerning this whole confusing situation and respective rights of the various parties involved. And, does anybody remember Varo's Austin Stanton?

## AMD Wins One On 80C287 Issue(s)

Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), who'll be subject of a later item as well, won the "right" to ship its 80C287 clone of the Intel 80287 math coprocessor chip in August.

It's called one step in the long-standing, currently heated, series of legal actions between AMD and Intel over AMD's agreements with Intel to produce the 80286 chip(s) - and later versions (according to AMD.)

According to media sources, the decision was quite complex concerning AMD's right to use the Intel microcode for microprocessors and math coprocessors, and included exclusion of AMD's intention to label their 80C287 coprocessors as "100% Intel compatible." AMD has long held that their agreements with Intel give the right to produce, among other things, the 80386 chips which are produced by only Intel and IBM currently.

## Diminishing 80386 Supplies Claimed by Small Makers

Although kept fairly quiet, complaints that 80386 supplies are inordinately "tight" are being more frequently heard from "smaller" PC producers. Many claim the supply-line is effectively "closed" to the small producer and chip prices are artificially high as result.

80386SX and 80486 chips are seen as especially hard to obtain according to some makers who cite lack of competition in 386 production as cause.

## Pundits Pose November Solution to 386 Shortages

AMD May Unveil 386 Clone

Media rumors are rife that AMD has a "clone" 386 chip in the offing - waiting for COMDEX/Fall 90 introduction. Other makers are cited

as well as possible sources for Intel alternatives.

Remember AMD story above? 80C287 isn't the real goal - the 80386 is according to PC media experts. They say AMD is ready to go with a clone 386 chip as soon as given the go-ahead by the recent court actions. Others say the expected AMD announcement will be followed within microseconds (millionths of a second) by Intel's attorneys racing for the courthouse doors.

AMD isn't the only player mentioned. Chips & Technologies, IIT and local Cyrix Corp. have also been viewed by media as potential producers of 386 clones to challenge the existing Intel-IBM monopoly on the 80386 and 80486 CPU chips.

## Compatibility Will be Key

- Why Above are Important

Aside from the fact that attorney-baiting is fun, all the above are important to PC users because of "compatibility" questions raised by any "clone" of an important product. As DOS, Windows and major production software packages become exponentially more complex, adding yet one more variable, i.e., a "99% compatible CPU" may make PC configuration almost impossible for the average user.

One possibility is user market fragmentation, and necessity for programmers and designers to write for specific chips, BIOS and other hardware configurations.

A look at the inevitable "Read.Me" files that accompany most software today adds emphasis to the above. Used to be these files described features that were unavailable (were not working) when documentation was printed. Now, most are an attempt to tutor the user through specialized configuration details necessitated by various possible hardware configurations.

## Motorola Delays 68040 Production Until October

Lest we forget, Intel doesn't have the only CPU monopoly around. ▶

"Super" Macs, Next's and some Hewlett-Packard PC's/workstations have been delayed one more time by delayed production of the Motorola 68040 CPU chips.

Design flaws are cited a source of the 68040 delays to volume production. Impact is seen as extremely damaging to the 68000 line of CPU's in future planning, and as an "open door" to designs based on the Intel 80486 and both the SPARC and MIPS RISC processors for workstations.

### Uniforum In Dallas INFOMART In 1991

Eighth annual UniForum (International Conference of UNIX Operating System Users) will be held in Dallas, TX, at the Infomart January 22 - January 24, 1991. According to UniForum press releases, more than 250 exhibiting companies will display and demonstrate UNIX systems, software and services at the largest UNIX event of the year.

That's enough. The figures and charts tell the story impressively and are in excellent taste. Probably one of the best designed I've seen and undoubtedly took a lot of self control.

### On a Lighter Note ...

Quarterly Report -  
Few Graphics from Corel Systems

Graphics "King of the Mountain" title has just about been conceded to Corel Systems Corporation by the media. Since Corel Systems is publisher of *Corel DRAW*, you'd expect a quarterly report to really sizzle, right?

Wrong. The report received from Corel has two bar charts, two colors, a couple of tables (as expected) and two large type characters "Q2" on the cover. Rest is all text.

For more information, write: UniForum 1991, 2400 East Devon Ave., Suite 205, Des Plaines, IL, 60018, or telephone (800) 323 5155.

### More Ominous Note(s) -

WORMs Not That Safe

We always thought that WORM (write once - read many) discs were secure data repositories - didn't we. Sure.

Turns out that there are methods available to savvy users to write over or tamper with data contained on WORM discs. This is despite makers claims that such media are secure and provide true archival storage.

August 27, 1990 issue of *IN-FOWORLD* contained a short article disclaiming the invulnerability of WORMs to tampering. Seems a number of the discs from several manufacturers can be written over and altered by determined users with as few as two SCSI commands. Hmmmmm.

### Ever Wonder How All These Geeks Got Your FAX Number?

While we're on the subject of WORMs and CD ROM's, can't overlook a nifty product of Quanta Press Inc. of St. Paul, MN. Quanta is author of a CD ROM disc that contains 180,000 FAX numbers in the US.

Called the *North American Facsimile Book* by its publishers, the CD ROM contains FAX numbers for large and intermediate businesses, including company names and complete mailing addresses. That's in addition to FAX numbers.

This little volume was compiled "from a number of public and private sources" and is available from the publishers in CD ROM format for \$495. Now you know.

### Microsoft Shows Flexibility

Opens Windows 3.0 to Outsiders

Been a lot of screaming from frustrated memory manager users about *Windows 3.0's* refusal to work with memory managers in "enhanced" 386 mode. True believers in 386MAX (Qualitas) and

*QEMM386* (Quarterdeck Office Systems) have screamed in outrage because their favorites wouldn't run Windows 3.0 in the enhanced mode.

Microsoft, displayed a little uncharacteristic flexibility (charity?) and made DPMS drivers available to memory manager producers that will be compatible with *Windows 3.0* in the enhanced mode in August. Both Qualitas and Quarterdeck Office Systems announced that revisions of their respective memory managers would be forthcoming shortly (before you read this, I'd imagine) as upgrades to existing products.

Qualitas already announced the new drivers would be made available to existing 386MAX 5.0 owners as a free upgrade. Quarterdeck Office Systems didn't make a mention of free upgrades to their product.

Word to the wise: Be very careful with free gifts from Redmond, WA.

### Wicca in Redmond - Where's Microsoft?

Can't resist this last item from the *Dallas Morning News*. It's especially fitting given the cover art for Gordon Letwin's *Inside OS/2* from the Microsoft Press.

Article has to do with a nationwide gathering of Pagans in Redmond, WA. Described as the "Pagan Church Conference" by the *Morning News*, the gathering included followers of wicca, or modern witchcraft, and other earth religions.

May serve to explain some of the DOS conventions none of us has ever really understood. (Redmond, WA, is home base to Microsoft.)





# Inside the North Texas PC Users Group Community

Connie Andrews, Volunteer Coordinator

Each month I try to write a few introductory paragraphs about what some of our volunteers are doing. It's a way of acquainting you with our volunteers and saying a "surprise" thank you to them for devoting so much time to our activities. "Surprise" because nobody ever knows I'm going to say anything about them.

You've probably wondered why Jim Holsington and Reagan Andrews haven't been mentioned here. Well, each of them tried to head me off at the pass a long time ago and asked me not to even think about mentioning them here. They are both entirely too modest.

Well, for months I've been bowing to their wishes, and it still doesn't feel right. So, this month, I'm not really going to write

about them here (there's no way to do them justice in this short space and we all know they do a great deal for us), but it's long overdue to thank them on behalf of all the members of the Users Group. So, here goes: We deeply appreciate all you do, Jim and Reagan. You're both real bricks and we thank you for being there for us. (Does this mean I have to sleep on the couch, Reagan? Will you ever speak to me on the BBS again, Jim?)

Back to safe ground - In this issue we are acknowledging the volunteers listed below who served for the month of AUGUST.

PLEASE 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  
Archis Pinkney  
Martin Gluck

**Presentation/Equipment Setup and Breakdown**  
Timothy Carmichael  
Tom Fowlston  
Chris Young

**BBS Champion**  
Maggie Moomey

**Information/Registration Booth**  
Joe Aderhold  
Mike Ashley (Anchor)  
Randi Boucher (Anchor)  
Carolyn Bradford  
Mark Cook (Anchor)  
Rick Curry  
Jim Donlon  
Chuck Francis  
Paul Fredd (Anchor)  
Jan Frost (Anchor)  
Rick Griffith (Anchor)  
Judy Griffiths (Anchor)

Jim Hall  
Hank Holt (Anchor)  
Claude McClure (Anchor)  
Brian McConnell  
Fran Melnes (Anchor)  
Andy Oliver (Anchor)  
Raymond Reyes (Anchor)  
Bob Richmond (Anchor)  
Steve Saunders (Anchor)  
Fred Steadman  
Elaine Stephens (Anchor)  
Andrine Stricherz (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**  
Joe A. Allen  
Mike Ashley  
Roy Bales  
Richard Baumann  
Neal Berkowitz  
Joe Cannon  
Gene Carleton  
Charles Carter  
Jay Chambliss  
Paul Corbett  
Bill Drissel  
Judy Griffiths  
Howard Harkness  
Karen Harkness  
Pat Henley  
Jo Johnston  
Bob Post  
Bob Reynolds

Virginia Salter  
Jerry Stone  
Oscar Tyler  
Claude Walston

**With Special Thanks to:**

Joe A. Allen  
Mike Ashley  
Gene Carleton  
Paul Corbett  
Judy Griffiths  
Jo Johnston

**DOM Review/Presentation**

K. B. Barton  
Jim Eckhardt  
Mark Gruner (6 reviews)  
Pat Henley (2 reviews)  
Kenneth Loafman  
Paul VanDreal (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. We also do low cost, menu driven, fast turnaround CUSTOM PROGRAMS plus CUSTOM REPORTS. Call Mike Dudley - DYNAMATE SYSTEMS - 817-588-0548 (Metro).

### 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:**

<b>Auditorium Presentations</b>	
Timothy Carmichael	331-6303 (h) 661-4626 (w)
<b>DOM Booth Activities</b>	
Bill Drissel	264-9680 (h)
<b>DOM Software Review</b>	
Howard Hamilton	644-5721 (h)
<b>Information Booth and General Information</b>	
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)*

**NEW****Business Applications/DAC SIG**

With a special agreement with the Business SIG and Putt Shaw, the DAC SIG is joining with the Business Applications SIG in forming an all new Business/DAC SIG. With the ongoing problem of coming up with discussion topics and the majority of the SIG consensus, it was decided to bring them together to form a super SIG. Hopefully this Super SIG will bring the Business concepts and the DAC accounting in line with each other to form an intertwining relationship in every day business.

**NEW C++ SIG**

The new C++ SIG will have its initial meeting in October at noon. The C++ SIG is designed for advanced C programmers who wish to venture into the Brave New World. The SIG leaders are Kent Cobb and Tom Cook – neither knows C++, but both figure they'll learn it if they HAVE to.

The SIG will be lecture and project oriented with different topics (and lecturers) scheduled for each meeting. The first meeting will concentrate on the differences between C and C++; the second on the vagaries and strengths of OOP (versus the "OOPSI" nature of C); and, the third will probably move into some project details. Subsequent meetings will isolate specific features of C++, explain them, and demonstrate each in the context of our project. The project is designed to give everybody an understandable example of how C++ functions (or doesn't – we're unbiased) in the real world of contrived problems.

Kent Cobb and Tom Cook

**dBase SIG**

At the September meeting we discussed lesson 7 of the dBASE IV

Workbook. Lesson 7 explains the concepts of querying multi-file applications. This includes: setting up a view query with a field list drawn from more than one database; relating two databases together in a view query; reporting selective information from related databases; and setting up an update query to replace information in a database automatically.

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

*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

*December*

Lesson 10 will show us how to generate an application. The lessons will show us how to:

- \* specify an application object from the Applications panel
- \* generate a quick application for updating a single database
- \* specify menu objects needed for a customized application
- \* assign actions to menu items
- \* generate and run an application

Vincent Gaines and  
Rodney Haas

**DOS SIG**

October's DOS SIG Meeting will be marked by visitors – perhaps.

Both Jim Hoisington and I have been (temporarily) strangled by non-disclosure agreements involved in a future version of a Microsoft Disk Operating System. That's been real uncomfortable for both of us in our roles as Co-leaders of the DOS SIG.

Some of the secrecy may be lifted in October if Andy Hill, DOS Product Manager appears as promised to discuss DOS 5.0 with NTPCUG SIG members, and to sign up new DOS 5.0 Beta Testers. Criteria include a willingness to sign similar non-disclosure agreements and ability to smile smugly when mention of the new DOS is mentioned – while remaining essentially silent and uncommunicative.

Otherwise, unless Fred et al spontaneously decide to stage another demonstration of fisticuffs-at-considerable distance, the meeting will wind toward final (closing) minutes via our usual Q & A Free-for-all in which Jim and Reagan attempt to answer participants' DOS questions among the ensuing confusion and clamor.

Reagan Andrews

**Graphics SIG**

After a somewhat inconsistent summer, the Graphics SIG will once again be in full swing in October. The topic for the October meeting will be Postscript. The presentation will include an overview of Postscript Technology, what it is, it's advantages, and how to access it in the MS-DOS PC world. We will look at some examples which show the advantages offered by Postscript Print Technology and look at both hardware and software methods for obtaining Postscript Output.

Planning ahead, the topic for the November meeting will be COLOR. We will look at the hardware requirements for obtaining color on MS-DOS PC's and take a close look at the software that takes advantage of color. We will also attempt to present ways to use computer color effectively.

Each month the Graphics SIG offers a presentation on some aspect of Com-



puter Graphics for the PC. There is also always time set aside to answer questions and for members to discuss their own experiences with PC graphics. Plan to attend in October and November.

Richard Terreo

### Lotus SIG

In September, the subject at the SIG was four @ functions - namely @CHOOSE, @HLOOKUP, @VLOOKUP, and @INDEX. These four @ functions are typically called "look-up" functions or special functions. These commands are very powerful and can easily streamline the spreadsheet building process. Even though these functions are powerful, they are often overlooked or ignored when building spreadsheets. Hopefully, those who attended will now go forth and use these commands.

In October, Lotus Development will be at the NTPCUG meeting. At the main meeting at 10:00 they will be giving a presentation of the new versions of Magellan or Agenda or both products. Then, at the SIG at 1:00, Lotus will be giving a demonstration of Lotus 1-2-3 version 3.1, which is an upgrade to release 3.0, and which includes publishing capabilities through IMPRESS by PC Publishing, support of Windows, as well as several other enhancements. It should be a meeting worthy of your time and in need of your participation.

The Lotus SIG always takes time to answer questions that users have on 1-2-3 or other spreadsheet programs. Come on by, and ask us or Lotus Development.

Mark Gruner and Pat Henley

### NEW OS/2 for End Users SIG

This is a new special interest group focusing on using OS/2. The group will be exploring many of the functions and features of OS/2, as well as how to install and use some of the major features and software packages for OS/2. Participants should have prior knowledge of DOS and some exposure to OS/2 might be helpful.

This SIG will not focus on programming under the OS/2 graphical user interface, since this is the game plan

for the OS/2-Windows for Developers SIG (also at 1:00). Come on by at 1:00 and join the group.

Bob Fermier

### 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 9.1  
- Genesis & Overview of PC Languages  
10:00 AM Class 10.8  
- NTPCUG Disk-of-the-Month (DOM) Library  
12:00 Noon Class 11.1  
- PC Graphics Modes  
1:00 PM Class 12.1  
- Bulletin Boards & Archiving

Bob Presley

### Programmers SIG

A discussion of the relative merits of programming languages degraded into a shouting match. To avoid further conflict, the SIG leader assigned each language group to a corner of the room. After all members present went to their respective groups, we realized that Stuart Yarus was left in the middle of the room. Seems nobody thought that APL was a computer language.

Come join us this month for a rousing session of musical chairs and an intense discussion of the PC industry.

Jim Holsington

### R:Base SIG

Microrim gave a demonstration of R:Base 3.1 during the September meeting. If you were not in attendance you missed seeing the latest version of R:Base. This new version can read and write to dBase files without having to import them into R:Base. They demonstrated that you can have an R:Base database open and open a dBase file and link the two together so you can create reports and views using R:Base data and dBase data. With the exception of dBase IV, R:Base can read and write to dBase files even if the dBase file is shared on a network file server. R:Base can only read dBase IV files.

As of September 9, I have not received the new version of R:Base nor has Microrim released any new Technical Journals in June and July. We will resume our discussion of multi-column reports at our October Meeting.

At the conclusion of our meeting an open question and answer period will be available to those wishing to participate.

Richard Hauslein

### Word SIG

October's WORD SIG will be devoted to "nitty-gritty" Word 5.0A operations

and occasional Word for Windows 1.1 operations in the day-in-day-out use of these word machines. Loading both WP's has become an exercise in out-guessing Microsoft's INSTALL programs in too many applications, and tips for appropriate installation will be covered in the SIG Meeting.

Drifting away from recent month's graphical orientation, the October SIG Meeting will focus on text-based applications and implementations of middle-level WORD 5.0A command structure and built-in features. Again, some lucky NTPCUG Member will walk away from the SIG Meeting with a new copy of Word for Windows after a drawing at the close of the SIG Meeting.

Reagan Andrews

### WordPerfect SIG

The WordPerfect SIG demo on August 18th was a great success. SIG attendance exceeded our expectations, and we had people standing in the halls again! Keep it up gang, I love it... Tom Crabb, WordPerfect Rep., conducted a 5.1 demo for us. These are some of the highlights of the session.

Printers seemed to be a hot topic. WordPerfect 5.1 gives users the ability to print any of more than 1500 characters. Another new 5.1 feature discussed at the meeting was tables that allow users to organize and import columnar data. Any table can be sized, split, joined, shaded, etc. In addition, line types can be changed and turned either on or off. Text automat-

ically wraps inside the cells and vertical height of the cells is automatically adjusted to accommodate the selected font size.

Looking ahead, September and October SIGs will include other exciting features of WP 5.1 such as:

- Macros
- printer definition
- Bitstream font package (downloadable and resident printer fonts)
- Graphics Importing (portrait and landscape)
- HP laser printer limitations
- Creation and usage of tables

Bring your problems and we'll try to find solutions or share tips and short cuts you've discovered with others. Please plan to join your exciting and informative WP SIG meetings.

K. B. Barton

■

## ON COMPLEXITY

No. 44 in a Series

By Jim Hoisington

Electronic Data Interchange or EDI is one of the more important emerging technologies today. The basic concept of EDI is that of computer to computer exchange of data. However, EDI is far more than communications between computers. The way companies are using EDI means better products delivered at a lower price for all of us.

Before EDI came along, when a company ran short of something it needed to make its products, it filled out an order form and mailed it to the company that supplied the part. When the supplier got the order form, after an appropriate time for processing the paperwork, the parts were shipped if they were in stock. If they weren't in stock, then the supplier had to build the parts and then ship them. All this wasted time meant that every company carried an extra supply of parts to cover the reorder time which added to their cost of production.

In addition to the extra cost, the method of ordering from your suppliers by mail meant that they could not react very rapidly to changes in your products or markets. A design change in a part could take a very long time to work its way through the ordering process before it became available.

The first time I saw Electronic Data Interchange was in the mid 1960's. I was renting computer time on a company's IBM 360 model 40. This company

made door hinges and one of their customers was General Motors. To speed up the ordering process, General Motors put a teletype terminal in the computer room of the company making the door hinges. When GM wanted to order more hinges, they typed in an order on their terminal and it printed it out in the supplier's computer room. Later those terminals were eliminated and a direct computer to computer link up was instituted. General Motors computer called the suppliers' computer and uploaded the orders just like we upload files to a bulletin board today.

EDI has come a long way since those days. Today, the supplier commits to keep the inventory of parts in your company at a certain level. The supplier's computer routinely checks with your computer to determine the current inventory level and projected usage. When it looks like the inventory will need to be replenished, the supplier's computer automatically schedules production and shipment of a sufficient number of parts to meet your projected usage. Since neither the supplier nor your company keeps a large number of parts on hand, design changes are much easier to implement.

You may think that EDI is only useful to large companies with large computers, but small companies are starting to use it as well. Allowing your customers to place their orders over an in-house BBS or through an electronic mail network like MCI mail works just fine on PC's.

This technology is so important that if a company can't or won't implement electronic data interchange with its suppliers and customers, it may not be around by 1995.

Jim

■

# Disk of the Month

## SEPTEMBER 1990 Disk(s) of the Month:

Disk 538. TWRP & Smallcomm, 6/90 - Tiny Word Processor & Communications Programs from Dr. Dobbs Journal:

1. TWRP.EXE - the Tiny Word Processor with context-sensitive help, by Al Stevens, December 1988.
2. TINYCOMM.EXE - the Tiny Communications Program, by Al Stevens, February 1989.
3. SMALLCOM.EXE - TINYCOMM begets SMALLCOM by Al Stevens, March 1988.

TWRP, the jewel of these three programs, is an editor that is slightly larger in code size than EDLIN. It is light years beyond EDLIN in ease of use. It is a good tool for those who have an occasional use for an editor and tend to forget the editor commands.

TINYCOMM is a minimal communication program. It will talk to the modem and dial a number. It has no built in protocols.

SMALLCOM is a more robust communication program. It uses TWRP as an editor. It has a dialing directory and supports the XMODEM and KERMIT protocols.

The source code is in C. It was downloaded from the DDJ forum on CompuServe. It has been compiled with Microsoft C 6.0 using the Programmers Workbench. It uses a small memory model and has been optimized for stack checking, execution time, loop code, global code, global register, 80x87 emulation and to generate intrinsic functions. In the future if the source code for a simple index generator and spelling checker become available, the author plans to incorporate them with TWRP and make the package available as TWRP Prefect.

Minimal, but useful.

NOTE: Of the three programs, only TINYCOMM, which does not use graphics, will work on a system using a monochrome adapter.

Contributed by Mike Brown and John Myers.

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

Disk 539AB. Wingz Test Flight - DEMO of Windows & OS/2 Spreadsheet. Wingz Test Flight, Informix Software, 4100 Bohannon Drive, Menlo Park, CA 94025, (415) 926-6300 or (800) 331-1763 ext 1000. Distributed on 1.2M Disks.

Wingz is a Windows and OS/2 spreadsheet. It is also available for the Macintosh, NeXT, OSF/Motif, and OPEN LOOK. When you buy the IBM package, disks for both Windows and OS/2 are included in the package. Wingz combines number crunching power, presentation capabilities, clip art, a programming language (macros), and much more into a single product. This DEMO is a save disabled version of the product meaning that you cannot save your work to disk. You can, however, create models, use help, print, and create HyperScript (macros).

**HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:** Any IBM PC/XT/AT or PS/2 a VGA monitor, and Windows 3.0 installed, 3 meg of RAM is recommended. The DEMO will require approximately 2 megs of hard disk space.

There is documentation on disk "A" that provides an overview and explains some of the capabilities of Wingz. The NTPCUG was given permission by Informix to create this file from the manual included with the Wingz Test Flight.

This is a demonstration worksheet file that you can also use to see the capabilities of Wingz. Wingz has some unique characteristics

such as being able to place objects directory on the worksheet. These objects can include graphs, lines, symbols, clip art, and push buttons. The push buttons can have HyperScript commands attached to them. HyperScript is an interactive English-like programming language. Many graph types are available - both business and scientific.

Wingz will read a 1-2-3 spreadsheet converting formulas into the Wingz equivalent as needed. If Wingz comes to a formula that is not supported in Wingz, an error message will appear so the user can make the necessary changes. One function that is not supported is the @CELL command.

Wingz has one several awards including InfoWorld's 1989 Product of the Year and Macintosh Product of the Year, and BYTE Magazine's Award of Excellence for Best Software. Wingz Test Flight was contributed by Informix Software.

*Mark Gruner prepared the on disk manual and this review, review edited by Kathryn Loafman.*

The following 5 disks (#540 through #544) have the following paragraphs in common:

**HARDWARE REQUIREMENTS:** Any IBM PC/XT/AT with at least 512K of memory, DOS 3.0 or higher, and a graphics monitor, EGA or VGA is recommended.

Each of the five programs works on its own data and should not be combined with other APEX programs. Each program & data must be in its own subdirectory. Each program is complete with a common communications program for accessing Warner Computer Systems (1- 800-626-4634) via any local Telenet service. If you are not a current subscriber of Warner, inform the representative that you are a user of APEX and the normal \$48 sign-up fee will be waived.

Each program has a MANUAL.DOC documentation file which explains the basic concepts and operation of that program. To print this file, type COPY MANUAL.DOC PRN at the DOS prompt. The documentation of APEX does NOT attempt to teach Technical Analysis, only how to run the programs. Programs like this were not available to the individual investor prior to 1985. The power within these programs is not appreciated until the user becomes familiar with the routines available.

Residents in the Dallas/Fort Worth area are urged to join the North Texas PC Users Group and attend the Stock Market Special Interest Group (SIG) for further information and knowledge of this and other programs related to investing. These disks were transmitted from the publishers to Cliff Murphy, leader of the NTPCUG Stock Market SIG.

Disk 540. APEX Futures/Commodities, 7/90 - Futures and Commodities Analysis. Access Plot & Export Futures and Commodities Analysis, N-Squared Computing and G. Morris Corporation, distributed as FREWARE.

This one of five in a series Apex Programs is a completely menu-driven graphical program for technical analysis of Futures and Commodities. It enables you to analyze individual futures and commodities using the standard high, low, close, volume format, with an overlay for open interest and open ticks. Its comes with a sample of the data format for ease in updating or following form to create your own set of data, and can be used as somewhat of a tutorial. Data can be entered directly or downloaded from Warner. It makes very good use of graphing techniques. Data can be exported to many formats for additional manipulation. The program is a stand alone program.

This program was donated to the NTPCUG by the authors.

*This review prepared by Cliff Murphy (Stock Market SIG Leader, NTPCUG) and Steve Lanier, edited by Mark Gruner.*

Disk 541. APEX Mutual Fund 7/90 - Mutual Fund Analysis. Access Plot & Export, Mutual Fund Analysis, N-Squared Computing and G. Morris Corporation, distributed as FREeware.

This one of five in a series Apex Programs is a completely menu-driven graphical program for technical analysis of Mutual Funds. It uses "split screen" techniques to plot and compare one issue against another. Both plots can have exponentially smoothed overlays, and % trading bands. For your on screen analysis, any value for averaging or smoothing can be selected, and you have the option to "erase" previous overlays. It comes with a sample of the data format for ease in updating or following form to create your own set of data, and can be used as somewhat of a tutorial. Data can be entered directly or downloaded from Warner. Data can also be exported to many formats for additional analysis. The disk is a fully functioning, stand alone program.

This program was donated to the NTPCUG by the authors.

*This review prepared by Cliff Murphy (Stock Market SIG Leader, NTPCUG) and Steve Lanier, edited by Mark Gruner.*

Disk 542. APEX Point & Figure Analysis, 7/90 - APEX Supplemental Program. Access Plot & Export, Point and Figure Analysis, N-Squared Computing and G. Morris Corporation, distributed as FREeware.

This one of five in a series Apex Programs is a completely menu-driven graphical program to be use in conjunction with any other of the APEX series programs for plotting Indexes, Mutual Funds, Futures, Stocks, Options, etc. Trendline lengths are adjustable and may be drawn at any point. Charts can be based on highs and lows, or on closes only. It comes with a sample of the data format for ease in updating or following form to create your own set of data, and can be used as somewhat of a tutorial. Data can be entered directly or downloaded from Warner. Data can also be exported to many formats for additional analysis. Each disk is a fully functioning, stand alone program.

This program was donated to the NTPCUG by the authors.

*This review prepared by Cliff Murphy (Stock Market SIG Leader, NTPCUG) and Steve Lanier, edited by Mark Gruner.*

Disk 543. APEX Stock & Options, 7/90 - Stocks and Options Analysis. Access Plot & Export, Stock and Options Analysis, N-Squared Computing and G. Morris Corporation, distributed as FREeware.

This one of five in a series Apex Programs is a completely menu-driven graphical program for technical analysis of stocks and options. It enables you to analyze individual stocks or options using the standard high, low, close, volume format. It comes with a sample of the data format for ease in updating or following form to create your own set of data, and can be used as somewhat of a tutorial. Data can be entered directly or downloaded from Warner. It makes very good use of graphing techniques and data can also be exported to many formats for additional manipulation and analysis. Each disk is a fully functioning, stand alone program.

This program was donated to the NTPCUG by the authors.

*This review prepared by Cliff Murphy (Stock Market SIG Leader, NTPCUG) and Steve Lanier, edited by Mark Gruner.*

Disk 544. APEX Financial Market, 7/90 - Financial Market Analysis. Access Plot & Export, Futures and Commodities Analysis, N-Squared Computing and G. Morris Corporation, distributed as FREeware.

This one of five in a series Apex Programs is a completely menu-driven graphical program for technical analysis of broad Financial Indicators, Market Indexes, and currency exchanges. It uses "split screen" techniques to plot and compare one indicator against another. Both plots can have exponentially smoothed overlays, % trading bands, etc. For your on screen analysis, any value for averaging or smoothing can be selected, and you have the option to "erase" previous overlays. It comes with a sample of the data format for ease in updating or following form to create your own set of data, and can be used as somewhat of a tutorial. Data can be entered directly or downloaded from Warner. Data can also be exported to many formats for additional manipulation and analysis. Each disk is a fully functioning, stand alone program.

This program was donated to the NTPCUG by the authors.

*This review prepared by Cliff Murphy (Stock Market SIG Leader, NTPCUG) and Steve Lanier, edited by Mark Gruner.*

Disk 545. ARRIBA 1.01 DEMO, 1/90 - Personal Information Manager. Arriba 1.01 DEMO, Good Software Corp., 13601 Preston Rd, Suite 500W, Dallas, TX 75240, (214) 239-6085. Retail Price \$195.

Do you spend most of your time on the phone? Do you need to make notes and associate them to the phone numbers? Is your schedule of events, meetings and follow-ups getting too complex for a handful of 'POSTITS'?

I suggest you try ARRIBA. It is a unique, systematic way to organize and associate information. I use Arriba to retain phone numbers and names of business prospects. I then use the calendar to schedule meeting and presentations and the 'things-to-do' section to remind me of follow-up actions. The memo feature allows me to attach memos to each of the sets of information and set relational flags in the other areas to indicate the presence of additional information.

The ability to sort and retrieve by specified value is great.

Drawbacks (personal peevess):

- It does not include retrieve by range of values.
- It can not do any calculations. Simple +/- of specified fields would be great.
- It has a limited print capability. Currently, to print a phonelist, you have to use their phone list format.
- Their terminology of cabinets, folders, notes, phone list, calendar, and things-to-do can be a little confusing for us old sticks who have a hard time learning new non-computer terms.

The fully functional program will require a PC with at least 384K RAM with a hard drive with at least 1.25M bytes of free storage space.

This disk is a tutorial explanation of Arriba, its uses and tricks, done as a "slideshow" type of presentation. This demonstration was created with Dan Bricklin's DEMO II program.

Also available from the publisher (for \$25 for the 2 disk set) is a full feature, but limited capacity Arriba demonstration program.

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

*This review prepared by Richard Bauman, edited by Preston Brashear.*

Disk 546. HEAP 1.0, 3/90 - Replacement Heap Manager for MSC 5.1, by Lee Winter, Optimal Software, 4 Lacy Lane, Nashua, NH 03061-2151, 603-880-9844 CIS [73710,406]. Shareware Fee = Individuals \$25, Students \$15.

The Replacement Heap Manager is a library of heap management routines compatible with MSC 5.1. It consists of the basic heap manager package, the extended capability package, which provides user programs with control over the behavior of the heap, and the heap debugging package, which adds error checking routines to the basic heap operations.

The file HEAPDOC.ZIP contains the heap documentation files. It includes both the reference manual and the background technical information. The file HEAPLIB.ZIP contains the libraries, header files, and demonstration source files. Both of these files may be unpacked with PKUNZIP.

The replacement heap library manages the heap in such a way as to limit the fragmentation of the heap, and, with the global free list, optimize the speed of heap operations. It also offers the following benefits:

- automatic recovery of space wasted in the default data segment
- rational handling of zero-length entries and NULL pointers
- precise control over the interface with the DOS memory manager
- consistent treatment of "far" and "huge" heap entries
- superior performance, reliability, and memory efficiency

The extended capabilities of the replacement heap manager include:

- relocation of heap entries for garbage collection and heap compaction
- shrinking the heap and releasing excess memory back to DOS
- user control offers LIFO, first-fit, and best-fit algorithms
- detailed reports on the state of the heap for heap usage and behavior
- extended versions of standard functions for "huge" heap entries
- direct access to the heap control data structures
- heap manager accepts non-DOS memory as a resource

The replacement heap manager is less vulnerable to corruption than the original, and provides the following for identifying heap-related problems:

- distinctive heap pointers reduce possibility of heap corruption
- user controlled safety margins on every allocation
- detailed consistency checks, including heap-control-block reciprocity and safety margin integrity
- debugging versions of functions check heap integrity and report errors
- tracing versions of functions report heap transactions including parameters and return values.
- read-only heap entries may be monitored for unanticipated changes

Further information is available in the file HEAPINFO.TXT which contains a detailed description of the operation of the replacement heap manager, and the file HEAP.MAN which contains a reference manual.

This software was downloaded from CompuServe by Kenneth Loafman.

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

Disk 547. Exam Bank 1.02, 3/89 - A test generator for teachers by Jess Kitchens, EDUCATION SOFTWARE, P.O. Box 64205, Sunnyvale, CA 94888. Shareware fee is \$30.

The program enables a teacher to write and store test questions for a course, and then select and print questions along with an answer key. Multiple choice, True/False, Short answer, Essay, and Crossmatch questions can be used for the same test, but not interspersed. Additional questions may be added later, and existing questions edited or deleted. When creating an exam, the teacher chooses both the questions and the order, making it possible to have alternate versions. Word wrap and cursor control make data entry easy. Printed exams are nicely formatted and include title, date, teacher name and instructions. The entire program is menu driven and organized into windows, and is very simple to use, once installed. Each question is saved as it is entered making data loss unlikely.

Headers and other defaults can be saved (and are available for display via the menu) so that you need not re-enter course titles, teacher name, etc. unless there is to be a change. Once an exam file is created, it is added to the list that will be displayed from the menu.

The user is advised to print the manual and pay careful attention to the "Jump Start" and Set Up instructions, as the program will not function if not set up correctly. Requirements are a basic PC (with at least 300K) and a printer. Installing on a hard drive is desirable, as program files and data must be in the same directory. Your system's CONFIG.SYS file must be changed to allow for at least 15 files if it does not do so already.

The source for this software was NTPCUG member Gene Carlton.

*This review prepared by Virginia Salter, edited by KathrynLoafman.*

Disk 548. As Easy As 4.00Q, 07/90 - Spreadsheet Program, TRIUS, Inc., 231 Sutton Street, Suite 2D-3, North Andover, MA 01845, (508) 794-9377. Registration Fee: \$50.00 plus \$5.00 a/h, total \$55.00.

As Easy As 4.00Q is a cut above the average shareware spreadsheet program. The F1 key provides over 50 pages of help, pretty much eliminating the need for a manual. The program is highly Lotus 1-2-3 compatible. It provides 8192 rows by 256 columns. It uses minimal recalculation to speed up spreadsheet calculation. Registered users will receive the latest version, printed manual, and 90 days of free support.

**HARDWARE REQUIRED:** IBM PC/XT/AT with at least 512K of memory.

As Easy As also supports graphs including bar, stacked bar, line, XY, pie, hi-lo, cumulative, area, radial, semi-log, log-log, and more. You can even combine graphs and display two graphs at a time. Over 100 macros commands are available, and over 80 functions for math, statistics, finance, logic, strings, dates, and even user definable functions are provided. It has a number of built-in utilities, spreadsheet linking, and add-ins.

As Easy As supports development and use of Add-In programs. The information necessary to access the worksheet data in RAM, for such Add-In programs, is contained in the As Easy As developer's package (not shareware). For more information on the developer's As Easy As package and possible distribution of Add-Ins, contact TRIUS. A sample Add-In program, LNDSCAPE.EXE, is included in the ASAU400.COM file that allows some rudimentary sideways printing.

As Easy As was donated to the users group by member Mark Gruner.

*This review prepared by Frank Miller, edited by John Puckette.*



## Disk of the Month MAIL ORDER FORM

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

Sold To:

Ship To:


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

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

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



## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

North Texas PC Users Group

The NTPCUG is a non-profit, independent organization of individuals learning to apply personal computers to practical problems. For additional information, call (214) 746-4699.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM

1:00 PM - 2:00 PM

**MCI Mail**  
Connect Your PC to the World with EDI and MCI  
**Lotus Development Corporation**  
Lotus Agenda 2.0  
**NTPCUG Business Meeting**

**Quarterdeck Office Systems**  
DESQview 386 with QEMM-386 and Manifest

*(See page 1 for description of programs.)*

## Special Interest Group Meetings

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

<b>9:00 - 9:55</b>	<b>10:00 - 10:55 (cont)</b>
Assembler Community Volunteers DOS Hardware Solutions Personal Users Software Review Windows Applications	Personal Users Unix/Xenix
<b>10:00 - 10:55</b>	<b>11:30 - 11:55</b>
Basic Programming Graphics Local Area Networks Paradox	Orientation
	<b>12:00 - 12:55</b>
	Beginners Pascal C++/Advanced C Communications Investors Personal Users RBase

<b>1:00 - 1:55</b>	<b>2:00 - 2:55</b>
Beginners C Language Business Apps./DAC Easy LOTUS OS/2-Windows Developers Personal Users Turbo Pascal WORD	Advanced Programmers Databases WordPerfect

## Special Interest Groups

<b>SIG Coordinator</b>	Andy Oliver K. B. Barton	(214)223-4044 h (214)747-0209 w (214)891-0941 h (214)226-3461 h (214)458-9711 w (214)317-0125 h (214)775-1503 (214)228-3461 h (214)243-5034 h (214)233-8353 w
<b>Assembler</b>	Andrew Chak, Ph.D. Basic Programming Kent Kingery	(214)458-9711 w (214)317-0125 h (214)775-1503 (214)228-3461 h (214)243-5034 h (214)233-8353 w
<b>Beginners C Lang.</b>	Stan Milan Andrew Chak, Ph.D.	(214)775-1503 (214)228-3461 h (214)243-5034 h (214)233-8353 w
<b>Beginners Pascal</b>	Phil Chamberlain	(214)233-8353 w
<b>Business Applic.</b>	Bruce Schubert	(214)233-8353 w
<b>C++ / Advanced C</b>	Kent Cobb Tom Cook	(214)233-8353 w
<b>Communications</b>	Pete Testa Doug Gorrie	(214)495-7508 (214)818-8002 h (214)484-7942 w (214)880-1107 h (214)327-4172 h (214)669-9633 w (214)235-2559 h (214)255-4400 h (214)407-0070 w
<b>DAC Software</b>	Andrew Laham Greg Cohen Puff Shaw	(214)880-1107 h (214)327-4172 h (214)669-9633 w (214)235-2559 h (214)255-4400 h (214)407-0070 w
<b>Databases</b>	Rodney Haas	(214)255-4400 h (214)407-0070 w
<b>DOS</b>	Vincent Gaines Jim Hoisington Reagan Andrews, Ph.D.	(214)416-3101 h (214)828-0699 h (214)844-8643 h (214)307-1259 h (214)881-0202 h (214)937-9678 w (214)987-5851 h
<b>Genealogy</b>	Minnie Champ	(214)844-8643 h
<b>Graphics</b>	Richard Terreo	(214)307-1259 h
<b>Hdw Solutions</b>	David McGehee Gary Johnson	(214)881-0202 h (214)937-9678 w (214)987-5851 h
<b>Investors</b>	Bernie Van Roekel	(817)451-4540 w
<b>Local Area Net</b>	Francis Bright Mark Gruner Pat Henley	(817)451-4540 w (214)984-8174 h (214)229-9218 h (214)279-1738 h (817)962-4596 w
<b>LOTUS</b>	James Dunn	(214)984-8174 h (214)229-9218 h (214)279-1738 h (817)962-4596 w
<b>OS/2-Windows Dev</b>	Fred Williams	(214)492-1315
<b>Paradox</b>	Bob Presley Bob Russell	(214)867-1879 h (214)422-4269 h
<b>Personal Users</b>	Kent Cobb	(214)416-3101 h
<b>Programmers</b>	Jim Hoisington Richard Hauslein Don Branham	(214)416-3101 h (817)487-4581 h (214)352-0888 h (214)229-9218 w (214)436-1870 h (214)276-2524 h (817)267-0768 h (817)878-0367 w (214)240-1085 h (214)604-3683 w (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w (214)481-7184 h (214)604-1004 w (214)828-0699
<b>R:Base</b>	Pat Henley	(214)229-9218 w (214)436-1870 h (214)276-2524 h (817)267-0768 h (817)878-0367 w (214)240-1085 h (214)604-3683 w (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w (214)481-7184 h (214)604-1004 w (214)828-0699
<b>Software Review</b>	Don Chick Doug Scott	(214)276-2524 h (817)267-0768 h (817)878-0367 w (214)240-1085 h (214)604-3683 w (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w (214)481-7184 h (214)604-1004 w (214)828-0699
<b>Turbo Pascal</b>	Jim Stallworth	(214)604-3683 w (214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w (214)481-7184 h (214)604-1004 w (214)828-0699
<b>Unix/Xenix</b>	Jay Shilstone	(214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w (214)481-7184 h (214)604-1004 w (214)828-0699
<b>Volunteers</b>	Roy Cassas	(214)827-5751 h (214)361-9681 w (214)481-7184 h (214)604-1004 w (214)828-0699
<b>Windows Applic.</b>	Reagan Andrews, Ph.D. David McGehee Dorothy Bortine	(214)828-0699 (214)681-0202 h (817)387-9993 h (817)488-3325 h (214)747-0209 w
<b>WORD</b>	K.B. Barton	(214)747-0209 w
<b>WordPerfect</b>		



## North Texas PC Users Group, Inc.

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

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

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

### Board of Directors

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

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

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

**SYSOP:** - Tom Prickett  
**Asst. SYSOP.** - Maggie Moomey  
**Technical Advisors:** Fred Williams  
Pete Testa

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

<b>Officers</b>	
<b>President</b>	Zack Porterfield (214)434-1844 w
<b>President-Elect</b>	Jim Hoisington (214)416-3101 h
<b>Program Chair.</b>	Timothy Carmichael (214)681-4628 w
<b>Treasurer</b>	Ken Conner, CPA (214)689-3377 w
<b>Secretary</b>	David McGehee (214)681-0202 h
<b>Membership Dir.</b>	Jim Hoisington (214)416-3101 h
<b>Advertising Dir.</b>	John Pribyl (817)275-4109 h
<b>Disk of the Month</b>	Kathryn Loafman (214)596-2539
<b>Group Statistician</b>	Connie Testa
<b>Volunteer Coord.</b>	Connie Andrews (214)828-0699

### Address Changes, etc...

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

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

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

### Members Emeritus

Stuart Yarus                      John Pribyl



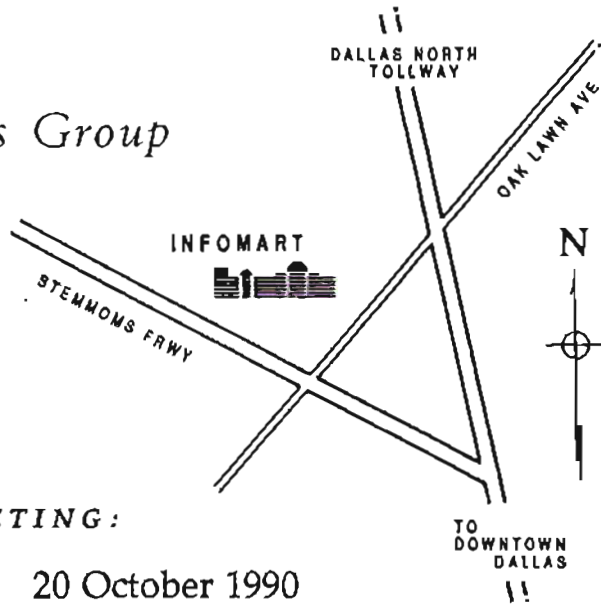
North Texas PC Users Group  
P.O. Box 780066  
Dallas, TX 75378-0066

Non Profit Org.  
U. S. Postage  
Paid  
Arlington, TX  
Permit No. 823

Address Correction Requested.



*North Texas PC Users Group*



**NEXT MEETING:**

**20 October 1990**